2011 Weekend Tour of Homes
Grand Rapids, MI
Saturday, May 21     11 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday, May 22     12 a.m.–6 p.m.
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2013 Weekend Tour of Homes
Saturday, May 18  11 am – 5 pm
Sunday, May 19   12 pm – 6 pm

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SPECIAL THANKS
We wish to thank the Heritage Hill Hosts who graciously open their doors and to the 350 volunteer Tour guides who orchestrate our Tour. Home Tour hosts and room guides volunteer their homes and their time. No profit of Tour is distributed to them.

VOLUNTEER GUIDE OPPORTUNITIES
Volunteer guide positions are open if you wish to volunteer for the 2014 Tour. Shifts are 4 hours and you receive a FREE Tour ticket. If interested, please contact the Heritage Hill Association at 459-8950 or e-mail at heritage@heritagehillweb.org. If calling after 5 p.m., please leave a message on voicemail.
Lafayette School, once called the most beautiful in Michigan, was constructed out of brick, tile, white oak, hard maple and terrazzo (Italian marble chips and cubes) in 1922. It is in what can be called the Academic Deco style.

The school was rededicated as Vandenberg School in 1951 to commemorate U.S. Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg. Vandenberg was an influential Republican Senator from Grand Rapids who participated in the creation of the United Nations. A statue of Vandenberg stands in downtown Grand Rapids on Monroe Street north of Rosa Parks Circle.

The Grand Rapids Child Discovery Center purchased and relocated to the school in 2011. It is a public school academy, chartered under Grand Rapids Public School District, serving students in grades Kindergarten through Fifth. The mission of the GRCDC is to continuously expand the potential of children, the experiences of educators and the involvement of parents within a diverse community of Grand Rapids, Michigan. The vision is to base all decisions on the principles of Reggio-Emilia incorporating current research on learning as well as developmentally appropriate practice.

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Prospect and Fountain entrances
Shuttle buses start and finish at this location

Restrooms: (R)
GRCC DeVos Campus - 435 E. Fulton
**closes at 4:00 pm Sunday**

Open Houses:
• 510 Madison SE
• 416 Morris SE
• 223 Morris SE
• 200 College NE
• 316 Union SE
• 553 Paris SE
• 462 Crescent NE
• 1537 Crescent NE
• 450 Madison SE - Meyer May House
• 409 Lafayette SE - Child Discovery Center

Limited street parking at each of the open houses

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Restaurants:
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CENTERS OF INNOVATION: GRPS is home to five ‘Centers of Innovation’ with college prep themes and strong public-private partnerships with local job providers, universities, foundations and more.

- COMMING FALL 2013 – Innovation Central (9th-12th grade): All the innovation, talent, resources, and partnerships of four Centers of Innovation combined on one campus near the heart of downtown and the Medical Mile. The Academy for Design and Construction; GRAPCEP/Engineering and Biomedical School; School of Business, Leadership, and Entrepreneurship; and the School of Health Sciences will co-locate for maximum educational outcomes.

- Grand Rapids University Prep Academy (6th-12th grade): Small class sizes (18:1), rigorous college prep curriculum, and a brand new state-of-the-art building.

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450 MADISON SE
Hosts: Steelcase Corporation
Built in 1908, this Frank Lloyd Wright-designed and-built home was purchased in the mid-1980s by Steelcase Corporation who turned it into a near-museum piece of Mr. Wright’s architectural prowess. Built for clothing store owner Meyer May, this house continues to fascinate visitors since it was first on the Weekend Tour of Homes as a “work in progress” in 1986.

This is a meticulous restoration, complete with original furnishings and faithfully executed reproductions. The Meyer May house provides the rare opportunity to experience a Prairie house exactly as Frank Lloyd Wright intended.

Wright carefully sited the house to allow maximum southern exposure for the living room windows and skylights and to create a spacious yard for the perennial gardens. Each terrace and each section of art glass was artfully designed and placed to enhance the interior and to draw nature into the house. Doors open out to the terraces and gardens with garden walls and planters all incorporated into the design to intermingle the interior and exterior.

Inside, wood grills hide the radiators, iridescent strips of gold art glass were placed in the horizontal grout lines of both brick fireplaces, and a pastel mural of hollyhocks wraps around a dividing wall between the living room and dining room. The mural, painted over during years of alterations, was rediscovered during the restoration and restored. The Meyer May House was placed on the Michigan State Register of Historic Sites in 1986 and is a contributing building to the Heritage Hill Historic District.

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The 44th Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes

The annual Heritage Hill Weekend Tour of Homes welcomes you to our historic Heritage Hill neighborhood, one of the country’s largest urban historic districts recognized by the National Register of Historic Places. More than 1,300 homes stand within the boundaries of Heritage Hill and date from 1843. It is Michigan’s largest and finest collection of 19th and 20th architecture with nearly every style of American architecture, from Greek Revival to Prairie, represented in the district. At the turn of the century, this was the city’s most prestigious residential area. Today the neighborhood is an array of lifestyles and passions. Professionals, craftspeople, students, artists ... homeowners and renters ... share this great place we call home.

And we can validate that it is great .... Heritage Hill was honored in 2012 with the American Planning Association’s designation as a Great Place in America. This Old House magazine rated Heritage Hill as one of the best historic neighborhoods in the United States in 2011.

A brief history ...
The Heritage Hill Association formed in 1968 to stop several urban renewal projects that planned to demolish over 75% of Heritage Hill’s structures. It was an amazing and diligent organizing effort by residents to have the neighborhood placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Neighbors needed to invoke national preservation legislation to effectively stop the bulldozers. Today, the Heritage Hill Association and residents give testament to those early leaders and continue to work to keep the Hill a vital place to live and work. The neighborhood is an inspiring example of a community-in-action.

Tour ...
For 44 years Heritage Hill has invited visitors to view an array of architecture, decorating styles and urban gardens. Walkability, cultural diversity and close proximity to Grand Rapids’ colleges and medical facilities, the downtown entertainment and cultural center, and also the hip, new, and energizing Uptown business districts ... Heritage Hill is in it from all sides!

This year, eight private historic homes are open as well as 2 public buildings. Each has a unique story to share. The house profiles that follow offer insight into the lives of the people who built these great houses ... and those who now call them home. During Tour, guides stationed at each house will share information and highlight special features.

Tour is the largest fundraiser of the Heritage Hill Association. Over 300 volunteers contribute to make the weekend a success. All proceeds go right back into programs for the Heritage Hill neighborhood. These include block club organizing, crime prevention, land use planning, engaging community resources, and preservation of the district’s historic character. Enjoy...
The Heritage Hill Association applauds the many dedicated volunteers, committee members, hosts, house captains, and the Heritage Hill Association Staff collaborate to make Tour Weekend possible. A core group has spent much of the year planning and orchestrating Tour. We sincerely thank each of you for your dedication to Tour!

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- Kate Diedrich
- Jan Earl
- Dave Eppelheimer
- Judy Jorgenson
- Sue Karsen
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- Don Rietema
- Maria Zache

**WEB Maestros/Social Networks:**
- Don Bryant
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- Jeff Thomas

**Historian:**
- Tom Logan

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**Bus Coordinator:**
- Don Rietema

**Tour Artist:**
- Esther Tanis VanAllsburg

**Friends and Sponsor Recruit:**
- Peter Albertini
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- Todd Hoort

**Computer Programmer:**
- Pam Lucas

**537 CRESCENT N.E.**

**Hosts: Jeanne and Rick Stoddard**

As the Titanic was sinking, this house was rising! A Dutch immigrant, Chris Hondelink, built this home in 1912 when he and his family moved here from Muskegon to further his law career. Somewhere in Muskegon this house has an identical twin, because his wife so loved the home that they had left behind, she asked that their new home be an exact copy. The home stayed in the family for over 50 years. New owners in the 1950’s turned it into a two-unit rental property and so it remained until 8 years ago when it was lovingly restored to a single family home. The Stoddards, the most recent stewards of this home, appreciate its beauty and charm and love it as much as Mrs. Hondelink must have years ago.

This home exemplifies the adage “good things come in small packages”. The big, rambling Victorian Style was giving way to the new century, and the American Foursquare Style home, like this one, was growing in popularity. Patterns for it could be found in magazines of the day. The 2 ½ stories with this basic box shape, the central roof dormer, overhanging eaves and full-width front porch were typical characteristics of a Foursquare. Inside this simple exterior however, there lies a simply wonderful interior. A handsome oak stairway with an Art Deco stained-glass window on the landing, a cozy fireplace, a dining room with a built-in hutch and oak everywhere you look, can be found on the main floor. Many antique “found objects” (including a few that had been left on the curb) were refurbished by the owners’ fathers and have a new life in this home. A working, old-fashioned telephone in the kitchen, a 1908 Morris Chair recliner in the living room and an 1850 chess set in the office are just a sampling of the unique items waiting inside. Family heirlooms on display throughout give the rooms a personal touch. There is a fun teenager’s hide-away in the attic. This small package is definitely full of delightful surprises!

**2013 HERITAGE HILL HOME TOUR HOSTS:**
- Karen Dahl and Richard Machado
- Bob and Karen Henning
- Mary Kenyon and Don Smalligan
- Kim and Marie Koster
- Thea and Bob Leunk
- Shawn MacCartey
- Jeanne and Rick Stoddard
- Connie and Ken Taber
- Steelcase Corporation, Meyer May House
- Child Discovery Center, Erin Melcher, Principal
On the State Street Corridor -
See the Tour Ticket map for location
May 18 and 19, 2013

reState - Build a Better Block is a citizen-driven city improvement project, focused on reimagining State street between Madison and Jefferson SE. Using building improvements, temporary traffic changes, bike and pedestrian infrastructure, pop-up businesses and more, reState intends to show what a disused block can be with just simple improvements and community input.

The community is bringing in bands, food carts, an artist market, a beer garden, a pop-up playground, an outdoor yoga class, a pop-up dog park, etc. to show what this block could look like if it had a vibrant business district. We’re hoping that this will help get people interested in investing in what could be an awesome part of the city.

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462 CRESCENT N.E.
Hosts: Karen and Bob Henning

Though this house may have been built at an earlier date, the first record of anyone living here is in 1885. Hugo and Louise Thum moved in at that time and lived there for 20 years. Hugo ran the William’s Store, a chemist shop, but he is better known as the inventor (with his brother, Otto) of Tanglefoot Flypaper which was produced on the west Side of Grand Rapids and was sold around the world. In the early 60’s the house was divided into two rental units. The current owners have been in the home for 5 years, occupying the main floor and renting out the upstairs. Their part of the home will be open for the tour.

This house is classified as a Victorian Stick Style, taking its name from the horizontal and vertical trim boards that outline architectural features. It has a steeply-pitched front gable with a decorative truss at the peak and cross gables extending out on both sides of the house. A unique feature is the large diagonal bay window on the south front that balances the porch on the north. As is the case with many in Heritage Hill, this home suffered years of neglect. Jim and Sue Karsen, two troopers in the struggle to save Heritage Hill, bought this home in 1982 and set out to make it a gem. Karen and Bob continue that mission.

In order to divide the house, walls, doors, rooms and fixtures were moved and repurposed, so that the floor plan now is very different from the original. The entry hall was split in half to make room for a stairway to the upstairs apartment, the kitchen had been the dining room and the original kitchen is a bedroom. The new configuration works well. The interior woodwork is mahogany and the beauty of the wood is especially noticeable in the ornate mirrored mantle in the living room and in the pocket doors. The large front bay window gives a unique shape to the living room and the stained-glass window in the dining room gives a pleasant ambiance to that space.

Of course, a house is not a home without the special touches. The Hennings have several heirloom pieces from family and friends, original works of art and hand blown glass teardrops on the dining room chandelier. The kitchen’s glass knobs were made by Karen’s son. This house stands tall after weathering many a storm.
This home embodies the best of two worlds - all the stately grace and elegance of an early 20th Century house with all the modern amenities that today's lifestyle in the 21st Century demands.

The scale of this house with its large rooms, high ceilings and open floor plan is very different from the intimate Victorian homes on tour this year. Its grandeur suited the place in society held by the original owner, George Warren, president of The Central Michigan Paper Company. In fact, the next two owners were also company presidents! Unfortunately, the home was eventually made into apartments, which involved major structural changes to the interior, moving walls and doors, the removal of the original light fixtures and a general lack of maintenance.

To the rescue came the current owner who has spent the last three years working tirelessly to restore the essential architectural elements to the home, while at the same time, creating a thoroughly modern living environment. It is wired for technology and for sound, it has a very new energy-efficient heating system called Spacepak, in which both the water lines and the heat for the home are combined, the kitchen has a heated slate tile floor, granite countertops and a bar area with a wide screen TV for entertaining, the bedroom closets have been enlarged and the master bathroom is something to behold! The attic has been beautifully finished. The views from its arched, recessed windows look out upon two Victorian “painted ladies” to the West and Frank Lloyd Wright’s Meyer-May home to the North.

The Prairie School that Wright created grew to encompass a rather broad range of architectural variations, especially in the Midwest, and this home is a sample of that kind of adaptation. The emphasis on the horizontal – broad overhanging eaves, a low-pitched roof and ribbons of windows were the common elements, but often elements from other styles were included, as is the case with this house. Here the half-round dormers, trellised front porch and clay tile roof are more reflective of the Arts and Crafts Style. Professional designs for beautiful gardens have been drawn up, and that work will begin soon, giving this newly restored home a perfect setting.
553 PARIS SE
Hosts: Marie and Kim Koster

The entry hall to this home is absolutely stunning, with its hand-carved switchback staircase adorned with a lighted statue of Mercury, who is looking over a long, built-in bench that welcomes guests to this extraordinary home. And that’s just the introduction to a house filled with visual delights. The woodwork is exceptional throughout the house. It is a challenge to discover all of the many carved patterns, from a ship captain’s wheel to a twisted rope to repeating diamonds that can be found in this house. Much of the woodwork needed to be refinished; quite a daunting project, but only one of many that the previous owners, Ben and Sue Emdin, tackled in their attempt to restore this home to its former glory.

This Victorian “cottage” was built around 1891 for Frederick and Mary Aldworth. It has a massive front-facing roof, a gabled dormer and a bay window, a formidable turret - an architectural mix of the Queen Anne and the Shingle Styles. As a rental for many years, this structure suffered from abuse and neglect and the Emdins had much work to do. Amazingly, all of the original light fixtures and hardware are still in the home. Through much of the house, you feel as if you are stepping back in time, but the kitchen/eating area is a modern cook’s dream. It is spacious and open with a huge island, an original china cupboard with glass doors, lots of additional storage in the kitchen itself and a dining space that appears to have once been a library, with wooden beams and a lovely original light fixture.

Marie’s mother is a versatile artist, and placed among the many antiques in the home (including a 350 year old table and chairs) are some of her paintings, sculptures and hand-made furniture. In the short time, just a year now, since the current owners purchased the home which they had admired for years from their apartment across the street, they have made it uniquely their own.

A pleasant city-sized garden is a sweet retreat just outside the back door.
Hosts: Karen Dahl and Richard Machado

Grab your passport, because touring this home is like taking a trip around the world! Throughout the home, you will find treasures that Richard has brought back from all over the world - rugs, tapestries, pottery, masks and more.

The front porch of this home with its rounded roof and classic columns (reminiscent of the Colonial Revival Style) has built-in benches that welcome you to come and visit for a while. Built around 1923 for Clara Herpolsheimer, wife of William, who founded the landmark department store in downtown Grand Rapids, the house is an American Foursquare, with a Prairie Style low-pitched roof made of green terra cotta tile that compliments the earth-red color of the brick.

When Karen and Richard moved here from California over 7 years ago, they fell in love with this house, but knew that they needed to update the interior to make it fit the modern lifestyle of two busy professionals. In their renovations, they have struck a perfect balance - maintaining the beauty and integrity of the home while making it more comfortable, more efficient and easier to maintain. A state-of-the-art wall-mounted heating and air conditioning system has been installed, that will lower energy use and make the home more comfortable year-round. While keeping the original butler’s pantry with its built-in cupboards and bun-warmer cabinet, the rest of the kitchen has been modernized, with a cork floor, a Deco-metal back-splash and concrete countertops. The space was enlarged by combining two rooms. Again, two rooms were combined to create a stunning master bath upstairs, with a heated marble basket-weave tile floor, and plenty of storage in the custom cabinets. There is a well-equipped work-out room in the finished basement.

The tasteful blend of the classic-Stickley furniture in front of an elegant fire place, beautiful oak woodwork and floors, leaded-glass windows, and the modern-practical updates that make the house easy to maintain, creates the ideal home for this new and changing world.
Hosts: Thea and Bob Leunk

Built in 1884, this is the oldest house on tour this year. My, has she aged gracefully! The original owner, John Wadell, was the founder and president of a woodworking company. The quality of his workmanship shows in the extensive decorative carving on the exterior trim and in the intricately carved interior oak woodwork. Several of the motifs found on the exterior are repeated inside. An impressive staircase, with a newel post graced with a delicate statue, massive pocket doors with carved sunbursts, a magnificent mantle seems to fill the living room and hardwood floors are found in all of the formal living spaces on the first floor. As the sun gleams through the very large windows, all of this beautiful oak woodwork takes on a soft, warm glow.

Architecturally, this house would be described as a Queen Anne. It has double gables on a steeply-pitched roof and carved scroll and sunburst designs on the exterior trim. This home began its life as a single family, but in the 1980’s it was divided into two units. Less than twenty years later, it was returned to a one-family and restoration began. The current owners have lived in the home for 7 years, and are continuing the restorative process.

The Leunks have filled their home with many family treasures—a father’s pipes on a grandfather’s smoking table, a great-grandmother’s quilt and a mother’s dolls, a family Bible from the turn of the last century and some Delft tiles and dishes in the kitchen. Every room contains antiques that have been passed down through generations on both sides of the family—a sewing cabinet, a Hoosier cupboard, a settee and chairs, a bedroom set and more.

Upstairs, where the woodwork and flooring are a bit more plain, there are three bedrooms, one of which is a “Dutch Girl” room with many Holland-related items, including a Dutch Barbie. The kitchen is another unique room, with a marble counter recycled from a convent, a tin ceiling salvaged from a store and a long, skinny cupboard was for a fold-out ironing board.

There is much to see in this wonderful home and it has many stories to tell.
Once you find yourself on the inviting front porch of this 1893 home, you may never want to leave! This is the exact experience that the current owners of this home had three years ago - it was love at first sight and they decided to buy the house that was attached to this porch. All of the attention to detail on the exterior of the house, like the multi-colored spindles, the leaves carved into the caps of the columns and the angled ceiling on the porch, the decorative carving on the front of the house, the conical turret, and the bay window is just a preview of all the artistry on the other side of the front door.

When you walk through that door, you are greeted by a welcoming entry hall with an ornately carved oak spiral staircase that dominates the space. A windowed nook with a built-in bench provides a cozy spot for watching the world go by. The living room features a large pocket door and the wainscoted dining room is flooded by colored light from a stained-glass window. The sitting room is cozy, with an angled fireplace opposite a bay window and the kitchen is a delightful mix of materials, including a cupboard made from a chicken coop!

This Late Queen Anne Style home was built in 1893 by Lyman Welch who was the founder of the Welch Folding Bed Company and vice-president of the Commercial Savings Bank. It passed through many hands and in the 1950’s it was broken up into three rental units. There is still a one-bedroom apartment on ½ of the second floor and a two-bedroom in the attic. On tour this year is the owners’ part of the house – the entire first floor and the front part of the upstairs, where they have made a very private master suite with a bedroom and bath. The bed was designed and made by a graduate of Kendall College of Art and Design and looks like layers of clouds or ocean waves, one of the many artistic touches in the home. There are also many works of art, some of them gathered on Mary and Don’s foreign travels.
Host: Connie and Ken Taber

Built in 1931 by Jesse Lutman, this house is the “baby of the family” of houses on tour this year. Its quaint Cape Cod Tudor Style is quite different from the larger surrounding homes that were built decades earlier. Its brick facade, steep roof line and shed dormers are typical of this style. The arched front door, surrounded by heat-retaining stones called quoins, is a fitting entry to the warm and cozy home within, and for the forty years while it was in the care of the colorful pair of Clarence and Mildred Meyers, this house was a welcoming haven for the intellectuals and artists of Grand Rapids.

Like so many homes in the “Hill”, this house was split into two apartments and rented out for twenty years until it was restored to a single family in 2000. Connie and Ken bought the house in 2006 and have lovingly continued the renovation, including major changes to the second floor. Having to “undo” the upstairs apartment, the owners took the opportunity to repurpose the rooms to create a master suite, turning a bedroom into a huge walk-in closet, a closet into a reading nook in their bedroom and adding a second bathroom for guests to use.

Touring through the home, you will feel as if you have stepped back into the 1920’s and 30’s. The owners have made a concerted effort to find furniture and accessories that are true to the time that the house was built. Fortunately, the age of many of the pieces that have been passed down from the family just happened to coincide with that time period. Connie is an antiques dealer and has discovered several Goodwill treasures, including the camel-back sofa and chairs in the living room, that fit with the theme of the house. Mementoes and collections from the various places that the owners have lived and visited can be seen throughout the home.

The house is surrounded by what its designer called a “peek-a-boo” garden, in which he tried to create beautiful and changing views as you look through the amazing variety of trees. What a perfect setting for this charming home!