

# Only At



## What's New(s)? Room 10

### **Flash**

#### **Open House Sunday 4/26/2015 2-5pm**

Come see the first lodging room in the 200-year history of the Walker House with a private bathroom. Also showcasing *five* special exhibits: Early American Farming Scenes by Lavern Kammerude, Large Landscape Format Photography by Randy Larson, Etchings And Engravings by Charlie Baker, Weavings by Madelon Baker, and Paintings by Larry Welo . Gerry Reagan describes Kammerude's art as possibly "the finest collection of early American farming scenes ever." Light refreshments served.

So far, six guests have stayed in our newest room, Room 10, the first lodging room in the 200-year history of the Walker House with a private bathroom. And they've liked it, judging from the comments they've written in the diary by the bed: "It's so cozy." "It feels warm and homey." "Love the high ceiling."

In designing and rebuilding Room 10, we pushed the boundaries of our lodging philosophy in multiple ways. Our lodging philosophy focuses on surrounding guests with as many basic or elemental features as possible, for example, earth, sunlight, trees, natural wood, water, stone, fire, and the like.

Deep rest, relaxation, rejuvenation, and even healing occur when the body, mind, and spirit surround themselves with natural elements, the same elements that have challenged and rooted human beings and helped them create a sense of home and place for more than a million years. In Room 10, we constructed the floor, picture frames, and art rails from trees we felled 14 miles away, and we chronicled the story of tree-to-board in a photographic essay on a bookshelf in the room. The one window that brings outside light into the room frames hardy and indigenous black locust trees. However, the real story of the window lies in its dismantling and reconstruction to showcase the 200-year-old stone sidewalls. Another boundary we pushed concerns art.



Native Mineral Pointers, Gerry and Bob Regan, donated to the Walker House dozens of prints—some signed—by Blanchardville, Wisconsin farmer and artist Lavern Kammerude. Gerry Regan describes the Kammerude collection as possibly "the finest collection of early American farming scenes ever." We've placed on a bookshelf in



page colored plates of his art), and hung about a dozen framed prints covering farm life in the area in the first half of the twentieth century.

In Room 10, guests can sink themselves into the new Serta King mattress, prop themselves on six pillows, and scan *Yellowstone Church* and other nostalgic scenes of yesterday, or they can stay in the present and examine the window's stone sidewalls or the sturdy black

locusts outside. And when it's time to sleep, they can slide barefoot over the warm white oak floor, pull down the Blackout shade over the window, enter the cozy bathroom, and brush their teeth in their jammies. To rest, rejuvenate, and heal—all naturally—Room 10 is about as elemental as it gets. *ZZZZZZ!*

Next visit... It's Breakfast Time *OR* Build Your Own Breakfast.

*Dan and Kathy Vaillancourt*