

DELAWIE, Homer

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San Diego, 92117

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NEWS

December 24, 1976

NEW ASSOCIATES JOIN HOMER DELAWIE ASSOCIATES, A.I.A.

Michael Wilkes (of La Jolla) and John Bretton (of Pt. Loma)

have been named new associates in the firm of Homer Delawie Associates, A.I.A., effective January 1.

Wilkes has been an architect with Mr. Delawie for six years. He was formerly with Robert Clements, A.I.A., in Los Angeles. With Delawie, he has participated in such design projects as the Miramar Ranch Elementary School, the award-winning Dispensary in Camp Pendleton, and the Coronado Library.

Wilkes received his degree in Architecture at the University of Oregon. He is married to Penny Wilkes, Director of Publications for the Bishops Schools, La Jolla.

John Bretton is a native of Copenhagen, Denmark, and a graduate of the Royal Academy of Fine Arts there. Prior to his 7½-year association

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Pg. 2, Delawie Associates

with Homer Delawie, he was with Kenneth Kaestner & Associates, A.I.A. in northern California, and the Architects Collaborative in Cambridge, Mass. Bretton is an Associate member, A.I.A., and Delawie's Office Manager in charge of Production. His projects for the firm have included the award-winning Thompson Addition to the Naval Library, Balboa Hospital, and the Convention Center and Beach Tower addition to the Hotel del Coronado.

Bretton is married and he and his wife, Judith, have a daughter.

Homer Delawie, F.A.I.A. (of Pt. Loma) is well-known for architectural design and master-planning that have earned his firm over 25 awards from the A.I.A. and affiliated organizations. Projects currently under design include a new elementary school in Tierrasanta, and the Mira Mesa Sports Village planned community.

Delawie is also Vice-Chairman of the San Diego Planning Commission, and a popular and energetic speaker on environment and community planning. # # #

AUG 3 1981 *Off*

APES, SHARKS, ELEPHANTS

San Diego Architect Delawie Designs For Beastly Clientele

By ELIZABETH BRAFFORD
Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

A good architect, it is said, always designs to suit the needs of his clients.

For Homer Delawie, that means creating a small but exacting replica of the South Pole.

It also means finding a way to keep a 400,000-gallon aquarium free of thousands of spent shark teeth. And it means developing an environment for monkeying around, safely, in the public view.

Delawie, a San Diego architect who has been a Planning Commission member since 1969, designs homes for families, firms and military personnel — and for penguins, great apes, elephants, giraffes and sharks.

The only difference between working for his human clients and his "animal clients," as he calls them, is that "when you're dealing with a normal client, you get their opinions. When you work for animal clients, you make sure they don't eat you."

Delawie designed the revolutionary shark tanks at Sea World here and in Orlando, Fla.

"I'm not a good swimmer, either," he said with a chuckle.

Planning habitats for animals is only part of Delawie's practice. He has worked on the design for the Plaza de Balboa in Balboa Park and the Fine Arts Building at United States International University.

He won the Distinguished Architectural Achievement award from the American Institute of Architects for his design of the enlisted men's high-rise barracks at North Island.

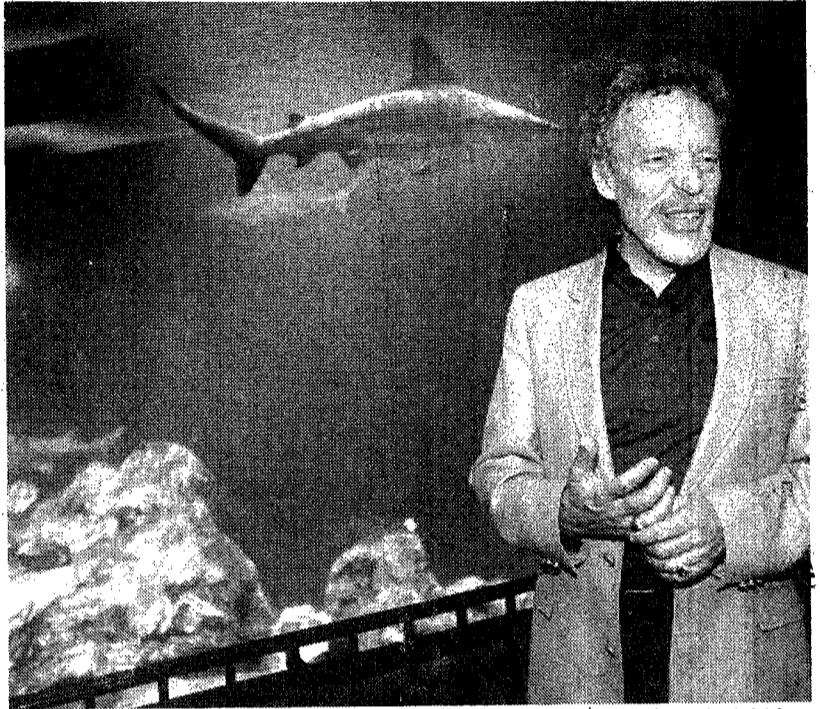
So popular were his contemporary California home designs that "at one time, if you didn't have a Homer Delawie house, you were nobody," said Neil Larsen, president of the San Diego Chapter of the AIA and himself an architect.

But there are not many architects around who also number among their clients the bull shark and the antarctic penguin. Delawie has made a national name for himself as an architect for four-legged, finned or winged creatures.

Delawie first worked on animal habitats with the late San Diego architect Lloyd Ruocco, who had just completed the Children's Zoo here when Delawie became his partner in 1958.

With Ruocco, Delawie worked on San Diego Zoo architecture, including the great ape house and the giraffe mesa. In 1961, he left to form a new partnership — Delawie, Macy and Henderson, AIA.

His next job was as master



The San Diego Union/Bob Ivins

Homer Delawie and his shark tank

planner of the Tel Aviv Zoo. The project took him to Israel more than a dozen times over a three-year period. The zoo eventually was built in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan, in a climate similar to San Diego's.

Of Delawie's work, San Diegans probably are most familiar with the shark tank exhibit at Sea World, the first of its kind in the world.

It is the first tank to hold sharks up to 12 feet long. Such large sharks normally have not been kept in captivity.

The \$1.5 million tank was designed to allow sharks to swim in what Delawie called a "figure-eight pattern." Sea World scientists observed that sharks off the Florida coast moved in a "rest-glide" pattern. Conventional round tanks restricted that movement, and as a result, many sharks died in captivity.

Sea World spokeswoman Jackie O'Connor said the 400,000-gallon shark tank was 10 years in planning. During that time, the architect — who said he knew nothing about sharks when he was commissioned to design the tank — became very familiar with the needs and the characteristics of sharks.

Not many architects know, for example, that sharks shed their teeth every 28 days. And few have solved the design problem of removing teeth from the bottom of a tank filled with the kind of animals that most people do not want to get close to. A long-handled vacuum does the trick, Delawie said.

In designing animal habitats, "we

work with the people who live with animals — zookeepers, scientists — to find out the ideal environment," Delawie said.

"You always design around the client, in this case, an elephant, a shark, or a penguin. You maintain not only the individual environment (of the animal), but one for the observer, too."

The challenge of his latest assignment, designing a penguin enclosure for Sea World, is that "the penguin lives in a 28-degree environment, and suddenly, on the other side of the glass, there will be thousands of viewers in a 70-degree environment," Delawie said. "You've got to consider the comfort of both."

"I've got slides of penguins jumping out of the water, making love, but so far, I haven't gotten a trip to the South Pole."

"In the design of any animal enclosure, the primary thing is to display the animal," he said. "The architect is secondary. Our objective is to show the animal in as natural an environment as possible."

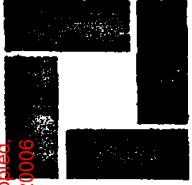
Local AIA president Larsen said Delawie's architecture "allows an interchange between the animal and observer that the traditional kind of zoo allows, but without the prison atmosphere."

In all his work, Delawie "is willing to spend the extra time on the product," Larsen said. "That's called dedication to the art."

"He goes the extra mile without being outlandish, ostentatious, showy or egotistical about it."

DELAWIE
BRETTON
WILKES

ASSOCIATES AIA



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Homer Delawie biography

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HOMER DELAWIE, FAIA

Homer Delawie is the founder and CEO of DELAWIE/BRETTON/WILKES ASSOCIATES (DBW), a design oriented architectural and planning firm. Mr. Delawie heads a staff of 20 architects and planners who form the creative nucleus of an award-winning design team. The San Diego firm has received over 45 and AIA affiliated design awards for a wide spectrum of projects including medical facilities, libraries, office buildings, shopping centers, government buildings, residential complexes, military structures and aquatic attractions. DBW has also developed a reputation for excellence in master planning and urban design.

Mr. Delawie received his bachelor's degree in architectural engineering from California State Polytechnic University. He entered private practice in San Diego in 1958, founding his firm three years later. He is past president of the San Diego Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) and served on its board of directors from 1962-1969. In addition, he has served on a number of local, regional and national AIA committees and design award juries. He was the first practicing architect to be appointed to the San Diego Planning Commission and served on the commission from 1969-1982.

In 1972, Mr. Delawie was elected a fellow of the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows in the field of design and community service, an honor given to only about five percent of all architects nationwide. That same year, he was also honored by the California Council, AIA with the "Architects Service Award" for outstanding leadership in the architectural profession; in 1981 he received the Council's "Public Service Award." In 1982, he was honored by the California Chapter of the American Planning Association for his "Outstanding Contribution to Planning."

Besides his work on the Planning Commission and his efforts to ensure rational planned growth in San Diego, Mr. Delawie has been actively involved in a number of community activities. He has lent his support, time and efforts to the preservation of Balboa Park as a member of the City's Park Facilities Committee. He initiated and coordinated a citizens' effort to defray the costs of acquiring and preserving a significant section of Presidio Park. He has also served on the Board of Directors of a number of local institutions such as the Museum of Man, Historical Society, and Community Welfare Council. Mr. Delawie and his wife were the first chairpersons for the KPBS Auction and he was chairman of the KPBS Community Advisory Board its first four years. He is currently on the board of directors of The Children's Museum of San Diego. He also lectures at local schools to encourage youths to design better living environments.

HONORS:

- 1972 Elected to the College of Fellow of the American Institute of Architects
- 1972 Distinguished Alumnus, California Polytechnic State University
- 1973 Architects Service Award, California Council of the American Institute of Architects
- 1973 Award of Merit, California Chapter, American Institute of Planners
- 1975 Phi Delta Kappa - Lay Citizens Award
- 1978 Special Award, San Diego Chapter, American Institute of Architects
- 1981 Public Service Award, California Council of the American Institute of Architects
- 1982 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Planning, California Chapter of the American Planning Association.
- 1986 Outstanding Firm Award, San Diego Chapter, American Institute of Architects