one castle on the ground is worth two in the air

Woods Gerry Mansion

EAST SIDE MANSION (adapted in part from the Providence evening bulletin)

The Woods-Gerry mansion — for 10 years the target of vandals and preservationists alike — will be rehabilitated by the Rhode Island School of Design.

Talbot Kantoul, the president of RISD, said the executive board of the board of trustees authorized the work, which will convert the building at 62 Prospect St. to a display center and administrative offices.

The trustees authorized a ceiling of $215,000 for the restoration work, but Mr. Kantoul said that he hopes the final cost will be much less than that. No timetable has yet been set for the work, and probably both college personnel (students and faculty) will be asked to do some of the work along with private contractors.

The house is one of the few surviving examples of the work of Richard Upjohn, the New York City architect, in private home architecture.

Construction was completed in 1863 on the three-story building, which was the home of the family of Marshall Woods until the late U.S. Sen. Peter Gerry bought it in 1930.

The School of Design purchased it 10 years ago, and announced plans to tear it down, but ran into opposition from the city’s Historic District Commission and the Providence Preservation Society. Since then, the mansion has been the target of vandals, who have stripped the walls of their coverings, ripped out the plumbing, broken the windows, hauled away paneling and fireplace mantels and destroyed the lighting.

The school in May hired a security guard to provide protection for the building.

Mr. Kantoul said that when he became president in August, one of the first requests by the trustees was that he submit some plan to deal with the mansion.

He offered two alternatives, one being to tear it down. But he advised against that move, saying the college could use the building’s 14,000 square feet of space. His other proposal was to rehabilitate the building.

The first floor, he said, will house an exhibition area for the works of students and faculty members at RISD. The second floor will be used for offices for administrative officials, which he said will allow better use of administrative space in the College Building.

In addition, the servants wing of the mansion will be converted to living space for either students or faculty, Mr. Kantoul said.

The long-range plans for saving the Gerry mansion may spell the doom of another RISD building, the Carr House at the corner of Waterman and Benefit Streets.

Mr. Kantoul said that he would like to see that building taken down for expansion of the Rhode Island School of Design Museum of Art, which currently is cramped for space and which

must store part of its collection.

The crash program to fix up the hall room, the college room in the house, was sponsored by funds put up by interested citizens, Mr. Kantoul said. They include Mr. and Mrs. N.L. Goodfard, Jr., Mrs. Howard D. Dur. Dr. James Powell of RISD’s history of art dept., and an anonymous donor.

He said that the house will continue to be guarded against vandalism.

In the days after the hall room was fixed up, students slept in the house to help protect it, Mr. Kantoul said.

The school purchased the building in 1959 for $100,000. The building, before it was purchased by the school, had been owned by a developer who had hoped to convert it to apartaments.

The Providence Zoning Board of Review early in 1962 upheld the decision of the Historic Commission to prevent the razing of the mansion on the grounds that it has historic merit.
The renovation of Woods Gerry Mansion is under way!
Did you know that one of the first steps is to dry the place out - slowly?

A group of students and faculty under the leadership of John Massey went to work October 28 on the ballroom overlooking the garden. They chipped, scraped, painted, cleaned, fixed windows, and installed lights. The rehabilitated room then served to court the meeting of the Executive Board which decided the mansion's fate.

STUDENT BOARD

The film lab fee met with discussion at the Student Board meeting last Wednesday night, November 12. Reasons given for the present charges ($15 each for the 85 sophomores, $25 for the 30 upperclassmen) included:

1. repairs on projectors, etc.
2. replacement of stolen goods
3. purchase of new equipment as the department has not received sufficient funds to keep the old machines reasonably functional.

The Student Council responded with recommendations for establishing departmental rather than general lab fees. The lab fees should be limited to maintenance needs, they said, new equipment being purchased with other funds. Faculty action on the matter was felt necessary.
To the concerned —

It has occurred to me that this school is in need of a student gallery — a place where anybody could sell his work. It only stands to reason that since this is a professional school, the people here should start getting professional. To me money is not a dirty word and I'm sure many of you will agree with me. I can see no harm in it. A gallery of this kind would not only be good for you but for the whole community. It would be one more step towards getting this place together.

If you're interested, please contact
Richard Carleton
Box 405 or
161 Benefit St. Apt. 5

Thank you

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ORGANIZE. OFFICIALLY.
The Ecology Action for Rhode Island committee to be formed at Wilson Hall, Brown Room 309 at 8:00, Wed. 19th.
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Pereras Speak

India and Guatemala are coming together on Tuesday, the twenty-fifth of November

Padma Hej Madji, a child of beauty, the lotus, will read to you from her Indian Journal. I'll be there because I know that soul is a connector for things I have been searching for.

Victor Perera, a child of revolution, will read from Rights of Passage, his boyhood in Guatemala. Victor is an explosion.

They leave peace, excitement and tears, you won't forget the Pereras.

7:30 PM, 132 Bowen St., 25 November 1969

If you want to be there stop by the Dean of Students office and put your name on the Kate Torres' list.

Limited space — 50 seats only.

E.T.

Victor Perera comes to RISD from Vassar College where he is Visiting Lecturer in the English Department. He was born in Guatemala and lived there until he was twelve, when he moved to Brooklyn. He received his B.A. from Brooklyn College and his M.A. from the University of Michigan where he taught for several years on a Pre-Doctoral assignment.

Mr. Perera has been in the editorial department of The New Yorker, written stories, essays, and translations for various magazines, and is in progress on two novels, one, The Conversation, to appear in April, 1970 (Little Brown). Excerpts from the second, Rights of Passage, will be the source of his November 25th reading.

Padmar Perera's background is equally exciting. Born and educated in India, with a B.A. Honours in English Literature from the University of Delhi, she has published fiction and poetry in India, free-lanced for All India Radio's foreign services and received an M.A. from the University of Michigan in 1961.

She has published stories in The New Yorker and in other American publications. She, too, is working on two books: a novel, Pilgrimage, and another book called Afternoon of the House. "This," says Mrs. Perera, "could be called a memoir in the third person singular, for my concern is not so much with autobiography as with epiphanies." She will read from this on the evening of the 25th.
MEMBERS, GUESTS
AND PUBLIC ARE
CORDIALLY INVITED.
SUNDAY NOV 9
FOUR TO SIX.
CONTINUES THRU
NOV. 21
GALLERY HOURS
WEEKDAYS 10-4
SUNDAYS 2-5
EXCEPT OPENINGS
PROVIDENCE ART CLUB
11 THOMAS STREET
PROVIDENCE, R.I.

Open Drawing Show

CALENDAR

Monday
Nov. 17
6:30 - 7:30 PM
Student Council Room,
Carr House
Upper Mem Hall

Tuesday
Nov. 18
6:30 - 8 PM
Mem Hall

Wednesday
Nov. 19
6:30 PM
Museum - Main Gallery
Refectory

Thursday
Nov. 20
2 - 6 PM
Mem Hall

Friday
Nov. 21
11AM- 6PM
Mem Hall
Refectory

Saturday
Nov. 22
8:30 PM
RISD Auditorium

Sunday
Nov. 23
7:15 - 8:45 PM
Meehan Auditorium
Upper Refectory

Monday
Nov. 24
9:30 AM
Conf. Room CB
6:30 - 8 PM
Upper Mem Hall

Meeting of Newman Club
Modern Dance
Mr. Robbins' Lecture
Series "Painting Between
Wars"
Mime Class
Indoor Tennis (Meet in
No. Main Street parking
lot at 8:10 PM. Sign up
in SAO Monday ... 50c)
Presentation Bradford-
Anderson Project
Cocktails - Administration
and Staff
Dinner for invited guests
Student Council Meeting
Liberal Arts Film
Mime Class
Swimming (Bring IDs ...
guests 50c)
** Symposium on Visual
Perception ... Supported
by Geigy Chemical Corp.
and in cooperation with the
R.I. State Dept. of Educa-
tion and R.I. State Council
on the Arts.
Film Society ... Charlie
Chaplin Films
** Symposium on Visual
Perception
International House Dance
LIVE: The Spire
admission
Designers in Drama present
"HIM" by e.e. cummings
Designers in Drama present
"HIM" by e.e.cummings
Hockey Practice
Catholic Mass
Staff Meeting
Modern Dance

* 200 tickets have been made available for students and can be obtained in the SAO.

** Invitation to attend is extended to the student body, faculty membership, and to the
general public.

STATEMENT:
Letters submitted to the newspaper box in the SAO office should be signed. If there is a desire to remain anonymous, come to the
Wednesday night meeting in lower Carr House and discuss the matter
with us.