



## **Society for Industrial Archeology**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Public Event at Minneapolis Central Library**

**May 15, 2024, at 6:45**

**Offered in Conjunction with the**

**Society for Industrial Archeology's 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference**

**Minneapolis, Minnesota (May 15-19, 2024)**

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*Houghton, Michigan, April 26, 2024* – The Society for Industrial Archeology (SIA) will be holding its 52<sup>nd</sup> annual conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota, May 15-19, 2024.

To launch the conference, the SIA is hosting a public presentation on Wednesday evening, May 15, by architectural historian, Brian McMahon, in the Doty Boardroom at the Minneapolis Central Branch of the Hennepin County Library, 300 Nicollet Mall in Downtown Minneapolis. Title of the presentation is “Concrete & the Building of Minneapolis & Saint Paul.” McMahon’s presentation is free and open to the public, and all are welcome.

Concrete is found under buildings, in buildings, and on buildings. It can be found in grain elevators, water towers, and bridges. It can be poured for floor slabs, or into architectural forms for columns, or into molds for complete houses or decorative finishes. It can be prepared on the building site, or in the factory, where it can be made as ‘formless’ concrete block units, or as prestressed panels. It can be sprayed on surfaces as shotcrete. Concrete associations billed it as ‘the *complete* building material

that is virtually fireproof, requires little maintenance, and liberates the architect to design completely new forms. This lecture will show the history and impact of this ubiquitous material in the Twin Cities, highlighting the important contributions of Minnesota innovators.

Trained as an architect, Brian McMahon is an independent architectural historian. His award-winning book, *The Ford Century in Minnesota*, was published by the University of Minnesota Press in 2016.

The SIA is a non-profit, international, interdisciplinary organization of approximately 1,000 members that brings together people of varied backgrounds who share a common interest in industrial heritage, engineering heritage, and technological history, as well as modern manufacturing processes. Headquartered at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan, the mission of the half-century-old SIA is to encourage the study, interpretation, and preservation of historically significant industrial sites, structures, artifacts, and technology. Our membership includes academics, architects, engineers, historians, archeologists, industrialists, museum specialists, planners, preservationists, teachers, students, retirees, and many non-professionals. The SIA publishes an academic journal, *IA: The Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology*, and a quarterly newsletter.