

34th Annual Ann Arbor Preservation Awards: June 4, 2018



Upright + Wing Vernacular



Mid-Century Modern



Mid-Century Modern



Colonial Revival

AWARDS OVERVIEW

Preservation

Presented in recognition of superior maintenance of a significant property to preserve its essential historical, cultural or architectural value for a period of 10 years or more.

Rehabilitation

Presented in recognition of projects that have substantially returned a property to its historic condition.

Preservation Project of the Year

Preservationist of the Year

Preservation

3087 Override, 1963
Dorothy Engle House
Sally + Tom Klein



This mid-century modern home, designed by local architect Edward Olencki and built in 1963, has been meticulously preserved by owners Sally and Tom Klein since 1989. They have respected and loved the house since purchasing it and allowed A2Modern to use it for an open house fund raiser in 2017.

837 W. Huron, 1927
Grover C. + Olga Koch House
Susan + Richard Isaacs Nisbett



This beautiful brick house was built for Grover C. and Olga Koch in 1927 and replaced an older house from the 1860s. Koch was president of KYS Sales Co. at 208-210 W. Washington, which specialized in Willys-Knight and Whippet autos. The Depression must have wiped him out because he was listed as working as a mechanic at the Pratt and Stribley Garage by 1937 (113 N. Ashley). Since 1971 it has been the home of Richard and Susan Isaacs Nisbett and they have maintained it in meticulous condition in their nearly 50-year stewardship.

415 N. Fouth, 1866
Burns-Martin House
Kerrytown Concert House



Deanna Relyea and her board have maintained this 1866 former house that she transformed into a performance space in 1984. The concert house hosts jazz, classical, theater and opera performances and music lessons are given on the second floor.

The house is a simple upright and wing style and has had few alterations in its long history (note particularly the sidelights around the front door). It dates to just after the Civil War and served as the homes for the Burns-Martin family until the 1940s. After which, James and Parthenia Parker were owners for over 30 years. They sold the house to Carl Brauer in 1983 who rented it to KCH until they could purchase it in 1998. This is a community gem and we are happy to honor her contribution to Ann Arbor.

Preservation

2998 Geddes, 1950
Carlos Lopez House
Barbara + Donald Sugerman



The Carlos Lopez House was designed in 1950 by George Brigham. Donald and Barbara Sugerman have owned the house since 2001 and have taken immaculate care of it.

Carlos Lopez was one of the most recognized modern Latino painters in the United States and received many awards during his lifetime. He was born in Cuba and studied at UM with painter Leon Makielski. Lopez became a professor of art at UM in 1945 and worked there until his untimely death in 1953 at the age of 44. In typical Brigham style, this house is one long and low story nestled among the trees along Geddes.

427-433 Spring, 1913
Samuel Burchfield Row Houses
Spring Street Townhomes



This four unit townhouse was built in 1913 and is unique in the city. It is an unusual mix of architectural styles and combines Colonial Revival, Queen Anne and Craftsman details. Burchfield was a tailor and lived around the corner. His family owned the townhouses, which were rented until 1961. Since 2007, Barbara Poag and Spring Street Townhomes have maintained the building with loving care.

15 Harvard Place, 1952
William + Miriam Baum House
Lois + Peter Eckstein



Built in 1952 and owned since 1999 by Peter and Lois Eckstein, we recognize another Brigham-designed home. They have maintained its historic character both inside and out. The original owner, Dr. Baum, was a physician at University Hospital and a professor of medicine at UM. The one-story mid-century modern home is a classic example of Brigham's design aesthetic.

Preservation

1601 Broadway, 1936
Carl Rehberg House
Leslie + Mary Ellen Guinn



Leslie and Mary Ellen Guinn have owned this property since 1987 and have taken fastidious care of it. This Colonial style house with its long ending facing the street has a beautiful Federal style fanlight above the door. It was built in 1936 for Carl Rehberg, the manager of Arbor Springs Water Co., and his wife Elsa. We applaud Leslie and Mary Ellen for their excellent stewardship.

715 S. Forest, 1928
Forest Plaza Apartments
Campus Management



Campus Management, incorporated in 1966, has managed Forest Plaza since its purchase by Dwaine Lighthammer and Gordon Schott, Sr., in 1972. Now a third generation of family members oversee the management of the property.

Constructed in 1928 in a Spanish Revival style, the red brick building has Spanish style roof tiles, terra cotta decorations, and decorative interior plasterwork. An outstanding feature is the deep setback, which allows a grove of trees to greet the tenants as they cross a small bridge over a former creek.

The original 1923 elevator was also restored, which left many original features intact and included a modern mechanical system. We applaud Campus Management for their ongoing stewardship of Forest Plaza and thank tenant Laurel Firant for the nomination!

Rehabilitation

830 Avon, 1954
H. Richard + Florence Crane
House
Linda + Jim Elert



This was the first house designed by local architect Robert Metcalf. Built in 1954, the Cranes lived their entire lives there. Crane was a professor of Physics at UM from 1934-1978 and received the National Medal of Science from President Ronald Reagan. Florence served on city council for two terms and was the first woman on the board of National Bank and Trust.

The house is regarded as a premier example of the Mid-Century Modern style. It's been featured on tours by the advocacy group A2Modern, a group in which the Elerts have been quite active. It has also appeared in books about midcentury architecture in Michigan. Its distinctive features were lovingly restored by the Elerts beginning in 2012.

2018 Historic District Commission Awards

505 Burson Place, 1956
William + Mary Bandemer
House
Renate + John Mirsky



The house was designed by prolific local architect James Livingston, whose buildings include Lurie Terrace and Maynard House. He designed this home in 1956 for the Bandemers. Bandemer served on City Council from 1961-1965 representing the Second Ward.

The house is a typical one story, flat roofed building of the period with the doorway hidden from public view. The Mirskys have restored both the exterior and the interior, even preserving and restoring the original kitchen cabinets. They have also beautifully landscaped the grounds. The Mirskys have held open houses for A2Modern and have become active in the group and experts on Livingston's work.

509 Detroit, 1892
Holly Parker + David
Santacroce



This stately Queen Anne house with its square tower, fish-scale siding and front gabled roof with sunburst motif first appears on the 1892 Sanborn fire Insurance Map. It was likely a boarding house because its occupants changed often and Detroit Street catered to many who worked at the factories making buggies and lumber.

When Santacroce and Parker bought the property in 2011 it was a run-down student rental. Today, it is a single-family home and they have restored the house to its original 19th century glory. They have also wonderfully landscaped the property making a strong visual statement along Detroit Street.

Rehabilitation

812 W. Washington, 1900
Herman D. Allmendinger House
Nadine Hubbs



This house was built in 1900 and occupied by successive German families, including the Allmendingers, the Stolls, and the Hochs. Hubbs, who has restored 3 previous historic houses in Ann Arbor, purchased the home in 2013. She removed asbestos shingle siding and fire escapes, repaired the underlying wood lap siding, restored the front porch, and converted the duplex back to single-family. During the demolition work, several treasures were found in the walls, including a silver clutch box containing a 1905 stage coach receipt, issues of the *Ann Arbor Daily News* from 1902 and 1914, and a charming 1897 love letter on Ann Arbor Organ Co. stationery from Herman Allmendinger to his fiancé Minnie Luckhardt of Manchester.

2018 Historic District Commission Awards

826 W. Huron, 1914
Edward Bycraft House
Patricia Wilinski



Built by a retired farmer in 1914, this Arts and Crafts house was recently converted from a six-person rental to an owner-occupied home. Ms. Wilinski received approvals from the HDC for her renovation work. It is so seamless that one can hardly tell it's been touched.

1418 Broadway, ca. 1830s/40s
Traver-Tuttle House
Andrea Kinney + Patrick McAuley



This home formerly belonged to councilperson Sabra Briere. It has been completely restored by the owners who had to shore up a failing rear porch, even out foundation, restore the original windows and upgrade the electrical and plumbing. They've built a fence in front for their dogs to romp behind and have painted the house a dark brown, giving it a totally new look on the block. As a result of his move to this house, McCauley, co-author of *Historic Ann Arbor, An Architectural Guide*, began to research Absalom Traver. This led to an article in the *Ann Arbor Observer* in March of this year.

Preservation Project of the Year

State Theater Renovation, 1942

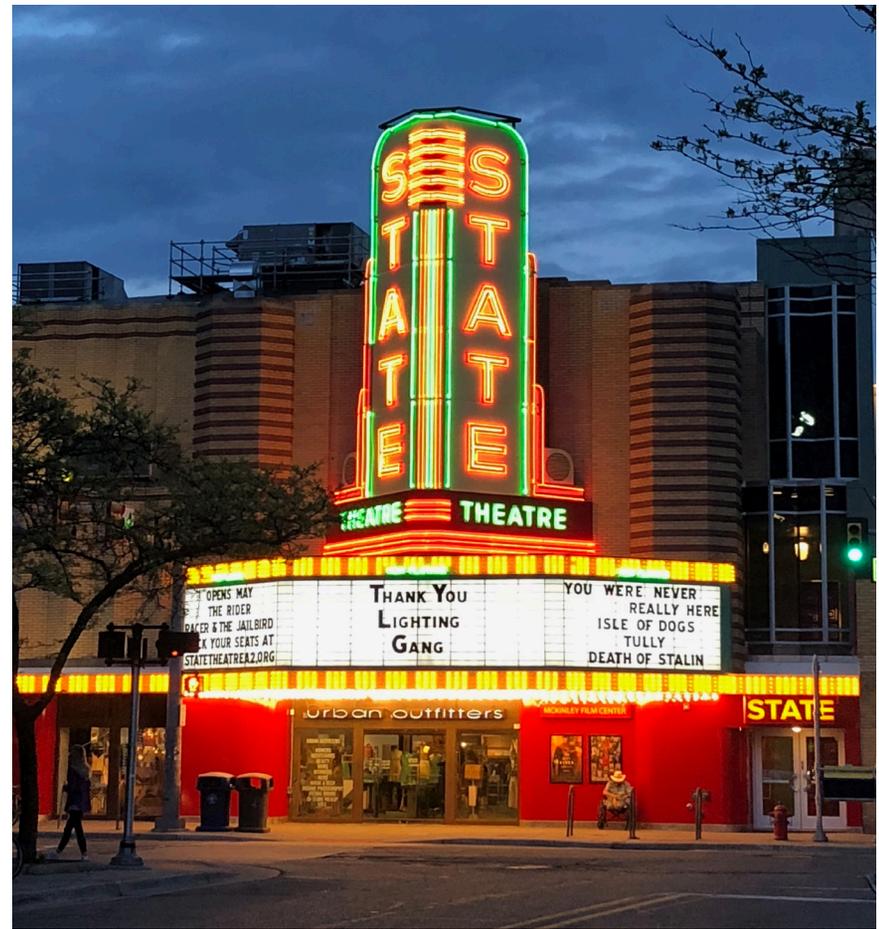
Seventy-five years after it originally opened, the State Theater re-opened after a year-long renovation effort to a newly restored glory.

In 2014, when the second-floor cinema was threatened with redevelopment, the Michigan Theater Foundation, led by Executive Director + CEO Russ Collins, sprang into action and purchased the cinema portion of the 1942 theater.

After a two-year long capital campaign to refurbish and restore the theater, it was closed in 2016 and re-opened in December 2017 with great fanfare and two theaters, two screening rooms, improved seating, an elevator and escalator and carpeting to match the original.

The sound and movie projection systems were also updated and the marquee, with its signature neon, enameled steel panels and chase lights, was meticulously restored. The owner of the first floor, State Theatre LLC, contributed financially for the marquee restoration and worked cooperatively with the Michigan Theater Foundation.

The theater was designed by one of the great movie theater architects in America—C. Howard Crane—who also designed the Fox Theater in Detroit, the Detroit Opera House and Orchestra Hall to name a few.



Preservationist of the Year

Russ Collins
Executive Director + CEO
Michigan Theater Foundation

Russ Collins has served as the Executive Director and CEO of the Michigan Theater Foundation for over 35 years. During his tenure, he has overseen restoration and renovation efforts at both the 1928 Michigan Theater movie palace and now the 1942 Art Deco State Theatre.

In addition to serving on the Ann Arbor Downtown Development Authority board, he also serves on the board of directors for the Michigan Humanities Council and the State Street Area Association board.

Collins started the Cinetopia Film Festival in 2012 because Detroit—a major metropolitan area with a rich heritage of cinematic culture—didn't have its own independent film festival. The festival is currently running through June 10 and showing films in nine different movie theaters/locations throughout Ann Arbor, Detroit and Dearborn.

Collins is also the founding director of the Art House Convergence, which is a national conference for art house cinemas. In addition to serving as the host for the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Regional Chamber's monthly Morning Edition program, Collins provides commentary on films for several local radio shows and teaches film studies at Eastern Michigan University.

Collins has been the recipient of numerous accolades for his work in cinema, film studies and the arts. In 2013, he was named to Indiewire's inaugural list of "influencers" in the independent film industry.

Collins grew up in Ann Arbor and is a graduate of the University of Michigan. We thank Russ for his ongoing contributions to preserving these two historic Ann Arbor landmarks.



Photo: Courtesy of Michigan Theater