

Neff, E. Wallace  
So. California

Resep - 26. Eud.

Application for Membership

March 19, 1924

To the Secretary of the American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon House, Washington, D. C.

SIR:

I hereby apply for Membership in the American Institute of Architects.

I hereby certify that the following statements are correct:

Name E. Wallace Neff  
Address Slavin Bldg Pasadena Calif  
[Number and Street.] [City.] [State.]  
Place and date of birth Lamabada, Calif. 1895 Jan 28  
Graduate in architecture Special at Mass. Inst of Technology  
[If required in your case, give name of institutions and year.—Attach evidence of Diploma or Certificate of graduation]  
Holder of Scholarship in architecture no  
[If required in your case, attach evidence.]

Passed the qualifying examinations of the Royal Institute of British Architects, or the examinations for the first class of the Ecolè des Beaux Arts no  
[If required in your case, state which, and attach evidence of Certificate.]

If an Associate of a Chapter of the Institute, give name of chapter So. California Chapter

If practicing architect, firm name Wallace Neff

Have been in practice 3 years

If draughtsman, employed by Lechner & Norkan, Munich Germany 2 yrs.  
[State number of years.]

Collegiate and office training Six years study in Europe including two years office work. Two years at Boston Tech.

I have carefully examined the Constitution and By-Laws of the Institute and the "Circular of Advice Relative to Principles of Professional Practice and Canons of Ethics," and I agree, if elected, honorably to maintain them.

I further agree, if elected to membership in the American Institute of Architects, that if at any time my membership shall cease, either by my own resignation or by any action taken by the Institute, I will then, by that fact, relinquish all rights of any character that I may have acquired by reason of such membership in the property, real or personal, of the American Institute of Architects, and of the Chapter of the Institute of which I am then a member.

E. W. Neff  
[Signature of Applicant.]

I hereby certify that the signer of this application was duly elected an Associate of the So. California  
[For use when the applicant is an Associate.]

Chapter, A. I. A., on the following date Jan 2, 1922  
[Insert date of election to chapter.]

[Signature] Secretary.  
So Calif Chapter, A. I. A.

We, the undersigned members of the American Institute of Architects, have carefully examined the foregoing statement and believe it to be correct. We know the applicant personally, and consider that his work and practice warrant his admission to Membership.

- (1) Reginald [Signature]
- (2) David [Signature]
- (3) Edin [Signature]

[The signatures of three Institute members are here required unless the applicant has the unanimous endorsement of his Chapter, in which case certification to that effect should be made above by the Secretary. Unanimous endorsement is that endorsement in which each Institute member of the Chapter had an opportunity to express himself by letter ballot either for or against the member proposed, and in which there are no negative votes. No other form of unanimous endorsement will be accepted.]

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REGINALD D. JOHNSON, PRESIDENT  
A. M. EDELMAN, VICE PRESIDENT  
DAVID J. WITMER, SECRETARY  
A. C. ZIMMERMAN, TREASURER



DIRECTORS  
D. C. ALLISON, THREE YEARS  
C. E. NOERENBERG, TWO YEARS  
EDWIN BERGSTROM, ONE YEAR

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
415 BANK OF ITALY BUILDING  
LOS ANGELES, CAL.

May 13th, 1924.

Mr. E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
The American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon House,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find application from Mr. E. Wallace Neff for Institute Membership in the American Institute of Architects, together with his check for \$5.00.

Mr. Neff's name was submitted to the members of the Southern California Chapter for, and received unanimous endorsement.

Copies of the following documents are also enclosed.

- (a) Copy of Resolution adopted by the Executive Committee under date of March 31st, 1924, authorizing thirty day letter ballot for unanimous endorsement.
- (b) Copy of Resolution adopted by the Executive Committee on May 5th, 1924, declaring result of letter ballot.
- (c) Copy of letter ballot.
- (d) Application Form - (Document No. 136).

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

By

  
Secretary

Encls.  
FJM:MB

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

*Spt. 2*  
~~July 16, 1924.~~

My dear Mr. Neff:-

Acting for the Secretary, I am pleased to advise you of your election to membership in the American Institute of Architects, effective on July 16, 1924.

You have been assigned to the Southern California Chapter as an Institute member in good standing therein, and the Secretary of the Chapter has been so advised.

Enclosed herewith is statement covering dues for the last half of the current year.

May I take this opportunity to say that the office of the Secretary at the Octagon is for the service of every Institute member. Should the occasion arise, we shall be glad to give you our best cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. E. Wallace Neff,  
Slavin Bldg.,  
Pasadena, Cal.

K:D  
Enc.

WALLACE NEFF, ARCHITECT  
CENTRAL BUILDING  
PASADENA, CALIF.

September 20, 1926.

Mr. Frank C. Baldwin,  
Octogon House,  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Baldwin:

Will you be kind enough to inform us  
from which governmental department we can secure  
a copy of "Small House Standards", the pamphlet  
prepared by Herbert Hoover's Commission.

Very sincerely yours,  
WALLACE NEFF

*by Georgius J. Cannon*

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

September 29, 1926

Dear Mr. Gries:

Mr. Wallace Neff, one of our members of Pasadena, Calif., writes the enclosed letter of September 20th with regard to small house standards. It would be appreciated if you would send to Mr. Neff, in care of Mr. Georgius Y. Cannon, such data as your Bureau has which might be of help to him.

There was an unavoidable delay in making this reference to you and any courtesy you might show to Mr. Neff or Mr. Cannon would be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

Mr. John M. Gries, Chief,  
Division of Housing,  
Department of Commerce,  
Washington, D. C.

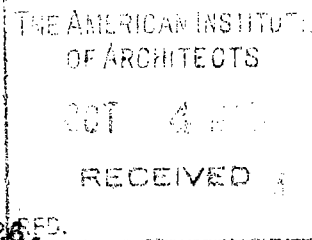
K/PHG  
Enc.

Copy to Mr. Neff.

COPY TO

FILES    PRESIDENT    SECRETARY    TREASURER

Copy for Mr. Kemper.



October 2, 1926.

Mr. Wallace Neff,  
Architect,  
Central Building,  
Pasadena, Calif.

Dear Sir:

At the suggestion of Mr. E. C. Kemper,  
Executive Secretary of the American Institute of  
Architects, I am enclosing herewith a copy of the  
Department of Commerce Building Code Committee's  
report on Recommended Minimum Requirements for Small  
Dwelling Construction.

Yours truly,

Secretary,  
Building Code Committee,  
Department of Commerce.

GNT.EDB

November 9, 1934

Dear Mr. Neff:

You are a member of the Institute in good standing and assigned to the Southern California Chapter.

Under the By-laws of the Institute each member must maintain his Chapter membership as well as his national membership.

We are advised by the Chapter that you are indebted for Chapter dues in the amount of \$44.00.

The Chapter does not want to lose your membership, but it feels in fairness to the other members that the account should be adjusted or that the affiliation should be terminated.

The Institute Executive Committee feels that it can't support the Chapter in a matter of this kind, and on the other hand, it never terminates a membership for financial reasons except as a last resort.

We therefore write to call the situation to your attention, in the thought that the Chapter indebtedness may be overlooked, and to ask that you make a remittance for Chapter dues to the secretary of the Chapter, Mr. Eugene Weston, Jr., in the Architects Building, Los Angeles.

The Institute Executive Committee will meet in Washington about December 10th, at which time this matter will be acted upon. We hope to have, before then, a letter from you or from Mr. Weston stating that the account has been squared.

We hope very much that you will continue your support of the Chapter and the national society.

Sincerely yours,

K/O

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Wallace E. Neff,  
132 East California Street,  
Pasadena, Calif.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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Dear Mr. Neff:

January 31, 1935

At the December, 1934, meeting of the Executive Committee of The American Institute of Architects, your membership in the Institute and the Southern California Chapter was discontinued for the non-payment of dues, effective December 12, 1934.

Dear Mr. Neff:

At the December, 1934, meeting of the Executive Committee of The American Institute of Architects, your membership in the Institute and the Southern California Chapter was discontinued for the non-payment of dues, effective December 12, 1934.

The Secretary of the Southern California Chapter has been so advised.

By direction of the Secretary.

Sincerely yours,

K:C

Executive Secretary.

Mr. Wallace E. Neff  
182 E. California Street  
Pasadena, California



SUMNER M. SPAULDING, President  
RALPH C. FLEWELLING, Vice-President  
EUGENE WESTON, Jr., Secretary  
LELAND F. FULLER, Treasurer



DIRECTORS  
ROLAND E. COATE, One Year  
CARLETON M. WINSLOW, Two Years  
REGINALD D. JOHNSON, Three Years

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Office of Secretary  
ARCHITECTS BUILDING  
Michigan 1971  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

February 18th, 1935



Mr. E. C. Kemper, Executive Secretary,  
American Institute of Architects,  
The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue,  
Washington, D. C.

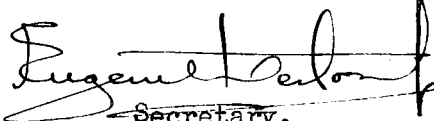
Dear Mr. Kemper:

Referring to my letter of October 5th,  
asking that the membership of Mr. Wallace E. Neff be terminated  
for non-payment of dues and your letter of recent date advising  
that Mr. Neff's membership had been terminated as requested.  
Mr. Neff has now paid up his Chapter dues in full to December  
31st, 1934 and the Executive Committee would therefore recommend  
that he be returned to membership in good standing as of that  
date.

We would appreciate early action on this matter  
and oblige.

Yours very truly,

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

By   
Secretary.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

April 10, 1935

Dear Mr. Neff:

At the direction of the Executive Committee of the Institute at its meeting in March, this will formally advise you that the previous resolution discontinuing your membership in the Institute and the Southern California Chapter has been rescinded, and the records at The Octagon have been amended to show the continuance of your name on the membership rolls.

The Secretary of the Chapter has been advised accordingly.

By direction of the Secretary.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary.

K/E

Mr. Wallace E. Neff, A.I.A.,  
162 East California Street,  
Pasadena, Calif.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
JURY OF FELLOWS

Received Oct. 29, 19 53  
Voted On Mar. 18, 19 54  
Voted On Mar. 24, 1955.  
Voted On Mar. 15, 19 56  
Granted March 15, 1956.

NO M

NOMINATION FOR FELLOWSHIP

CASE RECORD

1. *Name of Nominee* Wallace Neff *Date of Nomination* (Undated) 19 .
2. *Address of Nominee* 5927 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles 28, California
3. *Nominee's firm* Wallace Neff, Architect
4. *Nominee's principal place of business* California
5. *Nominee's Chapter* Southern California Chapter, A.I.A.
6. *Nominee's State Organization* California Council of Architects, A.I.A.
7. *Nominee admitted to Institute* 1924
8. *Nominee has been in good standing in Institute from* 1924 *19 to Dec. 31,* 19 53
9. *Nominee's age* 58 yrs. *Birthplace* La Mirada, California
10. *Nominators:* Executive Committee, Southern California Chapter, A.I.A.
  
11. *Achievement* in Design

200-10-51

CONFIDENTIAL



*Exhibits Rec'd*

NO NF 455

(Nominators leave blank)

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

NOMINATION FOR FELLOWSHIP  
BY  
CHAPTER

THE JURY OF FELLOWS  
The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue,  
Washington 6, D. C.

Date 19

The Executive Committee of this Chapter, at a duly called meeting on  
nominated\* Wallace Neff  
member of this Chapter, for fellowship in The Institute. We enclose evidence of the qualifications of  
the nominee for the fellowship on which the nomination was based and certify the resolution is as  
follows:

\*Type in full name.

"Whereas, this Executive Committee believes\* Wallace Neff  
a member of this Chapter, has made so notable a contribution to the advancement of the pro-  
fession because of his achievement in\*\* Design  
that he is worthy of fellowship in The Institute; and

\*Type in full name.

\*\*Type in "Design," "Science of Construction," "Literature," "Education," "Service to The Institute," or "Public Service," as is appropriate.

"Whereas, said member has been in good standing in this Chapter for † 28  
years prior to this date; therefore be it

†Type in number of years.

"Resolved, That ††  
The American Institute of Architects, does hereby nominate\*

Chapter,

††Type in name of Chapter.

\*Type in full name.

Wallace Neff

for fellowship in The Institute, and the President and the Secretary be and hereby are  
authorized and directed to prepare the nomination papers and forward them to The Jury of  
Fellows of The Institute and to do all things proper to forward said nomination."

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*Accepted 1924*

*W. S. Bennett Johnson*  
*Kemper Woodland*

*Henry Redright*  
*Charles E. Fay*  
*Herbert A. ...*  
*Herbert A. ...*

*Combeasy*  
Secretary.

THE NOMINATORS SHOULD SEE THAT LETTERS OR DATA ARE SENT TO THE JURY OF FELLOWS IN SUPPORT OF THIS NOMINATION.

S. 1111000

BIOGRAPHICAL STATISTICS

- 1. Nominee's full name Wallace Neff
- 2. Nominee is a natural naturalized citizen of U. S. A.
- 3. Nominee's legal residence 360 Alta Vista, So. Pasadena, Calif.
- 4. Nominee's firm name Wallace Neff, Architect
- 5. Nominee's principal place of business, address 5927 Franklin Ave., Los Angeles 28, Calif.

2. Strike out in-appropriate word and write in name of Country.

6. Type in "N.C. A. R. B." or name of State Board, as case may be.

7. Strike out in-appropriate words.

8. Type in date of birth and city and Country.

6. Nominee is registered or licensed to practice architecture by State of California

7. ~~Nominee is engaged in practice of architecture as a practicing architect—teacher in architecture—teacher in science of construction—public official—retired.~~

8. Born Jan. 28, 1895 . Place of birth La Mirada, Los Angeles County, Calif.

9. Nominee's schools, colleges and universities:

	Location	No. of Years	Year of Graduation	Degree
High School } Private School }	Vevey, Switzerland	3		
College or University	Mass. Inst. of Tech.	2	Special 1918	
College or University				
Post-Graduate	3 years study and office work in Europe.			
Scholarships held				

10. Other data concerning nominee's record.

Awarded five Honor Awards from the Southern California Chapter A. I. A.

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Nominators should read "Principles Underlying the Bestowal of Fellowships", Institute Document No. 9, before completing this nomination. Additional sheets may be inserted to supplement any page, 3 to 7, inclusive. Use typewriting only.

NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENT IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

1. Works

Type (a) Commercial (b) Monumental (c) Domestic (d) Special	Identification of Work	Location of Work  (City) (State)	Completed Construction Work (Year)	Photographs Drawings, or Sketches Submitted
Type (c)	No. 1 - Belagio Rd.,	Belagio Rd., Calif.	1940	Photo
"	2 - Belaire, /	"	1939	"
"	3 - Rancho Santa Fe,	"	1938	"
"	4 - West Los Angeles,	"		
"	4 - Hidden Valley,	"		
"	Los Angeles Co.,	"	1939	"
"	5 - " " "	" "	1939	"
"	6 - West Los Angeles,	"	1938	"
Type (b)	7 - Camerillo,	"	1937	"
"	8 - " "	"	1937	"
"	9 - Washington, D. C.			
	Harewood Rd.		1939	"
Type (c)	10 - San Marino,	Orlando Rd., Calif.	1933	"

Under column headed "Type" type in (a), (b), (c), or (d), as the case may be.

Type in last column to right the number submitted in each case.

2. Describe nominee's notable work in design, to bring out the particular achievements the nominators believe have notably contributed to the advancement of the profession.

NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENT IN SCIENCE OF CONSTRUCTION

1. CONSTRUCTION WORK

<i>Type of Work Constructed</i>	<i>Identification of Work</i>	<i>Location of Work</i>	<i>Completed Construction Work (Year)</i>	<i>Photographs, Drawings, or Sketches Submitted</i>
-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------	---	---

Type in last column to right the number submitted in each case.

2. BOOKS, TREATISES, OR ARTICLES WRITTEN

<i>Subject Title</i>	<i>Where Published</i>	<i>Date Published</i>
----------------------	------------------------	-----------------------

3. Describe nominee's notable work in the science of construction and any recognition thereof by other societies, to bring out the particular achievements the nominators believe have notably contributed to the advancement of the profession.

In 1942, invented a new type of construction that materially reduces the materials and labor in a building. It consists of inflating a pneumatic form with air pressure and guniting over this form. After the concrete has hardened the form is collapsed and used again. The first test buildings were small igloo-shaped houses built at Falls Church, Va. Today the process has been improved and any shape is now possible. A sugar factory roof structure has just been let in which the pneumatic form is square in plan and forms a cloistered arch dome 45 ft. each way. There are 12 of these domes in this factory. The system has now been approved and adopted by the U. S. Navy, Corps of Engineers, etc. There are now about 3,000 small houses built with this system, in Africa, Pakistan, Brazil, Mexico and Indonesia.

## NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION AND LITERATURE

### 1. EDUCATION WORK

(List the degrees and the educational positions held by the nominee, and bring out clearly the nominee's signal work and its particular force and influence which the nominators believe to be a notable contribution to the advancement of the profession, and state evidences of recognition of such work by pupils, the profession, other societies, or the public.)

### 2. LITERARY WORK

(List the original written works of the nominee and state clearly the particular force and influence of that work which the nominators believe to be a notable contribution to the advancement of the profession, and state evidences of recognition of such work by other societies, the profession, educational institutions or the public.)

*Book, Treatise  
or Article*

*Subject*

*Name of Book or Periodical  
Containing Work*

*Year Work  
Published*



11/11/11

**NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTE**

**1. State fully the nominee's signal service to The Institute, his chapter, or his state organization, or to the profession, which the nominators believe has notably contributed to the advancement of the profession, and list the offices in architectural organizations occupied by the nominee and the period of each.**

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## NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICE

1. List the public offices held by the nominee and the positions of trust held by him in recognition of civic leadership, and state clearly his notable work in public service and the particular influence of that work which the nominators believe to be a notable contribution to the advancement of the profession.

Wallace Neff

Administration Building  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.

March 18, 1954

Mr. Cornelius M. Deasy, Past-Secretary  
Southern California Chapter, A.I.A.  
3723 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles 5, California

Dear Mr. Deasy:

The Jury of Fellows is holding the nomination for advancement to Fellowship of Mr. Wallace Neff, A.I.A., for a second consideration next year, because of the incompleteness of the nomination and supporting data.

Your attention is invited to the following:

Supporting Letters or Data for Jury Consideration

Whether the nominee is proposed by the Executive Committee of his Chapter or State Organization, or by individual members, it is of extreme importance to the Jury that nominations be supported by letters of information on the nominee. The Jury requests that these letters be factual and detailed, defining in particular the special achievement the nominee has made in various fields of professional activity. Such information is expected from all sponsors and is most desirable from individuals who know the candidate. Letters of a general character are of little aid to the candidate's cause.

We request that this requirement be complied with and that letters of endorsement be prepared by each of the sponsors who have not already done so and sent to The Jury of Fellows, A.I.A., 1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C., Attention of Miss Florence H. Gervais.

Those members of the Executive Committee of the Chapter who signed the nomination in addition to yourself are as follows:

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| S. Kenneth Johnson | Charles E. Fry       |
| Kemper Nomland     | Herman Charles Light |
| Henry L. Wright    |                      |

Mr. Neff was nominated for his achievement in Design.

Thanking you for your cooperation, we remain

Very truly yours,

THE JURY OF FELLOWS, A.I.A.

Albert Simons, Chairman

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Neff

HENRY F. WITHEY, ARCHITECT

Sherman Oaks, Calif.

C  
O  
P  
Y

Jury of Fellows  
American Institute of Architects  
The Octagon, 1735 New York Avenue,  
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen:

Three members of the Southern California Chapter, A.I.A. have been  
nominated for Fellowship awards in 1954. They are George B. Allison,  
Wallace Neff and A. C. Zimmerman.

Would say that I have know these men for many years. The success and  
qualifications of each in their respective fields of practice make  
them worthy of election, and I recommend your favorable action.

Very truly yours,

(S) HENRY F. WITHEY

H. C. CHAMBERS and LESTER HIBBARD, ARCHITECTS  
124 West Fourth Street, Los Angeles 13, California

C  
O  
P  
Y

February 21, 1955

Jury of Fellows  
The Octagon  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.,  
Washington 6, D. C.

*each 2/25*

Gentlemen:

It is with pleasure that I endorse the following Architects for advancement to Fellowship in the Institute. To my personal knowledge they are deserving of this honor.

George B. Allison, for achievement in Design and for Service to the Institute.

Wallace Neff, for most excellent achievement in Design.

Henry L. Wright, for service to the Institute.

A. C. Zimmerman, for achievement in the Science of Construction.

Yours very truly,

(S) H. C. CHAMBERS

Harold Coulson Chambers, F.A.I.A.

HCC;ls

Extract from letter from

H. C. Chambers, FAIA, of Los Angeles

February 22, 1954

"In my opinion, the architects named are most worthy of advancement to Fellowship. \* \*

"Mr. Wallace Neff's notable work in residential design evidences his excellent good taste and scholarly background."

H. C. CHAMBERS and LESTER HIBBARD, ARCHITECTS  
104 West Fourth street, Los Angeles 13, California

C  
O  
P  
Y

February 22, 1955

Jury of Fellows  
The Octagon  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Gentlemen:

The Southern California Chapter has nominated several members for Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects. I know and have personal knowledge of the service and achievements of George B. Allison, Wallace Neff, Henry L. Wright and A. C. Zimmerman. I believe they are deserving of this honor.

Each one of these nominees has been unselfish in his devotion of time and effort toward the advancement of the profession and in his willingness to be helpful to his fellow Architects.

Sincerely,

(S) LESTER H. HIBBARD

Lester H. Hibbard, A.I.A.

ack 2/25  
/

FACTUAL

LUNDEN, HAYWARD & O'CONNOR, ARCHITECTS

SAMUEL E. LUNDEN, F.A.I.A.  
ROGER HAYWARD, A.I.A.  
BEN H. O'CONNOR, A.I.A.

February 22, 1954

The Jury of Fellows,  
The American Institute of Architects,  
1741 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

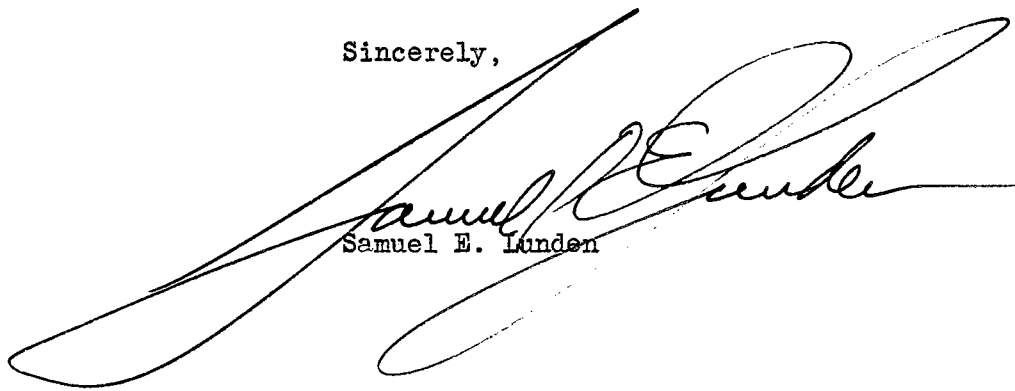
Gentlemen:

It is a privilege to have the opportunity to endorse the nomination of the Executive Committee of the Southern California Chapter, to make Mr. Wallace Neff a Fellow of the Institute. Mr. Neff has been known in this area over a period of a quarter of a century or more, for his excellent designs in the residential field.

His work is not limited to the residential field, and his exhibit will indicate the scope of his talents. He has done a considerable amount of research in the field of design. Some years ago he developed an igloo type of structure which was constructed of gunite blown over a sphere shape, using a special inflated rubber balloon as a form. Projects have been constructed in this area following this method, not only in the residential but also in the commercial field. This design has been utilized in structures he has designed in Egypt and the Middle East.

It is my feeling that his pioneer approach to design and the research that has gone with it, together with the excellent taste which is always displayed in the end product, warrant your careful consideration of his many excellent qualities, which I feel warrants his elevation to Fellowship in the Institute.

Sincerely,



Samuel E. Lunden

SEL:MSA



MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

February 25, 1954

Jury of Fellows  
The Octagon  
1735 New York Ave. N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

Gentlemen:

May I add my recommendation to the many others you must have received, relative to the granting of a Fellowship in the Institute for Mr. Wallace Neff, A.I.A., proposed by the Southern California Chapter.

Mr. Neff has, in my opinion, greatly elevated the quality of design and taste in the many fine examples of his work in Southern California for over twenty five years. He is the finest type of Architect, a great credit to his profession and richly deserving of this recognition by the Institute.

Sincerely,

  
Burton A. Schutt

BAS/jbs

FACTUAL

ADRIAN WILSON

ARCHITECT - A. I. A.

MUtual 3222

816 WEST FIFTH STREET

LOS ANGELES 17, CALIFORNIA

February 25, 1954

American Institute of Architects  
1741 New York Avenue  
Washington 6, D.C.

Attn: Jury of Fellows

Gentlemen:

The name of Mr. Wallace Neff of the Southern California Chapter has been sponsored by the Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for fellowship in the Institute. It is with genuine pleasure that I recommend Mr. Neff as extremely well qualified to receive such an honor.

Mr. Neff has for many years produced architectural masterpieces in design and function. His works have always been extremely well studied, designed and elegantly correlated in a unique and individual manner. Many of his structures created years ago are in greater demand today than when they were completed. He has been an inspiration to the younger members of the profession, has been highly creditable to the profession and is internationally known for his development of the balloon type system of construction.

In my opinion Mr. Neff should have been elevated to Fellowship many years ago and I unhesitatingly recommend him to you for consideration.

Yours very truly,

  
Adrian Wilson

FACTUAL

26 February 1954.

The Jury of Fellows  
American Institute of Architects  
The Octagon, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Gentlemen:

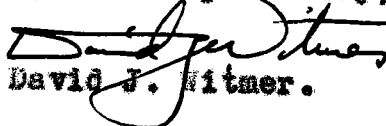
The following architects, members of the American Institute of Architects and of the Southern California Chapter, have been proposed by the chapter for advancement to Fellowship,

Mr. George B. Allison  
Mr. Wallace Neff  
Mr. A. C. Zimmerman.

As member of the chapter committee on Fellowship and the current chairman, I wish to state that of the members considered by this committee to be outstanding in their individual contributions to architecture and the profession, and worthy of being advanced to Fellowship, these three were un-  
animously adjudged to be particularly deserving.

Enclosed on separate sheets are my supporting statements as to the individual and notable achievements of each of these gentlemen.

Sincerely and respectfully,

  
David J. Witmer.

26 February 1954.

Second Enclosure, Letter to the Jury of Fellows, 26 February 1954.

Mr. Wallace Neff, throughout his professional practice of three or more decades has created distinguished design in architecture which has received high commendation locally, nationally and else where in the world. His achievements in residential design have been noted for the freshness of approach and excellent taste. Certificates of Honor for exceptional merit in design have been awarded to him again and again throughout the years by the Southern California Chapter.

His imagination, originality of thought and effort in his attempts to create enduring housing at lower costs have stimulated and suggested unusual approaches to the achievement of low cost construction, and thereby helped to remove the confining limitations and barriers imposed by entrenched adherence to long established methods of construction. The pertinent fact is that under the Point Four Program administered by the United States Department of State, also with the approval of other departments and bureaus of the Federal Government, his system of balloon formed construction is being used in granaries, munitions storage, and other important projects in foreign lands, as well as in housing.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
David J. Witmer.

KENNETH S. WING  
ARCHITECT  
30 LINDEN AVENUE  
LONG BEACH 2, CALIFORNIA

KENNETH S. WING, F. A. I. A.  
ASSOCIATES  
EDWARD A. KILLINGSWORTH, A. I. A.  
KENNETH S. WING, JR.

February 27, 1954

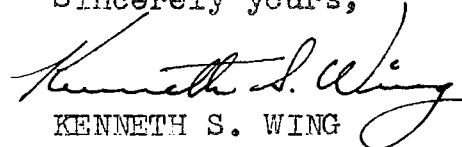
Jury of Fellows  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

Gentlemen:

The name of Wallace Neff has long been associated with outstanding ability in design. Surely his nomination for a Fellowship, for achievement in design, by the Southern California Chapter, is well warranted. Mr. Neff in my opinion is an Architect who throughout the years has contributed a great deal to the advancement of the profession in Southern California.

It is a pleasure to second Mr. Neff's nomination for this advancement.

Sincerely yours,

  
KENNETH S. WING

KSW:avs  
cc/Mr. Neff

March 26, 1954

Mr. Francis Merchant, Secretary  
Southern California Chapter, A.I.A.  
3723 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles 5, California

Dear Mr. Merchant:

Report of Actions of The Jury of Fellows  
Re: Nominations of Members of Your Chapter

The Jury of Fellows has requested me to advise you of the action it has taken on nominations before it of corporate members who were considered for advancement to Fellowship.

The nominations of

George B. Allison, A.I.A.  
Wallace Neff, A.I.A.  
Archie Zimmerman, A.I.A.

have been referred to the 1955 meeting of the Jury for consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Edmund R. Purves  
Executive Director

ERP/G

September 2, 1954

Mr. Cornelius M. Deasy, Post-Secretary  
Southern California Chapter, A.I.A.  
8910 Melrose  
Los Angeles 46, California

Dear Mr. Deasy:

Shortly after the last meeting of The Jury of Fellows, the Chairman of the Jury addressed letters to you concerning additional supporting letters which the Jury wishes to have by the time of its next meeting when the nominations of Messrs. Wallace Neff and Archie C. Zimmerman for advancement to Fellowship in The Institute will be under consideration again.

So far we have not heard from you nor have letters arrived from the sponsors of the nominees.

We find in checking the file of Mr. George B. Allison's nomination, further letters will be needed on his behalf also, and give the names of the signers for each of the nominees and the achievements on which their nominations were based for your ready reference:

Allison, George B. (Design and Service to The Institute)

Sponsors not heard from, in addition to yourself:

Kemper Nomland	Savo M. Stochitch
Henry L. Wright	
<u>Neff, Wallace</u> (Design)	

Sponsors not heard from, in addition to yourself:

S. Kenneth Johnson	Charles E. Fry
Kemper Nomland	Herman Charles Light
Henry L. Wright	

Zimmerman, Archie C. (Science of Construction)

Sponsors not heard from, in addition to yourself:

S. Kenneth Johnson	<del>Charles E. Fry</del> ✓
Kemper Nomland	Herman Charles Light
Henry L. Wright	Ulysses Floyd Bible

With appreciation of any cooperation you may be able to extend in these nominations,

Sincerely yours,

VAN LEE SCHMIDT  
ARCHITECT AND ENGINEER  
635 I. W. HELLMAN BUILDING  
124 WEST FOURTH STREET  
LOS ANGELES 13, CALIFORNIA  
MUTUAL 3763

February 19, 1955

FACTUAL  
ack 2/23  
S

Jury of Fellows,  
The Octagon,  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.,  
Washington, 6, D.C.

Regarding: Nomination of  
Wallace Neff.

Dear Sirs:

I wish to endorse the nomination of Mr. Wallace Neff as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

I have personal knowlege of the advancements that Mr. Neff has made to building science. I am familiar with a sizable laundry building that was constructed in Los Angeles using an inflated balloon as a form and constructing a thin sheel dome of phnuematically placed concrete.

Yours truly,

*Van Lee Schmidt*

Van Lee Schmidt.



WILLIAM GLENN BALCH, *President*  
S. KENNETH JOHNSON, *Vice-President*  
STEWART GRANGER, *Secretary*  
STANLEY R. GOULD, *Treasurer*



DIRECTORS  
HERMAN CHARLES LIGHT, *One Year*  
ULYSSES FLOYD RIBLE, *One Year*  
CORNELIUS M. DEASY, *Two Years*  
GEORGE VERNON RUSSELL, *Three Years*

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
SUITE 9, 3723 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD, LOS ANGELES 5  
DUNKIRK 4-1197

February 28, 1955

FACTUAL

Jury of Fellows, The Octagon  
1735 New York Avenue  
Washington 6, D. C.

ack 3/2  
J

Gentlemen:

Mr. Wallace Neff has been proposed for elevation to Fellowship in the Institute.

He has been known for excellence in design of residential construction and has been the recipient of a number of honor awards in this category.

In science of construction he originated and developed the pneumatic balloon type forming for reinforced concrete structures widely used by the United States Government and foreign governments for housing, schools and military structures.

May I request your favorable consideration of Mr. Neff's nomination.

Yours truly

  
WM. GLENN BALCH, President

WGB:bp

May 12, 1955

Mr. William Glenn Balch, President  
Southern California Chapter, A.I.A.  
3723 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles 5, California

Dear Mr. Balch:

Report of Actions of The Jury of Fellows  
Re: Nominations of Members of Your Chapter

The Jury of Fellows has requested me to advise you of the following actions it has taken on nominations before it of corporate members who were considered for advancement to Fellowship:

Nominees Elected to Fellowship

Robert Evans Alexander  
George Boggs Allison  
Henry Lyman Wright

Herewith are copies of letters of notification sent to the new Fellows which are self-explanatory.

It is requested that this information be held confidential and that no publicity be given to their elections until after public announcement has been made by The Institute after the Annual Dinner at the coming Convention in Minneapolis in June.

Nominations Referred to 1956 Meeting of Jury

Wallace Neff, A.I.A.  
Archie Clins Zimmerman, A.I.A.

Sincerely yours,

Edmund A. Purves  
Executive Director

ERP/fbg  
Inclosures

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

*members  
J. fellows?*

November 18, 1955

Miss Rita E. Miller, Executive Secretary  
Southern California Chapter, A.I.A.  
3723 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles 5, California

Dear Miss Miller:

Would you be good enough to refer to the proper officer or committee of your chapter, the following requests made by The Jury of Fellows in connection with the nominations made by your Chapter to advance Messrs. Wallace Neff and Archie Cline Zimmerman to Fellowship:

In March and September of 1954 we wrote to Mr. Cornelius M. Deasy, who was Secretary at the time these nominations were made, calling to his attention the requirement of the Jury that letters supporting the nominations must be sent in by each signer, but we heard nothing from him in response to those letters, nor have the supporting sponsors' letters been received.

Mr. Neff has been nominated for achievement in design. His sponsors are:

S. Kenneth Johnson  
Kemper Nomland  
Henry L. Wright

Charles E. Fry  
Herman Charles Light  
Cornelius M. Deasy

Mr. Zimmerman has been nominated for achievement in Science of Construction. His sponsors are:

S. Kenneth Johnson  
Kemper Nomland  
Henry L. Wright

Charles E. Fry

Herman Charles Light  
Ulysses Floyd Rible  
Cornelius M. Deasy

In addition to the letters needed, The Jury of Fellows also has asked for a more varied exhibit in support of Mr. Neff's nomination; and for detailed information as to Mr. Zimmerman's contribution on earthquake investigations.

If it would be helpful, I quote below the listing of exhibits listed on Mr. Neff's nomination as having been submitted:

Domestic Architecture:

Bal Aire, Balagio Road, Calif.	1940	Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.	1939
West Los Angeles (two)	"	Hidden Valley, Los Angeles County	
San Marino, Orlando rd.	1933	(two photos)	1939

Monumental Architecture:

Camarillo, Calif. (two photos) 1937    Harewood Road, Washington, D.C. 1939

All of these photographs, information, and letters should be filed with the Jury at this address by February 1, 1956.

Whatever you can do to complete these nominations in these respects would be highly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Florence H. Gervais  
Secretary to The Jury of Fellows

April 4, 1956

Confidential

Mr. Wallace Neff, F.A.I.A.  
5927 Franklin Avenue  
Los Angeles 28, California

Dear Mr. Neff:

The American Institute of Architects desires to confer upon you the honor of Fellowship and membership in the College of Fellows for your notable contribution in Design, in accord with action of The Jury of Fellows at its recent meeting.

The purpose of this letter is to request your presence at the 1956 Convention of The Institute to be held in Los Angeles, California, starting May 15, 1956, at the Biltmore Hotel.

At the formal dinner of the Convention on the evening of Thursday, May 17, those who have been elected to Fellowship will receive their certificates. Presentation will be with appropriate ceremony and it is highly important that each of the newly-elected Fellows be present.

The Officers of The Institute and The Jury of Fellows join in the request that you come to receive this honor in person.

Your Chapter has been notified and has been requested to make no public announcement until after such announcement has been released by The Institute.

Please send your response to The Institute at an early date.

Yours sincerely,

Edmund R. Purvas  
Executive Director

ERF/g

April 5, 1956

Confidential

Mr. Wallace Neff, F.A.I.A.  
5927 Franklin Avenue  
Los Angeles 28, California

Dear Mr. Neff:

At the recent meeting of The Jury of Fellows you were elected to Fellowship in The Institute and membership in the College of Fellows of the A.I.A., for achievement in Design.

At the Convention there will be an exhibition of the work of the newly-elected Fellows premiated for Design, and to that end the Jury has had to make as comprehensive, yet as small a selection of your exhibits as possible for this occasion.

Under separate cover your entire exhibit will be returned, and those selected are designated and are as follows:

- 1) Warren Duff Residence - marked #6 (View with a rolling wicker Garden seat under the overhang.)
- 2) J. B. Moran Residence - marked #1 (View with three horses bearing maidens.)
- 3) Crawford May Residence (View with a pair of potted shrubs flanking a door opening over which is a loggia with potted plants)

Each of these exhibits has a small piece of white paper attached to the back.

These should be reproduced to conform with the instructions enclosed and should be forwarded to Mr. Arthur B. Holmes, Convention Manager, A.I.A., in Los Angeles, as indicated on page 3.

We should like you to keep this information confidential.

The members of the Jury are happy to express their welcome to you in your new status.

Cordially yours,

John F. Harbeson, Chairman  
The Jury of Fellows, A.I.A.

JFH/G  
Enclosure

*W. Neff*  
*W. Neff*  
*W. Neff*

WALLACE NEFF, ARCHITECT, A.I.A.  
5927 FRANKLIN AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES 28, CALIFORNIA  
HOLLYWOOD 4-7318

*Member*  
*Fellow*  
*W. Neff*

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

April 19, 1956

The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Ave.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Purves:

Your letter of April 4, 1956, bearing news of my election to Fellowship was received with great pleasure. I shall be happy to attend the dinner at the Biltmore Hotel, in Los Angeles on May 17.

With grateful appreciation for this honor, I am,

Yours Sincerely,

*Wallace Neff*

Wallace Neff

WN:ab

HERBERT BALTUCH  
3135 JOHNSON AVENUE  
RIVERDALE 63, NEW YORK

MF

March 28, 1960

American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington 6, D.C.

Gentlemen:

Would you be good enough to let me have the address of an architect by the name of WALLACE NEFF.

I am interested in discussing with Mr. Neff the possible construction of some Airform structures for which I believe he is the designer and patentee.

Thank you for your courtesy.

Very truly yours,

*Herbert Baltuch*  
Herbert Baltuch

*Wallace Neff, Inc.  
3000 Franklin Ave  
Los Angeles, Calif.*



Wallace Neff, Los Angeles, California, has been made a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, it was announced last night in Los Angeles where the Institute is having its 88th annual convention. The Jury of Fellows elevated Neff on the basis of his excellence in design. Among his better known buildings are "Pickfair," the residence of Douglas Fairbanks and Mary Pickford, three buildings for Loyola University in Los Angeles, gymnasium at Pomona College, Doheny Memorial Dormitory in Washington, D.C. and Doheny Memorial Library, Camarillo, California. Neff is also the inventor of pneumatic forming and is now engaged in writing on "The Science of Proportion."

(DO NOT RELEASE BEFORE MAY 18, 1956)



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Application for Membership Emeritus

TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS,  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

I wish to apply for Membership Emeritus in the Institute for the following reasons:

Check the appropriate reason

- I am more than 70 years of age. (78)
- I am 65 years of age, retired, and not engaged in architecture.
- I am unable to engage in architecture.

I have been in good standing in the Institute and the So. California's chapter for 15 successive years or more immediately preceding the date of this application.

Date June 18 1972 Wallace Neff  
(APPLICANT'S FULL SIGNATURE IN INK)

The applicant may supplement the above reasons in writing below or on sheets which he shall attach to this application. Under exceptional conditions and circumstances, the Board of Directors may lessen the period of good standing but not the requirements as checked above.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS ARCHIVES For information or study purposes only. Not to be recopied, quoted, or published without written permission from the AIA Archives, 1735 New York Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20006



## THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

June 22, 1972

Mr. Wallace Neff, FAIA  
5927 Franklin Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90028

Dear Mr. Neff:

On behalf of The Board of Directors, I have the pleasure of informing you that you have been elected a Member Emeritus of The Institute.

The Board joins with me in expressing my great appreciation for your many years of support of the work and projects undertaken by The Institute towards creating better architecture and a better environment.

I hope that your interest in The Institute and your Chapter will continue, even though you now are relieved of all dues payments.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Preston M. Bolton, FAIA  
Secretary

RAND McNALLY & COMPANY  
printers \* publishers \* mapmakers  
P. O. BOX 7600, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60680

Nov. 1, 1982

The American Institute of Architects  
Washington, D.C. 20006

560175  
~~45~~  
111

Dear Sirs,

My father, Wallace Neff, F.A.I.A., died a month ago at the age of 87 at Pasadena, California.

He was always proud of being a member of the Institute and he treasured being an Eminent Member.

Member # 560175

Sincerely yours,

Arthur L. Neff

NOV 10 1982

B  
P  
C  
ARTHUR L. NEFF  
555 S ORANGE GROVE BL  
PASADENA CA 91105

Copy sent  
11/1

June 1982

Los Angeles Times

# Wallace Neff, Architect for Famous Homes, Dies

By JERRY BELCHER, Times Staff Writer

Architect Wallace Neff, whose imagination and craftsmanship encompassed mansions for movie magnates and utilitarian "bubble houses" for the masses, is dead at the age of 87.

In ill health for several years, he died of pneumonia Tuesday in a Pasadena convalescent home.

His fame and fortune were based largely on splendid, expansive "Californian" country homes, suburban retreats and movie star showplaces.

### Creator of Pickfair

His design for Pickfair—the Beverly Hills mansion of Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks Sr.—was considered the epitome of Southern California architecture.

But Neff also was concerned with housing for ordinary Americans and he pioneered in the design of inexpensive, mass-produced "bubble" structures in which inflated reusable balloons are sprayed with concrete.

Henry Ford once wrote Neff a letter in which he said the architect's "bubble house" could have the same impact on housing as

Ford's famous Model T. The concept was tested in a 21-home development in Falls Church, Va., reportedly the first of its kind. In the 1950s, entire housing projects were built using this technique in South Africa, French West Africa, Pakistan and Brazil.

### Born in Southland

Neff's grandfather, publisher Andrew McNally, settled in Southern California in the late 1870s. Neff was born in La Mirada in 1895.

He studied art in Germany and Switzerland in the early 1900s and returned to the United States to study architecture with Ralph Adams Cram at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

After a stint at the shipyards in San Pedro during World War I, Neff joined the office of Santa Barbara architect George Washington Smith as a draftsman in 1919. Later in the same year he formed his own firm in Santa Barbara, moving it to Pasadena a few years later.

He worked as an architect until his retirement in 1975.

Although Pickfair was his best-

known design, he created literally hundreds of others, many of them considered among the best of their style and time.

Among them are the Gillette Ranch in Calabasas; Norman Chandler House in Nottingham Road, Los Angeles; Doheny Ranch in Santa Paula; the Frederick March Estate in Beverly Hills; Joan Bennett House in Holmby Hills; King Vidor Estate in Beverly Hills; William Goetz House in Santa Monica; the Elizabeth Hay Bechtel Estate in Santa Barbara, and the Browne Estate in Newport Beach.

He also designed homes for three of the Marx brothers, Groucho, Harpo and Gummo.

An article in Contemporary Architects credits Neff with helping to create what is known as the Southern California style of architecture in the 1920s and '30.

His eclectic style was widely imitated through the decades of the '30s and '40s and still is much in evidence.

Neff is survived by sons Wallace Neff Jr., a real estate man, and Ar-



Los Angeles Times

Wallace Neff

thur Neff, a publisher.

Private funeral services will be held.

## Wallace Neff, 87

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Architect Wallace Neff, 87, active in the development of Southern California's early architectural style with buildings such as the Pickfair mansion in Beverly Hills, died of pneumonia June 8 at a convalescent hospital.

Mr. Neff also was a pioneer in the creation of mass-produced "bubble" structures, an inexpensive technique using inflated reusable balloons sprayed with concrete. Housing projects throughout the world were built on his designs.

He designed the famed Pickfair, a home for film stars Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks that is considered the epitome of Southern California architecture. Through the 1940s, his eclectic style was widely imitated.

Mr. Neff studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He opened an architectural firm in Santa Barbara in 1919 and later moved it to Pasadena.

Survivors include two sons, Arthur and Wallace Jr.

Post

6/13/82