

Purcell-Cutts House Window Conservation Project Completed

From June through September 2016, a small team repaired eight windows from the Purcell-Cutts House that suffered from grout failure and wood rot and degradation. Most of these windows are from the front (east) façade of the house. Gillian Thompson, a stained-glass specialist, along with conservators from the Midwest Art Conservation Center (MACC) in Minneapolis, removed old grout from the art glass and regouted the windows and repaired areas of damaged zinc came (the metal channels that hold together the glass panes). They conducted this work under the supervision of art glass conservator Drew Anderson of New York City.

Nicholas Doyle of Chiral Arts LLC of St. Paul, with consultation from Stuart MacDonald, AIA, of Minneapolis, carefully removed areas of damaged paint and rotted wood from the sashes. He then replaced degraded wood where necessary and repainted the sashes, which were reunited with the glass at MACC.

In addition, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) repaired one other window in the guest bedroom that had grout and wood decay. Mia

also cleaned a group of second-floor windows on-site, taking advantage of the scaffolding that was already in place to allow MACC conservators and Mia staff to access them. The conserved and cleaned windows now better convey Purcell and Elmslie's vision for them—as an integral connection between life inside the house and the changing natural world outside.

The before photos here show damaged grout and came, which allowed water and dirt to enter the bowed windows. The after photos show the results of flattening the windows once the old

grout was removed, and the secure regrouting and reuniting of glass with the repaired and repainted sashes.

We encourage you to tour the house to see the results up close. The Purcell-Cutts House is open for Winterlights tours on weekends through January 8 (closed the weekend of December 24–25). Make your reservation at Mia, by calling 612.870.3000, or online at www.artsmia.org. Regular tours of the house, the second weekend of each month, resume January 14, 2017.

Before and after conservation, guest bedroom window 90.92.75



Mia
Minneapolis Institute of Art

Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie, architects, Minneapolis and Chicago
Purcell-Cutts House
(a.k.a. Edna S. Purcell House), 1913
Minneapolis Institute of Art
Bequest of Anson Cutts 90.92

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