

55th Annual Meeting of the American Osler Society

Pasadena, California, May 2 to May 5th, 2025

Maude Abbott: A Life in 10 Spaces

McGovern Lecture: Professor Annmarie Adams,
McGill University



This talk, drawn from a book project, offers a spatial biography of Canadian physician and museum curator Maude Abbott (1868–1940). Known for her expertise in congenital heart disease, leadership in medical museums, and pioneering role in a male-dominated field, Abbott's life is explored through the spaces she occupied rather than her medical achievements or constraints. Adopting a spatial and feminist approach, this work repositions Abbott as an agent in her own story. The analysis is framed around ten spaces from her life, inspired by Abbott's decimal-based museum cataloguing system. These include her medical museum at McGill, an artist's studio in Philadelphia, a New York hotel ballroom, and exhibitions in London and Chicago. For the American Osler Society, I focus on "the doctor's house" (space number eight), which sheds light on Abbott's enduring connection with William Osler.⁷ and 28). At this stage it resembles the four-

About Annmarie Adams

Annmarie Adams is the inaugural Stevenson Chair in the Philosophy & History of Science, including Medicine, at McGill University, where she is jointly appointed in the Peter Guo-hua Fu School of Architecture and the Department of Social Studies of Medicine. Her research focuses on the cultural landscapes of homes and hospitals. Notable works include *Architecture in the Family Way* (1996), which won the Jason A. Hannah Medal, *Designing Women* (2000), and *Medicine by Design* (2008). She is currently writing a book on physician and curator Maude Abbott. Adams has held leadership roles in architectural and medical education, including Director of McGill's School of Architecture and Chair of the Department of Social Studies of Medicine. She is President of the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine and a Fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, and the Society of Architectural Historians, along with being a member of the Board of Curators of the Osler Library since 2001.



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Hilton Pasadena - 168 South Los Robles Avenue,
Pasadena, CA
Sunday May 4, 11:00 am

AMERICAN OSLER SOCIETY

