

Kennard wins 1991 Young Citation

Doors were closed to **Robert A. Kennard, FAIA**, in 1949 when he earned his degree from the University of Southern California (USC) School of Architecture. Few Los Angeles firms were interested in hiring minority graduates back then.

Because of those frustrations in landing his first job, Kennard vowed that he

assisting minorities in achieving their fullest potential and toward improving the basic fabric of society. While building the most successful and oldest continuously operated black-owned architecture firm in southern California, he found time to support student programs, new minority firms, as well as his community.



'Significant improvements have been made in the hiring of minorities and women into architecture over the last 30 to 40 years. There is, however, much room for improvement.'

—**Robert A. Kennard, FAIA**

would never close his door to any student or recent graduate. Since establishing his Los Angeles firm KDG Architecture & Planning in 1957, he's kept his door open to aspiring architects of every color.

At the convention last month, the 70-year-old Kennard received the AIA's 1991 Whitney M. Young Jr. Citation for his significant contributions to social responsibility and for serving as a role model and mentor for not only the African-American community but for the architectural community. "For more than four decades, he has selflessly and energetically worked to improve the quality of life for those less fortunate and to inspire youth to rise above adversity," said his citation. "With strength and tenacity, he exemplifies the ideal that architects can leave a profound, indelible mark not only on our nation's skylines, but on our society as a whole."

Since his graduation 42 years ago, Kennard has dedicated his energy toward

For the city's schools, the Los Angeles native filmed a documentary on the role of the minority architect and developed an enrichment program for inner-city high school students to learn about architecture. He also has assisted and advised architecture programs at California Polytechnic University, UCLA, and his alma mater. USC's School of Architecture recently bestowed on Kennard its 1991 Distinguished Alumni Award. As a diligent and effective mentor, he hired, trained, and encouraged young minority architects to succeed. At least five successful minority-owned firms were formed by his former employees.

In addition to his work with young people, Kennard has made time to serve as chairman of the Inner City Cultural Center and as volunteer consultant to the Frederick Douglass Child Development Center, Central City Community Mental Health Facility, and Citizens Housing Council. ■

Pei wins Reynolds

The 70-story Bank of China in Hong Kong, designed by I.M. Pei & Partners (now Pei Cobb Freed & Partners), has received the 1991 R.S. Reynolds Memorial Award for distinguished architecture using aluminum. The \$25,000 annual award, honoring the founder of Reynolds Metals Co. and administered by the AIA, was conferred on **I.M. Pei, FAIA**, at the Washington convention last month.

The eye-catching, towering project represents the highest level of quality, noted the jury, chaired by former AIA President **Sylvester Damianos, FAIA**. "In structural concept, architectural massing, eloquence of detail, and consistency of design, this building is one that already is a standout and predictably will become a historic landmark."

The jury called Asia's tallest building "the ultimate achievement in the work I.M. Pei's office has been doing." Aluminum is used externally on the cladding of all horizontal and vertical surfaces to express the tower's faceted, crystalline form and reflect the structural logic of its geometry. Staff contact: Frimmel Smith, (202) 626-7390.

Honor Awards applications due Aug. 5

Help your profession demonstrate the value of good design and the role of architects in creating a quality environment: Submit projects to the 1992 AIA Honor Awards. Calls for entries have been mailed to all members. The deadlines are:

- Aug. 5, final postmark for applications;
- Aug. 30, final postmark date for submissions.

All firms are encouraged to enter their most distinguished projects. Watch for more details in the next MEMO. To receive a call for entries or more information, contact Frimmel Smith, (202) 626-7390. ■



September 6, 1990

Chester A. Widom, FAIA
 Director, California

Board of Directors
 American Institute of Architects
 1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20006

**Re: Nomination of Robert A. Kennard, FAIA for the
 1991 Whitney M. Young Jr. Citation**

Colleagues:

Whitney M. Young challenged our profession to assume a leadership role in addressing not only the architectural problems of our society but to also address the "root" social issues of our times. In recognition of his extraordinary contributions towards meeting this challenge, I am honored to place in nomination the name of Robert A. Kennard, FAIA, for the 1991 Whitney M. Young Jr. Citation.

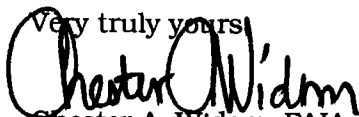
As a young African-American, Bob Kennard had the strength and tenacity to achieve admission to the USC School of Architecture and to graduate in 1949 long before black students were a common sight on main stream campuses across the nation. As part of a class project, Bob viewed the housing conditions of the poor in the Los Angeles community. These two events played a major factor in his life, and, fortunately for us, a major factor in the lives of those whom he has touched.

Throughout the 41 years since his graduation, Bob Kennard has dedicated his energy towards assisting young minority men and women to achieve their fullest potential and towards improving the basic fabric of our society. As you read his biography, you will see that his contributions, all accomplished while building the most successful and oldest continuously operated black-owned architectural firm in Southern California include:

- Student Support Programs
- New Minority Firm Support
- General Community Support

In addition to his accomplishments, Bob has found time, or perhaps made time, to serve the general community as Board Member of the American Red Cross, a Board Member and Vice President of Los Angeles Music Center Fraternity of Friends and the Design Advisory Panel of Cultural Affairs Commission of the City of Los Angeles.

By selecting Bob as the 1991 Whitney M. Young Jr. Citation recipient, we will honor a man who is not only a role model for the African-American community but more importantly a role model for the architectural community.

Very truly yours,

 Chester A. Widom, FAIA

ROBERT A. KENNARD, FAIA BIOGRAPHY

Robert Kennard is a native of Los Angeles and a 1949 graduate of the University of Southern California's School of Architecture. Following graduation he worked with the firms of Richard Neutra and Robert Alexander. Military service interrupted his career during the Korean War, and he served in the United States Corps of Engineers from 1951-52. He returned to a position with Daniel Mann Johnson and Mendenhall in Los Angeles where he became the first African-American architect hired by that firm. Mr. Kennard was promoted to project manager, a position he held until he left to join Victor Gruen Associates.

In 1957 he established his own firm, now known as the Kennard Design Group, dba KDG Architecture and Planning. The company has continued in operation to the present day, making it the oldest, continuously operated black-owned architectural firm in Southern California. KDG has a staff of 35 professionals trained in the fields of architecture, urban and regional planning, urban design, construction administration, space planning and interior design.

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Kennard's special contribution has been his on-going involvement in efforts to promote the education and general welfare of minority and disadvantaged youth. Throughout his career he has initiated and supported programs which have encouraged and assisted young people including the following:

STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Mr. Kennard has devoted much of his time to encouraging young people to continue their education and pursue careers in architecture and engineering. He has been involved in the following elementary, secondary and college-level support programs:

* LOS ANGELES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Mr. Kennard filmed a documentary on the role of the minority architect which was broadcast on the district's Channel 50 in 1969. The film was shown throughout the district to introduce the field of architecture to students, and especially minority students. Its purpose was to explain the role of the architect and serve as a role model for young students.

In 1980 Mr. Kennard, along with another firm, was responsible for the development of an enrichment program at Washington High School in the inner city of Los Angeles. The program introduced architecture and drafting techniques to high school students and has become an on-going model for similar educational programs. The enrichment program has been lauded by local, state and federal representatives, including former President Ronald Reagan.

* COMPTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Mr. Kennard served on the advisory committee for Vocational Career and Adult Education programs for this district located in a predominantly minority community near Los Angeles. Since 1982 the nominee has assisted in the establishment of vocational guidance criteria as it relates to the field of architecture and related skills.

* POMONA, CLAREMONT, CULVER CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICTS:

Mr. Kennard has repeatedly responded to requests to speak to classes of students at elementary schools in these local school districts.

* CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY POMONA SUMMER INTENSIVE ORIENTATION PROGRAM:

Mr. Kennard was a founding member and currently serves on the advisory panel for this yearly program to expose minority students to careers in architecture, landscape architecture, and to life on a college campus. The program has been in existence for six years, and the nominee has provided professional leadership in designing the program and assisting in fund raising. The program, which is supported solely by private contributions, invites 24 high school students to spend a week in residence on the campus. The students attend design studios, lectures and tour the offices of local architects, landscape architects and planners. Many students who have completed the program have attained scholarships and pursued careers in the field. In most cases, these minority students had not considered going to college and represent the first generation to pursue higher education in their families.

* CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSTIY, SAN LUIS OBISPO
SHADOWSHIP PROGRAM:

The purpose of this program is to expose architectural students to the nature of the actual practice of architecture. Mr. Kennard sponsored a student through this program. The student stayed at Mr. Kennard's home and spent several days accompanying him through routine days in the life of a practicing architect.

Note: A letter in support of Robert Kennard's nomination was written by George J. Hasslein, FAIA, Founding Dean of the University, and was mailed on August 29, 1990, directly to the AIA Board of Directors.

* DEAN'S COUNCIL OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND
URBAN PLANNING AT UCLA:

Mr. Kennard currently serves as a board member on this council which functions as a support and fundraising body for the school. He has spoken to architecture classes and served on graduate thesis review panels. But more significantly, Mr. Kennard, was instrumental in assisting the University in the acquisition of a major gift from the Library of Architecture and Allied Arts of Los Angeles (LAAALA). This library was established by the Allied Architects Association of Los Angeles, a group formed in the 1920s to provide architectural and engineering services for large public works including the planning and design of Los Angeles County General Hospital and the Hollywood Bowl.

A contribution of 4,500 volumes from the LAAALA became the core collection for the UCLA library when the graduate school was established in 1967. Serving in the capacity of secretary of the board of directors of the LAAALA, Mr. Kennard helped facilitate the donation of \$254,000 for UCLA's Architecture and Urban Planning Library. This sum represented the balance of the assets of the LAAALA which was dissolved in 1987. Its entire collection was donated to the UCLA library.

* UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ARCHITECTURAL GUILD:

Mr. Kennard currently serves on the board of this guild for his alma mater. He has been actively involved in encouraging minority students to attend the school and in fundraising efforts for scholarships. He was recognized for this work by the Ebonics, a minority alumni support group at the university. He is currently a mentor to a high school student in the Exploration of Architecture program which brings minority students to the USC campus during the summer for classes and orientation on college life.

* SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM:

Mr. Kennard was an active participant in this program which placed student interns in the offices of local architects.

MENTOR ROLE

Because of his interest in encouraging minority youth and the example he has set professionally through the success and longevity of his firm, Mr. Kennard has served as a role model to many aspiring young minority architects. Since its inception, Mr. Kennard has sought out the most qualified staff members without regard to race or gender, and consequently, his firm has an ethnically diverse staff of professional men and women in all positions including top management. He has given numerous minority architects opportunities in the field by employing them in his own firm, affording them the opportunity to advance, and in many cases, encouraging them to start their own firms.

Today five successful minority-owned firms have been formed by former employees. These firms include: Escudero-Fribourg Associates, Ernest P. Howard & Associates, James Moore & Associates, Miralles & Associates and Cobb Sestay Johnson Associates. Rather than viewing new firms as more competition, Mr. Kennard feels that the more capable minority firms there are, the more opportunities there are for clients to hire and become acquainted with minority firms, and eventually firms will be judged by criteria other than the racial background of the firm's owners.

His position as a role model was featured in a 1987 Los Angeles Times article (See enclosed copy). He is called upon for advice and guidance by numerous young minority and women architects, and he actively supports the Minority Resources Committee of the Los Angeles chapter of the AIA and the National Organization of Minority Architects. He has been honored for his contributions in this area by the following groups:

- * UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EBONICS AWARD 1985 (recognizing outstanding contributions of minority alumni)
- * NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MINORITY ARCHITECTS, LOS ANGELES CHAPTER HUMANITARIAN AWARD 1990 (recognizing outstanding contributions in assisting others through architecture)
- * NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE (NAACP) ACT-SO AWARD 1988 (recognizing his achievement as pioneer African-American architect in Los Angeles; ACT-SO supports academic and artistic competitions for scholarships for African-American youth)

- * INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ENGINEERING
OUTSTANDING MERIT AWARD 1988
- * HOWARD UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE 1989
(honoring African-American AIA Fellows)

OTHER COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

In addition to his work with young people, Mr. Kennard has contributed to the overall growth and welfare of the community. He was a founding member of the Central City Federation established in 1965. This organization sponsored the following organizations in which Mr. Kennard was actively involved:

- * INNER CITY CULTURAL CENTER: The nominee was a founding member and past chairman of this center founded in 1966 as a theatre and school of performing arts to serve the diverse cultures of the Los Angeles minority community. Numerous African-American, Asian, and Hispanic actors and actresses were afforded the opportunity to perform and receive training at the center. The center, which continues to serve as a theatre and performing arts school, has enhanced the careers of such actors as Academy Award winner Lou Gossett, Jr., Glynn Turman and Paul Winfield. Mr. Kennard served as chairman of the center's board from 1973 to 1976, working with Actor Gregory Peck and others to provide support and leadership to the center during its early years.
- * FREDERICK DOUGLASS CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS: Mr. Kennard served as a volunteer consultant, advising the organization on site selection, renovation of purchased sites, design and construction of satellite facilities for the Head Start program in the greater Los Angeles area. It is one of the largest Head Start efforts with locations throughout the minority communities. The centers continue to provide inner city pre-school educational opportunities for young children.
- * CENTRAL CITY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY: Until recently a stigma has been attached to care for mental health problems. In the minority community this has also been true. In the mid-1970s when Mr. Kennard began working with a group of mental health care professionals including a psychiatrist, Dr. Alfred Cannon, mental health problems were viewed as something that only could afflict the wealthy who had the luxury of seeing psychiatrists and psychotherapists. The struggle to create the Central City Community Mental Health Facility involved an educational process for the minority community and its elected officials.

Bob Kennard was instrumental in taking up this fight to address the problems of depression, stress, substance abuse and other mental health issues which affect the ability of minority people to function in society. He helped to convince a Los Angeles City Councilman, who was originally opposed to the idea, that a facility was sorely needed. The nominee prepared the architectural program (pro-bono), selected the site and helped raise funds for this center for the prevention and treatment of emotional and mental illness. Without Mr. Kennard's efforts in lobbying local, state and federal representatives for support and funding and his donation of architectural services, the Central City Community Mental Health Facility would not exist today. The center was the largest mental health facility constructed in California under the Community Mental Health Act of 1963. It offers facilities for counseling, social services, community activities and administrative offices. In addition, a wide range of recreational activities including a gymnasium, indoor swimming pool and game rooms are provided for the community. The center serves a diverse ethnic population of African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian and Samoan youth and their families.

- * CITIZENS HOUSING COUNCIL: While Mr. Kennard was still a student at the University of Southern California, he became aware of the city's need for housing for low income families. A speaker from the city's housing authority had visited the campus and led a student tour of living conditions among the poor. The seriousness of the problem was driven home to Mr. Kennard when he saw a family of 13 living in a garage with a dirt floor in the "shadow of City Hall." As a consequence, he worked half a day five days a week as a volunteer during the summer assisting the Citizen Housing Council, a non-profit housing advocacy group.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Licensed architect: California, Virginia, Washington, D.C. and the NCARB

Fellow: American Institute of Architects (1986)

Fellow: Institute for the Advancement of Engineering (1988)

Professional Awards: American Association of School Administrators

American Institute of Planners

One of 84/'84 Olympic Architects chosen to be exhibitors during the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles by the Los Angeles Chapter AIA

AIA Involvement: Member (since 1954)

Board of Directors, Los Angeles Chapter
Chairman, Professional Practices Committee.

Board of Directors, California Council
Chairman, Architect Selection Committee

CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Finally, as a native of Los Angeles, Mr. Kennard has been active in the professional, educational, and community life of the city. Mr. Kennard is a board member of the Los Angeles Chapter, American Red Cross and a past vice-president and board member of the Fraternity of Friends, Los Angeles Music Center. He also was recently appointed by Mayor Tom Bradley to serve as a member of the Design Advisory Panel of the Cultural Affairs Commission of the City of Los Angeles.



AIA/LA

7 September 1990

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

RE: Robert A. Kennard, FAIA, Candidate for WHITNEY M. YOUNG JR. Citation

Long before Whitney Young issued his challenge to the Architectural Profession to "assume its responsibility to society" Bob Kennard was and did!

Many do things out of expediency, for opportunity or by force. Bob has and continues to assist others without regard to self interests or personal agendas. To him, assisting others is like breathing, its natural and necessary. Whether he be helping the disadvantaged or less privileged seek their opportunities, counseling the student, the practitioner or retiree, or working with public agencies and community groups, he does so with dedication, love and strength. Bob gets involved, stays involved, and looks beyond the immediate while nurturing the elements. You don't hear from Bob what you may think you want to hear; rather, you hear what you need to hear!

His life is one of participation. And his life achievements and numerous awards are quietly enjoyed. Humility and modesty prevail. Kim Dam once noted that:

"Achievement results from discipline, attention to detail, perseverance and commitment."

It must have been Bob whom he was thinking of. His is and has been a life --- personal, social and professional --- of purpose, of dedication and of hope. A life without complaint, alibi or remorse; one predicated upon giving and helping not taking. Many are called role models; i.e. a role model for women, a role model for men, a role model for minorities, a role model for the profession. Bob is a role model, all of the above and more. He is a role model without limitations, without parameters. Bob Kennard is a role model for all people...indeed, for the human element!

An individual who lives what he speaks, Bob is one who has not forgotten whence he came, where he is or where he is going. He has learned how to make a living, but more importantly, he has learned how to live as well, imparting value by example.

You would do well to the honor and memory of Whitney M. Young, Jr., indeed the entire Architectural Profession, by bestowing upon Robert A. Kennard, FAIA this august tribute.

Respectfully,

RAYMOND L. GAIO, AIA, President, AIA/LA



BOARD OF EDUCATION CITY OF LOS ANGELES

450 NORTH GRAND AVENUE / P.O. BOX 3307, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90051
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August 28, 1990

The AIA Board of Directors
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects:

I am writing in support of Bob Kennard's nomination for the Whitney M. Young Jr. Citation. Bob has been associated with the district for many years as both an architect and supporter of education for the young people of the district. For more than 20 years he has given his time to speak before groups of students from elementary through high school about the architecture profession and he has encouraged young people to stay in school and go to college.

Bob helped establish an enrichment program in drafting at one of the district's high schools, Washington Preparatory, and he has supported similar enrichment programs at other district schools. He has set an excellent example for young people through his success and perseverance in the architecture profession and I believe he is worthy of your recognition of his contributions.

Sincerely,


Rita Walters

RW:vm

Certificate of Community and School Involvement

Presented to

KAJG Architecture and Planning

by the

Career Exposure '81 Executive Committee

Through your dedicated **CAREER EXPOSURE** you have demonstrated a sincere concern for the education of high school students in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Area.

Through special efforts, you have made it possible for these young people to increase their knowledge of careers and the awareness of career opportunities. We are, therefore, honored to express our gratitude to you and your organization for your highly valuable contributions.

Walter F. Beran

Walter F. Beran, President
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Andrew W. Robertson

Andrew W. Robertson, President
Los Angeles Junior Chamber of Commerce

Willard Z. Carr, Jr.

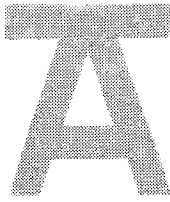
Willard Z. Carr, Jr., Senior Vice President
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce

Rev. Misgr. Jeremiah Murphy

Rev. Misgr. Jeremiah Murphy, Superintendent
Roman Catholic Archdiocese High Schools

William J. Johnston

William J. Johnston, Superintendent of Schools
Los Angeles Unified School District



Robert E. Alexander, F.A.I.A., architectural and planning consultant

8/29/90

RECEIVED
AUG 31 1990

The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue Northwest
Washington D.C. 20006
Attention Board of Directors

KDG

Dear Members of the Board,

Re: Whitney Young Award

In your consideration of the Whitney Young award this year, I direct your attention to the distinguished career of Robert A. Kennard. In 1949, when I was staffing my office for a post-war renewal of my practice, I was fortunate in enlisting Bob on his graduation at the top of his graduating class at the University of Southern California. He is one of the few architects in our community who has reached beyond his professional activities to serve the public.

Although Bob had already served in the army in WWII, he was drafted again for the Korean venture, unjustly in my opinion. This added to the difficulties almost every young architect faces in trying to establish his own practice. No matter what misfortune seemed to interfere with his career, I never heard Bob complain.

Bob has not only forged a great architectural career under adverse conditions, but he has participated in public service as few architects do. At the end of WWII, the housing shortage for low-income citizens was as acute as it is today, and a state-wide initiative was proposed to help deal with it. The Citizens' Housing Council was formed to qualify it for the ballot. As President of the Planning Commission of the City of Los Angeles, I was a conspicuous member of its board. Bob was one of the very few architects who risked the rage of potential future clients among the Real Estate Lobby who opposed us. He joined us with his unselfish and tireless energy.

During the 41 years that I have known and admired Bob, I have never known him to shirk his duty as a citizen. Time after time, he has lent his increasing skills to the formation of public policy and to the strength of democratic government. In his unselfish interest in the future of our profession, Bob has met with young students frequently, describing the rewards of practicing architecture. Bob is an eloquent missionary for the A.I.A. In the early 70's I had the privilege of working intimately with Bob in a joint venture. I was impressed with his technical skill and even more by his unflagging interest in the public welfare.

Cordially, *Robert E. Alexander, F.A.I.A.*
2909 Regent Street, Berkeley, Ca. 94705. Tel. (415) 549-1561



3801 West Temple Avenue
Pomona, California 91768-4048
Telephone (714) 869-2682

RECEIVED
AUG 29 1990
KDB

Architecture
College of Environmental Design

August 28, 1990

National Board of Directors
American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Board of Directors:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Robert Kennard FAIA for the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Citation Award. In 1985 the Department of Architecture decided to implement a program to make minority high school students aware of the profession of architecture. We established a program in which 24 students would be brought onto campus for one week during the summer to participate in an abbreviated overview of architecture.

Mr. Kennard was invited to our campus to assist us in the implementation of the program. His assistance was invaluable, in the initial establishment of the program. Subsequently, Mr. Kennard has continued to assist the department through his efforts in the architectural community.

The program, Summer Intensive Orientation Program, (S.I.O.P), has been extremely successful. Approximately 150 students have been invited to participate in the program with about 80% going on to college. The original intent was to make the students aware of architecture, but also, and perhaps of greater importance, the possibility of the participant pursuing a college education.

Mr. Kennard has continued his involvement with the program through actual participation in the one-week on-campus experience as well as other forms of support..

I would recommend Mr. Kennard without reservation for the Whitney M. Young Jr. Citation Award.

Sincerely,

Richard Chylinski, FAIA, Professor
Department of Architecture

A Week on Campus for High Schoolers

How can bright, ethnic minority high school students be encouraged to feel they can be successful in college and to follow through with a commitment to earn a degree?

One way is to invite special high school students to a week-in-residence on a college campus and provide a highly motivational program.

In fact, a program like that took place this summer on the Cal Poly Pomona campus. The "Summer Intensive Orientation Program," conceived and developed by Will Wright, coordinator of the Student Affirmative Action programs at Cal Poly, his staff, and Richard Chylinski, professor of architecture, put twenty-four outstanding potential college students through a week of orientation, tours, lectures, juries and other classroom activities.

The students, primarily sophomores and juniors, were interested in careers in architecture, landscape architecture, and urban and regional planning — all a part of Cal Poly's School of Environmental Design. "Ethnic minorities are a severely underrepresented group in these academic areas," Mr. Wright claims.

Students first learned of the program in the spring through their local newspapers and high schools. They were required to submit a 150 word essay on why they wanted to participate in the orientation program, two recommendations from teachers, and a copy of their transcripts. Well over one hundred applied. Careful screening, which included interviews with both students and their parents, took place. Parent's cooperation in motivating their sons and daughters was considered very significant.

One of the highlights of the program was an all day field trip to architectural, landscape architecture, and urban planning firms located nearby where students experienced at first hand the intricacies and dynamics involved in environmental design.

Even though their routine was intensive, students had ample time for fun and recreation. They enjoyed billiards, ping-pong, swimming and basketball during their break periods. Naturally, there had to be a lively dance session and a joke-telling marathon which lasted for hours.

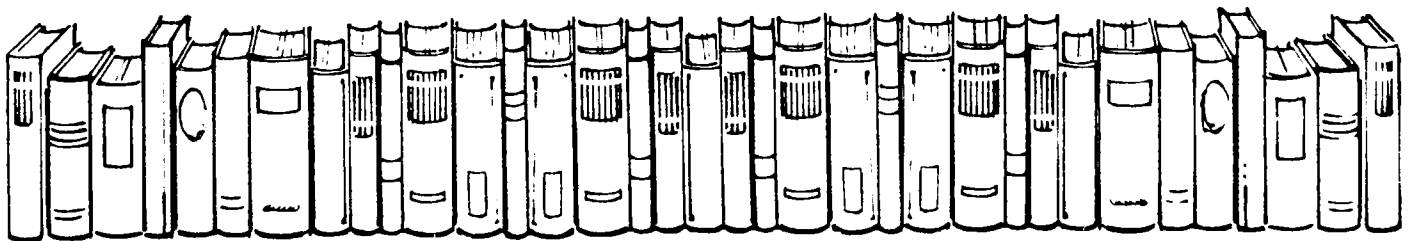
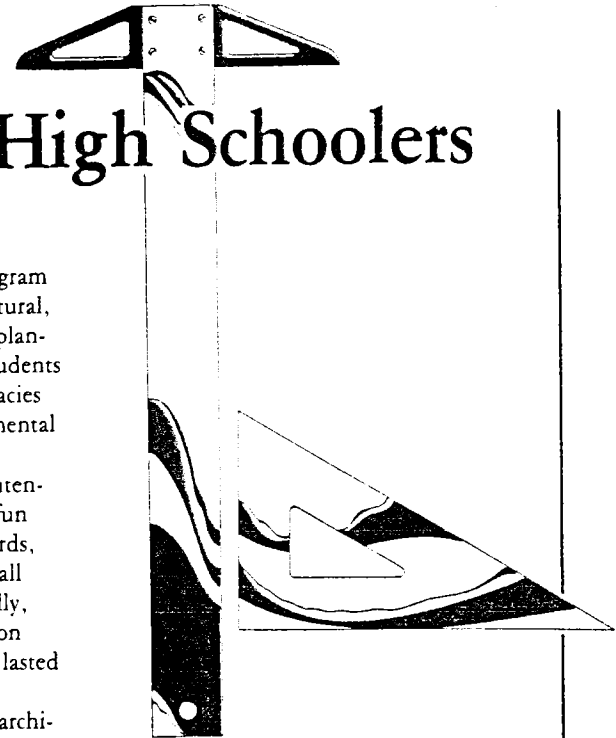
Barbara Hammond, a fifth-year architecture student attending Cal Poly and Elmer Jacobs, a recent Cal Poly graduate in architecture, functioned as mentors and chaperones for the students during their stay.

If the results of an evaluation by the students is an accurate indicator, the program was an unqualified success. All of them plan to pursue a college career; 90 percent in one of the environmental design fields. The most valuable part of the orientation program was the classroom sessions where students were allowed to participate in actual college classes and juries, according to the students.

All concerned — both the staff of Student Affirmative Action and students in the week-in-residence program — agreed that there should be a similar program for each of Cal Poly's academic schools.

The staff is now working towards including the Schools of Agriculture, Arts, Business Administration, Engineering and Science in outreach programs.

*The following students took part in the special orientation program: Refugio Barela, Gabriel Bautista and Anabelle Serna from Baldwin Park High School. Gregory Davis, Eddie Rodriguez, Ray Romero and Sabrina Williams from Chino High School. Steve Diaz, Norma Guereque and Tom Guevara from Ontario High School. Anastacio Garcia, Karen Henderson, Mark Lucero and Kong Yi from Don Lugo High School. Beatriz Jimenez, Kristin Kennedy, Etta Sanabria and Cynthia Shiy from Ganesha High School. Kim Meggs from Pomona High School. Christina Pedregon from Nogales High School. Sergio Salcido from La Puente High School. Jowell Tatlonghari from Gladstone High School.



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"People can take away anything you own, but they can't take away what you learn ... I can succeed in college by wanting to badly enough and by hard study."

Tom Guevara



"You need to learn and know a little bit more than the rest of the world. With an education you will succeed in everything you do ... Talking to some of the college students made the thought of succeeding a lot easier."

Kristin Kennedy

"A college education is important in order to be competitive in the working world ... Although I was already 3/4 convinced that I would succeed in college, during the orientation on campus, I saw how a real classroom is conducted and how I could succeed."

Sabrina Williams



"Your life depends on your career and your career depends on your education. I was convinced I could succeed in college after listening to the talks during the orientation, even if not in the environmental design field."

Beatriz Jimenez

"I learned that I had what it took for college, but that I would have to work harder. The orientation program was a great help to me in deciding about a school, career and life itself."

Gabriel Bautista

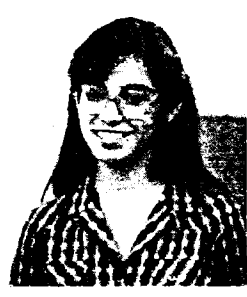


"It is a big risk for a woman to get married and have children without a college degree. I'm not putting down the housewife. Being a housewife with children is a very good and, most times, a rewarding job. I think a college education is very important to have just in case something does happen."

Karen Henderson

"The experience made me realize that college wasn't so impossible. I felt encouraged and have gained more confidence in myself. Mr. Wright made me feel like there was nothing I can't do."

Christina Pedregon



"It isn't easy to survive in this world full of hardships, and I am sure an education can help ... I wondered whether or not I could succeed in college. I will have to face many problems and probably the biggest one is financial."

Norma A. Guereque

R A W ARCHITECTVRE



September 5, 1990

American Institute of Architects
Board of Directors
1735 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

RE: Bob Kennard, FAIA - Candidate for Whitney M. Young, Jr.
Citation

Dear Board of Directors:

I am writing this letter to recommend Bob Kennard, FAIA for recipient of the Whitney M. Young, Jr. Citation. Bob has consistently been a strong voice in the architectural community in encouraging young people to pursue architecture. He has served as both mentor and role model for my professional development over the last 10 years.

My first exposure to Bob was at a conference I attended for African-American students and intern architects. His energy and vision of hope motivated me to believe that I could establish a successful architectural firm with the right focus and direction. Bob has been refreshingly open with me and my partners as a mentor in sharing his knowledge gained from past experiences.

Bob Kennard continues to motivate young people to become architects in the African-American community by being visible and vocal at universities (UCLA and USC) and professional organizations (AIA and National Organization of Minority Architects). His commitment to young people is an inspiration to myself and fellow young architects to follow his lead in directing our youth to a career in architecture.

I urge you to give Bob your highest consideration.

Sincerely

Roland A. Wiley, AIA
AIA Young Architects Forum, 1989

• NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF MINORITY ARCHITECTS •
Los Angeles Chapter

recognizes

Robert Kennard

with sincerest appreciation of your contributions to Architecture
in the area of

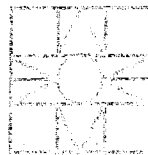
Humanitarian

on this date

July 21, 1990

President *Paul S. Hill*

Secretary *Mexley Henderson*



August 28, 2990

The AIA Board of Directors
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20006

Subject: The "Whitney Young" Award

Dear Directors,

For the Whitney Young award, I would like to recommend that
for this award you select: *Robert A. Kennard FAIA*

I have known Bob Kennard more than twenty years. He likes to think of himself as my "mentor" in that I designed and drew projects for him as an employee for six years. He instills the will to work with enthusiasm, to plan ahead and to make the most of every opportunity. Presently practicing architecture in my firm, I still call on him for advice that he always freely gives.

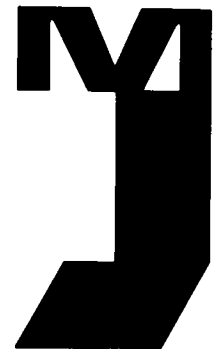
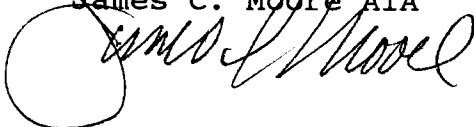
My experiences in Bob's office were always challenging due the great variety of building types. We designed everything from schools to housing, from banks to rapid transit stations and air traffic control stations.

Looking back I can now see what his hard driving marketing approach can deliver. I am impressed by the amount of admiration and respect that continues to grow toward him among his peers.

Robert A. Kennard would be an excellent choice for this award.

Most sincerely,

James C. Moore AIA



EBONICS

SUPPORT GROUP

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

THIS MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE
IS AWARDED TO:

Robert Kennard

In recognition of your support as a member of EBONICS, formed to advance the quality of education to minority and disadvantaged students at the University of Southern California.

Meriam Scott Long
PRESIDENT

Thelma J. Galt
SECRETARY

DATE 1985



Black Architect, His Struggle Behind Him, Now Role Model

Kennard's Firm Celebrates 30th Anniversary

By EVELYN De WOLFE,
Times Staff Writer

Architect Paul Williams once asked a disheartened Robert Kennard, whose career as a black architect seemed at a standstill, whether he was still making the payroll.

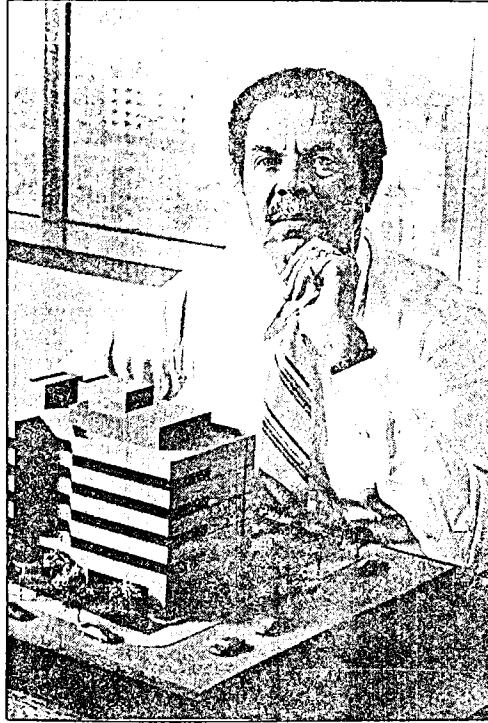
Kennard nodded in the affirmative. "Then, consider yourself successful," Williams, a pioneer black architect, told his fledgling colleague.

It has been a slow and hard struggle for black architects in a predominantly white architectural community, said the 67-year-old founder of the now-oldest continuously operated black-owned architectural firm in the Los Angeles area.

KDG (Kennard Design Group), currently celebrating its 30th anniversary, is an expanding group of affiliated companies interacting in the fields of architecture, urban and regional planning, environmental studies, interiors and development. KDG has also completed commercial projects valued at more than \$20 million.

Honored last year with an FAIA designation by the American Institute of Architects "for notable contribution to the architectural profession," Kennard is recognized by his peers as a role model for young people of minority groups aspiring to become architects and urban planners and as a pioneer among minority-owned architectural firms.

"Kids need role models and Paul Williams became mine," Kennard said. "I was mesmerized when I first saw a brochure illustrating his work and read about his influential clientele. It



PATRICK DOWNS / Los Angeles Times

Robert Kennard, founder of the 30-year-old KDG Architecture & Planning, oldest continuously operated black-owned architectural firm currently based in the Los Angeles area.

was an inspiration to know that such reality and prominence were not beyond the reach of people of color.

"I can remember when I was 7 years old and living in Monrovia [which had a segregated school district], that each day my mother would pack my lunch box and

send me off to Wildrose School close to where we lived. And, each day the school, which was segregated, would turn me away.

"Years later, I asked my mother why she subjected me to such a painful ritual. She told me I might as well learn early how

Please see **KENNARD**, Page 6

KENNARD: Architect Is Role Model for Minorities

Continued from Page 1

the world really was and how important it was to hang in there," Kennard said.

"I had a very supportive family that believed in the value of education. Eventually, my parents took on the entire school district with the support of many of its teachers, and I was allowed to attend classes at a regular non-minority school."

No, there is no bitterness, said Kennard, who believes that there have been many positive changes since he got started, "more than it ever seemed possible for those of us who experienced a greater measure of racism.

"I have a special warm spot for Curtis Chambers, an independent Pasadena architect who reminded me a great deal of Gary Cooper. He hired me right out of junior college when job opportunities for blacks were scarce in a community that was markedly racist. He also encouraged me to study architecture," Kennard said.

Today, Kennard tries to do the same for other young people. "Life is a two-way street, and it is rewarding to be able to give back a little of what one was fortunate enough to receive," the architect said.

Professional Links

He has worked as a board member of the Central City Federation, the Fraternity of Friends and Los Angeles Music Center. He has also served on the boards of the Los Angeles chapter and California Council of the American Institute of Architects.

Kennard's professional association with the firms of Neutra & Alexander, Daniel, Mann, Johnson & Mendenhall, and Victor Gruen Associates were valuable stepping stones in building a varied architectural repertoire.

"All of these firms were most helpful in providing me with a broad range of opportunities in design, planning and management," he said.

On graduating from USC's School of Architecture, Kennard prepared a list of 10 architects he would like to work for. Richard Neutra was on that list.

"Neutra's firm was run in the style of the European atelier. He took in apprentices for no pay, to whom the experience of working alongside the master was considered to be sufficient reward," Kennard said.

"But in a gracious moment, knowing that I was planning to get married, Neutra did offer to pay me \$50 a month. Unfortunately, that sum could not be considered a livable wage even in the late '40s, and I regretfully declined that wonderful opportunity."

Kennard was hired instead by architect Robert E. Alexander, who later teamed up with Neutra. "So I ended up working with Neutra after all and became the firm's project designer for a \$35-million redevelopment project for Elysian Park that took in the entire Chavez Ravine area. The plan, however, did not materialize."

Kennard started his own firm, Robert Kennard Associates, in 1957. It evolved into KDG (Kennard Delahousse Gault), and is now known as Kennard Design Group Architecture and uses the same corporate KDG logo for itself and its affiliates—KDG Development and KDG Realty.

Both are headed by daughter Lydia Kennard, an attorney specializing in real estate law and development. Kennard's older daughter, Gail Madyun, is KDG's manager for business development. Kennard's son, William, is an attorney in Washington, D. C.

KDG's projects have been mostly educational facilities, transportation-related structures and multiple housing units in the United States, Mexico and Central America.

Recent commissions include the new Parking Structures 1, 3 and 4 and the Helipad at Los Angeles International Airport and the master plan and Medical Education Building for Charles R. Drew Post-Graduate Medical School at King-Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles.

The firm is currently involved in a joint venture with Leo A. Daly for the new School of Engineering at UCLA, and is associate architect with Hardy, Holzman & Pfeiffer Associates for the renovation of the Central Library.

In its 30-year history, the firm has completed planning of more than 3,000 units of housing and has rendered services to municipal and private agencies, including the City of Long Beach for which the firm received an American Institute of Planners' award for its housing element in the city's general plan. Kennard also received the Ebony Award recognizing outstanding minority alumni from USC.

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August 29, 1990

AIA Board of Directors
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20006

Robert Kennard FAIA
Whitney M. Young, Jr. Citation

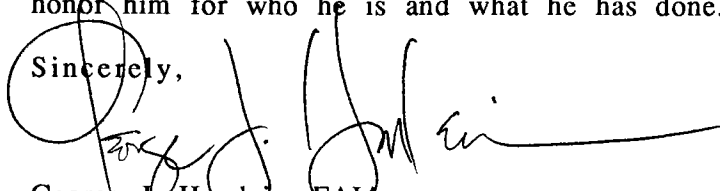
Dear Board Members:

This is a letter of strongest praise on behalf of Mr. Robert Kennard's untiring and multifaceted efforts in opening up the profession of architecture to minority students. Never in my forty years in higher education have I encountered anyone more ideal or more devoted to this mission than Mr. Kennard. He is an outstandingly credible model of a professional architect and has been so honored with the coveted award of Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects.

Mr. Kennard has been a key supporter and a contributor to this University's effort to attract and educate minority students. In this regard I consider him as one of our unofficial tenured faculty members. He has been a key player in our "Shadowship Program" which assigns an advanced student to live with an architect for two days. The first day is in the home observing the living style of the family and the second is in the office "shadowing" the architect through daily involvements which on occasion have even been periods in court. Students then come back for discussions in class of their experiences with other students. Mr. Kennard is one of those people who continue the relationship as a professional counselor during what is a difficult transitional period for the architectural student.

Mr. Kennard is a dedicated nurturing individual who has been raising the horizons and instilling confidence where it is most wanting. Unfortunately for today's world people with such resources and dedication are so few. I say honor him for who he is and what he has done.

Sincerely,


George J. Hasslein, FAIA
Founding Dean