

Heritage News

Elizabeth Garber speaks about
Design Inspirations for Woodie Garber's Glendale Residence
Tuesday, June 26, 2018, 6 – 8 p.m.

Join GHP at Meritage, 40 Village Square, on the evening of June 26, 2018 for a very rare appearance by Elizabeth Garber, author, poet and Woodie Garber's daughter. She will discuss design and construction of her family's unique residence in Glendale and local reaction to its modern design.

Built in 1965-66, the Garber family home has design roots which include the influence of 1930's designs of French modernist Le Corbusier, the traditions of German stonemasons in Cincinnati, and Garber's own innovations to deal with the weather of the Midwest.

The "Glass House," as it was called locally, was a shock to the neighbors in the 1960's but due to the landscaping the Garber family did themselves, the house is now mostly hidden from view. Ms. Garber will give a presentation with images of their family home, show construction photos, and will read selections about the house from her memoir, *Implosion: A Memoir of an Architect's Daughter*.



The Garber House under construction

Copies of the book will be available for sale and autographing at the event.

Attendance is \$25. Fee includes a buffet dinner of Chicken Diavolo Pasta, assorted wrap sandwiches, green salad, roasted carrots and twice-baked potatoes. Cash bar.

Reservations are required by June 23. Use the reservation form on the back of this newsletter to reserve by mail or drop off at the Depot Museum.

For more information, contact GHP at (513) 771-8722 or GHP@fuse.net.

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A Rare Square Brick Barn

Behind some of Glendale's oldest homes, surviving carriage houses and barns remind us of a more pastoral life in the 19th century. Most intriguing is the square brick barn, behind the imposing Greek Revival house at 110 Sharon Avenue. Its owner, Ron Shepherd, recently opened the barn to the GHP trustees, who were intrigued by its mysteries. In Ohio, brick barns are rare—especially square ones. This one was probably built around 1852, when Samuel Fosdick built the house on what was then a 400-acre farm.



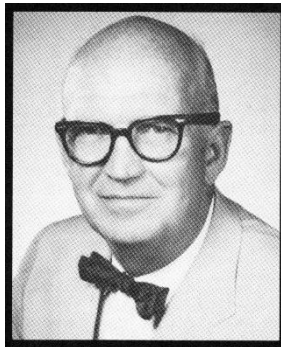
The Fosdick barn once housed up to 8 horses, based on the number of chutes at the south wall for sending hay down to stalls below. Odd regularly spaced vertical patches of brick infill in that wall were likely vents to provide air for the animals.

Now one story with a pyramidal roof, the barn likely was two stories with a gabled roof. The second floor would have served as a hay loft with a hoist to lift hay. The present roof doesn't have enough head room for a person to comfortably shove hay down the chutes and lacks a way to get hay into the loft. The roof framing is heavy

timber with circular saw marks that's bolted, not pegged. The joists below have vertical saw marks typical of an earlier pit saw. With the changeover from horses to automobiles, which started in the 1910s, the hayloft was evidently removed, the vents were filled in, and garage doors with steel lintels were installed. Even with these changes, the brick barn contributes to our appreciation of the past.

Woodie Garber, Modernist Maverick

Woodward "Woodie" Garber (1913-1994) was one of Cincinnati's leading Mid-Century Modernists. Many who knew him say he was a genius. An innovator and independent thinker, he was intriguing both as an architect and as a personality.



Woodie grew up at 28 Oak Avenue and lived there after he married until he was able to build the house at 90 Coral Avenue (FKA 70 Lake). Woodie's

father was Frederick W. Garber, whose firm Garber & Woodward was known for Beaux Arts designs in the 1920s and 1930s.

While his father built his career on Traditionalism; Woodie was a Modernist. He studied architecture at Cornell University, winning a prestigious engineering society medal. After serving in World War II, Garber worked for his father's firm before establishing his own office, Woodie Garber & Associates, in 1953.

Woodie's most successful surviving local project is the main branch of the Cincinnati Public Library. Opened in 1955, it was the first post-war main library building in the U.S. and featured in *Time* and *Life* magazines. His most ill-fated project was the 27-story dormitory at UC, Sander Hall, which was sensationally imploded in 1991 because of fire code issues.

Woodie's domestic designs in Glendale can be identified by their low profile, flat roofs and glass walls. They include the DeGuere House, 340 Albion Avenue (1952); a rear addition on the Whitney House, 1050 Laurel (1954); and the Hart House, 65 Lake Avenue, an 1890 former school house converted to residence in the 1960s.

Besides his own house, Woodie's most controversial project in Glendale was the addition to Christ Church, with its famous "whale's mouth" entrance leading to a flat-roofed glass office and classroom wing with an inner courtyard. The chapel, with its radically innovative hyperbolic paraboloid concrete roof, was the dramatic focal point. This wing was replaced by Christ Church with a new one that opened in 2014.



Chapel at Christ Church Glendale, 2008



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Elizabeth Garber Presentation, Tuesday, June 26, 2018

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NUMBER OF MEMBERS ATTENDING _____ x \$25 = _____

Fee includes a buffet dinner of Chicken Diavolo Pasta, assorted wrap sandwiches, green salad, roasted carrots and twice-baked potatoes. Cash bar.

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