

Stephen WALKER

STEPHEN WALKER takes his hobbies seriously. The artist-turned-author-turned astronomy buff started out creating pen and ink likenesses of his friends' houses "just for fun." It was his wife, Carole, who suggested he take his hobby to a new level and open a business on the side to sell his works.

As an award-winning graphic designer, Stephen has always had a love for the arts. His house portraits are drawn in pen and ink, then richly blended and shaded with colored pencil, marker and pastels. He can work from submitted photos, but prefers to visit the property and take his own pictures if the house is located in the St. Louis area.

Stephen said a photo can provide an accurate portrayal of a house, but "the photo also captures imperfections in the scene: dead or untrimmed foliage, dormant flowers long past their prime, fire hydrants, utility poles and other unsightly obstructions. But a photograph can inspire a more artistic drawing, where I can alter or remove imperfections, make minor touch-ups to parts of the house that need painted or repaired, enhance or trim landscaping, make flowers bloom at their peak, and make sure the grass is vibrant, green and dandelion-free. I can also make a more interesting and dramatic sky than is likely to occur by chance in a photo."

Clients shouldn't worry that their homes are not worthy of a protrait, Stephen said. "I have created portraits of large and small homes, both vintage and modern, and they all have one thing in common: The owner feels a deep personal attachment to their home. A house doesn't have to be large or expensive to be treasured by its owner. I've never had a client commission a portrait based on the price tag of the house."

A native of St. Louis, Walker lives in O'Fallon, Missouri with his wife, Carole, and children, Janna and Matthew.

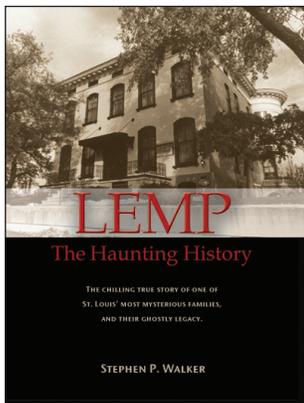
For more information, or to order a house portrait, visit walkerstudio@charter.net



Photo by Michael Schlueter

Story by Robin Seaton Jefferson

OTHER PROJECTS BY STEPHEN WALKER



Walker is best known for his book, *Lemp: The Haunting History*, which chronicles the rise and tragic fall of the Lemp brewing dynasty of St. Louis. Makers of Falstaff and other beers, the Lemps are infamous for a number of family suicides, and their haunted mansion in south St. Louis. To learn more about the family and their mansion, visit lempmansion.com.



Stephen's most recent major project is the creation of the Delmar Loop Planet Walk, a walkable scale model of the solar system. Starting at the Moonrise Hotel in The Loop, the 2,880-foot model represents a three billion mile journey through space, and consists of "planet stations" in exact proportion to the size and distance of the real planets. The walk is designed to stimulate an appreciation of space and science, and is accessible every day of the year. loopplanetwalk.com