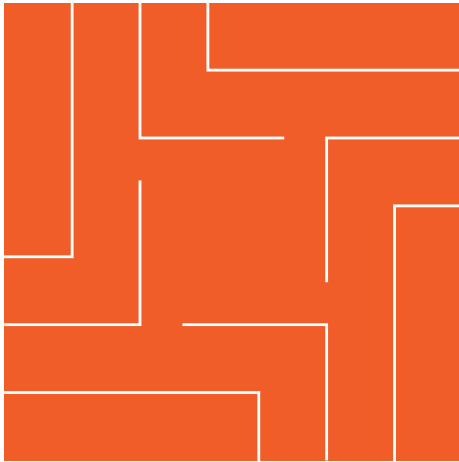


T H E G A R D E N W A L L



WILLEY HOUSE RESTORATION JOURNAL VOLUME 2 ■ ISSUE 1 ■ WINTER 2003 ■ ■ ■





THE STATE OF THE HOUSE WINTER 2003

A scaffold tent was constructed over the house to keep the long Minnesota winter at bay.

Sometimes jokingly referred to as our Frank Gehry addition, a two story scaffold tent kept the elements out of the house while providing extra work space over the interminably bitter Minnesota winter. Erecting a tent over the front of the house was our only alternative while new skylights were being fashioned.

Often what seemed like small decisions lead to major discoveries and redirected priorities. A decision to introduce steel "L plates" above the sagging study and guest bedroom doorways turned up earlier roof repairs that needed to be properly re-addressed. It also demonstrated the fragile state of the brick mortar. Two masonry restoration companies had recommended a total grind back and re-tuck pointing. Which was a

low priority for us, until course after course of bricks proved to be loose in their failing mortar as the soffit was jacked up to insert the steel "Ls". A complete brick restoration was slated for spring. 📷

Following is a photo essay on fall restoration accomplishments at the Willey House.



Inside the scaffold tent structure.



RIM AND FLOOR JOISTS

Rim and floor joists as well as cement foundations required extensive repairs due to water entering the house over existing thresholds. Three causes were determined and are being addressed; the height and pitch of the south terrace, a splash factor that allowed water to run down and under the French doors and the thresholds themselves which were not water tight. 📍



SUBFLOOR

Replaced subflooring where required. 📍



PLANK FLOORING

Several 9" cypress floor planks needed to be replaced. The entire floor was planed so new and old flooring matched. Cypress is dimensionally unstable, shrinking and expanding

greatly from season to season. When floors were laid spacers were utilized to increase the gaps between planks so floors did not buckle when humidity reached summer levels. 📍





INSTALLING SKYLIGHTS

The photo on the left shows Stafford on the roof as new skylight is being fitted. The middle photo is Steve Johnson of the Rainville-Carlson company test fitting a skylight frame.

The last photo is of the Cypress frames for recessed skylight fixtures. One frame was missing and needed to be recreated to match originals. 📐



STEEL LINTEL

Steel "L" extending over guest bedroom door opening.

Bricks were carefully numbered to be reset in new mortar. 📐



CLEANING INTERIOR BRICK

The interior brick badly needed cleaning. The chimney mass was blackened from decades of smokey fires and chalky with efflorescence from water seeping through the

brick from the leaky the inner cavities. All interior wood was carefully prepped prior to cleaning. 📷




PIT WALL

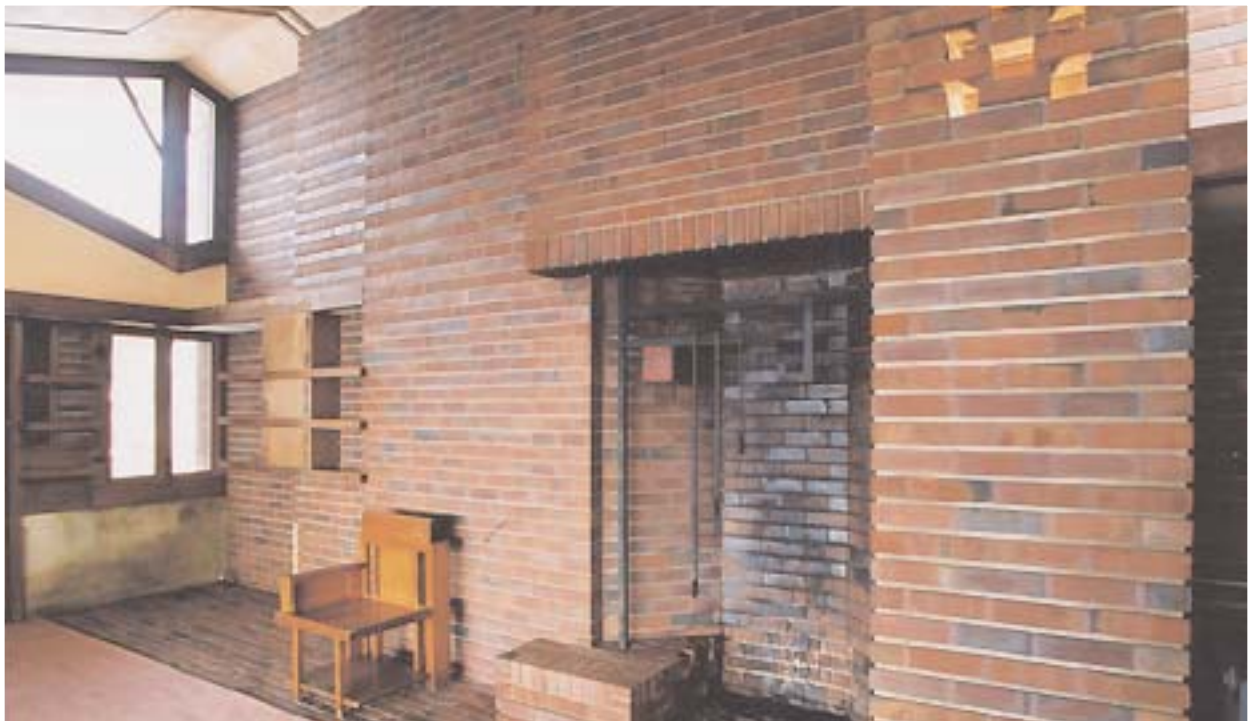
Radiator pit wall before (left) and after (right) cleaning. 📷






DINING ALCOVE

Dining alcove wall before (left) and after (right) cleaning. 



LIVING AREA

Living area after brick cleaning. Note the alternating bands of brick next to the kite window. The striping effect of the Willey House brick seen in early photos was due

to a textural change from shiny Twin Cities Shale Brick to matte Menomonie Common Sand Mold Brick. 



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