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FINE ARTS
SOCIETY OF PEORIA

May 12, 2022 @ 10:00 AM
Peoria Riverfront Museum
222 SW Washington St., Peoria, IL

VICTORIAN DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE

lecture by Christopher Yerke

The Victorian revival movement which culminated in the "Painted Ladies" gained traction in the 1970s as young people looking for affordable housing turned to the often severely neglected, older housing stock in inner cities. Love of the faded glory of these houses led to a reassessment of the value these houses hold as part of our cultural legacy, and sparked historic surveys to catalogue and protect surviving buildings. The bright paint jobs showed off the architectural features of these revived buildings, but are quite at odds with the mindset and practices of the Victorian era.



Victorian houses were built to fit the lifestyle and social norms of their day, and modern custodians of these houses inevitably must come to terms with the elements of their design that are at odds with current design expectations and lifestyles. Understanding the thought behind Victorian architectural design can help guide us toward a better reinterpretation of upgrading these buildings for modern living while still respecting their character.

Christopher Yerke, head of Restoration Workshop, Ltd. in San Francisco, holds a B.F.A. in metalsmithing and sculpture from Southern Illinois University, and took post graduate studies in music and foreign languages. His passion for art and architecture began as a boy in Illinois, fascinated with Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style architecture and the collections at the Chicago Art Institute. He is an avid collector and user of historic woodworking tools as well as a constant student of historic construction and woodworking practice. Yerke's construction experience is eclectic in the extreme; he specializes in resourceful custom solutions to difficult construction challenges. The sensitive inclusion of modern infrastructure into historic settings without undue disturbance of the historic fabric is a particular specialty. Yerke won the California Preservation Foundation's 2005 Preservation Design Awards for Craftsmanship for the exterior restoration of the Spencer House in San Francisco.



For more information and the full 2021-2022 schedule plus a membership form, please visit www.FineArtsSociety.net or contact president@fineartssociety.net.

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