

Just to wrap up my observations from Monday Sept. 22, 2014 night's meeting of the Raleigh Community Conversations on the Cherry House.

I moved here 40 years ago and was shocked when I saw all the empty lots where Raleigh historic buildings once stood. This city destroyed so much of their history. This city, also, worked damn hard to destroy Oakwood, but luckily a few brave citizens stood up and protected the area.

Now with all the bad press about the Cherry house,. I feel I have to apologize because Oakwood is not old enough, or historical enough or, or that there are too many different eras represented by the homes. Why must we in Oakwood have to apologize to architects that Oakwood is not the right kind of historic!?! THIS IS ALL THAT IS LEFT!

Our forefathers torn down all the Raleigh historic homes !! So I am begging the powers that be . . please respect those of us that live in Oakwood . . even tho' Pratt Cassity implied we were partial to "cobwebs and dust." We like the historic setting and most of us want to keep it that way!

Why does the city of Raleigh not treasure Oakwood? Why do city officials want to destroy what little history we have?? Please remember if you do not know your where you have been (history) you will have no idea where you are going!!

So with that said I beg all these new young turk architects to not take that arrogant attitude that they know more about history than those of us living in Oakwood. They act like they are willing to stoop to our level to explain architecture to those of us living in Oakwood. We in Oakwood are keeping Raleigh history alive and we like where we live and we do not need anymore modern houses. There are plenty of boring neighborhoods in Raleigh that could use the "richness and texture," Myrick Howard spoke of. Oakwood has plenty of richness and texture . .now go make other neighborhood interesting!!

Oakwood has survived and thrived due to the folks who live here and why do our city fathers have so little respect for this neighborhood and all it brings to the city???

And where is it written that Oakwood MUST show every style of architecture in all of history?? Please send me where that rule is written!!

Bottom line: It really does not matter how many citizens you get together to discuss what is appropriate for the construction of homes in historic areas, if the folks on the RHDC throw out all those rules and just approve whatever they want. So it becomes imperative that you and Jo Ramsay Leimenstoll educate the Raleigh City Council members as to who they should appoint on the RHDC board who make the decisions.

Pratt Cassity listed a number of guidelines as to what should go into said construction. One of his lists consisted of size, scale, shape, form, massing, placement and orientation. Everyone of those "guidelines" were totally ignored as they approved the

Louis Cherry house!!! (Oppps I mentioned the elephant in the room!!!) So if your appointed folks are going to ignore the guidelines . . there is no hope for the historic districts of Raleigh.

Please go to Part Two . . .

Part 2

I came late to Monday's meeting so I missed the warning about not bringing up the words "Euclid house." Oy vey !!

Well I will not use those words . . . I think we should call it what it is . . . the Louis Cherry House!! Why is the city protecting Louis Cherry? He built that house so he could stick his finger up the nose of Oakwood . . . he does not give a damn about our community!

So why do you bend over backwards to protect him?? Oh I have the answer . . . you know the city screwed up when they approved his modernist house in an historic neighborhood . . . so by protecting him, you are also covering your rear ends for the huge mistake you all made!

Do not feel sad for Cherry . . . he got out of this mess exactly what he wanted . . . bigger name recognition, national recognition and now he can charge higher prices for his designs!! He totally wins on this deal . . . and you are leaving Oakwood with a building that does not fit the lot he built it on. What was that guideline about "scale?" Cherry must have missed that class in architecture school!!

Your RHDC board owes Oakwood an apology. So why are they going out of their way to protect this arrogant man?

Yes I know why you did not want anybody to breath the word "Euclid" or "Cherry" . . . it is because what my dear departed Father would say . . . "it is like looking up a dead horse's ass." So lets all get together and make happy noise.

But you need to get over it . . . you all made a huge mistake and by trying to shut us up will not make the problem go away.

And now my fear is that you all will sashay around and say . . . "we had 200 people come together and put together these new guidelines, so we are in the clear, the citizens set up these guidelines, so there will be no problems." Now I ask you to refer to page one . . . it is all a huge waste of time and money, if after these NEW guidelines are finalized . . . the new members of your board just say, "Oh to tell with the guidelines . . . we are just going to approve whatever we like, we are going act just like the former board members, and ignore all those guidelines!" Then all is lost!

And I would suggest you all realize, while you might not like it, talking about the Euclid/Cherry house is going to continue for years!!! How on earth can we in Oakwood forget that tumor of a house and the man who built it? So tell Andrew Sachs that his rule about not saying those words does not stop the mess that was made. Tell poor dear Andy . . . that those mushy, lets all make happy noise questions, probably will not settle the discord that old man Cherry started. Good try Andy!

And of course . . . let me say one more time . . . Cherry's house was an "FU" project . . . he is making a lot of nice noise now . . . but that was only after he got called on his arrogance!

We are all the history Raleigh has . . . if you want to show the future styles of architecture . . . there are lots of empty lots all over the city where these angry young architects should go to build their new age homes. Please respect what little history Raleigh has left.

Sincerely,

Karen Tam
30 year resident of HISTORIC OAKWOOD