

THE STORY OF AIA MICHIGAN



Lilian Jackson Braun was the “Good Living” editor of The Detroit Free Press for 29 years. She is retired from journalism and is currently writing mysteries fulltime. She lives with two Siamese cats and her husband, Earl Bettinger, in North Carolina. She was born in 1916.

It was during her Detroit Free Press days that she was tapped by Ann Stacy, then executive director of the Michigan Society of Architects, to research and write the history of AIA in Michigan. She has a long standing interest in and love of architecture and was awarded the 1957 Michigan Society of Architects Journalism Award and was made an Honorary Affiliate Member of AIA Detroit in 1959. She had twice before been honored by the American Institute of Architects with a First Prize in their Journalism Competition for the best feature story on an architectural subject. “Her dedication to the principles of good design are as broad as her friendliness, which apparently knows no bounds,” reads the MSA citation. Her account ends in 1977 when the Society first leased the Beaubien House for its headquarters.

She has written 29 mystery novels, the latest “The Cat Who Had Whiskers” was published in January of 2007 when she was 94. The stories revolve around two cats, Koko and Yum Yum (from The Mikado). The stories are cleverly written and are appreciated because of their lack of blood and gore. The cats have no super sensory abilities and solve the crimes using sniffs and scratches in the right place at the right time, enabling their owner to uncover clues. Her first effort was a short story titled “The Sin of Madame Phloi,” a tale of crime and retribution told from the viewpoint of a Siamese cat. It was published in Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine, and the editors asked for more cat mysteries. Then a publisher asked for a mystery novel involving a cat, and The Cat Who . . . series began.

She has a fan club and chat rooms on the internet where readers exchange their comments and share cat stories.

*Here is the history of the first 90 years
of AIA in Michigan as told by
Lilian Jackson Braun, Hon. Affiliate Member AIA Detroit:*

The Michigan Society of Architects was founded in 1887 or 1914. Or was it 1884? Few professional organizations enjoy such a choice of birthdays. Myths and controversies surround the

Society’s ambiguous origin, and to explore them leads only to more mystery. Perhaps it also confirms the profession’s aversion to absolutes, even in historical dates.

Three facts can be stated with confidence, however. Architects were in plentiful supply in Michigan between the Civil War and World War I; they had a passion to organize; and they liked to organize over a good lunch, reinforced by whatever liquid refreshments were necessary to spur the act of creation.

The myth of the 1914 founding has been widely circulated in convention speeches and official publications. The annual MSA conventions date from that year, and a group calling itself the Architects’ Business Association of Michigan did indeed organize in 1914. Nevertheless, MSA archives contain documents dating back to 1887, and the American Institute of Architects granted a charter to a chapter in Michigan at that time. To compound the confusion, the Western Society of Architects, then a rival of AIA, admitted the group to membership in the same year.

There is further conflicting evidence: An early member of MSA found an entry in his diary for April 3, 1884, stating that a group of his peers had assembled to organize the Detroit Chapter, while other sources declare that the Detroit Charter was formed in 1891.

Who can be sure? The early history of MSA becomes a tantalizing game of True or False. Suffice it to say, the founding Fathers of 1884, 1887, 1891 and 1914 had one goal in common—the advancement of the profession. Subsequent decades tell a story of dedicated effort on the part of five generations of architects. It is a tale of crisis, frustration, inspired leadership, dissension, camaraderie, litigation, financial difficulties, triumphs, and more than a little fun

There was a time in the history of MSA when the Secretary dipped a nib pen in his inkwell and wrote the Society’s minutes in a leather-bound journal, using a fine Spencerian script. Four generations later, 30 copies would be duplicated in 30 seconds for distribution to nine Chapters. In the intervening years bylaws were continually revised; legislation was influenced; ethical standards were debated; and dues were inevitably raised. The first tentative efforts of the late 1880s were followed by a flurry of activity when the ebullient Teddy Roosevelt was in the White House. Then came the challenge of World War I; the good times of the 1920s; the struggle and heartache of the Great Depression; another World War and the postwar boom; the upheaval of the 1960s; and finally the move to Beaubien House.



In the Beginning: Beaux Arts and Beards

When it all began in the 1880s, there were 32 architects listed in the Detroit City Directory. Some had arrived from the east coast and abroad, schooled in the Beaux Arts tradition. In the Midwest, apprenticeship was the only means to an architectural education.

Michigan architects worked long hours and conducted business without telephone, typewriter, automobile, or adequate drafting staff. They designed fine churches, Italianate mansions, and five-story business blocks with arched lintels concerning themselves chiefly with adapting old forms to new needs.

One of them, George D. Mason, later recalled that his first office was a single room in a downtown building, rented for \$1.50 a week. Arriving at 7:30 each morning, he swept the floor with a broom, carried in firewood for the stove, and trimmed and filled the kerosene lamps.

Lumber was still shipped by four-masted schooner, but an electric lighting tower, 190 feet high, had been erected in front of the Detroit City Hall, and architects were probably among the scoffers who complained that it lighted up the sky better than it illuminated the streets.

October 24, 1887

"I advise you to organize your association and to call it the Michigan State Association of Architects." Letter to J. S. Rogers from the Office of Adler & Sullivan Architects, D. Adler, Chairman Board of Directors of Western Association of Architects

According to "Michigan Architect and Engineer" of February 1920, Michigan's first architectural society was formed October 26, 1887, and was admitted to membership in the Western Architectural Association, based in Chicago. (See Appendix I.) A preliminary meeting, October 21, had been called at the office of John M. Donaldson and Henry J. Meier. (Three years prior to that event, Mason noted in his diary the formation of an architectural organization with 20 charter members, electing E. E. Meyers, architect of the Michigan Capitol, as President.)



Three early members: Zach Rice, John Donaldson, Richard Raseman 1888 Tintype

*Historical records -
G. D. MASON
For your files dear Clave
Apr 3 1884
One of my Diaries has the entry, that Mr Architects met in E.E. Meyers office in the Moffat Bldg and formed the Detroit Chapter -
Present - E.E. Meyers, Geo Lloyd, Mortimer Smith, A.E. French, A.C. Varney, Scott, Hess, Arnold, Rice, Mason, am not sure about Donaldson & Malcolmson
A.C. Varney stated he could not uphold the 5% rate because he could not get it. & did not join.
At a Chapter Meeting on
Jan'y 30 1900 I was on a Committee to put up a bill for the Licensing of Archts - was finally put over in 1915 - some speed?*

Note from George Mason

Be that as it may, the architects who assembled in 1887 were working in a dynamic decade. Detroit's population had exceeded 200,000. Business was brisk behind the cast-iron store fronts, and belching smokestacks testified to industrial prosperity. Affluent citizens were demanding fine houses in the Piety Hill area. The city had an Opera House, a Museum of Art, a Conservatory of Music, a Philharmonic Club, and a \$600,000 fire-proof City Hall.

One can picture that first meeting at the Donaldson & Meier office, the architects in Prince of Wales beards and cutaway coats, arriving with characteristic quips and complaints. En route to the

meeting they had probably jaywalked across downtown streets, dodging horse-drawn trolleys and tipping their derbies to women whose skirts swept the pavement. One of the architects may have jumped to safety when the fire wagon rumbled around a corner, drawn by three galloping horses. Another may have arrived in a state of voluble indignation over the signs that defaced downtown buildings; every brick surface was painted with advertisements for photographic studios, tea and plug tobacco.



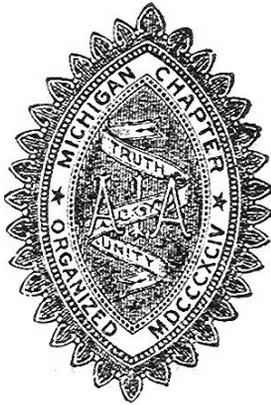
John M. Donaldson, FAIA President 1887-1894/95, 1902/1903

"Gentlemen," said Donaldson, and the meeting came to order. It was a moment of more significance than the assembled architects could have surmised.

The new organization voted to adopt the bylaws of the Wisconsin State Association. They discussed free sketches, competitions, uniform rates, and the need for a legalized code to protect an architect's rights. They denounced unscrupulous builders and also fellow architects who enticed another's clients by personal solicitation. They talked about starting a sketch club and acquiring permanent meeting rooms.

Members, it was decided, should present papers at future meetings dealing with such subjects as architectural cast iron, polychromatic ornament, monumental art, and architect as artist and businessman.

Of chief importance, however, was the announcement that the Western Architectural Association had formulated a law regulating the practice of architecture. Not until 1915 would Michigan succeed in obtaining a Registration Act. "Some speed," commented Mason, who had worked on the proposal since its inception.



Found on copy of By-Laws dated 1900

St. Clair Flats. The next summer the Michigan architects joined members of the Ohio Society in chartering a boat to Put-in-Bay.

February 18, 1888

"I certainly wish to be in sympathy with all which tends to elevate and benefit our profession. Believing such to be your aim and tendency, and thanking your for your kind invitation, you may present my name for membership." In a letter from L. D. Grosvenor, Architect Jackson, Mich to J. S. Rogers, Jr., secretary

By 1890 Michigan reports were being printed in the proceedings of the AIA, which had merged with its western counterpart, and the local organization was now known as the Michigan Chapter, AIA. By 1893, membership had grown to seventeen. Four members came from areas outside of Detroit. Marquette had two; D. Fred Charlton, FAIA and R. W. Gilbert. Jackson was represented by L. D. Grosvenor, FAIA, a charter member. S. R. Osgood, FAIA came from Grand Rapids.

January 23, 1890

"Supper to be held 30th January at Association Room, West Congress Street, 7 p.m. sharp. (Gentlemen, please remember hour). Meals at \$2.50 a plate. This to be paid by each gentleman. Drinkables will be provided by committee, served by Mallory and paid for out of association funds. Committee will gather up fragments (loose cigars & empty bottles). Report of the Supper Committee

The national officers declared that "professional esteem and healthy rivalry have replaced the distrust formerly existing among members of the profession." They called for a bureau of professional information and legal advice; an end to crude systems of building inspection; and above all a national consolidation powerful enough to influence legislation. Further cooperation among professionals was instigated when the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago (1893) unified the arts of architecture, landscape design, mural painting and sculpture.

As the century neared its close, the first automobiles were being seen on the streets, but the Secretary of the Michigan Chapter still wrote his minutes and copious correspondence in longhand. The overworked officer became a master of the one-sentence letter, and copies of his telegraphic communications survive in MSA archives, the cuttlefish ink now faded to brown.

January 29, 1891

"I should be pleased to attend as I know these meetings are valuable to an architect and are pleasant oases in his life. The establishment of a chapter of the American Institute in our state, where architecture and the kindred arts have so far advanced to placed us in the foremost ranks among the sisterhood of states, that such a chapter is needed is beyond a doubt." In a letter to Zach Rice, secretary of the Michigan Chapter AIA, from Sidney J. Osgood, Grand Rapids architect

Frank C. Baldwin was the dedicated Secretary who became the scapegoat for the Chapter in a comedy of protocol in 1897, the first time the national convention was to be held in Detroit, and the local hosts devised a new way to cover expenses. Instead of issuing the usual souvenir program with producer advertising, they would offer 25 square feet of exhibit space to any manufacturer contributing to the convention budget.

Baldwin penned an untold number of letters to prospects and a subsequent sheaf of thank-you notes: "Acknowledging receipt of your check for \$10 toward our convention expenses, your contribution is most generous."

Horrors! Word of this unethical faux pas reached AIA headquarters and consternation reigned. These Midwestern oafs were threatening to taint an unsullied profession! National headquarters sent a long excoriating letter to the offending Michigan Chapter, and Baldwin replied with an abject apology: "There was no intent to do anything unprofessional or to employ coercion." He also telegraphed producers from Boston to Chicago, begging them to return his soliciting letters "because of the wording." He then followed each telegram with a hand written letter repeating the urgent plea.

To producers who had already contributed, Baldwin wrote yet another missive, explaining the return of the check. To the AIA he wrote: "We regret exceedingly that this cloud has come over the horizon but hope that it may be dispelled without leaving a shadow."

Any shadows were undoubtedly dispelled at the banquet that year. The menu included Blue Points and sauterne; whitefish; filet of beef with champignons and potatoes Parisienne-this with claret; Roman punch; lobster salad, cold turkey and champagne; ice cream, cake and fruits; Roquefort, Brie and Edam cheeses with Bent's crackers, toasted; café noir, cigars and cigarettes. The cost was \$1.50 per person.

At the same time the Michigan Chapter announced its first honorary members Julius Melchers', the carver who had cut the statuary for the Detroit City Hall. He would pay no dues, it was decided, and the Chapter would pay for his dinner.



In 1898 the Spanish American War erupted without disturbing Chapter affairs; the architects were commencing a battle of their own. Despite strong opposition from many of their fellow professionals, they were promoting a Licensing Bill in the State Legislature.

A New Century: Elevators and Gaslight

The excitement and promise of a new century were reflected in the activity of the Michigan Chapter. Progress was inevitable after 1900. Elevators were changing the skyline. The Union Trust Building, 11 stories high, already loomed on the northeast corner of Griswold and Congress in Detroit, and the 13-story Penobscot Building would be erected in 1905. Fashionable apartment houses were being planned, with elevators among the amenities.

Michigan Chapter meetings were lively. Every architect whose name was proposed was unanimously voted to membership on the spot. Special meetings were called at noon or 5:00 p.m. to discuss a single issue. Committees proliferated.

One such was appointed to prepare a form of building contract and to propose General Conditions preceding specifications—documents which might be uniformly adopted by all the members. Another committee was promoting a course in architecture at University of Michigan, although a few older members insisted “more architects are not needed.” The committee on licensing legislation, plodding along against odds, suggested substituting the term “registration” for licensing. One more committee charged into action when the Detroit Art Commission requested assistance in the artistic treatment of the new railway viaducts. Still another was studying the site and design of the proposed Belle Isle Casino, while the honest chairman of the Library Committee reported that several enthusiastic meetings had been held nothing had been accomplished.

At Chapter meetings members discussed a modern system of public comfort stations, the new Pewabic Pottery that would supply architectural tiles, and the election of Charles L. Freer as an honorary member. The disaster to the Iroquois Theater in Chicago prompted the architects to speak out against lax building ordinances. Another major topic for discussion was the vast government expenditure for new buildings in the state; how could architects obtain commissions?

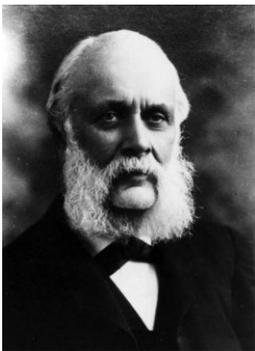
Meanwhile, the Detroit Architectural Club invited the Michigan Chapter to cooperate in renting adjoining headquarters. The Chapter declined, lest they be confused with the members of the Club, who were draftsmen. More than likely, the architects also preferred their frequent meetings at Richter’s, a German saloon and café on State Street near Woodward.

As Chapter interests expanded, a group of Michigan architects boarded a steamer and crossed Lake Erie to meet the Buffalo Chapter. They wrote to Theodore Roosevelt, urging the beautification of the District of Columbia. The World’s Fair at St. Louis invited the Michigan group to send architectural drawings for exhibit. The Chapter raised \$140 toward the purchase of the Octagon House in Washington which had become AIA headquarters. And the American Art Association of Paris asked to be placed on the Michigan Chapter mailing list.

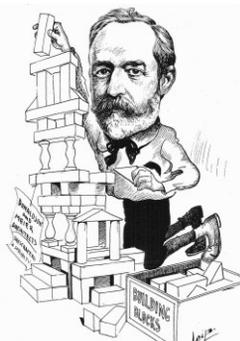
Times were changing. By 1905 there were 2,700 automobiles in Michigan, although they were still considered a nuisance by those who used horses. At a Chapter meeting architects listened to a lecture on machine-made paints, illustrated by magic lantern slides and followed by a complimentary beefsteak dinner. Another speaker extolled gas as an illuminant, “economic, hygienic and artistic.” A special meeting was called immediately after the San Francisco fire of 1906, when the mayor of that ravaged city sent a plea for architects and draftsmen. At the June meeting there was undoubtedly plenty of comment on the fate of a New York colleague, Stanford White, murdered by a jealous husband.

Membership now numbered 29. The Secretary became busier, letters became longer as typewriters and stenographers were made available. At the end of 1907 a motion was made to present a box of candy or a \$5 gold piece to Mabel and Myrtelle for their typing assistance.

There were challenges and triumphs. A Detroit Building Commission was created, largely through Chapter effort, and architects were asked to serve. Michigan’s General Conditions were adopted by the AIA and later called the state’s foremost contribution to the Institute; during a period of 20 years the revenue to AIA amounted to \$100,000.



*George W. Lloyd, FAIA
President 1891-93*



*Henry J. Meier, FAIA
President 1900*



*George D. Mason, FAIA
President 1901*



*Richard E. Raseman, FAIA
President 1904-05*



*William B. Stratton, FAIA
President 1910-11*

Committees were now working on a building code, standardized specifications, a \$55 scholarship for the new architectural department at University of Michigan, cultural lectures for the public, and the Cadillac Square problem. The Central Market Building on the Square had been demolished in 1889, and the void offended the architect's esthetic; they recommended paving, curbing, sidewalks, plants, a fountain, and a re-routing of street car tracks to facilitate wagon traffic.

April 24, 1908

"The architect should be broadly trained and cultured."

*John M. Donaldson in a letter to the
Architectural League of America*

In 1908 the Chapter began to develop a sense of history; it celebrated its 21st birthday, and the Library Committee urged the preservation of records by reprinting, indexing and binding. The committee was also promoting an architectural department at the Detroit Public Library.

As the first decade of the new century neared its close, the architects were discussing stabilized fees for work done for the City; a scheme for a Lincoln Memorial in Washington; a National Council of Fine Arts; and U of M extension classes in architecture for Detroit. The Chapter Treasury must have been in good condition, for disbursements included \$200 to help establish an American Academy in Rome; \$500 to help establish a School of Design in Detroit; and \$10 gold pieces for Mabel and Myrtelle.

1909

"Our Committee on Contracts, Specifications and Standardization of Documents submitted their report to the Institute Committee after discussion by our Chapter and I hear that the general conditions are before the Board of Directors of the AIA at this time and will shortly be published."

*President H. J. Maxwell Grylls, FAIA
in his address to the convention*

The Baffling Decade: Jumbled History But Plenty of Pep

A cryptic handwritten memo on a scrap of yellowed paper states, "The Michigan Society of Architects was disbanded in 1911, and

the last entry in the minute book is dated Jan. 9, 1911. Yet, organization business went on as usual, with the same prominent names at the helm: Maxwell T. M. Grylls, William "Buck" Stratton, John Scott, Leon Coquard, Marcus R. Burrowes, Charles D. Kotting. Although this was no doubt the newly-named Detroit Chapter, AIA, nomenclature was used loosely, resulting in a certain amount of confusion. Thus, when the Architects' Business Association of Michigan was formed in 1914, its guest book showed a list of "visitors from the MSA" although the ABAM later claimed to have founded the MSA in 1914. By 1915, MSA presidents and Detroit Chapter presidents were being elected with titles sometimes used interchangeably in print. At any rate, F. Gordon Pickell, W. G. Malcomson and Edward A. Schilling were among those photographed for posterity in their high stiff collars.

At this point in jumbled history, it is best simply to pass on to the accomplishments of the organized architects in Michigan, whatever they may have called themselves. After seven years' effort they succeeded in obtaining a Building Code. They were invited to assist the Civic Plan and Improvement Commission on a master plan for Detroit. They protested construction of a roadway to Gettysburg as a \$2 million memorial to Lincoln. And they campaigned to induce manufacturers to publish catalogues in 8 1/2 - by-11 inch size to fit standard filing cabinets.

At about this time a local architect immortalized himself by opening his mouth at a meeting. A Harvard professor had given an address on acoustics, after which a Society member rose to his feet. "You have been talking a lot about acoustics," he said. "What we want to know is—how to eliminate them?"

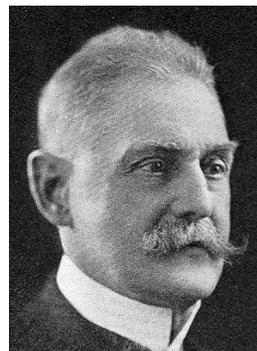
Detroit had acquired its first symphony orchestra, and plans were now being formulated for a museum and public library; the architects insisted that an adequate site be chosen and that the height of surrounding buildings be regulated. They made a formal request to the University of Michigan to separate the architecture department from the Engineering School. They next protested against the location of the new Municipal Courts Building and rose in indignation over a shelter station on a corner of the City Hall property. They also commended the mayor for vetoing a code amendment that would reduce residential side yards to five feet, four inches. They lent financial support to an atelier for young draftsmen who aspired to become architects.



*F. Gordon Pickell, AIA
President 1914-15*



*Leon Coquard, FAIA
President 1914*



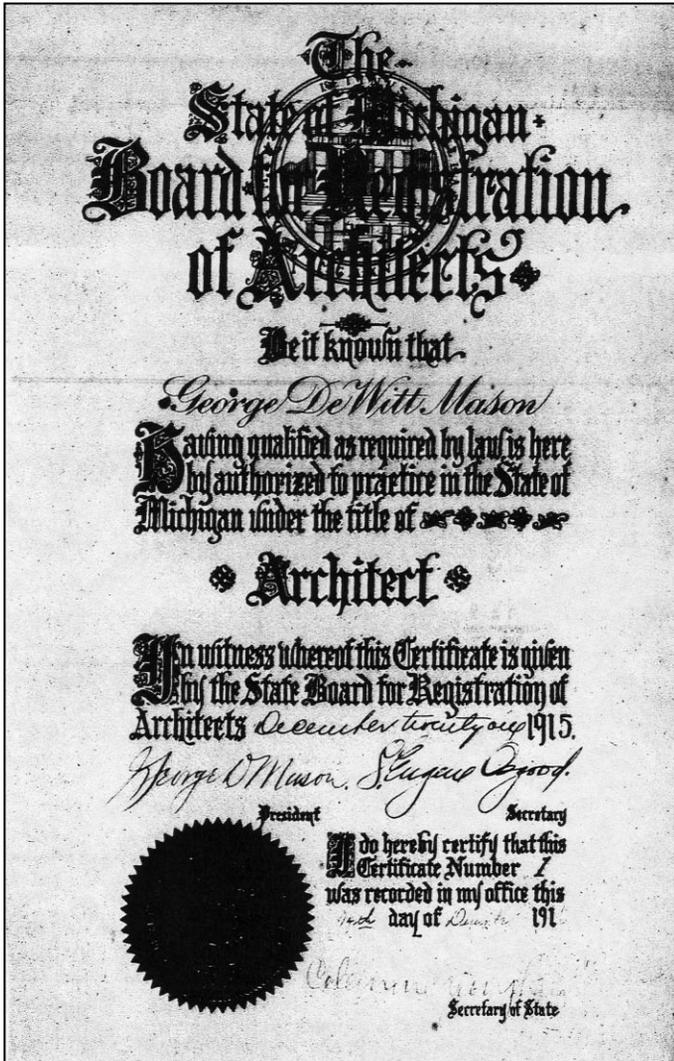
*William G. Malcomson, FAIA
President 1916-17*



*Edward A. Schilling, AIA
President 1918-19*



*Clarence L. Cowles, AIA
President 1920*



Registration Certificate - December, 21, 1915

The year 1915 was a milestone in Michigan architectural history. After almost 20 years of effort, a bill was introduced in the State Legislature providing for the registration of architects. The Detroit Journal editorialized against a measure that would merely create

jobs for architects. "With architects licensed like blacksmiths," the editor predicted, "you will have to employ a registered architect every time you want to shingle your house." Despite such protests, the Registration Act was passed on April 23. Among those who had labored on the project were Emil Lorch, George D. Mason, Maxwell Grylls, John Donaldson, Albert Kahn, Alvin Harley, H. Augustus O'Dell, and Albert E. Williams. All of the founders became registered under the "grandfather clause."

February 15, 1915

"We occasionally receive inquiries asking for names and addresses of architects who make a speciality of designing both public and private garages."

Letter from Motor World, New York

The MSA was now invited to attend meetings of the Detroit Public Improvement Conference to discuss a program that was comprehensive to say the least. Its concerns were a civic center, art center, river front development, street railway system, contaminated water, sewage disposal, a bridge at the upper end of Belle Isle, smoke abatement, parks, schools, public lighting, traffic regulation, street cleaning, garbage disposal, and advertising sign boards. There is no record that the MSA succeeded in solving all these problems.

February 19, 1915

"I do not believe I can answer your inquiry satisfactorily as almost all the architects in Detroit of any standing have had experience in the construction of both public and private garages. The automobile industry in Detroit, and with it of course the construction of garages, is so extensive that any one of our leading architects can number among his clients men who are directly interested in the selling end of the automobile business ..."

Reply from Marcus R. Burrowes, FAIA, Secretary

World War I and Camel cigarettes descended on western civilization at the same moment in history, but it is doubtful that the architects abandoned their pipes. While Europe was aflame, Michigan real estate was booming, the new auto industry was burgeoning, and the architects were busy defending the Registration Act. The first note of a war emergency was sounded when the MSA joined the American Federation of Arts in petitioning European belligerents to respect monuments of art. Soon after came a call for draftsmen and superintendents needed by the War Department for construction of aviation camps abroad.



Alvin E. Harley, FAIA
President 1921



Walter E. Lentz, AIA
President 1922



Marcus R. Burrowes, FAIA
President 1923



George J. Haas, AIA
President 1924-25



John C. Stahl, AIA
President 1926-27

October 14, 1915

*Moved and supported that it is the sense of this meeting that the Association recommend that all architects place their name cards on all buildings designed by them. Carried.
From the minutes of the Architects Business Association.*

Soon the younger members of the profession were “somewhere in France,” while others “kept the home fires burning” and contributed to War Relief. War songs were on the program at the MSA convention in 1918, and the menu included such items as Crabmeat Camouflage, Assorted Shrapnel and Coffee a la Hoover.

Michigan architects also served with the “Polar Bears” in Russia, and in Ann Arbor, Professor Emil Lorch was deploring the fact that architecture students were sent off to fight while the engineers were exempted from service.

February 14, 1918 - Michigan Contractor & Builder

“A provision was made during the past year for taking care of the work of the men who have been called to service; so that their work will be efficiently looked after by their brother architects. A voluntary service and the soldiers’ clients are to be restored to them after they return from the war.”

William G. Malcomson in his president’s address to the annual convention

The supply of steel was regulated unless for direct war work, and the restriction of loans further impeded building activity. “Jobs were so scarce.” Harry S. Angell later recalled, “you did not dare speak to a competitor for fear he might read your mind and beat you to your best prospect.”

Nevertheless, the MSA persevered with the City to centralize the various licensing departments; with the engineering profession for a better understanding of the registration law; with the Board of Education to introduce art classes. They campaigned for safe and sanitary conditions in public buildings; for a uniform contract between architect and client; for the improvement of a grade crossing on Gratiot Avenue, where 72 trains a day hindered traffic.

The chief concern, however, was still the registration law. Builders and carpenters were still drawing their own plans; to prohibit this practice would be unconstitutional, MSA opponents declared. How could the public be convinced that the registration law would produce better and safer structures? An MSA study committee recommended a nine-point program and the formation of 22 special committees. No sooner had this been determined than the worst happened: from Lansing came word that the Registration Act was threatened with repeal altogether.

MSA leaders rushed to the State Capitol. New committees were mobilized. Architects flooded the mails with letters. Blood pressure soared. It was the Big Scare of 1919, but it was resolved with the writing of a new Act registering architects, engineers and surveyors. Society members may have celebrated a victory, but the crisis was only the first of a series of emergencies that would recur throughout the years.

There was no cessation of effort. “What a Chapter needs is PEP!” stated one of the officers. “Shall we have an architectural exhibit? Publish a yearbook? Exhibit architect’s working drawings in high

schools? Should members circulate their working drawings among other offices for the inspection and study of draftsmen?”

The Crucial Twenties: Progress and Calamity

The 1920s brought many developments of interest to architects. The 18th Amendment was passed, causing an occasional meeting to be held in Windsor. The carriage shed was succeeded by the residential garage—with eight foot doors, an ample width for cars five feet wide. Conventions began to meet in other cities, such as Saginaw and Grand Rapids. Skyscrapers achieved new heights. About the time that Lindbergh made his solo flight across the Atlantic, the MSA considered the purchase of an address-o-graph machine.

In 1920 a meeting was held at the mansion of the late Charles L. Freer to consider its feasibility as a permanent home for the MSA. Half a century would pass before the Society could afford such an investment.

By 1924 labor problems were arising. Plasterers were striking for \$14 a day. (One architect recalled starting his career as a draftsman for \$3 a week). MSA action helped to stabilize the strike situation, but the publicity was unfortunate; newspapers headlined: “Architects Condemn \$14 Wage Demand.”

The Building Employers Association was predicting complete unionization of the building trades, and a Citizens’ Committee was formed “to eliminate restrictive influences by endorsing the American Plan of Employment.” This meant that “open shop trades and closed shop trades shall work in peace and harmony on the same job.”

Leaders had been meeting with the Citizen’s Committee, and the profession was again embarrassed when the connection was publicized without authorization. Within two years, however, the MSA would endorse the American Plan, “recognizing the right of everyone to employ whomever he pleases.”

The MSA also worked to license builders; to bring architects’ charges under the scope of the Lien Law; to improve the feeling between contractors and architects; to stop an ordinance allowing the use of re-rolled steel in buildings. The Society further opposed the creation of an architecture department for the City of Detroit and criticized one-story schools; such schools would require twice as much roof, foundation and land, it was stressed, and maintenance costs would increase.



Victor Thebaud, AIA
Grand Rapids Chapter

Board members viewed with contempt some current newspaper advertisements for cheap house plans: “Made-to-order plans; two to four-day service; four copies for \$12.”

At the same time the MSA was sponsoring a Small Brick House Competition to stimulate the profession to greater effort in the planning of “safe” all-brick houses. Prizes were provided by the brick industry.

Meanwhile, in the western part of the state, Victor Thebaud had organized a



group of architects who were chartered as the Grand Rapids Chapter in 1923. Traveling conditions made it too difficult for out-of-state members to attend meetings in Detroit, it was pointed out.

In 1926 architects had reason to celebrate. For two years militant members of MSA had sought to prosecute a violation of the Registration Act to test its functioning. A suitable culprit was finally found, an unregistered architect who had designed a church with a faulty roof truss and 17 other shortcomings. The sacristy roof drained into a window; the organ blower was in the boiler room. The defendant pleaded with the MSA to prosecute someone else and let him pass the State examination, but the militant members wanted action. As an expression of cordiality, however, they invited him to future meetings. The case was won, and the strength of the Registration Act was demonstrated.

A change of mood occurred in the mid-20s. A note of rollicking fun was added to the professional camaraderie of the membership, owing perhaps to an influx of young architects from the College Humor generation. For the first time, MSA records made reference to wives; until then the Society might well have been a confraternity of celibate bachelors, an unlikely situation.

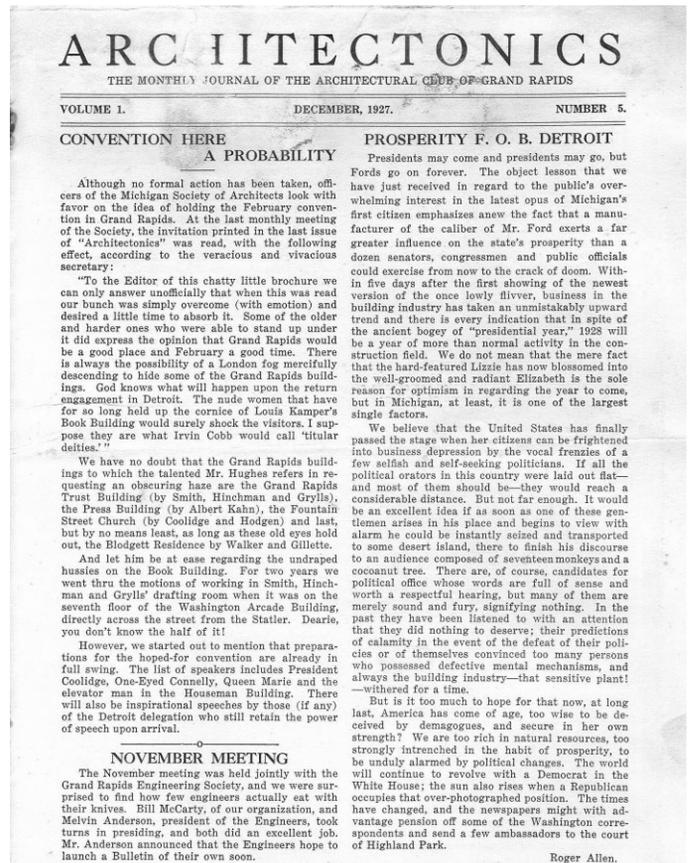
Wives were now mentioned in connection with Society festivities. Golf outings were frequent. Weekly noonday luncheons at the Union League Club were instituted for informal discussion, and there was much to discuss:

1. The classified telephone directory would not limit a column headed "architects" to those who were registered
2. A new Detroit City Hall had been proposed for the site of the present building; now would be the psychological moment to promote a civic center on the river front
3. The new Art Institute was about to open, and it would be difficult to fill such a large building; an exhibition of Michigan architectural work might be welcomed by the curators
4. The building code should be amended to permit the storing of automobiles beneath or adjacent to apartment and office buildings, provided the structures were fireproof and properly ventilated
5. What the MSA really needed was a paid secretary—and a weekly publication to boost attendance.



Talmage Coates Hughes, FAIA

Talmage Hughes, then Secretary of the Society, later recalled that the *Weekly Bulletin* began as a postcard "with a few jokes." Humor flowed easily from the Hughes typewriter, poked by two fingers, and attendance did indeed increase. Soon the postcard stretched to a mimeographed sheet. Someone suggested titling it "Punch" because of its wit. At the end of the first year the Board authorized the Editor to expand the publication to a four-page printed sheet with advertising to cover costs and some



Architectonics - 1928

remuneration for himself. The *Bulletin* continued as a weekly for 25 years, often engaging in a battle of wits with *Architectonics*, the monthly journal of the Architectural Club of Grand Rapids, edited by Roger Allen.

Besides humor and personal news (which architect was vacationing in Florida; which architect was recovering from a toboggan accident) the early *Bulletin* tackled issues, printed committee reports, and published the views and work of members. One of the first illustrations in the new *Bulletin* was a photograph of Professor Eliel Saarinen's proposed civic center for Detroit. A major depression and a world war would intervene before the civic center could be launched.

The *Bulletin* also quoted a British architect who predicted that skyscrapers with walls of glass would be the homes of the future. It served as an employment directory "Draftsman wanted with plenty of Gothic experience." It lampooned architects' offices adorned with plaster arches and marbled floors of rubber tiles. In 1928 the *Bulletin* announced that the Federal government would hire architects at \$2,600 and \$3,200 a year to design 70 new post offices.

Another MSA publishing effort was the 1928-29 *Handbook*, 954 pages bound in red leather with gold tooling. It cost \$7.50 to publish but was available to members for \$5—a handy compendium of codes, bylaws and working data ordinarily scattered about the average office. Through the sale of advertising the MSA hoped to accumulate funds to combat "unfriendly legislation." The first issue featured photographs of the new Penobscot and Fisher Buildings, as well as the Masonic Temple.

Another successful project associated with the profession was the Thumb Tack Club, which merged with the Atelier Derrick in 1928. The efforts of its students under Robert O. Derrick and Branson V. Gamber had attracted the attention of the Beaux Arts Institute in New York, and it was considered one of the finest ateliers in the country.

The 1920s had been an eventful decade for Michigan architects under the presidency of such men as Dalton J. V. Snyder, Walter E. Lentz, George J. Haas, John C. Stahl and Lancelot Sukert. Enthusiasm and affluence were running high. One retiring president was presented with a silver tea service.

February 18, 1926

"I have ceased to wonder at the phenomena of more architects not attending and participating in the activities of the Society like the members of other organizations do. It is certainly lamentable - but why it is, I do not know."

President George J. Haas in his convention speech after two terms in office

Suddenly the prospect changed. At a meeting in December 1929, only six architects assembled to hear a talk on Chinese art. The stock market had crashed in October, and the profession faced its darkest days. Not long afterward, Michigan architects who withdrew from practice would be found selling plumbing fixtures, managing a hotel, or trying to make a living on the farm.

The Dark Thirties: Depression, Recovery, Recession

A painful letter in MSA archives is handwritten on an architect's letterhead with the business address crossed out and a residential address substituted. "Excuse the handwriting. I have had to close my office and have no secretary. I know my dues are in arrears," the writer went on, "but I have had no work in six months, and my wife needs an operation. I would be grateful if you could see fit not to revoke my membership."

Architects were hard-hit by the Depression. Although Society dues were reduced, they went unpaid. Many members could not afford to attend meetings that required any outlay of cash. Small offices closed, and architects worked out of their homes, if they could find work at all. Large offices were often idle; one established firm set up a ping pong table in the drafting room.

Hard times decimated the Grand Rapids Chapter; at one time only six members remained in good standing. Harry Mead was responsible for holding the Chapter together—with his own funds—to preserve the charter.

In Washington the AIA—forced to reduce expenses, salaries and meetings—could not afford to send a speaker to Michigan. The Detroit Chapter likewise was unable to pay the expenses of delegates to Washington but managed to scrape up \$30 for gasoline for one auto.

Society members raised relief funds for destitute architects and draftsmen in 1930, but building conditions worsened and the fund was soon depleted.

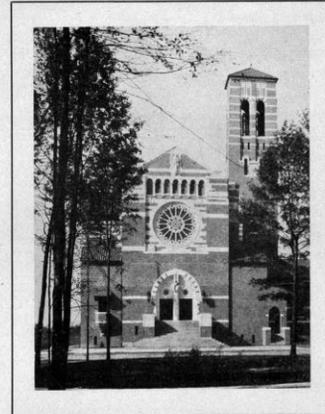
By 1933 the profession was looking to public works to relieve unemployment. The Historic American Buildings Survey purposed to employ 1,000 architects at \$.90 to \$1.19 an hour to prepare measured drawings of historic structures throughout the country.

Michigan Contractor & Builder

Vol. 25, No. 31

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MARCH 7, 1931

Single Copies 25 Cents



DUNS SCOTUS COLLEGE
WILFRED E. ANTHONY Architect
W. E. WOOD COMPANY General Contractor
1930—HONOR AWARD—INSTITUTIONAL CLASS
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
DETROIT CHAPTER

Seventeenth Annual Convention
Michigan Society of Architects

Michigan Contractor & Builder - March 7, 1931

The Home Owners Loan Corporation offered architects supervisory work at a fee of one per cent for making three inspections. On a minimum repair job this amounted to 50 cents per inspection, but many grasped at the opportunity. A young out-of-state architect who hoped for such work wrote to the MSA Secretary; "My family is being evicted tomorrow unless some miracle happens. We are going to camp out and pray for something to break."

Despite the atmosphere of depression in 1931, the MSA found it feasible to hold the 17th annual convention in Grand Rapids and invite a distinguished speaker. He lauded Louis Sullivan, damned skyscrapers, espoused organic architecture, and scoffed at "senile architecture and dead things we have sentimentally taken as live traditions." Frank Lloyd Wright also revealed that it was his first convention. He admitted he did not know they were such fun or that architects were such good fellows. So reported the *Weekly Bulletin*.

In 1932 the MSA and the Detroit Chapter participated in a project intended to spur the public to repair and remodel. A 60-year-old condemned cottage on Dalzelle Street in Detroit was moved to Grand Circus Park and completely modernized as a demonstration house. Materials and labor were donated. Matters of design, construction materials and supervision were assigned to volunteers from the Chapter and the Society. For an entire month architects received front page publicity daily, and "modernize" became the watchword of the profession.



Architects were again in the news when the Detroit Chapter questioned the propriety of the Diego Rivera murals at the Detroit Institute of Arts. "The murals minimize the architecture and disregard unity of scale," they said, "and the color scheme is inharmonious." The Chapter opposed "the dissemination of propaganda destructive to the existing order of society. Modern art should be submitted to the test of time before being incorporated as permanent elements of decoration." There was argument within the membership on this point, of course. "Well, anyway," one architect said, "it took our minds off the Depression."

In 1933 an effort was made to resurrect the Thumb Tack Club, and an atelier was set up with 20 borrowed drafting tables. "At the end of the sessions," recalls Malcolm R. Stirton, "We had a showing of our work, with a Dutch lunch for all visitors. Alas, very few showed up." The days of Beaux Arts training were over. College training in architecture had taken the place of apprenticeship and ateliers.

Times were indeed changing. Architects' discussions, over a 55-cent plate lunch at the Intercollegiate Alumni Club, were concerned with slum clearance, housing projects and home improvement as the secret of economic recovery. Frank Lloyd Wright, returning to Michigan to lecture, said: "Great cities are doomed." The *Weekly Bulletin* was carrying articles on such innovations as air conditioning, circuit breakers, colored bathroom fixtures, and "the new medium for more gracious living, translucent glass block." Radio was the exciting new medium of communication, and architects were frequently heard "on the air." Humor returned; Roger Allen suggested new uses for the bathtub, now that Prohibition had been repealed.

The Society presidents who weathered the vicissitudes of the Thirties were H. Augustus O'Dell, Clair W. Ditchy, Andrew Morison, and Kenneth C. Black. In 1936, Ditchy could announce, "There are unmistakable symptoms of a general resumption of building activity, and we find our position as a professional group greatly strengthened." He called for more aggressive action without abandoning ethics or professional poise. "The public expects sales psychology."

The Society celebrated. The first dinner meeting to include wives proved an effective way to increase attendance, and the first Architects' Ball was a great success. And still another first, there was

a *Weekly Bulletin* feature on Emily Helen Butterfield of Algonac, the first woman in the state to become a licensed architect.

Architects attended yet another lecture by Frank Lloyd Wright in which he ridiculed Colonial-style houses and advised "throwing away the books, closing the universities for 10 years, and declaring a cultural holiday to give us something new."

October 25, 1938 (Detroit minutes)

Frank Lloyd Wright, Fisher Building, Detroit

"Understand architecture, and you will understand life."

He paid tribute to Albert Kahn by saying, "I didn't believe that Mr. Kahn designed this." (the interior of the Fisher Theater)"

Along with his familiar grumbling came familiar rumbblings from Lansing; the Registration Act was threatened again. To unite the professions as one strong voice the Architects' Professional Engineers' and Land Surveyors' Council on Registration was formed, and a new Registration Act was passed by the Legislature. APELSCOR remained in effect for three decades.

At that time there were two AIA Chapters in Michigan (Detroit and Grand Rapids) with membership by invitation only. In 1938 the MSA formed Divisions in these cities, open to any registered architect who wished to join. Kenneth C. Black recalls: "Most of the architects who belonged to both groups became convinced that it was pointless to maintain two professional organizations interested in the same goals." Consequently a unification movement was launched in 1938; it persevered 10 years before achieving its purpose.

Among the concerns of Detroit architects was a design for the proposed Civic Center. They volunteered their services with the hope that the Federal government would fund the project. Unfortunately their efforts became mired in legal and financial complications and discord between City and County.

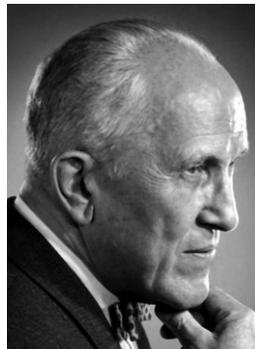
Throughout the world conditions were unsettled, and the architectural profession lived up to its reputation as a sensitive barometer of the economy. The post-Depression recovery lapsed into a Recession. Again the MSA was counting pennies. After the 1938 convention the Secretary returned 183 convention badges to the manufacturer, hoping that the metal parts might still be usable and worth a rebate. A check was eventually received for \$3.66.



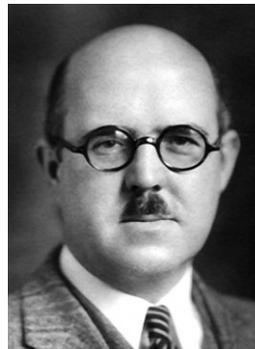
*Lancelot Sukert, AIA
President 1928-30*



*H. Augustus O'Dell, FAIA
President 1931-33*



*Clair W. Ditchy, FAIA
President 1934-35*



*Andrew R. Morison, AIA
President 1936-37*



*Kenneth C. Black, FAIA
President 1938-39*

April 27, 1939

*Members adjourned to the auditorium of the Detroit Institute of Arts to hear a lecture by Professor David Varon titled, "Present Architecture and Coming World Harmony."
Detroit Chapter minutes*

The MSA would soon be 25 years old. The Silver Anniversary issue of the Bulletin, May 9, 1939, contained a unique birthday present for the Society—a 10-page portfolio of Michigan architects' autographs—almost 400 of them, many accompanied by quips and sketches that make the issue a collector's item. Five months later, Europe was at war.

October 24, 1940

*"The war, just begun at the time of our last annual meeting, has now developed until it has become of real concern to us and to all democracies. Many of our offices are working overtime in planning for national defense."
Arthur K. Hyde, outgoing president,
AIA Detroit in his annual report.*

The Forties: War, Litigation, New Directions

As the new decade dawned, MSA led all state Societies in membership, and committees were fired with ambition. Within a year, however, professional matters were eclipsed by the National Defense emergency, and meetings were cut to a minimum. Architectural offices were working overtime. Enormous sums were being spent on "building for battle" and everything was urgent. Industrial plants of fabulous size were completed in less time than an eight-room house. Michigan architects designed war plants throughout the country and abroad, as well as housing, health and social facilities needed because of industrial expansion.

The *Weekly Bulletin* was soon devoting 64 and 72-page issues to the war work of MSA members—with certain details conspicuously censored. "The present emergency," the editor wrote, "has been a tremendous force in pushing the architect into new and advanced methods of production."

The MSA Treasury bought War Bonds and committees dealt with the pooling of resources for war work and with matters of civilian protection. The *Bulletin* pointed out that the old salt mines occupying 160 acres under the city of Detroit were considered the largest natural air raid shelter in the United States.

In 1944 there were 52 MSA members in service throughout the world, to whom the Secretary sent Christmas cards. Soon, post-war planning was under way for veterans' housing, apprentice training of draftsmen, and a promising era of changing methods and materials.

In the 1940s MSA members were discussing unionism, historic preservation, the trend to one-story schools, the proposed sand-blasting of the State Capitol building (no!) and the profession's need to educate the public. The Society also discovered Mackinac Island as a summer conference site.

During this period of sudden change and growing flexibility the president's chair was occupied successively by Branson V. Gamber, William Palmer, John S. Thornton, Roger Allen, Adrian N. Langius, and Alden B. Dow.

It was in the 1940s that the MSA was offered the Detroit residence of the late Albert Kahn as a remembrance, to use as headquarters. It was a handsome house at Mack and John R. with such amenities as a 54-foot music room and a kitchen capable of serving large groups. The offer was regretfully declined because of the cost of furnishing and maintaining the premises. The MSA had another 34 years to wait for its own home.

March 13, 1941

*"I am always intrigued by the eagerness with which the average citizen picks up the phrase, "Frozen Music."
I do not care for it as it reminds me of the lad who defined ice as "water scared stiff."*

Emily H. Butterfield, AIA in a letter to Talmage C. Hughes

October 22, 1941

*"Pickell became the first president and he and I stuck through until the end in Lansing and by a bit of strategy, with the help of Charles Bowen, then secretary of the Builders and Traders Exchange, got the first registration bill passed, and that could not have been done without Bowen's help and that of the builders whom he circularized upon our suggestion. This is a fact, though off the record possibly; I wish the speculative builders had the same helpful attitude today." Emil Lorch, FAIA, Detroit Chapter
President in a letter to Marcus Burrowes,
FAIA about the history of MSA*

December 8, 1942

*"We, in Washington, seem to be wallowing around in an inextricable morass of inexplicable problems."
Lancelot Sukert, AIA in a letter to Tal Hughes. He worked for the Federal Housing Administration during the war.*

The triumph of the decade was the unification of the MSA and AIA Chapters: Detroit, Grand Rapids (later to become the Western Michigan Chapter) and Saginaw Valley, which was chartered in 1945. The year 1948 saw the end of a long and complex unification struggle (see Appendix D) in which there had been bitter opposition by minorities on both sides. The Detroit Chapter thus renounced its half-century policy of privileged membership with prejudicial balloting. L. Robert Blakeslee now described himself as the Passed-out President of the defunct Detroit Division and designed a black-bordered obituary notice which is now suitably ensconced at MSA headquarters.

In 1943 architects began contributing to the Detroit Civic Design Group, a committee of 37 who donated time and talents to a 50-year master plan for the Civic Center and river front. Eliel Saarinen was the consultant for the project, which had been attempted previously in 1925 and 1932. One plan included a horizontal City-County Building, a round convention hall, an auditorium with a restaurant, a garden plaza with pool and fountain, and a streetcar terminal. (Streetcars did not disappear from Detroit until 1956). Newspaper editorials objected to the City-County Building four blocks long and 14 stories high. Wags called it a "tired skyscraper that had decided to lie down and rest." They called the pool "a frog pond. Who needs a pool on the edge of a river?" The Architects' Review Advisory Committee, which passed judgment on everything from zoo buildings to pumping stations, also criticized the

Mackinac Island became the architects' favorite rendezvous for summer conferences. The 1946 event was so delightful that the MSA Board invited the AIA to hold its next national convention there. The Institute may have been impressed by the world's longest front porch, but the number of rooms was found to be insufficient. However, the island fell in the territory of the Grand Rapids Chapter, so the 79th AIA Convention was held in that enthusiastic city.

Also, memorable was the 34th MSA Convention in 1948. It was decided that \$7 a plate was too high a price for dinner, music and entertainment; it should be cut to \$6, with ladies invited. For the first time invitations were extended to members of the building industry, and Roger Allen and Alden Dow made a documentary film of the conference "in gorgeous Kodachrome." Conferees had been urged to bring bright clothing.

Still, another success in the late 1940's was the Architectural Exhibit on display for three weeks at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Earl Pellerin was chairman, with a design committee that included such names as Alden Dow, Alexander Girard, Eero Saarinen, Warren Platner and Minoru Yamasaki. In the exhibit was a panoramic model of the City of the Future, purchased for \$1,000 from a New York museum. When the exhibit closed, the Society found that a circular model measuring 28 feet in diameter had limited resale value. All efforts to peddle the white elephant failed until the Saginaw Valley Chapter agreed to take the City of the Future off the Society's hands for \$200. So ended the decade, with a general sigh of relief.

The Feverish Fifties: Emergencies and Celebrations

The national mood in the 1950s has been criticized for its complacency. For the MSA it was a lively, sometimes frantic, decade under such able presidents as Leo Bauer, Linn C. Smith, Elmer J. Manson, James B. Morison, Frederick E. Wigen, and Charles A. O'Bryon. In addition to what was called "the annual legislative hassle," committees dealt with a variety of emergencies including natural disaster, the latter following a Grand Rapids tornado.

February 6, 1950

"A well designed contemporary building is notable for what is left off it as for what is put on it."

Roger Allen, FAIA in a paper delivered to the National Electric Sign Association in Cincinnati

Like the magnificent horses that galloped out of the firehouse at the sound of the alarm bell, 60 years before, the architects rushed into committees at a moment's notice. Clang! Clang! The Registration Act was threatened; a Day Labor bill was proposed; State work was in peril; fees were to be limited. Immediately funds were raised for a War Chest, and a deluge of telegrams and phone calls gushed forth.

Clang! Clang! A package builder was encroaching! Or the menace was a non-registered architect, an unenlightened government agency, or a builder with a captive architect. Clang! Clang! A television show had slighted the profession, or the rates at Grand Hotel were going up.

TV was the great new medium for publicity; within a few years, it was predicted, 79 per cent of the populace would own sets. Publicity became a major item on the MSA agenda. A public relations counsel was hired; brochures were printed; a motion picture was in production. These ventures required money, and the idea of Firm Memberships was instituted to help defray costs. As for the film, "Design for Better Living," the AIA found it "not esthetically stimulating," but it did a brisk business. Favorable press clippings also piled up in MSA scrapbooks, and the annual AIA journalism awards went to Detroit newspaper columnists for three years in succession.

Thousands of copies of *Organize to Build* were distributed to agencies that might need the services of an architect. *A Visitor's Guide to Detroit Architecture and Planning for Better Schools* were in the works. The postwar baby boom had created an unprecedented need for schools, and the first annual School Design Award Exhibition was sponsored by the MSA and the Michigan Association of School Boards. Exhibits were an important phase of the public relations campaign; a display of architects' work at the State Fair Grounds was viewed by more than 100,000 visitors.

In the 1960s the minutes of meetings would be written strictly according to Rules of Order, but in the 1950s they reflected the general exuberance with inter-Chapter joshing recorded for posterity. Reference was made to the bow-tie contingent from Lansing, the hibernating Saginawians, and the fogbound Grand Rapids delegation. When the Board received a report of a architect-designed building that collapsed while under construction, the Secretary solemnly recorded, "It faw down and go BOOM."



*Alden B. Dow, FAIA
President 1949-50*



*Leo M. Bauer, AIA
President 1951-52*



*Linn Smith, FAIA
President 1953-54*



*Elmer Manson, AIA
President 1955-56*



*James B. Morison, AIA
President 1957*



February 20, 1952

"In Michigan we have the next largest, and finest, state organization of architects in the nation; and in Detroit the second largest chapter of the American Institute of Architects, exceeded only by this host city (New York). We have the four largest architectural offices in the world. In those offices, in the aggregate, is a collection of the finest architectural and engineering talent ever known in all the history of mankind."

Leo M Bauer, AIA to the Convention of the National Concrete Masonry Association, Hotel New Yorker, New York City.

Those were the days! Yet, times were changing. Talks and seminars dealt with atom bomb shelters, shopping centers, and housing for the aged. The MSA hired a paid executive secretary, ventured to buy its own mimeograph machine (used) instead of borrowing one. The Society suggested to the AIA that the custom of presenting top honor students with a copy of *Mont St. Michel and Chartres* might be out of character in an industrial age. Suggested was *Roots of Contemporary American Architecture*. Half a century after Michigan architects had been reprimanded for offering exhibit space to manufacturers, (for money!), the MSA convention leased six parlors and 30 booths to producers and proclaimed it a splendid financial success. A quarter-century after the inception of the *Weekly Bulletin* as a postcard with a few jokes, it became a sophisticated monthly magazine with covers by graphic design specialists. The staff enjoyed a shiver of satisfaction when a sultry fashion model in *Vogue Magazine* was photographed reading the new *Bulletin* at pool-side.

March 5, 1952

"I believe we will all agree that the one thing that is going to have the strongest effect upon the future of the world, which includes this Society, is the welfare and happiness of the individual human being."

Alden B. Dow, FAIA in his address to the 38th annual convention

Alexander Girard redesigned the *Bulletin* for 1953. He established a format, type face, selected the paper and placed the ads. Each month was to feature the works of one firm who could rearrange the cover but must use the elements designed by Girard. This worked well until May when Alden Dow, FAIA was in charge of the "Saginaw" issue and did his own thing.



Alexander Girard

Girard was an industrial designer as well as an architect and was a consultant to the Herman Miller Furniture Company. He was a member of the winning team in the St. Louis Memorial Competition in 1948. He chaired the Allied Arts Committee for the Detroit Chapter and Chapter President Eero Saarinen, FAIA tapped him to redesign all the graphics for the chapter. Eventually he redesigned the *Bulletin* and all of MSA's printed material. The fabric designs he did for Herman Miller are still being made.

Long negotiation over the status of the *Monthly Bulletin* was resolved when the MSA formed a corporation to carry on the affairs of the publication, with Talmage Hughes as editor and publisher. Also formed was the Michigan Architectural Foundation to receive tax-exempt gifts.

There were other milestones in the 1950s. For the first time a Michigan member, Clair W. Ditchy, was elected national president of AIA. The Women's Architectural League was founded. The MSA administered the \$5,000 C. Allen Harlan scholarship.

March 11, 1956

"The aspiring architect hears the advice:

"Go to Detroit young man." It is advice with good foundation. For few cities offer opportunities to the architect as does the Motor City. The story of Detroit's role in architecture is one of acclaimed personages and organizations."

Frank Beckman, Detroit Free Press staff writer in an award winning article titled, Detroit's Architectural Progress Gains Worldwide Attention.

In Detroit the Architects' Urban Design Collaborative was offering advice and services to the City Plan Commission. "Each architect," chairman Louis G. Redstone recalled, "took a section of downtown and presented studies for discussion and criticism. They worked on river front development, the central business district, mass transportation, parking, a convention mall, shopping centers, an international center, and a ring road."



Frederick E. Wigen, AIA
President 1958-59



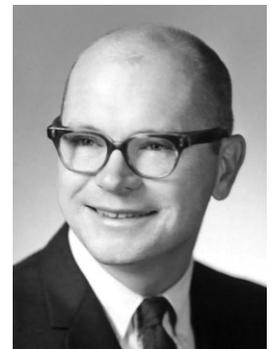
Charles A. O'Bryon, AIA
President 1960-61



Charles H. MacMahon, FAIA
President 1962-63



Bruce H. Smith, FAIA
President 1964-65



Robert L. Wold, FAIA
President 1966

October 10, 1956

“Certainly we cannot place too much importance on how a structure looks, how it fits into its environment, or how it serves the purpose for which it was designed. These matters lie at the heart of architecture. Yet, it is also well to consider how the architect saves money for his client in the most down-to-earth manner.”

Elmer J. Manson, AIA in a letter to the Detroit News



Detroit Architectural Bowling League 1953

Despite the hard work and accomplishments of the 1950s, the membership was always ready for nonsense. At one summer conference in the 1950s the more daring architects modeled fancy hats constructed by their wives, who had used “found” materials. At a country outing, called the Indefatigable Congress of Master Craftsmen Emancipation Day Fete, members were elected to such offices as Chief Punk, Dispenser of the Usquebaugh, Master of the Flitch, Rubiaceous Shrub Seed Brewer, Bailer of the Row Boat, and other titles reflecting the puckish humor of Ernest Dellar and Frederick Schoettley

A more dignified celebration was the 1957 observation of the AIA Centennial: a gala symphony concert with an address by Richard Neutra and an exhibit of 100 Years of Michigan Architecture.

October 21, 1957

“I think architects today are all that is the matter with architecture.”

Frank Lloyd Wright in a speech at Ford Auditorium during the 100 Anniversary of AIA

The *Monthly Bulletin* now had a staff of eight and a highly professional approach, but there was still room for humor—original limericks or FLW’s latest bon mot. Inevitably there were photographs of architects and their spouses at Society functions, martini and highball glasses in hand. Members of the Women’s Architectural League were pictured in flower-decked hats, playing afternoon bridge. And in one issue of the *Bulletin* a glossary of architectural terms listed such definitions as:

PLANS: a monumental dream put on blue paper for the purpose of patching holes in the roof of the construction shed.

SPECIFICATIONS: a comic book, of which at least 50 copies must be demanded from the architect immediately after signing of the contract; thereafter, under no condition, shall reference be made to them.

By 1958 the MSA was suffering from growing pains. Membership exceeded 800. Serious issues abounded. There were committees, sub-committees, and even a Committee on Committees. Of the bills introduced in Lansing in one session, 37 pertained to architects in some way. Because of administration problems, financial difficulties

and increasing activities, a Special Administrative Study Committee was created. One of its recommendations was to hire an executive director—one with architectural background, administrative ability, legal background and public relations experience—hardly a modest list of requirements. Also, it was stipulated, the director should be male. There was still no woman’s name on the MSA Board of Directors, and it came as a surprise when a TV studio requested a woman on an architecture program “to add warmth and personality.”

At this point there came a subtle reminder of the need for a proper MSA image. The public relations counsel advised that revelers at Society functions should be photographed without the ubiquitous martini glass.

The Seething Sixties: Soul-searching and a New Approach

Foes of the Registration Act were still battering away, and the MSA Board was still pondering the fate of the *Monthly Bulletin* when the 1960s dawned. It was only the beginning of what would prove to be a decade of turbulence and soul searching.

Against a background of recessions, war and riots, the MSA suffered its saddest moments. Talmage Hughes died in the midst of a contract dispute over the *Bulletin*—an impasse that resulted in litigation, bitterness, and broken friendships.

Indicative of the times was the mood of self-criticism that prevailed at a Society meeting on a bleak March day. “Attendance is poor. Conference costs are too high. What are we accomplishing? Why are we always fighting a rearguard action? We need vigorous younger men on the Registration Board. Is APELSCOR doing a good job? What’s wrong with our public relations?”



James B. Hughes, AIA Executive Director, 1962-65

Despite the disgruntled mood there had been progress. The Biddle House on Mackinac Island was restored and presented to the State as a museum house. MSA became a Region of the AIA. An executive director, James B. Hughes, had at last been hired, and the Society moved to its own quarters in to the Mutual Building after decades of sharing office space. The MSA Honor Awards were instituted. The *Monthly Bulletin* was expanding editorially and increasing its advertising revenues.



Ann Stacy, Hon. AIA Executive Director, 1966-83

Times were changing. The MSA joined the War on Ugliness. In 1966 the executive director was succeeded by a woman, Ann Stacy, as Michigan followed the lead of numerous other State associations. Board meetings were now being held by conference telephone in the case of urgent situations. A legislative advocate was retained; Clarence Rosa became “Our



man in Lansing.” Computer service was being considered for the MSA office, and a Board meeting adjourned for 25 minutes to assist the Gemini 12 astronauts in their return to earth.

Perhaps the grim mood was relaxing. In irreverent moments, Michigan architects, like naughty schoolboys, referred to Washington headquarters as “The Octopus,” and the AIA became the “American Idiot Association” in scrappy situations.

1966

“Some problems never seem to go away, or re-appear with new names and new faces; however, we had some good times and fellowship, and made many lasting friends.”

Robert Lee Wold, FAIA summing up his years as president

1967

“I fondly remember the party we threw in the Capitol Rotunda that just wouldn’t quit. The legislators, our invited guests, enjoyed the affair immensely.”

Jay Pettitt, FAIA commenting about the advantages of holding conventions in Lansing

The need was now felt for continuing education for architects. They in turn were urged to accept leadership in their communities as members of the profession. The times also demanded a new direction in public relations; under Philip Meathe’s whip-cracking as a national officer, an AIA advertising campaign stressed “not how good we are but what we can do for society.” Seminars now dealt with pollution and urban crisis as well as profit, planning and barrier-free buildings.

June, 1969

“The opportunities for the architectural profession are limitless. Society is demanding that cities be rebuilt and that individual buildings make a maximum contribution to the improvement of man’s total environment.”

Robert F. Hastings, FAIA in his pre-election statement to the AIA National Convention

Then, in 1969, MSA saw fit to schedule an AIA advertisement in the Detroit News, stating that “our nation can no longer afford to intervene in the political and military affairs of nations throughout the world and maintain a military and weapons establishment of unlimit-

ed size, explore the moon, and, at the same time, rebuild our decaying cities, provide an adequate supply of housing, and finance domestic measures needed to solve pressing social problems.”

MSA presidents in the turbulent decade had been Paul B. Brown, Charles H. MacMahon, Bruce H. Smith, Robert L. Wold, Jay S. Pettitt Jr., Chase Black and Jackson Hallett.

New Chapters had been chartered: Flint Area, Mid-Michigan, Grand Valley, Northern Michigan, and Huron Valley. The Saginaw Valley Chapter formed an Architects’ Collaborative, contributing their services to the City of Saginaw for a study of the central business district. The Mid-Michigan Chapter hosted a MSA Convention in Lansing that proved an attendance getter and a money-maker for MSA. The Flint Area established scholarships, seminars for building officials, city beautification programs, and design awards.

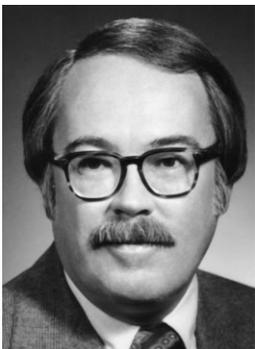
So ended the negative Sixties on a decidedly positive note.

The Seventies and Beyond

The 1970s roared in with Task Forces and Grass Roots programs, Modular Seminars and Position Papers—along with a new set of problems, challenges, changes and successes.

Another Michigan man, Robert Hastings, was elected to the national presidency of AIA. Architects raised funds to help restore Detroit’s Orchestra Hall. A MSA convention in Saginaw resulted in a vest-pocket park, designed and executed as a gift to the host city. MSA members and staff contributed their services to produce a pilot program in architectural awareness classes for Michigan schools. Architects’ Sundays were launched—an effective public relations venture, showcasing outstanding buildings to the public.

As ever, times were changing. Conventions were now scheduled around the state with each Chapter hosting in rotation. A MSA Newsletter was introduced to keep members informed of Society business. Summer conferences began to emphasize youth activities and family participation. And among the signs of the times were such matters as pension plans, professional liability insurance, the marketing of architectural services, energy conservation, minority scholarships, the metric system, jail codes and criminal justice.



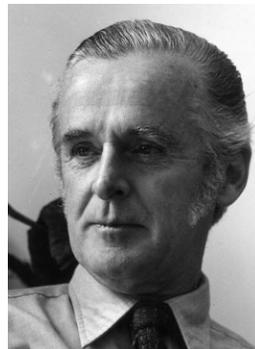
Jay S. Pettitt, FAIA
President 1967



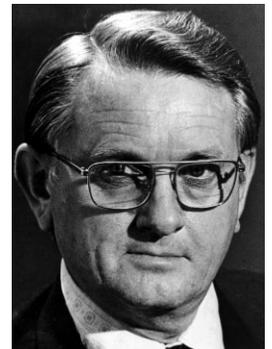
Henry Chase Black, FAIA
President 1968



Jackson B. Hallett, AIA
President 1969



William W. Lyman, FAIA
President 1970



Almon J. Durkee, FAIA
President 1971

Meanwhile the lease on the MSA offices was due to expire, and the question of a permanent headquarters arose, as it had in the 1920s and 1940s. Some members favored a move to Lansing.

By mid-decade the economic picture was poor, in the nation, in the profession, and in the Society's ledgers. (As if that were not bad enough, a group of attorneys scheduled a workshop on "how to sue an architect.") There were rumors of an oil shortage; inflation was affecting every phase of life; the *Monthly Bulletin* was in financial trouble.

It was a measure of relief when the Masonry Institute offered to sponsor the MSA Newsletter and an annual design competition. Still, austerity was in order, and the MSA submitted to an audit by management specialists. For economic reasons the *Monthly Bulletin* and Newsletter were eventually consolidated.

1975

"Times were tough during 1975 with many firms experiencing a downturn in business. So an Economic Charrette was called in June. ...speakers were brought in from around the country. All attendees determined that the Charrette was a great success and most of us survived the hard times."

Robert Tower, AIA summing up his presidency for 1975

During the nation's Bicentennial Year, the idea of a historic building for a permanent headquarters gained currency, and in 1977 the MSA and Detroit Chapter/AIA leased the Beaubien House, with option to buy. It is appropriate that this story should end with the realization of a 90-year-old dream.

The presidents of the 1970s were William Lyman, Almon Durkee, Howard Hakken, William Jarratt, Leslie Tincknell, Robert Tower, Eugene DiLaura, Paul Bowers, Arthur Nelson, and Gene Terrill.

For nine decades hundreds of architects had labored in the interests of the MSA and the profession. There were outstanding leaders and doers, but one who lingers longest in the memory is Talmage Hughes. (See Appendix III). Times are still changing and as the profession faces new challenges, each future decade will have its leaders and doers. The history of the Michigan Society of Architects provides that assurance.

Lilian Jackson Braun ended her history of the Michigan Society of Architects in 1977 when the Beaubien House was leased and it looked like the Society had finally found a home. The lease, with option to buy, was an act of courage and signaled a return to the public arena for a profession that was often shy about its accomplishments. In the 10 years that followed, while successive presidents and boards wrestled with mortgages, fund raising, dwindling budgets and the lack of formal organization, the temptation to return to rented spaces that they could walk away from must have been strong.

We pick up the story in **1977**. Paul D. Bowers, FAIA is president. President Bowers noted that the history of the Society was made up of many 3 to 5 year repetitive cycles. The cycles began with dissatisfaction with the way things were being run. Next comes a study and planning period, followed by a new beginning. He felt that his cycle had begun under President Jarratt in 1973 and President Tincknell in 1974.

Dissatisfaction centered on headquarters operation, particularly finances and financial reporting. Even the physical appearance of the office was singled out for criticism. One contingent was pushing again for a move to Lansing to emphasize the importance of the lobbying effort. It was time to call in a professional management consultant.

A Kansas City firm that had considerable experience with working with professional societies, Lawrence Leiter and Company, was hired. They did attitude surveys, went to Washington to understand how state societies should work with the national organization, observed headquarters operations, held workshops with the board and helped to chart a new course for the Society.

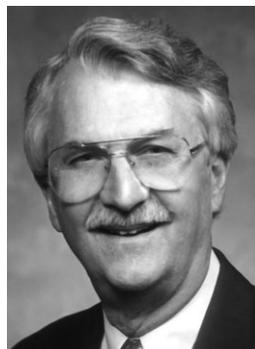
President Eugene DiLaura, FAIA accepted the management report in January of 1976. The board began implementing the recommendations and some changes were made in 1976-77. A professional lobbyist was hired after many interviews and much discussion. MSA had re-entered the political arena. A "minute man" program and a political action committee (PAC) were established. Discussions began with the engineering and surveying societies to support a joint government affairs program. An accountant was hired to improve the reporting system.



*Howard Hakken, AIA
President 1972*



*William R. Jarrett, FAIA
President 1973*



*Leslie D. Tincknell, FAIA
President 1974*



*Robert B. Tower, AIA
President 1975*



*Eugene L. DiLaura, FAIA
President 1976*



President Bowers signed an agreement for the purchase of the Beaubien House that had largely been negotiated during President DiLaura's term. This act represented a major commitment. The first long-term financial obligation of the 90 year old Society.

Arthur E. Nelson, AIA took over in **1978** at the end of one of the five year cycles noted by President Bowers. It seems to prove his theory about new beginnings as Nelson likens his year as president to Camelot. Relationship with the state's building officials had warmed and they were invited to a dinner in Traverse City that was considered a great success. A new banner was unfurled at Mackinac Island during the Midsummer Conference. The Robert Hastings Award was established and awarded to Charles Blessing, FAIA. Barrier free design and historic preservation were important issues. An Intern Development Program was established that would meet and exceed the NCARB requirements for the Michigan Licensing exam.

It was an optimistic time. Edward Francis, FAIA who chaired the Beaubien House Committee noted in his 1978 report that contract documents should be done and let for bids in 1980. "Once completed, the conservation and adaptive reuse of the Beaubien House will not only solve MSA's space needs, but will serve to reinforce MSA's professional leadership role in the conservation/preservation movement. MSA will have a model which will demonstrate to the public, in a highly visible location, what the profession is capable of accomplishing by careful, sympathetic, and innovative adaptive reuse," he wrote.

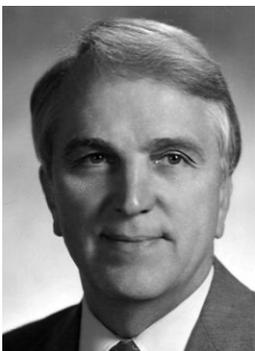
The Institute declared that **1979** should be "A Celebration of Architecture" to focus the public's attention on the built environment. The celebration was threatened with rain when the year-end financial report showed a \$20,000 loss for the previous year. President Eugene Terrill, AIA created a task force nonetheless, and the plan was to involve all the chapters and the public. The event cumulated at the October convention in Lansing with an exhibit of *The 50 Most Significant Buildings In Michigan*. The task force; Robert Bell, AIA; William Kessler, FAIA, Louis Redstone, FAIA, Gene Terrill, AIA and ex-officio member Evie Asken, FAIA, came through. With the help of the chapters, a jury that included W. Hawkins Ferry, patron to the arts and author of the seminal, *Buildings of Detroit*; Balthazar Korab, winner of the AIA Medal for Photography and Charles Blessing, FAIA, retired director of the Detroit City Plan Commission, the celebration was a well

publicized success. Major funding came from a Mott Foundation grant (\$27,700) through the Michigan Architectural Foundation. The exhibit hung in the Rotunda of the State Capitol and Governor and Mrs. Milliken showed up for the opening. It went to the AIA National Convention in Cincinnati in 1980.

Dissension was still there. The financial situation was precarious until a \$30 dues increase was passed late in the year at the annual meeting. The Equal Rights Amendment ratification battle came to the board in the form of a push by some components to move the 1980 national convention out of New Orleans because the Louisiana legislature did not approve the amendment. The Michigan Board supported the amendment but not supplemental boycotts. Fund-raising for the Beaubien House was going slowly in a sluggish economy.

When John Jickling, FAIA took over in **1980** he thought his main goal was to complete the purchase of the Beaubien House. Sixty thousand dollars had been pledged but only twenty was in the bank and one hundred thousand was needed. The fund raising effort was intensified and the membership responded. When over half of the funds were in hand, a mortgage was secured for the remainder and the Michigan Architectural Foundation assumed the title. Restoration of the circa 1850 building could now be seriously contemplated.

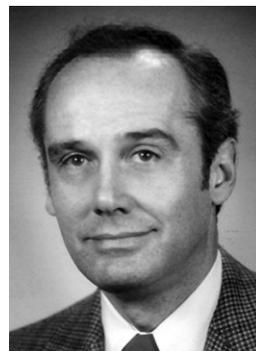
Timely financial reporting was still an issue and a new accounting firm was hired late in the year. The past activities of the Publications Committee were questioned. Commitments had been made for the printing of three manuscripts, one on Alden Dow, one about Frank Lloyd Wright in Michigan and the catalogue from the Fifty Most Significant Buildings Exhibition. Two more were in the talking stage. Where was the money to pay the printing costs? Contractual obligations to the authors would be met but publication would be put on hold. Ultimately a Mott Foundation grant was used for the Fifty Most Significant. The Dow manuscript came out in 1983 thanks to a grant from the Michigan Council for the Arts. William Allin Storrer, PhD, produced a manuscript on Wright's work in Michigan. This book was not published, according to Storrer, because of an excessive demand for photos by Wayne State University Press. His research on Wright that began in Michigan led to *The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright: A Complete Catalogue*. Recently the William A. Storrer Collection was donated to the University of Texas at Austin.



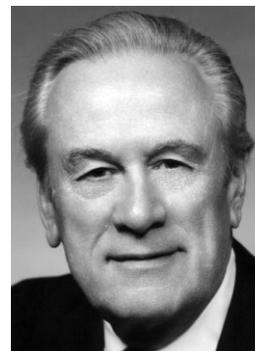
Paul D. Bowers, FAIA
President 1977



Arthur E. Nelson, AIA
President 1978



Eugene Terrill, AIA
President 1979



John W. Jickling, FAIA
President 1980



Yvonne "Evie"
Warner-Asken, FAIA
President 1981

1981 was not easy. The Michigan economy hit bottom. The prime rate was 21.5%, unemployment was 12.3% and fixed rate mortgages were at 16.3%. The inflation rate was in double digits most of the year. The Society prepared a position paper on Revitalizing Michigan's Economy and sent it to the governor.

"We are not an efficient organization and the needs of the profession are not being answered. We have inner conflicts," said president Yvonne (Evie) Asken, FAIA to the board of directors.

Access to monthly financial reports was still a problem and the treasurer recommended that the new accountants prepare a standards and procedures manual, a new chart of accounts and a training manual. Switching from a cash account to an accrual system would make reporting easier and more accurate but it took time to make the transition.

It got worse. A Commission on Licensing of Professionals (COPAL) was set up in Lansing to examine the need for all professional licenses in the state. The definition of the practice of architecture was being debated again. The commission didn't even have an architect on the panel. "An all out effort shall be made to retain the licensing of architects," was the conclusion at a special meeting held to tackle the problem.

Toward the end of 1981, the pent up frustrations centered squarely on the Executive Director, Ann Stacy, Hon. AIA. Stacy began her career with AIA in 1956 under the tutelage of Talmage C. Hughes, FAIA, Executive Secretary and publisher of the *Monthly Bulletin* as a writer. In 1967, she became the Executive Director. She is a strong willed activist who has devoted her life to the promotion of the art and science of architecture. She was instrumental in a number of important preservation efforts, particularly in the Detroit area. Establishment of the "Friends of Belle Isle" and "Save Orchestra Hall" are two prominent examples. She was aggressive in soliciting grants for publications and exhibitions. As a preservationist, she believed that the profession should set an example and championed the purchase of the Victorian-era Beaubien House for the Society's headquarters. Some on the board were concerned about the financial implications of these activities. Others wanted more formalized job descriptions and accounting procedures. Stacy's contract was renegotiated and she continued as executive director until 1983 when she retired from MSA.

March, 1981

"... just a bit of participation from all will make this organization scream with strength. We do need to know, however, just what you want it to say."

Evie Asken, FAIA, Monthly Bulletin, vol. 4, issue 3, 1981

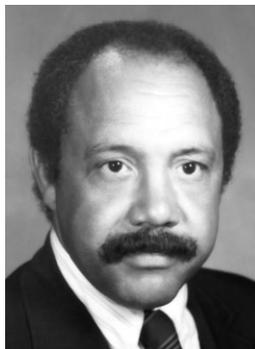
In many ways, 1982 was a rerun of the previous year. The economy had not improved and was in recession. Home loan rates were in the 17-18% range and demand was down. President Michael Callahan, AIA in his summary of the year noted, "The economic situation of the state had a very serious effect on the profession and the opportunities to conduct a viable business. Many architects were being laid off from the large firms and were floating, looking for any firm with work." Membership was declining. Revenue was down. The Institute's National Convention was in Hawaii. Michigan's president and executive director did not attend.

The Commission on Licensing (COPAL) still hadn't decided whether architects should be licensed by the state. The paid lobbyist's contract was not renewed in order to save \$12,000. The Government Affairs committee protested that it was not the time to pull out of Lansing but the decision stood. The executive director redoubled her efforts and volunteers stepped into the void in Lansing. The licensing law that began in 1915 was modified but ultimately stood. Architects were still the protectors of the "health and safety" of the built environment in Michigan.

When Roger Margerum, FAIA took over in 1983 there were signs that the economy was starting to improve. The Federal Reserve noted that, "Retail sales (ex-autos) are brisk and expected to remain strong in most Districts. Sales of domestic automobiles, especially large models, are improved. Manufacturing activity is mixed, with improved orders from the automotive, electronics and housing sectors, while only the business equipment sector continues to decline. Residential construction continues to improve as sales of new and pre-owned homes have been boosted by mortgage interest rate declines." However, tension still existed between some members of the executive committee and the executive director. By mid year, a mutual parting of the ways was agreed upon. Stacy would retire effective September 30. Her executive assistant, Rae Dumke, would take over as interim director and a committee was formed to establish criteria for hiring a new director. Funds were approved for a surprise retirement party for Stacy. The Society was ready to move on.



*Michael T. Callahan, AIA
President 1982*



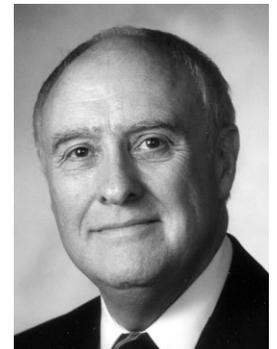
*Roger W. Margerum, FAIA
President 1983*



*Dick W. Slocum, AIA
President 1984*



*Robert E. Greager, FAIA
President 1985*



*James B. Shane, AIA
President 1986*



The fate of the Beaubien House was still a controversial issue. When the chapter presidents met in June at the Homestead in Glen Arbor many questioned the viability of the project. The need for a Lansing presence was brought up again and the Northern Michigan Chapter wondered if MSA should own property at all. After interviewing six firms, Olser Milling Architects, Inc. from Ann Arbor was selected by the Michigan Architectural Foundation early in 1983 to prepare plans for the restoration, rehabilitation and renovation of the building. Three committees actively worked to maintain and protect the property. Tony Marino, AIA headed the short range planning committee responsible for day to day maintenance and upkeep. Charles McCafferty, FAIA and his committee dealt with long range planning and recommendations for the restoration firm while Dennis Haugen, AIA sought ways to finance the reconstruction.

A lot of volunteer labor and materials had kept the building going as a functioning headquarters. A primary contributor was the Michigan Masonry Institute. A brick structure that was over 130 years old has a lot of critical issues, particularly skin integrity. The Institute tuck pointed some of the worst spots. In June of 1984 they built a nine foot high wall around the rear courtyard. After Rae Dumke reported that two winos were occupying the courtyard, a gate was installed. Haugen and his committee applied for restoration grants and explored some creative funding options.



*Rae Dumke, Hon. AIA
Executive Director*

President Richard Slocum, AIA listed the Beaubien House as the number one priority for **1984** when he outlined his goals for the year at the Midsummer Conference. He also mentioned that a computer was being considered for headquarters.

By the end of January, the Board had decided to offer the executive director position to Rae Dumke. She had been executive assistant under Ann Stacy since 1967.

The 1984 MSA Convention held in Detroit was hailed as the “best ever.” Income exceeded expectations. Some events were held at the Beaubien House to show off the facade restoration and the rear courtyard. The work represented Phase I of the restoration plan



*Norman L. Hamann, AIA
President 1987*



*Thomas J. Lucas, Jr., FAIA
President 1988*



East Jefferson Avenue with Beaubien House, Circa 1966

and the \$45,000 cost was partially funded by a grant from the Webber Foundation. A good deal of favorable publicity attended these events. James Stewart Pulshek, architect of the Stroh Riverfront project from New York, was the featured speaker at the convention.

Robert Greager, AIA set out to bring more young architects into the organization. In **1985**, he proposed the development of new associate and student director positions for the board. Many of the Chapters did the same and 94 new associate members were added to the roster.

In mid-March the computer age comes at the Beaubien House. Computers are installed and staff training begins.

COPAL (Commission on Licensing of Professionals), comatose since 1981 due to budget constraints, is resurrected. A Definition Committee is formed to clarify the differences between architects and engineers under the registration law. Position papers are drafted and approved with the aim of speaking with a unified voice across the state.

The often-talked-about trek to meet with the Upper Peninsula Chapter was finally realized and has become a regular tradition.

Baubien House fund raising is in high gear. Thanks to Jay Pettitt's leadership and Noel Fagerland's determination serious restoration seemed likely. Fagerland and Dumke traversed the state in an effort to contact each chapter and each firm to urge them to contribute to the restoration fund.

James Berry Shane, AIA reported that **1986** was a “pretty good year.” Stocks were up and French Bordeaux was expected to be great. Things were progressing nicely with the Beaubien House project. The staff was relocated at the end of the year to donated space on Fort Street in Detroit with SH&G (now the SmithGroup Incorporated).

A formal presence in Lansing was once again established when the Architects' and Engineers' Legislative Committee agreed to the selection of a lobbyist. Efforts were made to withdraw the expansion of the statute of limitations that had passed the previous year but were ultimately unsuccessful. “Selection by Qualification” was endorsed and promoted.

The expanded legislative program and a public awareness push were the impetus for an increase in dues. Treasurer Thomas Lucas, FAIA put together a five year financial plan that would make planning and budgeting more predictable.

The national organization adopted a "Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct" at the San Antonio convention.

1987 was the Centennial Celebration Year and President Norman Hamann, AIA considered himself the "on site architect" for some important work including the construction work on the Beaubien House. The house was practically gutted in preparation for its resurrection. All new mechanical, electrical and fire suppression systems were installed. The budget was tight but some major items were donated. In all, almost 800 individuals and firms helped to fulfill the dream of owning a home that started soon after that handful of architects met and decided to organize in 1887.

How it finally happened

The Masonry Institute has been a supporter of the project from the beginning. Their members have given of their time, material and money. Beaver Distributors and Fred Blackwood supplied the tile and Franko's Tile did a great job installing it. Ford and Earl volunteered to do the interior design. Lisa Hildorf spent a lot of her nights and weekends on that effort. She found contributors like Zeising Associates who supplied the hides to re-upholster the Le Corbusier chairs and sent over a sofa and some chairs. She specified the carpet and then contacted Interface Carpet; Karastan and Bently and they came through. F. Graham Dickens, AIA gets credit for prodding and cajoling his staff and the suppliers to keep the costs down and the quality of the interiors high.

The folks at Schervish Vogel Merz did the landscape design. Saturday morning found architects, contractors and Rae and Bob Dumke digging holes and placing plants. Without them the yard would have been a sea of mud.

The job of coordinating the construction fell to Gene DiLaura and Stu Pettitt. Their hard work and 'friendly persuasion' kept things moving right along. And, the long suffering, architect's architects, Osler/Milling, must be noted.

Ray Williams and the Lighting Group once again supplied the lights and saw to it that the parlor chandelier was refurbished.

Tom Lucas convinced Olympia Painting to supply all the painters and the paint to do the whole house. Both Herman Miller and Steelcase contributed some very special furniture.

Smith, Hinchman & Grylls provided a suite of offices for almost a year for the cost of the cleaning service. Phil Meathe, FAIA threw in the services of his graphics department and Gloria Harcourt was particularly helpful.

The two young architects, Erich Hiedemann & Jim Hostnik, packed 100 years worth of memorabilia for the big move.

And then there was Elaine Demiene, who stripped the parlor shutters.

All of the Board Members for the past ten years let out a sigh of relief and they all deserve a pat on the back for the extra hours it took to get the project going and to see it through. President Norm Hamann should get a medal for all of his trips across the state to handle the many crises that came up. Carl Roehling should have one too for dealing with the myriad financial transactions.

Past Hunts for a Home

Finding a permanent home has been an elusive goal for an organization that is dedicated to the art and science of building. The whole story of how it all finally came together in 1987 will probably not be fully written until the MSA celebrates its Bicentennial.

The Nineteenth Century architects saw their "rooms" as a club house and a place to exhibit their best works. They had a need to socialize and share ideas. They wanted the latest architectural art magazine available. Some felt that it also should contain a reference library that had all of the latest manufacturers specifications. They saw it as a place to keep their permanent records.

Maxwell Grylls tried several time to work something out with the engineers. In 1912 he suggested that all the technical bodies of the city join to establish permanent quarters. In 1917 WWI got in the way of a shared facility. As the Engineering Society of Detroit was getting serious about their own building, they once again invited the Society to join them but nothing happened.

The first real estate that was evaluated was the Charles L. Freer Mansion in 1920. Freer was a patron of the arts, a friend of the profession and one of the first to become a Honorary Member. His shingle style house once held Whistler's famous Peacock Room. The Board conclude the operating cost was beyond their means and gave it up. The Peacock Room and the Freer collection moved to Washington and the house became a part of the MerrillPalmer Institute.

Talk of using the Hecker Mansion as a new club house came to nothing in 1930. The house still stands. It had been designed in 1890 by McKim, Mead and White trained Louis Kamper with the help of John Scott, one of the association founders, and his brother Arthur.

Ten years later, "Mr. Albert Kahn looked to be the one man who could make this idea (of a permanent home) come true," said Benson Gamber in the 1941 Board Minutes. He took the necessary legal steps to bequeath his home to MSA. But in 1944, after his death, the Board finally concluded that "wartime conditions" would make the building too difficult to manage. They turned the bequest down. The Kahn House is now the home of the Urban League.

A series of rented spaces served as headquarters until the Beaubien House came along. It was once part of a French ribbon farm that dates to 1797. It was built for a middle class Victorian family and it is one of the few such structures left downtown.

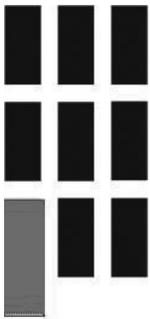


At the time the first architects association was getting organized in 1887, the house was occupied by a Dutchborn artist, William Machen. He used it for five years and built up quite a reputation for his painting. His work was exhibited in the Detroit Museum of Art and at his studio in the Beaubien House. Perhaps he was responsible for the designs, now protected by carpet, on the floor and stairs. He may even have had a hand in the decorative painting or the unfinished mural at the top of the first floor landing but further investigation will have to wait until more funds are available.

Thomas Lucas, FAIA saw **1988** as an auspicious year. The Beaubien House was done, financial systems in place, multi-year budgeting had become a reality and the Michigan Architectural Foundation was officially separated from MSA with its own board of directors.

Michigan Architectural Foundation

The Foundation, formed in 1957 in order to fund the restoration of the Biddle House on Mackinac Island, as a Michigan non-profit organization listed its purpose then; "... to receive and expend gifts, legacies and bequests for the education of students of architecture, for development of the art of architecture and to educate the public in the appreciation of architecture and in general to encourage the study of architectural problems and to do any and all things necessary and proper to carry out the purposes set above." Arthur K. Hyde of Harley, Ellington & Day was the first president. The other officers included Suren Pilafian, Vice President; Talmage Hughes, FAIA, Secretary-Treasurer; L. Robert Blakeslee, Paul Brown, Gerald Diehl and Ralph Hammett filled out the Board of Directors.



Arthur K. Hyde

It was time to let the Chapters become the face of the profession. A grant program was set up to fund public awareness programs locally. Ten thousand dollars was budgeted for this effort.

Carl Roehling, FAIA, a past treasurer like Tom Lucas, continued the move toward tighter organizational systems during his **1989** presidency. He urged all officers and committee chairs to produce written reports. The office was fully computerized and run like a business. Long range strategies were developed.

The publications committee, in a holding position since the money losing efforts of the 1980s, is re-energized under Tim Casai, FAIA. *PLACE Magazine* was created as a regional publication aimed at the lay public.

Taking advantage of its premier location across from the Renaissance Center in Detroit, the Beaubien House became a gallery under the Exhibits Committee led by Graham Dickens, AIA, Ralph Youngren, FAIA and William Hartman, AIA.

December, 1989

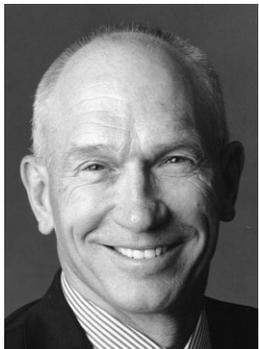
"We did fewer things better, and we looked forward rather than in the mirror."

Carl D. Roehling, FAIA, Monthly Bulletin

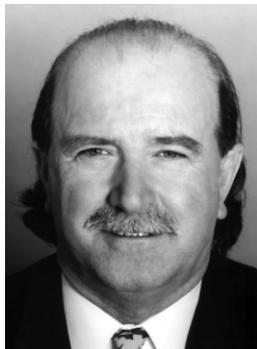
The new decade, under President Richard Fry, FAIA, begins on a high note in **1990**. There is money in the bank, the first surplus reserve fund is established. Caesar Pelli is the keynote speaker at the Detroit Convention. He came to talk about his proposed new building to replace Ford Auditorium. Since AIA Detroit opposed tearing down the building some lively conversation ensued.

The Design Retreat, spearheaded by President Fry is the first new conference to be organized since the Health Facilities Planning Seminar of 1967. James Shane, AIA, had dreamed of finding a way to nourish young architects. The Design Retreat, held at a YMCA camp near Torch Lake, came a long way toward his goal to develop future leaders of the profession. The Retreat brings emerging designers in contact with more seasoned professionals. The setting is deliberately casual (and inexpensive) to promote lively discussions. It aims to expand the knowledge of designers at all levels and to enhance design quality in Michigan.

The Persian Gulf War in **1991** produced an economic slowdown and "was a year of cautious change and retrenching" for MSA. Michael Marshburn, AIA was the last president to serve under the Michigan Society of Architects banner. In a move by the national



*Carl D. Roehling, FAIA
President 1989*



*Richard E. Fry, FAIA
President 1990*



*Michael A. Marshburn, AIA
President 1991*

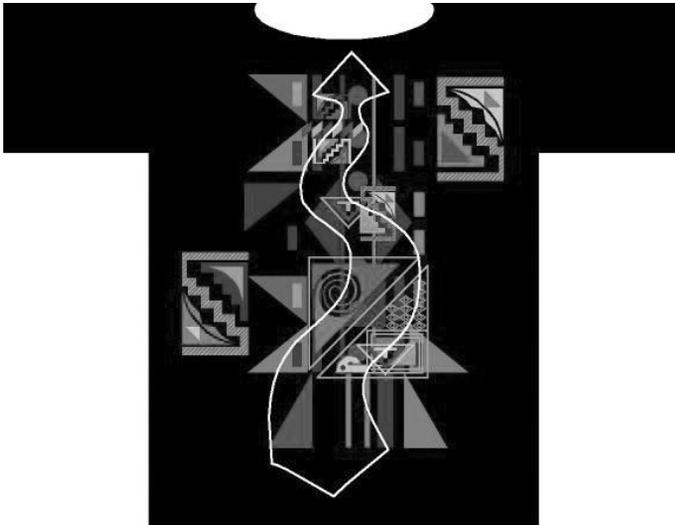


*Stephen Q. Whitney, FAIA
President 1992*



*Stephen Vogel, FAIA
President 1993*

organization, state societies and local chapters were asked to “brand” their organizations and MSA became AIA Michigan at the beginning of 1992.



*A new T-shirt is designed each year.
Dominic Pangborn created the 2005 version.*

A tenth chapter was formed in the Harbor Springs - Petosky area and named AIA Upper Great Lakes. Membership levels and activities remained stable despite the sluggish economy.

Governor Engler abolished the Department of Licensing & Regulation and dismissed two-thirds of the staff. The Architect's Registration Law became a part of the Department of Commerce and there were few left to police “unlicensed practitioners.” Professional Practice Committees were formed at all levels and new ties were formed with the building officials. “Self-regulation” became the word of the day.

Modest improvement in the economy for **1992** is off set by the continued assault on the profession by unlicensed practitioners, the home builders association who want to expand their share of the housing market, interior designers and landscapers who want to become licensed and disappointment in the advertising revenues for *PLACE Magazine*. President Stephen Whitney, FAIA and the board of directors, spent a good part of the year on

licensing and legislative matters. At issue was change to Article 20 of Public Act 299 dealing with professional registration. The architects, engineers and surveyors met to attempt to have better control of the profession by professionals.

The Educational Facilities Planning Conference is established after careful study and under the leadership of Michael Marshburn, AIA. Under the auspices of the Michigan Architectural Foundation and cosponsored by a number of state agencies and organizations, the conference draws architects and educators from all over the mid-west.

Things are coming to a head in the legislature in **1993** when President Steve Vogel, FAIA, proposes a \$100 one-time assessment of the membership to be used to regain control of the profession and to force the State of Michigan to fulfill its obligation to the health, safety and welfare of the public.

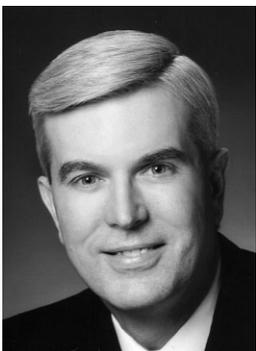
EXPO93 becomes the first joint convention with the Construction Association of Michigan. An industry-wide coalition had been formed to put on the show. This effectively ends the architect sponsored state wide exhibition and convention, a tradition that began in 1908. Future “conventions” take the form of continuing education seminars.

A Fellowship Committee is created to identify and assist qualified members to apply for and be elected to the AIA National College of Fellows. Robert Ziegelman, FAIA is chair. Previous efforts to encourage Fellowship were informal and results had been spotty.

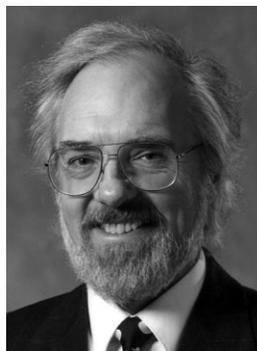
Government affairs and long range strategic planning are the hallmarks of the **1994** presidency of Eugene Hopkins, FAIA. Practice acts for interior designers and landscapers are still on the table and efforts to solve the issue of unlicensed practitioners is on-going. A bill to take architects out of the home building market is proposed.

The previous year ended in a shortfall and the budget was tight. There was talk of cutting programs and staff but things picked up by mid-year.

The Beaubien House is again on the agenda for **1995**. Prompted by the specter of a \$87,000 balloon payment on the mortgage in two years and the increased focus on government affairs, President F. Graham Dickens, AIA assigns the finance committee



*Eugene C. Hopkins, FAIA
President 1994*



*F. Graham Dickens, AIA
President 1995*



*Thomas R. Mathison, FAIA
President 1996*



*Arthur F. Smith, FAIA
President 1997*



the task of evaluating the issue. Thanks to the dismal real estate market in Detroit, the committee concludes that the outstanding debt is greater than the potential sales price and the Beaubien House continues its role as headquarters for the three organizations housed there.

With three separate organizations; AIA Michigan, AIA Detroit and the Michigan Architectural Foundation, operated by the same staff and housed in the same building conflicts are apt to occur. Demands on the staff from three sets of bosses effects moral. Priorities are set and budgets created apportioning payroll dollars to each entity. With clearer guidelines, harmony is restored.

November, 1995

*“One of the things that people like about architects is that we operate outside the envelope.”
F. Graham Dickens, AIA, Monthly Bulletin*

When President Thomas Mathison, FAIA took over in **1996**, he charged the board to do more for students and associates. He wanted to find a way for children to be educated on the role of architects and how architecture impacts their lives. A line item is created in the budget for Associate services and \$500 is allotted.

The relocation task force is still searching for a Lansing presence. A Michigan Architectural Design Center is talked about.

Computers have made it possible for the national organization to propose a single point dues collection system. In anticipation of this, computers have to be upgraded at the Beaubien House and the dues schedule has to be simplified. A consensus is growing for a sustained public relations program and legislative assault. An increase in dues becomes necessary. Although the economy has been improving, an increase in member fees is always a challenge but is finally approved.

December, 1996

*“We continue to be blessed with an excellent, yet lean, staff.”
Thomas R. Mathison, FAIA, Monthly Bulletin*

Arthur Smith, FAIA started out **1997** determined to settle the outstanding legislative issues with the home builders and interior designers that had been on the agenda in one form or another for the past four years. He and Park Smith, AIA set up meetings with the leadership of both groups. Coalition building was

the word for the day. Alan Cobb, FAIA and the Government Affairs Committee produced an Action Plan. Feelings were running high on all sides. Compromise was unlikely. Alliances between and among the groups was ever changing and it was sometimes unclear who had authority to negotiate with each group. The year ended without much progress but a greater understanding of the issues.

A national advertising and television campaign is kicked off in Washington for **1998**. Locally, AIA Michigan’s Public Affairs Committee, chaired by Thomas Lucas, FAIA, works with communications consultant, Christina Lovio George, to develop a series of three forums aimed at revitalizing the role and value to the public of the architect through education and communication. “Mission Possible” is launched. The results are mixed and attendance is disappointing.

President Park Smith, AIA, like his predecessor, spends many hours in Lansing fending off attacks on the architects licensing law.

Operating under a board mandate to “relocate AIA Michigan to Lansing as soon as economically feasible,” Barry Wood, AIA, and Thomas Mathison, FAIA reviewed the alternatives based on the mission and purpose of the organization. Eugene Hopkins, FAIA presented the financial implications and noted that no move was financially feasible until the mortgage was retired in three years. Ultimately, the Beaubien House is refinanced at 5.7% reducing the square foot cost of occupancy and the pressure to relocate is eased.

The single point dues system becomes a reality and dues are now collected in Washington. Email addresses show up on the board list. Computers are an essential part of Beaubien House operations. The website, AIAMI.COM goes on line in February. The successful installation and integration of the entire award winning computer network is due to the work of the Mosley team. Cathy, who came to work for the Society in 1979, and her architect husband Mike, are the back bone of the system. Together they form an information technology team that is unsurpassed by the high paid technicians hired by many architectural firms. Mike Mosley, AIA teaches at Lawrence Technological University and has his own architectural practice. He has become a “friend with benefits” to the Beaubien House staff, ready to unsnarl computer glitches and install complicated hardware. In addition to his day jobs, he is the webmaster.

MasterCard and Visa eliminate most invoices and billing. The year ended with a budget surplus.

Debt reduction is the big news for **1999**. President Gary Skog, FAIA gives full credit to the past four years of focused attention and perseverance. The Beaubien House mortgage with the bank is paid off and the only outstanding debt is with the Michigan Architectural Foundation. Cash flow is improved and money is freed up for new programs.

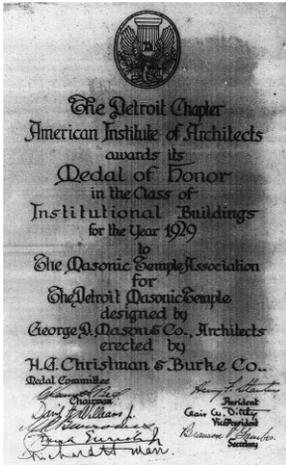
A joint conference with the Ontario Association of Architects brings an international flavor to the event. The awards ceremony is held in Windsor at Cleary Auditorium and awards are exhibited from both countries. The recently opened casino attracts a few Michigan architects but most head home after a lengthy program.



*J. Parkhill Smith, AIA
President 1998*



*Gary L. Skog, FAIA
President 1999*



Certificate for 1929 Award to George Mason



*Samuel A. Cashwan
Sculptor 1900-1988
Designer of the Detroit Chapter Gold Medal*

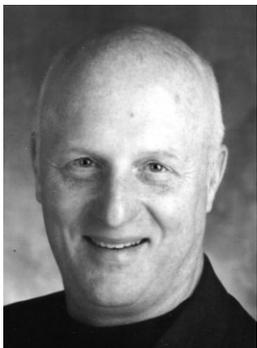


Design Award Programs

Award programs have a long history in AIA. The Detroit Chapter for instance, began in 1928 when thirty-five members gathered for dinner at the Scarab Club and then went down the block to a gallery in the Detroit Institute of Arts to evaluate and chose by ballot (secret we hope) three buildings for special recognition. The next year a Chicago jury made the choices and then on to Cleveland the year after. It became clear very quickly that an impartial jury was needed to get past local rivalries.

Samuel A. Cashwan designed the first medallion for the Chapter and it was intended to go to the owner of the building. In 1930, when AIA Detroit decided to award its first Gold Medal to George Mason, FAIA, Cashwan's design was used (as a money saving gesture). The Medallic Art Company has made the Gold Medal since that time.

Born in Russia in 1900 and trained at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, he was an instructor in architectural sculpture at the University of Michigan before joining the faculty at the School of the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts. During the Depression he was supervisor of sculpture for the Works Progress Administration. His commissions dot Michigan's landscape and include the Brady Memorial at Belle Isle, several buildings at Michigan State University and the facade of St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Detroit. He taught at Wayne State University and in 1942 became a designer for General Motors. His work was exhibited at the 1939 Worlds Fair and at the Museum of Modern Art in New York.



*Barry D. Wood, AIA
President 2000*



*Andrew A. Vazzano, FAIA
President 2001*

The Great Depression and WWII put an end to most award programs but with prosperity in the 1950's Saarinen and Smith Hinchman and Grylls were earning awards for the GM Tech Center and Victor Gruen was recognized for the Northland Shopping Center. Both ground breaking buildings in their time. The 1960 saw a 45 year run of award winning designs for the William Kessler firm, including several national honors.

The American Institute of Architects in Washington made its first design awards in 1949. The Wing Lake School in Bloomfield Hills by O'Dell, Hewlett and Luckenbach earned a Merit Award in the School K-12 category. A number of Michigan firms have been honored through the years. Most recently, in 2006, it was Harley Ellis Devereaux for their role in the Millennium Park in Chicago.



*Marshall Fredericks,
Honorary Member
AIA Michigan and Detroit
Designer of the
AIA Michigan Gold Medal*



AIA Michigan had its first program in 1965. Jury panels were organized upon recommendation of the editors of the major architectural publications. Both negative and positive comments were recorded. The tradition of out-of-state juries and anonymous judging has continued since that time.

Marshall Fredericks, Honorary Affiliate Member Michigan Society of Architects, winner of the Institute's Fine Arts Medal in 1952, sculpted the Michigan Society Gold Medal in 1954. It was from a design that graced the front page of the *Monthly Bulletin* beginning in 1928. Fredericks monumental pieces adorn public buildings throughout the country. The Spirit of Detroit and the 30 foot tall American Eagle on the Veterans Memorial Building are Detroit examples.

The Detroit papers featured the winners in the photogravure section. Whole Sunday supplements were sometimes devoted to them. Alas, by the early 1990 the major papers began to see this as free advertising and coverage has been spotty ever since.

August 9, 1999

"All design is cyclical, and developers and builders again have come to embrace good design - and not just for aesthetic reasons, but for commercial ones. Good design makes money."

Gary L Skog, FAIA, Detroit Free Press

In anticipation of the new millennium, the National AIA establishes the AIM program, Aligning the Institute for the Millennium. Its intent was to challenge comfortable assumptions about the Institute and the profession. This process had been going on for sometime at AIA Michigan but the Institute's efforts helped to further focus planning at the Excom Retreat in November.



The new Millennium came without the anticipated bang. The computer clock rolled over without a hitch. The continuing problems with AIA National's data base can't be blamed on catastrophic events. President Barry Wood, AIA and the **2000** board of directors concentrate on three of the seven tenets of the AIA National AIM Initiative, external dialogue, partners and inclusiveness. They planned to stay the course with the public awareness campaign, join with others in the construction industry to schedule continuing education programs and to strengthen these initiatives by working closely with other members of the building team.

Discussion began with the Michigan Architectural Foundation to clarify its relationship with AIA Michigan. Revenues from joint programs needed to be apportioned and specifics of the Beaubien House mortgage needed clarification. The treasurers of both organizations were charged to work out the details. It was expected to be a three year process. The Foundation was to be concerned with "architecture" and the society with "architects," a broad distinction that had been worked out ten years before.



*World Trade Center
Photo by Balthazar Korab*

The "Repeal the Seal" campaign by the Michigan Home Builders Association is back in **2001**. A compromise had been worked out but was voted down by their membership.

President Andrew Vazzano, FAIA was a strong advocate for a conference on "Workplace Design & Technology." Technology becomes the favored means of communication at the Beaubien House. The website, aiami.com, is used more and more. Newsletters and conference registrations show up on the web.

Suddenly, it didn't matter. Little was accomplished at the Finance Committee meeting on September 11. Nervous spouses urged their downtown architects to leave their offices and get away from potential

targets. Maybe General Motors in the Renaissance Center would be next. Four days later, architects traveled north to The Twelfth Annual Design Retreat on September 15th at Camp-Hayo-Went-Ha on Torch Lake with a heavy heart, mourning the loss of 3,000 souls and the destruction of the Twin Towers at the World Trade Center. Many architects knew people who had worked at Yamasaki when this landmark building was designed. No one knew if this terrorist attack was the first of a series or whether more could be expected.

In the weeks and months that followed many Michigan architects visited ground zero. Funds were collected and sent to AIA New York. The Detroit Chapter and AIA Michigan each sent \$1,000. Security became the new concern as architects began to revise their plans for public buildings of all sizes. Access to plans and drawings had to be controlled. Would a skyscraper ever be designed again?

October, 2000

"It is my desire to bring together all of the design professionals in a working, partnering arena."

Barry D. Wood, AIA, Monthly Bulletin

2002 began modestly with a revenue sharing plan that would allow more chapter members to go to Washington to attend the annual Grass Roots Program. Labeled, "AIA National's best program," by President Timothy Casai, FAIA, members meet with legislators and learn about "best practices" of AIA components across the country.

January, 2003

"The goal of member service, financial stability and promotion of member architects have come into clearer focus, and remain the reasons for the organization."

Timothy Casai, FAIA from his president's report in the Bulletin

Benedetto Tiseo, AIA and the Government Affairs Committee, recognizing that "all politics is local," set out to host legislative events in each of the ten chapter areas. Fund raising was successful and many architects got involved in the political process. After many years of legislative warfare, a law changing what can be used to calculate square foot requirements for sealed drawings for one and two family residential construction finally passes.

Rocco Romano, AIA and his committee put the finishing touches on "Architecture - It's Elementary," a comprehensive program aimed at kindergarten thru grade 5 school teachers.

Tom Mathison, FAIA works hard to institutionalize the AIA Michigan Mentoring Network. The goal is to make available a mentor for every architectural student in the four schools of architecture in the state. After two years, it is recognized that there is a need to development more material to aid both mentors and students. The program eventually earns kudos in Washington when it is presented at Grass Roots.

Eugene Hopkins, FAIA, with his election as First Vice President, is on track to become the third architect from Michigan to lead the 70,000 member American Institute of Architects in 2004.



*Timothy A. Casai, FAIA
President 2002*



*Celeste Allen Novak, AIA
President 2003*

National Presidents

Clair W. Ditchy, FAIA served two terms as president of the Institute beginning in 1954. He was born in 1891 on Kelly's Island, Ohio. He was educated at the University of Michigan earning his architecture degree in 1911. Shortly after graduation he joined Albert Kahn and then went off to WWI as Lieutenant in the Army. He served overseas on detached service with the 4th French Army.

He had been president of the Detroit Chapter, Michigan Society of Architects and Great Lakes Regional Director before being elected as president of the Institute.

During his tenure as AIA Detroit president the chapter membership grew to 750 members and was the second largest in the nation, only New York was larger. The Society (1955) and the Detroit Chapter (1966) both honored him with the Gold Medal.

He specialized in the design of schools, hospitals and housing projects. He was a collaborator in the design of Brewster and Parkside homes in Detroit.

Robert F. Hastings, FAIA was both an architect and engineer. In 1961 he became president of Smith Hinchman & Grylls Associates (now SmithGroup Incorporated). Beginning right after graduation from the University of Illinois in 1937, he worked his way through the firm from job captain to the top.



Robert F. Hastings, FAIA presents Detroit Chapter award to Lillian Jackson Braun

Active in both the Detroit Chapter and the Institute, he held all the major offices including the national presidency in 1971. The national convention came to Detroit that year and its theme was "Hard Choices."

Eugene C. Hopkins, FAIA came to the national presidency through the Huron Valley Chapter. Active at the state level and serving on the executive committee for several years, he went on to become Regional Director and then President in 2004. A preservationist, his firm was on the team that earned a national design award for the restoration of Elijah Meier's Michigan Capitol Building. He traveled the world as an ambassador for architecture and pushed the "knowledge communities" as a way to enhance the value of the organization to its members.

National Conventions

September 29, 1897	Detroit
May 23 - 25, 1942	Detroit
April 29 - May 1, 1947	Grand Rapids
	Eliel Sarrinen gets his Gold Medal
June 20 -24, 1971	Detroit,
	Robert Hastings, FAIA is president

DISASTER AVERTED

December 6 was a quiet day at the Beaubien House. Reuters, quoting the chief of the United Nations' climate advisory body, said on Friday in the Detroit News that climate change caused by greenhouse gas emissions will exacerbate world poverty and could make millions of people more open to extremism. You would not believe that in Detroit with the temperature hovering at -10 degrees. People are calling to RSVP for the holiday open house scheduled for the following week. One of the sprinkler heads in the back office starts to drip. It had happened before with no consequences so a wastebasket serves to contain the water. Two hours later the sprinkler head goes off with a bang and a high pressure umbrella of water is cascading down right above the computer server station. "Grab the printer, no, dumb, shut the water off," thinks staff as they run to the basement to locate the turn-off valve. The valve is found, a big red wheel on the back wall. It's chained and padlocked. Where's the key? On a nail in the ceiling joist too high to reach. Water is pouring down the furnace pipes even though the broken sprinkler is over the slab-on-grade portion of the ell addition. A broken chair serves as a ladder. The key fits the lock but the wheel won't turn. The security alarm goes off adding to the pandemonium. It takes two staff members, adrenalin pumping, to force the valve shut. They run upstairs to find the police and fire department responding to the alarm. The carpet is soaked all the way to the front hall. Ceiling tile is hanging down and objects on the floor are floating. Two burly firemen, decked out in full disaster regalia, pick up the computer server, survey the damage and return to their trucks to find a real fire. What next?

The phone rings, another RSVP. "We are flooded, can't talk to you now," is the response. After a brief explanation, the caller suggests that one of their clients is a disaster clean up company, Burton Brothers. At about this time, Cathy and Mike Mosley, with Ed Francis on their heels, rush in and immediately get to work. Everyone is scrambling to salvage as much as possible. The Burton people show up and moving like a well rehearsed ballet, secure the site. Black mold growth is a big concern. After all the electronic equipment is placed safely in a van parked in the alley, the carpet is ripped out, water is sucked up and giant blowers are brought in to dry the space out.



Staff members, Sara Dougherty, Lynne Merrill-Francis, and Cathy Mosley, with the able assistance of Ed and Mike, salvage important financial records and other important documents and remove a dumpster full of sodden paper and other ruined office equipment. Insurance covers most of the cost of repair and the long dreamed of home of AIA is saved.

Celeste Allen Novak, AIA takes office in **2003** as only the second woman to hold the president's chair. It was not until 2006 that the second woman led the Institute in Washington. Since many architecture schools are now graduating classes with over 50% female students, times indeed may be changing. The early history of female architects in Michigan is elusive. There is a tantalizing photo in George Mason's file at the Burton Collection of his drafting room in 1888. Front and center at a drafting board is a woman labeled Brown. Who is she?

December 6, 2003

"Originally people started talking about historic preservation 30 years ago, and some people didn't even think it was architecture because the architecture had already been done.

All you were doing is fixing it up."

Eugene Hopkins, FAIA in an interview with John Gallagher in the Detroit Free Press.



Emily Helen Butterfield, AIA

Women Architects

Michigan's first registered woman architect, January 26, 1916, right after the registration act was passed, was Emily H. Butterfield, AIA. She went to Syracuse University, earning her Bach of Arch. in 1907, worked for Revels and Hallenbeck in Syracuse her senior year and came home to work for her father as a draughtsman until being made partner in 1915. Butterfield and Butterfield designed 26 churches, schools, stores, factories and even garbage disposal plants. She opened her own practice in 1927 in Pontiac. She lived for a time in Farmington and designed the Methodist Church there.

She was a frequent contributor to shelter and style magazines like *House and Garden* and *Town and County*. Her *Young People's History of Architecture* (1933) was illustrated with sketches she made during her travels to Europe. She was a competent watercolorist and her paintings were exhibited in galleries throughout the region. She was a founding member of the Detroit Business & Professional Woman's Club in 1912. It was the first professional woman's club in the United States. She was inducted into the Michigan Woman's Hall of Fame in 1990.

In 1940 she returned to Algonac, where she was born in 1885, and sketched, painted, wrote and designed small homes until she died in 1958 at age 73.

Yvonne (Evie) Warner Asken, FAIA is the first female to be elected president. She came to Michigan from Kansas City following her graduation from Kansas State University. She worked for several Kalamazoo architectural firms before founding her own practice in Portage in the 1970s. Her career changed direction and she became Director of Campus Planning at Western Michigan University. Fellowship was conferred upon her in 1981 and she received the Michigan Gold Medal in 1986.



Evie Asken, FAIA and her Board of Directors, 1981

In her year as president (1981) she made great strides toward creating a professional business-like headquarters operation. She advocated strict budgeting and long range planning.

"Livable Communities" was the theme of Celeste Allen Novak's presidency. The idea of "green architecture" was promoted at the state and national level. It was also to become the theme of Michigan's first woman governor, Jennifer Granholm, in her Cool Cities program. Novak went on to become Regional Director.



*Randy L. Case, AIA
President 2004*



*Harry A. Terpstra, AIA
President 2005*



*Jeffrey J. Hausman, AIA
President 2006*

Michigan earned two awards from the Institute and was lauded at the national Grassroots meeting in Washington. Michael Mosley, AIA was singled out for his work setting up the website, aiami.com. Jeffrey Hausman, AIA and the Detroit Chapter were cited for their work in producing an issue of *Destination Detroit*, for the Central Business District Foundation. The magazine featured architect sharing examples of good planning and its role in building and maintaining neighborhoods.

Randy Case, AIA continued the livable communities theme when he took over in **2004**. Case, a preservationist and supporter of sustainable design, had been instrumental in organizing an Environmental Conference that was held for two years in Ann Arbor. As the complexity of the issue evolved, two separate committees were formed: Communities by Design took on smart growth, urban revitalization, new urbanism, Cool Cities, historic districts, zoning, planning and brown-field redevelopment. Sustainable/Green Design dealt with green materials, LEED certification and alternative energy. AIA Michigan members served on the Governor's Cool Cities Planning Committee and the Context Sensitive Design Task Force of the Michigan Department of Transportation.

2004 Annual Report

"It seemed that whenever we needed someone to step forward, there was always someone who came through."

Randy L. Case, AIA

The national convention was held in Chicago. Gene Hopkins presided over the largest and most well attended convention in AIA history. Over 22, 000 people were there. Tom Mathison, FAIA was elected as AIA Vice President and Celeste Allen Novak, AIA became director for the Michigan Region. Michigan sponsored a resolution to strengthen the demographic diversity of the design profession with funding that was approved 97% to 3%.

The Beaubien House lease was renegotiated with the Foundation and is expected to be paid off in seven years.



Judy and Gene DiLaura on the porch at the Grand Hotel 1974

Harry Terpstra, AIA chose "Connections" as his theme for **2005**. He pledged to continue the advocacy for livable communities, the increased role of architects as pro-active leaders and vowed to strengthen the connections with other organizations serving the built environment.

For the first time in its 63 year history, the Midsummer Conference on Mackinac Island becomes a joint effort with the Associated General Contractors of Michigan. The conference at the Grand Hotel is the longest continuing event on the calendar. The first statewide convention was earlier (1908) but is no longer held. It began in the war years, when gas rationing, bald tires and wartime jitters had slowed the parade of summer visitors to the island. Heretofore, business-

men, in groups, had not been encouraged to register at the Grand. Architects were thought to be a safe choice. Construction industry partners had always been invited to Midsummer and networking has long been on the agenda but 2005 was the first formal joint planned event. Over 500 attended from the three organizations and financial gain exceeded projections.

At the end of August another summertime event occurred with deadly consequences. Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. The Institute mobilized and teams of architects were dispatched to the area. Regional Director Novak reported that, "There is a fear that many small firms will never re-open." AIA Michigan and AIA Detroit each donated \$1,000 for relief.

Accumulating a financial reserve equal to one half of the annual budget was set forth as a goal. Sound financial planning (and no severe recession) seems to have smoothed out the 3 to 5 year cycles of dissatisfaction, planning and new beginnings noted by President Bower in 1978. Pro-active treasurers; Tom Lucas, Carl Roehling, Gary Skog, Tim Casai and Dennis M. King made sure systems were in place to keep the budgets balanced. Business manager Cathy Mosley and bookkeeper Evelyn Giordano, along with the accountants Moore & Moore, kept the information flowing allowing for timely policy decisions.

The Beaubien House gets new windows and doors thanks to a matching grant from the Downtown Development Authority aimed at polishing up downtown Detroit for the Superbowl.

The by-laws were updated and the executive director becomes a voting member of the executive committee.

"Designing a better Michigan through the AIA" was the theme of the presidency of Jeffrey Hausman, AIA in **2006**. The year began amid the flurry of SuperBowl XL. The Detroit Chapter, working with the Associated General Contractors, had lined up 21 architectural firms to create window displays about Detroit architecture and architects in an equal number of vacant store front windows on Woodward Avenue. The AIA Guide to Detroit Architecture was excerpted and reprinted as a pamphlet for distribution to thousands of tourists.

2006 President's Report

"You can make a positive difference in the community. All you have to do is put your mind to it and take action."

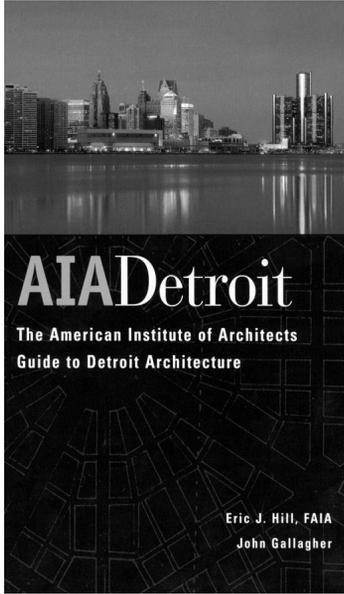
Jeffrey J. Hausman, AIA

quoting his mother in the Monthly Bulletin.

AIA Guides

This Guide, produced in 2003, builds upon Detroit Architecture A.I.A. Guide that was published by Wayne State University Press for distribution at the national AIA convention held in Detroit in 1971. It relied heavily on W. Hawkins Ferry's *Buildings of Detroit: A History*. It was revised and reprinted in 1980 and Ferry acted as an advisor.

The current edition, authored by Eric J. Hill, PhD, FAIA and John Gallagher, Hon. Aff. AIAMI takes a fresh look at Detroit area architecture. This new version contains 370 entries complete with lively commentary and photos by internationally recognized photographer Balthazar Korab, Hon. Aff. Member AIMI/DC. It is the culmination of a three year effort that began with fund raising and grant writing.



The Guides to Architecture have become popular features in several cities in Michigan and have a long history. The Detroit Chapter published a Visitors Guide to Detroit Architects in 1956. Through its Chapter Grant Program, the Michigan Architectural Foundation has funded guides in Ann Arbor, Flint, Grand Valley, Kalamazoo and Port Huron.

Planning begins for AIA150. The Institute will be 150 years old in 2007 and there will be events planned throughout the country. Planning also is underway for the Municipal Facilities Conference. Chaired by Michael R. Strother, AIA

and patterned after the successful Health and Education Conferences, this one is aimed at city officials and planners. The AIA Michigan/AIA Detroit Joint Operations Task Force studied the feasibility of merging but reported that there would not be any financial advantage through consolidation at this time but the issue would be investigated periodically.

Except for a worsening economy in Michigan, the organization was little affected by world events. The trend toward mergers and acquisitions with firms in other states continued, easing the impact of the state's 7.1% unemployment figures, two points higher than the national average. Hurricanes were few and milder. The war in Iraq continued.

The membership base has been trending lower due to the retirement of baby-boom architects and a drift away from traditional practice. A membership committee was reactivated under Jeffrey Zokas, AIA to look for creative solutions to this problem. In spite of lower totals the budget was balanced.

The year ends with an event that threads through all of the history of the organization. President Hausman sends a two page letter, on behalf of the members of AIA Michigan, to the athletic director

at the University of Michigan critiquing the proposed design of the new stadium. A close reading of the minutes of the meetings going back to 1888 will produce references to the strong opinions held by members about proposed public buildings. City fathers, museum directors, boards and commissions took the comments seriously. Usually they met with a delegation from AIA, and in some years, sending plans for comment even before they were presented to the public. The record does not report the results of President Hausman's letter.

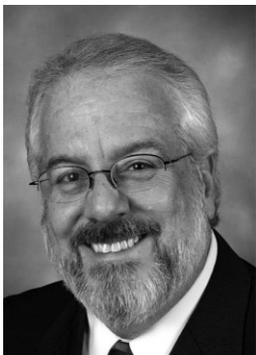
Happy Birthday AIA! All of the planning from the year before came to fruition in **2007**. The national initiative, AIA150 Blueprint for America, comes to Michigan as six of the ten chapters plus the state earn grants. Only three other states manage to get more grants than Michigan. The chapters; Detroit, Flint, Grand Valley, Huron Valley, Southwest Michigan and the Upper Peninsula planned "charrette" style programs involving community leaders, residents and other stakeholders. For their grant, AIA Michigan produced a poster that summarized the chapters' programs, put it on the website with links to the actual documents. The Blueprint Poster was presented to government officials at the March Legislative Day 2008.

President Dennis M. King, FAIA presided over the AIA150 Celebrations with gusto. His enthusiasm and can-do attitude helped to maintain a festive spirit throughout the year. Each event in the calendar was an opportunity to highlight architecture and promote architects. Proclamations from the Governor and Legislature were secured and cities promoted Architecture Week programs.

May 26, 2007

"First is integrity. Be a person of your word, do what you say and live your commitments. Admit errors and be at meetings on time. Second is surround yourself with great people and get out of the way. And third, remember that slow and steady wins the race. Stay persistent, steady and focused."

Dennis M. King, FAIA, Detroit Free Press in response to the question, "What is your best advice for becoming a CEO?"



*Dennis M. King, FAIA
President 2007*



*Stephen E. Smith, AIA
President 2008*



President King with an ice sculpture at the AIA150 Gala.

The honor awards program, "Celebration of Architecture" became a two day AIA150 Gala with the addition of a Saturday Design Brunch Program. The jury chair, Edward Uhler, FAIA, described how Chicago's Millennium Park came together and how it has been a catalyst for economic development. Millennium Park is one of the most successful art and architecture collaborations in recent history and is expected to generate 2.6 billion dollars from visitor spending in the city in ten years.

Arthur Smith, FAIA rounded out the program that was worth three continuing education credits when he shared the secrets of "What it Takes to Win an Honor Award." Smith has chaired the design award committees for both AIA Michigan and AIA Detroit for a number of years.

100th Anniversary

When the 100th AIA Anniversary occurred fifty years ago, in 1957, a year long schedule of events was also planned. The theme then was "AIA - A New Century Beckons." The year culminated on October 28 at Ford Auditorium with a Centennial Symphony Concert by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. The *Monthly Bulletin* rhapsodized in its December issue, "Nearly 2,500 guests attended the symphony and the buffet supper that followed. The aura of the occasion had all the effulgence reminiscent of the late Mrs. William Astor's Monday nights at the Metropolitan with supper at Sherry's afterwards."

The week before on October 21st, Frank Lloyd Wright was in town for a lecture. The guests were treated to a whole series of Wright one liners. A transcript of the speech was published in the December *Bulletin*.

On October 9th Richard Neutra, FAIA gave a memorial lecture to open a photographic exhibit titled, "One Hundred Years of Michigan Architecture." The exhibit moved around the state and at one point it graced the windows of the J. L. Hudson Department Store.

50th Anniversary

Records are scant for the fiftieth anniversary in 1907. Frank C. Baldwin, FAIA was president. He was very active in Institute affairs; a director, Vice President and Secretary of the Institute for nine years. He has another important claim to fame that is well documented in the Beaubien House files. He was the primary author of what has become the "General Conditions of the Contract." He began thus, "I gathered together as many copies of the specifications of the older firms in Detroit and other cities as I could lay my hands on." In due order, the Michigan Chapter approved the General Conditions. At the AIA National Convention in 1906 a Chicago architect, Allan Pond, exclaims from the floor, "The most outstanding contribution in many years has been made by the Michigan Chapter in the adoption of a uniform set of "General Conditions." This led to a national committee, that Baldwin sat on, that developed the General Conditions that were approved three years later.

The sale of contract documents has been an important source of income for the Society since that time. Nearly \$125,000 was earned in 2006. There are now over 100 contracts available to architects and other members of the building team. Ordering, storing, filling orders and inventorying the documents falls

primarily to Evelyn Dougherty. She has a working knowledge of the contents of most of them and provides a valuable service to the membership.

When Stephen E. Smith, AIA assumed the presidency in 2008, he was determined to strengthen the connection with the next generation of architects. He reached out to Associate and Student members to involve them at all levels of the organization. This coincided with a similar effort from the Institute. Emerging Professionals Committees were formed in the Chapters. Participation by young professionals increased as the year progressed.

When the year began the Stock Market was jittery but optimistic, interest rates were low, housing starts were down but expected to go up and architects were promoting a "green" agenda. The Institute's National Design Committee met in Detroit in April to examine the "Design Parallels" between architecture, industrial design, interior design and transportation design. Alan Cobb, FAIA was the local chair and 200 designers from across the nation met with their counterparts from the auto industry, furniture industry and institutions of higher learning for a three day conference and tour.

By mid year, crude oil was \$145 per barrel, the "housing bubble" had burst and the stock market was at its lowest level since 1972. True to 1977 president Paul D. Bowers' observation that "the history of the Society was made up of many 3 to 5 year repetitive cycles that began with dissatisfaction with the way things were being run," a Strategic Planning Committee is formed to chart "a new beginning." At the first of what would be a total of 7 meetings, the strategic planning committee looked at all of the aspects of AIA Michigan as it is currently constituted, and brainstormed how it might best meet the future to benefit and support the profession and society. The launching of this endeavor was not originally on the formal agenda for 2008, but in the spirit of truly designing the future, all involved embraced the opportunity. A wide variety of members from different constituencies took part. Steve Vogel, FAIA, Dean of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture, agreed to serve as facilitator for the strategic planning process.

The November election of the nation's first African American president, Barack Obama, also generated thoughts of a new beginning.

In spite of the world's economic gloom some important gains were made. On December 11th the mortgage on the Beaubien House was paid in full. Careful planning and budgeting over a sustained period led to the payoff two years early.



Glasses are raised to toast a mortgage free Beaubien House



Emil Lorch, FAIA
*Historian and First President
of University of Michigan
Architecture School*

History of History

Many attempts have been made to write a comprehensive history of the organization. As early as 1915 it was recognized that the founding members were getting old or dying and that their memories should be recorded. Committees were formed and some letters and documents were assembled but nothing much happened. Emil Lorch, FAIA, first dean of the College of Architecture at the University of Michigan, took a scholarly approach to the task and wanted to broaden the scope to include all the important build-

ings in Michigan. Again, a few more documents were added to the scant store but nothing comprehensive was published.

The next effort was in 1928 when Harry S. Angell's recollections of the formation of the Architects Business Association was printed in the Official Handbook of the Michigan Society of Architects (See Appendix IV). Angell wrote about the steps leading to the passage of the Architects Registration Act.

In 1939 Frank Baldwin's memories were published in the *Bulletin* (see Appendix V). He was intimately involved in the first national convention held in Detroit in 1897 and he related the history of Michigan's involvement in the creation of the General Conditions. George T. Mason, FAIA was a founding member and there are numerous references to his diary as the various attempts at history writing are proposed (see Appendix VI). His papers (and photographs of many of his buildings) are now housed in the Burton Collection at the Detroit Public Library. When I tracked them down I had high hopes of discovering the details surrounding the first efforts of Michigan architects to organize. While Mason was an avid "scrapbooker," his diaries were mostly account books with some entries of meetings. Nothing conclusive turned up about the early history aside from the note about the meeting in Elijah E. Myers office reported by Braun.

Like Lilian Jackson Braun, I found the early history more interesting to read. The personalities of the letter writers and record keepers stand out. There is more humor, pathos and righteous indignation. Since the 1980s, lawyers, lawsuits and liability insurance concerns underlie the written record. Lively exchanges may occur via email but there will be no paper trail to examine in 50 years.

No one has taken an critical look at the organization that began in 1887 and evolved into the American Institute of Architects Michigan. George Mason, Emil Lorch, Harry Angell, and Frank Baldwin were too close to the events to be objective. Lilian Jackson Braun and me love the subject too much to dwell on any shortcomings.

What is not recorded here is the architecture. Part of that story came out in 2008 when the Michigan Architectural Foundation published *Great Architecture of Michigan* (text by John Gallagher and photographs by Balthazar Korab). Both were made Honorary Affiliate Members for their significant contributions. Michigan's past is filled with great architects, largely unacknowledged by scholars because of their location, between the east and west coast architectural powerhouses and too close to Chicago's orbit. Most of them were members of what is now AIA Michigan. Many were officers or served on boards and committees. Although they railed against anyone who was willing to provide "free sketches," they gave away professional advise and services in many other ways.

As the organization evolved from the idea of a room to house a few publications to a real-estate-owning professional society with ten chapters, three national presidents and a well earned reputation for innovative programs, credit goes to many individuals. From the early days of Talmage Hughes, FAIA, on to Ann Stacy, Honorary AIA and to the present with Rae Dumke, Honorary AIA executive leadership has risen through the ranks. Each person learning from the previous occupant of the position and then putting on their own special interpretation.

Continuity of leadership is the thread that seems to hold the organization together through the constant ups and downs of Michigan's economy. An early decision to have two year terms for the president that evolved, in the late 1960s, into a president-elect system, has strengthened the presidency. Moving through the offices of the Board of Directors has kept institutional memory intact allowing for smoother transitions.

A dedicated staff, Rae Dumke, Hon. AIA; Cathy Mosley, Hon. Aff. AIA MI; Evelyn Giordano, Lynne Merrill-Francis, Sara Dougherty and Evelyn Dougherty, earned an Institute Presidential Citation in 2004. "If trust is the vital connective tissue essential to the success of any collective effort, the achievement of these special few is a case study of how consistent performance of exceeded expectations, an unswerving commitment to excellence, and an uncanny ability to multiply, on a daily basis, the proverbial loaves and fishes have forged a rock-solid partnership between staff and members that has elevated and enriched the profession and community alike."

A personal note

As plans were evolving for AIA150 it seemed appropriate to update the story of AIA Michigan that Lilian Jackson Braun had compiled in 1976. Since I had spent some time in the old files in 1987 for the 100th anniversary of the Society, I volunteered for the job.

I set out to list all the presidents from October 26, 1887 and to find a photo of each. Nancy Hadley of the National AIA Archives has been very helpful and came up with two missing names but no photos. Happily, 90% of them were found in the files in the basement of the Beaubien House. The best quality photos, not necessarily the most flattering, were selected. A couple turned up in the Burton Collection, a few more were in the April, 1918 issue of the *Michigan Contractor & Builder*. John Grylls, Esq, Honorary Affiliate Member of AIA Detroit, came up with a photo of his ancestor, H. J. Maxwell Grylls (1908-09). The names of two presidents and their photos are missing. Secretary and treasurer names are written down for 1889 and 1892 but references to the presidents for those years haven't turned up yet. We apologize to the descendants of the missing few and hope they show up for the next history writing exercise.

Sincerely,
Lynne Merrill-Francis



Evey Giordano, Cathy Mosley, Evelyn Dougherty, Rae Dumke, Sara Dougherty, Lynne Merrill-Francis at the 2006 Detroit Chapter Awards

APPENDIX I

Excerpt from "Michigan Architect and Engineer" of February, 1920:

Thirty-three years ago, or to be historically exact, on October 26, 1887, the foundation of what is now the Michigan Chapter, American Institute of Architects, was laid in the organization of the Michigan State Association of Architects, the first society of architects practicing in Michigan ever formed.

The objects of that association, as stated in its constitution, were:

1. To promote the interests of our profession by all legitimate methods, and, as a primary means to that end to cultivate harmony of action and personal friendships;
2. To stimulate the artistic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession.

A preliminary meeting to consider the advisability of forming a Michigan organization of architects was held in Detroit at the office of Donaldson & Meier at 5 p.m. Friday, October 21, 1887, at which time it was decided to go ahead with the proposition to organize an association and that any society so formed should connect itself with the Western Association of Architects, rather than with the American Institute. There were present at this Meeting: Arthur B. Cram, John M. Donaldson, Joe V. Gearing, Walter MacFarlane, Henry J. Meier, Mortimer I. Smith, Richard E. Raseman and Jos. S. Rogers, Jr. Mr. Smith was chosen as chairman and Mr. Rogers secretary to hold their respective positions until the proposed association had been perfected and duly qualified officers elected. The gentlemen present passed a resolution to extend an invitation to Gordon W. Lloyd, George D. Mason, J. E. Mills, Zack Rice, John Scott and E. W. Arnold to join with those present in the organization of the association.

The next meeting was held October 26, 1887 at 8 P.M. in the room of the Citizens' Association, located in the Moffat building. At this time the Michigan State Association of Architects was officially organized and a constitution and by-laws adopted and signed by Messrs. Donaldson, Mason, Rice, Arnold, Cram, Raseman, Gearing, Meier, Rogers, MacFarlane, Scott, and Edward C. Van Leyen, as charter members

The first officers of the new association were President, John M. Donaldson. Senior Vice-President, Mortimer I. Smith, Junior Vice-President, George D. Mason, Secretary, Jos. S. Rogers, Jr, Treasurer, Richard E. Raseman.

Directors: The President, Secretary, Treasurer, Arthur B. Cram and John Scott.

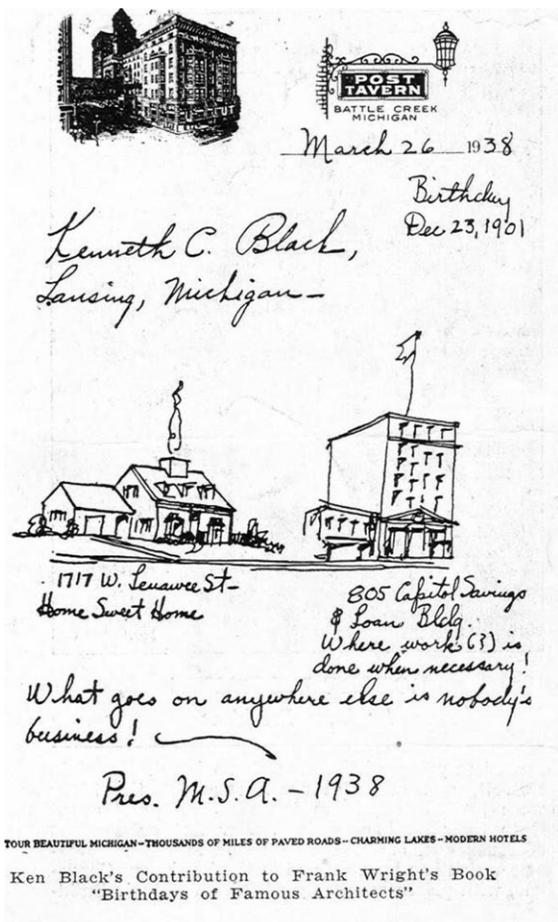
At this meeting an invitation was also issued to Julian Hess, Arthur H. Scott, and Frederick L. Smith to become members of the new association, and it was resolved that all members apply in a body for admission to the Western Association of Architects

APPENDIX II

Kenneth C. Black's recollections of the unification movement of the 1930s and 1940s

In the 1930s there were only two "Chapters" of the American Institute of Architects in Michigan, one in Detroit one in Grand Rapids. Membership was by invitation only and consisted principally of practicing architects and professors from the College of

Architecture at the University of Michigan. Members living in other cities in Michigan were automatically assigned by arbitrary geographical districts, to either the Detroit or Grand Rapids Chapter and had to go to those cities to attend meetings.



At that time the Michigan Society of Architects also had two "Divisions" in Detroit and Grand Rapids. Membership was open to any registered architect who wished to join and included many employees of AIA members and of various governmental agencies.

Most of the architects who belonged to both groups became convinced that it was pointless to maintain two professional organizations interested in the same major goals. Consequently, when I became president of the MSA in 1938 we started a movement to combine them into one. That involved the following procedures:

1. Additional "Divisions" of the MSA were established in all principal areas of the State by the out-state members of the Detroit and Grand Rapids Divisions. A membership drive was then undertaken to enroll as many registered architects as possible.
2. The two AIA Chapters agreed to abandon their arbitrary geographical districts and to broaden their membership requirements so that they could accept almost all registered architects.
3. The "Divisions" of the MSA adopted a rule that whenever AIA members constituted over 80% of the membership of the "Division" the "Division" would cease to exist and would become a new "Chapter" of the AIA



4. When this goal had been achieved in all "Divisions" the, MSA would cease to exist and it was agreed that it would then be re-established as an amalgamation of the AIA "Chapters" with each Chapter having representation on the Board of Directors.

5. The procedure outlined above was approved by the national AIA Board of Directors. It was then followed by several states, in-addition to Michigan, where similar problems of overlapping membership had grown up over the years.

APPENDIX III

An associate of Talmage Hughes called him "a once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon." Ann Stacy has said: "Without Tal there would have been no MSA.

Suren Pilafian has written: "For me Talmage Hughes stands out as the most important individual in the Society's history. His contributions to its growth are remarkable. He managed its affairs with great skill and imagination and with innovation. His keen sense of publicity resulted in very creditable results, both in the Bulletin and in local newspapers. He devoted himself to the welfare of the profession, was always willing and eager to help its members and was gentle and considerate in his relationships. He would handle and organize membership meetings so well that attendance would often be phenomenal."

Malcolm R. Stirton recalls: "Talmage Hughes was the founder, owner and editor of the Weekly Bulletin and really made it in its time the most outstanding architectural professional journal in the country. He was a residential architect but spent many hours on architectural committees and served as Secretary for years. The Weekly Bulletin was the glue that really united the profession in Michigan."

Behind Hughes' gentle demeanor there was a never-ending sense of humor. He and Roger Allen and Clair Ditchy were the unholy three whose antics and verbal jousting at conventions and in print entertained the membership for many years.

APPENDIX IV



A BRIEF EARLY HISTORY OF THE MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

By Harry S. Angell, AIA

Fourteen years ago, when jobs were as scarce as they are now and you did not dare speak to a competitor for fear he might read your mind and beat you to your best prospect, the M. S. of A. was conceived and definitely organized, May 28, 1914* under the name of the Architects Business Association of Michigan.

The following old-timers, Al Harley, Norm Atcheson, Gordon Pickell Wash Chapman, Fred Barnes and myself met by accident, for lunch one noon at the Palestine Lodge House. During the meal we decided that competitors could be friends and work together for the purpose of having a registration law passed. Each one present agreed to invite at least one brother architect for lunch the following week and soon a regular weekly meeting was attended by some twenty or thirty good fellows. Lawson Miller, John Stahl, Bert Williams, Ed. Schilling, Dick Mildner and Adolph Eisen were among the first to come into the fold.

The first by-laws were copies from the Illinois Architects business association, a similar organization, and F. Gordon Pickell was elected president for a term of two years. Our first convention was held in Ann Arbor late in 1914 to which all architects were invited. About fifty attended and most of them joined the association. The second convention was held at the Statler Hotel, Detroit, in February, 1915, at which time a real campaign was started for the registration of architects in Michigan.

I believe this law was finally passed in September, 1915, and we all should give credit to F. Gordon Pickell for his persistence and untiring efforts in getting this bill through.

The third convention was held in Grand Rapids in May, 1916 at which time registration certificates were given out by Mr. Osgood. Mr. Wm. G. Malcomson was elected president at this meeting and has been very active since then.

To the best of my recollection the next two conventions were held in Detroit in 1917 and 1918.

The sixth convention was held in Saginaw in 1919 and things were so well organized by this time that a complete record has been kept by the various secretaries and is probably available to all.

The changing of the name from "Business" to "Society" eventually had its effect on some of the members. A few weeks ago the Bulletin asked for Gordon Pickell, the first president and I found him as owner and manager of the Hotel Gordon. He left "society" for "business", a long time ago. He should be made a life member of the M. S. of A. in recognition of his services in the early days of the organization.

Wash Chapman finally went into the plumbing and heating business. Orla Varney built and is running a hotel but still maintains his office.

Norm Atcheson is farming in California and word came to me recently that Dewey Halpin is now with the Edison Company. Gen. Haas tried politics, but found out he was safer in "Society." He mistrusted his brother architects until after the Saginaw convention where he played poker for business with the aid of a 32 revolver. He got the money and did not use the gun.

Mr. Win. Malcomson's funny stories have served to furnish a good many laughs in years gone by, Henry Keough's intoxicating speeches before and after dinner are long to be remembered as well as Mr. Louis Kamper's speech about working nights and Sundays, taking the tobacco out of the specifications and not getting paid for it.

The big laugh came at Battle Creek when Chris Brandt received a telegram announcing the arrival of triplets. I don't think he was married at the time.

A few members will remember the convention at the Griswold house in 1917 or 1918. After several speeches and a lengthy discussion on architectural ethics, one feecutting member made the following resolution: "Gentlemen, I make a motion that we all get together and hold up the price." It was not carried.

*The minutes are dated 4/30/1914. Present: Pickell, Chapman, Barnes, Angell, Atchison, Stahl, Miller, A. E. Williams and Harley.

Weekly Bulletin, Vol.11, No. 17, Detroit, July 31, 1928

Michigan Society of Architects Official Handbook Volume 1, 1928-29

APPENDIX V

AIA MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Recollections of the Early History of Michigan Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, by the late Frank Conger Baldwin, F.A.I.A. Written in 1939

It was, I think, in the year 1894 that I became an associate or junior member of the Michigan Chapter (but not a member of The American Institute of Architects) and continued in that status until 1897, when I was admitted to membership in the Institute.

In 1896, the annual Convention of the Institute was held in Detroit, in the old Hotel Cadillac, and was presided over by its President, George B. Post. Glenn Brown was the National Secretary. I think that James Rogers, of the old firm of Rogers and MacFarlane, was President of the Michigan Chapter, and Richard F. Baseman was its Secretary.

A committee of the Chapter, consisting of Rogers, Raseman, Henry J. Meier and myself, was formed to arrange the entertainment of the Convention. This committee made plans for a rather elaborate series of sightseeing and other entertainments, including the chartering of one of the ferry boats for a mid-night ride on the river and Lake St. Clair. To meet the expenses of this entertainment, the committee, in its innocence solicited and received contributions of money from some of the leading building contractors of the city, such as Henry George & Sons, Spitzley & Company, Albert Albrecht, etc,

In some mysterious manner, this method of procedure came to the knowledge of the officers of the Institute a week or so prior to the date of the Convention and we received a "hot" telegram from Glenn Brown, the Secretary, upbraiding the Chapter for its undignified and unethical conduct and stating that under no circumstances could the delegates to the Convention accept hospitalities which were paid for by the contractors. The Committee held a hurriedly called meeting on a Sunday morning in my office, which resulted in the return of the cash contributions to the contractors and a passing of the hat among the members of the Chapter. The program of entertainment was carried out as originally planned. Incidentally, many of the delegates subsequently expressed their opinion that it was the most enjoyable convention that they had ever attended.

Because of my activities as one of the Entertainment Committee, I was naturally thrown into intimate contact with the officers of the Institute during their 3-day sojourn in Detroit, and Mr. Glenn Brown suggested that I should become a member of the national body. He explained that the annual dues of members was \$20.00, and of Fellows \$25.00, and that the choice of which class to join was optional with the candidate. I joined as a Fellow in 1897. At this date (1939), being now a member of the jury of Fellows, whose duty it is to scrutinize very thoroughly the qualifications of candidates for advancement to the honorable state of Fellowship in the Institute, I cannot avoid the consciousness that I sneaked into my Fellowship through the coalhole in the basement.

But, to revert to the Chapter history. A year or so after the Convention, I was elected Secretary of the Chapter, succeeding Dick Raseman, and held that office for eight years. It was the custom, at each annual election of officers, to ballot upon them in the usual order, first electing the president, then the vicepresident, the treasurer and, lastly, the secretary. After my eight years of service as secretary, it occurred to me that I was likely to be continued in that office indefinitely and with small probability of any advance-

ment. I declined a reelection and Alpheus W. Chittenden was chosen to succeed me. The following year I was elected president of the Chapter.

The Chapter, in those days and for many years, held its monthly meetings, with a dinner, in a room over Richter's German saloon and cafe, on State Street, between Woodward Avenue and Griswold Street, and the meetings were always serious though most enjoyable. Many Chapter activities were initiated at those meetings which tended toward advancing the importance of the architectural profession in the community life, as well as a fraternizing of the architects themselves.

Occasional extra entertainments were offered, such as a demonstration of radio communication by John W. Dyer, a local citizen, in the very infancy of the marvelous scientific development with which we are now so familiar.

On another occasion, the Chapter entertained Mr. H. V. Lanchester, architect of London, England, whom I had met at the International Congress of Architects which was held in London in 1906. Mr. Lanchester gave a lecture on East Indian Architecture in the auditorium of the Detroit Museum of Art. The lecture was illustrated with lantern slides showing several important government buildings of which Mr. Lanchester was the architect. The Chapter entertained him at "Billy" Dobson's Road House with one of Dobson's famous frog suppers, which he apparently enjoyed to the utmost.

The Chapter took a prominent part in efforts to obtain legislation for the licensing of architects, but struggled with legislative committees for several years before this end was attained.

The Chapter was also instrumental in getting a course in Architecture established at the University of Michigan. At first, however, the course was but a subordinate adjunct of the Engineering Department of the University, under Prof. Mortimer E. Cooley. Emil Lorch was the first instructor in Architecture. His valued services in that connection were duly appreciated by the University authorities and he later became Director of the Department of Architecture when it was separated from the Engineering Department and given an individual status. The Chapter voted from its treasury several hundred dollars to be used in the purchase of architectural books for the new Department.

The Chapter cooperated in establishing the Detroit School of Design, of which I was the first president, and which for several years conducted classes in industrial design at the Detroit Museum of Art. Through the efforts of John M. Donaldson and Mr. Charles L. Freer, the Board of Aldermen of the City appropriated the sum of \$5,060, with which to start this enterprise, but it had a short life owing to the difficulty in obtaining adequate financial support.

The Chapter was also instrumental in obtaining the passage of a City ordinance creating the first Municipal Plan Commission. Mr. Charles Moore, formerly secretary of the McMillan Commission of Washington, D. C. and at that time a resident of Detroit, was the chairman of the local Commission, and John Donaldson and I were appointed as members, I acting as secretary.

Perhaps the most noteworthy achievement of the Chapter in those early days was its contribution toward the standardization of professional documents, universally used throughout the country. In relating the history of this activity, I cannot avoid mention of my personal connection with it; but, while I am proud of that connection, I do not wish to seem to stress it as over shadowing the great work of the others who collaborated with me in attaining the ultimate results.



The story of this activity of the Chapter is as follows:

When I formed a partnership with William Stratton, it devolved upon me to prepare all of the specifications and contracts incidental to our work and, lacking much experience, I gathered together as many copies of the specifications of the older firms in Detroit and other cities as I could get my hands on. My first task was the preparation of the "General Conditions of the Contract" and I labored long and studiously in an effort to simplify and eliminate the confusing and ambiguous clauses which prevailed in some of the specifications under study. I also realized that the building contractors must labor under the necessity of familiarizing themselves with the varying practices and whims of all the separate offices with whom they dealt, as expressed by their specifications. During the course of my study, it occurred to me that it was a silly idea that a similar amount of effort and study should be a problem for each individual or firm practicing architecture, and I submitted the matter to the Chapter, with the suggestion that a Chapter committee make a study of the whole subject and devise a set of uniform "General Conditions" for adoption and use by all of its members. Such a committee was promptly appointed, consisting of Henry Meier, James Rogers and myself. The committee worked for months and evolved a set of "General Conditions" which was immediately adopted and put in force in the offices of all the members of the Chapter.

At the next annual Convention of the Institute, held in Washington, Mr. Allan B. Pond of Chicago announced on the floor that, in his opinion, "the most outstanding contribution in many years had been made by the Michigan Chapter, in the adoption of a uniform set of General Conditions." The announcement was received with great enthusiasm by the delegates and a resolution was passed instructing the president to appoint a special committee to study the problem and produce a similar set of uniform "General Conditions" for use by the entire Institute.

The president, Mr. Frank Miles Day, thereupon appointed a committee, consisting of Mr. Pond, chairman, Grosvenor Atterbury, Frank Ferguson and myself, This committee labored hard and constantly for three years, consulting with the American Association of General Contractors, eminent lawyers, leaders in financial and insurance interests, etc., and finally evolved not only a set of General Conditions but a Uniform General Contract as well. These documents were then approved by the Board of Directors and copyrighted by the Institute. They have subsequently been modified and improved from time to time and are now in almost universal use in most of the architectural offices of the country.

The sale of the Contract Documents, since they were first promulgated by the Institute, has been a constant source of revenue to the organization. The annual income, from them, in normal times, averages about \$15,000.00, and the total revenue has probably exceeded \$150,000.00.

The Michigan Chapter and its successor the Detroit Chapter have usually been well represented in the councils of the Institute and on its standing committees. John M. Donaldson was a Director for three years, and, later, a vicepresident. Dalton J. V. Snyder and Clair Ditchy have served on the Board and I was a Director for three years, a vicepresident for three years and, subsequently served as Secretary for nine years.

JUNE 6, 1939

APPENDIX VI

A Few Facts of the Early Architectural Development of Detroit
By George D. Mason. F. A. I. A.

The following letter from Mr. Mason was addressed to Emil Lorch, Chairman of Committee on Michigan Architecture, Detroit Chapter, A. I. A. and M. S. A. and printed in the April 3, 1945 (vol. 19 no. 14) *Weekly Bulletin* of the Michigan Society of Architects

In a recent letter you refer to the proposed demolition of the water works tower. This brings to mind many historical facts that might be interesting to some of the younger generation of architects, who have young sons whose future destiny is the important problem of their parents.

I think I gave you a copy of the diary of the trip to Russia in 1846 by my grandfather, Rhesa Griffin, with a boatload of American farming tools, and setting up the first threshing machine ever put up in Russia. Underway at the time were 40 miles of railroad between St. Petersburg and Moscow.

His son, R. Griffin, Jr. was the City Engineer of Syracuse for 30 years. It was in his office that I first learned drawing, stretching paper, surveying, etc.

As my grandfather was a manufacturer of engines and boilers and my father, his son-in-law James H. Mason, his assistant, I was privileged to play in the foundry sand and use tools up in the pattern shop. This accounts probably for my mechanical interest.

We came to Detroit from Syracuse in 1870 because G. S. Wormer, an old friend of my father, wanted my father's help in the machinery sales business. The Wormers sold saw mills and other machinery and when they found I could draw had me make the layout for the purchaser of the machinery they sold. That was when the cutting of timber in the pine lands of Michigan was at its height.

Gordon W. Lloyd and Mortimer L. Smith had the two principal architects' offices in Detroit. Lloyd, versed in English Gothic, designed Christ Church on Jefferson Avenue in 1856 and later the Central M. E. Church on the corner of Woodward and Adams, also many wholesale warehouses on West Jefferson. Mortimer L. Smith employed a more florid type like French or Italian Renaissance. I used to see a big board sign projecting out from his office in the Telegraph Building on the S. E. corner of Griswold and Congress Streets, with the word "Architect" in six inch black letters, and I had to ask someone what that word meant!

So one day Mr. Wormer said to my Dad, "Your son ought to be an architect because he can draw." Then my Dad asked him what architect he would suggest, and he replied "M. L. Smith, because he puts cornices on his buildings, and Lloyd doesn't." So that, I suppose, is why I am an architect.

J. V. Smith, one of the oldest of Detroit architects, was called a Carpenter Architect because he would stay home part of the time doing carpenter work. Well Henry T. Brush and Joe Sparks worked in his office as companion architects from 1867 to 1872 when they decided to start offices of their own. In 1874 the firm was Brush and Smith (Hugh). In two years Hugh R. Smith died and Brush took me in as a partner promising me 27% of the gross receipts. From Hugh Smith I learned perspective drawing and coloring.

During the Brush and Smith partnership the need for a new Detroit waterworks developed, and both Brush and Sparks made competition drawings for the two brick pumping buildings and the stand pipe and tower between them. That was the time I made the Brush perspective, about 7 feet long by 30 inches wide, with a nice blue sky and the green grass foreground. Joe Sparks' drawings were liked best by the Water Board and he was given the contract for the working drawings. Someone made a comment calling my perspective "Grass Lake." The contest was a friendly one, and I continued as Brush's partner for three years after the death of Hugh Smith. Our office in 1877 was on the 3rd floor of the Moffat Block, Room No. 7.

While we were there we made the designs and plans of the first Detroit Public Library which was in use until Cass Gilbert made the plans of the present library on Woodward Avenue. My job was to make the fullsize details of the exterior, and the columns and arch entrance drawings were so large, I had to lie down flat on the office floor to make them. The columns were to have been of Ohio Buff

Sandstone but the cost was prohibitive, so they were made of white pine and painted and sanded. Hugh Smith worked for E. E. Meyers, whose office was below us on the second floor of the Moffat Block, before coming up with Brush. I worked for Meyers three or four weeks and made the section of one of the legislative halls in his competition drawings for the Indiana State Capitol at Indianapolis. Edwin May of Indianapolis however won the competition. Meyer's drawings were perfect 1/8th scale working drawings mounted on stretchers and frame about three by eight feet in size. He said they had cost him about \$13,000.00. He seemed to be sure of the job because he had designed the State Capitol Building in Lansing,

The foregoing paragraphs touch but a few of the facts of the architectural development in Detroit, but they are the facts that the younger architects might not be familiar with. So I will lay aside further historical data.