



THE FREER HOUSE

71 East Ferry, Detroit Michigan, 48202 | 313-664-2500



WINTER EVENT

An International Landmark... A World Class Lecture Series



CLOCKWISE:
Wilson Eyre, Jr., c.1900.

Detroit Club, 1899 Detroit
News Photo Archive

Freer House, Collection of
Thomas A. Brunk, 1892



Sunday, March 10, 2013, 2:00 pm

Harmony in Design: Freer House, the Detroit Club and the Architecture of Wilson Eyre, Jr.

by **Jeffrey Cohen, PhD**

Professor of Architectural History, Bryn Mawr College

at

The Freer House
71 East Ferry
Detroit MI

Program Hosts:
Nick and Lorna Abraham

Wilson Eyre, Jr. was a Philadelphia based architect who burst onto the national stage in the 1880's while still in his mid-twenties. He enjoyed a long and successful career adapting to fast paced developments in architecture while grounding his work in a unique visual expression of materials, space and design. His artful renderings were widely known through architectural journals and exhibitions that helped spread his reputation across Philadelphia and the East Coast, eventually landing him two major commissions in Detroit under the patronage of industrialist and art collector, Charles Lang Freer.

This talk will place the Freer House (1892) and the Detroit Club (1894) in the larger context of designs by Eyre and his contemporaries on the East Coast and illumine the artistic sensibility that influenced his work. The Freer House is one of the purest, most fully realized of Eyre's early designs and one of the best preserved. It embodies a hand-wrought grace in its attention to craft and detail that well suited the temperament and aesthetics of Charles L. Freer. Pleased with Eyre's design for his home, Freer secured a commission for Eyre to design the Detroit Club on Cass at Fort Street, the only buildings in Michigan designed by this master architect.

RSVP IS REQUIRED, space is limited,: 313-664-2509 or rmfoster@wayne.edu

\$10 general public, \$5 students and Freer House members

Reception and tours follow the lecture

<http://mpsi.wayne.edu/about/friends-freer.php>



THE FREER HOUSE

MERRILL PALMER
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WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY

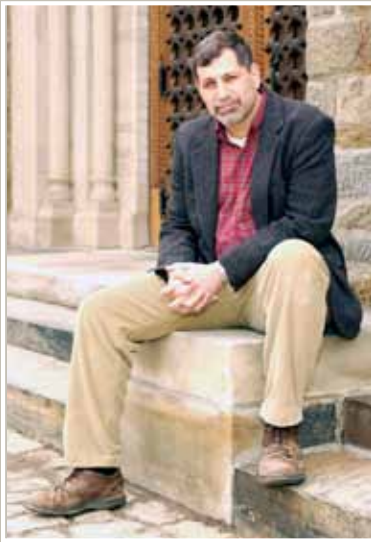


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House & Stable for C. L. Freer, Esq. by Wilson Eyre, Jr. 1890, Detroit Institute of Arts.

About the Speaker

Jeffrey A. Cohen is an architectural historian who teaches in the Growth and Structure of Cities Department at Bryn Mawr College, PA. Eyre's designs figured prominently in his 1991 dissertation on Philadelphia city houses of the 1880s and 1890s. In 1994 he curated an exhibition titled "Graced Places: The Architecture of Wilson Eyre." More recently, Cohen worked on an extensive study of the evolving designs, from the 1890s into the 1930s, for the architect's most monumental building, the University Museum at Penn. Eyre's work remains a central focus in his scholarship.

Cohen is co-author of books on architects Frank Furness (1991) and Benjamin Henry Latrobe (1995), and author of articles on Philadelphia architecture, on 19th-century urban streetscapes, and on early architectural education.



71 East Ferry, Detroit MI, 48202

The Freer House is a nationally designated historic site and headquarters for the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute of WSU. Membership in the Freer House is open to the public and promotes the legacy of Charles Lang Freer and the ongoing restoration of this landmark building. For membership and other information contact Rose Foster at 313-664-2509 or rmfoster@wayne.edu

For additional directions: <http://mpsi.wayne.edu/directions.php>

