



The American Institute of Architects

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION NO AP 13458

Dated January 15, 19 58

Received February 17, 19 58

Granted February 25, 19 58

MEMBERSHIP NO 13458

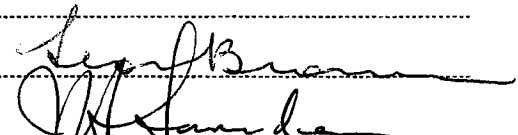
- A Name of applicant William Henry Kessler Chapter Detroit
- B Address of applicant 15318 East Jefferson Avenue, Grosse Pointe 30, Michigan
- C Application received with check for \$ 20.00 on February 17, 19 58
- D Application returned for correction 19 .
- E Application in due order on February 17, 19 58
- F Acknowledgments to applicant and chapter on February 17, 19 58
- G Certified resolution of chapter executive committee recommending admission
~~xxxxxx applicant denied~~ received on February 17, 19 58
- H Record of registration, Form S39, Sent Michigan 19 58 Received February 17, 19 58
- I The applicant has → been examined as to his professional qualifications by Michigan State Board of Registration for Architects.
- J The applicant is - currently registered as an architect or licensed to practice architecture in the states of Michigan.
- K Application sent to The Committee on Membership February 20, 19 58.
- L The Committee on Membership reported on application on February 20, 19 58.
- M The applicant was requested to furnish additional evidence of his professional qualifications on or before 19 , which was received.

REPORT:

As a result of its findings on the evidence submitted The Committee on Membership unanimously reports that in its opinion the applicant is* qualified for membership in The American Institute of Architects.**

THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP

Date February 20, 19 58


.....


 Chairman

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT

I, Secretary of The American Institute of Architects, hereby certify that, under authority vested in me by The Board of Directors, I have this day duly elected
William Henry Kessler
 to membership in The Institute, and hereby declare him to be a corporate member of The Institute and assign him to membership in the Detroit Chapter.

Date February 25, 19 58


 Secretary

- N Applicant was admitted on February 25, 19 58
- O Notice to applicant and notice of assignment to chapter on February 25, 19 58
- P Notice of denial of application to chapter and applicant and \$
 returned to applicant on 19 .

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INSTRUCTIONS

Type in all information carefully and sign with ink.

Mail both copies to the secretary of the local Chapter of The Institute, with check for \$20.00 made payable to The American Institute of Architects.



The American Institute of Architects

APPLICATION FOR CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

I, the undersigned, do hereby apply for corporate membership in The American Institute of Architects.

1. My full name is WILLIAM HENRY KESSLER
2. I am a NATURAL citizen of the United States.
3. My legal residence is in the City of GROSSE POINTE
County of WAYNE State of MICHIGAN
4. My address in The Institute records will be 15318 EAST JEFFERSON AVENUE
Number Street
City GROSSE POINTE Zone 30 State MICHIGAN
5. I am engaged in the profession of architecture as PRACTICING ARCHITECT
6. I desire to be a member of the DETROIT Chapter.
7. I declare that I will comply with the By-laws; and the Standards of Professional Practice of The American Institute of Architects, which are attached hereto; and the Rules and Regulations supplementary thereto; and that I understand the duties, responsibilities, and obligations of a member of The Institute; and that I have read and understand all the information contained in this form and its attachments.
8. I have filed the duplicate of this application with the secretary of the Chapter above named. I am not indebted to The Institute or to any of its component organizations.
9. I enclose my check for \$20.00, for admission fee and the first year's annual dues, of which \$1.00 is for a year's subscription to the *Bulletin of The American Institute of Architects*. It is my understanding that if I am not admitted to membership \$10.00 will be returned to me, and \$10.00 retained by The Institute as an examination fee.

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2. State whether a natural or a naturalized citizen.

4. State whether residence or office address.

5. State whether as a practicing architect, a teacher, a public official, etc.

Date JANUARY 15, 19 58.
PAID
200 2-20-58

William H. Kessler
Applicant sign full name in ink

STATISTICS

10. Date of birth DEC. 15, 1924 Place of birth READING, PENNA.

11.(a) I am registered or licensed to practice architecture in the following-named states:

MICHIGAN

(b) I passed the State Board Examination in the following-named states:

MICHIGAN

(c) I hold Certificate No. of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, for having passed their Standard Examination.

EDUCATION

12.(a) I attended high schools, private schools, colleges, universities, as follows:

Name of School, College, University	Location	No. of Years	Year of Graduation	Degree
WYOMISSING HIGH SCHOOL	WYOMISSING, PA.	12	1942	
INSTITUTE OF DESIGN	CHICAGO, ILL.	4	1948	BACH. OF ARTS IN ARCHITECTURE.
HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF DESIGN	CAMBRIDGE, MASS.	3	1951	BACH. OF ARCH.

(b) I have held the following-named scholarships or other honor awards, and have traveled in the following-named countries:

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING *

13. I list below, in chronological order, the periods of my training as draftsman, the names and addresses of my principal employers, and my classification as draftsman while employed by each

Handwritten initials

LEINWEBER, YAMASAKI & HELLMUTH DETROIT, MICHIGAN	From	1951	To	1955	DESIGNER.
---	------	------	----	------	-----------

* (NOTE: Applications must conclusively show that applicant has had three full years of experience in architectural work, in offices, governmental employment, or teaching, in addition to graduation from an architectural school; or eight full years of such experience without formal education; or equivalent combinations of both of the foregoing.)

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PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

14. I list below, in chronological order, the periods during which and the states in which I have practiced architecture as an individual or as a member of a firm or corporation or as a public official or have taught architecture or the arts and sciences allied therewith. (State names of firms or corporations or public office and of schools or colleges.)

INSTRUCTOR OF DESIGN HARVARD UNIVERSITY	<i>From</i>	1951	<i>To</i>	1952
--	-------------	------	-----------	------

15. Is architecture your principal vocation?

YES. Own practice: Meathe, Kessler & Associates, Inc., March, 1955 to present

BUSINESS AFFILIATIONS

16. I list below other business in which I participate or own an interest, and the extent of such participation or interest.

NONE.

PRESENT OR PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIPS IN ARCHITECTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|----|--------------|----|
| 17. Member of Institute from | | to | | |
| 18. Junior of Institute from | | to | | |
| 19. Associate of | | | Chapter from | to |
| 20. Junior Associate of | | | Chapter from | to |
| 21. Student Associate of | | | Chapter from | to |
| 22. Member of State Organization in | | | from | to |

REFERENCES

Five references are required, at least three of whom shall be corporate members of The Institute in good standing. Member references must be available for personal contact by the local chapter officers.

MINORO YAMASAKI	1025 E. MAPLE RD., BIRMINGHAM, MICH.
<i>Member</i>	<i>Address</i>
J.W. LEINWEBER	1025 E. MAPLE RD., BIRMINGHAM, MICH.
<i>Member</i>	<i>Address</i>
ELIOT ROBINSON	572 LINDEN ROAD, BIRMINGHAM, MICH.
<i>Member</i>	<i>Address</i>
ANNE C. KREBS	13973 WOODWARD AVE., HIGHLAND PARK, MICH.
<i>Reference</i>	<i>Address</i>
LESTER FADER	12890 COLUMBIA AVE., DETROIT 39, MICH.
<i>Reference</i>	<i>Address</i>



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
DETROIT

(Chapter)

120 Madison

(Address)

SECRETARY,
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS,

Address

RECORD OF REGISTRATION

OF

William H. Kessler

(Name of Applicant)

Dear Sir:

The above named applicant for membership in The American Institute of Architects is an architect practicing in your state.

To qualify for such membership, an applicant, must be registered or licensed by the state to practice architecture therein.

Will you please answer the following questions relating to the applicant's registration, to assist The Institute in determining his eligibility for membership? A duplicate of the form is enclosed for your files.

Date January 29 1958

John Magee Hughes
Executive Chapter Secretary

1. Is the applicant registered or licensed to practice architecture in your state? yes
2. Was his registration or licensing by examination? yes or by exemption?
3. What was the scope of the examination? see attached
4. What was the period of the examination? 3 days. Written examination..... hours; Oral examination..... hours.
5. When examined, did applicant have a certificate from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards? no. If so, give Certificate No.
6. Date of first registration 10-18- 1955 Registration No. 8838 Is it current? yes

John Magee Hughes
(Signature of Secretary of Board)
Member

Date January 28, 1958

Mich. State Board of Registration
for Arch. Prof. Eng. (Name of Board)
and Land Surveyors

MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR
ARCHITECTS, PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS, LAND SURVEYORS
1604 Cadillac Square Building, Detroit (26)

OUTLINE OF ARCHITECT EXAMINATION

Books of Reference Permitted on Part IV only.

Applications must be filed with this State Board not later than May 1st prior to exam.

Part I MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT (4 hours-First Morning)

The candidate may be asked questions to determine his knowledge and judgment on the installation and use of heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems; electrical equipment, including kinds of current, wiring, distribution systems, lighting fixtures, generators, motors, sprinkler systems, and fire protection equipment; elevators including location, type, speeds for various uses, safety devices, etc.

Part II COMPOSITION (4 hours-First Afternoon) A site planning problem.

Part III DESIGN PROBLEM (12 hours-Second Day)

The objective of this examination is to test the candidate's understanding of the principles of architectural design in the widest meaning of that term and his skill in applying them to a specified problem, such as he might meet in practice; problem to be announced in advance.

Part IV Structural Design (4 hours-Third Morning)

The objective of this examination is to test the candidate's ability to apply his theoretical knowledge of the design of structure to actual problems of practice; and to test the candidate's ability to arrange and design the structural parts of the building with adequate strength and due regard for economy and fitness, also to test the candidate's knowledge of the design of structural members, such as roof trusses and similar work. Included are problems in the design of wood, steel and reinforced concrete members of a given building.

Part V SPECIFICATIONS (4 hours-Third Afternoon)

The objective of this examination is to test the candidate's skill and judgment in the use of the various materials which may enter into the production of modern buildings. Questions may be asked concerning the selection of proper materials for certain uses or under certain conditions; methods to be used in the avoidance of unfortunate results; the constitution and properties of various materials as affecting their durability; methods of weatherproofing buildings and the use of various materials from the viewpoint of economy, fire hazard, and aesthetic effect.

The above 5 parts are required for Michigan registration. A Passing Grade of 75% is required for each part.

Part VI SUPERVISION, COUNSELING AND ADMINISTRATION (4 hours-Fourth Morning)

The purpose of this examination is to test the candidate's knowledge and judgment in the supervision of buildings under construction. Questions may be asked concerning shop drawings, shop practices in the various lines, the duties of a clerk-of-the-works, and the responsibility of the architect; also to test the candidate's judgment and ability as advisor to his client; and his executive ability; and to test the candidate's knowledge and ability in the performance of the ethical, legal, and business functions of an architect.

Part VII ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY (4 hours-Fourth Afternoon)

Candidates wishing to qualify for National Council of Architectural Registration Boards credentials will be required to take Parts VI and VII in addition to the first 5 parts.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

February 25, 1958

Mr. William Henry Kessler, AIA
15318 East Jefferson Avenue
Grosse Pointe 30, Michigan

Dear Mr. Kessler:

The Board of Directors of The American Institute of Architects takes pleasure in informing you that it has acted favorably on your application and welcomes you to corporate membership in The Institute. You will receive shortly a certificate of membership duly executed by the officers of The Institute.

You are assigned to the Detroit Chapter and the Michigan Society of Architects, effective February 25, 1958.

I sincerely hope that you will take an active and interested part in your chapter activities since it is through these activities that Institute policies are developed. Your cooperation and participation will contribute to the advancement of Institute objectives and increase the benefits to be derived from Institute membership.

I want you to know that my office is always at your service to the fullest extent of its powers.

Sincerely yours,

Edward L. Wilson
Secretary

Enclosures

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Kessler, William

FILE COPY

November 16, 1964

Mr. William Kessler, AIA
18000 Mack Avenue
Grosse Pointe, Michigan

Dear Bill:

Congratulations on your very fine letter to the Editor
on the subject of "Public Housing" appearing on page 50
of the November issue of House and Home Magazine.

Sincerely,

Kenneth C. Landry, AIA
Administrator
Department of Public Services

KCL:ekb

bcc: Mr. Pedersen

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NOMINATION

1. William H. Kessler, of the Detroit,
 (name of nominee) (chapter assignment)
 and corporate member of the AIA since February 25, 1958,
 (date of election)
 is nominated for fellowship for his notable contribution to
 the advancement of the profession of architecture. The
 nomination is made by:

(check and sign either 1a. or 1b.)

1a. Vote of governing Board
 of Detroit Chapter, AIA
 (name of component organization)
William B. J. Smith
 (signature and title of Chapter
 President or Secretary)

1b. Individual corporate members and/or fellows as
 follows:

(written signature)

(typed signature
and chapter)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. The nominators designate the following member to be the sponsor
of this nomination:

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone Number _____

PROFILE
(additional sheets to supplement the printed pages may
be inserted after the appropriate printed page)

TYPEWRITING ONLY

1. Nominee's full name: William Henry Kessler
2. Nominee is a natural ~~naturalized~~ citizen of U.S.A.
(name of country)
3. Nominee's legal residence address: 1013 Cadieux Road,
Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48224
4. Nominee's firm name: Meathe, Kessler & Associates, Inc.
5. Nominee's principal place of business address: 18000 Mack
Avenue, Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48224
6. Nominee is registered or licensed to practice architecture
by: Michigan & NCARB
(name of state board, NCARB, as case may be)
7. Nominee is registered or licensed to practice architecture
in the states of: Michigan, Ohio, New York, Va., Mass.
8. Nominee is engaged in the profession of architecture as: Principal - Design
(current status and position)
9. Nominee's date of birth: 12-15-24 45.
Place of birth: Reading, Penna.
10. Nominee's education:
(a) High School, College, University, Post Graduate, etc.
(chronological order)

Location	No. of Years	Year of Graduation	Degree
Wells High - Chicago		1942	
Institute of Design - Chicago		1948	B.A. in Arch.
Harvard Grad. School of Design		1950	B. of Arch.

 (b) Scholarships held by nominee:
11. Nominee has traveled in the following countries:
USA, Canada, Mexico, Italy, France & England
12. Other data concerning nominee's record:

DESIGN

1. List the significant work of the nominee in this category:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Year of Completion</u>
A. Olivet College Student Center	Olivet, Michigan	1963
B. Ferry Residence	Grosse Pointe, Michigan	1965
C. Loutit Hall of Science	Allendale, Michigan	1966
D. Collegiate Commons	Allendale, Michigan	1967
E. Public Housing	Mount Clemens, Michigan	1959
F. Savings & Loan Bldg.	Mount Clemens, Michigan	1960
G. Swanson-Whitehead House	Manistee, Michigan	1967

2. Describe the qualities of the nominee's design which are considered to have contributed notably to the advancement of the profession:

A serious approach to the solution of the problems and needs of the client, interpreted physically and spiritually in new and fresh ways. Respect for the site and surrounding physical characteristics. A new and continual search for better and more effective ways to design and build. A search for truth and honesty in the use of form and materials. An effort to maintain unity of design, from initial broad concepts to final detailed interiors. A sensitivity to develop new techniques and methods which result in original and logical form and expression.

3. List the significant awards, honors and recognition accorded by The Institute and other professional, government, or civic organizations for the nominee's work in design:

See attached list

4. Books or articles written by nominee in connection with design:

<u>Title of Book or Article</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Publisher</u>
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Awards and Citations

Since the inception of the organization of Meathe, Kessler and Associates, Architects, the following awards for Architectural Achievement have been received:

1. 1958 - First Honor Award for the Shwayder Residence by the A.I.A. in cooperation with LIFE Magazine.
2. 1958 - Award of Merit for the Kellman Residence by the A.I.A. in cooperation with LIFE Magazine.
3. 1958 - Honorable Mention Award for the Feld Residence by the A.I.A. in cooperation with LIFE Magazine.
4. 1960 - A.I.A. Award of Merit for Mount Clemens Public Housing, Mount Clemens, Michigan.
5. 1960 - Detroit Chapter A.I.A. Award for Best Design of the Year - The Beckwith Residence.
6. 1960 - Detroit Chapter A.I.A. Award, Honorable Mention, Mount Clemens Public Housing, Mount Clemens, Michigan.
7. 1960 - Huron Achievement Award by the Concrete Institute of America for the Outstanding Use of Concrete.
8. 1961 - Architectural Record Award of Excellence for House Design - The Beckwith Residence.
9. 1962 - American Association of School Administrators - Special Citation for the Fleming Elementary School.
10. 1962 - Award of Merit for the Beckwith Residence by the American Society of Landscape Architects in cooperation with LIFE Magazine.
11. 1963 - First Honor Award for the Olivet College Student Center by Detroit Chapter, A.I.A.
12. 1964 - Honorable Mention for the Mount Clemens Public Housing Project by the A.I.A. in cooperation with AMERICAN HOME Magazine.
13. 1964 - Honor Awards Program in Urban Renewal Design by Urban Renewal Administration - First Honor Award for Clemens Homes, Mount Clemens, Michigan.

Awards and Citations (continued)

14. 1965 - Honorable Mention for the Olivet College Student Center by the Michigan Society of Architects, A.I.A.
15. 1965 - Architectural Record Award of Excellence for House Design - The Ferry Residence.
16. 1965 - COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY BUSINESS Award for Excellence of Architectural Design - College Building of the Month - Grand Valley State College.
17. 1966 - Honorable Mention for the Swainson-Whitehead Vacation House by the Michigan Society of Architects, A.I.A.
18. 1966 - First Honor Award for Loutit Hall of Science - Grand Valley State College by the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A.
19. 1966 - Award of Merit for John Frederick Oberlin Homes by Detroit Chapter, A.I.A.
20. 1967 - Award of Merit for Collegiate Center - Grand Valley State College - by the Michigan Society of Architects, A.I.A.
21. 1967 - Award of Merit for Collegiate Center - Grand Valley State College - by the Michigan Society of Architects, A.I.A.
22. 1967 - American Institute of Steel Construction 1967 Architectural Award of Excellence for the Loutit Hall of Science - Grand Valley State College.
23. 1967 - Award of Merit for College Commons - Grand Valley State College by the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A.
24. 1968 - First Honor Award for Timber Shores Travel Trailer Resort - by the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A.



REFERENCES

List the names and addresses of individuals who will be asked to send the Jury of Fellows a confidential letter relating their experience with the nominee and his achievement (s) by January 15. No more than ten references are permitted:

- | | | |
|-----|--|--|
| 1. | <u>Joseph W. Leinweber, AIA</u>
(name)
21301 Erben Street
St. Clair Shores, Michigan 48081
(address) | <u>Professional & Personal Friend</u>
(specific activity in which
he has dealt with nominee) |
| 2. | <u>Minoru Yamasaki, FAIA</u>
350 West Big Beaver Road
Troy, Michigan 48084 | <u>Professional & Personal Friend</u> |
| 3. | <u>John Haro, FAIA</u>
345 New Center Bldg.
Detroit, Michigan 48202 | <u>Professional & Personal Friend</u> |
| 4. | <u>Bruce Smith, FAIA</u>
302 S. Main St.
Royal Oak, Michigan 48067 | <u>Professional & Personal Friend</u> |
| 5. | <u>Adrian Languis, FAIA</u>
131 Lewis Cass Bldg.
Lansing, Michigan | <u>Professional & Personal Friend</u> |
| 6. | <u>Louis G. Redstone, FAIA</u>
10811 Puritan,
Detroit, Michigan 48238 | <u>Professional & Personal Friend</u> |
| 7. | <u>Linn Smith, FAIA</u>
894 South Adams
Birmingham, Michigan 48011 | <u>Professional & Personal Friend</u> |
| 8. | <u>Clarence Rosa, FAIA</u>
131 Lewis Cass Bldg.
Lansing, Michigan | <u>Professional & Personal Friend</u> |
| 9. | <u>Sol King, FAIA</u>
345 New Center Bldg.
Detroit, Michigan 48202 | <u>Professional & Personal Friend</u> |
| 10. | <u>Walter Sanders, FAIA</u>
99 Barton North Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48015 | <u>Professional & Personal Friend</u> |

For Release Saturday, May 17 P.M.

Detroit, Michigan -- May 17, 1969 -- William Kessler, an architect in Detroit for 15 years, has been elected to the College of Fellows of The American Institute of Architects, a lifetime honor bestowed for outstanding contribution. He will be formally invested during special ceremonies at the annual convention of the AIA in Chicago, June 22-26.

Although AIA is the 23,300-member national professional society of architects, only 893 members have been advanced to Fellowship. As a Fellow, Mr. Kessler will have the right to use the initials FAIA following his name to symbolize the esteem in which he is held by his peers. Other than the Gold Medal, which may be presented to a single architect from any part of the world, Fellowship is the highest honor which the Institute can bestow on its members.

Kessler who was born in Reading, Pa., is a graduate and past instructor of the Graduate School of Design of Harvard University. He has served as a design consultant to the Public Housing Administration, lectured extensively on low cost housing, and has been a member of the National AIA Committee for Housing. Kessler's concern for esthetics has placed him on many national juries for design excellence and his experiences with higher educational facilities has led him to serve on several national panels and seminars dealing with campus planning and development in the United States. He serves as professional advisor

(more)

to the Architectural School of Washington University in St. Louis. In 1958 he became a member of the Detroit Chapter of A.I.A. and has served on Civic Design Committees here.

A principal in the firm of William Kessler and Associates, his design work has been varied and has earned him 26 awards during his career. Significant works in process include a teaching-learning building for the Harvard University School of Public Health in Boston, Massachusetts; a laboratory-office building and an instructional resources center for the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Long Island; a central library for Grand Valley State College at Allendale, Michigan; a central administration building for Bundy Tubing Corporation in Warren, Michigan; the Butzel Family Center for Detroit; and the Carlyle Stewart Elementary School for the Detroit Board of Education.

Mr. Kessler is a member of the Founders Society of the Detroit Institute of Arts, Vice President of the Grosse Pointe Human Relations Council and a former councilman and planning commissioner for the City of Grosse Pointe Park.

Mr. Kessler's architectural offices are at 18000 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48224.



Architect Left Mark on Detroit.

FAIA

By John Gallagher, Detroit Free Press.
653 words
19 November 2002 ^{11/16}
KRTBN Knight-Ridder Tribune Business News: Detroit Free Press
English
Copyright (C) 2002 KRTBN Knight Ridder Tribune Business News

Nov. 19-At a time when many people and firms were abandoning Detroit, William Kessler moved to the city in the 1950s to practice architecture. He went on to grace the city with many of its most innovative designs during nearly 50 years of work.

Kessler, the dean of Detroit's architectural community, **died Saturday** at his home in Grosse Pointe after a long struggle with emphysema. He was 77. ^{11/16}

Harvard-trained and steeped in the ethic of modernism, Kessler was far from a glass-box conformist. He detested designs that simply replicated somebody else's work. His major works all provided a shock of the new.

Among his designs were Detroit Receiving Hospital (1979), the original Detroit Science Center (1979) and the College for Creative Studies (1975). Each was a modern design, but each involved such unique structural and decorative solutions as to defy categorization. More recently, he designed Delphi Automotive Systems World Headquarters in Troy in the late 1990s.

Detroit Receiving broke with a tradition that hospital design should rely on historical motifs from the Gothic or Renaissance eras. Instead, to capture the high-tech nature of modern medicine, Kessler produced an aluminum and porcelain-clad silvery building that was like nothing else on the Detroit landscape.

He was always pushing to come up with a more inventive, creative solution. He filled his buildings with atriums, bright splashes of color and the works of many artists.

Explaining his desire to create such buildings, he once said, "For people to be cooped up eight or 10 hours a day of their working life is bad enough, but a building can at least provide some excitement and pleasure."

An avid sailor, tennis player, painter and sports car enthusiast, Kessler won numerous accolades for his work.

"When others abandoned the modern movement, Bill Kessler continued to mine its deepest recesses, producing one definitive statement after another," said Eric Hill, an architect at Albert Kahn Associates and coauthor of the guidebook, "AIA Detroit: The American Institute of **Architects** Guide to Detroit Architecture."

The AIA Detroit guidebook praised Kessler's work for having "the sleekness and finish of a jet fighter."

Passionate about good design, Kessler also played a role as a quotable critic of what he saw as misguided development projects and strategies. He fought for a more open Detroit riverfront dedicated to parks and other public spaces. That led him to publicly criticize then-Mayor Coleman Young and other civic leaders for what he saw as their reliance on big showcase projects to the detriment of more human-scale design.

"He was a gentle soul for sure, but when it came to issues of principle, he was very outspoken," said his longtime partner, Ed Francis. "Many **architects** wouldn't want to get politically involved. Bill was never shy about stepping into the breach."

Born in 1924 in Wyomissing, Penn., Kessler served in the Army Air Forces from 1943 to 1946 and later studied and taught at Harvard. Among the famous **architects** he worked with were Walter Gropius, founder of the Bauhaus school, and Minoru Yamasaki. Earlier in his career in Detroit, Kessler designed many modernist houses in and around the metropolitan area.

He received numerous honors for his work, including the Gold Medal from AIA Michigan, the society's highest award.

Kessler is survived by his wife of 56 years, Margot; two daughters, Tamara Checkley and Chevonne Patten, and three grandchildren.

Print Results

Page 2 of 2

There will be no services. Memorials may be sent to the Michigan Architectural Foundation, 553 E. Jefferson, Detroit 48226; the Congress of International Modern **Architects**, 12 Gramercy Park, New York, NY 10003, or Hospice of Michigan, 400 Mack, Detroit 48201.