



Announcing the Publication of the Book

***Walter Frazier: Frazier, Raftery, Orr, & Fairbank Architects
Houses of Chicago's North Shore, 1924-1970***

The Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society announces the publication of the book *Walter Frazier: Frazier, Raftery, Orr, & Fairbank Architects Houses of Chicago's North Shore, 1924-1970* by authors Kim Coventry and Arthur Hawks Miller. This is the first book published about noted 20th century architect Walter Frazier. The book is available by contacting the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society at 847-234-5253 or info@lflbhistory.org. The book costs \$75.00 (\$65.00 for members of the Historical Society).

DESCRIPTION

Among the most prominent yet least studied architects of mid-twentieth-century Chicago, Walter Frazier, who trained at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris, possessed a solid grounding in the architecture of the past, an intellectual openness to new and emerging ideas, and easy social graces. These characteristics made him an obvious choice for Chicago's educated and refined elite, and over the course of his career, he designed houses for such notable Chicagoans as Howard and Lucy Blair Linn, James R. and Betsey Needham Getz, Elliot and Ann Stienwedell Donnelley, and Edward Byron and Louise Dewey Smith. This fascinating study of his work, the first of its kind, brings to light the accomplishments and influences of an architectural luminary, a herald of the best taste of his elite Chicago clients.

Frazier worked in association with Howard Raftery, “with possibly unusual cooperation” for more than thirty years, and with Montgomery Orr and Edward Fairbank for 1945 until his death in 1976. Together, they designed stylish and livable classical residences on Chicago’s upper North Shore, as well as clubs, hotels, and banks in Chicago and homes and offices in the Fox River Valley, west of the city.

Few careers spanned as many of the best examples of the twentieth century’s architectural movements as Frazier’s. Indeed, his ability to design across styles and perspectives would become a hallmark of his work and distinguish him from many of his better-known predecessors. His high-profile residential commissions are significant for their fashionable exteriors—including landscape and garden settings—and their handsome and comfortable interiors, as well as for the collaborations among architecture, landscape, interior design, and art professionals that they effected.

Focusing primarily on Frazier’s residential work in Lake Forest and Lake Bluff, this lavishly illustrated volume features 20 color plates and more than 100 black and white images and detailed analyses of twenty-one of the architect’s Lake Forest/ Lake Bluff houses. It also incorporates in-depth discussions of four undertakings of a different type—including the Casino club and the restoration of Hull House—which speak to the stylistic and historical preoccupations of his residential work. This essential publication, which represents the definitive study of the work of Frazier and a significant addition to existing scholarship on the history of architecture in Chicago, demonstrates the particular relevance of the legacy of Frazier and his firm in today’s dynamic architectural environment.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Kim Coventry is a publishing consultant in Chicago. She is coauthor of *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest: Architecture and Landscape Design, 1856-1940* and the author of *Monterey Peninsula: the Golden Age* and other titles.

Arthur Hawks Miller is archivist and librarian for special collections at Lake Forest College. He is coauthor of *30 miles North: A History of Lake Forest College*, *Classic Country Estates of Lake Forest: Architecture and Landscape Design, 1856-1940*, and other titles.

ABOUT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society inspires an awareness of the community's history and an appreciation of its relevance through delivering engaging exhibitions, publications and public programs; collecting and preserving local heritage and culture; and supporting historical research.

The Historical Society is located at 361 East Westminster, Lake Forest, IL 60045. For more information, please contact the Historical Society at 847-234-5253 or info@lflbhistory.org.