



San Francisco's First Historic Artist's Home

SAN FRANCISCO — David Ireland's home — a century-old building the late conceptual artist transformed into a site-specific, inhabited artwork now widely considered the centerpiece of his career and a loadstar of the Bay Area art community — has been recently renovated and is now open to the public. San Francisco's first historic artist's house underwent a two-year construction and preservation effort. Visitors to the 1886 Italianate-style home can see its embedded artworks as Ireland intended, immersing themselves in an enigmatic, 360-degree portrait of one of the West Coast's most important practitioners of conceptual and installation art.

American artist David Ireland (1930–2009) was admired internationally for a diverse and prolific body of work concerned with the beauty inherent in everyday things and the making of art as a part of daily life. His hybrid practice blends sculpture, architecture, painting and performance and often draws on ordinary materials such as dirt, concrete, wood or wire he collected over time. Ireland's best-known work is his house in San Francisco's culturally dense Mission District. Serving simultaneously as the artist's environmental artwork, social sculpture and residence for 30 years, the house embodies his visual language and exists as both a container for his art and an artwork in its own right.

Ireland began his full-time art career late in life. In the two decades between his completion of a Bachelor of Applied Art degree from California College of the Arts and Crafts in 1953 and finishing his graduate

work at the San Francisco Art Institute in 1974, he experienced military service, marriage, fatherhood, insurance sales, carpentry and extensive world travels in Asia and East Africa. In 1975, after a yearlong post-graduation sojourn in New York, Ireland returned to San Francisco, where he purchased a dilapidated Edwardian home at the corner of 500 Capp and 20th Streets and began implementing a 30-month "maintenance action": removing window moldings, stripping wallpaper, sanding surfaces and finally coating the walls, ceiling and floors with high-gloss polyurethane varnish to preserve and highlight his modifications. His original intent was to clear out the house and use it as studio, but he soon grew to see it in a sculptural way, perceiving his activity as an artistic endeavor more than a simple architectural renovation.

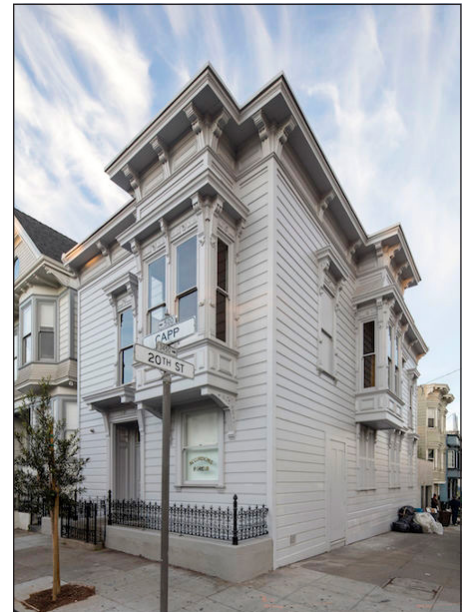
After Ireland moved out of the house in 2004 due to failing health, his family prepared to put the house on the market in order to help with his financial needs. The home's fate became uncertain during the following years. In 2008, San Francisco art collector and patron Carlie Wilms, granddaughter of late Bay Area philanthropist Phyllis C. Wattis, purchased the building. Soon after, she established the 500 Capp Street Foundation, appointing prominent local art patron Ann Hatch and Yale University Art Gallery Director Jock Reynolds — both longtime friends and associates of Ireland — as fellow founding trustees in oversight of the house as a venue for the preservation and study of the artist's work. Ireland passed away in 2009 at the age of 78.

Developed in collaboration with Jensen Architects and ARG Conservation Services, the renovation and conservation efforts were designed to create public access to the sensitively restored site and to improve conditions for the art without altering the original spaces. It also utilizes the full footprint of the property to provide a new exhibition gallery, study center and permanent archive for Ireland's work and spaces to accommodate public events and activities related to a planned artist-in-residency program — the heart of the project, according to Wilms.

"Ireland is perhaps the most influential West Coast artist you've never heard of,"

San Francisco itself is art...every block is a short story, every hill a novel. Every home a poem, every dweller within immortal.

—William Saroyan



David Ireland's House, courtesy 500 Capp Street Foundation.

says Jock Reynolds, who oversees the Ireland estate. "For many artists who lived in or visited San Francisco during the 1970s and 1980s, 500 Capp Street — and all that happened within it — came to be a focal point for the artist community. The house pays tribute to David's achievements as the ultimate example of his aesthetic and as one of the most significant contemporary artworks created in San Francisco in the last quarter of the Twentieth Century."

The David Ireland House is at 500 Capp Street. For information, 415-872-9240 or www.500cappstreet.org.

San Francisco Founding Family's Haas-Lilienthal House

SAN FRANCISCO — By the end of 2017, San Francisco Heritage, a non-profit membership organization with a mission to preserve and enhance San Francisco's unique architectural and cultural identity, had raised more than \$4.4 million towards the restoration of the Haas-Lilienthal House, the city's only intact Victorian-era residence and open house museum.

Built in 1886 for William and Bertha Haas by contractors McCann and Bidell, the house is an exuberant fusion of Queen Anne and Eastlake-style architecture designed by Peter R. Schmidt. The house survived the 1906 earthquake and subsequent fire and remained in the family until 1973, when it was entrusted to San Francisco Heritage to serve as the organization's headquarters. In 1975, it was designated as a San Francisco Landmark and in 2012, the National Trust for Historic Preservation recognized it as one of 34 National American Treasures.



Haas-Lilienthal House, courtesy San Francisco Heritage.

Three generations of the Haas family lived in the house and were influential members of the San Francisco business community and helped the city grow into a booming metropolis. Members of the family were involved in grocery concerns, Jewish philanthropies and global companies MJB coffee, Crown Distilleries and Levi Strauss & Co.

Restoration work at the Haas-Lilienthal house took place between April and October 2017. Work completed included accessibility improvements, a new restroom at the ballroom level and a wheelchair lift, seismic strengthening, fire-life safety upgrades and interior and exterior painting. Additionally, a team from Architectural Resources Group (ARG) cleaned and restored interior woodwork, wainscoting and door and window casings. Lastly, wallpaper in the first floor and second floor hallway was dry-cleaned and select areas were stabilized and repaired.

In addition to the physical restoration

work done to the house, San Francisco Heritage considered and implemented different strategies to assure the long-term viability and relevance of the house. Initiatives included a multimedia installation by artist Ben Wood, a new visitor orientation video, a new permanent exhibition in the ballroom, the republication of The Haas Sisters of Franklin Street and a new website.

The Haas-Lilienthal House welcomes an average of 10,000 visitors annually. Docent-guided tours of the interior of the house are scheduled on a regular basis several times a week, while private tours can be scheduled for large groups. Weekly walking tours of the Pacific Heights neighborhood include the Haas-Lilienthal house and it can be booked for private or corporate events.

The Haas-Lilienthal House is at 2007 Franklin Street. For more information, www.haas-lilienthalhouse.org or 415-441-3000.

Victorian Painted Lady Stays True To Self

SAN FRANCISCO — "Gorgeous, elegant Painted Lady that needs total restoration with attention to detail in all systems. Major renovation project," were just some of the words in the 2003 engineer's inspection report, when current owners Gail Baugh and her husband Jim Warshell first considered purchasing the house. Yet the young couple, whose young son thought that the house was haunted, was undaunted, seeing Cuban mahogany trim and original door hardware instead of water-damaged plaster, 30 years of accumulated grime and exposed wires. Ultimately, Baugh and Warshell took the plunge and bought the property with the full knowledge of the extent of their undertaking and determined to help restore the house to its original glory.

The Fisk House was designed

and built in 1884 by Edward Hatherton, who was at one time City architect. It was built for Lydia and Asa Fisk, a wealthy Bostonian and one-time politician who came to San Francisco in 1869. Fisk became a financial broker and amassed a new fortune that provided him the \$20,000 needed to build the 15-room mansion that encompasses 5,000 square feet.

The house was moved slightly in 1899 to accommodate additional buildings and now sits on a corner-lot property that at one time included a small barn, a carriage house and gardens. The house combines different stylistic elements, including a Second Empire mansard roof, an Italianate body, classical columns and a Queen Anne domed tower. Among its many features are eight fireplaces, and on the top floor, a ball room, roof deck and botanical conservatory.

The house has seen a variety of owners in its 134-year history, each owner residing in the house for approximately 30

years. All of them kept the original plan of the house intact, though Baugh and Warshell made relatively minor adjust-

ments in the layout of the kitchen to accommodate modern appliances, and new fireplace inserts.

Warshell is president of the Victorian Alliance of San Francisco, which was founded in 1973 and is San Francisco's oldest all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization committed to the restoration and preservation of historically significant structures. The Alliance holds annual walking and garden tours in different neighborhoods throughout the city to fundraise for grants for a wide variety of preservation and restoration projects. Fisk House has occasionally been included in tours. The next Victorian Alliance tour is scheduled for October 21.

The Fisk House is at 700 Hayes Street. For information on the Victorian Alliance, visit www.victorianalliance.org.



Fisk House, courtesy Jim Warshell.