

GOLDEN J. ZENON JR. AIA
advancement
to
fellowship
ACHIEVEMENT IN DESIGN
ACHIEVEMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICE

**GOLDEN'S
Advancement
to
Fellowship**

CATEGORY I ACHIEVEMENT IN DESIGN

- Educational Facilities
- Community Revival/Redevelopment

CATEGORY II ACHIEVEMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICE

SECTION 1. DIGEST OF ACHIEVEMENTS - PART A

GOLDEN JOSEPH ZENON, JR., AIA NEBRASKA SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS March 13, 1929
5302 Raven Oaks Drive, Omaha, NE 68152

Nominated by: NEBRASKA SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS for
Achievements in **DESIGN** and **PUBLIC SERVICE**

Nomination year: 1985

Sponsor: DAVID J. BERINGER, AIA 1306 No. 97th Street Omaha, NE 68114

CATEGORY #1 ACHIEVEMENT IN DESIGN

Educational facility design is Mr. Zenon's first area of interest in his architectural practice. He has designed over sixty (60) learning accommodations.

- His designs span the spectrum of educational facility types. They are known for their:
 - . functional and inspirational attributes
 - . sense of order, spaciousness and beauty
 - . calming influence on student behavior
 - . environment conducive to high learning efficiency
- In his quest to impact man and his environment, he views educational facilities as that area of most powerful influence.
- In his practice, he has extensively and continuously educated himself in Architecture for Education.
- He has developed special programming techniques and planning approaches, extracting information and defining his clients' needs.

In **Community Revival/Redevelopment design**, Mr. Zenon has worked closely with institutions, city planners, community interest groups, private developers and citizens. His efforts emphasized the revival of housing, educational facilities and business redevelopment:

- . His designs include the recycled use of over 100 acres of property in the heart of the blighted inner city area of Omaha, Nebraska.

As an architect, he believes: **"There is no better learning laboratory than the community for observing and evaluating man's needs."**

CATEGORY #2 ACHIEVEMENT IN PUBLIC SERVICE

- As a community leader, Golden serves as a role model of an architect. He has been a consistent example of minority leadership in community restructuring. His perseverance has created awareness of the architect working for the betterment of his community.
- In public service, he has served on many community organizations and institutions. As Secretary of the Omaha Archdiocese Board of Education, Mr. Zenon served as chairperson of a five-member ad hoc committee assigned to research and upgrade the quality of education in the inner city. The results of his group's efforts:
 - . **changed educational curriculum/programs in the area**
 - . **restructured the use of existing educational facilities**
 - . **consolidated/closed schools and opened a new school (Dominican High)**
- Golden is co-founder of Dominican High - the now FATHER FLANAGAN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL (Boys Town Urban Program for high-risk students)
- He is founder of the GOLDEN J. ZENON JR. OPPORTUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND (for gifted and worthy Flanagan High Students).
- He served as the first president of (CAAA) College of Architecture Alumni Association, University of Nebraska. He focused attention to organizational structure, developed a communication network and an identifying mark for the Association.

SECTION 1. DIGEST OF ACHIEVEMENTS - PART B. REFERENCES

GOLDEN JOSEPH ZENON, JR., AIA

Name	Address	Phone Number
1. EUGENE SKINNER Assistant Superintendent Omaha Public Schools	5224 Kansas Ave. Omaha, NE 68104	(402) 571-6746
2. FRANK GIBSON Executive Director Omaha Public Library	12727 W. Dodge Rd. Omaha, NE 68154	(402) 330-2438
3. ARTHUR JOHNSON, FAIA	2641 No. 97 Ave. Omaha, NE 68134	(402) 391-8446
4. CHARLES WILSCAM, AIA	9151 Francis Ave. Omaha, NE 68124	(402) 397-3978
5. GEORGE HAECKER, AIA	716 No. 57th Ave. Omaha, NE 68132	(402) 558-6479
6. JOHN SAVAGE, AIA	5803 Nicholas St. Omaha, NE 68132	(402) 553-6947
7. CECIL STEWART, FAIA Dean of Architectural College University of Nebraska	1250 Aldrich Rd. Lincoln, NE 68510	(402) 472-3592
8. MIKE BOYLE Mayor, City of Omaha, Nebr.	1819 Farnam St. Omaha, NE 68183	(402) 444-5001
9. FATHER JAMES GILG Director/Principal of Boys Town Urban Program	4725 No. 28th St. Omaha, NE 68111	(402) 341-1333
10. CHARLES MCAFEE, FAIA	2600 No. Grove Wichita, KS 67219	(316) 686-2138
11. DR. JOSEPH LUTHER Asst. Dean, College of Architecture University of Nebraska	2545 Lafayette St. Lincoln, NE 68502	(402) 472-3592
12. ROBERT REILLY Professor of Communications University of Nebr. at Omaha	60th and Dodge Omaha, NE 68182	(402) 554-2520
13. WILLIAM BRUBAKER, FAIA Executive Vice President Perkins & Will	2 No. LaSalle Chicago, IL 60602	(312) 977-1100

SECTION 2. NOMINATION

1. Golden J. Zenon, Jr., AIA, of the Nebraska Society of Architects and member of the AIA since
(name of nominee) (chapter assignment)
December 15, 1965, is nominated for Fellowship for notable contribution to the advancement of the profession of
(election date)
architecture in DESIGN and PUBLIC SERVICE
(category -ies; see Principles Underlying Advancement to Fellowship for a complete listing)

The nomination is made by:
(check and sign either A or B)

A. Vote of governing board of Nebraska Society of Architects
(name of component organization)

James W. DeLoughery, AIA - SECRETARY 9/30/83
(signature and title of chapter president or secretary) (date)

B. Individual corporate members and/or Fellows as follows:

Written Signature and Date

Typed Signature and Chapter

Written Signature and Date	Typed Signature and Chapter

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

Name David J. Beringer, AIA
Address 1306 North 97th Street Omaha, NE 68114 Phone Number (402) 391-7475 home
(402) 554-1500 office

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SECTION 3. PROFILE

1. Nominee's name: **Golden Joseph Zenon, Jr., AIA**
2. Nominee's mailing address: **4258 Douglas Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68131**
3. Nominee's firm name and address: **Zenon-Beringer and Associates**
4258 Douglas Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68131
Phone: (402) 554-1500

4. Nominee is registered or licensed to practice architecture in the states or territories of:

Nebraska	#A-558
Iowa	#2236
Kansas	#2502
NCARB Certified	#6144

5. Nominee is engaged in the profession of architecture as:

Design Principal of his own architectural firm.

6. Nominee's date of birth: **March 13, 1929**
7. Place of birth: **Abbeville, Louisiana**
8. Nominee's education:

A. High school, college or university, postgraduate school, etc.

<u>Location</u>	<u>No. of Years</u>	<u>Year of Graduation</u>	<u>Degree</u>
JACK YATES HIGH SCHOOL Houston, Texas	three years	1949	Diploma
SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY Baton Rouge, LA	one year	--	--
UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE Lincoln, Nebraska	five years	1956	Bachelor of Architecture

- B. Scholarships received by nominee:

Minority Academic Scholarship (State of Louisiana) - 1951

9. Other data concerning nominee's record:

HONORS:

- 1955 **AIA SCHOOL MEDAL OF HONOR**
Each year upon graduation, the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska honors a student for General Excellence in Architecture - Golden was recipient in 1955
- 1955 **STUDENT OF THE YEAR**
A special recognition by the faculty
College of Architecture, University of Nebraska
- 1955 **FIRST PLACE DESIGN AWARD**
A Student Design Competition
Sponsored by the Nebraska Home Builder's Association
- 1970 **CERTIFICATE - EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING INSTITUTE**
A program conducted at Stanford University and sponsored by DAVIS, MCCONNELL, RALSTON, former Educational Consultants. Purpose of the program was to educate architects to trends in education, teaching concepts and methods, and planning for ever-changing educational programs
- 1982 **MINORITY BUSINESS MAN OF THE YEAR - Omaha, Nebraska**
- 1984 **SANDI AWARD - State of Nebraska**
(Business Achievement in the Community)
- 1985 **CAAA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD MEDAL**
(Sponsored by the College of Architecture Alumni Assoc., University of Nebraska)
Golden is the first recipient of this coveted award. The award is in recognition of a NEBRASKA ALUMNI ARCHITECT for outstanding contributions in the practice of Architecture.

SECTION 4. DESIGN

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

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>YEAR OF COMPLETION</u>
EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES		
COLLEGE OF NURSING - University of Nebr.	Lincoln, NE	1976
LAW COLLEGE - University of Nebr.	Lincoln, NE	1974
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER - University of Nebraska at Omaha	Omaha, NE	1973
SCIENCE BUILDING - Creighton University	Omaha, NE	1965
OIC VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER	Omaha, NE	1977
TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE	Omaha, NE	1984
BRYAN HIGH SCHOOL	Omaha, NE	1971
BELLEVUE WEST HIGH SCHOOL	Bellevue, NE	1977
FLANAGAN ALTERNATIVE HIGH (Boys Town Urban Program)	Omaha, NE	1983
MURRAY-NEHAWKA JR.-SR. HIGH	Murray, NE	1980
MILLARD NORTH JR. HIGH	Millard, NE	1972
GRACE ABBOTT ELEMENTARY	Millard, NE	1981
LIBRARY FACILITIES		
SWANSON PUBLIC LIBRARY (Suburban area)	Omaha, NE	1964
NORTH BRANCH LIBRARY (Inner city)	Omaha, NE	1972
MEDICAL FACILITIES		
CLARKSON HOSPITAL (2nd Phase)	Omaha, NE	1966
ST. JOHN'S HOSPITAL	Joplin, MO	1963
S.A.C. MILITARY HOSPITAL	Bellevue, NE	1962
OFFICES		
BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD OF NEBRASKA HDQTRS.	Omaha, NE	1968
PHYSICIAN'S MUTUAL INSURANCE HEADQUARTERS	Omaha, NE	1970
HOUSING		
KELLOM HEIGHTS HOUSING REDEVELOPMENT	Omaha, NE	1983
SALEM MANOR HOUSING FOR THE ELDERLY AND THE HANDICAPPED	Omaha, NE	1983
RELIGIOUS		
ST. ELIZABETH ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH	Omaha, NE	1984

SECTION 4. DESIGN

2. Describe the qualities of the nominee's design that are considered notable contributions to the advancement of the profession.

During the 30 years of Golden Zenon's architectural career, he has earned an impressive array of design achievements and accolades. They are due largely to his lifelong commitment to his profession and his pursuit of design excellence.

Although Mr. Zenon's design achievements span most categories of architecture, TWO AREAS emerge as outstanding contributions to the profession.

AREA I: EDUCATIONAL FACILITY DESIGNS

AREA II: COMMUNITY REVIVAL/REDEVELOPMENT DESIGNS

AREA I: EDUCATIONAL FACILITY DESIGNS

CREDO - "In this vast and ever-changing arena, successful planning can be realized only through a team of informed specialists, educators, consultants, architects and engineers."

Through the multitude of details and design criteria involved in the planning process for a particular educational facility, the architect is key. He must have an in-depth understanding of the teaching concepts and Learning programs. He must be as imaginative in the definition of needs as he is creative in design-concepts and in the meticulous handling of technical details.

CONCERNS - Creating for man's learning environment is what Golden does best. This is his strength. He frequently states, however, his inner concerns--"As architects, we must create and do for others what they cannot do for themselves." It can be and is at times, a frightening, stressful, yet rewarding experience. The architect must, in close collaboration with educators, search extensively for purposeful design responses and imageries conducive to learning and therapeutic to human behavior. Many educators have attributed the decrease in discipline problems and vandalism to the innovations of Golden Zenon's architectural genius. His designs reflect order, spaciousness and beauty. They foster respect for property and negate feelings of conflict or tension.

APPROACH - Golden's sensitivity to each client's needs and concerns has been the cornerstone of this notable reputation. To make a significant contribution to the profession, he believes and practices the philosophy that the architect must:

- . educate himself on each project
- . exercise his area of special creative strengths
- . develop a thorough understanding of the client's objectives and requirements for that project

This approach insures purposeful and appropriate design responses for every project functionally and aesthetically.

Golden consistently goes beyond the limits of normal architect-client relationships in seeking the owner's philosophical and emotional needs as they relate to a specific project. **This in-depth perception permeates the project from start to finish through the myriad of design concepts, engineering and construction details.**

CHOICE - The experiences of early childhood and youth influence the growth and development of the individual. Golden Zenon's roots emerged from humble beginnings. He was born the son of a southern share cropper. He walked five miles daily across the fields and dirt roads to a one-room, rural schoolhouse. Attending four different schools (K-12), he struggled through many substandard educational programs.

During World War II, he was out of school for two and one-half years to work on his father's farm. As a minority, he was denied the study of his choice--Architecture, at Louisiana State University. The obstacle he faced prompted his deep interest and commitment to human development. As an architectural student, he vowed "**Architecture for Education would be his major area of emphasis.**"

From his days as an architectural student and throughout his career, he has integrated his personal philosophy and his professional goals--always against a background of a better quality of life. Throughout his professional practice, his commitment has been and remains to **impact man and his environment**, through innovative programs and creative designs. He views educational facilities as one of the most influential contributions of the profession to man's early growth and development.

Golden views the schoolhouse as a child's first home away from home, and it is that "big house" where youth spend one-third of their day learning, playing and developing positive growth patterns. As the Boy Scouts' motto goes, "BE PREPARED" the architect who emphasizes the practice of Architecture for Education must view continuing education as good medicine for "STAYING PREPARED" for this vast and changing field.

SPECIAL STUDIES - In search of recognizing changing philosophies of teaching methodology, in 1970 Golden turned to expanding his horizons and understanding the mission of education. He now holds a Certificate in Educational Environmental Planning from Stanford University. (Golden is the only architect in the State of Nebraska to have completed this program.) **His sacrifice of time and resources in this venture laid the groundwork for his distinguished reputation in the field of educational facility planning and design.**

Today, Golden's vigorous practice in his own firm and in the field, is enhanced through his continual educational efforts as an active member of the (CAE) Committee on Architecture for Education. CAE is an arm of the AIA DESIGN COMMISSION. Its members are practicing architects whose major emphasis is educational facility planning. This product-oriented group shares common problems and experiences across the United States and publishes its findings through the National AIA Office.

HIS DESIGNS AND COMMITMENT - Golden's designs span the spectrum of educational facility types and range widely in magnitude and complexity. His designs include over sixty learning structures; elementary, middle schools, junior high, senior high, jr.-sr. high, specialized schools (Alternative High and Vocational Training Center), and colleges (science, music, nursing, law and technical).

Though Golden has received recognition, achievements, and many awards in his field of special emphasis, one stands above all and is exemplary of Golden Zenon (the person/the community worker/the professional):

FATHER FLANAGAN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL
Boys Town's Urban Program

Background - This facility (photo nos. 1, 2, and 3) stands as a result of Golden's efforts as a member of the Board of Education of the Omaha Archdiocese Catholic School System 48,000 student population).

In this capacity, in 1968 he served as chairperson of a five-member ad hoc research committee charged with improving the quality of education in the blighted, impoverished Inner City of Omaha. In this position, Golden influenced the:

- . consolidation and closing of schools, enhancing learning programs and financial affordability
- . opening of a new school with an innovative program viable to the area (a second chance school for poverty youths not previously successful in schooling, the school DOMINICAN HIGH was originated by the Dominican Sisters).

In 1980, the successful program threatened by an extension of the interstate highway system through the city, was assumed by FATHER FLANAGAN'S BOYS' HOME. The new facility designed by Mr. Zenon opened its doors in 1983. It is relocated in the heart of the inner city on a 20 acre site of recycled property (formerly a blighted, residential area).

The new school is Boys Town's Urban Program for high-risk youths burdened with one or more of six core problems: school failure and truancy - teen pregnancy and parenthood - chemical dependency and alcohol abuse - unemployment and lack of career planning - juvenile delinquency.- personal and family health problems. It offers a four-year program with social services to reinforce youth and family development. Because of its success in dealing with the problems of youth, it has also become a magnet for troubled youth from suburban areas.

The design of the New Flanagan High

- . mirrors Mr. Zenon's commitment and personal involvement in the school program for troubled youth.
- . communicates the excitement in the dreams of the original Dominican High - He profoundly believes in the abilities of young people, despite poverty and neglect, to rise above prevailing obstacles. Such abilities are strengthened when youths are aware of their self-worth and dignity.
- . reflects his belief that his building would communicate that self-worth to the occupants engaged in activities within its walls - Mr. Zenon frequently expressed during the design process that **"The new school would tell the troubled student who walks in its doors that here is a place to be, recognizing the beauty within a person and the potential barely beneath the surface"**.
- . provides therapy for troubled youth who find it difficult to deal with the stress and conflicts their lives bring them - The calming effects of the sweeping lines, warm natural materials and stimulating colors have made a difference in student behavior and respect for property. Those who have worked in the program for years testify to the changed and improved atmosphere in the new building.

The realization of the new school (an investment in people) is testimony to the dignity of the neighborhood residents who have lived and struggled in the inner city all of their lives. Mr. Zenon often commented that articulation and delineation of the building interiors invites people to respond in their most dignified and proper fashion. There was considerable debate about placing the new Father Flanagan High School in an area that had seen much past deterioration and strife. Some were fearful that local residents would vandalize the building and become a bothersome to the coming and going of the students and faculty. Their fears have not been realized and a great deal of the credit goes to Mr. Zenon and his ability to design the building and its setting in such a way that inappropriate activity is automatically discouraged.

The new Father Flanagan High School is a sign of hope and dignity to the people of north Omaha and the alienated youth of all parts of the City of Omaha. Its role as a servant to the community is fulfilled both by the activities that happen within and also by the aesthetic power of its structural beauty. Mr. Zenon has designed a landmark school house. It will inspire architects and educational planners for years to come.

Aspirations of Flanagan High students are consistently raised. To further motivate disadvantaged youth, Mr. Zenon has founded:

"the GOLDEN J. ZENON, JR. OPPORTUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND".

It is publicly known as the "GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FUND".

AREA II: COMMUNITY REVIVAL/REDEVELOPMENT DESIGNS

"The architect has that unique body of knowledge. His special visions and insights can instill and influence a renewed sense of hope, order and place in the destiny of our communities."

Through community involvements, Mr. Zenon influenced the revival of large blighted areas within the Inner City of Omaha, Nebraska. His designs involving the recycling of over 100 acres of land in the heart of the inner city include:

Photos

- 8,9,10 . a 132-unit apartment complex - KELLOM KNOLL APARTMENTS constructed on a knoll, the design reflects preservation of the existing terrain and vegetation
- . 99 units of scattered site inner city, infill housing for the poor - OMAHA HOUSING AUTHORITY
 - . 50 units of housing for the elderly and handicapped
 - . 49 units of downtown deluxe condominiums - the conversion and restoration of a former hotel/retail complex by a private developer
- 1,2,3 . an ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL for high-risk students
Father Flanagan High - Boys Town Urban Program
- 14,15 . a new community library - NORTH BRANCH, Omaha Public Library System - former dilapidated houses were removed and replaced by this facility
- . a technical training center, OMAHA OPPORTUNITIES INDUSTRIALIZATION CENTER - a manpower program for the unemployed and underemployed
- 4,5,6,7 . the revival of a former military installation, FORT OMAHA, into a TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE - existing structures were modified for adaptive reuse/a new multi-instructional facility was added/the design concept was influenced by existing structures (some listed on the Register of Historical Places)
- . a new shopping complex - KELLOM VALLEY - the removal of a former business area into a neighborhood business development

SECTION 4. PUBLIC SERVICE

1. List the offices and committees in civic organizations and voluntary governmental positions occupied by the nominee and the period each was held.

OFFICE OR COMMITTEE AND ITS ORIGIN	FROM	TO
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE		
Member - AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS	1965	to present
Member - NEBRASKA SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS	1965	to present
Member - NEBRASKA AIA FOUNDATION	1983	to present
Member - BD. OF DIR. - UNIV. OF NEBR. ALUMNI ASSOC. (National representative for the College of Architecture)	1982	to present
President - (CAAA) COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - University of Nebraska	1982	to 1984
Member - (CAE) COMMITTEE ON ARCHITECTURE FOR EDUCATION (a committee of the AIA Design Commission)	1982	to present
Member - BUILDING BOARD OF REVIEW (Architect representative - City of Omaha)	1979	to 1981
Treasurer/BD. OF DIR. - AIA, OMAHA CHAPTER	1978	to 1982
President - JOINT COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE (State of Nebraska - Architects/Engineers)	1973	to 1976
COMMUNITY SERVICE - CITY OF OMAHA		
Member - BD. OF DIR. - BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD OF NEBR. (represents the community at large)	1968	to present
Member - ADVISORY COUNCIL - BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA (Mid-America Council)	1968	to present
Chairman - BOY SCOUTS TROOP #390	1964	to 1968
Member - BOARD OF ADVISORS - MADONNA SCHOOL (school for exceptional children)	1973	to 1980
Member - PRESIDENT'S COUNCIL - COLLEGE OF ST. MARY	1972	to 1975
Member - CATHOLIC COMMISSION FOR HUMAN RELATIONS	1967	to 1970
Member - CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF EDUCATION	1966	to 1968
Secretary - OMAHA ARCHDIOCESE BOARD OF EDUCATION (an umbrella decision-making body for Omaha Catholic school system)	1967	to 1972
Board Member - WOODSON CENTER (National Settlement house for inner city youth)	1959	to 1967
Chairman - FRONTIERS OF AMERICA (a national service club for minorities)	1959	to 1964

SECTION 4. DESIGN

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

PROJECT		AWARD
EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES		
COLLEGE OF NURSING - College of Medicine University of Nebraska	Omaha, NE	AIA State
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER University of Nebraska	Omaha, NE	AIA State
BOYS TOWN ORIENTATION CENTER	Boystown, NE	AIA State
FLANAGAN ALTERNATIVE HIGH (Boys Town Urban Program)	Omaha, NE	AS&U Citation AASA Nat'l Citation ASBO Cert. of Merit Mayor's Award for Design Excellence
BRYAN HIGH SCHOOL - Omaha Public System	Omaha, NE	AIA State/AASA Nat'l.
BURKE HIGH SCHOOL - Omaha Public System	Omaha, NE	AASA National
BELLEVUE HIGH SCHOOL	Bellevue, NE	AASA National
MURRAY-NEHAWKA JR.-SR. HIGH SCHOOL	Murray, NE	AASA National
NATHAN HALE JR. HIGH SCHOOL	Omaha, NE	AASA National
MILLARD NORTH JR. HIGH SCHOOL	Millard, NE	AASA National
HOLLING HEIGHTS ELEMENTARY	Millard, NE	AASA National
J. STERLING MORTON ELEMENTARY	Millard, NE	AASA National
MEADOWS ELEMENTARY	Ralston, NE	AASA National
WAVERLY ELEMENTARY	Waverly, NE	AASA National
GRACE ABBOTT ELEMENTARY	Millard, NE	AASA National
OIC VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER	Omaha, NE	AASA National
METROTECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE LIBRARY	Omaha, NE	AASA National
LIBRARY FACILITIES		
SWANSON LIBRARY, Omaha Public System	Omaha, NE	AIA/ALA/ABA National
NORTH BRANCH LIBRARY, Omaha Public System	Omaha, NE	AIA State, AIA Regional, AIA/ALA/ABA National
PIERRE PUBLIC LIBRARY	Pierre, SD	AIA State
MEDICAL FACILITIES		
JOHNSON CLINIC	Omaha, NE	AIA State
OFFICES		
BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD	Omaha, NE	AIA State
PHYSICIANS MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.	Omaha, NE	AIA State

SECTION 4. PUBLIC SERVICE

2. Describe the nominee's specific achievements in the field of public service that are considered notable contributions to the advancement of the profession.

"A community is a vital segment of a society. An architect's unselfish involvement in service to the public is a significant balancing force structuring man's physical environment and the quality of life imposed by its leaders."

Community Leader - In community affairs, Golden has served as a role model of an architect in action. Perplexed by the ills of society and social disorders of the late 1960's and early 1970's, he created an awareness of an architect working for his community's betterment. He focused his attention on the people of the inner city, especially the young, poor, disadvantaged, and unemployed. He worked to improve the quality of life, the educational system and the fiber of the infrastructure.

Professional and Public Service - Golden Zenon's professional and community service lives have been closely linked in special ways. He believes that architects possess that fertile body of knowledge which fulfills a unique role in the decision-making process of our community. He believes that the architect's role is a vital balancing force in forming the destiny of our physical environment. Decisions must be weighed, measured and controlled; especially as they affect the way of life in our ever-changing inner cities.

He has worked to promote active involvement in educational programs through leadership roles with his local AIA Chapter and other professional service organizations.

In 1982, Golden served as the first president of the newly formed (CAAA), College of Architecture Alumni Association, a constituent of the University of Nebraska Alumni System. Elated by the formation of CAAA, his enthusiasm generated overwhelming support from his fellow alumni. Under his able leadership, he focused the Board of Directors efforts to:

- . the organizational structure and bylaws
- . increasing membership
- . developing a communication network uniting fellow alumni across the country
- . developing an identifying mark that would be the COMMUNICATOR of the Association, expressing its unique personality

In addition, a CAAA Logo graphic design competition, sponsored by the Association, was conducted between all alumni of the College. The winning design has been copyrighted and transformed into a **Silver Medallion**. Viewed as a treasured medal, it will be periodically bestowed on a Nebraska Architect as a CAAA **DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD** in recognition of outstanding contributions to architecture, planning or the allied design arts.

Community Revival/Redevelopment - A Commitment - Golden has made dramatic and significant impact on his community through his profession. His design work and community involvement were instrumental in eradicating large sections of blighted areas in the Inner City of Omaha, Nebraska. Through his work efforts on community-oriented committees, Golden has influenced the recycling use of over 100 square acres of deteriorated inner city property, generating new housing, educational facilities, and commercial redevelopment.

His creative community design concepts foster a new order of buildings to open spaces. Such redevelopments have been the catalyst in the area for a better quality of life, new birth of pride, and a new tax support base.

School Realignment/Co-founder - Of all his public service, the most significant contribution came in 1968 as a lay board member of the Archdiocese Board of Education for the Omaha Catholic school system. In this role, he represented the Inner City of Omaha, a blighted area plagued by a retrogressing educational curriculum. As Chairperson of a five-member team, he directed a study and realignment of the Catholic schools in the area. The study resulted in:

- 1) the closing of three elementary schools
- 2) the consolidation of two other elementary schools
- 3) the implementation of a program called "Project Excellence", emphasizing tutorial and home/school activities to uplift and maintain "quality elementary education"
- 4) the closing of a traditional Catholic high school (Sacred Heart), and the opening of a new school with a more viable program - It was then referred to as an Ungraded High School. Its programs were oriented to the needs of inner city, troubled youth. The new school, initiated by the Dominican Sisters, was named DOMINICAN HIGH.

As Co-founder of the new school, Golden conducted a fast-track, adaptive reuse design/construction effort to initiate the program.

In 1980, the fate of the highly successful program, threatened by the extension of an arm of the interstate highway system, was assumed by Father Flanagan's Boys' Home. It is now known as FLANAGAN ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL (Boys Town's Urban Program in Omaha, Nebraska). At the start of the school's fifteenth year (1983/84), the program is housed in a new \$8 million complex designed by Mr. Zenon and his firm. It is located in the heart of the inner city, on 20 acres of recycled property (formerly a dilapidated residential area with 80 percent vacant lots impacted with weeds). The school is one of its kind in the United States. It is the only known alternative high school that is not an adaptive reuse structure.

In 1985, Mr. Zenon founded:

THE GOLDEN J. ZENON, JR. OPPORTUNITY ENDOWMENT FUND

. To provide gifted and worthy students of Father Flanagan Alternative High School with an opportunity to expand their career horizons. The fund is known as the "Golden Opportunity Fund."

Administrator - Creator - Good Citizen - Finally, Golden's commitment is total...to his community and to his profession. While some architects, after more than a quarter of a century in their field, turn more to the administrative side of the profession, Golden continues to utilize his design strengths in an ongoing quest of upgrading the physical environment through unselfish service and design excellence.

SECTION 4. PUBLIC SERVICE

3. List the significant awards, honors and recognition accorded by the Institute and other professional, governmental or civic organizations for the nominee's work in public service.

HONORS:

- 1970 **CERTIFICATE - EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT PLANNING INSTITUTE**
A program conducted at Stanford University and sponsored by DAVIS, MCCONNEL, RALSTON, former Educational Consultants. Purpose of the program was to educate architects to trends in education, teaching concepts and methods, and planning for ever-changing educational programs
- 1982 **MINORITY BUSINESS MAN OF THE YEAR - Omaha, Nebraska**
- 1984 **SANDI AWARD - State of Nebraska**
(Business Achievement and Community Involvement)
- 1985 **CAAA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD MEDAL**
(Sponsored by the College of Architecture Alumni Assoc., U. of Nebraska)
Golden is the first recipient of this coveted award. The award is in recognition of a NEBRASKA ARCHITECT for outstanding contributions in the practice of Architecture.