

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

COPY

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

May 25, 1948

Dear Mr. Maginnis:

The program of the 1948 Convention of The Institute has developed sufficiently for me to write as follows:

The Gold Medal of The Institute will be presented to you at the dinner session, the formal event of the Convention, on the evening of Thursday, June 24.

The presentation of Fellowship Certificates will precede the presentation of the Gold Medal - which will be the high point of the dinner.

As you know, the Hotel Utah in Salt Lake City will be Convention headquarters and likewise for the meetings of The Board which precede the Convention.

We hope very much that it will be possible for you to be present at all sessions of the Convention, as well as at the dinner, and I shall look forward to seeing you as soon as you arrive in Salt Lake City.

Please get in touch with me then at the Hotel Utah.

With best personal regards,

Sincerely yours,

S.W.O.
President

Mr. Charles D. Maginnis, Past President
The American Institute of Architects
126 Newbury Street
Boston 16, Massachusetts

DWO:MB

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THE AMERICAN
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1948 APR 23 PM 3:17

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

JOSEPH D. LELAND, DIRECTOR, NEW ENGLAND DISTRICT
814 STATLER BUILDING, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

April 22, 1948

*No enc -
D.B.*

Mr. Edward C. Kemper, Executive Director
The American Institute of Architects
1741 New York Avenue
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Ed:

I am enclosing the citation for the award of the Gold Medal to Mr. Maginnis that Doug Orr requested me to prepare. This has been done with the collaboration of some of the men closest to Mr. Maginnis - Eugene F. Kennedy Jr. and Robert Walsh.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Leland
JOSEPH D. LELAND
DIRECTOR

JDL:S
ENCL.
CC to Douglas Orr

CITATION OF CHARLES DONAGH MAGINNIS

At the Presentation of the Gold Medal of The American Institute
of Architects, at the Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah

June 24, 1948

--oOo--

We honor Charles Donagh Maginnis, the man and the architect.

He has, for more than half a century, enthusiastically dedicated his energies to the profession of Architecture. With inviolable fidelity to the lofty principles of his profession, he has inspired his contemporaries and has served as model and ideal to the generations that follow him. He has contributed notably to the architectural aspect of the American scene and by example and inspiration has influenced the artistic standards of an epoch. In the fields of ecclesiastical architecture particularly, he has set for his successors the highest standard of achievement.

The skill of his facile pen is no less a force in the drafting-room than it is vigorous and persuasive in the press; he is as revered for the clarity and beauty of his diction as for the brilliance of his Celtic wit. In the exercise of both, and in the charm of his personality, architecture has gained a truer appreciation of its position in the civic and artistic order of our society.

In his love of architecture, he is contemporary with its best interests. With knowledge born of creative experience, he is ever ready to recognize that the true fundamentals of design are as inviolate now as they were in the past. For him, names and declamation do not establish qualities of design.

For more than forty years a Fellow of The American Institute of Architects, he endowed with rare distinction the office of its Presidency. The genius that he would modestly disclaim has been recognized at home and abroad by universities, learned academies, his nation and his Church.

We deem it a privilege to present Charles Donagh Maginnis this tribute, the highest honor of our profession, the Gold Medal of The American Institute of Architects.

corrected copy from
Mr. Maginnis

Remarks of Charles D. Maginnis at Annual Dinner accepting Gold Medal of The Institute.

MR. MAGINNIS: Mr. President, distinguished guests, ladies, gentlemen of The Institute. I doubt if any man, whatever his accomplishment, could experience such a moment as this and feel no uneasy doubt about himself. Obviously, the highest satisfaction which this honor is designed to carry with it is not to be savored without a comforting sense of having merited it. Such is my native diffidence that I have been concerned about the effect of this formidable distinction upon my character. Ever since the first whisper of your intention I have been so occupied in persuading myself of my unworthiness that I was well on the way to becoming enamoured of my humility, which is probably the ultimate twist of spiritual perversity. Modesty, in my experience, is a most slippery and exasperating virtue which runs out on you the instant it detects the least susceptibility to medals. It has placed me, on this occasion, in the ridiculous position of indulging in deprecations at an hour when it is obviously too late for you to entertain them.

It was in such circumstances that I was finally driven to the idea, which might have saved all this perturbation, that it would be both an impertinence and a disloyalty to entertain misgivings about the wisdom of The Institute. And having reached that happy conclusion my mind came to rest immediately.

But in that passing disturbance you will have observed at least how deeply I have been moved. The Gold Medal of The American Institute of Architects is a climactic honor, the solemn and pontifical gesture of a great profession. I am aware of the jealousy with which it is protected and the discrimination with which it is bestowed. There is about it,

however, such a disconcerting stamp of finality that seems to suggest to a recipient with a feeling for dramatic propriety that nothing is left to him now but to seek out some sylvan shade, there to lie down and peacefully expire. He has exhausted the logic of his career. To carry on may be only to invite a more mature and critical appraisal and possibly bring blushes to the cheeks of his benefactors.

It has not escaped me that there is a curious interest in the mortality of Gold Medalists. Lest this become a sombre superstition, I hasten to assure you that at last account Mr. Saarinen was in excellent health. Long life to him! My own course has carried me now beyond the eightieth milestone, so that if I should presently dissolve into the shadows there need be no suggestion of tragedy.

The moment then is entirely fitting to your disposition. If the intrinsic provocations should be less obvious, that need not draw from the sense of profound gratitude with which I acknowledge this extraordinary and moving tribute of my fellow Architects.



Maginnis, Charles D. Maginnis, Cha D
News of the Nation's Architecture

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1741 NEW YORK AVENUE, N. W. - WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

TELEPHONE NATIONAL 6971

C O N F I D E N T I A L

*Arthur
Biographic*
C O N F I D E N T I A L

Note to Editors: Please note and observe release date, since this award is confidential until the presentation at 8:00 P.M. on Thursday, June 24, 1948.

For Release to MORNING Papers of FRIDAY, June 25, 1948

Journal of The A. I. A.

JUN 17 1948

Salt Lake City, Utah, June 24: -- Charles D. Maginnis, Boston, Mass., architect who is nationally famous for his works in ecclesiastical architecture, tonight received the Gold Medal Award of the American Institute of Architects.

The Medal, which is the highest honor the A.I.A. can confer, was presented to Mr. Maginnis by Douglas W. Orr of New Haven, Conn., President of the A.I.A., at the annual dinner of the organization which is holding its 80th convention here.

Mr. Maginnis designed some of the outstanding buildings on campuses of Catholic colleges and universities throughout the country, and also is responsible for such other famous religious structures as the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D. C.

The academic buildings he designed include five dormitories, the biology and law buildings and the Rockne Memorial at Notre Dame University; the faculty, science, recitation and library buildings at Boston College; the chapel, dormitories, the library and refectory at Holy Cross; and the chapel and refectory at Trinity College in Washington, D. C.

In the citation which accompanied the Gold Medal, President Orr stated that, for more than half a century Mr. Maginnis "enthusiastically dedicated his energies to the profession of architecture.

"With inviolable fidelity to the lofty principles of his profession", President Orr

more

said, "he has inspired his contemporaries and has served as model and ideal to the generations that follow him.

"He has contributed notably to the architectural aspect of the American scene and by example and inspiration has influenced the artistic standards of an epoch. In the fields of ecclesiastical architecture particularly, he has set for his successors the highest standard of achievement.

"In his love of architecture, he is contemporary with its best interest. With knowledge born of creative experience, he is ever ready to recognize that the true fundamentals of design are as inviolate now as they were in the past. . . . The genius that he would modestly disclaim has been recognized at home and abroad by universities, learned societies, his nation and his Church...."

A native of Londonderry, Ireland, where he was born in 1867, Mr. Maginnis has been practicing architecture in this country since 1886. He is a Fellow of the A.I.A. and served as its president from 1937 to 1940.

He attended school at Cusack's Academy in Dublin, and won the Queen's Prix in mathematics at South Kensington, London, in 1883. He first came to this country in 1885.

He served as a member of the Municipal Art Commission in Boston from 1909 to 1917; was a member of the Massachusetts State Art Commission from 1911 to 1920, and was chairman during the last four years of his term. He is a trustee of the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

He has been a member of the Visiting Committee in the School of Architecture at Harvard since 1935. Among the many organizations in which he holds membership are the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Design, and the Academy of Arts and Letters. He is also a member of a number of professional and honorary societies of other countries.

Among the many honors which have been conferred on him are the Laetare Medal,

which he received in 1924; designation as a Knight of the Order of Malta; the J. Harleston Parker Gold Medal, in 1926; and the Diploma of Honor, Budapest, in 1930.

In recognition of his outstanding attributes, he was also appointed President of the International Congress of Architects by President Roosevelt.

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