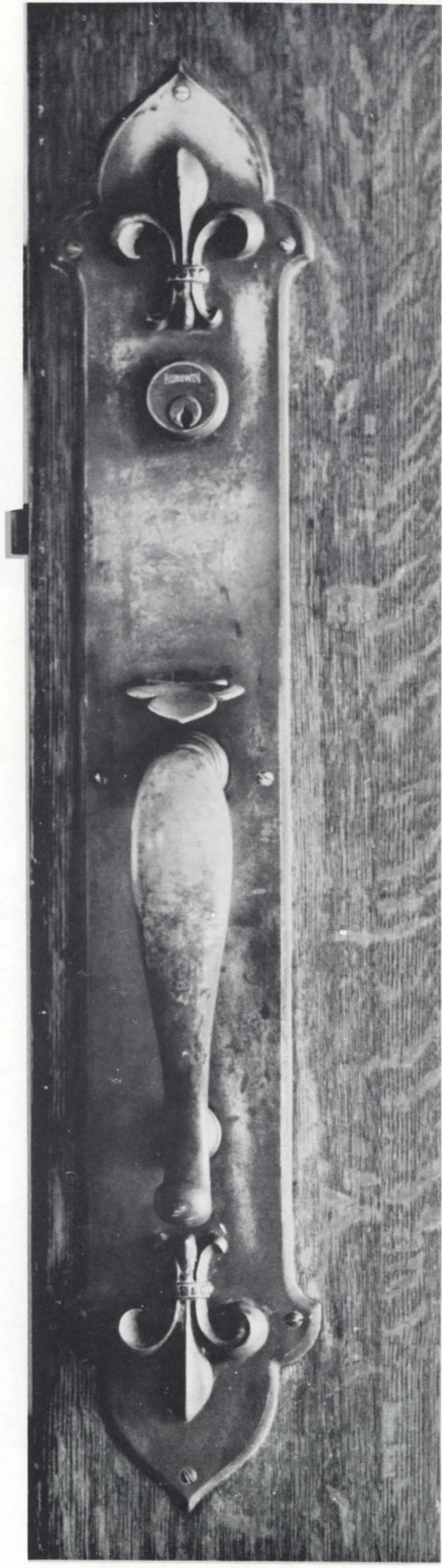


# The Zetterberg House: Symbol of Continuity





### History of the Zetterberg House

In 1902, when George N. Hamilton was building the house at 721 Harrison stone by stone, many of the nation's leading artists, philosophers, and craftsmen were caught up in what has since been termed the Arts and Crafts Movement in America (1867-1916). This movement — with its emphasis on the connections between beauty, simplicity and function — had a profound influence on the design of the Zetterberg House.

Like the Gamble House in Pasadena, the Zetterberg House is an impressive architectural example of the California bungalow style of the Arts and Crafts period. Built with attention to detail, it reflects the belief that art should be functional as well as aesthetic and that true to the demands of "craftsmen architecture" — each detail should be an integral part in the house as a whole work of art.

The works of Louis Tiffany, Frank Lloyd Wright, Louis Sullivan and others associated with the Arts and Crafts Movement in America influenced the builders of the Zetterberg House. The leaded glass windows, brass fixtures, stonework, and hand-carved wood details attest to the skill and dedication of local artisans and the vision of the architect who brought it all together.

The Zetterberg House also reflects the history of Claremont. In 1902 Claremont was an unincorporated community established by the Santa Fe Railroad as one of 30 townsites between Los Angeles and San Bernardino. In just a hundred years, this land passed from mission padres to Spanish rancheros, and by the 1870's began to feel the influx of settlers from the East, Midwest and

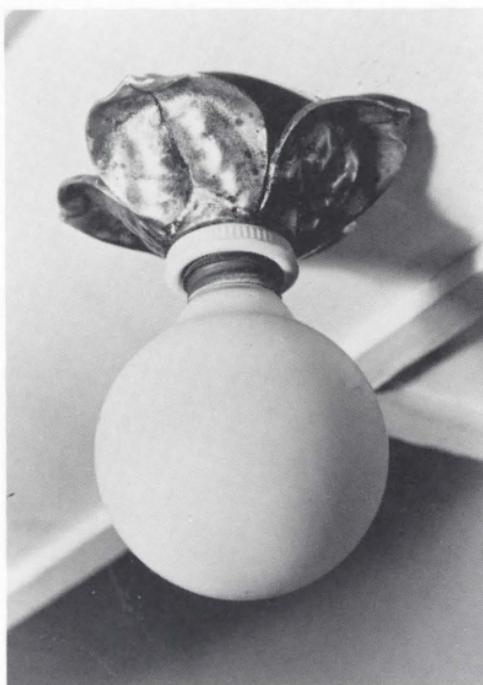
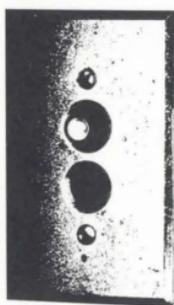
Southwest. By the turn of the century, Claremont had a thriving citrus business and a college which had been lured away from Pomona. It was a time of high hopes and general prosperity.

In 1907, about the same time the town was incorporated, George N. Hamilton made improvements and planted an orange grove. By 1936, when he was ready to sell, he described the property like this:

"About two acres are given up to driveway, buildings, palms, shrubs, flowers, etc. and about three acres to orange trees. There are 285 trees, mostly 16 year old Valencias, and several peach, pear, nectarine, lemon, walnut, grapefruit, and ornamental trees, palms, shrubs and flowers. An ample, very valuable, free water right goes with the place; a continuous flow of one miner's inch, from the City of Pomona's tunnel, into a reservoir 108 feet in diameter, from which we draw the water as we want it. In the house we use Claremont city water, which is exceptionally pure and good."

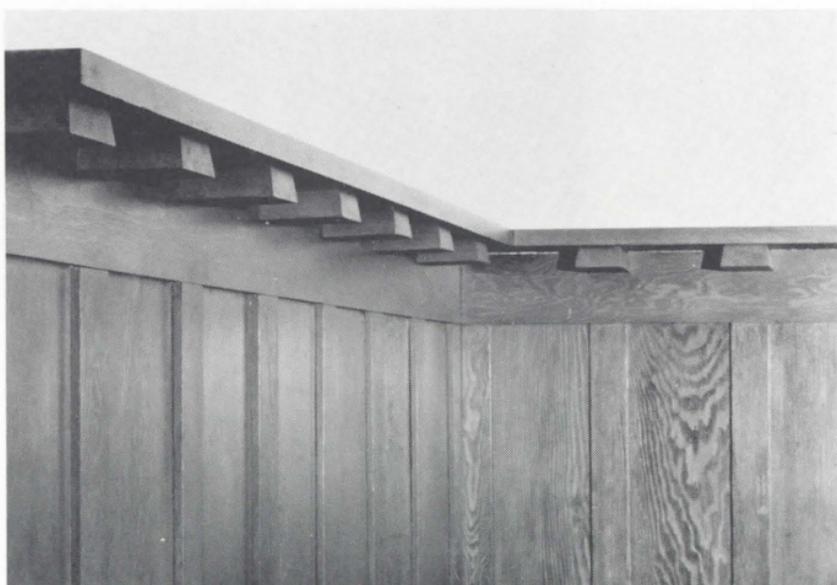
The house itself, Hamilton pointed out, has 12 rooms, 7 closets, 2 bathrooms, 1 shower stall, 2 separate toilets, 7 lavatories, hardwood floors, a large porch and a new furnace. The alcove lavatory, he added, has "orchid tile floor, orchid vitreous china lavatory, orchid electric fixtures and orchid sanitos on walls."

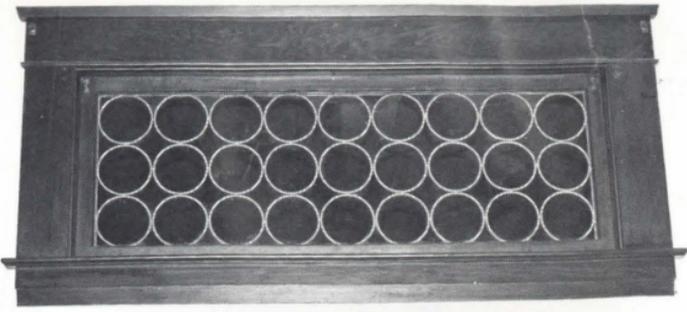
The house was purchased by the Arvid P. Zetterberg family, who made it their home for 47 years.



### **Future of the Zetterberg House**

For some time, Pitzer College has been searching for a house suitable to move onto campus for restoration. During fall semester 1975-1976, students in English 151: The Arts and Crafts Movement in America class, took on the search as one of their class projects, and located a number of homes built between 1867-1916. Their final report: the Zetterberg House would be ideal.





Professor Barry Sanders explains Pitzer's interest in the house:

"There are several reasons why we want to acquire a new building. First, students have long felt a need for a type of student activities center that would have a friendly, comfortable, home-like atmosphere. This kind of ambience is difficult to create given contemporary building methods and costs. Historical Claremont is rich in older houses valued for their historical or architectural significance, their scale and cohesiveness, their familiarity. These houses provide a sense of continuity which can serve as a stabilizing element in today's rootless society. Many of these houses lie neglected and untended; some are doomed to be razed for other newer buildings. In many instances, these houses are emerging as renewed centers of activity and community appeal. The Zetterberg House could become such a place for Pitzer students. It would provide the Pitzer community with an opportunity to work on and participate in the restoration of a fine house from the Arts and Crafts period. Not unrelated, here, is our desire to involve students in the Bicentennial in a very real and practical way: namely, in the preservation of part of America's architectural heritage."

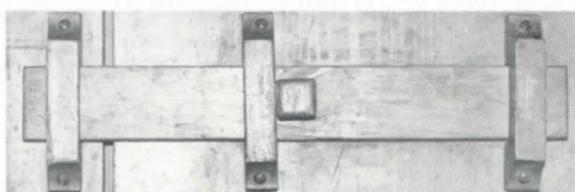


## For Those Who Want To Help



Historical preservation is a project that makes use of all kinds of talent. If the Zetterberg House is to be preserved as a symbol of continuity, we will need: money raisers; artisans with a bent for fine detail; historians; landscape artists. We will need solid furnishings from the period, cash donations, and volunteer effort.

If you or your group would like to join Pitzer students in this community effort, please call Leonard Harper, Dean of Student Activities 626-8511, ext. 3612, or professor Barry Sanders 626-8511, ext. 2647.



The future of the Zetterberg House is about to be decided. The Pilgrim Place Foundation, now in possession of the house, has offered to donate it to the College, if the College will move it on campus and restore it. The faculty and Board of Trustees have expressed interest in the project if outside funds to cover the costs can be obtained.

