

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Uncovering Hidden Histories at the Purcell-Cutts House

Jennifer Komar Olivarez

Head of Exhibition Planning and Strategy

Interim Curator, Purcell-Cutts House

March 15, 2022

Mia

Purcell-Cutts House: Introduction

Edna S. Purcell (Purcell-Cutts) House, Minneapolis, 1913

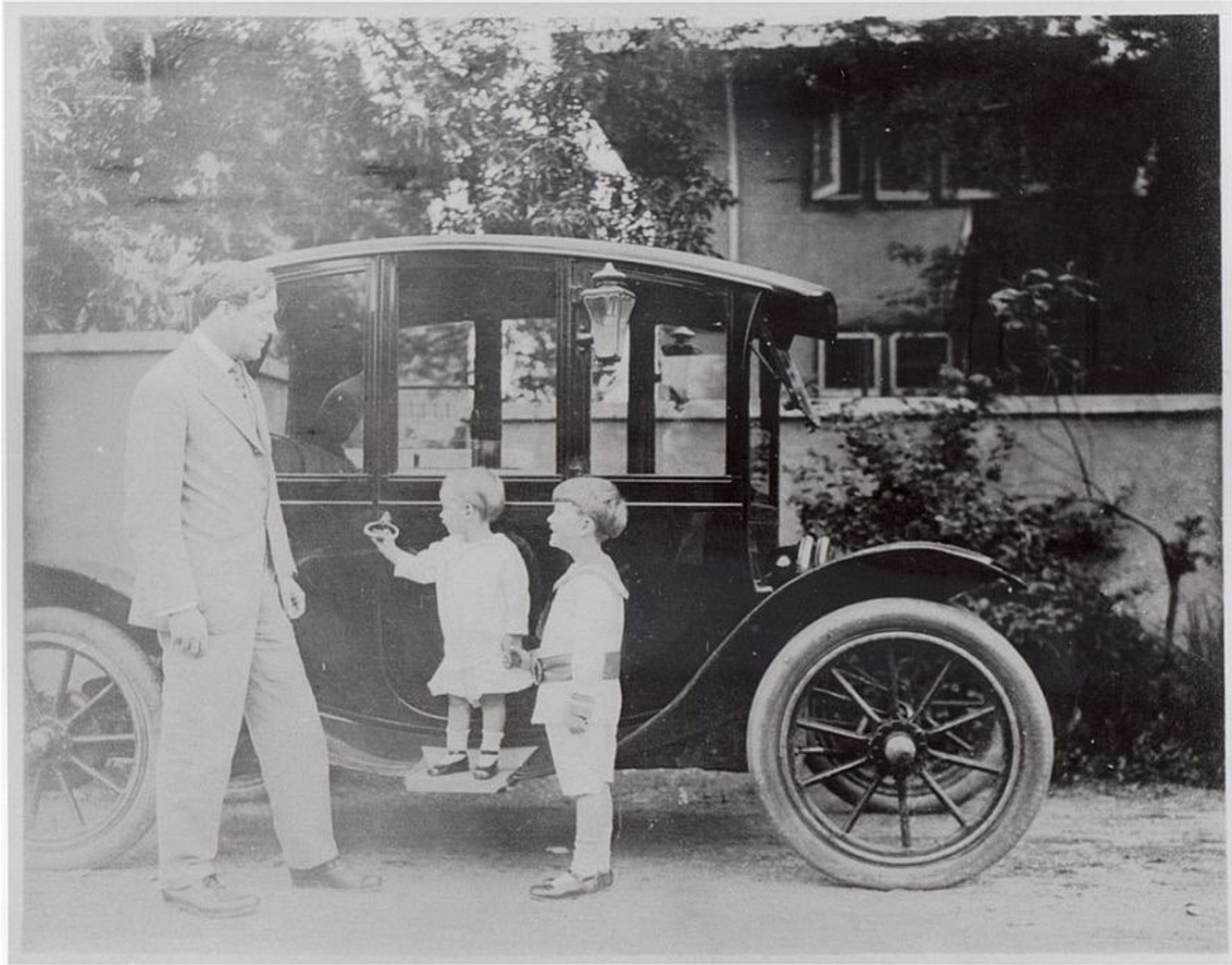
Mia 90.92, 2328 Lake Place



Minneapolis Institute of Art

Photo: Karen Melvin





Minneapolis Institute of Art

Hidden Histories at the Purcell-Cutts House

Broaden context to explore issues relevant today

- Neighborhoods around 1910 and Minneapolis's African-American population
- Lives of craftsmen & workers at the house
- Women and architecture c. 1913
- Hygiene, design, and Purcell's health



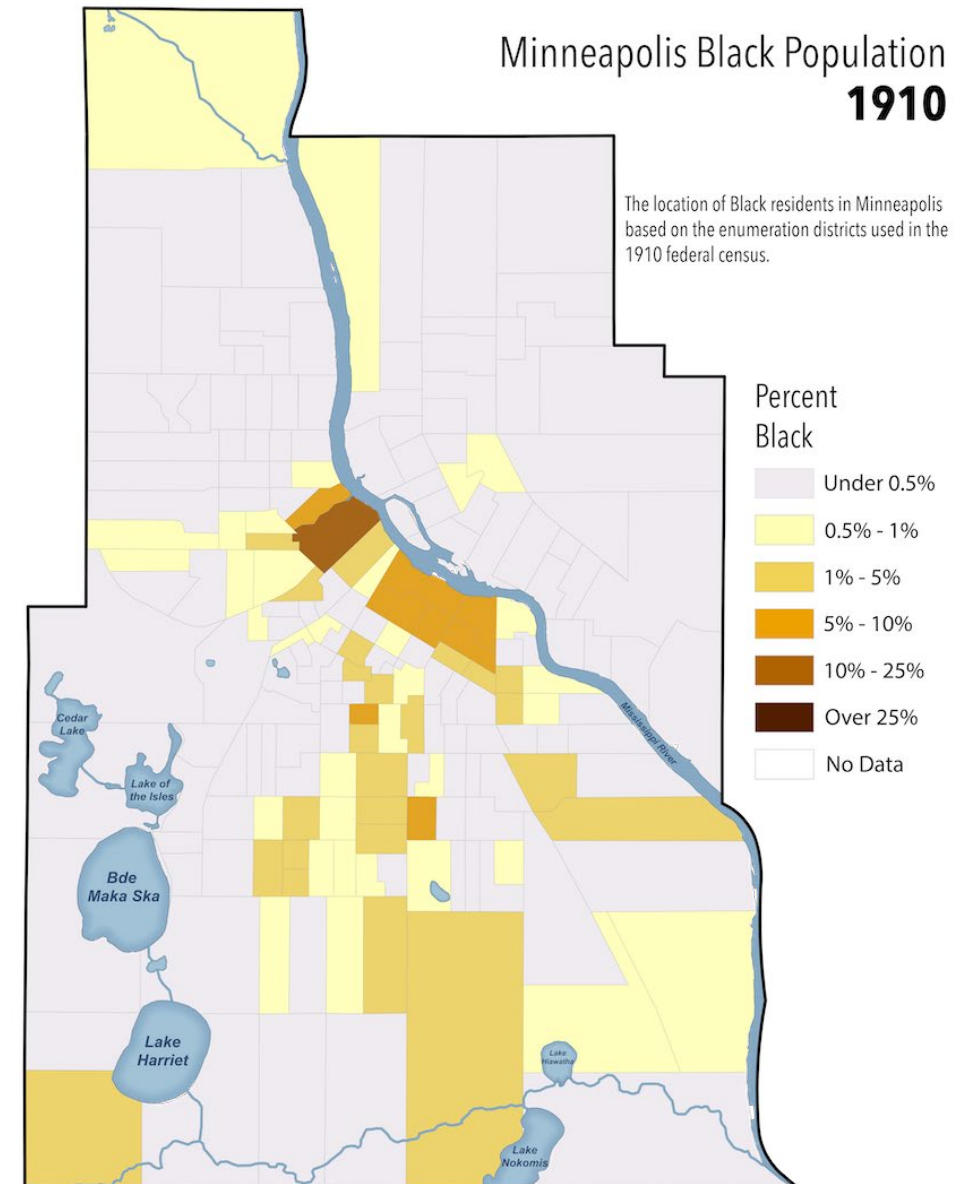
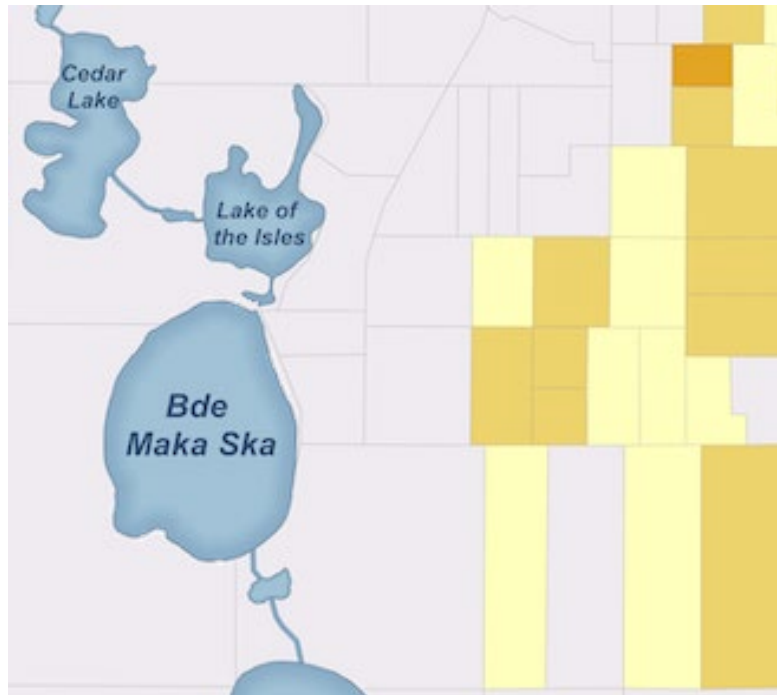
Hidden Histories

Neighborhoods around 1910 and
Minneapolis's African-American population

1913: Who lived where in Minneapolis

Minnesota's Black Population in 1910

- Purcell's reference to the "colored man" who stoked the coal furnace



Cartography & design by Marguerite Mills
The Mapping Prejudice Project, 2020
Data from Mapping Prejudice & Hennepin County
Minnesota Population Center and Ancestry.com. IPUMS Restricted
Complete Count Data: Version 1.0 (Machine-readable database).
Minneapolis: University of Minnesota, 2013.
Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Ronald Goeken, Joshua Grover,
Erin Meyer, Jose Facas and Matthew Sobek. IPUMS USA:
Version 10.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2020.
<https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V10.0>

Racially Restrictive Covenants

From *Saving the Neighborhood: Racially Restrictive Covenants, Law, and Social Norms* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press), 2013

Pre-Covenants, turn of the 19th century:

- Race-conscious urban residents couldn't count on social distance from members of a race they disdained, so physical separation became something they thought was important and that they could control
- Informal intimidation was used around the turn of the 19th century to establish white "ownership" of a neighborhood, though difficult to accomplish among neighbors who were not in solidarity
- *Plessy vs. Ferguson* in 1896 and separation of races with "separate but equal" facilities; segregation laws were about physical distance into the 1960s
- Early attempts were through **common law of nuisance** and **zoning legislation**;
- **Nuisance** was rejected as being too broad as to be defined by race, if not tied to a noxious activity
- First **racial zoning ordinance** passed in Baltimore in 1910, followed by other cities
- These were challenged by NAACP and struck down by U.S. Supreme Court as it "impeded a person's ability to own and dispose of substantial tangible property"
- With these options unavailable, the last legal option was through **private agreements among owners**: racially restrictive covenants agreed upon by property owners and that ran with the deed

Minneapolis Institute of Art

With Covenants:

- "In the case of covenants initiated by developers, the case is clear; there was no community at all prior to the development. There the developers wrote the racial restrictions that informed new entrants about the behavior and attitudes that would be expected, and that also informed the disfavored would-be purchasers that they were not welcome."
- While racial covenants were widespread in the U.S. during the first half of the 20th century, there were not a lot of cases about them; they seemed to have operated silently, "sending signals both to insiders and to outsiders about who was and who was not wanted."
- Intimidation - these legal documents relieved white neighbors from having to engage in direct communication with minorities to stay away
- Supposedly kept the neighborhood "safe" without having to resort to violence
- "The primary function of racial covenants was to signal neighborhood intent, both to neighbors themselves and those who would be rejected...their legal status was of particular importance where neighborhood cohesion was not entirely certain--in the loose-knit as opposed to the close-knit neighborhoods."

Racial Covenants in Minneapolis

Edmund G. Walton's Legacy

- Edmund G. Walton, British-born man who came to Minneapolis in 1880s, began developing real estate
- His success allowed for him to commission a house at 802 Mount Curve Avenue in 1893 (now demolished)



Edmund G. Walton House, "Grey Court," 802 Mount Curve (now 700 Douglas Ave.), 1893, demolished 1959; Photo: Minnesota Historical Society



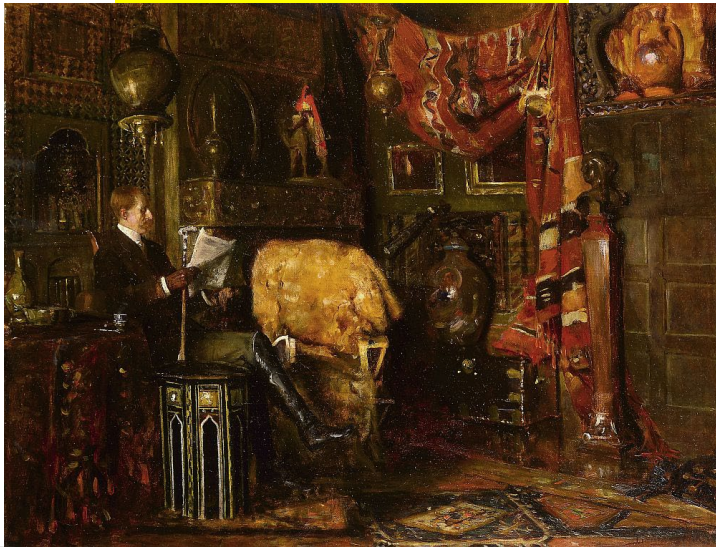
700 Douglas Ave. today, via Google Street View

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Racial covenants in Minneapolis

Edmund G. Walton's legacy

- Walton's house, Grey Court, decorated in the popular Moorish style by John Scott Bradstreet
- Ironically did not allow the people whose traditions he co-opted to buy houses in his developments; he introduced racial covenants to Minneapolis in 1910:
 - Refused sale or lease to people of "Chinese, Japanese, Moorish, Turkish, Negro, Mongolian, or African blood or descent"



Douglas Volk, Portrait of John Bradstreet, 1890, Mia, Gift of John Scott Bradstreet 06.2

Minneapolis Institute of Art

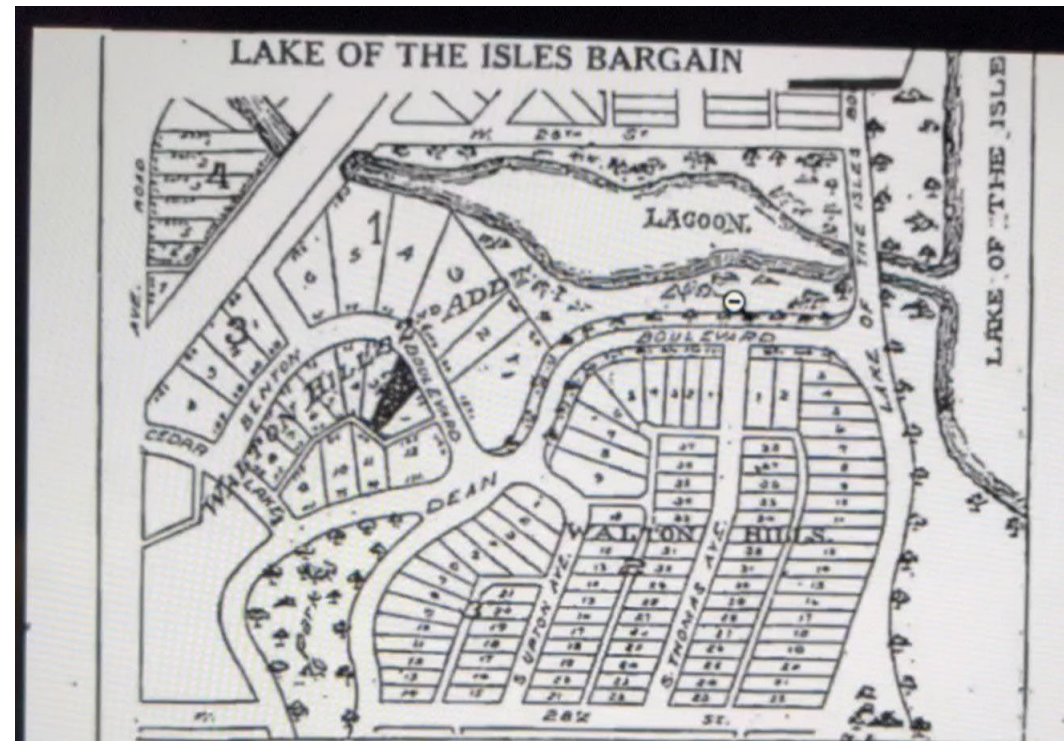


John Scott Bradstreet, designer, Drawing Room, Edmund G. Walton house, 802 Mt. Curve, Minneapolis, 1893. Photo: Minnesota Historical Society

Racial Covenants in Minneapolis

Edmund G. Walton's Legacy

- 1909 – Walton Hills 2nd Addition in Cedar/Dean/Isles neighborhood listed with racial covenants
- This uncovered through recent research by Rebecca Walker and shared in the presentation “Greenspace, White Space: Race, Real Estate, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board” to Minnesota Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, February 17, 2022 (image credit: Rebecca Walker)



LAKE OF THE ISLES BARGAIN

LAKE OF THE ISLES

LAGOON

CEDEAR

DEAN

WALTON HILLS

WALTON AVENUE

ADAMS AVENUE

28th ST.

27th ST.

26th ST.

25th ST.

24th ST.

23th ST.

22th ST.

21st ST.

20th ST.

19th ST.

18th ST.

17th ST.

16th ST.

15th ST.

14th ST.

13th ST.

12th ST.

11th ST.

10th ST.

9th ST.

8th ST.

7th ST.

6th ST.

5th ST.

4th ST.

3rd ST.

2nd ST.

1st ST.

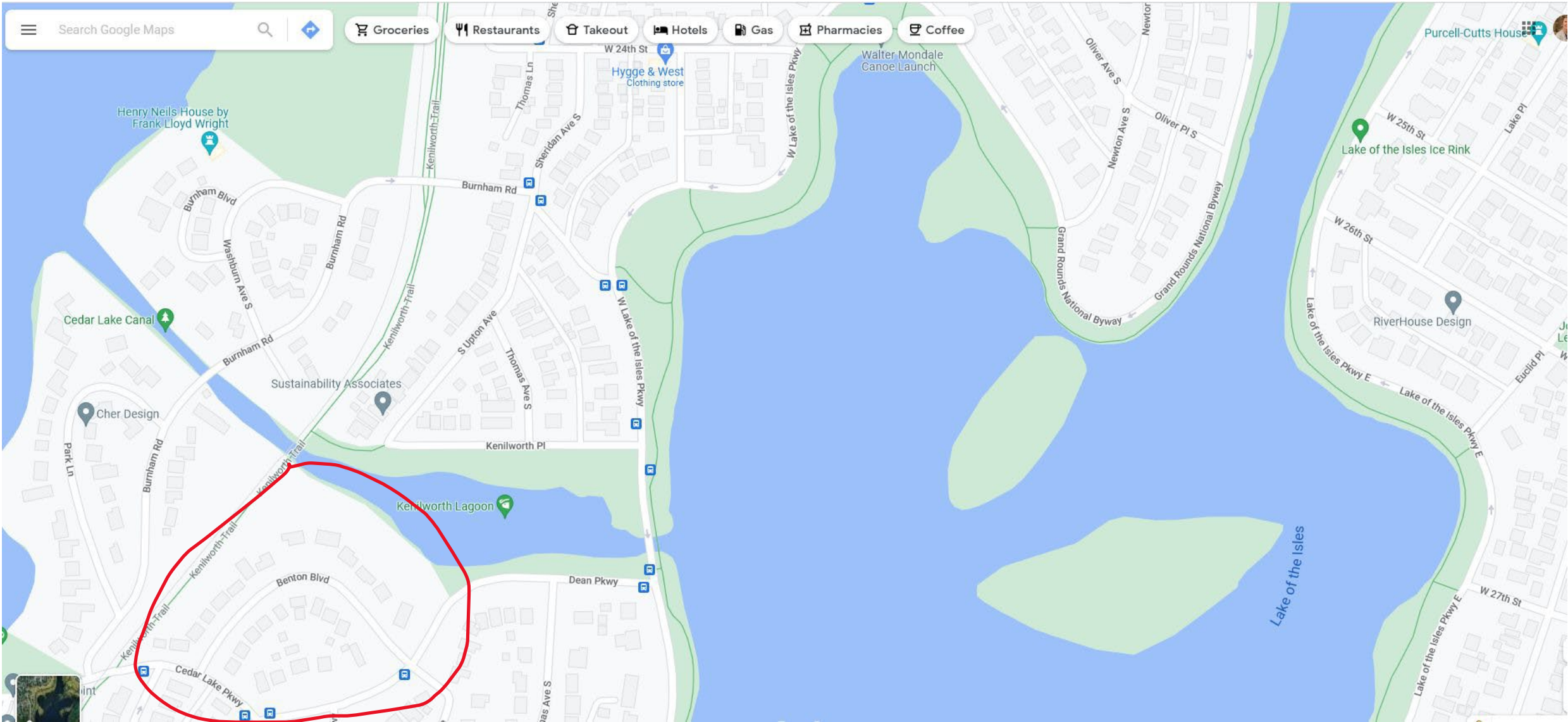
A fellow cannot interest the dollar without using dollar instincts, and this lot is purposely slashed in price to attract the dollar. The map shows you where it is and what it looks at. The lot has curb and gutter, stone sidewalk, city water, gas and electricity. It is a beautiful lot, high and commanding, with a frontage of 75 feet and a depth of 140 feet. Mr. Stiff lives next door, at 2815 Benton boulevard.

Old price \$4,000. Today's discount \$1,250. New price **\$2,750**. Terms, \$750 down, balance on or before 3 years; 6% interest.

I appeal to the instincts of those about to marry. Isn't this the most remarkable offering you ever heard of. Restrictions—

The party of the second part hereby agrees that the premises hereby conveyed shall not at any time be conveyed, mortgaged or leased to any person or persons of Chinese, Japanese, Moorish, Turkish, Negro, Mongolian, Semetic or African blood or descent. Said restrictions and covenants shall run with the land and any breach of any or either thereof shall work a forfeiture of title, which may be enforced by re-entry.

Lake Street Frontage

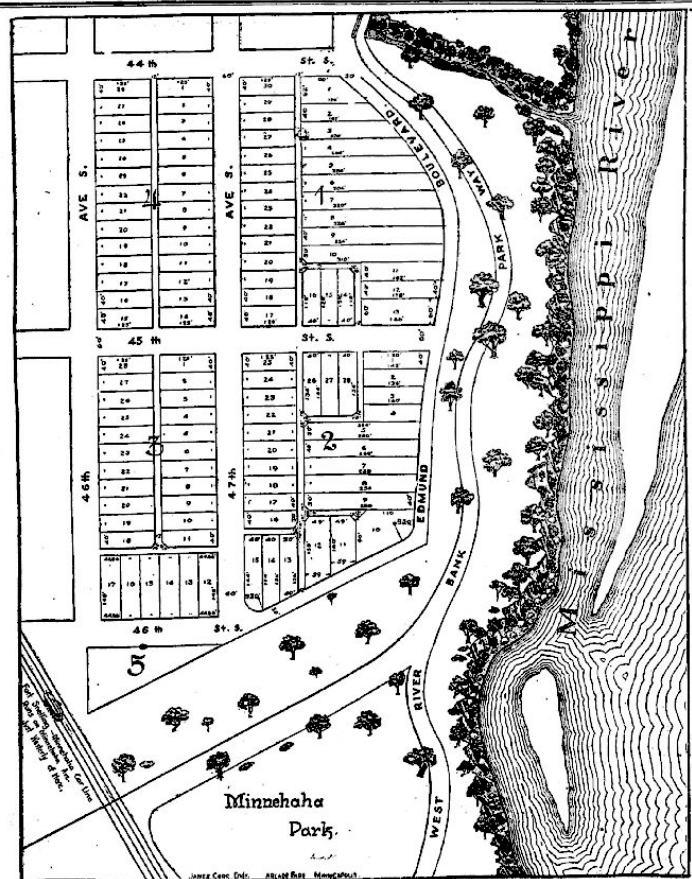


Minneapolis Institute of Art

Racial Covenants in Minneapolis

Edmund G. Walton's Legacy

- Developed much of the Longfellow neighborhood's eastern area, near the Mississippi River and Minnehaha Park
- Edmund Boulevard named for him
- Died in 1919, but business partners used racial covenants in marketing to potential Minneapolis homeowners for another decade or more
- MN Legislature prohibited their use in 1953, but still included on some house deeds in MN; outlawed nationally in 1968



**WALTON'S
MISSISSIPPI HEIGHTS**

This always the same, one man gets all the good things and I'm always the man. We now control every foot of River Parkway frontage from 33d Street to 46th Street except one piece, and are offering a few sites today as an *Extraordinary Possibility* to those who will adorn the banks of this most romantic, wonderful river with pretty homes and dainty gardens. To those who have never stood upon these lots, I say you have wonders to behold—long stretches of woodland, water and wonderful vistas that are only equalled in Yellowstone Park. In the Park across from these lots is that wonderful slide known all over the world as the "Devil's Slide." Here are also the "Enchanted Spring" and the "Whispering Trees." A bungalow built at this point will command such wonderful views of ever-changing scenery that "Fairyland" will be your name for it, and your life each day will be broadened and cherished so by happiness that you will live the perfect life and never, never die. Would that I were a word painter and could describe this property as I see it, but that's impossible because there are no words that can convey to you the glories of this grand river, 300 feet below. "Will you not come this afternoon and let me show you something you dream not of?"

TODAY!! This Afternoon!!
Carriages Will Meet Every Car. 2 P. M. to 4 P. M.

Bonfires will warm you. Every lot will be staked and ten of my most accomplished linguists will be there to interest you.

Lots 40x326 Feet, only \$600
Lots 40x140 Feet, only \$400
Lots 40x125 Feet, only \$200

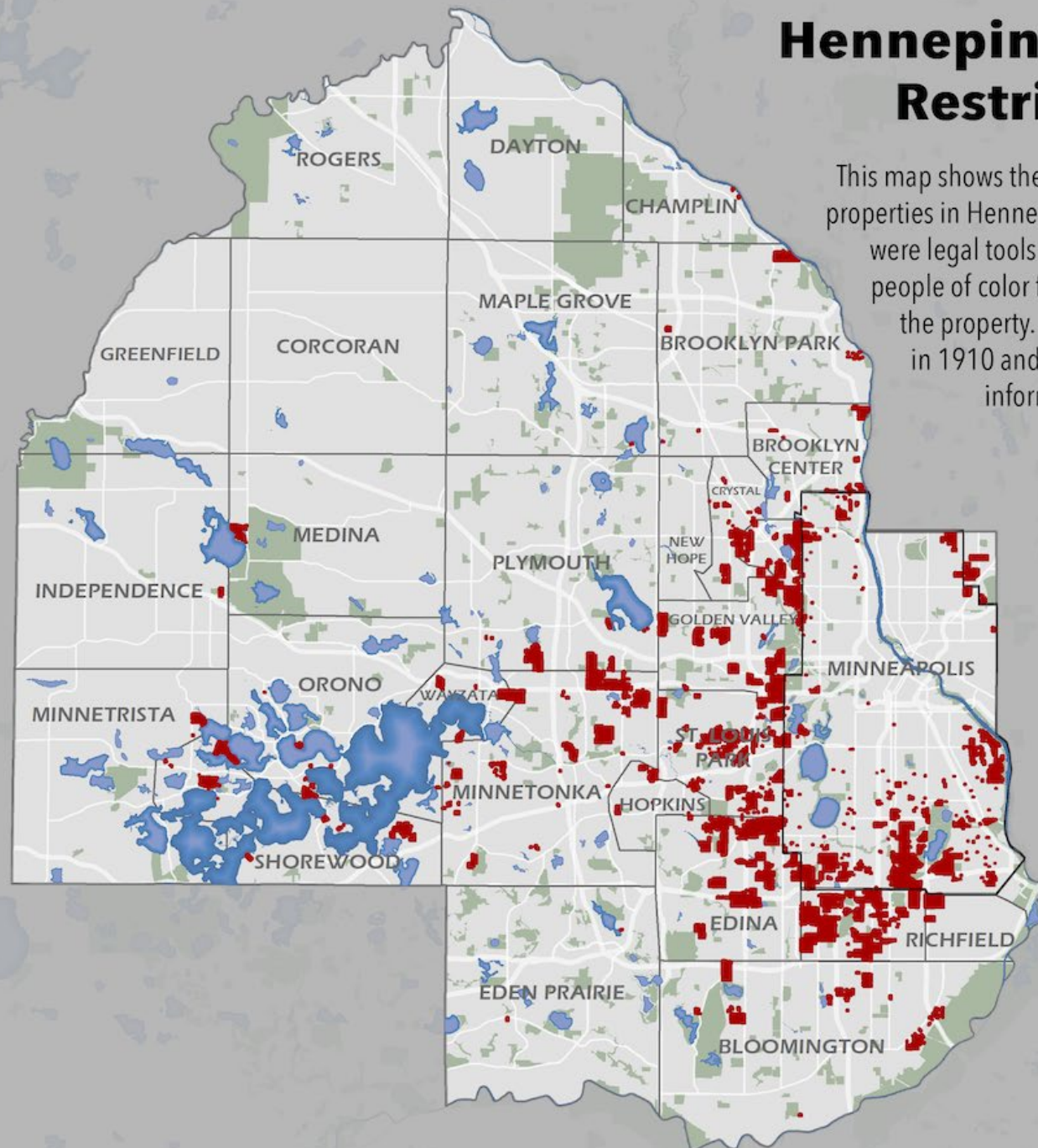
Bring this plat with you and **COME** today. Take Fort Snelling car to Minnehaha Park and walk east to 46th Avenue, four blocks. My agents will be there all day. Carriages, 2 P. M. to 4 P. M. Prices only good for today and Monday.

EDMUND G. WALTON
114 South 4th Street.

Edmund G. Walton advertisement for lots near Minnehaha Park, Minneapolis Tribune, January 17, 1909. Research courtesy Mapping Prejudice Project, <https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu/stories/edmund-blvd-nfa/index.html>

Hennepin County Racially Restrictive Covenants

This map shows the location of historically racially restricted properties in Hennepin County. Racially restrictive covenants were legal tools inserted into property deeds that barred people of color from owning, renting, or even occupying the property. In Hennepin County, this practice began in 1910 and continued through the 1950s. For more information, see mappingprejudice.umn.edu



Racially Restrictive Covenants

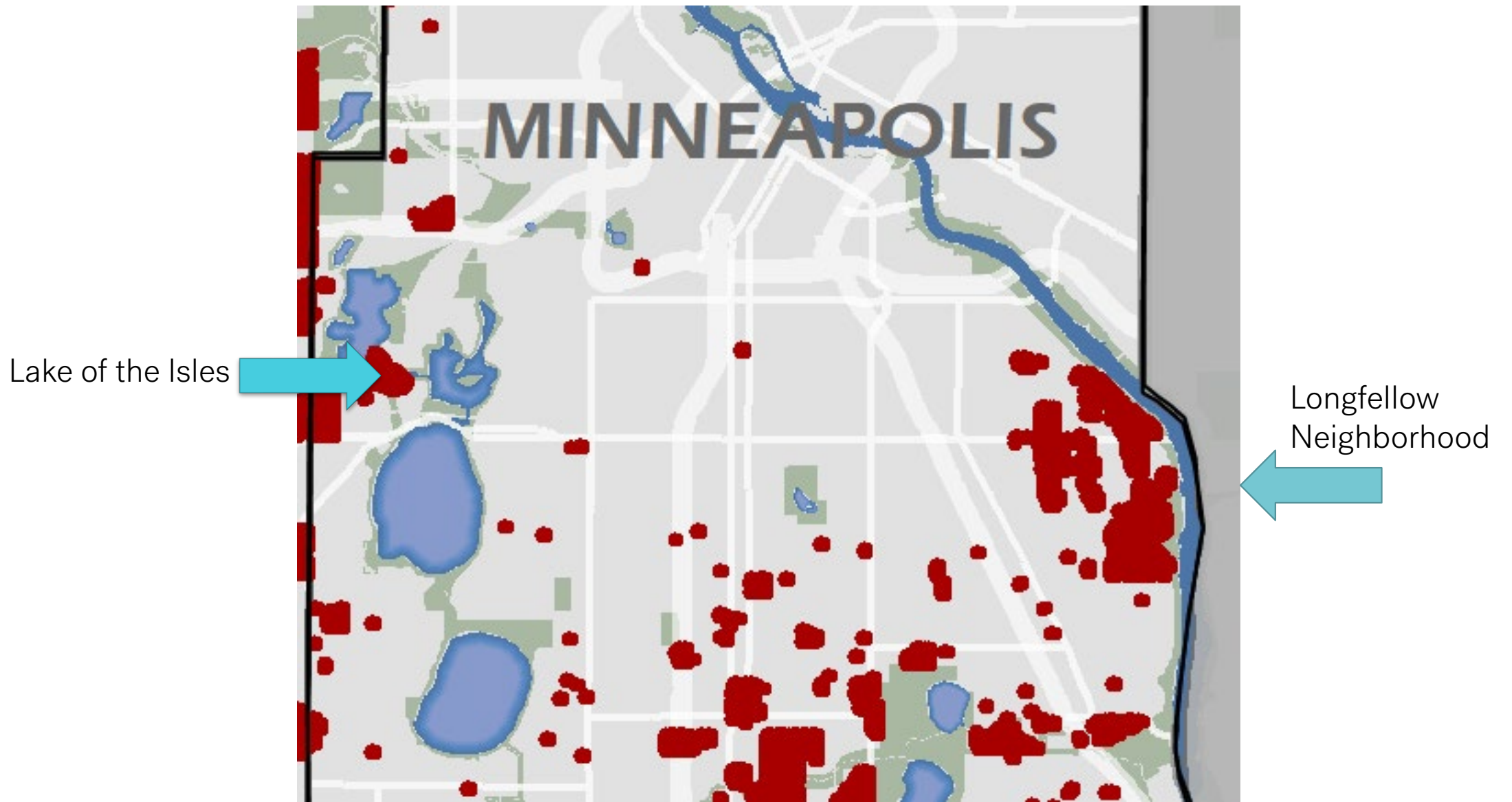


Example of the first racially restrictive covenant used in Hennepin County:

The said party of the of the second part hereby agrees that the premises hereby conveyed shall not at any time be conveyed, mortgaged or leased to any person or persons of Chinese, Japanese, Moorish, Turkish, Negro, Mongolian or African blood or descent. Said restrictions and covenants shall run with the land and any breach of any or either thereof shall work a forfeiture of title, which may be enforced by re-entry.

Example of one of the most commonly used racially restrictive covenants used in Hennepin County:

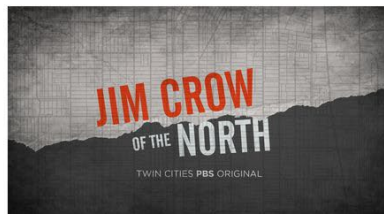
No person or persons other than of the Caucasian race shall be permitted to occupy said premises or any part thereof.



Mapping Prejudice Project

University of Minnesota, <https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu/>

The screenshot shows the top portion of the website. At the top left is the University of Minnesota logo and the slogan "Driven to Discover". To the right are links for "One Stop" and "MyU". Below this is a dark navigation bar with the "LIBRARIES" logo and the text "Mapping Prejudice". Further right are menu items: "About", "Learn More", "Get Involved", "Resources", "Stories", and "Contact". The main content area below has a dark background with a grid pattern and a map of Minneapolis. The word "Resources" is prominently displayed in the center. Below it are four categories: "Press", "Presentations", "MPLS Uprising", and "For Educators".



This one hour documentary uses the history of racial covenants in Minneapolis to explore the complex history of discriminatory housing policies and their contemporary



Today, Minneapolis has some of the worst racial disparities in the United States. In this talk, Mapping Prejudice co-founder, Kevin Ehrman-Solberg shows how

to the front street line of said premises hereby conveyed. The said party of the second part hereby further agrees that if he builds on said premises he will build a house to cost not less than \$1500.00.

The party of the second part hereby agrees that the premises hereby conveyed shall not at any time be conveyed, mortgaged or leased to any person or persons of Chinese, Japanese, Moorish, Turkish, Negro, Mongolian or African blood or descent. Said restrictions and covenants shall run with the land and any breach of any or either thereof shall work a forfeiture of title, which may be enforced by re-entry.

To Have and to Hold the same, together with all hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining unto the said party of the second part, and his heirs

Racial Covenants in Minneapolis

Where to discuss?

- **When starting tours outside – visitors often ask about the neighboring houses and development of the neighborhood**
- **When starting tours inside –**
 - perhaps within the context of Purcell's design for his "dream home" near the lake and the fact that he took for granted that he could live in that neighborhood
 - When talking about the man who stoked the coal furnace



Hidden Histories

Lives of craftsmen & workers at the house

Craftsmen, workers at the house

Window conservation project, 2016



- **August Lennartz was general contractor for the house**
- **Many subcontractors for details of the house**
- **Windows created by Mosaic Art Shops, Minneapolis, run by E.L. Sharretts**
- **Window conservation project, 2016, funded by Minnesota Legacy Amendment**
 - Six windows and sashes conserved along with sashes of two other windows on second floor; one other window conserved at that time
 - Windows conserved by Midwest Art Conservation Center
 - Windows at the house are zinc-camed windows, not lead-camed, which is a less hazardous material

Gillian Thompson, art glass conservator specializing in zinc camed windows, remounting the windows in sashes in 2016



Craftsmen, workers at the house

Exterior woodwork conservation, 2018-2021

- Nick Doyle of Chiral Arts, LLC completed the work
- Restored woodwork to original jin-di-sugi treatment
- Produced a finish that is true to the architect's original conception and reduces future maintenance
- Uses safer materials, since original finish was produced using creosote, which is toxic and considered carcinogenic today
- Exterior cypress and spruce wood trim stripped of opaque stain, water repellent preservative applied
- High and low grain will be more distinct with this treatment, unlike with opaque stain

Front door area with opaque stain removed



Side door
Woodwork detail

Storm door insert
With original
jin-di-sugi
treatment

Door conserved
as part of window
project

Opaque stain





Hidden Histories

Women and Architecture c. 1913

Women and architecture c. 1913

Marion Alice Parker

- She was hired by Purcell and Feick in 1908, worked at firm until 1915
- A minority in American architecture and especially progressive architecture; Marion Mahony Griffin more studied
- Purcell mentions Parker in his writings, but those mentions are hard to find; her collection at NWAA is small
- Mentioned in a footnote in David Gebhard dissertation of 1957
- Discussed by Mark Hammons in *Minnesota 1900: Art and Life on the Upper Mississippi*, not all accurate info
- Mentioned by Dixie Legler/Christian Korab involvement in *At Home on the Prairie: The Houses of Purcell and Elmslie*
- Nicole Watson M.A. thesis, University of St. Thomas, 2007, is most complete study of her life and work to date; this information is credited to her research



Purcell, Feick and Elmslie office: George Feick left foreground, Marion Alice Parker left rear, George Elmslie standing at right of drafting table

Women and architecture c. 1913

Marion Alice Parker

- Dates 1873 - 1935
- Born in Reading, MA; family moved to MN in 1881
- Attended University of MN 1892-96, entered College of Design as a sophomore
- Took drawing, design, & aesthetics classes, graduated with Bachelors in Literature
- Parker teaching at the Holmes School in 1897, drafter for the Keith Company starting in 1905 - they ran a lifestyle magazine called *Keith's Magazine*
- Hired by Purcell and Feick in 1908; one of their first hires at the new firm



Marion Alice Parker from University of Minnesota yearbook, *The Gopher* 1896

Women and architecture c. 1913

Marion Alice Parker

- Purcell's progressive ideals and accessibility of progressive design to all social classes; this extended to democratic operations at the firm and the valuing of ideas from anyone in it
- "The good idea...could come from anyone on the office or on the job..."; she would be expected to participate as anyone else in the firm would, and could sign her own work
- She learned organic decoration & design from Elmslie



Women and architecture c. 1913

Marion Alice Parker

Documented projects she designed for the firm:

- Goetzenberger House (1910),
- 2621 Emerson Avenue South, Minneapolis
 - Purcell: “Elmslie had no hand in this house. Miss Parker and I alone, hung over the draughting boards and gave it the best we had and it proved on this house a good best.”



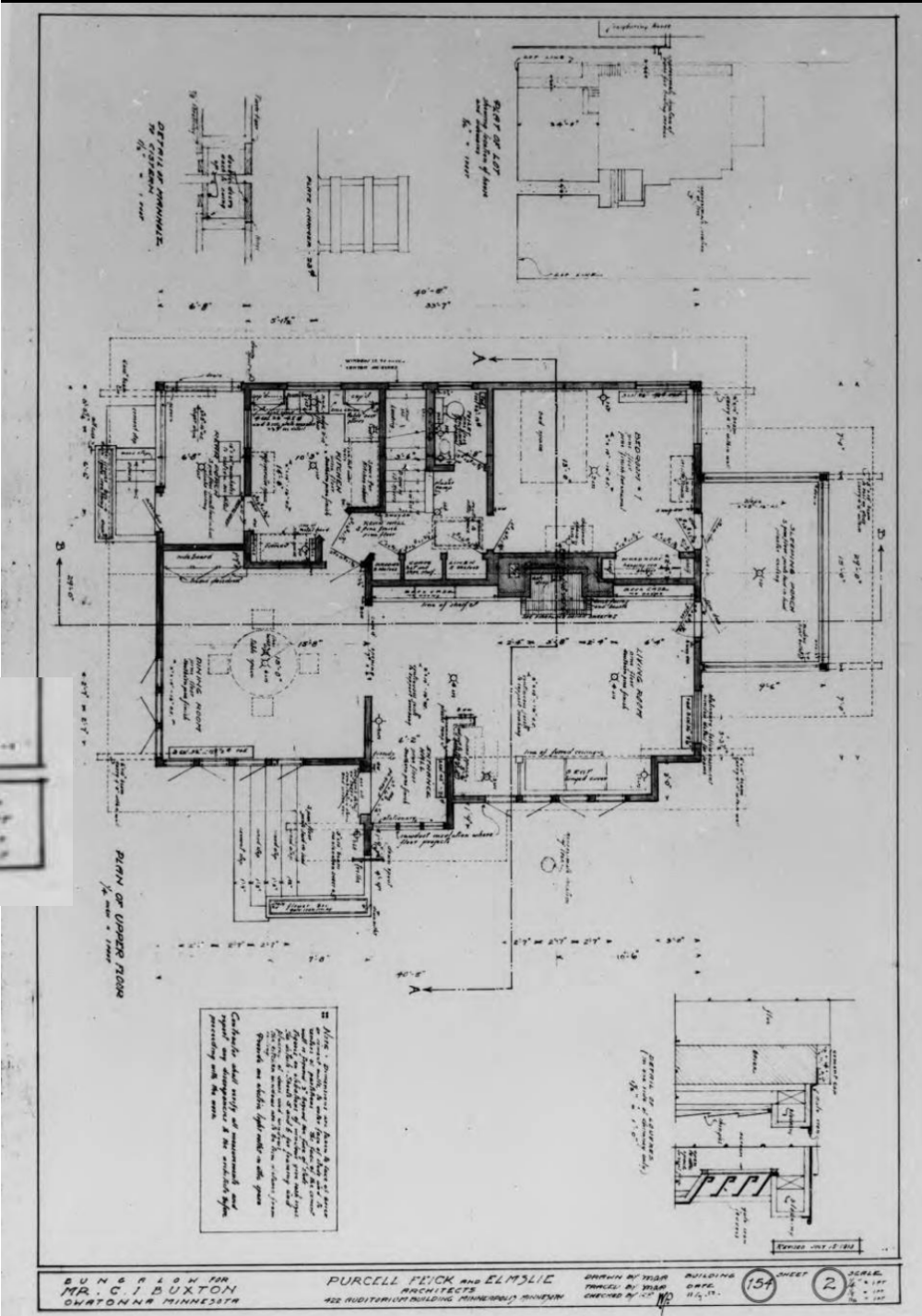
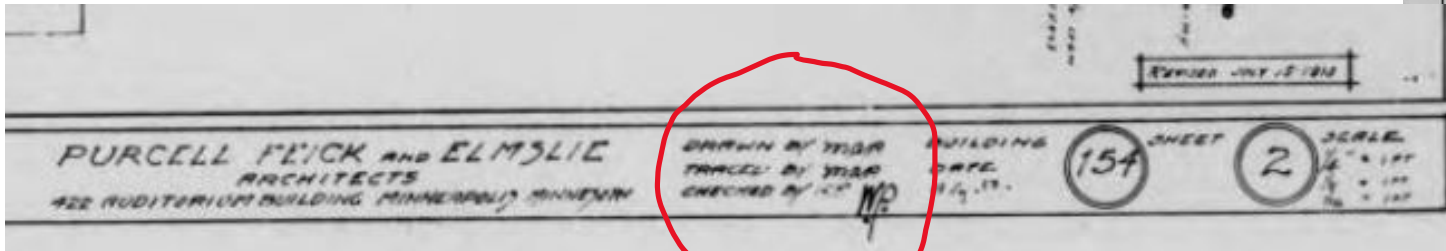
Women and architecture c. 1913

Marion Alice Parker

Documented projects she designed for the firm:

- Buxton Bungalow (1912)
- 424 Main Street East, Owatonna
 - Purcell: “Our Miss Parker took great interest in this house, and together she and I spent time and study on every smallest arrangement and detail...Miss Parker and I take credit for the design...I remember that Miss Parker was the one that [sic] struggled over the details, made the drawings, and I leaned over her shoulder and we worked things out together.”





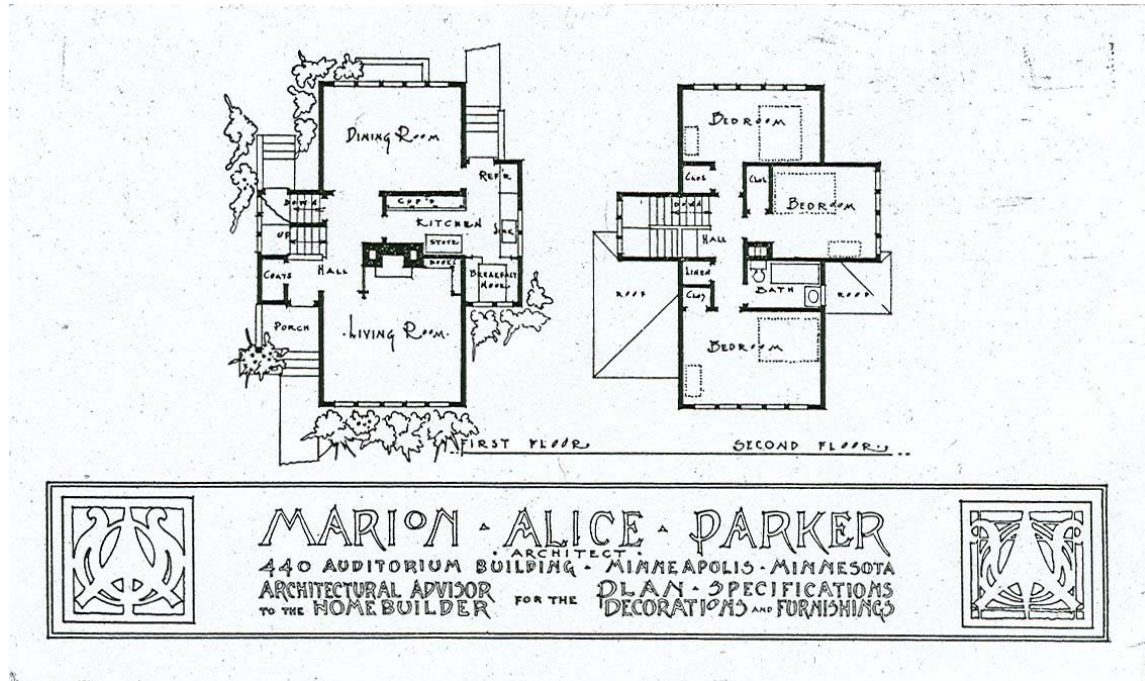
Buxton Bungalow main-floor plan, with “Drawn by MAP, Traced by MAP” and “Checked by W.P.”







Minneapolis Institute of Art



Marion Alice Parker, business card, n.d.

Women and Architecture, c. 1913

Marion Alice Parker

Possible attributions of P&E designs:

- Jorgensen House (1911), Bismarck, ND
- Adair House (1915-16), Owatonna
- Knowlton House (1911), Rochester, MN
- Byrne House (1909), Bismarck, ND
- Gallagher House (1913), Winona



Purcell and Elmslie, Gallagher house,
Winona, Minnesota, 1913

Women and Architecture, c. 1913

Marion Alice Parker

Independent work after 1915

- Pi Beta Phi Sorority House (now Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity House), 1916
 - 1019 University Avenue S.E., Minneapolis
 - Parker listed as co-architect with Ethel Bartholomew
 - Bartholomew graduated from MIT with a degree in architecture and was later editor of *Construction Details*, published in St. Paul
 - Both worked for *Keith's Magazine* in 1916



Women and Architecture, c. 1913

Marion Alice Parker

Model Home designs

Minnesota State Art Commission

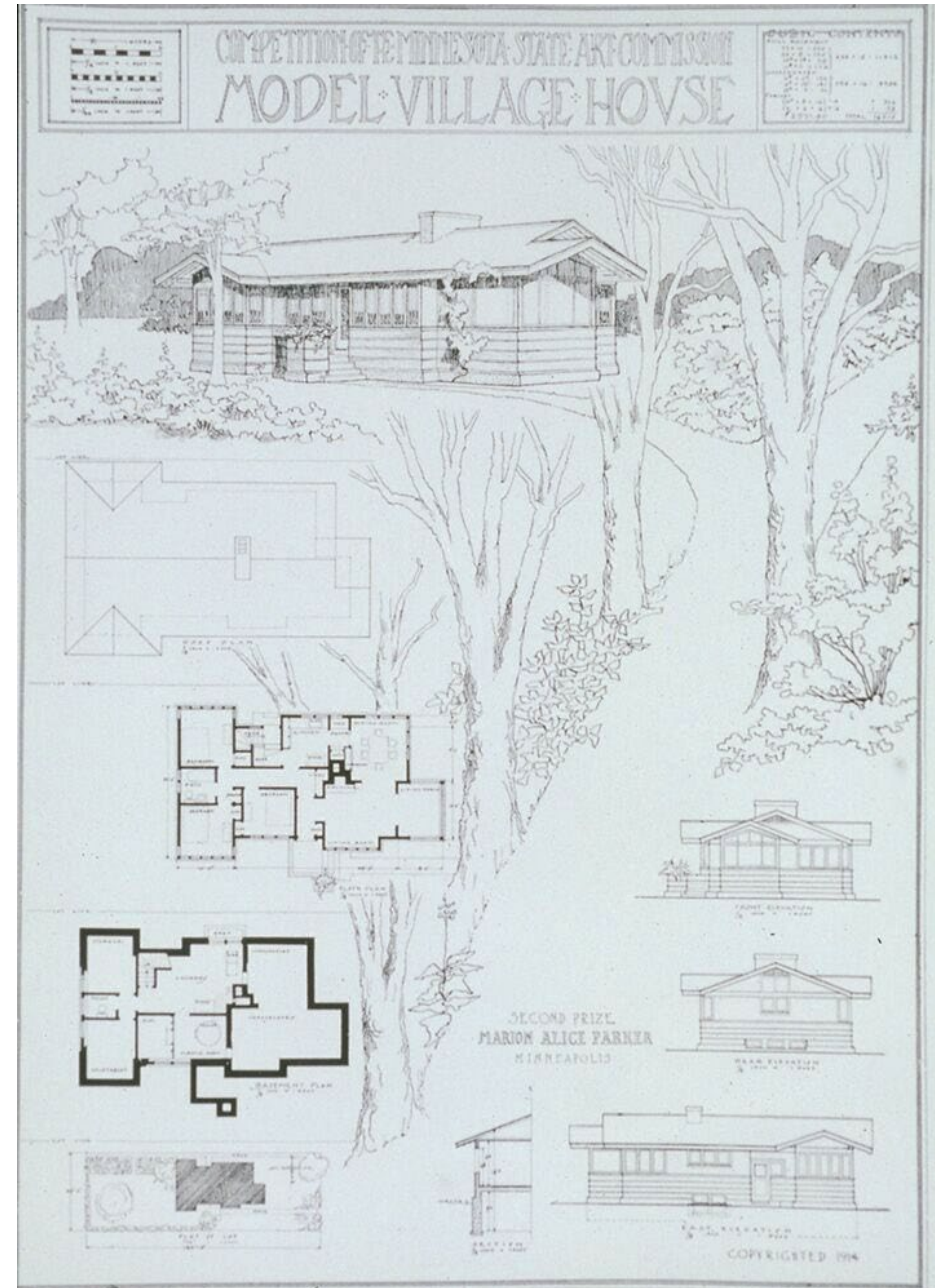
1915 - Model Village House; design similar to
Buxton Bungalow (second place)

Keith's Magazine

1916 - "Rain on the Roof"

1916 - "The Mary and John House"

Minneapolis Institute of Art



Women and Architecture, c. 1913

Marion Alice Parker

Independent work after 1915

- 1921 – Marion Alice Parker House, 4937 Oliver Ave. S., Minneapolis
- 1922 – Frank P. Stover House, Fort Collins, CO
- 1925 – Minnehaha Parkway speculative development for Fred Hegg, along with former Purcell and Elmslie draftsman Fred Strauel; also Tudor Revival with some Progressive elements



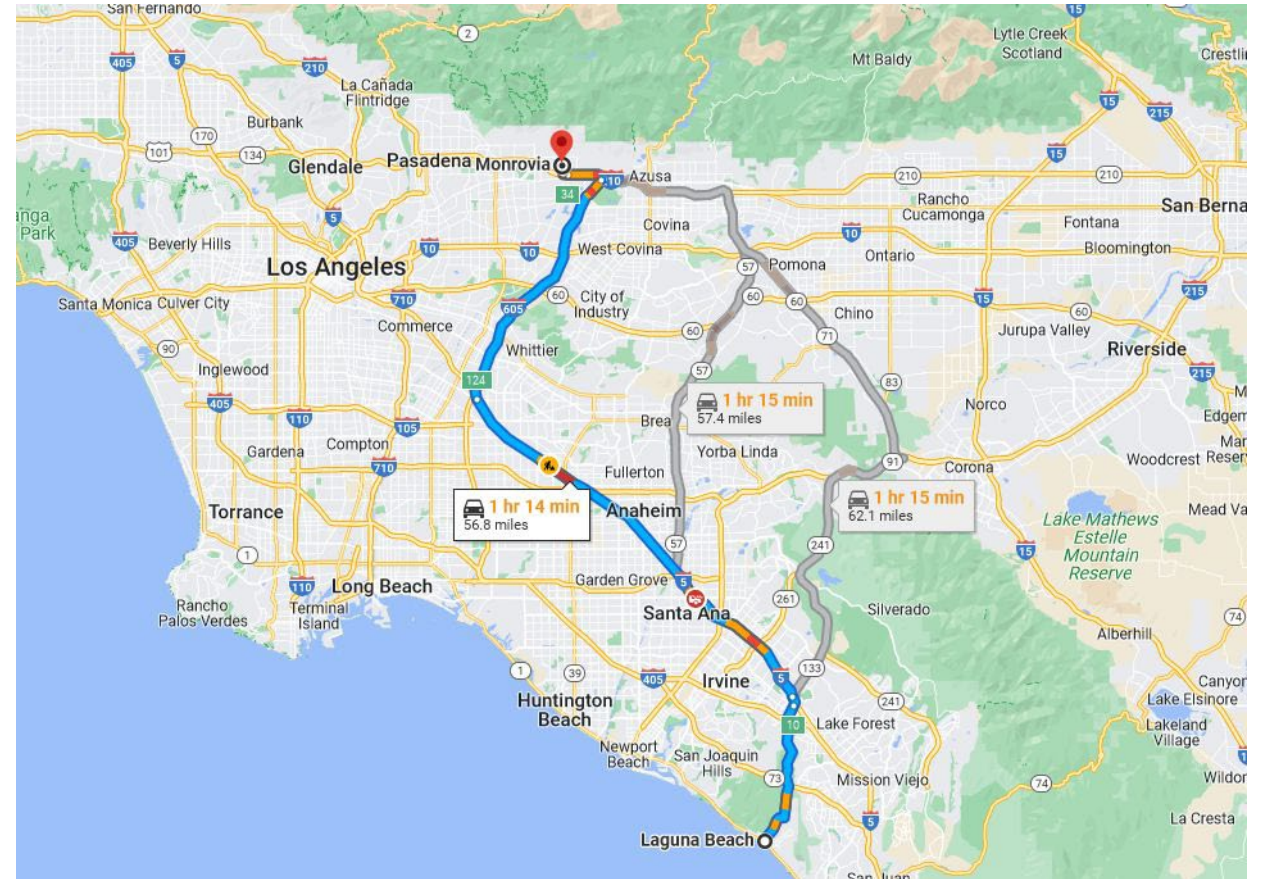
Marion Alice Parker House, Minneapolis, MN

Women and Architecture, c. 1913

Marion Alice Parker

Later life

- 1926 – Moves to Laguna Beach, CA, opens up arts and crafts shop The Home-Spun Shop, offering goods from around the world
- Her sister and brother-in-law lived in nearby Monrovia
- 1935 – dies on a visit to see Purcell, also living in Monrovia



Women and architecture c. 1913

Edna Summy Purcell

- Edna Summy Purcell as a co-designer of the house; her feedback passed along in letters between Purcell and Elmslie
- She was “crazy to have” high-ceilinged effect in living room
- The writing nook was meant as her space



Women and architecture c. 1913

Edna Summy Purcell

- Other activities in the arts:
- April 1910-11 - Active with College Women's Club; played fairy in "The Twig of Thorn" 1911
- 1916 - Secretary of Chamber Music Society of Minneapolis
- Feb. 1916 - Cast in the play "The Florist Shop" at the Women's Club, Minneapolis

make his home with the fairies.
Mrs. **William G. Purcell** of Wellesley college executed a very beautiful dance in the part of the fairy when she wove the spell over little Oonah. Mrs. Purcell directed the girls in the folk dances, while Miss Helen Hart coached the play.
Miss Ethel Works played well the

Season Programs Announced
by Chamber Music
Society for Season

Flonzaley and Kneisel Quartets
Are to Be Heard
Here.

The Chamber Music society of Minneapolis is now entering upon its third season. For two years, through this organization, it has been possible to hear in Minneapolis chamber music of the highest quality. When one considers that to this type of music the true music lover gives perhaps first place, Minneapolis may well feel proud of its distinction in being the one city in the country to have a society devoted exclusively to music of this class.

The program for the season will include two concerts by the Minneapolis String quartet, Messrs. Czerwonky, Dicks, Scheurer and Van Vliet, one concert by the Flonzaley quartet and one by the Kneisel quartet. There will be still another concert in the series for which several interesting things are under consideration, the choice yet to be determined. The opening concert will be given on Tuesday evening, November 14, in the Unitarian church by the Flonzaley quartet.

Many persons who have desired to be members of the society have hesitated to send in their names knowing the membership to be limited in number. In view of the fact that each year sees a shifting in the list, it would be well for anyone especially interested to place his name upon the waiting list, which is in the hands of the secretary. Mrs. William G. Purcell, 2328-Lake place.

The first concert
People's society
any Norwegian
Wednesday event
who will take part
Mr. and Mrs. Adenborg, Helen
and Eloise Shryo

Call or Address
Music, 60-62 Elevator
2668; Center 1917.

Jean

Female architects connected to Mia & Minnesota

Margarete Schutte-Lihotzky



Austrian architect Margarete Schutte-Lihotzky, c. 1930.

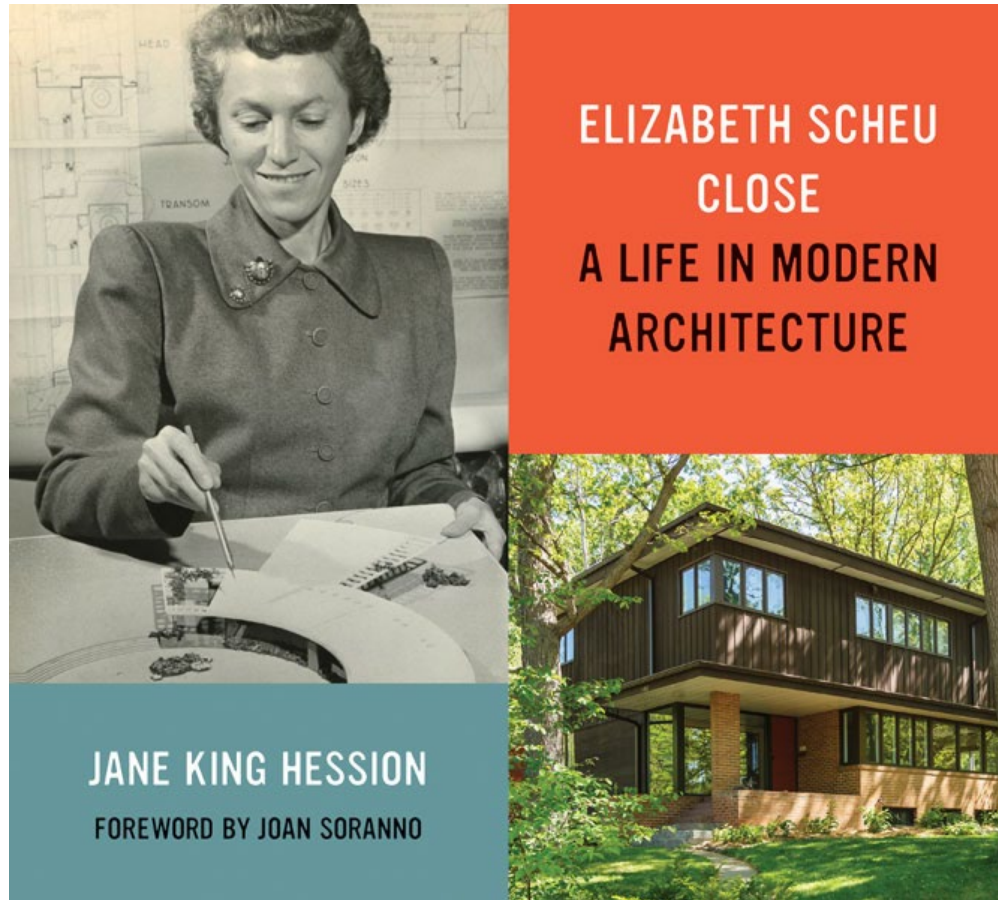
Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Margarete_Sch%C3%BCtte-Lihotzky_Brandst%C3%A4tter_Verlag.jpg#/media/File:Margarete_Schütte-Lihotzky_Brandstätter_Verlag.jpg



Mia's Frankfurt Kitchen, 1927

Female architects connected to Mia & Minnesota

Elisabeth “Lisl” Scheu Close



- Born in Austria in 1912; grew up in a house designed by modernist Adolf Loos
- Founded the first architectural firm in Minnesota dedicated to Modernism in 1938
- Designed more than 250 residences, including prefabricated houses in post-WWII era
- Died 2011
- 2020 biography by Jane King Hession, University of Minnesota Press

Hidden Histories

Hygiene, design, and Purcell's health

Hygiene, design, and Purcell's health

Tuberculosis prevention, c. 1900



1941 poster, Library of Congress

- Germ theory of disease, late 19th century
- Diseases such as tuberculosis were contagious, not hereditary
- First public health campaign in America was anti-TB campaign around 1900
 - Anti-Tuberculosis Society became American Lung Association
- Increased hygiene can help prevent disease:
 - Hand washing
 - No spitting
 - Cover your cough
 - No sharing of dishes/utensils
 - Fresh air combats germs

For more: The American Experience: “The Forgotten Plague: Tuberculosis in America” on PBS

Hygiene, design, and Purcell's health

TB treatment before antibiotics



Still no cure for TB until antibiotics became available in 1940s

- Treatment included fresh air, rest
- For more well-to-do, a private sanatorium
- For those not well off, sanatoria run by public health departments

Jewish Consumptive Relief Society sanatorium, Lakewood, Colorado,

Denver Public Library

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Hygiene, Design, and Purcell's Health

Design for illness c. 1900 in Europe: Hoffmann's Purkersdorf Sanatorium



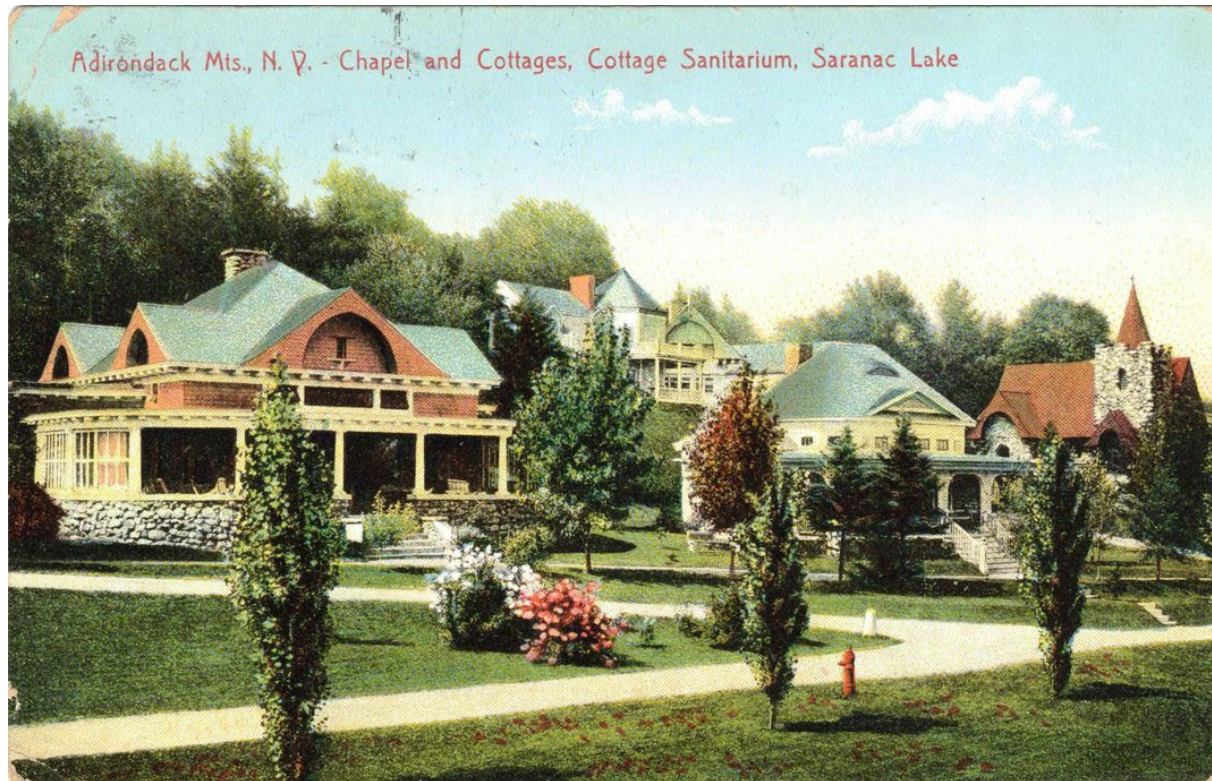
Josef Hoffmann, Purkersdorf Sanatorium, Austria, 1904-5



Josef Hoffmann, "Sitzmaschine" armchair, c. 1905, stained and laminated beechwood, brass, original cushions, The Modernism Collection, Gift of Norwest Bank Minnesota 98.276.243

Hygiene, Design, and Purcell's Health

Design for illness c. 1900 in the United States



- Adirondack Cottage Sanitarium in Saranac Lake opened by Edward Trudeau, a TB survivor who established research lab and treatment facility for well-to-do city dwellers with the disease
- Bungalow designs provided those coming for treatment with plenty of fresh air

Hygiene, Design, and Purcell's Health

Design for illness c. 1900 in United States

- New Yorkers sought the cure, either healthy air or treatment for tuberculosis, in the Adirondacks
- Reclining chair forms developed for better convalescent posture, based on steamer chairs and European models
- The Adirondack chair evolved from these “cure chairs” which were more like a chaise longue
- “Westport Chair” (left, Yale University Art Gallery collection), made on Lake Champlain starting in 1904, brought the design to the mainstream
- TB sufferers used them even when their illness wasn't acute, since they could go in and out of remission

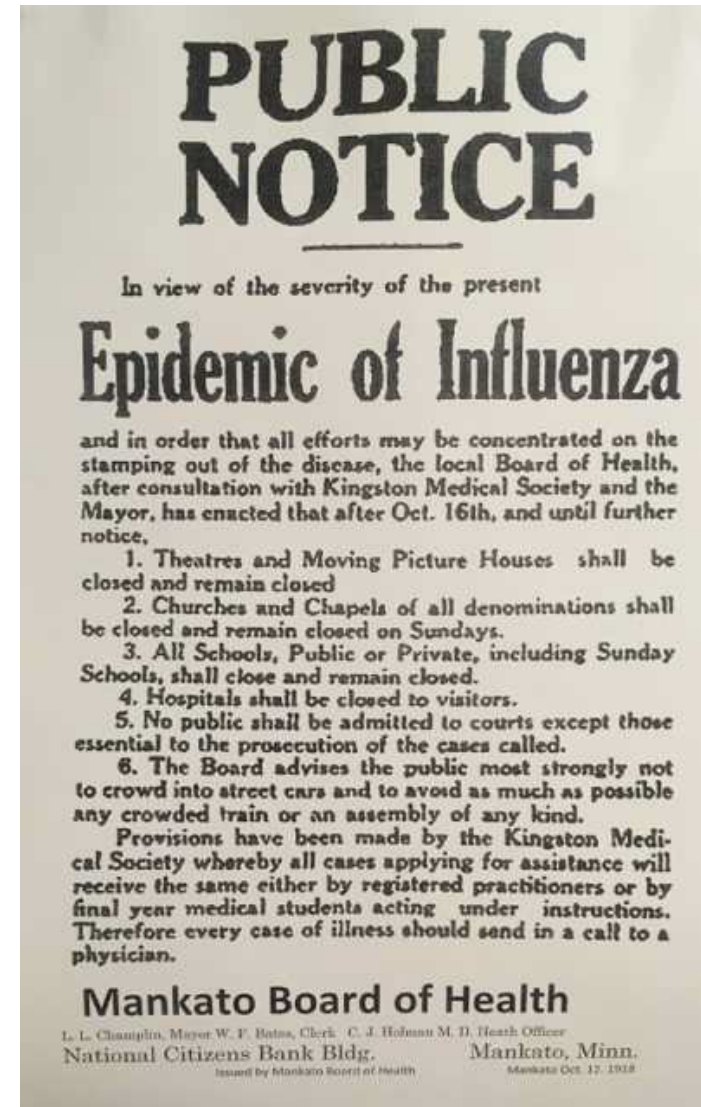


Hygiene, Design, and Purcell's Health

1918 Flu Epidemic

In Minnesota, October 1918:

- Closures of movie houses, churches, schools
- No crowding on public transportation
- Avoid any public assemblies
- Report cases to medical professionals



October 12, 1918, Poster Collection, Blue Earth County Historical Society

Hygiene, design, and Purcell's health

Purcell's history with tuberculosis



Purcell in 1938:

“Had I remained in Chicago, instead of living my days in the more healthy outdoor world of Oregon and its more peaceful tempo, the ‘t.b.’ which I now know had shown itself in 1905, 1912, and again in 1917, although unrecognized at the time, would have no doubt finished me long ago.”

- 1927: Purcell feeling feverish and weak
- 1930: Finally saw a doctor and diagnosed with advanced TB
- Bedrest, surgery, series of sanatoria in early 1930s
- Moved to Pasadena by 1935

William Gray
Purcell
(1880-1965)

Designs for Hygiene at the house: Hand-washing, easy-to clean surfaces



Sink in front hall closet

Designs for Hygiene at the house: Hand-washing, easy-to clean surfaces



Photo: Karen Melvin

Designs for Hygiene at the house: Hand-washing, easy-to clean surfaces







Maid's Room with sink



Guest Bedroom with sink

Designs for Hygiene: Airflow & fresh air for health & to combat disease



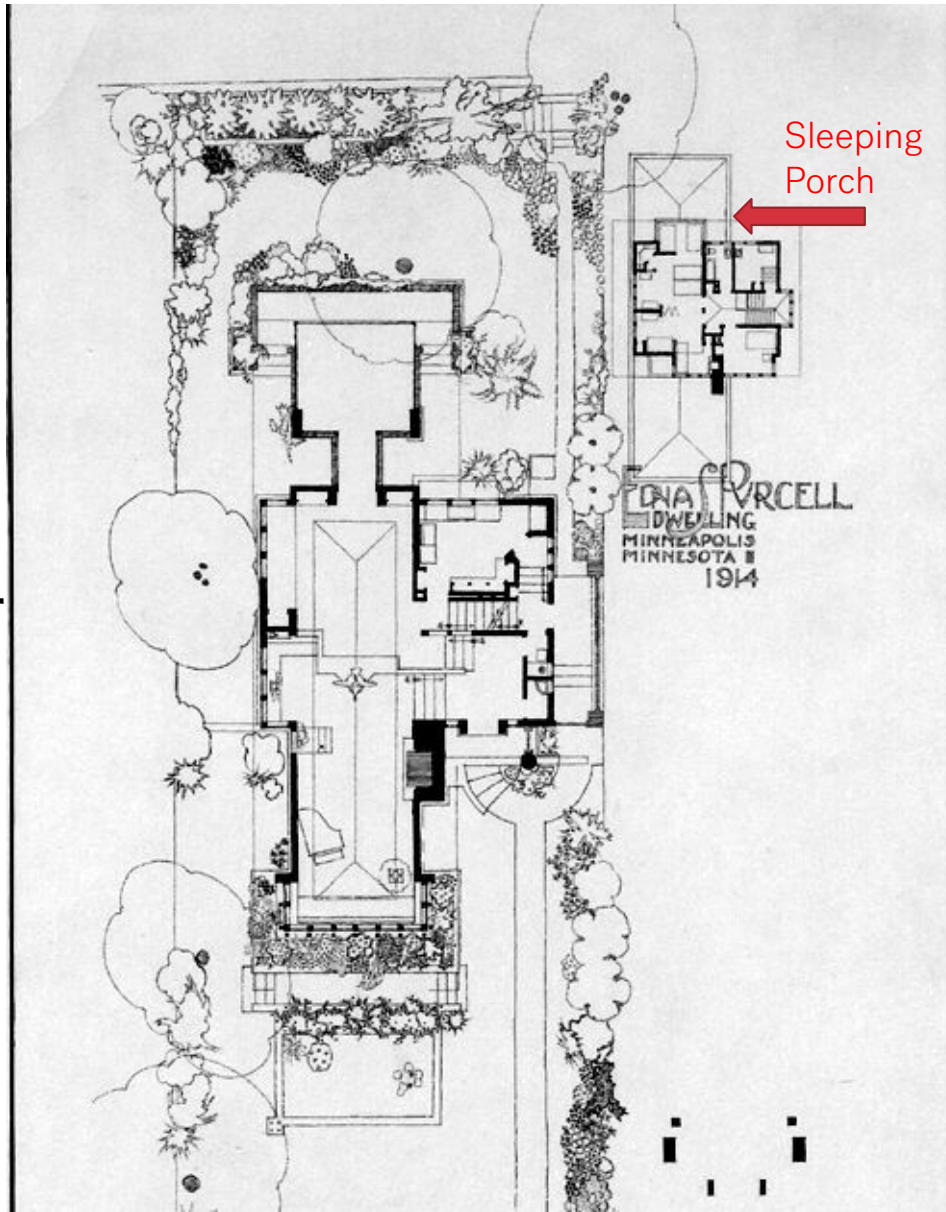
Designs for Hygiene: Sleeping Porch

- Purcell: “outdoor sleeping is done when the weather invites as always with the modern sleeping porch.”
- Sleeping porches included in many of Purcell & Elmslie’s other houses including Bradley House, Woods Hole, MA (1911); Owre House, Minneapolis (1911), and Purcell’s small home in Rose Valley, PA (1918)



Bradley Bungalow, Woods Hole, MA, 1911, sleeping porch 2nd floor left

First floor
Plan →



2nd Floor
Plan
←

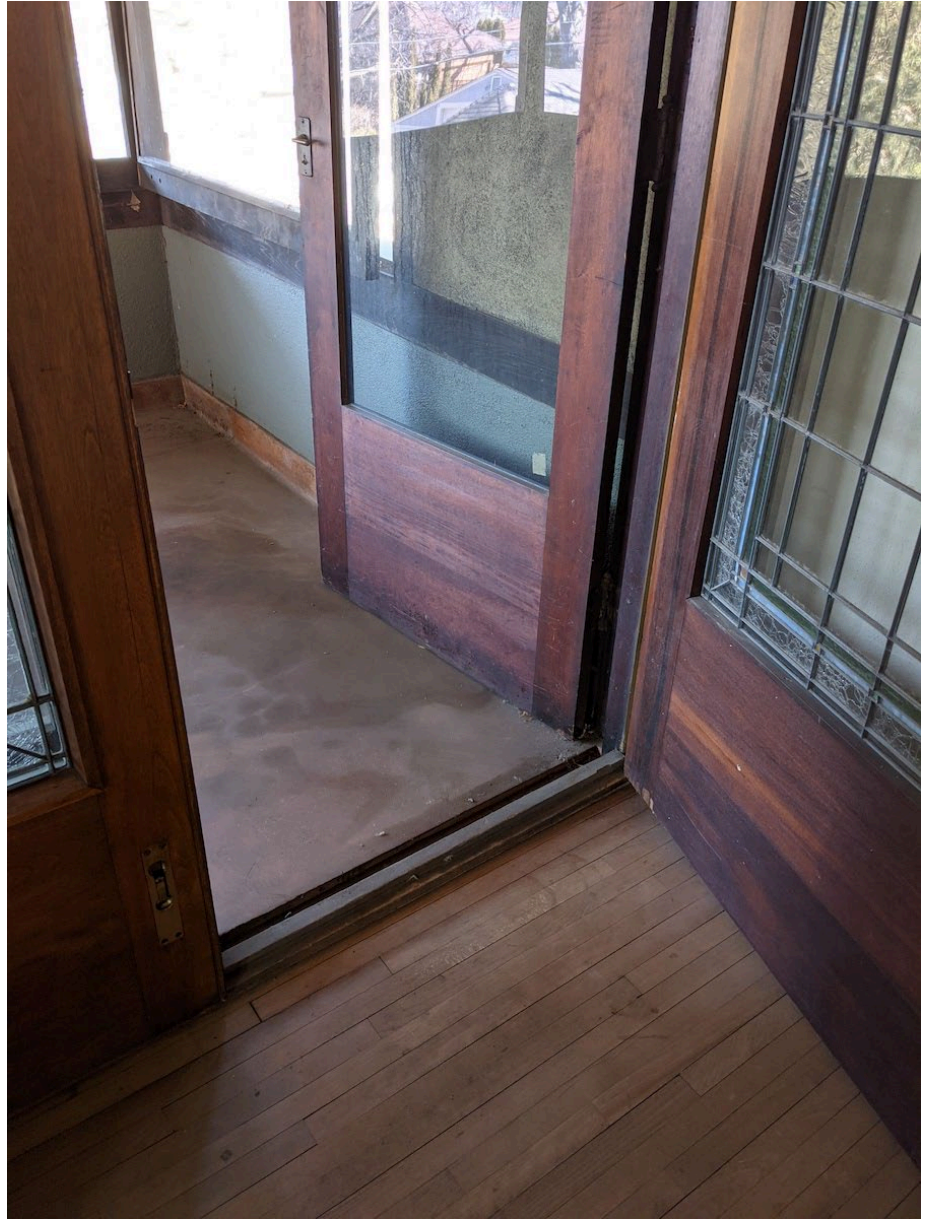
Edna S. Purcell (Purcell-Cutts) house, 1913





Photo: Karen Melvin



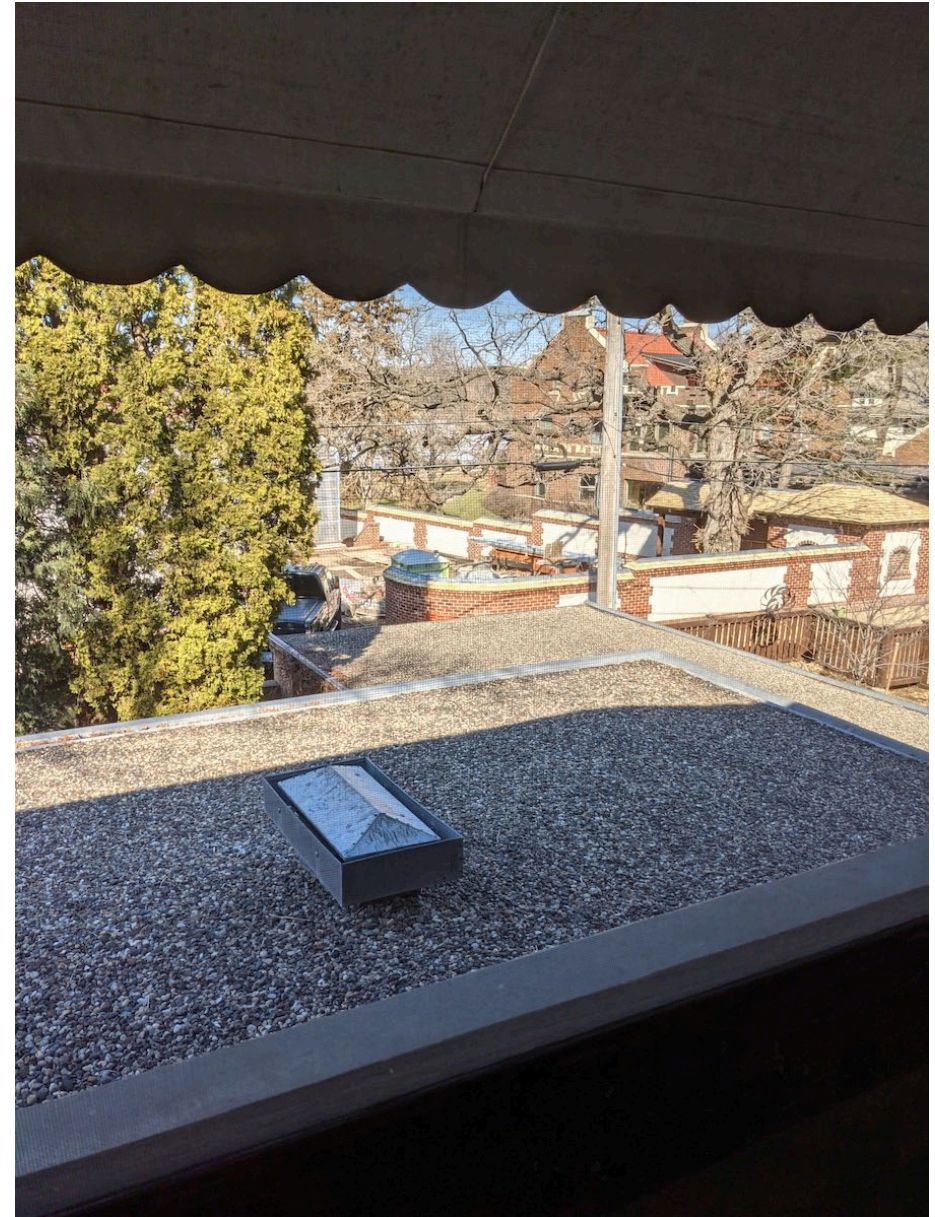


Minneapolis Institute of Art



Minneapolis Institute of Art





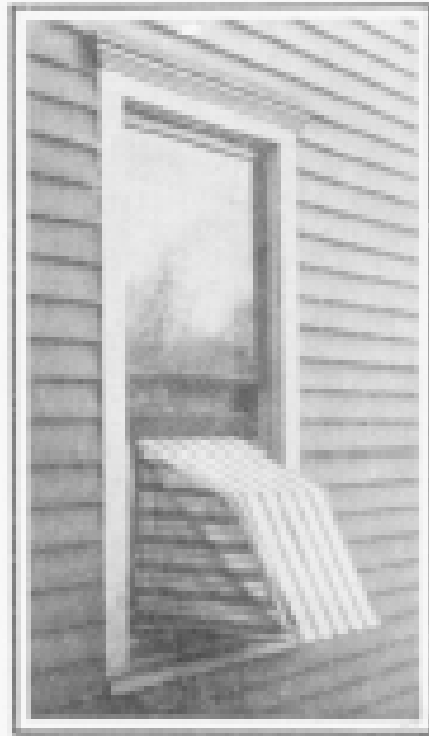
Other solutions: Sleeping tents

TB patient sleeping in a window tent, 1904, Bellevue Hospital, and 1909 photo of sleeping tent

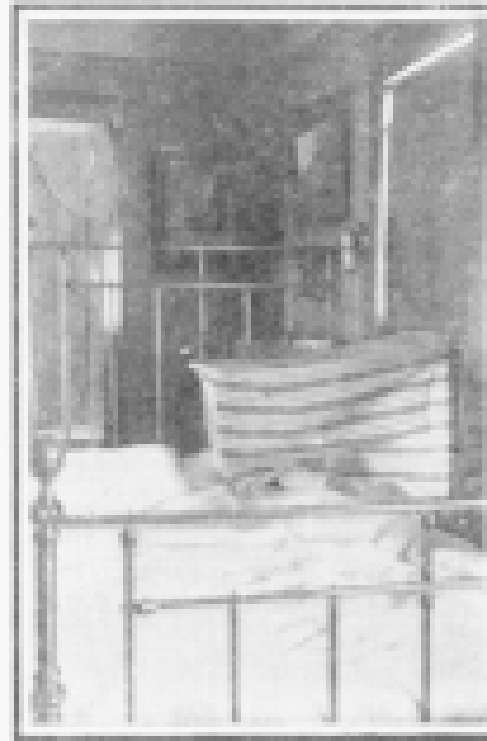




Storm awning raised, showing the sleeper in the indoor bed tent.



The storm awning outside the window.



The window sleeping tent in use.



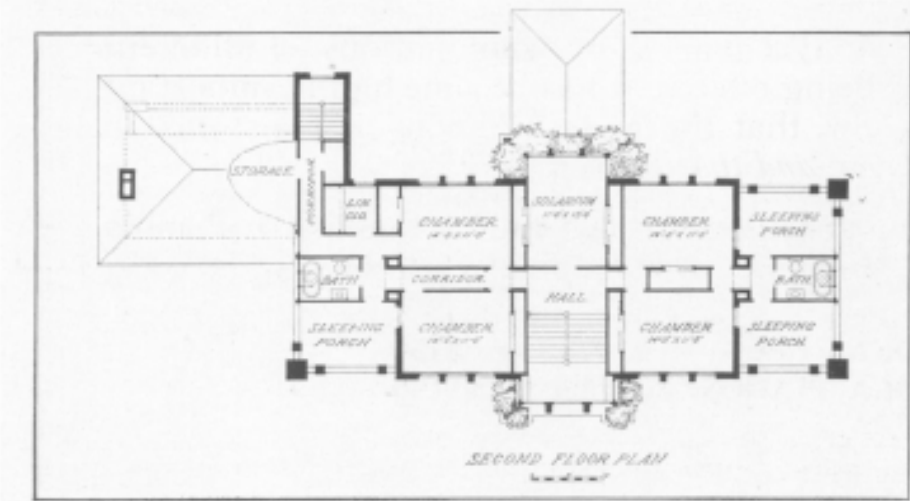
Sleeping hood to protect the head from cold.

INDOOR BED TENTS.

Indoor bed tents and sleeping attire, from *Scientific American*, 1909

Country Home with Outdoor Sleeping, Living, and Dining Rooms, and Sleeping Machine

Country Life in America, 1909



**Brochure for attachable Starnook
sleeping porch, c. 1910**

A CALL TO THE OPEN



SLEEP UNDER THE STARS

A DELIGHTFUL HEALTH-GIVING EXPERIENCE TO BE GAINED BY THE USE OF

THE STARNOOK

AN ATTRACTIVE OPEN-AIR BEDROOM
ATTACHABLE OUTSIDE ANY WINDOW
FOR USE EVERY NIGHT IN THE YEAR



Step from your window into bed—
sleep in comfort regardless of weather—
return to warm room to dress

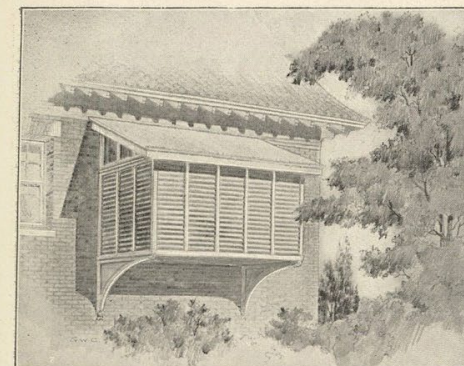


Manufactured & Sold by

THE STARNOOK COMPANY

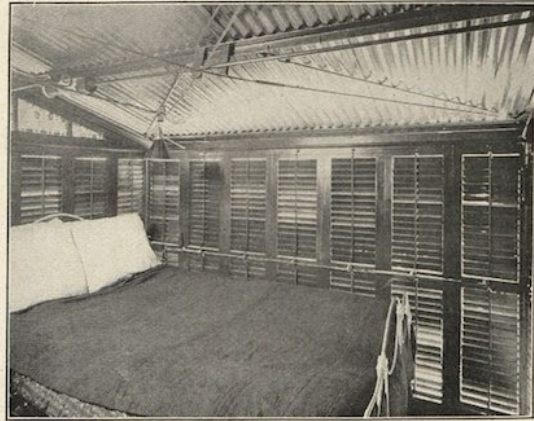
Syracuse, N. Y.

H. C. FORD
MECHANICAL ENGINEER
15 Myrtle Ave., Jamaica, N. Y.



A Call to the Open

FIVE years ago, out-of-door sleeping was an almost unheard of practice among others than consumptives. To-day, scores of sensible people everywhere are sleeping out of doors for pure enjoyment, and one hears on all sides of the wonderfully invigorating effects they receive and of the immunity from petty ills which they are granted. He who sleeps out of doors is supplied the whole night through with an **abundance of oxygen-laden air, Nature's own restorative for tired nerves.** This abundance of pure air, which mankind so vitally needs for perfect health, can be secured by the majority of people in no other way with so little exertion as by sleeping in the open. The realization of this indisputable fact is spreading so rapidly that all indications point to a great "exodus to the open" in the near future.

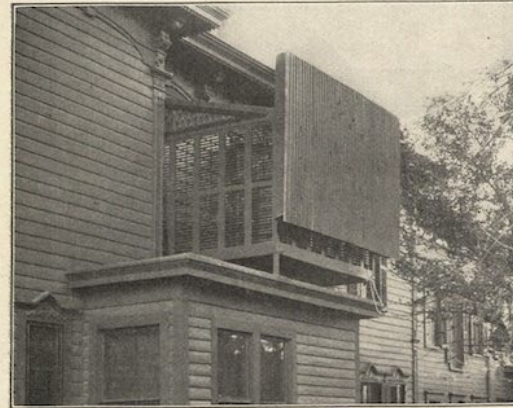


A Ventilated Floor

THE floor is of wood, assembled in four sections for portability. Two of the sections have gratings which can be left open at all times and provide a large air space underneath the bed.

Perfect Ventilation at all Times

THE roof is secured to a steel frame raised a few inches above the walls to provide an air space, and projects about a foot over the three sides. The cornice hangs down over the walls and effectively prevents the entrance of rain or snow. By this arrangement, together with the ventilated floor and shuttered walls as before mentioned, there is secured a perfect circulation of air throughout the apartment at all times and under all conditions.



Balanced Removable Roof

AMONG the many splendid features possessed exclusively by the Starnook, one of the most distinctive is the **balanced removable roof**, which by an ingenious but simple arrangement of pulleys and steel cable, may be moved partially or wholly to one side and tilted into a vertical position, out of the way, yet serving, in this position, as an effective screen from observation by curious neighbors. The movement of the roof is noiseless and is accomplished by use of a single crank, which turns so easily it might be operated by a child. An accumulation of snow on the balanced roof does not hinder its action, which is under perfect control at all times. In case of sudden storm, the roof may be quickly closed without leaving the bed.

Design and Hygiene

1920s, Europe: Aalto's Paimio Sanatorium



Alvar Aalto, Paimio Sanatorium, lecture hall,
Paimio, Finland, 1929-33

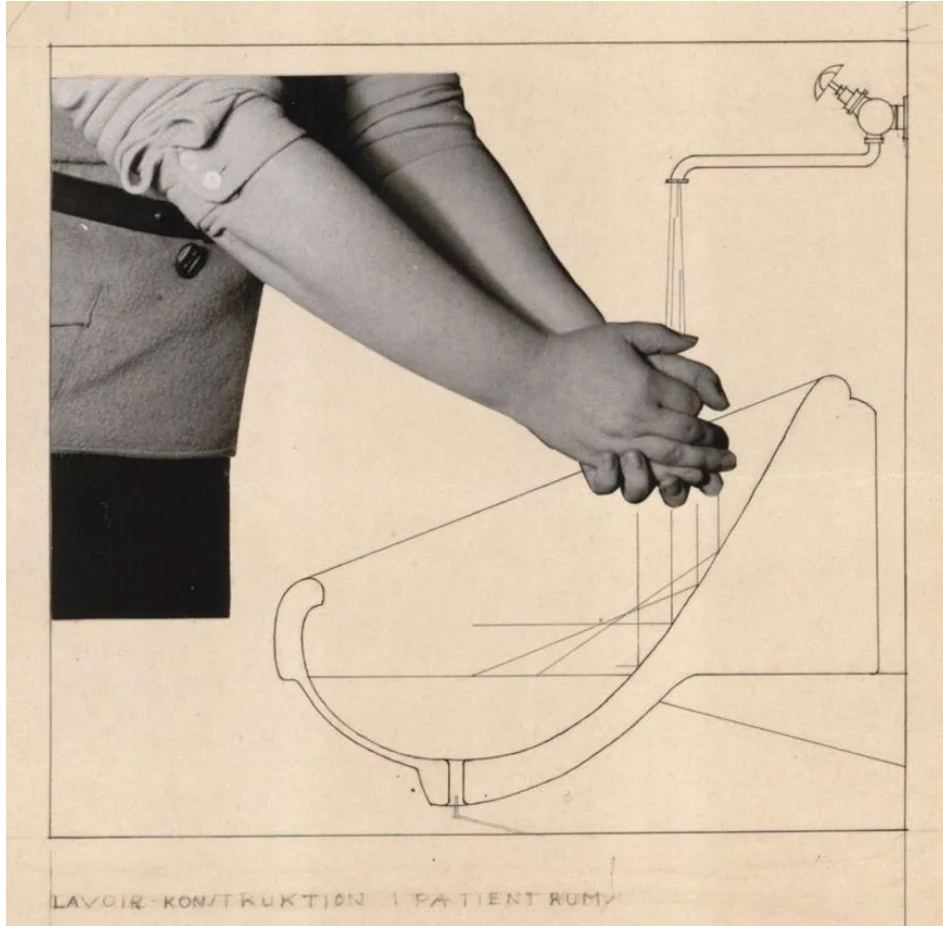
Minneapolis Institute of Art



Alvar Aalto, Paimio lounge chair, 1931-32, laminated birch,
Bent plywood, The Modernism Collection, Gift of Norwest
Bank, 98.276.155

Design and Hygiene

1920s, Europe: Aalto's Paimio Sanatorium



Aalto's design for a noiseless wash basin for Paimio Sanatorium patient rooms



Design and Hygiene

Lake County Tuberculosis Sanatorium, 1939, Waukegan, Illinois



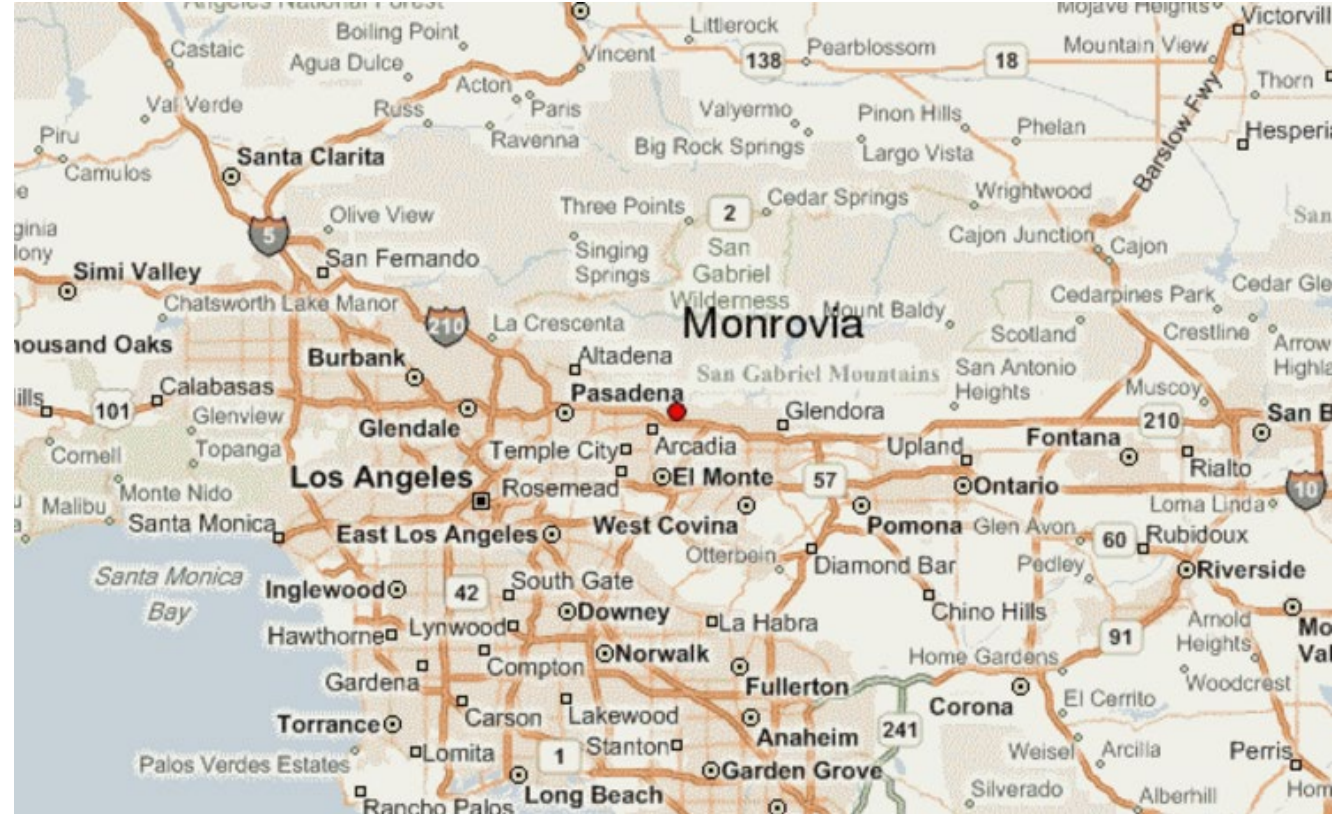
William A. Ganster with W. L. Pereira and Associates; considered excellent example of International Style in U.S. & owes debt to Paimio Sanatorium

Minneapolis Institute of Art



Photo: Hedrich Blessing, FROM BUILT IN USA: 1932-1944 (19

Purcell's TB journey, 1930s

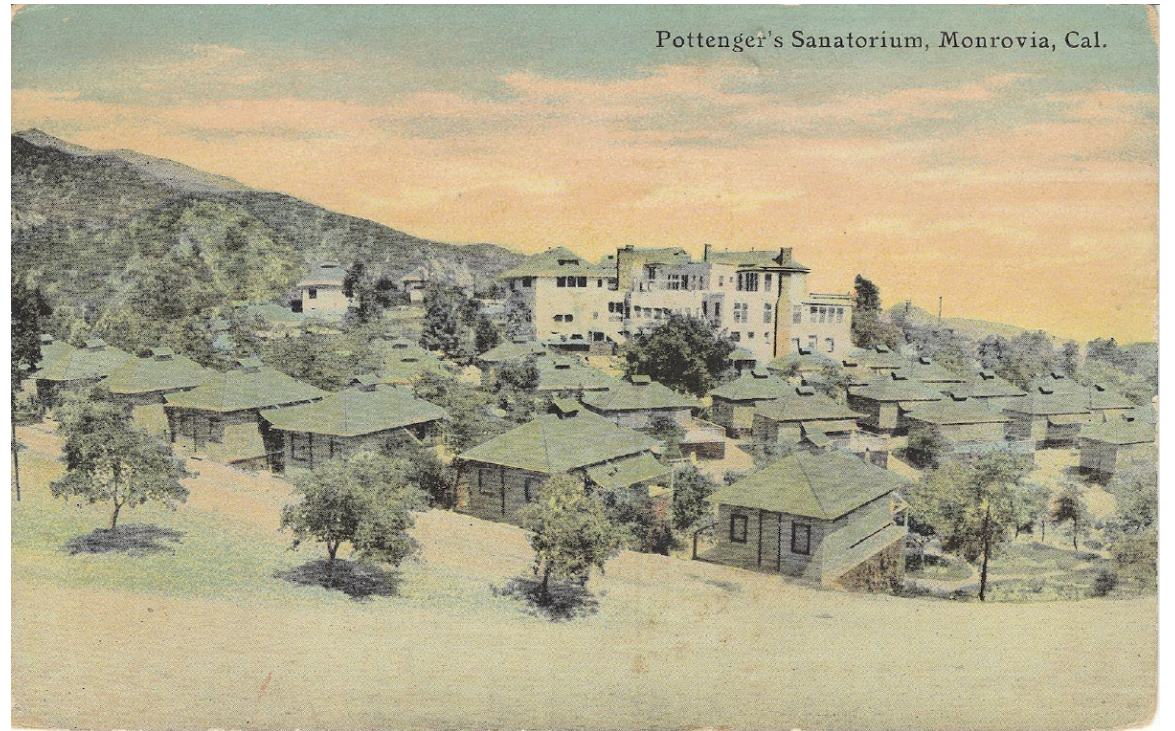


Dr Frances Marion Pottenger, 1903, on the opening of Pottenger Sanatorium for Diseases of the Lungs and Throat, Monrovia, CA

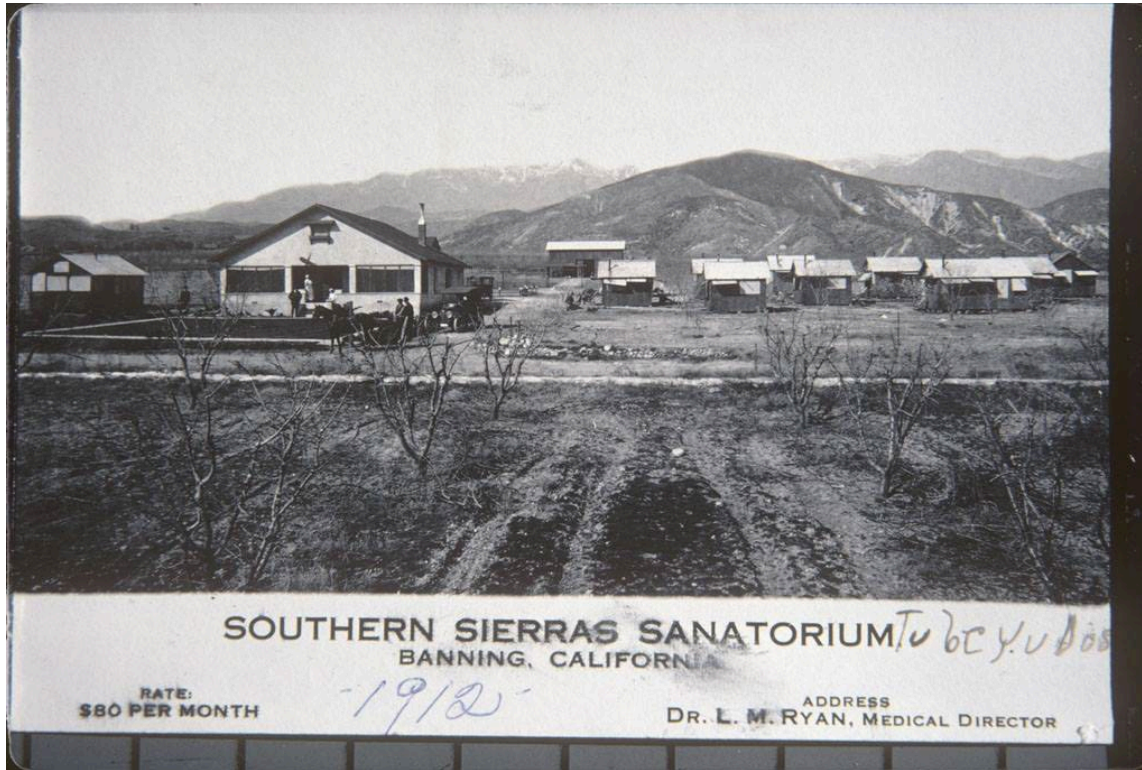
Minneapolis Institute of Art



Pottenger Sanatorium, Monrovia, CA, 1929 photo



Pottenger Sanatorium, undated postcard (c. 1920s)



Southern Sierras Sanatorium, Banning, CA, (1 hour east of Monrovia), 1912 photo

Minneapolis Institute of Art

140

JOURNAL OF THE OUTDOOR LIFE

Southern Sierras Sanatorium
For Tuberculosis and Allied Affections
BANNING Riverside County CALIFORNIA
On direct line of Southern Pacific Railway, 90 miles east of Los Angeles

Near but not upon the desert, in the broad and beautiful San Geronimo Pass, at an altitude of 2400 feet, this sanatorium is exceptionally well located from an environmental and climatic standpoint. All modern methods are fully available. In addition, every effort is made to maintain an atmosphere of cheer and optimism. Painstaking attention, individualized treatment and personal interest assure the maximum benefits. High class service. Special attention to the dietary. Radio connection in each bungalow.

*Individual and double cottages with toilet
 With and without private bath*

*Correspondence invited
 Charles E. Atkinson, M.D., Medical Director*

HERE DWELLS QUIET CONTENTMENT

Southern Sierras Sanatorium ad, 1929

Full circle: Public Health and COVID-19

Learning from the past, optimism for getting through the present

Bloomberg Opinion

Technology & Ideas

How to Fight Disease in the 1880s: Fresh Air

Americans learned the health advantages of open windows - and then closed them for air conditioners.

By [Stephen Mihm](#)

August 1, 2020, 7:00 AM CDT



LIVE ON BLOOMBERG
Watch Live TV >
Listen to Live Radio >

Facebook supports updated internet regulations

Learn More

FACEBOOK

Bloomberg, August 1, 2020

Minneapolis Institute of Art

Popular Latest

The Atlantic

Sign In

HEALTH

A Historical Lesson in Disease Containment

Tuberculosis sanatoriums offered patients fresh air, entertainment, and socialization—for those who could afford them.

ANNIKA NEKLASON MARCH 21, 2020



Collect e-signatures with Acrobat DC.

Try free



RECOMMENDED READING

'I'm the Doctor Who Is Here to Help You Die'

KATIE ENGELHART



'To Me, This Penis Is Out of Control'

KATHERINE J. WU



The Atlantic, March 21, 2020

Full circle: Public Health and COVID-19

Back-to-nature movement fuels a return of the sleeping porch

"In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, it's one way to make the most of summer rainstorms," Minneapolis designer says.

By Christina Poletto New York Times | JULY 30, 2021 — 10:20AM

GALLERY GRID 6/8



BETSY PARKER VIA NYT

Gallery: A backyard tent 40 feet from the home of Betsy and Joe Parker in Des Moines.

AA TEXT SIZE

10



EMAIL

Betsy and Joe Parker of Des Moines had been mulling over the idea of a gazebo in their backyard, but when COVID arrived, they concentrated on creating an additional living space steps away from their three-bedroom home.

At first, they considered constructing a tiny house out of a grain bin, but the thought of hot Iowa summers changed their minds. "We decided that we would find little comfort in a building made out of steel with no ventilation," said Betsy Parker, 40, a manager for an integrated marketing agency serving nonprofits.

Resources

Mapping Prejudice Project: <https://mappingprejudice.umn.edu/>

Brooks, Richard R.W. and Carol M. Rose, *Saving The Neighborhood: Racially Restrictive Covenants, Law, and Social Norms*: <https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674072541>

Jim Crow of the North documentary: <https://www.tptoriginals.org/learn-about-minneapolis-history-of-racial-covenants-in-jim-crow-of-the-north-full-episode/>

Nicole M. Watson, “Marion Alice Parker: Pioneering Woman Architect and the Progressive Prairie School,” M.A. Thesis, University of St. Thomas, 2008

Jane King Hession, *Elizabeth Scheu Close: A Life in Modern Architecture*: <https://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/elizabeth-scheu-close>

The Forgotten Plague: Tuberculosis in America: <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/films/plague/>

Nancy Tomes, *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life*: <https://www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674357082>

Beatriz Colomina, *X-Ray Architecture*:
<https://www.lars-mueller-publishers.com/x-ray-architecture>
Thank you! jolivare@artsmia.org