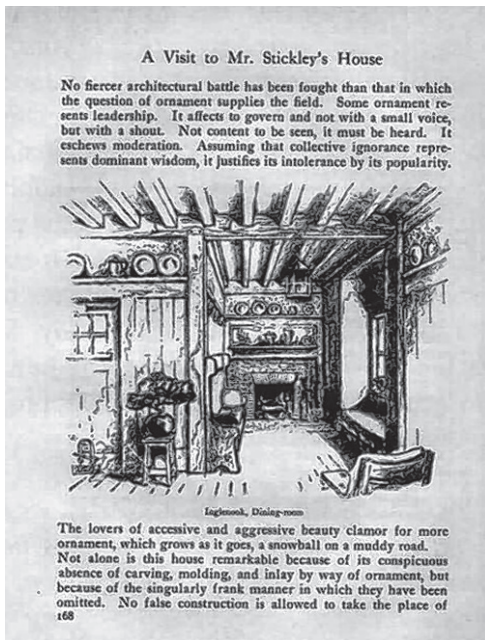
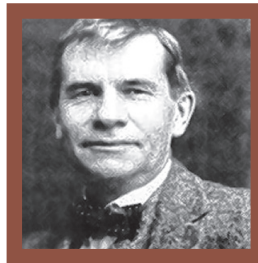


EPITOME OF A CRAFTSMAN



The landmark house that Gustav Stickley built in Syracuse is on track to become a museum of the Arts and Crafts era.

By Rick Moriarty
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Strolling through the Syracuse home of famed furniture maker Gustav Stickley feels like escaping back to the beginning of the American Arts and Crafts movement he helped to father.

The exterior of the 115-year-old home at 438 Columbus Ave. still possesses its original Queen Anne style. But its interior is a different story.

Stickley rebuilt the inside of the home in 1902 after a fire on Christmas Eve 1901. He turned it into

what is believed to be the first home in America featuring the Arts and Crafts style, or as Stickley called it, the Craftsman style.

It's a style Stickley helped to make famous with his Mission furniture, characterized by simple but sturdy designs and still sought by collectors 73 years after his death.

In fact, the home's interior looks like it was made from pieces of furniture ripped from Stickley's old United Crafts furniture factory on Burnet Avenue in Eastwood.

Now, after being vacant for 20 years, the home with a storied past may have a future.

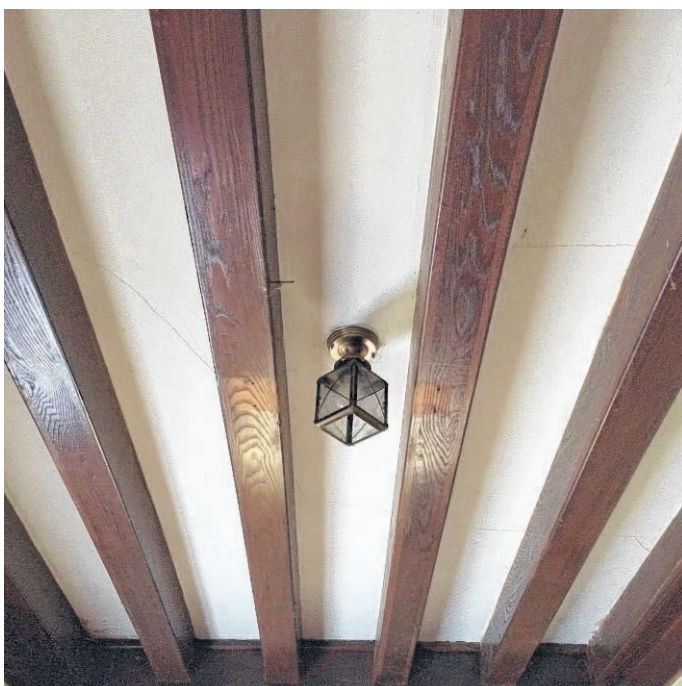
Plans are under way to renovate it and open it to public tours. The

Above, an area described as the "inglenook" and the dining room in the home of Gustav Stickley at 438 Columbus Ave. in Syracuse. A drawing of the same area of the house was included with the article, "A Visit to Mr. Stickley's House," in the December 1902 edition of *The Craftsman*, a magazine published by Stickley. (Rick Moriarty / rmoriarty@syracuse.com)

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FROM PAGE ONE

STICKLEY HOME: EPITOME OF STYLE



The first phase of the renovation of the Gustav Stickley house will focus on the exterior, starting in the spring of 2016. Then, with funds raised through grants and charitable giving, the interior renovations would begin to restore the Arts and Crafts details inside. An article in the December 1902 issue of *The Craftsman* magazine remarked on the home's "abundant freshness and wholesomeness." (Rick Moriarty / rmoriarty@syracuse.com)

STICKLEY, FROM PAGE A-1

University Neighborhood Preservation Association and Onondaga Historical Association are teaming up to turn the home into an Arts and Crafts museum.

TWO FLOORS OF STICKLEY

There's much to see. The walls are still adorned with the chestnut paneling that Stickley installed after the fire. The ceilings still feature narrowly spaced chestnut beams. The floors are made of chestnut planks. The home's windows still have wide chestnut surrounds with paneling underneath.

A first-floor fireplace is framed by two wood-and-glass doors leading to storage areas. The doors look like they came right off a Stickley display cabinet.

Even closet, bedroom and bathroom doors look like Stickley furniture. Many feature the same horizontal and vertical planking found on Stickley dining room tables and settles.

"It's the epitome of the Stickley style," said Gregg Tripoli, executive director of the Onondaga Historical Association. "It's a very important part of our architectural and design history."

Details are still being worked out, but plans are to repair the exterior, install a new roof, make structural improvements and restore the interior to its 1902 glory. The home will also be furnished with reproductions of Stickley's furniture — many of the originals are held by collectors and museums — and other artifacts from the Arts and Crafts movement.

"The plan is to have a major public and academic component, and a revenue-producing component, so the facility is sustainable," Tripoli said. "This will be an historical restoration."

The project will cost an estimated \$2.3 million to \$2.5 million, coming from donations, foundations and public sources.

'SERIOUS THOUGHT AND HONEST INTENT'

The Arts and Crafts movement was an architectural, design and fine arts style characterized by traditional craftsmanship and simple forms. It started in Britain in the late 19th century as a reaction to the more ornate designs common in the mid-1800s. It made its way to America at the turn of the century.

Stickley helped to popularize it with his furniture designs and with *The Craftsman*, an influential magazine he published from 1901 to 1916. The magazine featured designs for Arts and Crafts style homes, including his own.

One article, "A visit to the House of Mr. Stickley," in the December 1902 issue of *The Craftsman* featured a description and drawings of the home's interior. Author Samuel Howe described it as being "singularly free from pretension," adding:

"It contains evidence of serious thought and honest intent, with abundant freshness and wholesomeness, which are innovations in these days of machine carving and jelly mold enrichments. Here is a house that has qualities generally lacking in architectural schemes, where their details too often smack of the dust of the drawing office."

Stickley had the home built in 1900. He lived in the house until around 1905, when he moved, along with his company's headquarters, to New York City. His United Crafts furniture factory remained on Burnet Avenue.

HELD BY THE AUDIS

The move to New York City did not work out for Stickley.

A 12-story headquarters building he bought in Manhattan proved to be too costly. Competition from makers of lighter and less expensive furniture, some of it cheaper versions of his own designs, hurt sales. And World War I dealt a blow.

He filed for bankruptcy in 1915 and retired from furniture making. He moved back to the Columbus Avenue home, which was then owned by his daughter, and lived there until his death in 1942 at the age of 84.

The home has had a number of owners in the years since Stickley lived in it. Although its first two floors look much the way they did when he lived there, the third floor was divided into apartments.

In the early 1990s, it was owned by David Rudd, owner of Dalton's American Decorative Arts, a store in Eastwood that specializes in Arts and Crafts furniture.

Rudd sold the home in 1995 for \$225,000 to the Audi family. In 1974, the Audis bought the L. and J.G. Stickley Co., the furniture company founded by Gustav's younger brothers, Leopold and John George, and still make furniture based on the Stickleys' designs in a factory in Manlius.

The home has been vacant since the Audis bought it in 1995 with the hope of preserving it.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

The state provided a \$500,000 grant in 2012 to



The Syracuse home of furniture maker Gustav Stickley at 438 Columbus Ave. (Rick Moriarty / rmoriarty@syracuse.com)

help fund the home's restoration and begin the effort to make it a museum. At the time, the Everson Museum of Art was in charge of the project. However, the museum, facing financial problems and a management transition, pulled out last year.

But the project is back on track.

David Michel, president of the preservation association, said the Audis will donate the home to the association, which will perform the exterior and structural repairs. The association will then transfer the house to the historical association, which will perform the interior restoration and prepare it for public tours, he said.

Beth Crawford, a preservation architect and senior associate at Crawford & Stearns, said the project will cost an estimated \$2.3 million to \$2.5 million.

The \$500,000 state grant is still available. Michel said an additional state grant of \$300,000 is being sought.

In addition, the Central New York Community Foundation is donating \$50,000 and the Arts and Crafts Society of Central New York is pitching in \$10,000.

If the additional \$300,000 state grant comes through, the preservation association will have enough to perform the exterior repairs, Michel said. Work on the exterior would start in the spring of 2016 and would take about a year to complete, he said.

A charitable foundation is being formed to help raise the money needed for the interior renovations.