



THE FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT BUILDING CONSERVANCY

For Immediate Release: November 18, 2004

For More Information Contact: Ron Scherubel – 312.663.5500

LOCAL RESEARCH PHYSICIST RECEIVES AWARD FROM FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT BUILDING CONSERVANCY

In 1991 the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy established the WRIGHT SPIRIT AWARDS to honor those who demonstrate extraordinary efforts in stewardship of Wright buildings or furtherance of the Wright legacy. Presentation of the Awards has become a featured event at the Gala Dinner at each year's Conference. The PRIVATE CATEGORY honors original or subsequent Wright homeowners who have rescued a building or have demonstrated outstanding stewardship, embodying the courageous spirit of Wright. The 2004 winners are DEAN AND ELLA MAE EASTMAN.

The Eastmans bought the northern portion of the Avery Coonley House (1907) in 2000 and began a 4 year, state-of-the-art restoration project to return the house and grounds, one of Wright's most ambitious estates, to their original splendor. Dr. Eastman, a research physicist at the University of Chicago specializing in the material sciences and a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, was uniquely suited to undertake a project of this nature and complexity. He conducted his own research at the Taliesin Archives using historic photos and other research sources. He studied Coonley-period building products and systems as well. Dr. Eastman served as owner, architect, restoration designer, researcher, specifier, general contractor, inventor, teacher and sometimes as his own craftsman. He conducted analyses to fully understand and even reinvent the various materials, surfaces, products and processes that comprise this National Historic Landmark property. When new products or processes were needed, he would test the results and then train the workmen on how to execute the work. The stellar restoration of the Eastman's portion of the Coonley House is almost complete. The Eastmans have been most generous in sharing the Coonley House with the Conservancy and other preservation groups.

The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy is the only preservation organization facilitating the preservation of the remaining structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright through education, advocacy, preservation easements and technical services.