



## REPORT ON OBERLIN COLLEGE TOUR, JANUARY 26, 2010

Participants in the **Oberlin** tour last September will present their impressions and analyses to Cass Gilbert Society members and friends at the **University Club**, 420 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, on **January 26, 2010**, at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

Cass Gilbert had a relationship with Oberlin College that stretched from the opening of Finney Chapel in 1908 to the completion of the Quadrangle for the Graduate School of Theology in 1931. As consulting architect to the college, Gilbert also designed the Cox Administration Building (1915), the Allen Memorial Art Museum (1917), and the Allen Memorial Hospital (1925). Working in collaboration with Oberlin President Henry Churchill King and the Olmsted Brothers, he devised a long-range campus plan that would have arranged the college buildings around Tappan Square, the Oberlin town green. While his plan was never executed, it is interesting to compare to Gilbert's plans for the University of Minnesota and the University of Texas.

Tom Blanck and Marjorie Pearson will discuss Gilbert's architecture in Oberlin, as well as the Weltzheimer/Johnson House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and built in 1948-1949, and now owned by Oberlin College. Vincent Platt, Carolyn Nayematsu, Jim Law, Jean Velleu, and Wendy Weimer, other tour participants, will also offer their impressions.



Cass Gilbert-designed fountain by the Art Museum



Tour participants in the cloister of the Graduate School of Theology, now Bosworth Hall.



Above: Allen Memorial Art Museum, designed by Cass Gilbert and completed in 1917.  
Below: Cox Administration Building, designed by Cass Gilbert and completed in 1915.

The two buildings enjoy a similar stylistic vocabulary.



## CASS GILBERT 150TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, NOVEMBER 21 AND 22, 2009

The Cass Gilbert Society hosted a very successful two-day celebration of Cass Gilbert's 150th birthday. The festivities began at the **Minnesota State Capitol** on Saturday afternoon, with three fully subscribed tours that focused on Gilbert's architecture and the related artworks. The tours were followed by birthday cake that was served in the Rathskeller, after introductory remarks by **Helen Post Curry**, Cass Gilbert's great-granddaughter.

The celebration also featured an exhibit that highlighted fifty years of buildings designed by Cass Gilbert that was on display in the north corridor between November 21 and December 4. The exhibit was organized by Nick Marcucci with text by Marjorie Pearson and design by Sonja Mason. Also on display was a LEGO model of the capitol.

The following day Cass Gilbert Society members and friends enjoyed a **champagne reception**, sponsored by board member Charles Neimeyer and the McCullough Companies, at the **Gilbert Building**, 413 Wacouta Street, in Saint Paul's Lowertown. After a champagne toast given by Helen Post Curry, attendees toured the building, which had been built in 1893-1894 and was occupied for many years by the T. L. Blood Northwestern Paint Works. The interior structure is notable for its cast-iron columns supporting massive timber ceiling beams.

The reception was followed by the **annual meeting** of the board, held at Forepaugh's Restaurant. Thanks to the following officers who are resigning: Jane Tschida as secretary and Vincent Platt as treasurer. Mary Michael Connolly, Carol Forbes, and James Groskopf are leaving the board. Sheila Terryll was elected as the new secretary and Carolyn Nayematsu as the new treasurer. Ted Lentz is a new board member. Jane Tschida is remaining on the board. Wendy Weimer and Cindy Stephani remain as president and vice president for another year. Other board members and advisors are Bonnie Alton, Nick Marcucci, Charlie Neimeyer, Sonja Mason; Jim Hirsh, general counsel; Linda Bjorklund, fundraising; Jean Velleu, president emerita, and Marjorie Pearson, president emerita and newsletter editor.

Wendy Weimer reminded those in attendance that **Chris Coleman**, mayor of Saint Paul, had officially declared November 24 as **Cass Gilbert Day** in honor of the architect's birthday, and that State Senator **Ann Rest** offered a resolution recognizing the contributions of Cass Gilbert to the state of Minnesota.



Helen Post Curry cuts the birthday cake in the Rathskeller as tour participants look on.

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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.

**Officers and Board**

Wendy Weimer, *President*  
Cindy Stephani, *Vice President/Programs*  
Sheila Terryll, *Secretary*  
Carolyn Nayematsu, *Treasurer*  
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Jean Velleu, *President Emerita*  
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James Hirsh, *General Counsel*

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME**

Membership is recorded by calendar year, from January through December. Your membership expiration date is noted on your Newsletter mailing label. A membership renewal form is enclosed with this Newsletter. Please call 651-644-8836 for more information, or print out the form from the website, [www.cassgilbertsociety.org](http://www.cassgilbertsociety.org).

**Upcoming in April 2010!**

Report on Havana and research on Cass Gilbert and American architects in Cuba before 1930. Date to be announced.