



CASS GILBERT SOCIETY

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

FROM CASS GILBERT TO MINNESOTA MODERNISM, APRIL 8, 2008

Join the Cass Gilbert Society on Tuesday, April 8, 2008, at the University Club, 420 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, at 7:00 P.M. for a presentation by **Annette Atkins**, author of *Creating Minnesota: A History from the Inside Out* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 2008).

In her book, published in conjunction with the Minnesota State Sesquicentennial, Atkins takes the synecdoche approach to state history. That is, she picks out the telling story, the revealing detail, the striking individual, to reveal the complexity and richness of the state's past.

Cass Gilbert helped to establish architecture as a profession in Minnesota. Atkins will talk about the coming of modernism to Minnesota in the 1950s, as exemplified by the buildings of Marcel Breuer and the Orrin Thompson Homes.

Atkins is Professor of History and Flynn Professor in the Humanities at Saint John's University/College of Saint Benedict. Her previous books are *Harvest of Grief* (about nineteenth-century rural poverty) and *We Grew*

Up Together (about nineteenth-century family life).

Admission is free to Society members. There is a \$5.00 charge for nonmembers. Refreshments will be served after the presentation.



Annette Atkins, faculty member at Saint John's University and the College of Saint Benedict

CASS GILBERT SOCIETY CELEBRATES THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

The State Sesquicentennial celebration begins on May 11, 2008. A host of festivities is planned for Saint Paul, in and around the Capitol on Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18, 2008. See www.mn150years.org for more detailed information.

Join members and friends of the Cass Gilbert Society for an 11 A.M. brunch at **Cedarhurst Mansion**, Cottage Grove, on Sunday, May 18,

before going on to the various festivities at the Capitol. Please make your own brunch reservation by May 10; call 651-769-8918. The cost is \$20. Contact Cindy Stephani, 612-824-0134, or cgmstep@aol.com for more information. For details on Cedarhurst and directions see www.cedarhurstmansion.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, September 15, 2008 Architect Ethan Anthony to speak on Ralph Adams Cram and Cass Gilbert

UPCOMING EVENT

The University of St. Thomas is hosting a symposium on **The Victorian Home** on Friday, April 4, 2008, to be held at the OEC Auditorium and McNeely Hall, between 1 P.M. and 8:30 P.M. The plenary speakers are Richard Guy Wilson, University of Virginia, on “Comfort or Chaos? Beauty or Ostentation? The Art of the Victorian Home” and Kris Deffenbacher, Hamline University, on “Remodeling Psychic Architecture in Victorian Literature and Culture.” Concurrent panels will deal with “Victorian Designs: The Visual Arts at Home,” “Victorian Fictions: Domesticity and the Novel,” “Victorian Others: Changes at Home and Abroad,” “Victorian Promises: Domesticity and Popular Print Culture,” and “Victorian Privacies: Health and Household Management.” The symposium is accompanied by an exhibition, “Life Through the Magic Lantern: The Victorian Home.” The symposium concludes with a reception. For more information see: www.stthomas.edu/english/events/default.html, or call Sue Focke, 651-962-5560.

MEET THE CASS GILBERT SOCIETY BOARD

New board member **Sonja Sudheimer**'s interest in historic preservation began during her childhood as she grew up in Saint Paul's Ramsey Hill neighborhood among the many historic homes undergoing renovation. She encountered Cass Gilbert architecture at an early age when she took tap dance classes at the Virginia Street Church (although Sonja claims no success as a tap dancer). Sonja participated in a UNESCO-sponsored trip to Baku, Azerbaijan, a World Heritage Site, and also serves on the Summit Avenue Residential Preservation Association (SARPA) board. She recently graduated with an M. Arch. Degree from the School of Architecture at the University of Minnesota and is working as an architectural intern, one of the required steps to becoming a licensed architect. Her favorite Cass Gilbert home is the second Lightner house at 318 Summit Avenue.

NEW CASS GILBERT SOCIETY WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Be sure to visit the new website, now available at www.cassgilbertsociety.org. Among the highlights are enhanced information about Cass Gilbert and the work of his Minnesota office and more photographs, as well as the slide presentation about the New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut trip presented at the February 12 lecture. Peter Levenson, one of the owners of the 90 West Street Building, has also given us permission to stream the video about the building that was created by Aruk Kaplan.

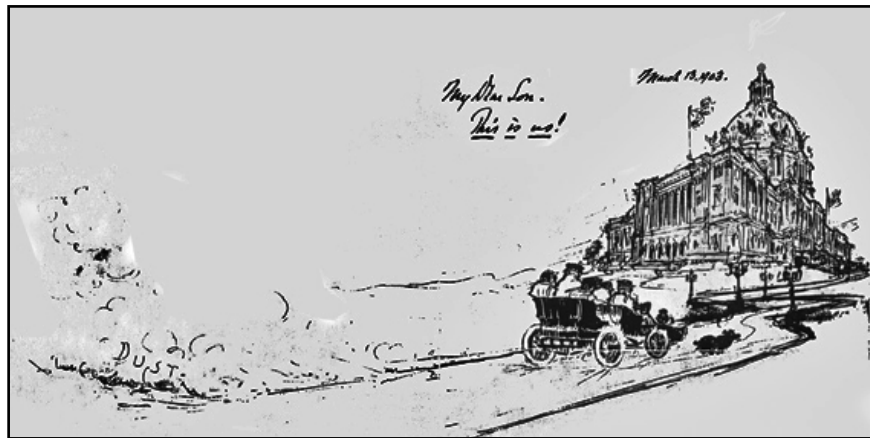
The first phase of the website redesign was enabled through a **State Grant-in-Aid** from the **Minnesota Historical Society**. Thanks to **HGA Architects** for providing a generous contribution to help meet a new challenge grant. We are raising additional funds to add more comprehensive information to the site, including a searchable database of Gilbert's works. If you would like to help us meet this challenge, please contact the Society by mail, telephone, or email via the website.



REPORT ON SOLOMONSON LECTURE

On February 26, 2008, Katherine Solomonson, Associate Professor in the School of Architecture and College of Design of the University of Minnesota spoke in the University of Minnesota Architecture Series at the Minneapolis Public Library. Her topic was **Cass Gilbert: Re-Imaging the Western Landscape**. Professor Solomonson talked about the work of Gilbert and his collaborators in his Saint Paul office, which he had opened in 1883, after studying architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, traveling in Europe, and working in the office of McKim, Mead and White in New York. Solomonson explained how Gilbert had established himself as an architect

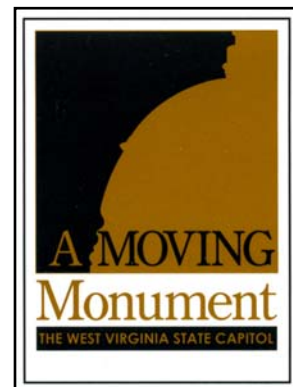
and a professional, gained clients and patrons, and reinforced his status as a social equal with his clients. Gilbert became an architect at a time when architects were more than craftsmen; they worked in offices and had to be businessmen, but were also artists. Gilbert was able to cultivate his academic training, his social connections, and his business acumen to establish a nationwide career, that was made possible by the railroad, the telegraph, and national publications. The design and construction of the Minnesota State Capitol was the apex of his Minnesota career. It enabled him to move on to New York and achieve success that eventually made him nationally and internationally famous.



State Capitol sketch by Cass Gilbert, 1903
From Library of Congress Collections

WEST VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL NEWS

MotionMasters and the University of Charleston premiered the documentary, **A Moving Monument: The West Virginia State Capitol** on March 6, 2008. The Cass Gilbert Society was pleased to provide several images for the documentary. Society members Helen Post Curry and Thomas Blanck were interviewed for the project.



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

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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.

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ADDITIONS TO THE MEMBER LIST FOR 2008

The following have paid their membership dues for 2008 since the membership list was published in the February 2008 Newsletter. Membership is recorded by calendar year, from January through December. Your membership expiration date is noted on your Newsletter mailing label. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2008 or want to join the Society, please use the enclosed form to do so or print out the form from the website, www.cassgilbertsociety.org.

Barbara T. Anderson, Patricia Anderson, Sally Seabury Cole, Angie Courchaine, Helen Post Curry, Gail Fenske, Steven Flanders, Cathy Gilbert-Rogers, Merle and Ellen Johnson, Thomas A. Keller III, F. Alexandra Klas, Georgia R. Lindeke, Orville T. Lindquist, Patricia and Malcolm McDonald, Judy McLaughlin, William T. Morgan, Jack and Gretchen Sjöholm, Mary Jo Skaggs, Charles Stander, Nancy Stark, Laurel Winsor, Donald Z. Woods.



CASS GILBERT SOCIETY

2008 Membership Form

Mission Statement: To preserve and enhance the nation's cultural history through advancing scholarship in and appreciation of Cass Gilbert's contribution to American architecture.

Benefits of membership in the society include regular lectures about Cass Gilbert and his work; a quarterly newsletter; the opportunity to become familiar with Cass Gilbert-designed buildings across the country, including the Minnesota State Capitol; an opportunity to meet others who are interested in architectural history and preservation; and so much more.

Please consider joining the Cass Gilbert Society at one of the following membership levels. Annual membership runs from January - December.

____ Individual \$25.00

____ Household \$35.00

____ Contributor \$50.00 - \$149.00

____ Corporate \$50.00

____ Sponsor \$150.00 +

Name _____

Address _____
Street City, State, Zip Code

Phone _____

Email address _____

Please make check payable to Cass Gilbert Society and mail to Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., P.O. Box 4066, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104-4066.

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

Check here if you don't want to be in the Cass Gilbert Society Directory.

Volunteers are always needed. If you would like to volunteer, please check the committee(s) of interest to you.

____ Lecture Series
____ Newsletter
____ Fundraising
____ Research
____ Other

____ Special Events
____ Public Relations/Marketing
____ Membership
____ Archives

What led to your interest in the Cass Gilbert Society?