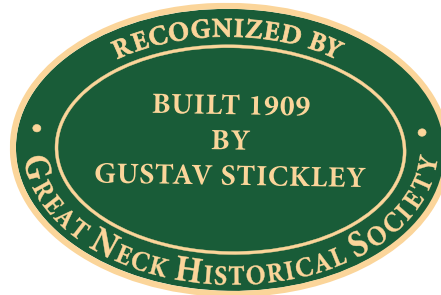
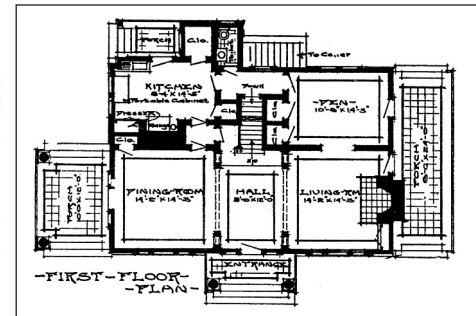
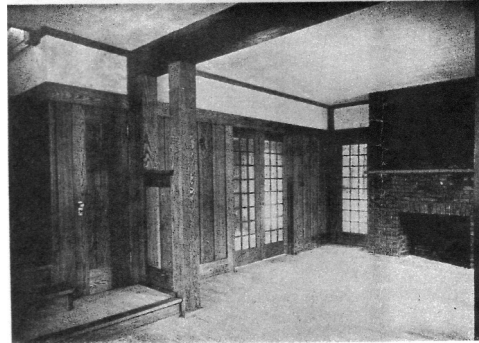


HERITAGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

To Identify and Honor Great Neck's Most Notable Homes



49 CEDAR DRIVE, GREAT NECK, NY



The home at 49 Cedar Drive was built in 1909 by Gustav Stickley, founder of the American Craftsman movement, and what was referred to as “Mission style.” It displays the striking characteristics of Stickley design: a sturdy structure; simple, straightforward lines; woodwork primarily of native American oak; and built-in cabinets. Stickley’s creations were a strong contrast to the ornate, highly-decorated style of the late Victorian era.

Stickley learned furniture-making at his uncle’s chair factory in Lanesboro, Pennsylvania, and his early pieces were exhibited at the prestigious Grand Rapids and Pan American furniture expositions. He founded *The Craftsman* periodical in 1901, and it became the leading voice of the Arts and Crafts movement in the United States. In 1904 he formed the Craftsman House Builders Club, and readers could order architectural plans from the magazine. For a short period in 1909, less than a year, his Craftsman House Building Company constructed houses, mainly in northern New Jersey and Long Island. It was during this time that 49 Cedar Drive was built in Great Neck.

Stickley designed the home for his friend, Frederick M. Hill, a YMCA secretary, who asked Stickley to supervise the construction. It was described in *The Craftsman* as having “a good deal of the quiet dignity of the old Colonial farmhouse [because] the exterior shows not one superfluous feature and its beauty is entirely that of line and proportion and the impression it gives of simplicity.” The original dark-shingle exterior was replaced by stucco, and wings on the left and right sides were expanded, but the house is largely original, retaining its central entrance and symmetrical facade. The interior, with an open floor plan, has the original built-in Stickley cabinets, and wood paneling and beams. The amber hammered glass panes on interior doors remain, as well as three fireplaces. Stickley believed that the fireplace was the heart of the home, where the family would gather in the evening to talk and share their day’s experiences.

49 Cedar Drive was purchased by Dr. Elyse and Dr. Richard Billow in 1975.