

GOLDSTEIN MUSEUM OF DESIGN

364 McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55108
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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A Right to Establish a Home

August 23, 2014 – January 4, 2015
HGA Gallery, Rapson Hall

Opening Reception: Friday, August 22, 6–8pm

A Right to Establish a Home examines the history behind a series of menacing protests that enveloped 4600 Columbus Avenue South, Minneapolis following its purchase in August 1931 by Arthur and Edith Lee. The young couple was African-American, and they chose to buy a house in what many then considered a “white neighborhood” of South Minneapolis. On one night, as many as 4,000 protestors gathered in the street outside the Lee house, hurling insults, garbage, and even human waste at the property in an effort to intimidate the family into leaving the neighborhood. Confident in their right to establish a home, the Lees ultimately stayed in the house for more than two years, though the neighborhood never fully accepted the family's presence.



The exhibition interprets the protests and responses in the broader context of race and housing in Minneapolis, racism in Minnesota, and the individuals and organizations that defended the Lees, including the NAACP and the distinguished attorney Lena Olive Smith. Additionally, through a series of oral history interviews with current Field Regina Northrop neighborhood residents, the exhibition connects the events of 1931 with the longer, broader, continuum of events, people, and actions that reflect the history of a neighborhood striving for public safety, inclusiveness, cooperation, mutual respect, and social justice.

The exhibition encourages the audience to consider questions such as what it means to have the right to establish a home, what it means to be part of a neighborhood, and the ways that racism in Minnesota has changed since 1931.

A Right to Establish a Home is the culmination of a multi-year partnership among members of the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group and the Heritage Conservation and Preservation Program at the University of Minnesota School of Architecture. The Arthur and Edith Lee House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service on July 11, 2014.

COLLEGE OF DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Curators: Greg Donofrio and Laurel Fritz

Community Collaborators:

Stearline Rucker and the Field Regina Northrop Neighborhood Group

Supported by: The IAS Heritage Collaborative; Minnesota Historical Society/University of Minnesota Heritage Partnership; Imagine Fund, the McKnight Arts and Humanities Endowment; and Rapson Hall Exhibitions Fund with support from Judy Dayton.

General Information

The Goldstein Museum of Design (GMD), part of the University of Minnesota's College of Design, supports design teaching, research, and discovery through exhibitions, publications, programs, and partnerships.

Visitor Info

HGA Gallery is in the lobby of Rapson Hall, 89 Church Street, Minneapolis, MN 55455.

HGA Gallery Hours:

Monday–Friday 9:00am–6:00pm

Saturday 1:00pm–5:00pm

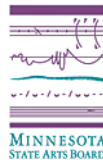
Closed all University holidays

Admission and Parking

Gallery admission is **free**. Parking is available in the Church Street Ramp at 80 Church Street SE at a rate of \$3.00 per hour up to a daily maximum of \$12.00 (except for special events). The Ramp and Rapson Hall are both handicapped accessible.

Public Transit

For bus and light rail information, call (612) 373-3333.



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