

Dated August 25, 19 45  
Received September 17, 19 45  
Granted October 15, 19 45.

MEMBERSHIP NO 3667



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

RECORD OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INSTITUTE

*In due order  
September 19, 1945  
J.W. Garrison*

- A Name of applicant *Mr.* ~~Donn Emmons (D.C.)~~ Chapter ~~Washington, D.C.~~ Northern California
- B Address of applicant 1644 Taylor Street, San Francisco, California
- C Applicant proposed by Samuel E. Homsey and William Wilson Wurster
- D Application received with check for \$ 5.00 on September 17 19 45
- E Application returned for correction 19 .
- F Application in due order on September 19 19 45
- Record of registration, Form S39, Sent (Calif.) Sept. 19 1945. Received. October 1, 1945.
- G Notices sent to chapter executive committee:
  - (a) Form S11, reasonable time ending on October 19, 19 45 on September 19 19 45
  - (b) Form S12, 30 day extension ending on 19 ., on 19 .
- H Acknowledgments to applicant, proposers, and chapter on September 19 19 45
- I Certified resolution of chapter executive committee recommending admission ~~as that application be denied~~ received on October 1, 1945.
- J No report from chapter executive committee on 19 .
- K Application sent to The Board of Examiners on October 2, 1945.
- L The Board of Examiners reported on application on October 2, 1945.
- M Applicant was admitted on October 15, 1945.
- N Notice ~~and certificate~~ to applicant and notice of assignment to chapter and letter to proposers on October 15, 1945.
- O Notice of denial of application to chapter and applicant and \$ returned to applicant on 19 .

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

Donn Emmons

to membership in The Institute, and hereby declare him to be a corporate member of The Institute and assign him to membership in the Northern California Chapter.

Date October 15, 19 45.

*Alexander C. Robinson III*  
Secretary

THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
1945 SEP 17 AM 9:30  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



ORIGINAL

File this original with The Secretary of The American Institute of Architects.

File the duplicate, on gray paper, with the secretary of the local chapter of The Institute.

The American Institute of Architects

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

1. My full name is **Donn Emmons** .
2. I am a **Natural** citizen of **United States of America** .  
2. State whether a natural or a naturalized citizen.
3. My legal residence is in the City of **San Francisco** ,  
County of **San Francisco** State of **California** .  
4. State whether residence or office address.
4. My address in The Institute records will be  
**Number 1644 Street Taylor Street**  
**City San Francisco State California** .  
5. State whether as a practicing architect, a teacher, a public official, etc.
5. I am engaged in the profession of architecture as **Lieut. U.S.Navy, Office of Research and Invention - as project engineer on architectural jobs.**
6. I desire to be a member of the **Washington D.C.** Chapter.
7. I declare that I have read the by-laws and the Principles of Professional Practice of The American Institute of Architects, and that I understand the duties, responsibilities and obligations thereunder of a member of The Institute, and I do hereby agree and declare that, if admitted to membership, I will to the best of my ability abide by and comply with such by-laws and Principles of Professional Practice.
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 chapters or state association members.
9. I enclose my check for \$ **5<sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>** for admission fee and the first year's annual dues. It is my understanding that if for any reason I am not admitted to membership all of said amount will be returned to me, except five dollars which The Institute will retain as an examination fee.

Date August 25 19 45.

*Donn Emmons*  
Applicant sign full name in ink

**PAID**  
DATE **8-25 9/17/45**

## STATISTICS

10. Date of birth October 4, 1910 Place of birth Olean, New York.

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

(State or States) By Examination

(State or States) By Exemption

California

(a) I hold a Certificate No. .... of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

## EDUCATION

12. I attended the following named schools (high school, private school, college or university); have held the following named scholarships; have travelled in the following named countries:

Schools: Battin High School, Elizabeth, N.J; Cornell University, Ithaca, New York; University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

Travel: Canada, Mexico, Cuba, Canal Zone, Hawaii, Trinidad, Brazil, Japan, China, Malay States, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Australia, India, Egypt, Italy, France, Germany, Mozambique, South Africa, Fiji Is, Soloman Is, New Guinea, New Caledonia, Admiralty Is, New Hebrides, Is, Philippine Is.

## 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:

1934	- Edgar Bissantz - Architect Architects Bldg, Los Angeles, Calif.	draftsman - design and working drawings
35-36	- Winton L. Risley - Architect 220 S. Westmoreland Ave, Los Angeles.	draftsman - design, spec, work.draw. supervision.
37-38	Roland E. Coate - Architect Architects, Bldg, Los Angeles.	draftsman - same.
38-42	William Wilson Wurster, Architect 270 California St, San Francisco, Calif.	Architect - In complete charge of certain jobs.

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).

1938-1942 with W.W.Wurster, San Francisco. In complete charge of certain jobs - all types of architectural work.

1942-1945 Active duty with U.S. Navy. At present in charge of design and construction of large Navy exhibits.

PRESENT OR PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIPS IN ARCHITECTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

- 15. Member of Institute from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Junior of Institute from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. Associate of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. Junior Associate of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. Member of State Association in \_\_\_\_\_ California from 1942 to present.

ENDORSEMENT BY PROPOSERS

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I have read the statements made herein above by the applicant and believe them to be correct. I vouch for his honorable standing in this community and in his profession. I believe he is fully qualified for membership and I propose him therefor.

I have known the applicant for 5 years.  
 Signed Samuel E. Homsey  
Proposer  
1640 Connecticut Ave.  
Washington, D.C.

I have known the applicant for 8 years.  
 Signed William Wilson Wurster  
Proposer  
School of Arch. & Planning  
Mass. Inst. of Technology  
Cambridge 39, Mass.

Note: The two proposers must be corporate members of The Institute in good standing.

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THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
1945 OCT -1 AM 9:23  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



AP N°

3667

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.  
Office of The Secretary

RECORD OF REGISTRATION

OF

Donn Emmons, San Francisco, California

(Name of Applicant)

SECRETARY,  
BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS,  
Los Angeles, California  
*Address*

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, if resident in a state having registration or licensing laws for architects, 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.....September 20, 1945.....

Alexander C. Robinson III  
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?.....Written and oral examinations.....
4. What was the period of the examination?.....4.....days. Written examination.....32.....hours; Oral examination.....1.....hours.
5. When examined, did applicant have a certificate from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards?..... If so, give Certificate No.....
6. Date of last registration.....January.....1945 Registration No.....C-243..... Is it current?.....Yes.....

Jeannette Dolsberry  
(Signature of Secretary of Board)

Date.....September 25, 1945.....

California State Board of Architectural Examiners  
(Name of Board)



No AP 3667

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.  
Office of The Secretary

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

TO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

*Name of Chapter* Northern California Chapter, A.I.A.

*Name of Applicant* Lt. Donn Emmons, USN

*Date of application* August 25, 1945.

*Duplicate application filed with above named Chapter on* August 25, 1945.

*Chapter recommendation received on* October 1, 1945.

The application of the above named applicant for membership in The Institute and the certified copy of your resolution recommending that the applicant be admitted to membership have been received by The Secretary.

Your prompt action on this application is appreciated as it will permit the application to be placed before The Board of Examiners without delay.

*Date* October 1, 1945.

*Frederic C. Robinson*  
Secretary.

P.S. - On the original application received from Lt. Emmons, he indicated he wished to be assigned to the Washington, D. C. Chapter, and that he is presently located in Washington with the Navy Department.

It was assumed that he had forwarded the duplicate of his application to that chapter; however, in view of the recommendation received from the Northern California Chapter, this may be incorrect.

We shall appreciate further advice on this, and in the meantime, inasmuch as the application is complete, it is being put forward by submission to The Board of Examiners at its meeting on October 2, to avoid delay.

Also, Lt. Emmons sent only \$5.00 for the admission fee. His dues can be waived for the period of his military service if the chapter so recommends. May we hear from you on this point, also?

A.C.R.

THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1945 OCT 30 PM 2:17

WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICERS  
HASS, PRESIDENT  
FREY BANGS, VICE-PRESIDENT  
S. BOLLES, SECRETARY  
ERVEY PARKE CLARK, TREASURER



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WILLIAM H. KNOWLES  
ELDRIDGE T. SPENCER

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER  
369 PINE STREET • SAN FRANCISCO 4

October 25, 1945

Mr. Alexander C. Robinson III, Secretary  
The American Institute of Architects  
1741 New York Avenue, NW  
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mr. Robinson:

This is a late answer to your footnote on the "Notice of Application for Membership", #3667, of Lt. Donn Emmons, USN.

I have finally succeeded in reaching a member of Mr. Emmons's family by telephone, and find that he is expected to arrive in San Francisco during the first week of November. At that time he will have received his discharge from the Navy, and is planning to resume his practice of architecture. His address on the Institute records will be 1644 Taylor Street, San Francisco until further notice.

Concerning the waiving of dues. This Chapter has waived the dues of all members during the period of service in the armed forces of the United States. The Northern California Association of Architects has done likewise.

Very truly yours,

Helen H. Ashton, Office Secretary



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

*Application*

November 16, 1945

Dear Lt. Emmons:

Your application for corporate membership in The Institute was received at this office on September 17th, and you indicated thereon that you wished to be assigned to the Washington, D. C. Chapter.

In accordance with established procedure, the Washington, D.C. Chapter was so notified and was requested to send its recommendation thereon.

In the meantime, a favorable recommendation concerning your application was received from the Northern California Chapter, indicating that you had filed the duplicate of your application with that chapter, instead of the Washington, D. C. Chapter.

On that basis, the application has been completed, and if you do wish to be assigned to the Northern California Chapter as a member of The Institute, we can proceed to complete election promptly.

We shall appreciate instructions from you on this situation and shall be governed accordingly.

Sincerely yours,

Executive Secretary

Lt. Donn Emmons  
1644 Taylor Street  
San Francisco, California

K/g

Copy to the Secretary, Northern California Chapter, A.I.A.  
Secretary, Washington, D. C. Chapter, A.I.A.

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COPY TO

FILES PRESIDENT SECRETARY TREASURER



WURSTER AND BERNARDI  
ARCHITECTS

402 JACKSON STREET  
SAN FRANCISCO 11, CALIFORNIA  
TELEPHONE EXBROOK 8918

WILLIAM WILSON WURSTER . A.I.A.  
THEODORE C. BERNARDI . A.I.A.

THE AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

DEC -1 AM 9:

WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 29, 1945

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

VIA AIR MAIL

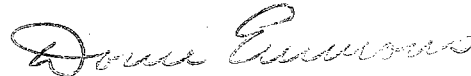
Dear Mr. Kemper:

In answer to your letter of November 16 regarding  
my application for membership in the American Institute of  
Architects:

I will be practicing in San Francisco and would  
appreciate being assigned to membership in the Northern  
California Chapter.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,



Donn Emmons

DE:MH

cc - Secretary

Northern California Chapter A.I.A.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

COPY

December 4, 1945

Dear Mr. Emmons:

The Secretary is happy to inform you that your application for membership in The Institute was acted on favorably by The Board of Directors and that you were admitted to corporate membership in The Institute and assigned to membership in the Northern California Chapter, effective October 15, 1945. You will be a member of that Chapter, or of some other chapter if you later transfer thereto, until your membership in The Institute terminates.

Your certificate of membership, duly executed by the Officers of The Institute, will be sent in due course.

The Board of Directors welcomes you to membership in The Institute and The Secretary's office is at your service to the extent of its powers.

The policies and the activities of The Institute are developed largely from problems arising within the chapters. By taking an active part in your Chapter affairs you will contribute to the advancement of the objects of The Institute and will increase the benefits to be derived from Institute membership.

We bespeak your active cooperation.

Sincerely yours,

Alexander C. Robinson III  
Secretary

ACR:iny  
Enc.

Mr. Donn Emmons, A.I.A.  
1644 Taylor Street  
San Francisco, Calif.

cc to: Proposers: Mr. Samuel E. Homsey  
Mr. William Wilson Wurster

COPY TO

FILES

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

TREASURER



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
JURY OF FELLOWS

Received Oct. 31, 1960  
Voted On Feb. 9, 1961  
Voted On Feb. 1 19 .  
Voted On 19 .  
Granted Feb. 10, 1961

NOMINATION FOR FELLOWSHIP

CASE RECORD

1. *Name of Nominee* Donn Emmons *Date of Nomination* October 25 1960
2. *Address of Nominee* 202 Green Street, San Francisco, California
3. *Nominee's firm* Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons
4. *Nominee's principal place of business* California
5. *Nominee's Chapter* Northern California
6. *Nominee's State Organization* California Council
7. *Nominee admitted to Institute* October 15, 1945
8. *Nominee has been in good standing in Institute from* October 15, 1945 *to* Dec. 31, 1960
9. *Nominee's age* 50 *Birthplace* Olean, New York
10. *Nominators:* Executive Committee, Northern California Chapter, A.I.A.:
 

President:	Richard S. Banwell	Directors:	John W. Kruse
Vice-Pres.:	George T. Rockrise		John Lord King
Secretary:	Clement A. Mullins		Cabell Gwathmey
Treasurer:	Alton S. Lee		William Mooser
11. *Achievement* Design and Service to The Institute

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CONFIDENTIAL



*Exhibits Rec'd*  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
840  
(Nominators leave blank)  
1960 OCT 31 11:11:30  
WASHINGTON 11 60

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

NOMINATION FOR FELLOWSHIP

BY  
CHAPTER

THE JURY OF FELLOWS, A.I.A.  
The Octagon, 1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Date October 25 19 60

The Executive Committee of this Chapter, at a duly called meeting on October 11 1960 <sup>\*Type in full name.</sup>  
nominated\* DONN EMMONS  
member of this Chapter, for fellowship in The Institute. We enclose evidence of the qualifications of the nominee for the fellowship on which the nomination was based and certify the resolution is as follows:

"Whereas, this Executive Committee believes\* Donn Emmons  
a member of this Chapter, has made so notable a contribution to the advancement of the profession because of his achievement in\*\* Design and Service to the Institute  
that he is worthy of fellowship in The Institute; and

\*Type in full name.

\*\*Type in "Design," "Science of Construction," "Literature," "Education," "Service to The Institute," or "Public Service," as is appropriate.

"Whereas, said member has been in good standing in this Chapter for† fifteen  
years prior to this date; therefore be it

†Type in number of years.

"Resolved, That‡‡ The Northern California Chapter,  
The American Institute of Architects, does hereby nominate\* Donn Emmons

‡‡Type in name of Chapter.

\*Type in full name.

for fellowship in The Institute, and the President and the Secretary be and hereby are authorized and directed to prepare the nomination papers and forward them to The Jury of Fellows of The Institute and to do all things proper to forward said nomination."

✓ *Atton S. Lee, Treas.* *Richard S. Corwell PRES* ✓

✓ *John L. King, Director* *William Wagner Sr*

*James Westerman Jr.* ✓  
*John W. Bruce, Director* ✓

*John T. Robinson, Vice Pres* ✓  
*Clement Mullin Secretary.* ✓

THE NOMINATORS SHOULD SEE THAT LETTERS OR DATA ARE SENT TO THE JURY OF FELLOWS IN SUPPORT OF THIS NOMINATION.

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born  
p. 3.

BIOGRAPHICAL STATISTICS

1. Nominee's full name            Donn Emmons
2. Nominee is a natural ~~naturalized~~ citizen of    The United States
3. Nominee's legal residence    202 Green St., San Francisco, California
4. Nominee's firm name        Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons
5. Nominee's principal place of business, address    202 Green St., San Francisco
6. Nominee is registered or licensed to practice architecture by    The State of California

2. Strike out in-appropriate word and write in name of Country.

6. Type in "N.C. A. R. B." or name of State Board, as case may be.

7. Strike out in-appropriate words.

8. Type in date of birth and city and Country.

7. Nominee is engaged in practice of architecture as a practicing architect—~~teacher in architecture—teacher in science of construction/public official—retired~~

8. Born October 4, 1910    Place of birth    Olean, New York

9. Nominee's schools, colleges and universities:

	Location	No. of Years	Year of Graduation	Degree
<i>High School</i>				
Battin High School,	Elizabeth, N. J.	4	1929	
<i>Private School</i>				
<i>College or University</i>				
Cornell University,	Ithaca, New York	4		
<i>College or University</i>				
U. of California,	Berkeley, Calif.	1		
<i>Post Graduate at</i>				

*Scholarships held*

10. Other data concerning nominee's record.

Designing and supervising construction of schools, commercial and residential work in offices of Edgar Bissantz, Winchton Risley and Roland Coate, Los Angeles, 1934-38.

Associated with William Wilson Wurster, in charge of design and construction supervision on various projects, 1938-42.

Lieutenant Commander, U. S. Naval Reserve. Sea duty, 1942-44. Navy office of Research and Inventions, in charge of design and construction of Navy Exhibits, 1944-45.

Partnership with William Wilson Wurster and Theodore C. Bernardi, 1945 to present.

Cornell University College of Architecture: Visiting Critic, Senior Architectural Design, 1956.

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Nominators should read "Principles Underlying the Bestowal of Fellowships", Institute Document No. 9 before completing this nomination. Additional sheets may be inserted to supplement any page, 3 to 7, inclusive. Use typewriting only.

NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENT IN ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

1. Works

Type (a) Commercial (b) Monumental (c) Domestic (d) Special	Identification of Work	Location of Work  (City)	(State)	Completed Construction Work (Year)	Photographs Drawings, or Sketches Submitted
(a)	Bank of America	Sacramento	Calif.	1960	4
(a)	Bank of America	San Francisco	Calif.	1960	3
(a)	Insurance Co.	San Jose	Calif.	1954	1
(a)	Office Bldg.	San Jose	Calif.	1947	1
(c)	Schuman House	Woodside	Calif.	1950	3
(c)	Emmons House	Mill Valley	Calif.	1948	3
(c)	Nowell House	Carmel	Calif.	1948	3
(c)	Williams House	Palo Alto	Calif.	1957	1
(d)	Medical Plaza	Palo Alto	Calif.	1959	3

Under column headed "Type" type in (a), (b), (c), or (d), as the case may be.  
  
Type in last column to right the number submitted in each case.

2. Describe nominee's notable work in design, to bring out the particular achievements the nominators believe have notably contributed to the advancement of the profession.

The work of Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons has been widely published and honored, both in the United States and abroad. The philosophy and goals of the firm are fully shared by the three partners, and their design is an extension of that philosophy. Each of the partners takes the lead in certain projects, although it is difficult to differentiate the work of one partner from that of the firm itself. The photographic exhibit supporting this nomination will include examples of projects on which Donn Emmons has been partner-in-charge and chiefly responsible for the design.

The same principles of design that gained an early reputation for the firm in residential work have increasingly, in the past 15 years, been applied to public, commercial, and industrial buildings: an avoidance of any set "style", an honest and direct architectural solution growing out of the needs of the client; the extensive use of natural materials, and great attention to optimum use of the site.

(Continued on Page 3-A attached)

Nominee's Achievement in Design (continued)

In the book "Architecture, Ambition, and Americans" (1955), the author, Wayne Andrews, says of the houses designed by the firm that they "are without parallel in the art of bringing the outdoors in and the indoors out -- a feat often attempted in our time and more often bungled." The author goes on to say of Donn Emmons himself that he "excels in simple but strangely elegant interiors."

"Quality Budget Houses" by Thomas Creighton and Katherine Ford (1954) makes the statement that houses in California and the Northwest, designed by such architects as Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons and others "have set a trend towards natural finishes which is now widespread and very sensible as well as very beautiful."

The Italian architectural magazine, "Casabella", in its April 1960 issue, says that in observing the work of the firm "one is immediately struck by the almost intentional modesty, honesty, informality and lack of strain." Again, "the indifference to style is as sincere as it is apparent." Their "understanding of social and economic conditions, climatic variations, materials, and method of building has stimulated an architectural expression that has been described as the Bay Region Style."

In 1956, when Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons won three awards in the National Honor Awards Program of the American Institute of Architects, Time magazine wrote that the firm's "open, uncluttered designs, broad windows, and lavish use of natural wood have made it the leader in one of the best regional movements in the United States. This week's prize-winners sum up the partners' goal: to disregard any preconceived formulas, fit each design both to the terrain and to the building's occupants and purpose."

In 1958, when the Institute of Personality Assessment and Research at the University of California, Berkeley, undertook a study of the nation's "40 most creative architects", Donn Emmons was included as one of that number. The purpose of the study was "to discover those characteristics which differentiate highly creative individuals from less original and creative persons." Some of the findings of this study were published in the September 1960 issue of the AIA Journal.

Attached is a list of awards won by the firm, and a partial list of publications in which their work has appeared.



AWARDS AND HONORS

- 1949      AWARD OF MERIT for Nelson Nowell house, Carmel, California, from AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, National Honor Awards Program
- 1951      AWARD OF MERIT for Isadore Schuman house, Woodside, California, from AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, National Honor Awards Program
- 1953      AWARD OF MERIT for Albert Smith house, Stockton, California, from Northern California Chapter, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, Honor Awards Program.
- 1953      AWARD OF MERIT for Stern Dormitory, University of California, Berkeley, California, from Northern California Chapter, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, Honor Awards Program.
- 1953      AWARD OF MERIT for Sunset Community Center, San Francisco, California, from Northern California Chapter, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, Honor Awards Program
- 1953      AWARD OF MERIT for Saxton Pope house, Lafayette, California, from Northern California Chapter, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, Honor Awards Program
- 1953      AWARD OF MERIT for Donn Emmons house, Mill Valley, California, from Northern California Chapter, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, Honor Awards Program
- 1953      AWARD OF MERIT for Schuckl & Co., Inc., office building, Sunnyvale, California, from Northern California Chapter, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, Honor Awards Program
- 1953      SPECIAL FEATURE AWARD for Adelia Kimball Elementary School, Antioch, California, from "School Executive" magazine in national competition for Better School Design.
- 1954      FIRST PRIZE AWARD FOR Schuckl & Co., Inc., office building, Sunnyvale, California, from "MANAGEMENT METHODS" magazine in national competition for "Best Place to Work."
- 1955      FIRST PRIZE AWARD for Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Palo Alto, California, from "MANAGEMENT METHODS" magazine in national competition for "Best Place to Work."

(Continued)

AWARDS AND HONORS - Continued

- 1955 Selected as architects for "WESTERN HOTPOINT HOUSE" for national \$5 million contest sponsored by "LIVING FOR YOUNG HOME MAKERS" magazine
- 1956 AWARD OF MERIT for Paul Bissinger house, Kentfield, California, from "HOMES FOR BETTER LIVING COMPETITION" sponsored by House and Home, Sunset Magazine, and the AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
- 1956 AWARD OF MERIT for Nelson Nowell house, Stockton, California, from AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, National Honor Awards Program
- 1956 AWARD OF MERIT for Theodore Bernardi house, Sausalito, California, from AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, National Honor Awards Program
- 1956 FIRST HONOR AWARD for Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Palo Alto, California, from AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, National Honor Awards Program
- 1957 AWARD OF MERIT for Paul Bissinger house, Kentfield, California, from Northern California Chapter, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, Honor Awards Program
- 1957 AWARD OF MERIT for Insurance Company of North America, office building, San Jose, California, from Northern California Chapter, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, Awards Program
- 1958 AWARD OF MERIT for Saxton Pope house, Walnut Creek, California, from HOUSE AND HOME magazine in ANNUAL AWARDS PROGRAM. "In recognition of an outstanding contribution to Quality Housing in 1958"
- 1959 FIRST HONOR AWARD for Sacramento Redevelopment Project, from PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE magazine in SIXTH ANNUAL DESIGN AWARDS PROGRAM. Placed First in Category and Best in Overall Competition of 600 entries
- 1959 AWARD OF MERIT for George R. Pope house, Madera, California, from AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS, Sunset Western Home Awards Program

(Continued)

AWARDS AND HONORS - Continued

- 1960 Saxton Pope house, Walnut Creek, California, selected by THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE OF NEW YORK for inclusion in the Second Preliminary Exhibition, "Living," of the GOLD MEDAL EXHIBITION OF THE BUILDING ARTS.
- 1960 Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Palo Alto, California, selected by THE ARCHITECTURAL LEAGUE OF NEW YORK for inclusion in the Final Comprehensive Exhibition of the GOLD MEDAL EXHIBITION OF THE BUILDING ARTS, to be circulated in the United States and Canada.
- 1960 The winning design for the \$60 million Golden Gateway Redevelopment Project was prepared by Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons and DeMars and Reay for the Perini Corporation, and was chosen by the Redevelopment Agency of San Francisco over the entries submitted by eight other developers.

PUBLISHED WORK

A partial list of periodicals and books in which the work of Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons has been published.

NEWS

Time

MAGAZINES

Life

Look

Fortune

ARCHITECTURAL  
MAGAZINES  
(United States)

Architectural Forum

Architectural Record

Arts and Architecture

House and Home

Pacific Architect and Builder

Progressive Architecture

Western Architect and Engineer

ARCHITECTURAL  
MAGAZINES  
(Foreign)

Architectural Review (England)

Die Kunst und Das Schoene Heim (Germany)

Distinction (France)

Domus (Italy)

La Maison (France)

L'Architecture D'Aujourd'hui (France)

L'Architettura (Italy)

Nuestra Arquitectura (Argentina)

OTHER U. S.  
MAGAZINES

American Home

Better Homes and Gardens

Good Housekeeping

House Beautiful

House and Garden

Interior Design

Interiors

Living for Young Homemakers

Management Methods

McCall's

Sunset

BOOKS

"USA Baut" (Sonderheft Werk); Germany, 1945

"Built in USA 1932-44"; Museum of Modern Art, N. Y., 1944

"The American Home Today"; Katherine Ford and  
Thomas Creighton, 1951

"Quality Budget Houses"; Katherine Ford and Thomas  
Creighton, 1954

"World's Contemporary Architecture"; Japan, 1953

"If You Want to Build a House"; Elizabeth Mock, 1946

"Architecture, Ambition and Americans"; Wayne Andrews, 1955

"An Outline of Man's Knowledge of the Modern World";  
Lyman Bryson, 1960

NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENT IN SCIENCE OF CONSTRUCTION

1. CONSTRUCTION WORK

<i>Type of Work Constructed</i>	<i>Identification of Work</i>	<i>Location of Work</i>	<i>Completed Construction Work (Year)</i>	<i>Photographs, Drawings, or Sketches Submitted</i>
-------------------------------------	-----------------------------------	-----------------------------	---	---

Type in last column to right the number submitted in each case.

2. BOOKS, TREATISES, OR ARTICLES WRITTEN

<i>Subject Title</i>	<i>Where Published</i>	<i>Date Published</i>
----------------------	------------------------	-----------------------

3. Describe nominee's notable work in the science of construction and any recognition thereof by other societies, to bring out the particular achievements the nominators believe have notably contributed to the advancement of the profession.

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# NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENT IN EDUCATION AND LITERATURE

## 1. EDUCATION WORK

(List the degrees and the educational positions held by the nominee, and bring out clearly the nominee's signal work and its particular force and influence which the nominators believe to be a notable contribution to the advancement of the profession, and state evidences of recognition of such work by pupils, the profession, other societies, or the public.)

## 2. LITERARY WORK

(List the original written works of the nominee and state clearly the particular force and influence of that work which the nominators believe to be a notable contribution to the advancement of the profession, and state evidences of recognition of such work by other societies, the profession, educational institutions or the public.)

<i>Book, Treatise or Article</i>	<i>Subject</i>	<i>Name of Book or Periodical Containing Work</i>	<i>Year Work Published</i>
--------------------------------------	----------------	---	--------------------------------

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## NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN SERVICE TO THE INSTITUTE

1. State fully the nominee's signal service to The Institute, his chapter, or his state organization, or to the profession, which the nominators believe has notably contributed to the advancement of the profession, and list the offices in architectural organizations occupied by the nominee and the period of each.

Donn Emmons, after serving for three years on the Executive Committee of the Northern California Chapter, AIA, was unanimously elected President of the Chapter in 1953. Under his forthright leadership, the Chapter embarked on a progressive program which soon established it as one of the most active and influential Chapters in the country. During Mr. Emmons' presidency, the Chapter engaged its first Public Relations Counsel, and its first Executive Secretary, and began to make its voice heard in matters of civic importance. It was during his term that the City of San Francisco, after years of urging by the Chapter, adopted a Master Plan for the Civic Center. A factor that undoubtedly influenced their decision was an extensive exhibit, arranged by the Chapter and held at the De Young Museum, showing Civic Center planning in major cities in the United States and in Europe.

In 1956-57, Mr. Emmons served as Chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the Northern California Chapter, and continued to support the progressive and broad program he had initiated during his presidency.

As a Director of the California Council of Architects (now the California Council, AIA) concurrently with his term as Chapter President (1953-54) he assisted in the revitalization of that organization. He participated in the Council's search for an Executive Director, and supported the choice of Melton Ferris, who in the years since has done an outstanding job of representing California architects in the State Capitol, and has greatly increased the Council's effectiveness in dealing with professional matters at State level.

So highly respected are Donn Emmons' organizational ability and judgement that when the Chapter was asked to host the 1960 AIA National Convention, he was appointed General Convention Chairman. That Convention was the largest (except for the Centennial) of any in Institute history. It was the consensus of the Chapter that its success was in large measure due to Mr. Emmons' wise and calm leadership, and his ability to coordinate and direct the activities of the many people involved in Convention planning. A commemorative plaque was presented to him by the Chapter "in grateful recognition of his devoted and skillful leadership."

Donn Emmons' record of public service has paralleled his service to the Institute, so that one seems almost to have grown out of the other. His non-AIA service activities are listed on Page 7 under "Achievements in Public Service."



## NOMINEE'S ACHIEVEMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICE

1. List the public offices held by the nominee and the positions of trust held by him in recognition of civic leadership, and state clearly his notable work in public service and the particular influence of that work which the nominators believe to be a notable contribution to the advancement of the profession.

Believing that architects should be closely concerned with all matters affecting man's physical environment, Donn Emmons has long been active in groups in the San Francisco Bay Area that concern themselves with planning, urban renewal, and related matters.

He was President of the San Francisco Planning and Housing Association (now the Planning and Urban Renewal Association) from 1947 to 1949, and has continued to serve as a Director of that organization ever since. The Planning and Urban Renewal Association is a strong and influential group of civic leaders from all professions, and has had considerable effect in such issues as the preservation of open land and recreational areas within the City, the establishing of height limitation of buildings, proposing and supporting studies of public parking and transportation, supporting urban renewal projects, and other city planning matters.

Donn Emmons was appointed by the Mayor of San Francisco to serve on the San Francisco Forward Committee in 1954 and 1955 -- a Committee of Architects and Engineers formed to advise the Mayor on major building construction for the City.

In 1959, he was Chairman of a Joint Committee of Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architects and Planners -- a group that was formed so that these related professions might speak with a united voice on public matters of close mutual concern.

As General Chairman of the 1960 AIA Convention in San Francisco, Mr. Emmons placed great emphasis on the public relations aspects of the occasion. Public officials and leaders in community life were invited to many functions, and were enthusiastic in their praise. A selected segment of the public was invited to hear the major Convention speakers -- a precedent-breaking move which had inestimable community relations value. The Rotunda of the City Hall was made available for the President's Reception -- the first time it had been opened for a non-civic function. Architectural exhibits were prominently displayed in all of the major stores in the downtown area, and other architectural exhibits were held in local museums and architectural schools. This Convention, largely because of Donn Emmons' leadership, had a powerful impact on the community, thus contributing to the advancement of the profession.

**WURSTER, BERNARDI AND EMMONS, ARCHITECTS**  
202 GREEN STREET, SAN FRANCISCO 11, CALIFORNIA      EXBROOK 7-6544

WILLIAM WILSON WURSTER, F.A.I.A.  
THEODORE C. BERNARDI, A.I.A.  
DONN EMMONS, A.I.A.  
JAMES D. WICKENDEN  
ALBERT ARONSON, A.I.A.  
WILLARD D. RAND, JR., A.I.A.  
GEORGE R. KENNADAY, A.I.A.  
GEOFFREY W. FAIRFAX, A.I.A.  
DON E. STOVER, A.I.A.

29 December 1960

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

Gentlemen:

We have today sent off, via Railway Express Air Service, the photographic exhibit supporting Donn Emmons' nomination for Fellowship. We are assured that it should arrive in Washington by noon on December 30.

Sincerely yours,



May B. Hipshman

MBH:eb

Rec'd  
12/31/60

EMMONS, DONN

Chapter Supporters:

Rockrise, George T.	)	
Banwell, Richard S.	)	
Gwathmey, Cabell	)	
Kruse, John W.	:	Proposers
Mullins, Clement A.	)	
Lee, Alton S.	)	
King, John L.	)	

---

Allen, Wm. Stephen, FAIA	Malone, Adrian H.
Bernardi, Theodore C.	Owings, Nathaniel, FAIA
Born, Ernest, FAIA	Reid, John L., FAIA
Clark, Hervey Parke, FAIA	Rodgers, John H.
Dailey, Gardner, FAIA	Warnecke, John C.
DeMars, Vernon	Wong, Worley K.
Esherick, Joseph	Wurster, William W., FAIA

Non-Chapter Supporters:

Armstrong, Harris, FAIA	Kirkwood, Mo.
Blatner, Henry L.	Albany, N.Y.
Cochran, Alexander S.	Baltimore, Mc.
Eggers, Henry L., FAIA	Los Angeles, Calif.
Ford, O'Neil, FAIA	San Antonio, Texas
Haskell, Douglas	New York, N.Y.
Homsey, Samuel E., FAIA	Wilmington, Del.
Jones, A. Quincy, FAIA	Los Angeles, Calif.
Koch, Carl	Cambridge, Mass.
Mackesey, Thomas W., FAIA	Copenhagen, Denmark
Odell, A.G., FAIA	Charlotte, N.C.
Rebori, Andrew N., FAIA	Chicago, Ill.
Risley, W. L., FAIA	Los Angeles, Calif.
Russell, George Vernon, FAIA	" " "
Saarinen, Eero, FAIA	Birmingham, Mich.
Weese, Harry	Chicago, Ill.
Will, Philip, Jr., FAIA	" "
Wright, Henry L., FAIA	Los Angeles, Calif.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



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

February 20, 1961

Mr. Donn Emmons, F.A.I.A.  
202 Green Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Emmons:

The American Institute of Architects desires to confer upon you the honor of Fellowship and membership in the College of Fellows in accord with the action of The Jury of Fellows at its recent meeting, for your notable contribution in Design and Service to The Institute.

The purpose of this letter is to request your presence at the 1961 Convention of The Institute, to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, starting April 24, 1961.

At a special ceremony to be held on the afternoon of Wednesday, April 26, at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, those who have been elected to Fellowship will receive their certificates and medals. Presentation will be with appropriate ceremony and it is highly important that each of the newly-elected Fellows be present.

The Officers of The Institute and The Jury of Fellows join in the request that you come to receive this honor in person. Please send your response to The Octagon at an early date.

The Public Information Department will issue press releases announcing the names and home towns of the newly-elected Fellows. The releases will suggest to editors that they get in touch with local chapters for pictures and biographical information and the new Fellows' architectural accomplishments.

Chapters will be advised of these releases well in advance of their issuance.

Will you please send a 5 x 7 black-and-white, glossy photograph, suitable for newspaper use, together with a short biographical sketch, to the Department of Public Information at Institute headquarters?

Yours sincerely,

J. Roy Carroll, Jr., F.A.I.A.  
Secretary

JRC/g

February 21, 1961

Mr. Donn Emmons, F.A.I.A.  
202 Green Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Mr. Emmons:

At the recent meeting of The Jury of Fellows you were elected to Fellowship in The Institute and membership in The College of Fellows of the A.I.A. for achievements in Design and Service to The Institute.

At the Convention there will be an exhibition of the work of the newly-elected Fellows premiated for Design, and to that end the Jury has had to make a comprehensive, yet as small a selection of your exhibit as possible for this occasion.

Under separate cover your entire exhibit is being returned, and those photographs selected are indicated by pieces of tape and are as follows:

1. Insurance Company of North America (plaza)
2. Admiral Williams' House (walk and porch)
3. Schuman House (elevation of fireplace)

These should be reproduced, in black and white only, to conform with instructions enclosed (see pages 2 and 3) - all on one mount 40" x 40" - and should be forwarded to

E. A. Gallagher & Sons  
(Attention: Mr. Tighe)  
3 North Delaware Avenue - Pier #3  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

marked "Fellowship Exhibit" to be received there not later than April 15, 1961.

The members of the Jury are happy to express their welcome to you in your new status.

Cordially yours,



George Bain Cummings, F.A.I.A., Chairman  
The Jury of Fellows, A.I.A.

Enclosure

Members  
Emmons, Donn

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

February 24, 1961

Mr. Donn Emmons, F.A.I.A.  
202 Green Street  
San Francisco, California

Dear Donn:

Congratulations on your election to Fellowship in The Institute! I am especially pleased, although not surprised, to see that it is both for design and service to The Institute.

I hope that you can attend the Convention and that I can have an opportunity to buy you a drink and reminisce a little.

Sincerely,



J. W. Rankin  
Director  
Staff Administration

JWR:hrs

F  
Members  
Emmons Don

6 March 1961

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

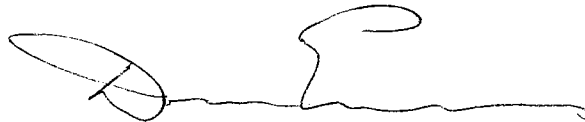
Mr. William H. Scheick, A. I. A.  
Executive Director  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Scheick:

Thank you for your note. I am very pleased to have been selected, and look forward to meeting the new Executive Director at Philadelphia.

Sincerely yours,

*to what*



Donn Emmons



FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

**WURSTER, BERNARDI AND EMMONS, ARCHITECTS**  
202 GREEN STREET, SAN FRANCISCO 11, CALIFORNIA EXBROOK 7-6544  
NEW ADDRESS: 1620 MONTGOMERY STREET

Members  
Emmons,  
Donn

18 April 1961

WILLIAM WILSON, WURSTER, F. A. I. A.  
THEODORE C. BERNARDI, A. I. A.  
DONN EMMONS, A. I. A.

JAMES D. WICKENDEN  
ALBERT ARONSON, A. I. A.  
WILLARD D. RAND, JR., A. I. A.  
GEORGE R. KENNADAY, A. I. A.  
GEOFFREY W. FAIRFAX, A. I. A.  
DON E. STOVER, A. I. A.

Mr. William H. Scheick, A. I. A.  
Executive Director  
The American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Scheick:

Much to my regret, I find that I will not be able to get to Philadelphia for the Convention. It is a real disappointment, especially to miss the Investiture of Fellows. I am sorry, too, that I will not have the pleasure of meeting you.

All good wishes for a most successful Convention.

Cordially yours,



Donn Emmons

DE:eb

RECEIVED  
AUG 27 1981  
NORTHERN CALIF.  
CHAPTER, A. I. A.



# THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

## Application for Membership Emeritus

TO THE SECRETARY,  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

I hereby apply for Membership Emeritus in the Institute for the following reasons :

*(Check the appropriate reason)*

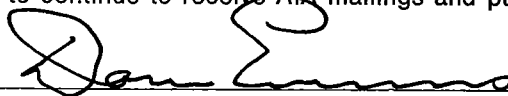
I am unable to practice architecture because \_\_\_\_\_  
Over 70 years of age  
(state nature of incapacitation)

I am receiving full benefits under the Federal Insurance Contributions Act.

I have been in good standing in the Institute and the San Francisco Chapter  
for 15 successive years.

If and when elected to Membership Emeritus, I wish to continue to receive AIA mailings and publica-  
tions Yes  No

Date 27 August 1981

Name   
(written and printed signature)  
Donn Emmons

*Information for applicant:* The applicant may supplement the above reasons on a blank sheet. In exceptional circumstances and for adequate cause, the Secretary of the Institute may lessen the period of good standing but not the other conditions.

Upon election to Membership Emeritus, all rights and privileges of membership, including the use of the title Member Emeritus written in full after the initials "AIA" or "FAIA", as the case may be, remain intact while the member is exempted from further dues payments to the Institute and the member's Chapter and State.

Members Emeriti have the option to remain on the AIA mailing list for \$15 per year to help defray mailing costs. Members Emeriti who do not wish to receive AIA mailings and publications need not pay this mailing charge.

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SEP 14 1981

September 30, 1981

Donn Emmons, FAIA, Member Emeritus  
1620 Montgomery St.  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Dear Mr. Emmons:

It is a pleasure to inform you that your membership classification has been changed to Member Emeritus.

We are grateful for your many years of support and we hope that your participation and interest will continue, even though you are now relieved of further dues payments.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Harry Harmon, FAIA  
Secretary

cc: San Francisco Chapter, AIA  
California Council, AIA

OBITUARIES

9.3.97

Donn Emmons

Architect Donn Emmons, whose designs ranged from redwood houses to Ghirardelli Square, died of congestive heart failure on Monday at his Sausalito home. He would have been 87 years old on October 4.



Mr. Emmons also was part of the design team for Bank of America world headquarters and a design consultant for BART.

His career was inseparable from his association of nearly 50 years with the famous regionalist firm of Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons. Founded in 1926 by William Wurster, who was joined in 1934 by Theodore Bernardi, the firm was already internationally known for its straightforward, unassuming use of wood and respect for natural environment when Mr. Emmons came to the office in 1938.

They formed the partnership which still bears their names after Mr. Emmons, who served for four years as a U.S. Navy gunnery officer in the Pacific, returned to San Francisco in 1945.

Although all three partners continued as active designers, Mr. Emmons was principally responsible for many of their most important commissions. They included the apartments and commercial buildings of the Golden Gateway redevelopment complex in San Francisco and the Capitol Towers project in Sacramento, the Woodlake apartment development in San Mateo, and the planning and design of the new Merritt College campus in the Oakland hills, all done in the 1960s and 1970s.

At the same time, Mr. Emmons did many charming houses and small buildings such as the new Woodside Community Church in 1960, which has adobe walls, and the Mill Valley Public Library in 1966, which is arguably Mr. Emmons' finest accomplishment.

BART named Mr. Emmons its chief architectural consultant in 1964, but he found himself embroiled in controversy when BART's engineers failed to accept his recommendations for careful planning and design.

In particular, the engineers refused to recognize the system's impact on surrounding communities. Accompanied by landscape consultant Lawrence Halprin, Mr. Emmons resigned two years later, enlisting wide public support for his position. His designs for the heroic piers of BART's elevated structures were later honored with awards by the American Institute of Architecture.

Over the years, Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons received more than 100 awards for excellence in design, and Mr. Emmons himself was named a fellow of the AIA in 1954 for "outstanding achievement in design."

In 1984, the AIA honored Mr. Emmons with the Albert John Evers Environmental Award. In 1986, he received a San Francisco Arts Commission Award for "distinguished work and achievement in architecture."

He was also an adviser to the State Department's Office of Foreign Buildings, which is responsible for embassy construction around the world.

He retired from active practice 12 years ago.

Mr. Emmons was born in Olean, N.Y., in 1910. He received

his architectural training at Cornell University from 1928 to 1933, and spent 1934 in architecture school at the University of Southern California. After working four years for Los Angeles firms, he moved permanently to the Bay Area in 1938.

He was married twice, in 1942 to Nancy Pierson Emmons, and in 1960 to Audrey Durland Emmons, who died April 1. He is survived by his daughters, Zetta Emmons of New York and Luli Emmons Graetch of Berkeley; a son, Andrew "Mush" Emmons of Mill Valley; by his brother, Frederick Emmons of Belvedere; and grandchildren, Rory and Anya Graetch.

A memorial gathering will be held on October 4, at 4 p.m. at the Saint Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco. Remembrance gifts may be made to the Mill Valley Public Library Foundation, attention Anne Montgomery, 375 Throckmorton Ave., Mill Valley 94941.

— Allan Tomko