



# CASS GILBERT SOCIETY

*Organized to preserve the work of Minnesota's most important architect.*

## **MOTHER'S DAY WALKING TOUR IN LOWERTOWN, SAINT PAUL, Sunday, May 11, 2014**

Join members and friends of the Cass Gilbert Society as we tour Lowertown to view the architecture of Cass Gilbert and his contemporaries. Lowertown grew up at the "Lower Landing" on the Mississippi River, beginning in the 1840s. As St. Paul grew, Lowertown evolved into a major warehouse and distribution center serving the entire Upper Midwest. Lowertown's railroad, manufacturing, and wholesaling companies expressed their pride and permanence in the structures they erected, beginning in the 1880s. A significant concentration of these buildings survive, unified by similar architectural styles and construction materials. Many were designed by Cass Gilbert and Clarence Johnston; they offer a stark contrast to the residential buildings by these architects, although some were for the same clients. The tour will be led by Marjorie Pearson, Ph.D., past president of the Cass Gilbert Society and *Newsletter* editor. It will focus on the role of the railroads, the relation to banking, and the development of the warehouse type in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Meet at **Union Depot**, 214 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street at Sibley, starting at **2 p.m.** and lasting about two hours. Cost: \$15 per person, cash or check, payable at the beginning of the tour. The tour will proceed rain or shine, with a skyway backup in case of a downpour.

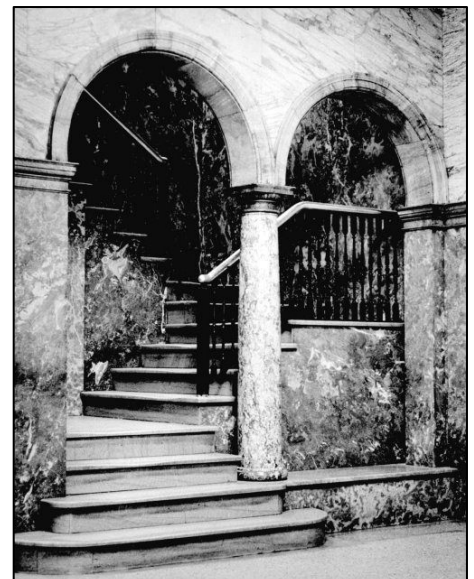


Window detail of the Gilbert Building (originally the Blood Warehouse), 1893-1894, 413 Wacouta Street, St. Paul.  
Photo: Sonja Mason

## **CELEBRATE PRESERVATION MONTH WITH THE PRESERVATION ALLIANCE OF MINNESOTA**

The Preservation Alliance of Minnesota (PAM) is hosting a celebration and open house at the **Pioneer-Endicott Buildings**, 141 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, on **Tuesday, May 20, 2014, 6-8 p.m.** The Endicott Building, designed by Cass Gilbert and built in 1890, is connected to the Pioneer Building, designed by Chicago-based architect Solon S. Beman and built in 1889. These two office buildings, joined internally as part of a renovation in the 1980s, have been converted to apartments, along with commercial space and the new home of the Minnesota Museum of Art. Tickets are \$10 per person for PAM members and \$15 per person for non-members. For more information and ticket purchase: <http://www.mnpreservation.org/preservation-month-celebration/>.

Endicott Building lobby area from East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, part of the restored space. Historic view from 1910. Photo: Minnesota Historical Society



## UPCOMING CASS GILBERT SOCIETY EVENTS

**Saturday, August 23, 2014.** In partnership with the **Minnesota Historical Society History Architecture Crawls program, Cass Gilbert Home and Building Tour**; morning and afternoon bus tours of Cass Gilbert sites. Registration is required through the Minnesota Historical Society; see <http://www.minnesotahistorycenter.org/historycrawls>.

**Week of September 15, 2014.** Architect John Gunther, AIA, of St. Louis, will be speaking on the work of Cass Gilbert and Harvey Ellis in St. Louis. John was one of the leaders of the Cass Gilbert Society St. Louis tour in October 2013. **Date, time, and location to be announced.**

## MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AT ROSELAWN CEMETERY

Once again, Roselawn Cemetery welcomes visitors on **May 24, 25, and 26, 2014**, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to visit the cemetery chapel (1902-1904) designed by Cass Gilbert and Thomas Holyoke in the style of a medieval English country church. There will be an organ concert each day beginning at 11 a.m. While the cemetery, planned by Gilbert in 1902, and the cemetery office building, also by Gilbert and Holyoke, are open to visitors all year, the chapel is normally open only for funerals and memorial services. Roselawn Cemetery is at Larpenteur Avenue and Victoria Street, Roseville, Minnesota. For more information, see [www.roselawncemetery.com](http://www.roselawncemetery.com).

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY ANNUAL MEETING

St. Paul is the site of the annual American Association of State and Local History conference, **September 17-20, 2014**. The Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office is one of the local sponsors. As part of the conference, Marjorie Pearson and Cindy Stephani will be leading a tour of Cass Gilbert sites on Thursday afternoon, September 18, for conference registrants. For more information about the conference: <http://about.aaslh.org/conference/>

## EXHIBITION NEWS

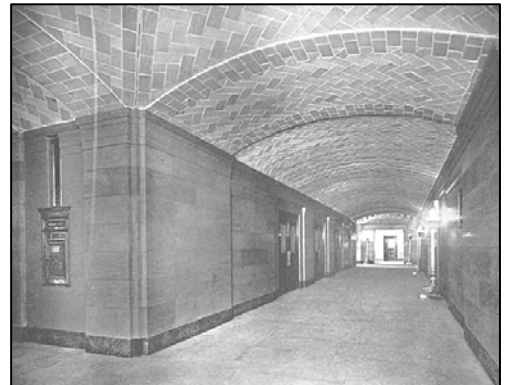
### 100 Years of Student Drawings: Celebrating the School of Architecture's Centennial

In honor of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the University of Minnesota School of Architecture organized this exhibition of drawings, ranging from the Beaux-Arts era through the digital age. The earlier drawings reflect the sensibility employed by Gilbert, Johnston, and other contemporaries. **Through June 29, 2014**. Northrop Gallery, Northrop Hall, University of Minnesota, open every day during building hours.

### Palaces for the People: Guastavino and the Art of Structural Tile

This exhibition, originally organized by the Boston Public Library and expanded in its current venue at the Museum of the City of New York, examines the engineering and architectural beauty of spaces designed and built by the Spanish Catalan immigrants Rafael Guastavino and his son, Rafael, Jr. It features objects, artifacts, photographs, and documents on the Guastavinos' thin-shell structural vaults used on more than 1,000 significant architectural spaces in the United States. Cass Gilbert may have first encountered the work of the Guastavinos through McKim, Mead & White. Guastavino vaulting can be found in many of Gilbert's buildings including the Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul; Roselawn Chapel, Roseville, Minnesota; U.S. Custom House, New York; Essex County Courthouse, Newark; St. Louis Art Museum; St. Louis Public Library; Detroit Public Library; Oberlin Art Gallery; and the Woolworth Building. Original drawings for the design and engineering details of the U.S. Custom House are featured in the exhibit. The exhibition website incorporates an online database, based on the research work of John Ochsendorf, designed for crowd-sourcing that allows visitors to submit photographs and information on any Guastavino projects they discover. For more information: [www.mcny.org](http://www.mcny.org). **Through September 7, 2014**. Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Avenue at 103<sup>rd</sup> Street, open every day 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Guastavino tile in vaulted ceiling at  
Minnesota State Capitol.  
Photo: Minnesota Historical Society



## **HONORING THE THURGOOD MARSHALL U.S. COURTHOUSE**

Cass Gilbert's last building, the **U.S. Courthouse on Foley Square** in lower Manhattan, re-opened last year after a six-year rehabilitation and restoration campaign. With its prominent location, soaring height, and gilded pyramidal roof, the courthouse is a major presence on the New York skyline. The building and the team involved in the project will be honored on June 5, 2014, with the Chairman's Award presented by the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The Chairman's Award is the Conservancy's highest honor recognizing exceptional business leaders or organizations that have demonstrated their dedication to protecting New York's architectural legacy, breathing life into the unique character of New York City.

## **WHO BUILT OUR CAPITOL?**

The Labor Education Service, University of Minnesota, has released **Who Built Our Capitol? The Lives and Work of the Men and Women Who Built the Minnesota State Capitol Building**, directed by Randy Croce. The 47 minute documentary has had several showings to interested groups around the state and can be viewed in its entirety through the accompanying website, [www.whobuiltourcapitol.org](http://www.whobuiltourcapitol.org). The website also provides access to photographs, interviews, and much of the background information that provided the basis for the film. John Sielaff, one of the project researchers, is also the author of "The Stonecutters," published in the Spring 2014 issue of *Minnesota History*. The illustrated article provides extensive information and background on these skilled workers.

## **A WOOLWORTH CELEBRATION**

The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the Woolworth Building on April 24, 1913, was celebrated last year in a variety of ways. The exhibition, **The Woolworth Building @ 100**, at the Skyscraper Museum, featured a half-day symposium on June 14, 2013, that brought together eight scholars to discuss architecture and modernity in relation to the Woolworth Building. Videos of the speakers can be accessed through

[http://skyscraper.org/PROGRAMS/MEDIEVAL\\_OR\\_MODERN/symposium.php](http://skyscraper.org/PROGRAMS/MEDIEVAL_OR_MODERN/symposium.php).

Woolworth Week offered a variety of tours and events throughout the New York City metropolitan area. A highlight was Gail Fenske, speaking on April 22, 2013, at the Center for Architecture, on **Woolworth Building: The Making of a New York Landmark**. Her recorded talk can be accessed at:

[http://skyscraper.org/PROGRAMS/LECTURES/FENSKE2013/making\\_of\\_a\\_NY\\_landmark.htm](http://skyscraper.org/PROGRAMS/LECTURES/FENSKE2013/making_of_a_NY_landmark.htm)

**Tours of the Woolworth Building** itself proved to be so popular that the owners of the building have agreed to have them continue at least through the end of 2014, with the coordination of Look LLC. For reservations, tickets, and more information: [www.woolworthtours.com](http://www.woolworthtours.com).

Shortly before the beginning of Woolworth Week, the **New-York Historical Society** announced that it had purchased the commemorative Tiffany bowl, presented to Cass Gilbert on April 24, 1913, which had been placed for auction by the heirs of Cass Gilbert III. As the depository of the most extensive collection of Cass Gilbert drawings and papers, the Society saw the bowl as a fitting acquisition. The bowl has been installed in the lobby of the New-York Historical Society building.

## **REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING, DECEMBER 8, 2013**

Members of the board of the Cass Gilbert Society held their annual meeting, following dinner at Dixie's Restaurant. As required by the by-laws, the following officers were elected: Ted Lentz, AIA, president; John Yust, vice president; Carolyn Nayematsu and Vincent Platt, co-treasurers. Carolyn Kompelien was officially welcomed as a board member. Timara Harney, who had been elected secretary in 2012, resigned in mid-2013, due to other commitments. James G. Hirsh has resigned as general counsel. Nathan Stone Buttleman, former associate counsel, is now general counsel.

CASS GILBERT SOCIETY, INC.  
P.O. Box 4066  
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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**

Ted Lentz, *President*

John Yust, *Vice President*

Vacant, *Secretary*

Carolyn Nayematsu, *Co-Treasurer*

Vincent Platt, *Co-Treasurer*

Carolyn Kompelien

Nicholas Marcucci

Sonja Mason

Marjorie Pearson, *President Emerita/Newsletter*

Jean Velleu, *President Emerita*

Art Weeks

Wendy Weimer, *President Emerita*

Linda Bjorklund, *Fundraising*

Nathan Stone Buttleman, *Counsel*

#### **A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR**

It has been over a year since that last issue of the *Newsletter* appeared. We have generally mailed *Newsletters* as a way of informing members about upcoming Society events.

The Society has established a Facebook page, administered by board member Sonja Mason, as a means of posting more timely information about items of interest to Society members. Click on the Facebook logo from the Cass Gilbert Society homepage:

[www.cassgilbertsociety.org](http://www.cassgilbertsociety.org).

We are also seeking to use email more efficiently as a way of providing more timely notices. *Please provide us an email address when you send in your membership dues, so we can add you to our emailing list.*

Do not fear; the *Newsletter* will continue to be mailed to Society members and other interested parties.



Find us on Facebook.

May 2014

#### **RENEW YOUR SUPPORT FOR 2014**

Please use the enclosed form to renew your Cass Gilbert Society support in 2014. Our records are maintained on a calendar year basis, with the expiration date noted on your address label. **We encourage you to provide your email address.** It will be used to send out announcements between the publication dates of the Newsletters.

You can show your support at various levels and any contributions above the basic level are much appreciated. Your support ensures that you will receive our Newsletter via U.S. mail, free admission to lectures, reduced fees for local tours, and eligibility to participate in regional tours. Your contributions are the major source of funding for operating expenses for our all-volunteer organization. You may also support us through **GiveMn.org.**