
24th Annual Ann Arbor Preservation Awards June 4, 2012



Awards Overview

- **Rehabilitation Awards** – Presented in recognition of superior maintenance of a significant property to preserve its essential historical, cultural or architectural value for a period of 10 years or more.
- **Preservation Awards** – Presented in recognition of substantial work that returned a property to a state of utility through repair or alteration, facilitating contemporary needs but respecting the features of the property that are significant to its historic and architectural values.
- **Special Merit Awards** – Presented in recognition of exceptional projects, landscapes or other unique preservation projects, including lifetime achievements and centennial recognition.

Rehabilitation Awards



Clifford Williams – 1407 Broadway Street

Clifford Williams purchased the Erastus LeSure (LeSeur) House, built in 1848, and renovated it in 2011. This Greek Revival side gable house has a pair of frieze windows on the front but Italianate features in the long first floor windows and the doorway with double arched windows. Mr. Williams has taken a very dilapidated house and made it into a wonderful addition to the Broadway Historic District by adding a new roof and painting the clapboards as well as other interior improvements.



Martin Soave – 508 Fourth Street

This tiny house was rescued from 12 years of abandonment by Martin Soave and featured on the Old West Side Homes Tour in 2011. This house was built in 1924 for Ernest Schneeberger, a letter carrier with the post office who later became the Postmaster of Ann Arbor. Many people remember this as the home of Eugene Horning, a baker at Quality Bakery, and his wife who died in 1997. It was left empty by a descendant who lived out of state. A characteristic feature of this Arts and Crafts style house is the wide porch across the front. Soave had to deal with raccoons that lived in a back closet and a collapsing porch but he was up to the challenge. Soave's tenaciousness is evident and this makes one less eyesore in the Old West Side Historic District.



The Regents of the University of Michigan – Burton Memorial Tower

The University of Michigan continues to rehabilitate its landmark buildings on central campus. This renovation coincides with its 75th anniversary of the tower finished in 1936 and designed by Albert Kahn. It is a memorial to UM President Marion LeRoy Burton and contains the world's fourth heaviest carillon, donated by Charles A. Baird, who also commissioned the Milles Sculpture and fountain on the Ingalls Mall in front of the Tower. It is on the National Register as the UM Central Campus Historic District.



Swati Dutta – 519 Third Street

Owner Swati Dutta removed the wide aluminum siding and restored the original clapboard. She also replaced iron hand rails with wood ones and repaired the cement block foundation. The HDC approved the demolition of a rear one-story addition for a two story one. The home was built in 1911 for Roy Standbridge, a piano seller at Ann Arbor Organ Co. Dutta has contributed much to her Old West Side Historic District neighborhood with this pleasant rehabilitation.



Eileen Bristol, The Relax Station – 300 West Huron Street

Eileen Bristol is given this award for her sensitive adaptive reuse of this former gas station which was formerly protected as an Individual Historic Property. It was built as Hunter Bros. White Star Gas Station in 1927. She has remodeled it for her massage business while maintaining the original Spanish Revival structure and details intact, including the stepped Spanish-style arches over the entry and the stucco.

Preservation Awards



Holde and Robert Borcherts – 1555 Washtenaw Avenue

Holde and Robert Borcherts have owned the historic Edward DeMille Campbell House built in 1899 and designed by Albert Kahn for over 30 years. Campbell was a UM Professor of Chemistry and Director of the Chemical Labs. The home is red brick with white trim in the Georgian Revival style characterized by strict symmetry, a central entry, end chimneys, and dormers. Inside there is fine woodwork, wide stairways and a paneled study. Nearly all the original details both exterior and interior have been preserved by the Borcherts who have kept the house in pristine condition. It is one of the five original properties in the Washtenaw-Hill Historic District.



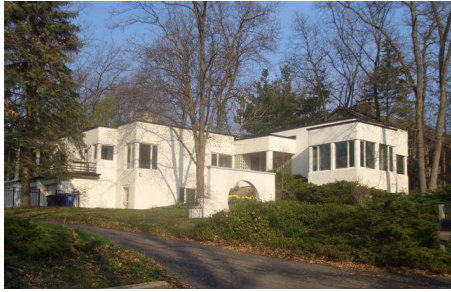
Kathy Clark and Mike Anglin – 549 South First Street

Kathy Clark and Mike Anglin have kept their simple Colonial Revival home in tip top condition and are being cited for their continued preservation of the house built by Henry Koch in 1897. Koch was a local contractor and lived here until 1910. When purchased, the house was in very run down condition. Kathy and Mike have maintained their home and their First Street Garden Inn here since 1993. They have won awards in the past for their wonderful gardens which delight those walking by. It is in the Old West Side Historic District.



Kenneth and Elizabeth Baird – 1223 Pontiac Trail

Kenneth and Elizabeth Baird, owners since 1990, are receiving this award for their maintenance and preservation of the Jean Paul Slusser House, designed by George Brigham in 1939. This house replaced the so-called Robert Frost house that is now at the Henry Ford Museum Greenfield Village. It is considered one of the first “modern” houses in Ann Arbor and has large board horizontal redwood siding, a flat roof with overhanging eaves, 2x4 ‘beams’ that fan out under the eaves at the corners, and a single vertical window on the entry side for both floors. It is a complete anachronism in this very old neighborhood but shrubbery and trees help soften the effect.



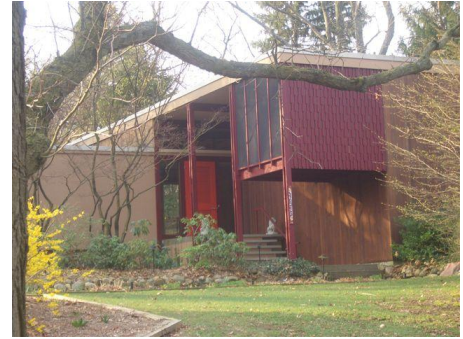
**Kenneth and Elizabeth Nesbit –
1334 Arlington Boulevard**

Ken and Betsy Nisbet have owned this property since the 1983 and have taken great pains to preserve its Art Deco/Art Moderne character with its emphasis on the horizontal rather than the vertical. It features glass block and rounded corners and has an asymmetrical façade. It was built in 1938 for UM Professor Carl Rufus and his wife, who traveled to Korea for his work in astronomy. The “Moon Gate” on the front lawn reflects this and is a landmark to all who drive down this street. The home was featured in an *Ann Arbor News* article October 22, 1938 where they called out the wide windows among its features. Rufus and his wife, an amateur airplane pilot and author of a book called the “Flying Grandma” lived here until the mid-1940s when they both died. Current owner Nisbet is Executive Director of UM Tech Transfer and the home is part of the Mid Century Modern group of the Ann Arbor Hills area.



**Jane and James Kister – 2250
Belmont Road**

Jane and James Kister have owned what is known as the Eberbach House since 1994. The house was designed by UM professor of architecture and Dean of the Architecture School Walter Sanders in 1950. Sanders was lured from his practice in New York in 1949 and only designed three houses in Ann Arbor. It has the characteristic boxy form of the Mid-Century Modern look and unusual vertical paneling projecting from the façade of the house. It is featured in the Mid-Century Modern booklet published in 2012.



**Peter Hinman – 1075 Chestnut
Street**

Peter Hinman and his late wife Elisabeth Young purchased this home in 1988. It was built for physician Lyle D. Elliott in 1961 and was designed by UM Professor of Architecture Robert Metcalf. Pauline Elliot, his widow, continued to live here until at least 1976. Professor emeritus Hinman continues to care for this landmark building, characterized by its boxy shapes, in perfect condition.



**Glenn Watkins – 1336
Glendaloch Drive**

Glenn Watkins has owned this house, designed by UM Professor of Architecture Herbert Johe for Mr. and Mrs. Walter Holcombe in 1959, since 1987. Johe designed only nine houses in Ann Arbor and this was his favorite. A Scandinavian influence is noticeable which was the result of a trip Johe took there in 1956. Simple lines, boxy shapes, a flat roof, and the use of wood siding characterize this lovely example of Mid-Century Modern and is featured in the brochure on Ann Arbor Hills published this year by the A2Modern group.



**Myron and Barbara Levine –
356 Hilldale Drive**

Myron and Barbara Levine are the original owners of this house, built in 1962 and designed by Donald Van Curler, a local architect. It is also a great example of Mid-Century Modern on the north side of Ann Arbor. Like many others, it has a boxy shape, a carport in front with a flat roof, complimenting the flat roof of the house and the use of much vertical wood siding with white contrasts.



**Carol Amster – 2601 Heather
Way**

Carol Amster and her late husband Herbert have owned this house since 1978. Designed by UM Professors of Architecture Ed Olencki and Joe Albano for Prof. Leonard Eaton in 1962, it is another example of Mid-Century Modern in the Ann Arbor Hills neighborhood and is featured in the A2Modern brochure on this topic published this year. Olencki studied with Mies van der Rohe in Chicago and the arrangement of this house in boxes shows that influence expressed in brick. Albano also trained in Chicago and both were hired at the UM School of Architecture in the late 1940s. The Amsters are well known in the community as philanthropists and their preservation of this house is another gift to Ann Arbor.



**Herb David, Herb David
Guitar Studio – 302 East
Liberty Street**

Herb David moved his guitar studio here in 1983 and has advocated for this Dutch Colonial Revival house and this block—the East Liberty Street Historic District—ever since. David has worked tirelessly to keep this block intact despite many external pressures from development. The home was built in 1907 by Joe Parker, a famous saloon keeper whose bar “Joe’s” was memorialized in song by UM alums.

Special Merit Awards

*Rosemarion
Blake*

Rosemarion Blake – Lifetime Achievement

Rosemarion Blake has worked to promote local history by serving on the Historic District Commission, the Washtenaw County Historical Society, the Ann Arbor Historical Foundation, the Kempf House Board, the Cobblestone Farm Association and many historic study committees including one which resulted in the publication of [Historic Buildings, Ann Arbor](#). Rosemarion grew up in Ann Arbor and married Richard Blake in 1949. She is an active member of her church, Bethel A.M.E. of Ann Arbor, and sponsored research of its history. Her interest in preservation is heartfelt and as she says, “*Once something is gone, it cannot be replaced and is lost to us forever.*” Thank you, Rosemarion.

a2modern
ann arbor michigan

Nancy Deromedi and Tracy Aris – Special Merit

Nancy Deromedi and Tracy Aris have helped promote the history and understanding of Ann Arbor’s mid-century modern architecture through a website (www.a2modern.org), walking tours, exhibits, lectures and publications. They have conducted field trips locally to Robert C. Metcalf’s mid-century home. They have worked tirelessly developing a map and brochure that provides biographies of a selection of architects working in the modern style in the Ann Arbor Hills neighborhood which has a large concentration of mid-century works. a2modern has benefited greatly from partnerships in the community, namely Robert C. Metcalf, Taubman College of Architecture, Bentley Historical Library, EMU’s Historic Preservation Program, Washtenaw County Economic Development, Surovell and Reinhart Realtors and the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office.



Zal Gaz Grotto No. 34, Monarch James Richardson – Centennial Recognition

The Zal Gaz Grotto No. 34 is one of but a few surviving members of the once numerous Masonic organizations in Ann Arbor. They celebrated a century of service in 2011. They were part of a group of “grottoes” serving as Freemason social clubs. It is both a social club and a club which raises money for cerebral palsy and dental care for children with special needs. Grotto No. 34 was chartered in 1911. They were housed in many places downtown until they received a plot of land on West Stadium Boulevard from Gottlob and Caroline Schumacher. These Masons built their clubhouse at this location in 1959 which still stands today. The Grotto is also a venue for local jazz groups and other performances.



**The University of Michigan
Rackham Graduate School,
Dean Janet A. Weiss –
Centennial Recognition**

Since conferring its first doctoral degree in 1876, the University of Michigan has advanced graduate education to meet society's needs.

In 1912, a separate school of graduate studies was established with the ultimate goal of preparing students for careers in academia.

In 1935 donor Mary Rackham endowed the Graduate School and enabled construction of the Horace G. Rackham building, designed by Smith Hinchman and Grylls of Detroit. Today, the Rackham Graduate School offers more than 191 programs.