

Chris Peimann  
Director of Marketing and Publicity  
[cpeimann@TheSheldon.org](mailto:cpeimann@TheSheldon.org)  
Ph: 314.533.9900 ext. 19

Olivia Lahs-Gonzales  
Director of Sheldon Art Galleries  
[olg@TheSheldon.org](mailto:olg@TheSheldon.org)  
Ph: 314.533.9900 ext. 31



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## **PALACE BUILDERS EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS THE GOLDEN AGE OF THEATRES**

ST. LOUIS, MO - The Sheldon Art Galleries presents *Palace Builders: Great Architects from the Golden Age of Theatres*, October 4, 2013 – January 25, 2014 in the Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture. Join us for an opening reception on Friday, October 4, 2013 from 5 – 7 p.m.; Galleries will be open until 9 p.m. for First Fridays in Grand Center, a monthly event in which galleries and museums in Grand Center are open late. Admission is free. **The exhibition is made possible by Mary Strauss.**



Created in collaboration with the Theatre Historical Society of America, this exhibit features watercolor renderings, photographs, blueprints and artifacts of theatres from 1892 to the 1930s designed by Adler & Sullivan, Walter W. Ahlschlager, C. Howard Crane, John Ebersson, Thomas W. Lamb and Rapp & Rapp. The rise of feature films led to the development of dedicated movie theatres that were designed to suspend disbelief and make the public feel like royalty. These “movie palaces” were elaborately decorated in styles that took their inspiration from architectural history, employing design elements from French Baroque, Gothic, Moorish, Hindu, Orientalist, Renaissance and Egyptian sources. Period revival and “atmospheric” theatres featured include the Belmont (Chicago); Fox Theatres in St. Louis, Detroit, Brooklyn and San Francisco; the Pitkin Theatre (Brooklyn); Loew’s “Wonder Theatres” and many others. The artifacts and photographs are lent by the Theatre Historical Society of America, [www.historictheatres.org](http://www.historictheatres.org), and Mary Strauss.

**Gallery Talk: Saturday, November 23, Noon**, Craig Morrison, *America’s Theaters, Architects and Imagination*. Craig Morrison is an architect, historian and author of several important books on historic theatre architecture. Bernoudy Gallery of Architecture, admission free.

The not-for-profit Sheldon Art Galleries exhibits works by local, national and international artists in all media. Over 6,000 square feet of the galleries’ spaces on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor are permanently devoted to rotating exhibits of photography, architecture, jazz art and history, and children’s art. A sculpture garden, seen from both the atrium lobby and the connecting glass bridge, features periodic rotations and installations, and the Nancy Spirtas Kranzberg Gallery on the lower level features art of all media. The Sheldon actively supports the work of St. Louis artists in all mediums and features a dedicated gallery with museum-quality exhibits by St. Louis artists, past and present.

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**Image credit:** *The Ambassador Theatre*, St. Louis (1926-1997), Rapp & Rapp, Chicago. Photograph courtesy of the American Theatre Architecture Archive, Theatre Historical Society of America.