

# PLATT PARK

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF

PLATT PARK PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

AUG./SEPT. 2017

WWW.3PA.ORG

# Post

## *Pattern Recognition:*

## Discovering the Hidden Qualities of Neighborhood Form

*James Lindberg*

When I tell people that I live in Platt Park, their response is often something like: "Oh, that's such a nice area!" or "I love that neighborhood," or even, "Platt Park is great, its so neighborhoody." Certainly, our neighborhood is a great place to live. But what makes it so nice? What are the qualities that contribute to an area feeling 'neighborhoody?' I have attempted to identify a few common themes within the built form of Platt Park that contribute to the neighborhood's attractive character.

### 1. The Role of Front Porches



Front porches provide a crucial social function, for they connect the private realm of the home with public world of the street. Especially in warmer months, people sitting on their porches are able to greet people walking by, and even if they do not know each other personally, these informal interactions help to build a social bond between neighborhood residents. It is a joy to see all of the various ways in which people use their front porches. Some are glassed in, providing a year-round extension of the living room. Others are set up for warm weather only, in some cases with a simply swing, in others with a small dining table or informal seating arrangement. These highly personalized spaces give the

common bungalow a sense of individuality. In many other areas of the city, particularly newer suburbs, car garages rather than front porches face the street. How different Platt Park would feel if that typology was common here!

### 2. Elevation Change



Observing our neighborhood, I began to notice that many houses sit on ground that is slightly elevated from the street and sidewalk. In some places, there is only a slight rise, in others a more dramatic elevation change. We may not always be aware of these subtle shifts in topography, yet I began to feel that they contribute to the way a block appears and feels. Elevation change provides two distinct characteristics.

*Continue on page 3*



The Platt Park People's Association, a city of Denver Registered Neighborhood Organization, serves more than 3,000 homes and businesses in the neighborhood bounded by Broadway on the West, Downing on the East, I-25 on the North and Evans on the South. 3PA membership is open to all neighbors and business owners who live and own property within these boundaries. Have a voice in your neighborhood and with the city: Join 3PA.

Check out our website. Stay informed, learn about upcoming events, and more! [www.3pa.org](http://www.3pa.org).

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### Write for the *Platt Park Post*!

Our small neighborhood newsletter is always looking for new articles. If you live in Platt Park, and are interesting in contributing to the Post, please email James Lindberg: [lindberg20@gmail.com](mailto:lindberg20@gmail.com) for more information. We look forward to hearing from you!

# Neighborhood Notes: *An Opinion*

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Well, July was not the best month for my garden (I know...you were concerned). Between the weeklong stretch of near 100-degree heat, the Japanese Beetle onslaught and the July 8th hail storm we took quite a beating. The weeds, however, didn't seem to mind at all as they took it in stride and are looking good. The rest...well we will have to see if the spirit over my vegetable garden sends some good vibes or not. It does not make me want to be a farmer--how do they do it?

Popped in for dinner at **La Chiva** restaurant over at 1417 S Broadway—the newest addition to our neighborhood. La Chiva bills itself as providing authentic Colombian Cuisine. You may recognize the name as since 2014 they have operated a food truck around town that also has frequented our farmers market from time to time. Chef and owner Jorge Aguirre had always planned on creating a brick and mortar location to compliment the food truck so when the space opened up on Broadway they made the jump. Jorge said of his new restaurant “(we) serve recipes inspired by my hometown of Bogota Colombia integrating traditional Colombian cooking with contemporary style. On our menu you'll find our versions of Bandja Paisa, hearty stews, tropical juices and of course our famous empanadas”

The space is simple with an open kitchen in the main room and dining in the adjacent second room. Patrons order and pay for the food at the bar and then it is delivered to your table. We tried the Bandeja Montanera described as a traditional Colombian dish with red beans, white rice, chorizo, sweet plantains, baby pork ribs and avocado topped with fried egg. It was served on a large platter and could have fed the entire table of four by itself. It was hearty and tasted delicious. They have a wide range of Empanadas, decidedly different than the ones served up the street (Maria Empanada). All the food was very fresh, delicious and the best part, relatively inexpensive. We'll definitely be back.

La Chiva has applied for a liquor license to serve beer and wine, either of which will be a nice compliment to the cuisine. They hope to have that in place soon. They are open daily except Monday at 11:00 am till 9:00 pm.

## Openings and Rumors

Was sad to see the Pajama Baking Company (PBC) close it's door but excited to welcome the **Boulangerie** to take its place. The new owner Steven Roland became something of a local hero back in early July when he ran down some would-be thieves trying to abscond with some clothes from Common Threads. Steve chased the thieves and eventually with the help of some of the guys at **Leo's Automotive** helped corral two of them till police arrived. Not yet sure about the Boulangerie but I like Steve a lot!!

Steve is a classically trained chef and baker who studied most notably in Lausanne Switzerland and honed his craft

in various stops in Europe and San Francisco. It would appear from doing a little digging he is something of an artisan when it comes to sourdough bread--yum. Like PBC it will be serving breakfast and lunch. As of this writing the Boulangerie is still undergoing final renovations and probably waiting for final city approval so no official opening date but should be soon. Can't wait!

Who better to come to the rescue of a shuttered restaurant space than Platt Park's own Patrick White creator of Kaos Pizza, Gaia Bistro and Yard Bird, to name a few. In the home of the former 1472 restaurant, Patrick and company are opening **Palizo**, which should be up and going by August. Tricia White, Patrick's sister and general manager gave me the scoop on what to expect. The restaurant will feature Northern Italian cuisine. Seasoned (ha) chef Tyler Cyre will be at the helm guiding the daily creations. Tyler comes to Palizo from TAG downtown and before that The Little Nell in Aspen. Tyler and Patrick will source their meat and produce primarily from local ranchers and farmers. Everything including the pasta will be made by hand at the restaurant. There will be a full bar and a wine list featuring Italian wines (of course).

Patrick has added an additional patio to the side of the building for outdoor dining that is a bit more secluded than the street-side seating that also will remain. Palizo will be open for lunch and dinner. Tricia said it will be a little more upscale than Patrick's other creations but still family friendly and not too hard on the wallet.

There had been some rumors that the **Ruffly Rose** was going to have to vacate the charming little Victorian property at 1611 S Pearl Street as it looked like the building was to be torn down and redeveloped. Thankfully that proved not to be the case as the owner decided to table such plans for now and Emily and her store are safely under a new 4-year lease.

Tried to get a little update on what is happening with the old Gaia and Cyclery buildings to no avail. Seems the plans have stalled awaiting further something or other. Not sure so it stays in the rumor/mystery bin.

That's it for the summer addition. Guess next issue I'll actually get to try the new restaurants and then write about them. Challenge accepted. Hope your evenings are cool, the barbecue's warm, the beetles all die, the Rockies bring back Rocktober and we have a clear quarterback on the Broncos.

See you around the neighborhood,

Tom Snyder



## Pattern Recognition

*Continued from page 1*

First, similar to the front porches, it creates a threshold between the public realm of the street and the private realm of the home. When we enter a home that sits on slightly elevated ground, we are required to walk up a few steps, and this action subconsciously signals a transition between the sidewalk and the home's front yard. Inside the home, the elevation change provides a sense of privacy, as the view from the street does not go directly into the home's front rooms. These slight elevation shifts also provide small-scale homes with a sense of grandeur. By elevating homes from street level, they are given a more clearly defined sense of space.

### 3. Eaves and Orientation



Eaves may appear to be primarily connected to a home's style, yet I have noticed that in many homes, particularly older bungalows, they play an important functional role as well. Depending on the depth of the eaves, the height of windows and the orientation of the home, eaves can block sunlight

from entering a home in the summer, while allowing sunlight to enter in winter. This simple feature assists in regulating the temperature of living spaces, and can thus have an impact on energy efficiency.

### 4. The Importance of Trees



The difference between walking along a tree-lined street and a street without many trees is striking. A tree-lined street provides welcome shading and cooling, gives each block a sense of enclosure and offers a habitat for birds. Most of the streets in Platt Park are blessed with many mature and healthy trees, and in addition to the architectural features discussed above, Platt Park's trees contribute greatly to making the neighborhood such a nice place. Yet beyond the obvious benefits trees give to streets, trees say something deeper about the neighborhood's social character. Many of the older and larger trees in our neighborhood were planted by people who are likely no longer living. The act of planting a tree is not only a way to beautify one's own yard, it is also an investment in the future qualities of the neighborhood at large. Trees are planted with the belief that they will be enjoyed and cared for by future generations.



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# The Pipers of Platt Park—The Mile Highlanders

Greg Pulliam

## Q. What's the definition of a gentleman?

A. Someone who knows how to play the bagpipe and doesn't.

Just kidding, seriously. I like bagpipes and Highland music. I recognize that there are those (perhaps many) who will argue it is improper to use the term "music" with regard to bagpipes. I am not one of them.

The southeast corner of Platt Park (the park itself, not the 'hood) has been the home to Wednesday evening practices of the Mile Highlanders for going on nine summers. This Platt Park Post (PPP) contributor interviewed Dwayne K for this article. Dwayne is one of the band's drummers and a spokesperson for the band.

## PPP: How did the Mile Highlanders come together?

**Dwayne K:** The concept, and formation of the band took place in 2005, right here in Platt Park, at the Pearl Street Grill, (sadly, no longer). We all had played in other bagpipe groups and decided to create our own unique band.

## PPP: What makes the Mile Highlanders different?

**Dwayne K:** A normal bagpipe band plays very traditional tunes, many of which were written hundreds of years ago. The Mile Highlanders have created an alternative bagpipe band experience, by choosing fun, energetic tunes that entertain the crowd. We have actually written the arrangements for many of our tunes, which makes them uniquely ours. With the addition of our talented Irish Dancers, we keep the crowd engaged in the performance.

## PPP: What is your Platt Park "practice season"?

**Dwayne K:** The band practices once a week, on Wednesday nights. During the summer months we try to hold our practices in Platt Park, giving us an opportunity to play out in public. Weather permitting and/or daylight permitting, you'll usually find us there from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. during June, July, and August. [PPP:

Pipers and drummers only at Wednesday practices in the park; no dancers.]

## PPP: How did the band start practicing in Platt Park?

**Dwayne K:** We practiced a few times in Washington Park, but there were too many distractions and a dis-interested crowd. We started practicing in Platt Park about 8 or 9 years ago. We keep coming back here because the location is central, the parking is plentiful, and – most importantly – the people have always been welcoming of the bagpipes and drums.

## PPP: Who are the troupe's members and their backgrounds?

**Dwayne K:** The Mile Highlanders consists of 4 bagpipers, 3 drummers and 3 dancers. We all have day jobs, in addition to the Bagpipe Band. Our professional backgrounds vary. Within the group you'll find a Graphic Designer, a Lawyer, a Job Recruiter for IT Specialists, and a Logistics Manager for UPS – among others skills). Many of our members have family ancestry in Scotland and/or Ireland.

## PPP: How often and where do the Mile Highlanders play gigs?

**Dwayne K:** Our group plays a variety of performances throughout the year, including weddings and festivals, as well as a local Airshow and Rugby events at Glendale's Infinity Park. Our big event of the year is the week of St Patrick's Day, where we usually have 20 to 30 different performances over a 3-day weekend.

## PPP: How can your band be scheduled for private events?

**Dwayne K:** The Mile Highlanders are available to perform at any, and all kinds of events. We can be contacted via our website ([www.milehighlanders.com](http://www.milehighlanders.com)) or by email ([info@milehighlanders.com](mailto:info@milehighlanders.com)).



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# Artist Profile: Theresa Clowes

*Mariah Raymond*

The waters of the Big Thompson River begin in Rocky Mountain National Park, flow through Estes Park, tumble down the Big Thompson Canyon, through the town of Drake, and spill out of the foothills near Loveland, Colorado. While many people might see a canyon with a road and a river, fiber artist Theresa Clowes saw something more—the potential for a large-scale fiber and textile installation that would one day fill the four-story atrium of the Buell Theater at the Denver Performing Arts Center. Nature, architecture, and space are central to Clowes' work, and she discovered early in her career that fiber and textile allowed for the greatest manipulation of interior and exterior space.

A quote by the architect Louis Kahn aptly reflects the core of Clowes' work—"The nature of space reflects what it wants to be." In order to make room for the road that edges the river through Big Thompson Canyon, road crews channelized the river, altering its course in numerous locations. Following two catastrophic flash floods, in 1972 and 2013, the river twice reclaimed its original path, only to be pushed back again onto its manmade course by the crews rebuilding the road. Fascinated by this juxtaposition between the desires of people and the powerful course of the natural world, Clowes set out to capture the push-pull between what we want and what has long existed in the natural world.

In her Buell Theater piece, entitled *Meandering*, Clowes manipulated the interior and exterior space of the theater's entry by draping 900 yards of blue silkscreened fabric throughout the entire atrium with a section of the piece continuing outside the theater. The silkscreened material is transparent in some places and opaque in others, allowing for the light to shift and cast shadows, much as it does in water. A ghostly stretch of ethereal white fabric woven throughout the piece represents the original route of the Big Thompson River before it was channelized, the path to which the river seems intent upon returning.

While her finished work leans toward the conceptual and abstract, the process leading up to the final piece consists of thorough research and methodical collection of visual information. Each section of *Meandering* relates to a particular spot along the Big Thompson River and to the textures and details Clowes recorded in that spot. By sewing bottle caps, string, and crescent cardboard cutouts onto the fabric, she created a multidimensionality that mimicked the feel of the river, of pebbles or streaks of light.

Clowes grew up in Chicago and earned her BFA at the Kansas City Art Institute, followed by her MFA in fiber and textiles from the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Detroit. Upon completing her degree, she was offered a two-year grant from Anderson Ranch and the Aspen Foundation to teach art in Silt, Newcastle, and Rifle elementary schools—schools that lacked arts programs at the time. The program's intent was to show the importance of the arts in early education and Clowes' work proved a success, as the district hired two permanent art teachers following her departure.



*Theresa Clowes, fiber artist*

Continuing her work in education, Clowes taught art for ten years at Denver's Colorado Academy. She then accepted an adjunct teaching position, which developed quickly into both Chair of Art Education and Chair of Fine Arts, at the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design (RMCAD). She now serves as the Head of Art Education, a position that allows more time for her own work.

Clowes and her family moved to Platt Park in 2003, and, like many residents, appreciate the proximity to restaurants, the farmer's market, shops and the light rail. While the neighborhood has grown more crowded in recent years, Clowes doesn't see that as a problem, pointing out that "it's a city, after all." The biggest perk for Clowes is that her studio in the cooperative TANK Studios on Acoma Street is a short bike ride away. In 2013, after completing a two-year residency at RedLine Gallery in RiNo, Clowes and eight fellow artists decided to find a shared workspace that provided the community feel of RedLine but focused less on programming and more on creating work.

Hanging on the wall of her studio is a piece similar in nature to *Meanderings*—both are river-themed—yet quite different in execution. What appears to be a random and delicate network of crisscrossing yarns is in fact a map of the entire 1,700 miles of the Colorado River. "While it is important the piece is aesthetically pleasing, it isn't critical for the themes behind the work to be obvious," says Clowes. With her own handspun wool, she overlaid five mile sections of the river from Google maps and felted them together to create a piece roughly ten feet by three feet.

To see more of her work visit [Theresaclowes.com](http://Theresaclowes.com) or email/call her at [Theresa.clowes@gmail.com](mailto:Theresa.clowes@gmail.com)/303-809-0605 to schedule a studio visit.

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# Family Matters

*Joshua Hillman*

Five corporations control over 50% of the wine in the United States! On an average grocery store shelf you might see many different brands owned by the exact same company. Many times these wines are called “shiners.” Bottles of the exact same wine that are sent all over the world, bottled under different labels and sold at many different prices.

These wines are not inherently evil but they do not share the same passion that family winery might. A winery where the land is passed from generation to generation. The vine that is being tended today was tended by their great-great grandparent. Family wines have soul!

Family owned wineries have an advantage over corporations. They are often the grape growers, they tend the vines and have a wealth of knowledge that has been passed down from generation to generation. They can adapt. Every year weather patterns present a new set of challenges to winemakers. A wine made the exact same as the year before would always produce an inferior product. It takes year after year of seeing your vineyard in all the seasons, in all the weather, and walking through your vines, to truly make great wine. It took over one hundred years in American winemaking to figure out which soils work for which grapes.

The Trimbach family started their journey over four hundred years ago in what is modern day Alsace, France. At the time this area was still apart of the Holy Roman Empire. When Jean settled in the small town of Riquewihr, and began making wine, he had very little idea how to grow grapes. He saw the unbelievable potential in the hills around him and decided to try. Thirteen generations later Anne Trimbach still lives in the same exact spot Jean did. She now produces some of the worlds greatest riesling, from vineyards Jean planted. Jean Trimbach's vision was passed down through generation after generation and grown into an incredible wealth of knowledge. This history, passion and very hard work is now where the Trimbachs “hang their hats.”

The proof is in the bottle! It is my belief that through my studies and tasting that families make the best wines in the world. They have the passion, knowledge, heritage and integrity that it takes to make world-class wines. And because they typically live on the land, the wines they produce are sustainable, organic or even biodynamic.

\*Joshua Hillman is Pearl Wine Company's Spirit specialist and is one of 10 Whisky Ambassadors in Colorado.

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<https://www.facebook.com/decker.dpl>

Library Hours: Monday, Tuesday 12-8 p.m.; Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sunday Closed

### Toddler Storytime, Wednesdays, 10:15 a.m.

Stories, songs, rhymes and fun for toddlers ages 18-36 months and their parents or caregivers.

### All Ages Storytime, Thursdays, 10:15 a.m.

Stories, songs, rhymes and fun for children of all ages and their parents or caregivers. Craft activity immediately follows the program.

### Baby Storytime, Wed. and Thurs., 11:15 a.m.

Stories, songs, rhymes and fun for babies ages 0-18 months and their parents or caregivers. Play and social time immediately follow the program.

### Platt Park Family Concert featuring Eric West

Saturday, September 9, 10:30 a.m.

Accompanied by his guitar, banjo and an antique trunk filled with unusual instruments and homemade dancing puppets, Eric West gets everyone involved with his original and traditional songs.

### Play and Learn Together Storytime: Play!

Thursday, September 21, 10:15-10:45 a.m. @ Decker

It's a family-friendly, hands-on Storytime that will build the early literacy concept of "play." Ideal for ages 3-5.

### Halloween Party and Trick or Treat

Tuesday, October 31, 3-5:30 p.m. @ Decker

Drop in to make a spooky craft, and stay for spooky snacks! Costumes are welcome and encouraged! Ideal for ages 3-8.

## For Adults:

### Chamber Music Concert

Saturday, September 16, 2 to 3 p.m.

Get swept away by a wide range of classical works performed by amateur musicians from the Colorado Chamber Music Society.

### Fall and Winter Detox with Heather Braaten

Tuesday, October 10, 6-7 p.m. @ Decker

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### Chamber Music Concert

Saturday, October 21, 2-3 p.m. @ Decker

Get swept away by a wide range of classical works performed by amateur musicians from the Colorado Chamber Music Society.

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