



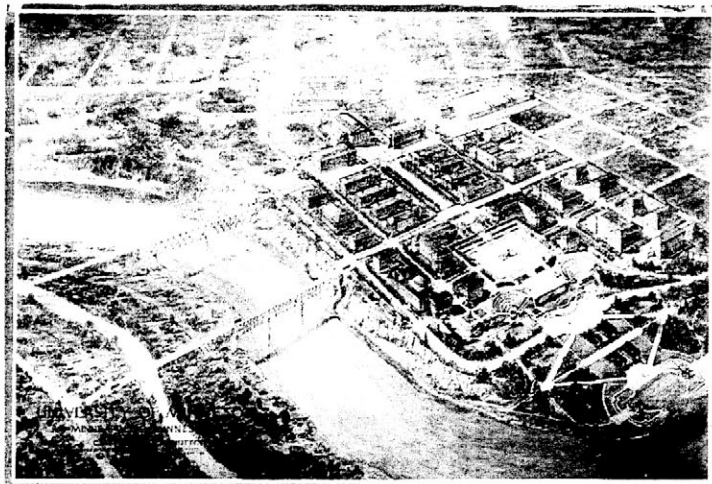
PROFESSOR LANCE NECKAR TO SPEAK ABOUT NORTHROP MALL ON APRIL 20, 2004

The Cass Gilbert Society will present Lance Neckar on the topic **Cass Gilbert and the Northrop Mall: Precedents, Methods, and Implications**. In addition to Gilbert's plan for the University of Minnesota and the shaping of the Northrop Mall, Professor Neckar will briefly review Gilbert's work on the Minnesota State Capitol approaches, his scheme for Washington, D.C., and his relationship to the City Beautiful movement, and Gilbert's plan for the University of Texas. While Gilbert conceived of a design for the mall, Professor Neckar will describe how much of the work was carried out by Morell and Nichols between 1919 and 1951. Gilbert's architectural model for the campus also will be on display.

Lance Neckar is associate dean of the University of Minnesota College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture and a professor of landscape architecture. He has conducted research on the history of landscape architecture, primarily on the influence of Castle Howard on the eighteenth-century English landscape park; the work of landscape architect H.W.S. Cleveland, the designer of the Minneapolis park system; and the modernist work of landscape architect Christopher Tunnard.

Neckar is also a principal of the firm Landscape Research, which is working on the restoration of the grounds of the LeDuc House in Hastings and the landscape of Mayowood in Rochester.

Join us at the auditorium of **Rapson Hall at the University of Minnesota College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture**, 89 Church Street (off University Avenue and 17th Avenue S.E.), on Tuesday, April 20, at 7:00 P.M. Admission is free to Society members. There is a nominal charge for nonmembers. Refreshments will be served after the lecture. Parking is available at the Church Street Garage (\$2.50 per hour), directly across from Rapson Hall. Slightly further away are the Fourth Street Garage, Fourth Street S.E. at 17th Avenue S.E. (\$5.00 flat fee) and the surface parking lot at Fourth Street S.E. and 18th Avenue S.E. (\$3.25 flat fee).



Inside This Issue

Report from New York	2
Mother's Day Tea and Tour	3

Mark Your Calendars

May 9, 2004

Celebrate the end of Preservation Week with the fifth annual Mother's Day tour at Cedarhurst, Cottage Grove. See page 3.

September 14, 2004

Lecture by Patricia A. Murphy, Oberlin Heritage Center, on Cass Gilbert's early work in Saint Paul.

REPORT FROM NEW YORK

By Marjorie Pearson, President

In the February 2004 issue of *With Respect to Architecture*, the newsletter of the Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, Patty Dean wrote about preservation battles at Ground Zero and the damaged state of Cass Gilbert's West Street Building, located just south of the World Trade Center site. When the south tower collapsed on September 11, 2001, flaming steel debris gouged out part of the exterior terra cotta and set the interior on fire. Exterior damage would have been much worse, if the building had not been covered with netting as part of an ongoing restoration campaign. Because of the superb engineering of the building and the extensive use of fireproof terra-cotta tile to protect the interior steel columns and floors, the building remained structurally sound, despite extensive interior fire damage.

On March 5, 2004, Glen Collins reported in the *New York Times* that the netting had been removed from the north façade of the West Street Building. The building has changed hands twice since September 11, and the current owner, Brack Capital Real Estate, is restoring the building for conversion to 410 apartments. Consequently, on a visit to New York in mid-March, I was anxious to see the building for myself. While the damage to the exterior terra cotta is still obvious, construction is moving forward rapidly. Its survival is testimony to the skill of Cass Gilbert and his engineering team.

As visitors to Lower Manhattan know, the destruction of the World Trade Center restored the visibility of the Woolworth Building to the skyline. Both it and Gilbert's New York County Lawyers' Association Building are within easy walking distance of the World Trade Center site.



West Street Building, 90 West Street, New York, as it appeared in mid-March. Photo: Marjorie Pearson

MOTHER'S DAY TEA AND TOUR: CASS GILBERT'S CEDARHURST MANSION

Join us on **May 9, 2004**, for our fifth annual Mother's Day event. We will meet at **3:00 P.M.** at Cedarhurst Mansion, Historic Country House and Conference Center, 6940 Keats Avenue South, Cottage Grove, Minnesota.

Cedarhurst was the country home, for many years, of Cordenio and Mary Severance. The house was originally built in the 1860s by Mrs. Severance's maternal grandfather, Charles O. Fanning, then remodeled in 1886. In 1917, Cass Gilbert designed the ballroom wing, which doubled the size of the house while respecting its original design. During the Severances' time in the house, it served as a venue for visits and meetings by many important guests including four Presidents of the United States—Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, Warren G. Harding, and Calvin Coolidge. Integral to Cedarhurst are the extensive landscaped grounds with the cedars that give the estate its name. After the property was acquired in 2000 by True Thao and Xoua Thao, they spent two-and-a-half years rehabilitating it to its historic grandeur.

We will be served a nine-course tea and tour the first floor of the house and the grounds. The cost, which includes tax and gratuities, is \$26.00 for members and \$30.00 for nonmembers. Pre-registration is encouraged, using the enclosed response form.



The interior of Cedarhurst in 1976. Photo: Charles Nelson

To get there: Take I-94 East to Woodbury Drive – Keats Avenue (County Road 19) Exit. Go south 6.5 miles to the intersection with County Road 20 (Washington County). The entrance is on the right-hand side, just after the stop sign.

For additional information contact: Marjorie Pearson, 612-338-1987. For more details on Cedarhurst, see the website www.cedarhurstmansion.com.

Cass Gilbert Society Event

MOTHER'S DAY TEA AND TOUR: CASS GILBERT SOCIETY AT CEDARHURST MANSION

Sunday, May 9, 2004 – 3:00 P.M.

We will meet at Cedarhurst Mansion, Historic Country House and Conference Center, 6940 Keats Avenue South, Cottage Grove, Minnesota.

Cedarhurst was the country home, for many years, of Cordenio and Mary Severance. The house was originally built in the 1860s by Mrs. Severance's maternal grandfather, Charles O. Fanning, then remodeled in 1886. In 1917, Cass Gilbert designed the ballroom wing, which doubled the size of the house while respecting its original design. After the property was acquired in 2000 by True Thao and Xoua Thao, they spent two-and-a-half years rehabilitating it to its historic grandeur.

We will be served a nine-course tea and tour the first floor of the house and grounds. The cost, which includes tax and gratuities, is \$26.00 for members and \$30.00 for nonmembers.

Please join us for a gracious and scenic afternoon in a splendid Cass Gilbert setting.

To get there: Take I-94 East to Woodbury Drive – Keats Avenue (County Road 19) Exit. Go south 6.5 miles to the intersection with County Road 20 (Washington County). The entrance is on the right-hand side, just after the stop sign.

For additional information contact: Marjorie Pearson, 612-338-1987. For more details on Cedarhurst, see the website www.cedarhurstmansion.com.

Register by May 5 to secure your place. Complete the form, attach your check, and mail to the address below.

The cost of this event is \$26 for members and \$30 for nonmembers. Make your check payable to the Cass Gilbert Society, Inc.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (_____) _____ Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Mail to: The Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., P.O. Box 4066, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104

CASS GILBERT SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. Box 4066
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104-4066
www.cassgilbertsociety.org

Place
Stamp
Here

Our Mission

To preserve our cultural heritage through advancing scholarship in and appreciation of Cass Gilbert's influence on American architecture.

The Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., is a non-profit tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Officers and Board

Marjorie Pearson, *President*
Dewey Berscheid, *Vice President*
Mary Michael Connolly, *Secretary*
Troy Musel, *Treasurer*
Betsy Bradley
Eva Cross
Jean Kyle
Perrin Lilly
John Lynden
Jean Velleu, *President Emerita*
Joan Wilkosz
Linda Bjorklund, *Fund Raising*
Jim Hirsh, *Advisor*
Lana Mahoney, *Programs*
Sheila Meyer, *Membership Coordinator*

Have you renewed your membership? Would you like to join the Cass Gilbert Society?

See the Cass Gilbert Society website, www.cassgilbertsociety.org, for more information and a membership form, or send a check for \$25.00 for an individual/household membership to the **Cass Gilbert Society, P.O. Box 4066, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55104.**

Welcome to the following new members: Barbara Christen, Helen Post Curry, Steven T. Maxe, Patricia Murphy



Historic view of U.S. Custom House, New York