Stanford White/Architect of the Gilded Age

1853 to 1906

White has no formal architectural education, but at 18 he enters the office of

Henry Hobson Richardson as an assistance and quickly becomes one of the leading

designers and delineators of Richardson’s office.

In 1879 the firm of McKim Mead and White is established.

1879 McKim Mead and White design the Casino in Newport establishing the Shingle Style as a truly discernable American architectural style.

1881 White is commissioned for interior renovations at the William Watts Sherman House in Newport, R.I. where he previously worked as a member Richardson’s staff initially designing the house.

1881 White begins work on the Villard Houses in New York City, a series of town houses grouped around a courtyard facing Madison Avenue.

1882-83 Ross Revillon Winans House. White chooses to highlight the architectural designs and elements of the French Renaissance setting the tone for the series eclectic stylistic revivals that characterized the architecture of the late Nineteenth Century.

1884 White marries Bessie Springs Smith. The Whites had a son, Lawrence Grant White who became an architect and partner in McKim Mead and White

1884 White begins work on alterations and additions to Garrett Mansion. Many of the design elements found in the Villard Houses are reinterpreted here such as the use of the French Renaissance architecture for the new brown stone façade set in the austere brick traditions of the Greek Revival architecture of pre-Civil War Baltimore

1887 Lovely Methodist Church. White’s rendition of the rustic characteristic of Romanesque Revival. Charles Carson, a Baltimore architect is the local supervising architect. Carson goes on to design the first branches of the Enoch Pratt Free Library incorporating many of the architectural design elements introduced by McKim Mead and White’s Shingle Style buildings.

1890-92 Goucher House: Designed by White in the then current fashion of ochre-colored Roman brick and limestone trim.

1906 On June 25 White murdered in the presence of his son at the Roof Garden of Madison Square Garden by millionaire Harry K Thaw for his affair with his wife, Evelyn Nesbit Thaw. Nesbit’s affair with White occurred when she was in her teen’s and through that relationship she later became known as the girl on the red velvet swing. The “Trial of the Century” follows and White’s reputation is seriously damaged through testimony given during the trial.

John Russell Pope/Champion of Classical Architecture

1874 to 1937

John Russel Pope’s architectural training reflected the best traditions of what was to become for over one hundred years the basis for architectural education in America. Graduating from Columbia University Pope was the recipient of the first Rome Prize given in 1897. The Award was established by Charles McKim to give talented architecture students the opportunity to live in Rome and study.

In addition Pope had also studied at the famed Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris before returning to New York to work at the office of Bruce Price. Price whose projectes included houses for the rich and famous of the Gilded Age started this practice in Baltimore after the Civil War.

In 1901 Pope began his own practice with a series of commissions for large houses in Newport and New York.

1901 Whiteholme, New Port, R.I., Summer Residence of Dr. and Mrs. Henry Barton Jacobs. Razed ca. 1960

1905 Alterations and Additions to Jacob’s Residence, West Mt. Vernon Place/Baltimore

1912 Pope marries Sadie Pembroke Jones daughter of Henry Walter’s second wife

1914 Charlcote House, Residence of James S. Frick

1926-29 Baltimore Museum of Art

1927 University Baptist Church, North Charles and Thirty-Third Street

1932 Scottish Rite Temple of Freemasonry/Clyde N. Fritz with John Russell Pope as consultant.

Pope dies in 1937 just as his most important government project, the National Gallery is about to be completed.