



Photo by Alise O'Brien

**FEBRUARY 12 OPEN HOUSE AT A STUNNING NEW HOUSE ON THE BLUFFS**

In October 2000, Mark Widmann (owner of the Randall Gallery downtown) acquired a 1.5-acre lot on commanding Mississippi River limestone bluffs above the tracks of the old narrow gauge Iron Mountain Railroad. His new house would not be the first on the site. The so-called Walz House, a cobbled together "Steamboat Gothic Revival" landmark at 4708 South Broadway, suffered a disastrous fire in 1979. It was torn down in 1982. Since then, intervening years had transformed the once-manicured lawn into a jungle of more than 100 volunteers trees, assorted vines and poison ivy. The first step was to clear a site.

With years in the event planning business, Mark has developed a keen sense of space. That shows in his dramatic programming of the various elements of the 6,500 square foot, six-bedroom house and the constant interjection of (sometimes-provocative) art. Mark's own flair was amplified by the talents of an architect, landscape designer and horticulturist, a lighting designer, an interior designer, state-of-the art home sound and theatre experts etc. The complex also features a heated pool and an event/catering wing that can seat 72.

This is truly a place that defies description, yet one where you can retreat to enjoy unsurpassed views of the river. Our members-only open house runs from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, February 12. Park on the street near 4708 South Broadway and be prepared to walk several hundred feet to the house. **The event is free, but reservations are required. Please call (314) 421-6474 or email [landmark@stlouis.missouri.org](mailto:landmark@stlouis.missouri.org).**

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