

# Artist sees the beauty in old buildings

*Patti Simpson Ward is a Redmond artist and graphic designer who adores old buildings. She's designed catalogs for Eddie Bauer, but drawing and painting in the American Primitive style are her true loves.*

*She creates an annual calendar spotlighting Spokane — where she grew up — and another scenic city each year. She's currently working on a Port Townsend calendar.*

*The Eastside's also a rich canvas for Simpson Ward. She paints landmark buildings in Redmond, Woodinville, Kirkland and Bellevue, including The Stone House Cafe in downtown Redmond (see related story on page 14).*

## Did you help to place historic images at the new Stone House Cafe?

Yes, I'm a board member of the Redmond Historical Society. I design their newsletter, as a small way to give back to the community. The society gave me raw files and I put together photos for the cafe.

My painting of the Stone House is framed and hanging there. I won an award for my painting of the Bill Brown Building (home of Big Time Pizza) from the Eastside Council of Fine Arts and Redmond Historical Society before I served on the board.

Lt. Governor Brad Owen and his wife, Linda, have exhibited Washington artists at the legislative building in Olympia, including several of my pieces. For a theme of "Children at Play," they showed my paintings of the Clise Mansion and windmill at Marymoor Park and the Hollywood Schoolhouse (on Woodinville-Redmond Road).

## What inspires you to paint old buildings?

I grew up in Spokane, which was in a depres-

## REDMOND SPOTLIGHT

### PATTI SIMPSON WARD

Artist and graphic designer



sion for a very long time. People couldn't afford to tear down old buildings, so they kept them in immaculate condition. Instead of bulldozing them, they decided they should be saved.

A main architect in Spokane was Kirtland K. Cutter. Among his most stunning designs were The Davenport Hotel and the Campbell House. The Stimson Green Mansion on Seattle's Capitol Hill has the same floor plan as the Campbell House, but flipped.

There's quite a large collection of Cutter's work at WSU (Washington State University). He designed Thornewood in Tacoma (seen in the TV movie "Rose Red"). He designed from his early 20s until he died (at 79); I heard he literally died working at his desk.

Spokane people absolutely love their old homes. Civic pride there is overwhelming, and I haven't seen as much of that here, although I think the mayor has been instrumental in reminding us, "We can't forget where we came from." That's what drives me to paint old buildings. I also do line drawings for Realtors. My husband is a loan officer, and when someone buys a historic home in the area, we give them a drawing as a gift.

For information, visit [www.pattisimpsonward.com](http://www.pattisimpsonward.com).

— MARY STEVENS DECKER