

The Annual President's Report for 2007
Cass Gilbert Society
Wendy Weimer, president

The Officers and the Board of the Cass Gilbert Society are extremely talented and capable individuals, who also enjoy working together to fulfill our mission: To preserve our cultural heritage through advancing scholarship in and appreciation of Cass Gilbert's influence on American architecture.

Thank you to:

Cindy Stephani, Vice President	Mary Michael Connolly
Betsy Bradley, Secretary	James Groskopf
Vincent Platt, Treasurer	Nick Marcucci, Web-site coordinator
Bonnie Alton, Member at Large	Don Ostrom
Marjorie Pearson, President Emerita/Newsletter Editor	
Jean Velleu, President Emerita	Joan Wilkosz
Linda Bjorklund, Fundraising	Jim Hirsh, Legal Advisor
Lana Mahoney, Programs	

The activities that we have successfully undertaken this year include the following:

* **Lecture Series:**

- 2-27-07 MN State Capitol Restoration Project
Michael Bjornberg and Robert Loveridge with Special Guest Helen Curry
- 4-24-07 The Texas Travelers report on their trip to Austin, TX
- 9-11-07 Hampton Smith, author of *The Spirit and the Bride: A History of St. Clement's Episcopal Church 1893-1996*
- 11-13-07 Larry Millett, author of the *AIA Guide to the Twin Cities: The Essential Source on the Architecture of Minneapolis and St. Paul*

* **Website Re-design**

- CGS received a matching \$3000 grant from the MN Historical Society to develop our website, in conjunction with Factor of 4, to become the authoritative source of information about architect Cass Gilbert and his work.
- CGS is now in the process of applying for a MN Sesquicentennial (matching) grant (est \$7000) which would fund Phase 2 of the website project and allow us to include 150+ pictures and narratives of Cass Gilbert's work.

* **Preservation Initiatives**

CGS became a Forum member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The 2007 National Conference was held in the Twin Cities October 2-6, 2007. A number of Cass Gilbert Society members attended lectures and other events. CGS was selected to offer a poster display at the Conference entitled "Preserving the Work of Cass Gilbert." Members and friends of the Society also volunteered as hosts/tour guides at the Gilbert designed home at 318 Summit (the Lightner house) during the Candlelight Tour; and also staffed a table at the University Club.

The Minnesota Historical Society selected Cass Gilbert to be included in the MN 150: The People, Places and Things that Shape Our State. This display is now open to the public. Several CGS Board members attended the grand opening gala on October 11, 2007.

The Cass Gilbert Society collaborated with the CT Community Foundation to support the rehabilitation of the Gilbert-designed Waterbury City Hall (aka Waterbury Municipal Building), built in 1914-15. The town council voted to preserve the building and continue to use it for

city government!

* **Tours**

- 10-11-07 to 10-15-07 CGS Trip to NY, NJ & CT

Tours with knowledgeable guides and a behind-the-scenes look at historic Buildings: Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House, Brooklyn Army Terminal, Williams Warehouse, Austin Nichols Warehouse, Lawyers Association, B-Way Chambers, Rodin Studios, SJM Building, New York Life Building, 90 West Street, Woolworth Building, Essex County Court House, Gilbert-designed train stations, Waterbury Town Hall, Chase Building, Waterbury Club; New Haven Library and train station; Ridgefield, CT. - Gilbert fountain and grave site, Cannonball House/Keeler Tavern

- 7-19-07 ASID Showcase House Tour at 318 Summit Avenue - the Lightner home (1893);

Wine & Cheese Party

follow-up to the Hard Hat Tour

Tours with Tom Blanck, Architect

Introductory Lecture with Marjorie Pearson, Architectural Historian

- 3-16-07 House Tour of 123 Farrington - the Emerson Hadley home (1895)

Wine & Cheese Party

* **Media**

Excerpts of the CGS / tpt video "Cass Gilbert: Standing the Test of Time" were included in a video produced by the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) entitled 100 Years of Grandeur-Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House. The Cass Gilbert Society was thanked in the credits.

The Keeler Tavern is interested in possibly selling our Cass Gilbert buttons and CGS / tpt video in their store.