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The spring has been cold and rainy, until just the last week. Summer temperatures have hit us, and finally sunny days as well! Our Honor Awards Ceremony last week went very well; we were blessed with a rare sunny day with the perfect temperatures. It made the setting at Meadow Brook Hall that much more special. We enjoyed drinks on the lawn and dinner under the tent, plus all the awards and honors to our outstanding colleagues. Best of all, we could walk freely through Meadow Brook Hall itself, where docents were posted periodically to tell us about the building and its residents.

I grew up about 30 minutes away from Meadow Brook Hall, and until last week, I'd never visited it. I've been to Meadow Brook Amphitheatre for concerts, of course, and to Oakland University (my mother's alma mater for graduate school as it happens). But even though I'd known there was a big historic house museum nearby, I never went. It's a fascinating, beautiful house; the 4th largest house museum in the nation, an immense place of 88,000 square feet. Not a place I could live, but an amazing place to see, nonetheless.

It reminded me how we should all take some time to be tourists in our own cities. I visited Atlanta once with my husband and we visited many sites, with our favorite being the Aquarium. (It is truly outstanding, and you should go if you get the chance!) Yet it surprised me when I talked to friends, family, and coworkers who lived in Atlanta how many of them had never been. They often talked about wanting to go 'someday' but many had lived in Atlanta for years, or even decades.

So, this weekend, tomorrow, or even today! Be a tourist in your city. Pretend you're taking visitors who have never been there, and spend an afternoon or a day doing it. Look at where you live with new eyes; see the sites you haven't ever visited, or not seen in years. I know we are all busy, but it is worth the time to take a break. Get out of the office for a while.

One last set of reminders for upcoming events: registration for [Midsummer Conference](#). Please make sure to send the forms as soon as you can and join us on Mackinac Island. Also clear your calendar now for the Design Retreat, being held on September 13-14 this year, and keep an eye out to register for that too.

Onward and upward,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen Nyht". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Kristen" on the top line and "Nyht" on the bottom line.

Kristen Nyht, AIA, AICP, LEED AP