

HERITAGE

Vancouver

N e w s l e t t e r

Everything for the Heritage Home—Inside & Out

VANCOUVER'S SECOND
HERITAGE
& ANTIQUES
FAIR

- Over 60 exhibitors of antiques, heritage trades, suppliers, professionals & associations
- Restoration demonstrations & talks all weekend long
- Maynards Antiques Appraisal Clinic, Shaw/Macdonald Realtors Research Cyber Centre
- Historical Fashion Shows & Futures Past/Present Tense Exhibit

 The Vancouver
Heritage
FOUNDATION



MARCH 24-25, 2001
SEAFORTH ARMOURY
1650 BURRARD ST., VANCOUVER, B.C.
10am-5pm each day ~ \$10 per day/\$15 weekend pass
Tickets at the door ~ Free Parking
For event information visit www.VancouverHeritageFoundation.org

Fair bigger and better

By Hugh D. McLean

Mark your calendars! The second Heritage and Antiques Fair is scheduled for March 24th and 25th, at the Seaforth Armoury, 1650 Burrard Street, from 10:00am to 6:00pm. The first Heritage and Antiques Fair was held back in November 1999, also at the Armoury. The original idea was credited to Ani Feuermann of the Vancouver Heritage Foundation. The Foundation saw the Fair as a fundraiser for its activities, as well as a public event to expose heritage to the general public. The specific target is heritage homeowners, with the theme titled *Everything for the Heritage Home — Inside and Out*. The inclusion of antiques in the Fair is meant to broaden the Heritage Fair's exposure and appeal, and to complement the other components.

According to Robert Lemon, Co-Chair of this year's Fair, the first Fair was considered a success, both in financial terms and the variety of participants and types of displays. It drew about 2,500 with only very limited publicity. With the

proven track record, *The Vancouver Sun* has become one of the main sponsors. Based on the broader publicity, this year's Fair is expected to attract around 8,000. Watch for the program details in *The Sun* on March 23rd.

The Fair will have more participants, with the number of available booths up from 42 to 61 this year. Already, 55 of the booths have been sold. There are also 10 display tables reserved for heritage societies. Demonstrations and lectures will be held every hour with two venues to choose from, as well as a historic fashion show!

This year's Fair, while still focusing on the heritage homeowner, will have a stronger focus on house interiors. Many of last year's participants are returning. Some of the more prominent participants that were not at the first Fair include antique dealers from Victoria, Lee Valley Tools, Reno's of London, and William Swatter providing an antique chair display mounted alongside period reproduction furniture. Also new to this year is a CyberCafe set up by Shaw Communications with assistance from the City Archives.

see *Heritage & Antiques Fair* back page

HERITAGE
Vancouver
PRESENTS

THE AIR THAT BITES
Wednesday, February 21st
7:30 pm, Vancouver Museum

Find out how nasty our air really is when conservator Andrew Todd explains the perils public art has to face outside. We may think that statues like Captain George Vancouver surveying the city high on his perch at City Hall are safe, but even old George suffers from a variety of ailments that need attention. Our evening presentation will throw new light on our public art legacy.

Special Presentation:
THE ULTIMATE BUNGALOW: The Gamble House-High Art and Careful Craft: *The California Architecture of Greene and Greene*
Wednesday, March 21st
7:30pm, Vancouver Museum

A lecture by Edward R. Bosley, from the Gamble House, Pasadena, CA \$15 for Heritage Vancouver and Vancouver Museum members and \$20 for non-members. Call the Museum at 736-4431 for tickets and information.

THE ART OF DYING: Behind the Scenes at Mountain View Cemetery
Wednesday, April 18th
7:30pm, Vancouver Museum

Once threatened with closure, Mountain View has a new lease on life. Find out what's in store for this great burial ground and get a peek at the modern world of cemeteries. We'll also explore the history and heritage of Mountain View and check out a who's who of its more prominent residents.

All Heritage Vancouver meetings start at 7:30pm, the 3rd Wednesday of each month at The Vancouver Museum. Free for members and \$5 for non-members.

VANCOUVER MODERN



Photo: R. Moffatt, 2000

A tall green Guinness on the waterfront

by *Robert Moffatt*

Guinness Tower
1055 West Hastings Street,
Vancouver
Charles Paine 1967-69

Interested in expanding their business holdings beyond Great Britain, the Guinness brewing family established its presence in Vancouver during the 1930s with the purchase or construction of three major landmarks: the Marine Building, the Lions Gate Bridge and the exclusive British Properties subdivision in West Vancouver. The 23-story Guinness Tower followed in 1967 amid several other shiny new towers rising along the edge of Coal Harbour.

Built about a decade too late to be avant-garde, the Guinness Tower nonetheless showcases the spare, elegant design and high-quality materials of the classic International Style office tower. English architect Paine used curtain walls of tinted glass and metal panels in grey-green colours, melding the building with

the typically grey Vancouver skies and the waterfront and forested mountains beyond. Dark grey granite bands wrap vertically around an inset section of the side elevations, neatly encasing the rooftop services and breaking up the building's visual mass. Expansive multi-level outdoor plazas offer panoramic views of the North Shore, while the huge lobby mural by Jordi Bonet contrasts the tower's cool rationality with textured images of chaotically teeming coastal marine life.

In 1976 Paine designed the neighbouring Oceanic Plaza, also for Guinness, at 1066 West Hastings. A curved pedestrian bridge links the two buildings, which remain in immaculate condition. Ironically, their prized waterfront views will soon be at least partially obscured by the Coal Harbour residential developments now under construction.

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THE ULTIMATE BUNGALOW

Heritage Vancouver is proud to be part of the 2nd presentation in the Vancouver Museum's Occasional Arts and Crafts Lecture Series. In March, Heritage Vancouver turns its meeting over to a special presentation by Edward Bosley of the Gamble House in Pasadena, California. Mr. Bosley's time in BC is limited and Heritage Vancouver has taken this opportunity to put aside its regular program to be able to have him speak here in Vancouver at the Museum. Edward Bosley's lecture, *The Ultimate Bungalow: The Gamble House - High Art and Careful Craft: The California Architecture of Greene and Greene*, will explore the work of these two influential architects and take an in-depth look at one of their best-known creations.

Charles and Henry Greene are probably best known as legendary residential architects of the American Arts and Crafts movement through the example of The Gamble House, one of their so-called *ultimate bungalows* in Pasadena, California. In this sleepy resort town at the turn of the last century the Greens drew from their craftsmen astonishingly high levels of artistic beauty and integrity of construction unequalled among their peers. The English designer, C. R. Ashbee, wrote of his visit to Charles Greene in 1909, "... [he] took us to his workshops where they were making without exception the best and most characteristic furniture I have seen in this country."

This presentation will seek to explain what it was that made the Greens' work so compelling, and why their houses and furnishings have commanded similar adulation (not to mention huge sums at auction) in recent years. The diverse stylistic influences on the Greens' architecture and decorative arts—from Japan to Scotland—will also be explored, as

well as the process of production from conceptual sketches to the houses and furnishings themselves. Each step merited the close scrutiny and supervision of the architects.

New research has uncovered a wealth of images never before published, and many of these will be used to illustrate this talk.

March 21st, at the Vancouver Museum. \$15 for Heritage Vancouver and Vancouver Museum members and \$20 non-members. Call the Museum at 734-4431 for tickets and information.



Douglas Simpson house II, summer 2000

Photo R. Moffatt

Another loss

Vancouver's dwindling stock of Modernist houses took a blow this winter with the demolition of two more houses by Harold Semmens and Douglas Simpson. Their second Mitchell house (profiled in the June 2000 newsletter) fell last summer, and now the first Mitchell house and Douglas Simpson's own house in West Vancouver have been razed by new owners.

The first Mitchell house, at 1730 Knox Road in the UBC Endowment Lands, was designed by Semmens in 1949 before teaming up with Simpson and pioneered the glassed-in entry, rear window-walls and multi-level spatial dynamics characteristic of their later work. Simpson's second house was built in 1954 at 425 Eastcot Road in the British Properties, and here he experimented with steel framing to form interlocking rectangular shapes broken by varying floor and ceiling heights and penetrated by huge single-pane glass walls.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, February 17th, 1:30pm

The Vancouver Museum presents an afternoon of memories with Michael Kluckner in celebration of the 15th anniversary of the publication of *Vancouver The Way It Was*.

\$6.00 for HV, Art Deco Society and Museum members and \$10 for non-members.

Friday, February 29th, 9am-5pm

The City Program Implementing Heritage Conservation Standards

This one-day workshop will provide an opportunity to examine the use of *standards* which guide heritage conservation work. Canadian and US standards will be discussed, as well as their application in the municipal context using Victoria and Vancouver as case studies

Labatt Hall, Room 1700, Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre, Vancouver, BC
Fee \$150 +GST
For more information contact, the City Program at Simon Fraser Harbour Centre
www.sfu.ca/city; city@sfu.ca; 291-5254

**March 23rd -25th
The Heritage Antiques Fair**

Seaforth Armoury, 1650 Burrard Street
Friday, March 23rd - Gala Opening
Reception 6:00pm - 9:00pm
\$100 limited tickets available
call 685-4888
Saturday & Sunday, March 24th & 25th
10:00am - 6:00pm
Admission \$10 at the door
(\$15 for both days)
Featured Events: Over 60 booths of antique dealers, heritage home renovation suppliers and trades, interior and garden products and suppliers • Vancouver's own Art Appraisal Clinic conducted by Maynard's Auctions • CyberCafe for online heritage home research • Restoration demonstrations • Talks on heritage buildings, antiques and gardens • Historic fashion show • Heritage garden suppliers • Heritage societies and organizations • Book table / book launch • House portraits • Raffles and door prizes • Kids' area • Food Court • Vancouver Heritage Foundation Gift Shop.

Check out Heritage Vancouver's Booth : Look for our casino wheel, informative displays and knowledgeable volunteers. Please call Art Perret at 261-6767 to volunteer. Show your support for Heritage Vancouver and join the fun!

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Who Speaks for the Buildings?

Dear Members,

Vancouver is known worldwide for its infamous blight on the landscape, *The Downtown Eastside*. Government officials have studied our 'open drug market' to death and brought in experts to peddle solutions tried in Australia, Germany, Sweden, and Switzerland. Hardly a day goes by that the problem is not written up in one of our newspapers. Social service agencies are pitted against homeowners and businesses in an effort to find solutions. Everyone has become an instant expert on the subject and yet the area gets worse — people move out, businesses close and vacant buildings are condemned.

This unimaginable human tragedy and neighbourhood disintegration is being played out on the stage of one of Vancouver's richest heritage districts. The core of the Downtown Eastside, Hastings Street is lined with heritage buildings, all in danger of demolition by neglect. The majestic Woodward's building is covered in hoarding, the A-listed Merchant's Bank at Pigeon Park will fall or burn down before long, and the old Salvation Army building at Gore is vacant or soon will be. The historic Pantages Theatre was almost torn down for a City-sponsored housing project.

Cities such as New York and Charleston, South Carolina have successfully turned similar neighbourhoods into thriving communities through massive taxpayer supported heritage revitalization projects. In Vancouver when revitalization is mentioned, or the possibility discussed that there is too great a concentration of social housing in the area, *the poverty industry* trots out the dreaded term *gentrification*, as if rehabilitation of our historic building stock is a bad thing. It is time for all of us with a conscience to speak out for the heritage buildings in the Downtown Eastside. Let your voice be heard at Vancouver City Hall and in Victoria!

Janet Leduc
President, Heritage Vancouver

from **Heritage & Antiques Fair** cover

Heritage Vancouver will have a display at the Fair which promises to be one of the most interesting and entertaining. This includes a roulette wheel and a *Name That Building* competition. Heritage Vancouver is looking for volunteers to staff the booth for 4-hour shifts on both Saturday and Sunday. No prior experience is necessary, just enthusiasm! Please call Art Perret at 261-6767 to volunteer.

Tickets for the Fair can be purchased at the door for \$10 for a single day or \$15 for both days. An opening night gala reception will be held in the main hall of the Armoury on Friday, March 23rd, 6:00pm-9:00pm. This is the main fundraising event of the Fair, including a live and silent auction, cocktails and entertainment, and an opportunity for patrons to meet the dealers and exhibitors. A limited number of tickets are available from the Vancouver Heritage Foundation for \$100. More information is available from Portfolio at 1383 Homer Street, or call 685-4888.

Hugh McLean is a Board Member of Heritage Vancouver and a Planner with the City of Surrey.

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604.254.9411

Join Heritage Vancouver

Annual membership runs from October 1st to September 30th. Members receive a monthly newsletter, free admission to monthly speakers' programs and reduced rates for tours and other activities.

Charitable donation #1073758-52. Membership fees are not tax deductible.

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Individual: \$25 Supporting (no newsletter) \$5 **YES**

Family: \$30 Corporate: \$50 I would like to volunteer

Donation: \$ _____ Patrons: \$100 for Heritage Vancouver

Please send cheque or money order to: Heritage Vancouver, P.O. Box 3336, Vancouver, BC V6B 3Y3