



The Director of the Victorian Society

and

The Alumni Association of the Victorian Society in America Summer Schools

invite you to

**A reception to meet the participants in the
Victorian Society in America's London Summer School**

On Thursday 11 July 2024

At 1 Priory Gardens, W4 1TT

At 6:30 – 8:00 pm

RSVP

Richard Seedhouse

admin@victoriansociety.org.uk

Members of the Alumni Association who are in London on Thursday, July 11, are cordially invited to a reception to meet the participants in the VSA's 2024 Class of the London Summer Schools. **Please RSVP to attend.**



This is membership renewal season for the Alumni Association. Because of the resignations of two consecutive Membership Secretaries, we are running behind in renewals this year. We are in “catch up” mode now and making efforts to get all of our members to renew for 2024. **If you have not yet done so, please remember to renew your support of the Alumni Association now.** For info on how to sign-up or renew your membership online, please visit and scroll down on the Alumni page on the VSA website at:

Alumni Membership - Victorian Society

Click on an amount that corresponds to the membership level and proceed to enter your credit card info. If you wish to contribute to a scholarship fund in addition to your membership level, click on CUSTOM AMOUNT, enter the total amount of your contribution plus the membership level, and then indicate to which scholarship fund you wish to donate.

Your prompt renewal using the Donate link is the fastest and easiest way to renew and is the easiest for our all-volunteer staff to process your renewal. If you prefer to renew by check, please print out and complete the Membership Renewal Form below, follow the instructions on the form, and mail it along with your check to the address indicated. Please make the check payable to **The Victorian Society in America** noting that it is for Alumni membership.

All donations are tax-exempt as provided by law. Donations at the Supporter level and above level are recognized in our eNewsletters and donations in any amount to the individual Scholarship Funds are also recognized. Except for some required administrative expenses, all of your membership fees and donations goes to student scholarships.

In 2024, the Alumni Association donated \$24,000 for scholarships. Your membership renewal is crucial to enable the Alumni Association to continue its scholarship support for future students. In fact, it is expected that scholarship demands will increase in the coming years. **THANK YOU** for your continued support.

RENEWAL / ENROLLMENT FORM
Alumni Association of The Victorian Society Summer Schools



www.vsaalumni.org

Mail completed form along with your payment to:
 David A. Lamdin
 901 N Monroe St #607
 Arlington, VA 22201-2356
Questions?
 Call David: (703) 243-2350

CHOOSE YOUR MEMBERSHIPS LEVEL

- \$55 Individual
 \$30 Student/Young Professional (35 years of age or younger)
 \$100 Household
 \$250 Supporter
 \$500 Sponsor
 \$1,000 Benefactor

TODAY'S DATE _____

ADD SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

YES! I am providing additional contributions to support scholarships for deserving students of architecture, design, and preservation!

<input type="checkbox"/> Gwen Koch Memorial Newport Scholarship	
<input type="checkbox"/> Duchscherer Memorial Scholarship endorsed by Sibyl McCormac Groff and John Martine	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Prof. Richard Guy Wilson Newport Scholarship (\$3,500 full scholarship)	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Gavin Stamp Memorial London Scholarship Fund (\$5,500 full scholarship)	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Chicago (\$3,100 full scholarship)	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> General Scholarship Fund where needed most	\$
Total Scholarship Support	\$
+ Membership Dues from above	\$
= TOTAL ENCLOSED	\$

YOUR INFORMATION I/We have included the Alumni Association in my/our estate plans. Kindly print.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

MY NEWS Email updates about new positions, licenses, degrees granted, moves, etc. to dalamdin@gmail.com

PAYMENT Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.

- ONLINE www.vsaalumni.org PayPal, MasterCard, VISA, Discover, American Express accepted
 CHECK payable to "VICTORIAN SOCIETY IN AMERICA, INC.," enclosed for the amount above of \$ _____
 Check # _____. Please include ALUMNI ASSOCIATION in the memo line.

2024 Summer Schools

Dear Alumni Association Members,

We thought you would appreciate an update on the final number of attendees and scholarships awarded for each of the three 2024 programs:

Newport – 18 accepted, 6 scholarships awarded:
4 full, 1 three-quarter, 1 quarter (total \$15,900)

Chicago – 12 accepted, 8 scholarships awarded:
3 full, 2 half, 3 three-quarter (total \$18,175)

London – 16 accepted, 10 scholarships awarded:
8 full, 1 half, 1 three-quarter (total \$47,675)

Total scholarship funds awarded = \$81,750, which is equal to the scholarship funds currently on hand or pledges as follows:

- The SSC annual scholarship appeal letter raised \$17,135.
- The VSA Alumni Association has pledged \$24,000
- The Decorative Arts Trust awarded a \$2,400 Chicago scholarship
- The Victorian Society Scholarship Fund (VSSF) has pledged \$38,215

We are grateful for your support.

Sincerely,

John Simonelli & Tina Strauss, Summer Schools Committee Co-chairs

[VISITING WASHINGTON, DC on Saturday, August 10th?](#)

FREE TOUR: Tour the "nation's home of science in America." This is a special year for the National Academy of Sciences' beautiful building at 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C., which turns 100. Dedicated by President Calvin Coolidge in April 1924 and designed by architect Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, the building's architecture synthesizes classical elements with Goodhue's preference for "irregular" forms. On this building tour, you will see Hellenic, Byzantine, and Egyptian architectural influences and touches of Art Deco. Explore the NAS Great Hall with iconography by **Hildreth Meière** and other ceremonial rooms with architectural sculpture by Lee Lawrie and murals by Albert Herter. You'll also peek inside the acoustically brilliant NAS Fred Kavli Auditorium, part of the 1970 wing. For info and free tickets:

[National Academy of Sciences Building Tour Tickets, Sat, Aug 10, 2024 at 1:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)



May 30, 2024

VSA Alumni Association
David Lamdin, President
901 N Monroe St. # 607
Arlington, VA 22201-5233

Dear David,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Summer Schools Committee we want to thank the Board and membership of the Alumni Association for your generous donation of \$24,000 on May 13, 2024 to the Victorian Society 2024 Summer Schools Scholarship Fund.

As in years past, this year's programs in Newport, London and Chicago will draw applications from graduate students, academics, and professionals from across the United States and beyond, and without your generosity many of these deserving participants would not be able to attend.

We are most grateful for your generous support. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,
VICTORIAN SOCIETY SUMMER SCHOOLS

John Simonelli & Tina Strauss, Committee Co-chairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Simonelli".



Nancy McAleer Golden (Newport 1998) was recently recognized by the Meals on Wheels Organization of Santa Barba California for her thirty years of dedicated service to the community.



A reception at the Cosmopolitan Club of NYC was recently hosted by **Pauline Cabot Metcalf, Nancy Golden, and Liz Leckie** to honor their friend, **Sibyl McCormac Groff** (London 1982) for her long-time support of the Alumni Association of the Victorian Society in America Summer Schools.

David Lamdin (Newport 2015, London 2017, and Chicago 2018), President of the Alumni Association, presented Sibyl with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her over forty years of advocacy for the Summer Schools and her enthusiastic support of the Alumni Association since its founding.

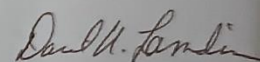
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION
OF THE
VICTORIAN
SOCIETY
SUMMER SCHOOLS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

For over forty years starting before her attendance at the London Summer School in 1982, through her active participation in the founding of the Alumni Association of the Victorian Summer Schools, continuing with her long-time service on the VSA Summer Schools Committee, her wise guidance to the management of the Alumni Association, her active efforts in recruiting foreign students for the Summer Schools and keeping them involved with the Alumni Association, her faithful support of Alumni Study Tours, and her generous support of the Alumni Association with her time, talent, and treasure, this Lifetime Achievement Award is humbly and gratefully presented to

Sibyl McCormac Groff

June 14, 2024



David A Lamdin

President



‘Frank Lloyd Wright’s Southwestern Pennsylvania’ Review: Vivid Unrealized Visions An exhibition at Washington’s National Building Museum features sketches, animations and scale models of the architect’s ambitious plans for the region that is home to his best-known creation, Fallingwater.

By **Michael J. Lewis** (VSA Board Member)

Wall Street Journal (May 18, 2024)

If people know just one **Frank Lloyd Wright** building, it is Fallingwater. And justifiably so. Fallingwater takes those two profound but contradictory obsessions of American culture—nature and technology—and brings them into sublime union above a mountain waterfall. There is nothing in the world quite like it, which is why it comes as a surprise that “Frank Lloyd Wright’s Southwestern Pennsylvania,” at the National Building Museum in Washington through March 17, 2025, should devote relatively little space to it.

After completing this small weekend house for Edgar Kaufmann Sr., the owner of Pittsburgh’s largest department store, on a remote site 65 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, Wright went on to make a dozen subsequent designs for Kaufmann’s family and friends. These range from an intimate private chapel to a lithe 14-story apartment building to a gargantuan civic center in Pittsburgh. With few exceptions, they remain unbuilt and unknown, except to scholars. This exhibition now rescues them from obscurity—or rather from the blinding glare of Fallingwater.

We begin with a life-size photograph of Wright at his drafting table, his apprentices toiling away behind him in his studio. One such apprentice was Edgar Kaufmann jr. (as he spelled his name), who read Wright’s autobiography in 1934 and was so inspired that he applied to work in his office. He got the job, and in return Wright got one of the most significant clients of his career. So began the chain of events that would lead to the creation of Fallingwater three years later.

This story is introduced with a few choice objects, most fascinatingly a black-and-white home movie where we see Edgar jr. and the other apprentices happily at work on the huge model of Broadacre City, Wright’s radical proposal for a post-urban decentralized America. Fallingwater itself is represented with a few photographs, items of furniture and drawings, including the famous colored-pencil perspective from below, its cantilevers jutting freely out over the waterfall. Like all the drawings in the exhibition it is not the actual object but a first-rate facsimile—a regrettable but understandable decision, given that the light-sensitive originals could be displayed only in near darkness.

But the real heart of the show is the unrealized work, digitally rendered and brought to life in superb videos. We see the buildings in all their palpable three-dimensionality, placed in believable space. This technology has come into its own and has shed most of the obvious artificiality and weightlessness of Hollywood’s CGI effects. The videos are by Skyline Ink Animators + Illustrators, which also built handsomely detailed scale models of some of the projects.

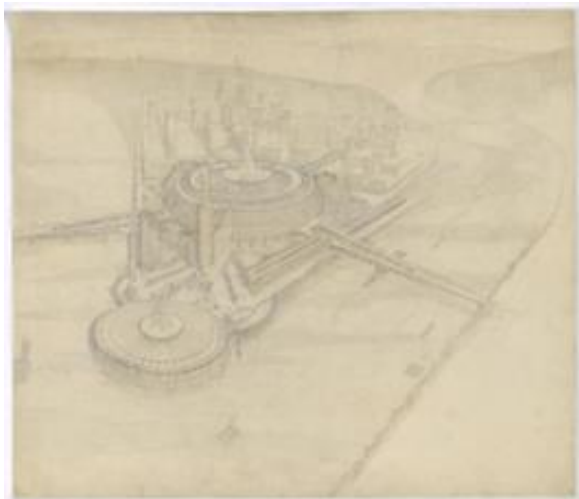
Especially successful is the video depicting “Bear Run,” the cottage Wright designed for the caretaker of the Kaufmanns’ nearby dairy farm. It rests on a snowy hillside, slightly veiled by falling flurries, with a curl of smoke rising from the chimney. As we glide around it we see how tightly it clasp its sloping site, and marvel yet again at Wright’s gift for making a building look as if it had always been there.

The climax comes in the last room, which invites you to sit and contemplate Wright’s three visionary proposals for Pittsburgh, projected in a widescreen panoramic view. The greatest was his Point Park Civic Center of 1947, situated in the angle where the Allegheny and Monongahela join to form the Ohio River. It would have been a leviathan, dwarfing even the menacing city in Fritz Lang’s “Metropolis.” With its opera house, planetarium, aquarium, zoo and “15,000-seat concert garden topped with a glass-domed sports arena,” it would perhaps have been the world’s first megastructure, a word and concept that had not yet been coined. It is thrilling to see it fill the screen, and somehow curious to think that it took over 75 years before there was a form of visual representation that could do justice to the sublime magnitude of Wright’s vision.

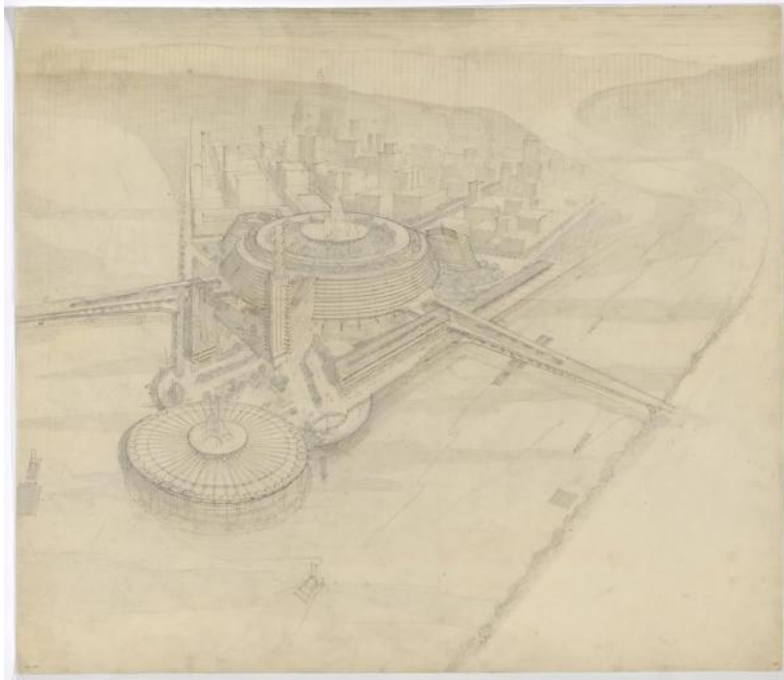
It must be said that the animators were nowhere near as careful rendering “late 1940s Pittsburgh” as they were with Wright’s designs. Their city sky has no more atmosphere than the moon. Do they not know that soft coal-burning Pittsburgh was universally known as “The Smoky City” from the Civil War into the 1970s? Wright designed his Pittsburgh buildings to stand out in crystalline clarity from that sooty background, and to imagine them standing in a fictitious squeaky-clean city that never existed takes away what would have been one of their principal selling points.

This small but immensely rewarding exhibit is a joint project of the Westmoreland Museum of American Art in Greensburg, Pa., where it first appeared, and Fallingwater. Children and professionals will find it equally spellbinding. And if it occasionally falters, it does so amusingly. Did each of the hundreds of drivers in Wright’s spiral parking garage just buy a brand new 1949 sedan? Did no one in 1949 drive (as I do) a 20-year old car?

Mr. Lewis teaches architectural history at Williams and reviews architecture for the Journal.



‘Frank Lloyd Wright’s Southwestern Pennsylvania’ Review: Vivid Unrealized Visions © The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation Archives



'Frank Lloyd Wright's Southwestern Pennsylvania' Review: Vivid Unrealized Visions © Provided by The Wall Street Journal



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Provided by The Wall Street Journal



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Provided by The Wall Street Journal

Related video: Inside The Home Frank Lloyd Wright Designed For His Son
(Dailymotion)

Sketch of Wright's proposed Point Park Civic Center. PHOTO: THE FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT
FOUNDATION ARCHIVES Washington

As the Summer Schools Class of 2024 are underway, one last look at the Class of 2023

The 2023 Class of the Newport Summer School



photo credit Ted Bosley, Newport Assistant Director)

The 2023 London Summer School Class



The 2023 Chicago Summer School Class





The terms of office for the Alumni Association Officers and Directors expire on 12/31/2024. We will have an election for new officers for a three year term beginning on 1/1/2025 and expiring on 12/31/2027 in the fall of 2024. If you have an interest in serving on our Board as an officer and/or Director, please contact David Lamdin at DALAMDIN@gmail.com.