RIGGS, LUTAH MARIA

Chapter Supporters:

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) ;;;

Arendt, Wallace W., AIA
Burket, Harold E., AIA
Carjola, Chester L., AIA
Henderson, John Robert, AIA
Kimball, Donald A., AIA
Miller, Donald M., AIA
Riddle, George D., AIA
Schwarz, Carl, AIA
Wilson, Roy C., AIA

Non-Chapter Supporters:

Ames, Preston, Architecte D.P.L.G. - Los Angeles, Cal. Badgley, John, AIA - San Luis Obispo, Calif. Born, Ernest, FAIA - San Francisco, Calif. Chase, Pearl, Chairman, Plans and Planting Committee - Santa Barbara, Calif. Church, Thomas D., Landscape Architect - Rome, Italy Cooke, Noel D., Architect - Santa Barbara, Calif.

Hanson, A.E., Land Developer and Planner - Ojai, Calif. Manley, Marion I., FAIA - Coconut Grove, Fla.'
Nelson, Richard Bliss, Architect - Santa Barbara, Calif Perry, Warren C., FAIA - San Francisco, Calif.
Rockrise, George T., AIA - San Francisco, Calif.
Russell, George Vernon, FAIA - Los Angeles, Calif.
Shaw, Arvin, III, AIA, New York, N.Y.

Thompson, Elisabeth Kendall, AIA, Senior Editor, Architectural Forum - Berkeley, Calif. Wright, Henry L., FAIA - Los Angeles, Calif. Wurster, William W., FAIA - Berkeley, Calif. The Jury of Fellows, AIA The Octagon 1735 New York Avenue N.W. Washington 6, D.C.

FACTOAL

Dear Sirs:

Re: the Nomination of <u>Miss Lutah Maria Riggs</u> for Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects for her "Achievement in Design."

Maturing from a draftsman to certified Architect under Miss Riggs' employment and direction for the past 11 years, I am extremely grateful to her for her guidance and assistance, which she has given to others as well as myself.

If I may be so bold, to me it seems as though Miss Riggs' whole life is devoted toward the "Advancement of Design", be in Architecture or Planning, (or planting). Specifically, each problem solved by her design skills result in a special, individual solution, be it a small detail, or the mass or void of a complete building or development, for which she gives unstintingly of herself toward the most perfect solution her taste can find.

For this sensitive understanding of each design problem, for developing each design for the problem using contemporary or inventive methods of construction, for a superb appreciation of scale, color and texture I wish to recommend you advance Lutah Maria Riggs to Fellowship in the Institute.

Sincerely,

Richard Bliss Nelson, Architect, Calif.# C 2878

(Application for Corporate Membership in S.B. Chapter AIA,

applied for.)
1901 Gibraltar Road

Santa Barbara, California



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS 1735 New York Avenue, N.W. Washington 6, D. C.

HENRY L. WRIGHT, F. A.I. A., SECOND VICE PRESIDENT 1125 WEST SIXTH STREET LOS ANGELES 17, CALIFORNIA

December 29, 1959

Jury of Fellows
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington 6, DC

Gentlemen:

I have just learned from the Santa Barbara Chapter that Miss Lutah Maria Riggs has been nominated by her Chapter for Fellowship in the Institute.

Miss Riggs, throughout the years, has been an ardent Institute member and has enthusiastically participated in Chapter affairs. Her most outstanding contribution to the profession, I believe, has been her work in Santa Barbara. Her buildings are modern in plan and function, yet always preserve the charm of the early California architecture of that community.

I know of no one who deserves this honor more than Miss Riggs. I therefore hope the Jury will give serious consideration to elevating her to Fellowship in the Institute.

Yours very truly,

Henry L. Wright, FAIA

Dee 29, 59. FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

Ŷ,

It has come to my attention that the Santa Barbara Chapter of the American Institute of Architects has nominated Miss Lutah Riggs for Fellowship in the Institute.

It has been my pleasure over the years to write letters in support of numerous candidates for Fellowship, but never have I been more in accord with a nomination for this high honor.

It was as a student at the University of California, when John Galen Howard was director of the School of Architecture and the dark clouds of World War I were clearing, that I first knew Lutah Riggs.

She was the "strong man" in design at the School. No one knew when Lutah slept, she was always in the "Ark", helping others, or rapt in her design and planning, (in those days the building was open 24 hours a day) or drafting in a factory for the pittance that somehow kept her in the University. What for others would barely be means of scanty survival, for her was the fuel that fired abundant creativity and warmth for her fellows.

A draftsman of extraordinary facility, her drawings flowing in profusion, were likened to powerful fabrications out of a crow bar, and seemed incongruous from the hand of a girl. These were the school years.

Perhaps her first architect employer was George Washington Smith of Santa Barbara, who discovered her in his drafting room as a temporary summer time employee. Soon Mr. and Mrs. Smith had taken her to their hearts, and she accompanied them as their guest on trips to Mexico and Spain. His large practice of palacial houses and gardens gave her scope for her talents and energies, and years later when Mr. Smith died, it was Lutah who took over. The early Spanish period, never in Smith's hands or hers "correctly period", was always fresh, inventive and exciting. On Smith's demise, her design became more her own and in accordance with the spirit of our own times. Her dossier will tell of her achievements in the last score of years.

(over)

ERNEST BORN, F.A.I.A.

ESTHER BORN
CARL BERTIL LUND, associates

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

* 29 * XII * 59

architect

Jury of Fellows Page 2

Lutah, I am advised, is nominated in the design category and this is proper. However, much more than a gift in design is involved. For the same drive and enthusiasm that enthralled a School of Architecture in her youth as student, has continued to have its effect. Through the power to illuminate in others some understanding of the importance of architectural quality and persuade them to action and the resolve to build accordingly, she has had great influence on the community in which she has bestowed the main span of her career.

The strength of her position centers on surpassing professional competence teamed with sincerity and an extraordinary capacity for transmitting to others some of her own enthusiasm for life and the arts.

Lutah Riggs has never tired, all of her life, of helping others; her utterly unselfish conduct, the modesty that is often found in genius, are silent virtues, foreign to the cult of agressive public relations and forceful self projection. Sometimes it takes so long for educated perceptive faculties to note the flowers in one's own garden, even tho the same observer can describe a hundred species in Patagonia. The Santa Barbara Chapter does well to nominate this remarkable woman for Fellowship.

I, too, am happy and proud to recommend Lutah Maria Riggs for advancement to this rank of honor in the American Institute of Architects.

Sincerely-

Ernest Born

29 * XII * 59

December 28,1959

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

Dear Sirs:

I understand that the Santa Barbara Chapter has nominated Miss Lutah Maria Riggs for advancement to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects, for "Achievement in Design".

I have known Lutah Riggs since 1941 when the A.I.A. Convention was held in Yosemite and Los Angeles. Since she was president of her Chapter and I was president of my Chapter we were together a great deal (Conventions were simpler then). We had a chance to look at and discuss the architecture and the planning prospects in Santa Barbara. I was impressed with her work and her grasp of the problems of her locale.

In the eighteen years since our first acquaintance, we have met only a few times, but I have known of her work through publications and through other architects. I have seen and heard only the very best concerning her activities and her devoted attention to her profession.

I heartily concur with the Santa Barbara Chapter that she deserves this recognition from her fellow architects.

Sincerely,

Marion I. Manley, Architect

MIM:mr

cc: R.B. Nelson, Architect

A. E. HANSON

611 COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE OJAI, CALIFORNIA MILTON 64-456

December 28, 1959

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

FACTOAL

Gentlemen:

I am informed that the Santa Barbara Chapter of the American Institute of Architects has nominated Miss Lutah Maria Riggs for Fellowship in the AIA for "Achievements in DESIGN".

I first knew Miss Riggs in 1927 when she was associated with the late George Washington Smith, architect. At that time I was a landscape architect and was doing a number of gardens in Southern California for homes which Mr. Smith acted as architect. Due to this association, I saw a great deal of Miss Riggs and worked with her intensively so that the garden design would be correlated with the architecture of the home.

In the early part of 1930, Miss Riggs was associated with me in doing a very large garden, costing several hundreds of thousands of dollars, for the late Mr. Dan Murphy's home in Los Angeles, on West Adams street, and also several other gardens in Pasadena.

Later when I was developing land on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, and creating the community of Rolling Hills, Miss Riggs kindly consented to become head of the architectural department. She assisted in the layout and design of the master plan of some 8,000 acres. This entailed a great deal of land planning, such as community centers, administration building, community park and subdivisions.

Miss Riggs is the soul of integrity and I am proud to number her one of my friends.

(over)

In the community of Santa Barbara, she is extraordinarily appreciated. Miss Riggs devotes a great deal of her time and energy in trying to make Southern California a more beautiful and better place in which to live.

The fact that she has received from Santa Barbara, County and City, official communications expressing the City's and the County's admiration for her, speaks for her mastery of the art of design, and her appreciation of scale, color and the importance of the tie-in of architectural design to the environment in which it is to be placed.

I know that you are thoroughly familiar with her work in Southern California, and I shall not attempt to comment on the excellence of it.

When I state that I would unhesitatingly recommend Miss Riggs after having known her for better than 30 years, for any architectural project, regardless of its size, whether it be land planning or the design of structures, and the supervision of both of these, you will know in what high esteem I hold Miss Riggs as an architect.

In closing, I wish to state that I have not practiced landscape architecture since 1931, but since that time have been a land developer and planner.

Yours very sincerely,

A.E. Hanson

AEH:jp

AMERICAN ACADEMY IN ROME

VIA ANGELO MASINA, 5 (PORTA S. PANCRAZIO)

ROME

CABLE ADDRESS "AMACADMY,

Rome, December 24th. 1959

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

Attention: Jury of Fellows

Gentlemen:

I am writing in behalf of Lutah Maria Riggs, who is beeing concerned for advancement to Fellow in the institute.

I have known Miss Riggs for the past twenty years, have watched her work with increasing admiration, and have worked closely with her on a number of projects in Santa Barbara.

I believe the Institute will have cause to be proud of her contributions to architecture and this proposed honour would be well deserved.

Thomas D. Church Landscape Architect

TDC/cc

EDGAR PRESTON AMES 10730 LE CONTE AVENUE LOS ANGELES 24, CALIFORNIA

December 24, 1959. The Jury of Fellows The american Institute of architects 1735 New york avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. Dear Din I read with great interest that the Santa Barbara chapter has placed my in Lutah maria Viggs in nomination for Fellowship in on Unstitute. I have known miss Rigge as a fellow architect for The past twenty Dive years - and Rave Rad much respect and Cadmiration for her work. It was also a very pleasant relationship that we had at m. G. m. Studios

wish her during the years of 1942, 1943

and 1944 where she was employed as a Set Designer. Needless to say, her contribution in Design was very rewarding in the motion picture field.

Very sincerely yours,

Prestor Comes.

architecte D.P.L.G.

PARTONIA VI

TOTAL OF THE SALES

ARENDT/MOSHER/GRANT architects

116 EAST SOLA STREET/SANTA BARBARA/CALIFORNIA/WOODLAND 5-4537

23 December 1959

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

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

It is a pleasure to recommend Architect Lutah Maria Riggs for the great honor of Fellow, American Institute of Architects.

Miss Riggs possesses a creative imagination, sensitivity and skill rarely found in any one individual in the profession. Her buildings have, through the many years of her practice, clearly demonstrated her great ability to formulate an imaginative over-all design concept beautifully related to the natural and man-made environment and carefully executed in every detail. The work of Miss Riggs has been a continual progressive evolution reflecting intelligent uses of new materials and changing living patterns, yet remaining free of stylistic influences and cliches.

Miss Riggs' design ability is indeed outstanding and, in my opinion, worthy of the highest recognition accorded by the Institute.

Very truly yours,

Robert S. Grant, Architec

RSG/fo

LEWIS A. STORRS . A.I.A.

Architect

174: SOUTH CALIFORNIA STREET • VENTURA

CALIFORNIA
 MIller 3-6343

December 21

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

FACTUML

Gentlemen:

In regards to the advancement to Fellowship of Lutah Maria Riggs, a member of the Santa Barbara Chapter, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to have the opportunity to state that she is eminently worthy of the honor.

In my estimation she is an outstanding designer. Each job comes to her office as a fresh challenge, to be solved as an individual solution to suit the needs of the client and of today's living. Although her early training was in the office of George Washington Smith, an architect noted for his skillful interpretation of the Mediterranean style to the Santa Barbara environment, Miss Riggs has changed thru the years her style so that her buildings have maintained a contemporary character, but yet have developed the gracious feeling of the Mediterranean area, which is so suitable for Santa Barbara.

The Plans and Planting Committee of Santa Barbara has from time to time made awards for excellence of design of buildings built in the Santa Barbara area. I have had the honor to serve on the jury in 1954 and again in 1958, along with architects from Los Angeles and San Francisco. In 1954 Miss Riggs received a First Award for the Medical Office for Dr. Lawrence M. Nelson. The jury's comment was, "Complete simplicity and site integration are remarkably satisfying and worth study". In 1958 she received a First Award for the Vedanta Temple, with the comment, "A rich effect is achieved with simple materials by handsome design and details", and a Second Award for the Plow and Angel, a "pub", with the comment, "A fine example of understatement in architecture, meticulously detailed".

Plans and Planting awards are not given to residences, where Miss Riggs has done her greatest amount of work and probably her best. In this category the shelter magazines seek examples of Miss Riggs work for publication for their freshness and beauty, which is tribute in itself.

Sincerely,

Lewis A. Storrs, A. I. A. Santa Barbara Chapter

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN OFFICE OF THE DEAN

11 December 1959

Airmail

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

Gentlemen:

FACTUAL

It has come to my attention that the name of Miss Lutah Riggs is before you for elevation to Fellowship.

Lutah Riggs and I were classmates in this Department of Architecture in 1919. I have watched her career from the start. She was employed by George Washington Smith and made many trips to Europe. Smith did beautiful work fitted to the life and climate of Santa Barbara and I know that Lutah did much to help produce his successful work.

As the years have gone on she has done distinguished work fitting today's life and taste. I recommend this with complete enthusiasm for Lutah has contributed greatly to the distinction of California architecture.

Lutah is one of the eighteen members of the Architectural Advisory Council for this Department of Architecture as appointed by President Clark Kerr. She adds greatly to the meetings with her keen interest.

Respectfully yours,

Milliam h. Lrust

William W. Wurster

WWW:pk



The Octagon · 1735 New York Avenue, N.W. · Washington 6, D. C.

December 7, 1959

_Chapter, A.I.A.

CJNFIDENTIAL

		Re:	Lutah Maria R	iggs. A.T.A.	4 *n					
	embers of Executive	Committee,	Santa Barb	ara	Chapter, A.I.A.					
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Member of the Executive Committee, ____ Santa Barbara

AMERICAN INSTITUTE THE O F ARCHITECTS



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

December 7, 1959

CJNFIDENTIAL

		Re:	Lutah Ma	ria Riggs	A.I.A.	
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(Signature)
Robert S. Grant
Member of the Executive Committee,

Santa Barbara

Chapter, A.I.A.



The Octagon # 1735 New York Avenue, N.W. · Washington 6, D. C.

December 7, 1959

CJNFIDENTIAL

Re: Lutah Maria Riggs, A.I.A.
To Members of The Executive Committee, Santa Barbara Chapter, A.I.A.
An architect is advanced to Fellowship in recognition of exceptional ability or of exceptional service. The Jury of Fellows always tries to choose wisely and with discrimination, but it is limited in precise knowledge about the nominees.
To complete Nomination, this form must be filled and returned before January 1st. Otherwise, no action will be taken at the forthcoming Jury meeting.
It is the opinion of the Jury of Fellows that a designer, however talented, should not be advanced to Fellowship if he possesses deficiencies of character which reflect discredit upon the profession; and that no architect, regardless of outstanding service, should be advanced if the buildings which he has designed are so notably inferior in architectural design as to reflect discredit upon the profession.
To help the Jury learn such aspects, which are not normally completely supplied through regular nomination procedure, fill in the lines below which in your opinion apply to Lutch Maria Riggs, A.I.A. and return this sheet in the addressed envelope provided.
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2. Do they also vouch for his accomplishments?
3. Would his ethics be acceptable in business?
4. What is your opinion of his character? Lo quellan whatever
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Millian C. Hall

Member of the Executive Committee,

Santa Barbara

Chapter, A.I.A.



The Octagon · 1735 New York Avenue, N.W. · Washington 6, D. C.

December 7, 1959

CJNFIDENTIAL

		Re:	Lutah M	aria Riggs,	A.I.A.	
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The Octagon · 1735 New York Avenue, N.W. · Washington 6, D. C.

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December 7, 1959

	Re:	Lutah Maria Riggs,	A. L.A.
To Members of The Executiv	of re Committee,	Santa Barbara	Chapter, A.I.A.
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Member of the Executive Committee,

Santa Barbara Chapter, A.I.A.



The Octagon · 1735 New York Avenue, N.W. · Washington 6, D. C.

December 7, 1959

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		Re:	Lutah Maria Riggs, A	A.I.A.				
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Lewis A. Storrs
(Signature)

Member of the Executive Committee,

Santa Barbara

Chapter, A.I.A.



The Octagon · 1735 New York Avenue, N.W. · Washington 6, D. C.

December 7, 1959

CJNFIDENTIAL

		Re:	Lutah Maria Riggs	, A.I.A.	
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4.00	What is y	our opinion o	of his character?	EXCELL	ENT

(Signature)

Member of the Executive Committee, Santa Barbara Chapter, A.I.A.



ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

PUBLISHED BY F. W. DODGE CORPORATION, 119 WEST 40th STREET, NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

November 4, 1959 Western Editorial Office: 2877 Shasta Road Berkeley 8, California THornwall 8-0744

Jury of Fellows American Institute of Architects 1735 New York Avenue Vashington, D.C.

Gentlemen:

I understand that Miss Lutah Riggs of Santa Barbara has been nominated for fellowship in the Institute.

It is my pleasure and privilege to recommend her nomination to you and say in her behalf that I feel she exemplifies in every way the high standards of professional practice for which the Institute itself stands.

Furthermore, as a warm and sensitive human being, she has extended to others beyond the profession a better sense, not only of the practice of architecture, but of the intangible values which we all know to be the essence of architecture.

I very much hope that your considerations will lead to her investiture as a Fellow.

Cordially,

Elisabeth Kendall Thompson, A.I.A.

Senior Editor

EKT:js

cc: Mr. Wallace Arendt

ARCHITECT

740 EAST MAIN STREET TELEPHONE MILLER 3-6255

FACTUAL

4 November 1959

JURY OF FELLOWS
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON
1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

GENTLEMEN:

THIS LETTER IS WRITTEN IN BEHALF OF THE PROPOSED FELLOWSHIP FOR LUTAH MARIA RIGGS, A MEMBER OF THE SANTA BARBARA CHAPTER. MY ACQUAINTANCESHIP WITH MISS RIGGS AND HER EXPANDING ABILITY DATES FROM THE TIME WE WERE BOTH STUDENTS IN ARCHITECTURE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA. MISS RIGGS THEN INDICATED OUTSTANDING TALENT IN DESIGN. THIS APPRECIATION OF MISS RIGGS! WORK CONTINUED THROUGH THE SEVERAL YEARS SHE WAS IN THE OFFICE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON SMITH. OF

HER WORK HAS ALWAYS BEEN DISTINGUISHED BY THE SOLUTION OF A PROBLEM IN AN UNUSUAL AND YET SOUND CONSERVATIVE STYLE. AN OUTSTANDING FEATURE HAS BEEN
HER SUCCESS IN PRESENTING A BUILDING WHICH HER CLIENTS,
WITHOUT EXCEPTION, HAVE FOUND SUCCESSFUL IN FULFILLING
ITS FUNCTION.

SANTA BARBARA, AND SINCE THIS TIME IN HER OWN PRACTICE.

I TRUST THAT YOU MAY FIND MISS RIGGS HAS BEEN A CREDIT TO HER PROFESSIONAL FIELD IN SUFFICIENT MEASURE TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED AS WORTHY OF HER SELECTION AS A FELLOW IN THE INSTITUTE.

SINCERELY

Harold & Burket.

HEB: LF

116 E. SOLA ST., SANTA BARBARA



ROBERT INGLE HOYT

LEWIS STORRS

GLEN G. MOSHER

SANTA BARBARA CHAPTER, INC. THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

October 29, 1959

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

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

The Santa Barbara Chapter A.I.A. unanimously approved the nomination of Lutah Maria Riggs for A.I.A. Fellowship by the Board of Directors of the Chapter.

Miss Riggs has unselfishly served the community of Santa Barbara for many years on the Plans and Planning Commission, and has been actively engaged in the worthwhile effort to preserve the Historical buildings in the State of California.

Miss Riggs has received many awards for outstanding projects that she has designed, and several of her residences have been featured in prominent publications such as House Beautiful and Sunset. Two of Miss Riggs' designs that I have had the pleasure to examine personally are the Vendanta Temple in Montecito, and the fabulous Wright Ludington The latter displays extreme design ability not Residence. only in the manner in which the tremendous art collection is displayed, but also the way this fine collection maintains its importance in the surroundings, which are subtle but at the same time indicate that the collection has importance of its own.

Miss Riggs excellent design ability has certainly been portrayed in the Wright Ludington Residence as well as in her other numerous projects for which she has often been honored. Miss Lutah Maria Riggs displays the fine qualifications in the area of design that I personally feel should be recognized by all sincere architects.

Yours very truly,

Roy G. Wilde, President

American Institute of Architects

Santa Barbara Chapter

Copla Willie

CARSON & LUNDIN ARCHITECTS 425 PARK AVENUE NEW YORK 22

ROBERT CARSON
EARL H LUNDIN
ARVIN SHAW III

PLAZA 4-1040

October 28, 1959

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

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

I have just learned that Lutah Maria Riggs, Santa Barbara Chapter of American Institute of Architects has been nominated for advancement to Fellowship in Design.

In the twenty-one years I have known Miss Riggs, her unusual attention to detail and the talent, effort and understanding of the qualities that produce fine design have been an inspiration and guidance to me and to the other architects who have worked with her. First as a student working in her office during summer vacations and, after World War II as her partner until 1951, I saw her turn many a mundane problem into a dignified and finished work that proved her knowledge of structure, proportion and color. Her handling of materials, fine or simple, always results in a distinguished solution.

Her talents are legion in the part of California where she works and the fact that she has given unstintingly to practically every Santa Barbara civic committee for many years has proven the contribution she has made to the progressive preservation and future plans of one of the most beautiful communities in the United States.

Her early designs, executed while in the office of the late George Washington Smith, for the Lobrero Theatre, News Press Building and Little Town Club formed the nucleus for the resurrection of the City after the earthquake. The fundamental assertion of good taste is an enduring part of Miss Rigg's design. Her later work reveals sensitive and sophisticated contemporary design in scores of homes and estates in the area, many of which have been published nationally.

Miss Riggs has served as an officer of the Santa Barbara Chapter for many years and has constantly worked to maintain the dignity and high standard of the profession in the best sense of the word.

I can only feel that anyone as gifted and professionally equipped as Miss Riggs richly

deserves to become a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, and I therefore heartily endorse her nomination and hope that it receives your favorable consideration.

Amelin Sharu III

AS/ck

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GEORGE VERNON RUSSELL F.A.LA.
JOHN S. PATERSON
H. A. MATSUNAGA A.I.A.
J.T. MILLER A.I.A.
JOHN H. HOOD M.E.

October 28, 1959

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

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to recommend Lutah Maria Riggs for Fellowship in the Institute.

During the many years I have known Miss Riggs I have been most impressed by her unswerving design objectives and her deep devotion to our profession.

On a recent occasion I had the privilege of serving as Chairman of the Jury of a Santa Barbara Honor Award Program. Her delightfully fresh yet soundly designed entries were a reminder of her outstanding talent and at that time I was inspired to suggest her nomination for Fellowship. I was most pleased to hear that the Santa Barbara Chapter had already considered such action and now I enthusiastically join them in support of her candidacy.

Sincerely,

George Vernon Russell F.A.I.A

GVR:ds

27 October 1959

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

Gentlemen:

FACTUAL

The contribution of Miss Lutah Maria Riggs in Architecture is highly respected by all who are familiar with her work. I have known Miss Riggs and followed her career during the past five years. In comparison with the overall span of her career to date, this is a relatively brief period. However, during this time, I have studied several fine examples of her work which I would like to comment on, with particular reference to their design.

In each of her buildings, regardless of their use, Miss Riggs has achieved an individual expression which reflects the character of the occupants, as well as satisfying all the actual physical requirements. Each design is an entirely new and different experience. Each has a theme which is thoroughly integrated and carried out with meticulous devotion to detail.

An example of the extreme contrasts of her design work are the Kiler residence and the Erdman estate. The former building is a delightful design with a certain repose and simplicity which admirably reflects the informality of its occupants. The Japanese influence in this design seems to lend itself perfectly to the hilltop site. The Erdman estate, on the other hand, has a very bold and in many ways unique design. Here one is immediately impressed with the extreme formality and expanse of the overall complex, again reflecting perfectly the manner in which the occupants live.

These are the qualities which to me best indicate the outstanding ability of Miss Riggs in Architectural Design. I am extremely pleased to be able to support her nomination for membership in the College of Fellows.

Sincerely,

Williams C. Hall, A.I.A.

758 Juanita Avenue

Santa Barbara, California

WCH/dk

116 EAST SOLA STREET/ SANTA BARBARA/CALIFORNIA/WOODLAND 5-4537

26 Oct.ober 1959

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

FACTU.AL

Gentlemen:

The proposing of advancing Lutah Maria Riggs to Fellowship is to me an unqualified pleasure.

I have personally known Miss Riggs for only some eight or ten years, however even before that time, I had been afforded the opportunity of seeing some of her varied and excellent work. It is evident on seeing any example, that careful consideration is made to every detail to make a completely harmonious building.

Miss Rigg's work covers all phases of architectural degisn, from remodeling to fine residential and commercial work. Two buildings which display her outstanding ability are the Dr. Lawrence Nelson Medical Office Building and the Vedanta Society Temple.

I most heartely recommend that Miss Riggs receive honor being advanced to the status of Fellowship.

Sincerely,

Noel D. Cooke, Architect

Worl D. Cooks

NDC/dk

JOHN BADGLEY AIA
ARCHITECT AND

PLANNING CONSULTANT

Phone Liberty 3-6221

1101 MARSH STREET

SAN LUIS OBISPO

CALIFORNIA

October 26, 1959

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

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

It is my privilege to recommend Lutah Maria Riggs, A.I.A., proposed by the Santa Barbara Chapter, for your consideration as Fellow in the Institute.

She has sustained over the years of her practice (17 years within my own experience) an intimate high level of professional service to her clients.

She excells in design; only because "design" is the best descriptive word for the total conception and execution of each architectural problem. Her practice is consistantly commendable. She is already a living legend that does glory to the profession and practice of architecture.

I recommend her salute by the Jury of Fellows.

Sincerely,

JOHN BADGLEY, A.I., ARCHITECT

JB/rak

cc: Mr. Wallace W. Arendt, Santa Barbara Chapter



October 26, 1959

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

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

The Santa Barbara Chapter of the American Institute of Architects unanimously passed a motion approving action taken by the Board of Directors of the Chapter to place in nomination Lutah Maria Riggs for A.I.A. Fellowship.

In this letter, I wish to give my personal support to the nomination of Miss Riggs and to present an outline of some special achievements the nominee has made in her field of professional activity.

- 1. She has many outstanding designs in the Residential Field.
- 2. Her Residences have been published in House & Home magazine.
- 3. She has been active in the preservation of many Historic Buildings in the Santa Barbara Area.
 - 4. She does all her own full size sketches.
- 5. Her residential work is almost monumental in scale. \$500,000 to \$600,000.
- 6. A good reference for outstanding design is the C. P. Erdman House, 495 Valley Club Road, Montecito, California.

Sincerely yours,

Donald H. Miller A. I. A.

DHM:em



DONALD A. KIMBALL, A. I. A. ARCHITECT

4402 VIA ABRIGADA - TELEPHONE 7-4604 HOPE RANCH PARK SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

Oct. 26, 1959.

The American Institute of Architects, The Octagon, 1735 New York Ave; N.W; Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen,

I am very glad to write a supporting letter to propose the name of Lutah Maria Riggs of Santa Barbara, California for Fellowship honors in the Intitute, in Design.

She has done some very outstanding work, some of which has been published and awarded other honors. We feel that she is very deserving of such an honor and take this opportunity to recommend to you such action.

Thanking you for your consideration of this matter, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Donald A. Kimball

DAK/dbk

JURY OF FELLOWS
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
THE OCTAGON,
1735 NEW YORK AVE. N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FACTUAL

GENTLEMEN:

BECAUSE OF THE PARTICULAR NATURE OF LUTAH MARIA RIGGS, A.I.A.' DESIGN EFFECTIVENESS, SHE HAS NOT RECIEVED THE DEGREE OF RECOGNITION THAT SHOULD BE HERS.

When one attends the Lobero Theater, a building she designed when working in the office of J.Washington Smith, the restrained design elements, i.e. dark trees, mottled shade on textured white plaster, wide brick entry terrace, soft low arches, unobtrusive lighting, intimate dignified wide-angle seating, all combine to please and elevate one's spirit without advertising. Or calling attention to the Architect.

WHEN VISITING OR PASSING BY SUCH PROJECTS AS THE OFFICE OF LAWRENCE NELSON, M.D.,
THE ALICE ERVING RESIDENCE OR THE MCNAGHTEN RESIDENCE, ONE IS AWARE OF THE UNUSUALLY
PLEASING SURROUNDINGS. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE ABSENCE OF CLICHES, RIGID METHODS,
OVER-ELABORATION, PLAIN-NESS, TRICKS OR STUNTS, ONE FINDS IT HARD TO CONSCIOUSLY
REALIZE THAT THE ENVIRONMENT BEING EXPERIENCED CAME ABOUT NOT BY ACCIDENTAL CIRCUMSTANCE
BUT BY VIRTUE OF THE APPLICATION OF GREAT DESIGN SKILL.

When drawing a cocktail lounge and bar for a basement in the San Isidro Guest Ranch, Miss Riggs provided an exterior entry trellis that not only formed a natural foyer for the Lounge but somehow greatly enhanced the appearance of the entire building.

SHE IS ALWAYS WILLING TO BREAK OR MODIFY A PATTERN OR RHYTHM TO MAKE WAY FOR A TREE, ROCK, ART OBJECT, BUILDING DETAIL, OR CIRCULATION OR SPACE FLOW. SHE CAN ACCOMPLISH THIS GREAT FLEXIBILITY WITHOUT DILUTING THE STRENGTH, HONESTY OR SERENITY OF THE RESULTING TOTAL.

HER TRUE HUMILITY COMBINED WITH A SURE-FOOTED DESIGN ABILITY MAKE HER UNIQUE. SHE DESERVES A FELLOWSHIP.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

JOHN ROBERT HENDERSON, A.I.A.

CHESTER L. CARJOLA, A. I. A. ARCHITECT

FRANK L. GREER
ASSOCIATE

129 EL PASEO

SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA

TELEPHONE 25819

October 26, 1959

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

Gentlemen:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend the nomination of Lutah Maria Riggs for A.I.A. fellowship. Miss Lutah Riggs has developed outstanding achievements in the field of design. She is keenly interested in good architecture and has been very active in all professional activities related to fine architecture in the community of Santa Barbara, California.

Miss Riggs received First Awards in the following buildings: Vedanta Temple, Medical Office Building for Dr. Lawrence Nelson, and Herborium Building for the Botanical Gardens.

Miss Riggs has also received a great deal of distinction in national publications for a residence for Miss Alice Irving, Santa Barbara, California; a residence for Mr. Robert Gross in Sandyland Cove; the residence for Mr. and Mrs. McNaughton; and the Plow and Angel Restaurant for the San Ysidro Ranch and Hotel.

Sincerely,

Chester L. Carjola, A.I.A.

Architect

CLC/sw

ROBERT INGLE HOYT, A. I. A.
1 1 1 5 C H A P A L A S T R E E T
ARCHITECT AND PLANNING CONSULTANT
S A N T A B A R B A R A, C A L I F O R N I A

October 26, 1959

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

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

It is with great pleasure and high enthusiasm that I add my encouragement for the advancement of Lutah Maria Riggs to Fellowship in the Institute.

This dedicated and able architect has selflessly devoted all of her energies to her happy clients. Her demonstrated good taste and high design skill are obvious to all of those who have the pleasure of experiencing her work. She is one of those rare architects who inspire the rest of us to see one of her jobs and vocally announce that we wish we had done it. Her colleagues are grateful for her fastidiously maintained professional care of her client's welfare and we have enjoyed its reflected benefits.

Her design philosophy and technical understanding has changed with the years from her splendid Lobero Theatre and fine residences in thick plaster walls and tile roofs of great sculptural quality to her more recent work in crisp glass and frame, including the Erving, Gross, McNaughten, Erdman and Ludington residences.

Her sensitivity to environment has always been obvious and to a client's particular personal needs outstanding. Her flexibility is shown by her superb adaptation of distantly developed forms in local techniques in the handsome and superbly detailed Vendanta temple.

I know that, as you would wish, this hardworking architect will be warmed by the embrace of Fellowship and wear your mantle graciously. I feel the Institute and the College of Fellows would be richer by her Fellowship.

Sincerely

Robert I. Hoyt

RIH:d

CARL SCHWARZ, A. I. A.

A R C H I T E C T • 438 NORTH "A" STREET OXNARD, CALIFORNIA PHONE HUNTER 3-8118

October 24, 1959

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

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

I am thoroughly in agreement with all the members of the Santa Barbara Chapter, A.I.A. to support the nomination of Lurah Maria Riggs for A.I.A. Fellowship.

Miss Riggs' skill in design is apparent in all her numerous buildings. Every detail of the fine structures she has created shows her artistic feeling very expertly and harmoniously expressed in numerous materials. She especially loves homes and her works vary in size from the splendid palace to the lovely cottage.

Miss Riggs gives much of her time to the study of historic buildings and her competent opinion of their value is most influential in the decisions made to preserve them. She always may be counted on to generously contribute her knowledge, judgment, and skill to civic enterprises of architectural nature.

Sincerely yours,

Carl Schwarz

CS/ls

23 October 1959

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

Gentlemen:

FACTUAL

It is my great pleasure to write a supporting letter on behalf of Lutah Maria Riggs for advancement to Fellowship in the category of Design.

Lutah is an architect's architect, with a sensitivity unusual for a woman in a predominately male profession. I am impressed with her ability to remain architecturally young, especially when you realize she was schooled in the classics and apprenticed in the Mediterranean style. Her buildings have a fresh crispness, devoid of nouveau cliches.

Lutah's world is architecture and the arts. Her typical day is 16 hours, during which she masters the most minute detail to evolve a totally contiguous design. Her buildings are finely integrated with the existing topography. Outstanding examples of the wedding of structure and site are the Alice Erving residence and the Vedanta Society Temple. I feel that Lutah richly deserves the advancement to Fellowship, and I trust your honorable jury will find her justly deserving of this great honor.

Sincerely,

n G. Mosher, A.I.A

SGM/fo

8 8 5 E. MAIN STREET, VENTURA, CALIFORNIA MI 3-2027

21 October 1959

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

FACTUAL

Dear Sirs:

This letter is in recommendation of Lutah Maria Riggs for A.I.A Fellowship.

For many years Miss Riggs has made outstanding contributions to the field of Architectural Design. I feel that her success is attributed to her great ability as an original designer. Her work does not reflect merely the accepted trends, nor does it appear to have a "typical" continuity throughout. Instead, her work shows a fresh and original approach to each problem she encounters.

I feel that I am honored to have the opportunity to recommend Lutah Maria Riggs for A.I.A. Fellowship in the field of Architectural Design.

Sincerely,

Fred Hummel

A.I.A.

FH/sv

OFFICE 1401 SAY ROAD POSTOFFICE BOX 951 PHONE JACKSON 5-4486

SANTA PAULA, CALIFORNIA

October 20, 1959

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

Gentlemen:

FACTUAL

It is with pleasure that I recommend Lutah Maria Riggs for Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects.

I have known Lutah Riggs for 25 years, first as a designer in the architectural office of George Washington Smith in Santa Barbara, and later years in her own practice of architecture. She has exceptional talent in "California" design and all of her work is of a very high inspirational quality. She has had fine public relations with her clients and is outstanding in the architectural field here in California.

Very truly yours,

Roy C. Wilson, A.I.A.

RCW:T

"VALIHI," INC.

2014 CHAPALA STREET SANTA BARBARA, CALIFORNIA WOodland 5-9767

19 October 1959

JURY OF FELLOWS American Institute of Architects, The Octagon, Washington, D. C.

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

1930 SR LUTAH MARIA RIGGS, Architect, a charter member of the Santa Barbara chapter, has long enjoyed an enviable reputation for excellance in design.

She has also exhibited a thorough knowledge of all related elements of the practice of Architecture by the quality of workmanship evident in every project for which she has been commissioned.

While her major practice has been in the field of residential design, she has proven the breadth of her ability as a Designer in other areas.

A notable example of her ability as a Designer is the LOBERO THEATER in Santa Barbara for which she has received many honors and which is identified as one of our California Historical Monuments.

Her residential accomplishments in design are legend, and having known Lutah Riggs and observed her work over the past 30 years, I most highly recommend that she be elected a

FELLON OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

Sincerely yours,

erge D. Riddle, A. I. A.

CALIFORNIA ROADSIDE COUNCIL

AMERICAN PLANNING AND CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON STATE PARKS

COUNCIL OF CHRISTMAS

CHEER

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, Inc. PLANS AND PLANTING COMMITTEE

Headquarters CALIFORNIA CONSERVATION COUNCIL

GARDEN TOURS OF MONTECITO SANTA BARBARA

HOPE RANCH PARK

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS COMMITTEE

Cooperates with ADULT EDUCATION CENTER

GARDEN CLUB OF AMERICA

FACTUAL



912 SANTA BARBARA STREET SANTA BARBARA * CALIFORNIA Telephone WOodland 5-7216

October 15, 1959

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

Gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure to join with others in recommending Miss Lutah Maria Riggs for consideration as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. Over a long period I have been interested the The development of an harmonious architecture in Santa Barbara, and have been honored being given an Associate Life Membership in the Santa Barbara The Plans and Planting Committee and I are also the Chapter, A.I.A. recipients of Citations of Honor from your distinguished organization. I trust this recognition will establish the value of my testimonial as a non-professional critic.

Miss Lutah Maria Riggs is an architect whose workmanship and artistry are of the highest quality. The buildings she has designed and built are both admired and enjoyed by those who see and use them. Her devotion to the interests of her clients, and her meticulous supervision of every phase of the work in hand are notable. Her buildings are beautifully adapted to their environment, and every effort is expended to provide for appropriate and effective landscaping.

Through the years Miss Riggs has given generously of her time and skill to organizations interested in improving the appearance and quality of architecture in the Santa Barbara area. I have known her since 1921, when she joined the office of the distinguished artist and architect, George Washington Smith. She participated actively in the design of both commercial and residential buildings which contributed so greatly to the reputation of Santa Barbara during the following decades, when the Spanish Californian architecture was so appropriately developed here.

As Chairman of the Community Arts Association, Plans and Planting Committee from 1927 to date; and of the local Better Homes in America Committee from 1925 to 1941, I have had the privilege of arranging a series of Architectural Awards, both for Civic and Commercial architecture. and for small Homes. A list of some of the Awards presented to Miss Riggs is attached. As Chairman of the College Planning Advisory Committee for the past twenty years; and of the Santa Barbara Offstreet Parking Committee for a number of years, I am glad to testify that Miss Riggs! services were most helpful; her detailed criticisms and constructive suggestions most valuable.

(6262) Sincerely yours,

Pearl Chase, Chairman

AWARDS TO LUTAH MARIA RIGGS

by the

Community Arts Association of Santa Barbara, Plans and Planting Branch in cooperation with

The Santa Barbara Chapter, the American Institute of Architects The Judges, Members of Three California Chapters.

CIVIC OR COMMERCIAL - for Exterior Design

First Award 1954-1957, Civic Class Vedanta Temple, Church, 927 Ladera Lane

Second Award 1954-1957, Commercial Class "Plow & Angel", An Addttion - Entrance to Restaurant

First Award 1950-1953, Commercial Class Doctor's Office, 30 West Arrellaga Street

First Award 1939-1949, Civic Class Library and Herbarium, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden Mission Canyon

BETTER HOMES IN AMERICA - for Small Houses

First Award House at 201 Olive Mill Road

Completed in 1937

Honorable House at 1704 Coast Highway

Mention Remodelled in 1938.

Note: Very few of Miss Riggs' houses were small enough to be considered in the above competition.

No Better Homes Campaigns were conducted after 1941.

Miss Riggs served on College Planning Advisory Committee, which concerned itself primarily with land-use problems, including the exterior design of buildings.

Miss Riggs also served on the first off-street Parking Committee, and was particularly helpful in suggesting methods and designs for making the rear of commercial blocks more interesting; and customer entrances more distinctive and attractive.

Miss Riggs made a most effective suggestion for block treatment of State Street, our chief commercial thoroughfare. Elevations were adapted to existing lot frontages. She has also contributed "idea sketches" for the elevations of various structures, including the restoration of historic adobes.

Pearl Chase, Chairman Plans and Planting Committee

10-15-1959

WARREN CHARLES PERRY, F. A. I. A.

ARCHITECT

2530 Vallejo Street, san Francisco 23, California

October 14, 1959.

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

FACTUAL

Gentlemen:

It has recently come to my attention that the Santa Barbara Chapter of the Institute is proposing Miss Lutah Riggs of Santa Barbara for Fellowship. May I add my warm and entirely unsolicited endorsement to that excellent suggestion?

I have known Miss Riggs for many years, ever since, in fact, some forty years ago she appeared in Berkeley as an applicant for entrance into the School of Architecture at the University of California on whose faculty I served as professor of design and Dean until my retirement in 1954.

She was a most unusual student displaying characteristics even in those early years of her career which gave unmistakable promise of her future success. She, as I remember very well, never wavered in her devotion to architecture and in her firm determination to become an architect, even in the face of considerable discouragement in the way of preliminary preparation, and she eventually proved to be one of our most distinguished students with an allround aptitude in design, construction and other required subjects. As noted above, she from the very beginning was bound to be an architect and to be a good one. Her great success over the years in her native Santa Barbara where she is so highly regarded both in and out of the profession is the finest testimonial to her own stirling qualities.

I can think of no one more deserving of the signal honor of the Fellowship.

Sincerely,

Warren C. Perry

GEORGE T. ROCKRISE ALA

ROBERT MOUNTJOY J. MATTHEW MYERS ASSOCIATES

13 Oct. 1959

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

Gentlemen:

I should like to recomend to you LUTAH MARIA HIGGS, Architect of Santa Barbara, California for consideration to elevation to Fellowship in the Institute for Design.

I have known Miss Riggs for the past ten years and have great esteem for her as a practicing architect and friend.

Over the years she has designed a large number of distinguished buildings in her area and has been a moving force in Santa Barbara for many years. She has given a great deal of time and effort to Institute activities at a Chapter level.

At present she is serving with me on the Professional Advisory Council to the College of Architecture, University of California.

I know that she is held in high regard both as an architect and as member of her community.

It is a pleasure and an honor to commend Miss Riggs to you for Fellowship consideration.

Very sincerely,

GTR/thv

6 October 1959

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

Gentlemen:

FACTUAL

It is with a great deal of pride that I write this letter of recommendation for nomination of Miss Lutah Maria Riggs to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects.

I have known Miss Riggs personally since coming to Santa Barbara in 1946, and during my University days became familiar with her architectural design capabilities through the various professional publications in which her work appeared. Her ability to execute fine detail, good proportion and excellent plans, along with securing for the Owner outstanding landscaping developments, gives her work a quality not achieved by many.

In my 13 years of residence in Santa Barbara, I have visited many of Miss Riggs' projects and feel that this quality she has imparted marks them as exceptional. Also, Miss Riggs has that rare quality of being able to always be ahead of her time in creating an environment for living.

I endorse Miss Riggs' nomination most highly with the hope that she shall receive this highest honor of the American Institute of Architects.

allace W. Sund

Respectfully submitted,

Wallace W. Arendt, A.I.A.

WWA/fo