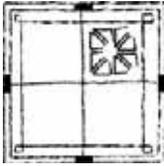


# UNIFIED VISION

THE ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN OF THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL



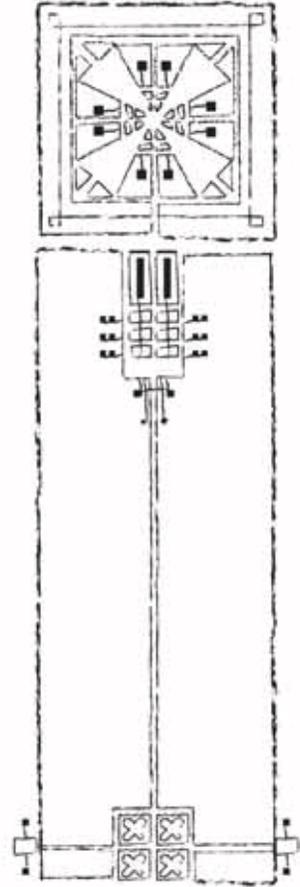
## ARCHITECTURAL TOUR:



## LAKE OF THE ISLES

This tour has 7 stops featuring 10 houses.  
Approximate distance: 7 miles  
Approximate time: 90 minutes

This tour includes residences that are clustered around Minneapolis' picturesque Lake of the Isles, located southwest of the downtown area. Most of these houses were designed by the firm of Purcell and Elmslie, and Purcell's earlier partnerships, both of which included George Feick. Dating from 1907 to 1913, these homes stand today as evidence of what was once a very progressive architectural statement. The tour includes Purcell's most celebrated work in Minneapolis, namely the architect's own home on Lake Place and the nearby E. L. Powers house, designed for a local business leader.



Several of these stops are enhanced with audio interviews. This printed tour guide will tell you when to call (612) 870-6446 to hear the recordings on your cell phone.

Look for this icon:



## DIRECTIONS TO THE FIRST STOP:

### Starting Point:

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts  
2400 3rd Avenue South, Minneapolis

Free general admission to the museum, every day.

Tuesday	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sunday	12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday	Closed

The Institute is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas, and July 4.

Destination: **Henry G. Goosman House**

- ◇ Start out going West on 24TH ST E towards STEVENS AVE. (0.41 miles)
- ◇ Turn LEFT onto S PILLSBURY AVE. (0.17 miles)
- ◇ Look for **2532 PILLSBURY AVENUE SOUTH** on the right side of the street.



# THREE EARLY HOUSES



## Stop #1

All three of these homes, which are located near The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, are examples of Purcell's early work. Although they seem somewhat conventional at first glance, they do exhibit progressive exterior elements, such as deep overhanging eaves, geometric windows, and the use of wood trim and varied colors and building materials to divide upper and lower floors.

When looking at these houses in person, please respect the privacy of the people who live in them.

### #1: HENRY G. GOOSMAN HOUSE 2532 Pillsbury Avenue South Minneapolis

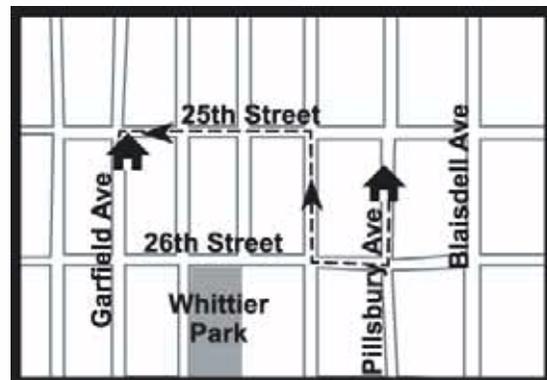


Architects: Purcell and Feick  
Year: 1909

## DIRECTIONS TO THE SECOND HOUSE:

Destination: H.J. Meyers House

- ❖ Continue South on S PILLSBURY AVE towards W 26TH ST. (0.04 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto W 26TH ST. (0.07 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto PLEASANT AVE. (0.12 miles)
- ❖ Turn LEFT onto W 25TH ST. (0.23 miles)
- ❖ Turn LEFT onto GARFIELD AVE S. (0.01 miles)
- ❖ Look for 2513 GARFIELD AVENUE SOUTH on the left side of the street.



# THREE EARLY HOUSES

#2: H.J. MEYERS HOUSE  
2513 Garfield Avenue South  
Minneapolis

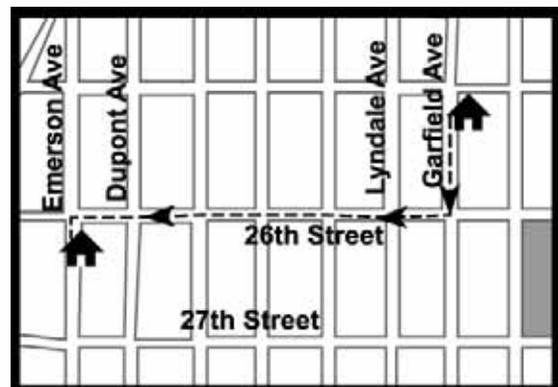


Architects: Purcell and Feick  
Year: 1908

## DIRECTIONS TO THE THIRD HOUSE:

Destination: **Edward Goetzenberger House**

- ❖ Continue South on GARFIELD AVE towards W 26TH ST. (0.11 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto W 26TH ST. (0.37 miles)
- ❖ Turn LEFT onto S EMERSON AVE. (0.03 miles)
- ❖ Look for **2621 EMERSON AVENUE SOUTH** on the left side of the street.



# THREE EARLY HOUSES

## #3: EDWARD GOETZENBERGER HOUSE 2621 Emerson Avenue South Minneapolis

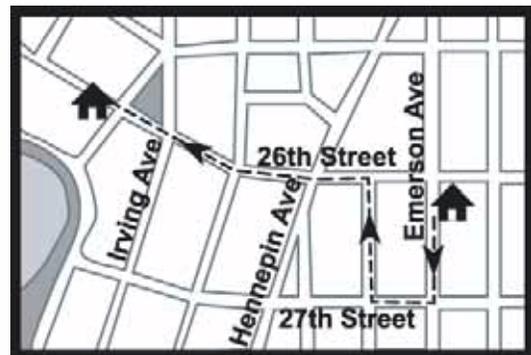


Architects: Purcell and Feick  
Year: 1910

### DIRECTIONS TO THE NEXT STOP:

Destination: **E.L. Powers House**

- ❖ Continue South on S EMERSON AVE towards W 27TH ST. (0.07 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto W 27TH ST. (0.07 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto S FREMONT AVE. (0.1 miles)
- ❖ Turn LEFT onto W 26TH ST. (0.27 miles)
- ❖ Look for **1635 WEST 26TH STREET** on the left side of the street.



# E.L. POWERS HOUSE

Stop # 2

1635 West 26th Street  
Minneapolis



Architects: Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie  
Year: 1910



Call (612) 870-6446 and press 3 to hear a recorded interview with Alan Amis, current owner of the E.L. Powers House. (2 minutes, 27 seconds)

Purcell received the commission for the E.L. Powers House shortly after Elmslie joined the firm, bringing with him a skill in spatial arrangement and organic design. The architects radically rearranged the typical house plan to fit the site, situating the living areas in the back to take advantage of a view, now obscured, of the lake. The hexagonal tower between the screen porch and the entry is the defining feature of the front façade. Like the Catherine Gray House, the Powers House featured a brick-clad lower level and an earthen-colored stucco upper level (since painted white). Powers, a vice-president of the Butler Brothers mail-merchandising company, asked Purcell and Elmslie to cut costs on the original scheme. The team complied with Powers's request, but Elmslie still managed to devise a system of ornament matching Sullivan's best efforts and setting a precedent for Purcell's own house. He designed terra-cotta decorations with stylized plant motifs for the entrance and the interior fireplace wall, art-glass panels with geometric plant forms for the porch doors and bookcase doors, built-in and freestanding furniture for the dining room, all with organic sawed-wood designs, and custom stencils throughout the house.

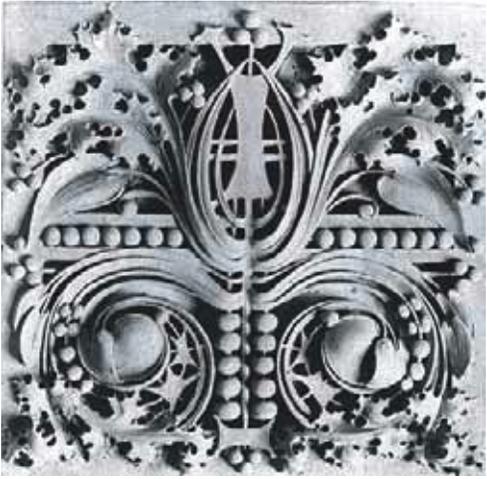
# E.L. POWERS HOUSE

When looking at these houses in person, please respect the privacy of the people who live in them.

## HISTORIC PHOTOS:



E.L. Powers House,  
Minneapolis  
Photo: Northwest Architectural Archives

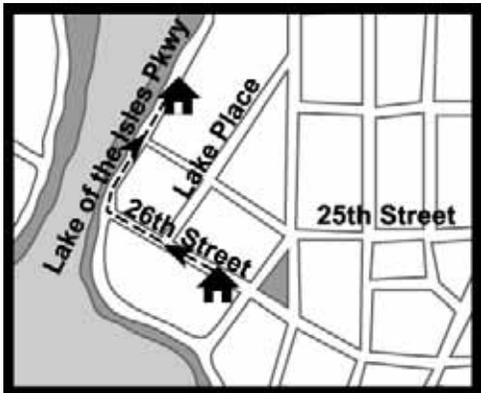


Terra-cotta detail  
E.L. Powers House,  
Minneapolis  
Photo: Northwest Architectural Archives

## DIRECTIONS TO THE NEXT STOP:

Destination: **Catherine Gray House**

- ❖ Continue Northwest on W 26TH ST towards LAKE PL. (0.07 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto E LAKE OF THE ISLES PKWY. (0.13 miles)
- ❖ Look for **2409 EAST LAKE OF THE ISLES PKWY** on the right side of the street.



# CATHERINE GRAY HOUSE

Stop #3

2409 East Lake of the Isles Parkway  
Minneapolis



Architects: Purcell and Feick  
Year: 1907

Purcell's grandfather William Cunningham Gray died in 1901, and in 1907 his grandmother Catherine Gray moved from Chicago to Minneapolis to be closer to her grandson. The Catherine Gray house, Purcell's first built example of a progressive structure, was to be a home for both of them. It was also an important work for the fledgling progressive architecture firm of Purcell and Feick. Purcell's friend and future partner, George Elmslie, generously advised the young architect during the design process, establishing a collaborative method they would follow throughout their partnership.

The rectangular, two-story structure closely resembled Frank Lloyd Wright's design for a "Fireproof House for \$5000" published in the Ladies' Home Journal in 1907. Purcell defined and varied the monolithic exterior by using brick on the first floor and natural-colored stucco on the second floor (both now painted white). The firm incorporated progressive features, such as casement windows and an asymmetrical entry, that eventually became standard in subsequent homes it designed. A partially open floor plan and a system of interior wood trim throughout the rooms unified the interior. The house has been altered significantly over the years, including the removal in 1918 of a screened pavilion to the south.

# CATHERINE GRAY HOUSE

When looking at these houses in person, please respect the privacy of the people who live in them.

## HISTORIC PHOTOS:



Living Room with George Feick, Jr. (left), Charles A. Purcell (center), and Edna Purcell playing the piano, and Dining Room with Catherine Gray (left) and her companion Annie Ziegler.

Catherine Gray House,  
Minneapolis

Photo: Northwest Architectural Archives



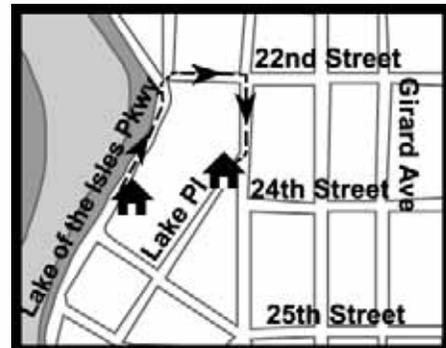
Catherine Gray House,  
Minneapolis

Photo: Northwest Architectural Archives

## DIRECTIONS TO THE NEXT STOP:

Destination: **Purcell-Cutts House**

- ❖ Continue Northwest on E LAKE OF THE ISLES PKWY towards W 22ND ST. (0.07 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto W 22ND ST. (0.07 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto S IRVING AVE. (0.07 miles)
- ❖ Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto LAKE PL. (0.03 miles)
- ❖ Look for **2328 LAKE PLACE** on the right side of the street.



# PURCELL-CUTTS HOUSE

Stop # 4

2328 Lake Place  
Minneapolis



Architects: Purcell and Emslie  
Year: 1913



Call (612) 870-6446 and press 7 to hear a recorded interview with Jennifer Komar Olivarez, a Minneapolis Institute of Arts Curator. (3 minutes, 28 seconds)

In 1913, Purcell and Elmslie designed a house that remains one of the most significant examples of the Prairie School style of architecture in the United States. Built for Purcell's own family, the house was named for his wife and incorporated his talent for innovative residential planning with Elmslie's ingenious and exacting decorative detail. Their pairing resulted in a progressive design linking the structure to the site. Elmslie's designs for more than eighty leaded-glass windows, elaborate stencil patterns in every room, and custom furniture unified the interior spaces. The house is considered the most complete embodiment of Purcell and Elmslie's architectural philosophy.

Purcell and his family lived in the house for only a few years before relocating to Philadelphia; Purcell later moved to Portland, Oregon. In 1919, the house was sold to Anson B. Cutts Sr., whose son Anson Jr. bequeathed it to The Minneapolis Institute of Arts in 1985. The Institute has returned the house to the period of the Purcells' occupancy (1913-17). Now known as the Purcell-Cutts House, it is open to the public the second weekend of each month and by appointment. For more information and tour registration, please call 612-870-3131.

# PURCELL-CUTTS HOUSE

When looking at these houses in person, please respect the privacy of the people who live in them.

## HISTORIC PHOTOS:



The Purcell family: James, Douglas, Edna, and William, probably late 1916  
Purcell-Cutts House,  
Minneapolis  
Photo: Northwest Architectural Archives



Edna Purcell by fireplace, 1914  
Purcell-Cutts House,  
Minneapolis  
Photo: Northwest Architectural Archives



Edna and James Purcell in the front garden, probably summer 1914  
Purcell-Cutts House,  
Minneapolis  
Photo: Northwest Architectural Archives

## RELATED HOUSE OF INTEREST:

### LESLIE HOUSE

2424 Lake Place  
Minneapolis

Architect: Louis Long  
Year: 1914



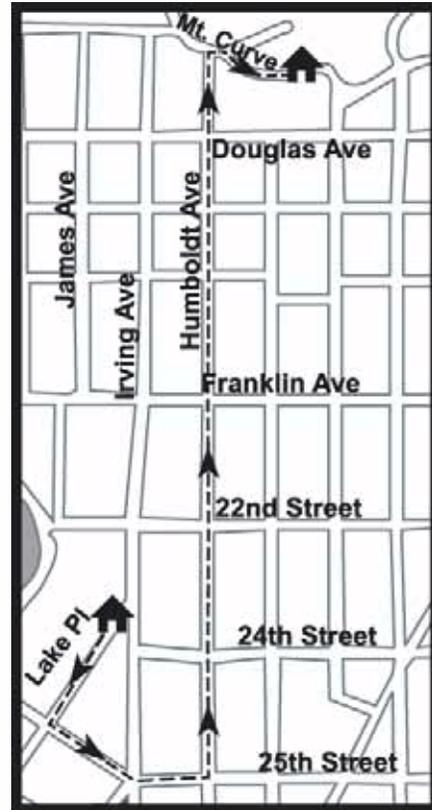
This large home was built in the Prairie School style by Louis Long, one in a long line of Minneapolis architects and the son of F.B Long of the firm Long and Kees, which designed City Hall. Its symmetry and massing are noticeably different from Purcell's own house, and more closely relate it to the homes of George Washington Maher.

# PURCELL-CUTTS HOUSE

## DIRECTIONS TO THE NEXT STOP:

Destination: **Charles J. Winton House**

- ❖ Continue Southwest on LAKE PL towards W 25TH ST. (0.03 miles)
- ❖ Turn LEFT onto W 25TH ST. (0.14 miles)
- ❖ Turn LEFT onto S HUMBOLDT AVE. (0.5 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto MT CURVE AVE. (0.11 miles)
- ❖ Look for **1324 MOUNT CURVE AVENUE** on the left side of the street.



# CHARLES J. WINTON, SR. HOUSE

Stop #5

1324 Mount Curve Avenue  
Minneapolis



Architect: George Washington Maher  
Year: 1910

George Washington Maher apprenticed in the Chicago offices of Joseph Lyman Silsbee, where Frank Lloyd Wright and George Grant Elmslie were both working as draftsmen. Like his Prairie School colleagues, he believed architectural form should follow function and American architects should strive to create a new vocabulary of forms. The Winton House, based on a house Maher designed for Charles and Helen Winton in Wausau, Wisconsin, reflects Maher's ideals of symmetry, mass, and centralization. Its overhanging eaves and low, horizontal roofline and entryway are typical Prairie-style features.

When looking at these houses in person, please respect the privacy of the people who live in them.

# CHARLES J. WINTON, SR. HOUSE

## RELATED OBJECT:



### Casement window

Charles J. Winton Sr. House,  
Minneapolis  
Gift of Henry and Elizabeth Hyatt  
Accession #: 98.255.2

This window is from a bank of three, overlooking the main staircase, that allowed light and air into the closet of the master bedroom. The poppy motif appeared throughout the house. During a recent restoration these windows were removed, and one was given to The Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

## DIRECTIONS TO THE NEXT STOP:

Destination: **Dr. Oscar Owre House**

- ❖ Continue East on MT CURVE AVE towards S FREMONT AVE. (0.04 miles)
- ❖ Curve RIGHT onto S FREMONT AVE. (0.28 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto FRANKLIN AVE W. (0.36 miles)
- ❖ Turn LEFT, followed by a SHARP RIGHT onto E LAKE OF THE ISLES PKWY. (0.36 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto S NEWTON AVE. (0.04 miles)
- ❖ Look for **2625 NEWTON AVENUE SOUTH** on the right side of the street.



# DR. OSCAR OWRE HOUSE

Stop # 6

2625 Newton Avenue South  
Minneapolis



Architects: Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie  
Year: 1911 - 1912



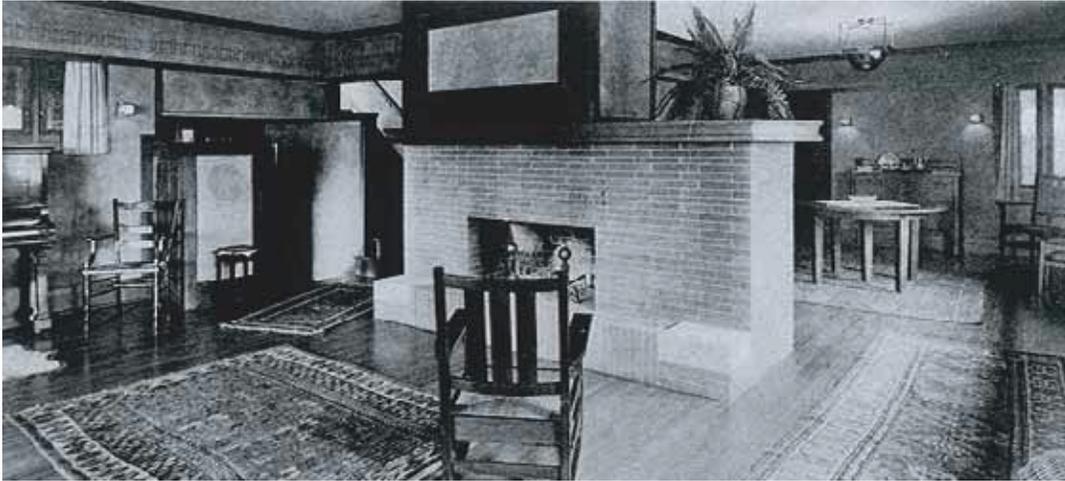
Call (612) 870-6446 and press 4 to hear a recorded interview with Peter and Nancy Albrecht, current owners of the Dr. Oscar Owre House. (3 minutes, 43 seconds)

Built for Dr. Oscar Owre and his wife, Katherine, the Owre House was designed for a narrow lot overlooking Lake of the Isles. Although the roofline is more steeply pitched than that of many Prairie School homes, the structure shares the low, overhanging eaves, bands of windows, and side entryway of the Purcell-Cutts House. Purcell wrote that Dr. Owre was "scared to death that his building was going to cost him more than he could afford." Purcell assured him that the house would cost no more than \$17,275, including landscaping and decorating, right down to the window shades and curtain rods. True to his word, the firm brought the project in \$35 under budget. Owre was so pleased that he asked the firm to return a few years later to construct a desk and bookcases for his study on the second floor.

When looking at these houses in person, please respect the privacy of the people who live in them.

# DR. OSCAR OWRE HOUSE

## HISTORIC PHOTOS:

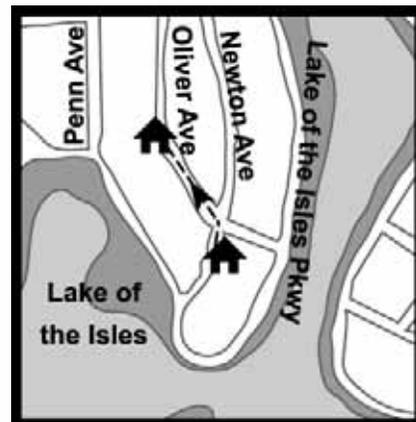


Living room  
Dr. Oscar Owre House,  
Minneapolis  
Photo: The Western Architect

## DIRECTIONS TO THE NEXT STOP:

Destination: **E.C. Tillotson House**

- ✦ Continue Northwest on S NEWTON AVE towards OLIVER PL S. (0.12 miles)
- ✦ Turn LEFT onto OLIVER AVE S. (0.11 miles)
- ✦ Look for **2316 OLIVER AVENUE SOUTH** on the left side of the street.



# E.C. TILLOTSON HOUSE

Stop #7

2316 Oliver Avenue South  
Minneapolis



Architects: Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie  
Year: 1912

The Tillotson House illustrates the fact that Purcell did not equate progressive architecture with the use of a flat roof. Located a block and a half from the Owre house, the home Purcell, Feick, and Elmslie built for E.C. Tillotson and his family is similar in plan, but its high-pitched roof sets it apart from homes like the Purcell-Cutts House and the Owre House. More conspicuous Prairie School elements include the bands of windows and the overhanging eaves.

When looking at these houses in person, please respect the privacy of the people who live in them.

## DIRECTIONS BACK TO THE MUSEUM:

- ❖ Continue North on OLIVER AVE S towards 21ST ST W. (0.12 miles)
- ❖ Turn LEFT onto 21ST ST W. (0.07 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto PENN AVE S. (0.10 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto FRANKLIN AVE W. (1.76 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto 3RD AVE S. (0.24 miles)
- ❖ Turn RIGHT onto 24TH ST E. (0.01 miles)