

Cleveland Architecture Foundation

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No. 1, Summer 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Cleveland Architecture Foundation (CAF) has been formed to help elevate the design culture in our community.

Initially, we have pursued illustrated video interviews with several of our distinguished elder architects and continue to seek opportunities to meet with and capture on video the words and work of the senior designers, builders and craftspeople of the region.

A core objective of the foundation is to make architectural archives, both those that currently exist in varied locations, and those yet to be created, more accessible to the public. We have begun to sponsor events which will draw attention to these archives and to the architects and architecture of northeast Ohio. The CAF is organized as a 501(c)3 charitable organization under the Internal Revenue Code.



Above: Park Lane Villa; 1922
Below: Carnegie West Library; Edward Tilton; 1906



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Tours: CAF acted as fiscal agent for an emerging community-based organization that conducted tours of the Glenville Neighborhood and Little Italy. This group seeks to revitalize citizen interest in historic districts and to raise awareness of shared common interests among neighborhoods. Additional tours are currently funded and are in the planning stages.

Scofield Lecture: In February, CAF co-sponsored a lecture on the life and practice of Levi Scofield with the Cleveland Grays Armory by Thomas J. O'Grady, Ohio University professor and Executive Director of the Southeast Ohio History Center. CAF is working to provide O'Grady photos of Scofield's prominent Cleveland projects and his residence to enhance his presentation and prepare the content for publication.



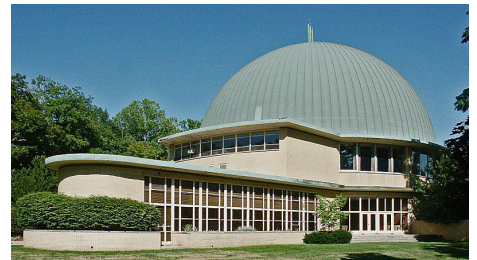
Above: Ohio State Reformatory; Mansfield, OH; 1886
Below: Schofield Building, Levi T. Scofield; 1902



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Jewish Architecture in Cleveland Series with Maltz Museum:

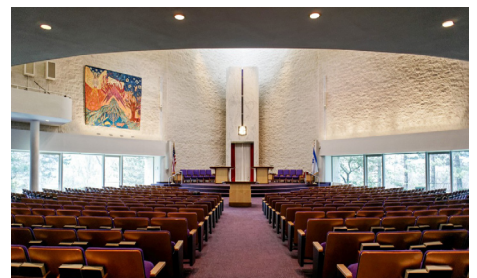
CAF has been approached to develop a presentation on Jewish architecture in Cleveland. Our research indicates that this subject requires multiple presentations, and we have identified three key individuals to lead this endeavor. Volunteers may well be needed to fill in research and assist with formatting the presentations, which may best be delivered as webinars and as white papers accessible on our web site.



Above: Park Synagogue; Eric Mendelsohn; 1950
Below: Park Synagogue East; Centerbrook Architects & Planners; 2007



Below: Temple B'nai Jeshurun; Don Hisaka; 1979



EVENTS & ACTIVITIES:

Ohio City History Project:

CAF hopes to facilitate the funding of the Ohio City History Project, a local effort to illustrate the early history of revitalization and renewal in the Ohio City neighborhood of Cleveland. Over 2000 35mm photographic slides of the area were taken in the 1970's and 1980's by John Katinsky, self-proclaimed Mayor of Ohio City at the time.

Here are representative photographs from the Katinsky Collection:



RESOURCES:

Guide to the Objective Evaluation of Architecture:

CAF Board Member David Ellison AIA has created a guide to aid professionals and non-professionals in the evaluation of architecture. Many architectural review boards (ARB), landmarks commissions and community development corporations (CDC) include a mix of licensed professionals and non-professionals, many of whom struggle to objectively evaluate projects presented for review and approval.

Important projects throughout the community, particularly those in historic districts, have not received appropriate examination and scrutiny with regard to existing zoning law, ordinances and/or compatibility with the vernacular of an historic district. The CAF Guide provides an objective framework for the cogent evaluation of a work of architecture and its context.

Not only is Ellison's Guide posted on the CAF website under "Resources," CAF will be partnering to present webinars with a workshop on how to effectively apply the Guide. By promoting and sharing the Guide and case study examples of design review, CAF hopes to help develop better understanding of architectural design principles, compatibility and the importance of standards and realistic expectations among the public, government officials and the not-for-profit development community. Our objective is to improve design quality and the architectural integrity of our communities.

Controversial Little Italy apartment project approved by Landmarks Commission

By Steven Litt, The Plain Dealer 8/22/2019

CLEVELAND, Ohio — On the fourth try in a year, a Cleveland developer won a certificate of appropriateness Thursday from the Cleveland Landmarks Commission to build an apartment building along Cornell Road in Little Italy in the face of heated opposition from residents.



Above: Proposed Washington Inn Development Headline; Plain Dealer-Steven Litt; Little Italy; Hemingway Development; LDA Architects
Below: Top of the Hill Development; Cleveland Heights; Flannery & Collins Properties; Eppstein & Uhen Architects



PROJECTS:

CWRU Encyclopedia of Cleveland History:

CAF has been invited to work with Case Western Reserve University to update the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History, which was posted 24 years ago. In addition to the many new projects that have been added to the landscape during that time, significant other works merit inclusion.



Above: Ohio Aerospace Institute; Richard Fleischman + Partners Architects; 1993
Middle: St. Michael the Archangel Catholic Church; Adolph Druiding; 1892
Bottom: Peter B. Lewis Weatherhead School of Management, Case Western Reserve University; Gehry Partners LLP; 2002



CAF has begun a photography initiative to provide quality representations of important projects. We welcome submissions for the community and need volunteers to help with research and writing to develop the narratives to accompany the pictorial information for the Encyclopedia.



SPOTLIGHT

St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church 1873 - 1881 1930 West 54th St. Cleveland, OH

St. Stephen Roman Catholic Church is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful interiors in Cleveland. Included on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977, its spacious interior is adorned with intricately carved altars and statuary, stained glass windows, and ecclesiastical artwork.

The highly ornate interior is a reflection of the German parish that built the church. In 1860, residents of German descent constituted one third of Cleveland's population and were the largest ethnic group in the city until the mid 1890's. Many of Cleveland's German inhabitants immigrated for reasons including religious persecution, political unrest, and economic depression. Many were professionals and skilled craftsmen, and Cleveland's German population quickly became one of the most influential and prosperous ethnic groups.

The St. Stephen's parish was founded in 1869 in response to the growing German population on Cleveland's West Side. St. Stephen's was the daughter church of St. Mary's of the Assumption of Mary Church on West 30th Street, and was organized to serve the German-speaking residents west of West 44th Street. A two-story building was constructed in 1869 that housed both a school and church. The parish continued to grow, and the cornerstone for a new St. Stephen church was laid in 1873. Initially delayed due to the Panic of 1873 and the

economic depression that followed, finances to resume construction on the church were in part gathered by the mortgaging of personal properties by parishioners. The present church was completed and consecrated in 1881.

By the turn of the century, St. Stephen's was home to the largest number of German Catholics in Cleveland. To meet the educational needs of the growing parish and surrounding German community, a new brick school was opened in 1897 and construction of a high school was completed in 1916 and a ten-room addition to the original school was completed in 1952.

Like many other urban churches in Cleveland, St. Stephen's found itself with a shrinking congregation and declining school enrollment throughout the second half of the 20th century. Due to a combination of the pressures for Germans to assimilate following the World Wars and the general exodus of more prosperous residents from the area, much of the German and Catholic population disappeared from the neighborhood.

The building is part of a complex of other related buildings and is constructed of Amherst sandstone. Prominent late 19th century architects Cudell & Richardson were responsible for its design. The church is in the Gothic Revival style and is 165 long and 74 feet wide. Its position and site allow for a small church yard to one side and a view of the transept and flying buttresses. The interior is furnished with virtuosic German carved woodwork and Bavarian stained glass windows.



VIDEO RESOURCES:

CAF's Video Interview Initiative:

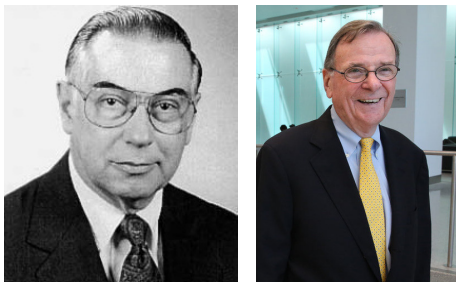
A key factor that motivated us to create CAF as a non-profit was the realization that we are blessed with a number of accomplished senior architects who are advancing in age, and who have a remarkable wealth of experience and knowledge to share with us - if only we could provide a format for this transfer.

We are most fortunate to have enlisted the Cleveland Public Library as our partner in this endeavor inasmuch as their oral history initiative has essentially identical objectives.

Challenging as it was, we identified priorities and set about to conduct video interviews with our top priorities. Sadly, a number of our elder practitioners have passed away since we started our video interviews. But to date, we have captured Richard Fleischman FAIA, Piet van Dijk FAIA and Normal Perttula FAIA.



Above Left: Richard Fleischman, FAIA, 1929-2020
Above Right: Piet van Dijk, FAIA, 1929-2019
Below Left: Normal Perttula, FAIA
Below Right: William Blunden, FAIA



Our initial interviewees are all recipients of the Cleveland Arts Prize and each have been honored with scores of design awards for their exemplary work. We are pleased to have been able to interview Piet van Dijk just weeks before he passed away. The edited interviews are over one hour in length and are informative and entertaining.

We have a list of candidates for additional interviews and hope to add approximately four each year to the resources vault. The interviews can be found at:

Fleischman: <https://youtu.be/QlaQLBWOLro>
van Dijk: <https://youtu.be/GnHNOSlUfj8>
Perttula: Currently being edited
Blunden: Scheduled to shoot this summer

VOLUNTEERS!

Volunteers Needed:

As a volunteer organization in its infancy, CAF could increase its positive impact with additional volunteers to help with projects and events.

The CAF Shop:

Organize and roll out our "Shop" on the CAF website. We have an Azure account and a list of books that need to be linked for users. We also would like to incorporate apparel and mugs for those who want to have Cleveland architects and Cleveland architecture at their fingertips.

Archive Support:

Our archive initiative requires a massive effort to digitize and attach metadata attributes to drawings and documents to conform to the American Library Association standards for digital resources.

We have thousands of 35mm slides from the Robert Little FAIA (Dalton Dalton Little & Newport) estate to digitize, and hundreds of photos from our video interviews and drawings that are being provided to us, all of which need to be digitized and detailed with appropriate metadata to enable the information to be searched.

Much of the work entails working with photographs from award-winning architects and attaching the appropriate descriptions. This work can be done anywhere there is a computer where the information can be saved and integrated into the CAF archive spreadsheet. A brief training session will be provided.

CAF Facebook Page:

We would like to create a Facebook page that is populated with interesting images and narratives of Cleveland architecture to stimulate interest and drive people to the CAF website and the links and content that are found there.

Please contact us to volunteer!

Info@ClevelandArchitectureFoundation.org

ACTIVITIES:

Support for Architectural Research:

CAF is supporting the research of area architects and their works for authors and owners of historic properties seeking to preserve their legacy. Efforts have this far have supported the authors of a book on the women graduates of the Cambridge School of Architecture at Harvard, and Levi Scofield, whose significant buildings are featured in a new book and Fenimore Bates, whose Gray's Armory Building has captured the imagination and attention of Clevelanders for over 125 years.

RESOURCES:

Guide to Archiving:

CAF has prepared a Guide to Archiving which can be found on our website as a resource for practitioners or the families of loved ones to understand what materials are worthy of archiving, what organizations are receptive to materials and what contributions they expect to digitize the materials.

The Guide can be found on the CAF website at www.ClevelandArchitectureFoundation.org.



Above: Hubbell & Benes Western Reserve University Administration Building (Unbuilt)
Below: Warner & Swasey Observatory; Walker & Weeks, 1920



WHO WE ARE:

CAF Board:

William Eberhard AIA, IIDA; President
David Ellison AIA; Treasurer & Secretary
John Roush AIA; Chairman, CAF Archives Initiative
Susanna Ross; Chairperson, CAF Fundraising Initiative

Advisors:

Dennis Dooley; Author, Senior Consultant, Kirste Carlson Group, Inc.

Mark Mathias; Vice President, S. E. Blueprint Co.

Pamela Eyerdam; Fine Arts & Special Collections Manager, Cleveland Public Library

Chatham Ewing; Digital Library Strategist, Cleveland Public Library

William Barrow; Head of Special Collections, Michael Schwartz Library, Cleveland State University

Contact: Info@ClevelandArchitectureFoundation.org