



JOHN G. THORPE

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS FELLOWSHIP

Overview

The Thorpe Fellowship provides an opportunity for young professionals and graduate students to attend the Conservancy's annual conference by covering the registration fee for the event. The conference provides educational panels, presentations and commentary about various aspects of Wright's work by scholars, practitioners, building owners and other experts. The conference also enables attendees to experience the architecture directly through tours of sites designed by Wright and other architects of interest, including private residences that are rarely open to the public. The program was established in 2016 to honor John Garrett Thorpe, restoration architect and longtime Conservancy board member.

Award

Fellowship recipients receive one regular general conference registration, as well as invitations to the exclusive Homeowners and Public Sites event and a special meetup for current and past Thorpe Fellows. For the 2020 Conservancy conference, taking place online November 11-14, the award is valued at \$150. Two or more awards will be made in 2020.

Eligibility

Young professionals in the first five years of their careers in architecture or historic preservation and graduate students in architecture or historic preservation (full-time or part-time) currently enrolled at the time of application are eligible to apply for a fellowship. Students may have completed their degree by the time of the conference.

Recognition

John G. Thorpe Fellows will be introduced at the conference and will be required to submit a brief report following the conference. Fellows also will receive a complimentary one-year membership in the Conservancy.

Application Process

The deadline to apply is Friday, October 16, 2020. Notification will be made to applicants by Friday, October 23.

Apply online: [SaveWright.org/Thorpe](https://www.savewright.org/Thorpe)



John Thorpe at the 2015 Conservancy conference

PHOTO BY MARK HERTZBERG

John G. Thorpe (1944-2016) founded his own architectural firm, John Garrett Thorpe & Associates, in Oak Park in 1984 and earned renown as a restoration architect through work on numerous Frank Lloyd Wright houses in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and elsewhere, including the Robie House in Chicago, the Roberts House in River Forest, Illinois, and the Heurtley House, William Martin House and Unity Temple in Oak Park. He was instrumental in the preservation of the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, serving as author, with Don Kalec, of the master plan for the property's restoration to its 1909 condition, published as *The Plan for Restoration and Adaptive Use of the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio* in 1978. He also acted to secure its purchase by the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio Foundation (now the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust), which he helped to found, and to implement its 13-year restoration process.

Thorpe was a longtime board member of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy who worked tirelessly to preserve existing Wright structures, formulate

plans for their continued use and provide technical advice to prospective purchasers, homeowners and Wright house museum curators.

Among his many other volunteer efforts, Thorpe was an architectural consultant for the Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park; served on the board of the Pleasant Home Foundation, providing planning related to the restoration and preservation of the George W. Maher-designed house in Oak Park; and was the first docent at the H.H. Richardson-designed Glessner House in Chicago when it opened for tours in 1971. Thorpe received many awards, including the national and Chicago chapter AIA Honor Awards for his restoration work on the Wright Home and Studio. He earned his master of architecture from the University of California, Berkeley, and his bachelor of architecture from the University of Illinois. He previously worked for Skidmore, Owings & Merrill in their Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Algiers offices before starting his own practice.