Winners of the CH Conservancy’s Preservation Recognition Awards

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For 260 W. Hartwell Ln left to right: President of the Chestnut Hill Conservancy Board Eileen Javers, Alex Plentka of Legacy Restoration, Awardees Adrian and Caroline King, Mark Pohlman of Ypsi Woodworks, and Board member Shirley Hanson.

Credit: Chestnut Hill Conservancy
A preservation award went to the Hopkins Terrace & Parish House Entry at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church. (from left) President of the Chestnut Hill Conservancy Board Eileen Javers, architect Larry McEwen, Rev. Jarrett Kerbel, and Board member Shirley Hanson.
For Krisheim left to right: Tim O’Bine, the job foreman, Chris Meyer, Conservancy Board President Eileen Javers, Dennis Meyer, CarolAnn Meyer, Justin Detwiler of John Milner Architects, Joseph Manero of Joseph Manero & Sons, masonry contractors, Board member Shirley Hanson, and Ziggy Dycz, the stone carver. Credit: Chestnut Hill Conservancy

by Shirley Hanson

The Preservation Recognition Awards express the Chestnut Hill Conservancy’s gratitude to those who give sensitive attention to the historic and architectural treasures in their care. These gifts take the form of a fastidious restoration of one deteriorated feature of a historic building, a careful adaptation of the grounds and entrance to a landmark structure, and a full-scale restoration of a significant residence. The awards were presented at the Conservancy’s annual meeting on Jan. 7 at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

One award honored Caroline and Adrian King for restoring the porch on their home at 260 W. Hartwell Lane. Accepting the award with the Kings were Alex Plentka of Legacy Restoration and Mark Pohlman of Ypsi Woodworks.

The King’s home is one of the significant architect-designed homes constructed by George and Gertrude Woodward. They restored a badly deteriorated porch to respect the original design and materials and to create a space for year-round use. Its completion required extraordinary care, meticulous craftsmanship, and patience over almost a year.

Larry McEwen of McEwen Architects received an award for the Hopkins Terrace & Parish House Entry at St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal Church. Accepting the award were Larry McEwen and the Rev. Jarrett Kerbel, Rector.

St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church, built by Henry Howard Houston, opened its doors in 1889. The first phase of this current project focused on pedestrian access and welcoming to both the Sanctuary and Parish Hall, especially along Willow Grove Avenue. A result of Larry McEwen’s
design is that everyone passing by the church on Willow Grove Avenue can now experience its hospitality.

The third award for 2017 honored the extraordinary restoration of Krisheim, which was designed by the Boston architectural firm of Peabody and Stearns and completed in 1910. The home was carefully designed to express the interests, knowledge, and desires of Dr. George Woodward and his wife Gertrude Houston Woodward.

The restoration recreates the past and brings this landmark building back to its original use led by the project team of John Milner Architects and Dennis F. Meyer Construction. Justin Detwiler accepted the award for John Milner Architects. For Dennis F. Meyer Construction, Dennis Meyer, Chris Meyer, CarolAnn Meyer, and Tim O’Bine, the job foreman, received the award. Krisheim is a showcase of the artistry of Chestnut Hill stone. For the masonry, Joseph Manero of Joseph Manero & Sons, masonry contractors, and Ziggy Dycz, the stone carver, took part in the ceremony.

The restoration involved the undoing of dramatic modifications when the home began its new life after Gertrude Woodward's death in 1961. Then, it became a conference center and a retreat for the Presbyterian Church. In 1983, the Woodward family took ownership and carefully divided the house into 13 apartments.

Among many challenges for the project team was the complete removal of the large non-original masonry stair tower and the construction of new exterior masonry walls to match historic drawings and photographs.

The awards thank our winners for their discerning care and their inspiring gifts to our remarkable community, Chestnut Hill. For project photos and to learn more about the Preservation Recognition Awards, visit chconservancy.org/preservation-awards.

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