

Hinsdale Cooks! Kitchen Walk showcases architecture

Coming off of the first World War, the country's new-found economic growth, coupled with the increased prevalence of automobiles, provided a golden opportunity for people to leave the city. This exodus from Chicago created a real estate boom in Hinsdale that would help provide a canvas for young architects hoping to cement their brick and mortar legacy.

R. Harold Zook wasn't the only prominent architect in Hinsdale in the 1920s, but he captured people's imagination with his architecture designs, which included Tudor revivals and Cotswold cottages. These high-style design elements, including prow windows, faux thatched roofs, chevron patterns and of course Zook's signature spider webs reflected in stained glass and stone, are what modern-day architects say set these homes apart nearly 100 years on.

"People think of Hinsdale as a home town," said Lynne Smaczny, executive director of the Hinsdale Historical Society. "(The architecture) isn't glass and steel, it gives you a different feel, one of nostalgia — like the play "Our Town" with beautiful houses and tree-lined streets."

For the historical society, Zook's historical significance is important. In fact, the historical society maintains the R. Harold Zook Home and Studio, a Cotswold Cottage design of structures built in 1924 by Zook as his personal home and work space. Now located at Katherine Legge Memorial Park in Hinsdale, it was relocated from its original location on Fourth Street after a group of concerned citizens saw the looming tear-down threat it faced.

"The house hasn't been renovated at all yet," said Smaczny. "We are finishing work on the second floor of the studio. The long-term idea is that the studio will be finished and used as a space for an interactive exhibit where people can learn more about Zook's style and his work."

This Friday, May 9, more than 1,000 people will attend the annual Hinsdale Cooks! Kitchen Walk, which raises funds for the Historical Society to continue to provide education, as well as maintain key treasured buildings in the village. In fact, 10 percent



Alexis Braden
Society spotlight

of the Kitchen Walk proceeds will be designated to the society's Zook building preservation capital fund. Last year's event raised more than \$100,000 for the organization.

According to event co-chair Kate Marnell, eight Hinsdale homes, including her own Colonial, will be featured on the walk this year. The homes represent old and new construc-

tion in various styles ranging from Colonial Revival to the new Belgium Farmhouse.

And in a nod to the architect, the Kitchen Walk will highlight a classic Zook Tudor Revival located on South County Line Road. The home, which also boasts Dutch Colonial influences with its gabled roof, will allow guests to experience Zook's vision firsthand.

"Historical preservation is important to maintaining our village's heritage," Marnell said. "New houses are necessary and beautiful, but old houses have a history and a story (or in many cases, lots of stories). The (Kitchen Walk) is a great way to share and show the past to future genera-

tions."

The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will take place rain or shine. To see photos of the homes, turn to Page 17. To purchase tickets, \$60 per person on the day of the event, please visit kitchen-walk.com.

Community buzz

The seventh annual Agape Orphanage Fundraising Event will take place from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Friday, May 31, at Katherine Legge Memorial Lodge in Hinsdale.

Agape's mission is to care for children in Hyderabad, India who have been orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS or are living with HIV/AIDS themselves. Funds raised at this event will help the orphanage provide life-saving essentials to the children as well as clothing, food and school books.

To purchase tickets, which are \$95 per person, visit agaapeaids.reachapp.co/events/7th-annual-agape-fundraiser-in-chicago.

— Alexis Braden is the paper's society columnist. Readers can email her at news@thehinsdalean.com.



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