

The inaugural Marion Mahony Griffin Lecture
Marion Mahony Griffin: 21st c. avant gardiste or 19th c. dreamer?

an illustrated talk by Dr Anna Rubbo, Associate Professor of Architecture, University of Sydney.

Abstract

"A product of the 19th century with its nature philosophies, social movements and competing religions, Marion Mahony Griffin came of age as an architect in Wright's Prairie School. Philosopher Ralph Emerson's oft quoted phrase "make the most of yourself for that is all there is of you" could be a fitting epithet for Marion. Working with Walter Burley Griffin in the US, Australia and India, these 19th century ideas find new expression, pre-empting contemporary design and environmental concerns in ways that prompt the question, was Marion a 21st avant gardiste of 19th century dreamer?"