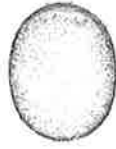


*Pro Will
Awards + Medals
Gold medals
Nominations*



FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MORRIS KETCHUM, JR., F.A.I.A.
DIRECTOR, NEW YORK REGION
227 EAST 44TH STREET
NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK

September 5, 1961

Mr. Philip Will, Jr., F.A.I.A., President
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Phil:

The enclosed letter to the Executive Committee nominating the late Eero Saarinen, F.A.I.A. for the posthumous award of The Institute's Gold Medal speaks for itself but I would like to add that it is intended, in accordance with the new Rules of The Board, for consideration by the Executive Committee at its "regular meeting immediately prior to the Annual Board Meeting."

I will submit supporting biographical and illustrative material on Eero's career as soon as possible and in time for its consideration by The Board.

My purpose in submitting the nomination at this time is simply to put on record, as soon as possible, my deep conviction that Eero Saarinen is now the most appropriate and worthy candidate for this award and that The Institute should immediately show its appreciation for all that he accomplished in a comparatively short lifetime.

I know that there are other worthy candidates who are under consideration but I sincerely believe that the Neutras and the Nervis must bow to circumstance and wait their turn.

Sincerely,

Morris Ketchum, Jr., F.A.I.A.
Director
New York Region, A.I.A.

MKjr:vs

cc: See Page Two

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September 5, 1961

Mr. Philip Will, Jr., F.A.I.A., President
The American Institute of Architects

Page Two

cc: Henry Lyman Wright, F.A.I.A., First Vice President
James M. Hunter, F.A.I.A., Second Vice President
J. Roy Carroll, Jr., F.A.I.A., Secretary
Raymond S. Kastendieck, F.A.I.A., Treasurer
William H. Scheick, A.I.A., Executive Director
Directors: Arthur Gould Odell, Jr., F.A.I.A.
Daniel A. Hopper, Jr., A.I.A.
Linn Smith, A.I.A.
Clinton E. Brush, III, A.I.A.
Harry C. Weller, A.I.A.



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*From [unclear]
Awards + Medals
Gold Medal
Nominations*

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MORRIS KETCHUM, JR., F.A.I.A.
DIRECTOR, NEW YORK REGION
227 EAST 44th STREET
NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK

September 5, 1961

The Executive Committee
of The Board of Directors
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Gentlemen:

The untimely and tragic death of Eero Saarinen is a great loss to his friends, to the architectural profession and to contemporary architecture.

Always a brilliant explorer of form and structure, the inspiring freshness and vitality of his projects, boldly conceived and brilliantly detailed, give the lie to those stylists who claim that today's architecture must follow some set formula.

One has only to consider the vast range of both his executed work and the many projects now under construction to appreciate the unique scope of his talent. The American embassies in Oslo and London; The Concordia Senior College at Fort Wayne, Indiana; the Auditorium and Chapel at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; the David S. Ingalls Hockey Rink and the Morse and Stiles Colleges at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut; the International Business Machines Center at Yorktown, New York; the Trans World Airlines Terminal at New York International Airport, Idlewild, New York; the Dulles International Airport near Washington, D. C. and the General Motors Technical Center at Warren, Michigan, read like a roll call of honor in American Architecture.

I therefore propose, first, to the Executive Committee of The Board and second, to the entire Board of Directors of The American Institute of Architects, that The Institute honor his achievements and his memory by the posthumous award of the Gold Medal, our highest award for achievement in architecture.

In making this nomination, I have in mind that The Institute has already

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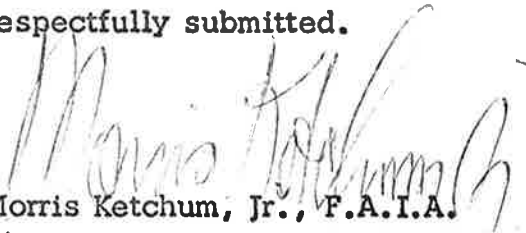
September 5, 1961

The Executive Committee
of The Board of Directors
The American Institute of Architects

Page Two

honored the great pioneers of contemporary design -- Sullivan, Wright,
Mies, Gropius, LeCorbusier -- and that the time has now come to recognize
the native genius of a leader of the next generation of architectural pioneers
--- Eero Saarinen.

Respectfully submitted.



Morris Ketchum, Jr., F.A.I.A.
Director
New York Region, A.I.A.

MKjr:vs

September 5, 1961

The Executive Committee
of The Board of Directors
The American Institute of Architects

Page Three

cc: Philip Will, Jr., F.A.I.A., President
Henry Lyman Wright, F.A.I.A., First Vice President
James M. Hunter, F.A.I.A., Second Vice President
J. Roy Carroll, Jr., F.A.I.A., Secretary
Raymond S. Kastendieck, F.A.I.A., Treasurer
William H. Scheick, A.I.A., Executive Director
Directors: Arthur Gould Odell, Jr., F.A.I.A.
Daniel A. Hopper, Jr., A.I.A.
Linn Smith, A.I.A.
Clinton E. Brush, III, A.I.A.
Harry C. Weller, A.I.A.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, N. W.

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MORRIS KETCHUM, JR., F.A.I.A.
DIRECTOR, NEW YORK REGION
227 EAST 44TH STREET
NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK

MR

December 18, 1961

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 Bill:

I am sending you under separate cover a complete portfolio containing the biography and visual material of the late Eero Saarinen, F.A.I.A. for consideration of the Board of Directors at their January meeting.

rec'd and sent to MR

Sincerely,

Morris Ketchum, Jr., F.A.I.A.
Director
New York Region, A.I.A.

MKjr:vs



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, N. W.

WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

MORRIS KETCHUM, JR., F.A.I.A.
DIRECTOR, NEW YORK REGION
227 EAST 44TH STREET
NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK

JAK

December 26, 1961

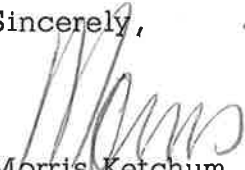
Mr. William H. Scheick, A.I.A.
Executive Director
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Re: Saarinen Nomination

Dear Bill:

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the New York State Association of Architects held in New York City on December 16, 1961, the Board unanimously endorsed my nomination of Eero Saarinen, F.A.I.A. for the posthumous award of the Gold Medal of The Institute. You will shortly receive a letter from the Association confirming this.

Sincerely,


Morris Ketchum, Jr., F.A.I.A.
Director
New York Region, A.I.A.

MKjr:vs

cc: Mr. Philip Will, Jr., F.A.I.A.



WESTCHESTER CHAPTER

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE
OF ARCHITECTS, INC.

Jane

DONALD H. NEWMAN *President*
180 South Broadway White Plains, N.Y.

P. COMPTON MILLER, JR. *Vice President*
7 Midland Gardens Bronxville, N.Y.

FRANKLYN L. GEIFFERT *Secretary*
Main Street Armonk, N.Y.

BRUCE HARTWIGSEN *Treasurer*
100 Cooper Drive New Rochelle, N.Y.

3 January 1962

Jane

Mr. William H. Scheick
The Octagon
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Scheick:

I am in receipt of a letter from Morris Ketchum, Jr., FAIA, dated September 5th 1961, in which he proposes that the AIA Gold Medal be posthumously awarded to Eero Saarinen in 1962.

At the Westchester Chapter Board of Directors meeting held last evening, this matter was discussed, and I am pleased to inform you that Mr. Ketchum's recommendation has the support and endorsement of the majority of our Chapter's Board of Directors.

Best wishes to you and your staff for the new year.

Sincerely,

Millard F. Whiteside

Millard F. Whiteside

MFW/cwh
cc: Mr. Morris Ketchum, Jr.

Jane D

*ARR
MSD
is this Matt's decision
Please be sure of directing it.*

Buffalo-Western New York Chapter, Inc.



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

OFFICERS

GUY H. BALDWIN PRESIDENT
MILTON MILSTEIN VICE PRESIDENT
MORTIMER J. MURPHY, JR. SEC.-TREAS.

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HERBERT G. SMITH 1959-1962
ROBERT J. STOLL 1960-1963
CHARLES I. THIELE 1960-1963
EDWARD B. REED 1961-1964
JOHN N. HIGHLAND 1961-1964

January 5, 1962

*I believe this must be on record for this Board Meeting
Action
WHS*

Note a similar letter is directed to JWR.

Mr. Morris Ketchum, Jr.
227 East 44th Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Ketchum:

The Buffalo-Western New York Chapter fully endorses your proposal that the Institute honor the achievements and the memory of Eero Saarinen by the award post-humously of the Gold Medal for Achievement in Architecture.

Yours truly,

Mortimer J. Murphy, Jr.
Secretary-Treasurer
Buffalo-Western New York Chapter

MJMjr/ef

cc: Mr. William H. Scheich

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Jane

NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS, INC.

THE STATE ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

OXford 7-8866
Suite 1203

441 LEXINGTON AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

JOSEPH F. ADDONIZIO
Executive Director

January 8, 1962

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FREDERICK H. VOSS
230 Park Avenue
New York 17, N. Y.

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S. ELMER CHAMBERS
205 Harrison Street
Syracuse 2, N. Y.

Second Vice President

SIMEON HELLER
38-11 Union Street
Flushing 54, N. Y.

Third Vice President

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900 Powers Building
Rochester 14, N. Y.

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Brooklyn Chapter, AIA
Brooklyn Society
Buffalo-W.N.Y. Chapter, AIA
Central New York Chapter, AIA
Eastern New York Chapter, AIA
L. I. Society Chapter, AIA
New York Chapter, AIA
New York Society
Queens Chapter, AIA
Rochester Society
Staten Island Chapter, AIA
Syracuse Society
Westchester Chapter, AIA

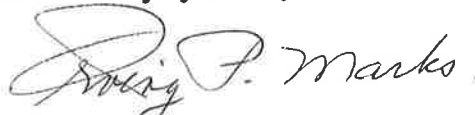
Mr. William H. Scheick, AIA
Executive Director, AIA
1735 New York Avenue NW
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Scheick:

I have the pleasure to transmit to you, in behalf of the Board of Directors of the New York State Association of Architects, the enclosed Resolution adopted at the meeting of the Board held in New York City on December 16, 1961, recommending the posthumous award for the Gold Medal of the Institute to Eero Saarinen, FAIA.

Kindly present this Resolution to the Institute Board of Directors for consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Irving P. Marks
Secretary, NYSAA

IPM:a
Enc.

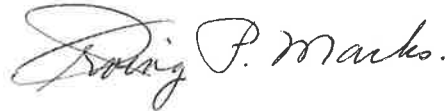
NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTS, INC.

RESOLUTION -- Gold Medal Award for Eero Saarinen, FAIA

RESOLVED, at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the New York State Association of Architects, held in New York City on December 16, 1961, having been informed by Regional Director Morris Ketchum, Jr., FAIA, of his nomination of the late Eero Saarinen, FAIA, for the posthumous award of the Gold Medal of the Institute, hereby unanimously endorses and supports Director Ketchum's nomination, and expresses the hope that the Board of Directors, AIA, will give its favorable consideration.

Adopted by the Board of Directors
New York State Association of Architects

Attested by -- Irving P. Marks
Secretary, NYSAA



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

File



*Miss Dougherty
Awards & Medals
Gold Medal
Nominations
Saarinen*

THE CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER
OF
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
Chapter Incorporated 1954

ONE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

January 9, 1962

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

Dear Mr. Scheick:

I have been informed that Mr. Morris Ketchum, Regional Director, has nominated Eero Saarinen for a "Posthumous Gold Medal Award" in the American Institute of Architects, to be given at the Dallas Convention in May. This is to inform you that the Board of Directors of the Central New York Chapter, A.I.A. endorse this nomination and only wish it could have been made prior to Mr. Saarinen's untimely death.

Sincerely,

Harry A. King

Harry A. King, President
Central New York Chapter, A.I.A.

HAK:mg

cc: Mr. Darrel D. Rippeteau
Mr. Morris Ketchum



NEW YORK CHAPTER

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Miss Dougherty

January 9, 1962

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

Dear Mr. Scheick:

We understand that the name of Eero Saarinen is being considered by the Institute for award of the Gold Medal for 1962.

It is our pleasure to write to you on behalf of the Executive Committee of the New York Chapter AIA to urge the Committee's consideration of such action. The chapter has already voted to bestow its own highest honor, the Medal of Honor, upon him posthumously in February.

May we urge you to forward this recommendation to the Committee as we feel that this highest professional honor should go posthumously to Eero Saarinen at this time.

Very truly yours,

Frederick J. Woodbridge

F. J. Woodbridge
President

FJW:gb



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 New York Avenue, N.W. • Washington 6, D. C. • EXecutive 3-7050

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 1962

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Eero Saarinen, the Finnish-born American architect who died last September 1 at the age of 51, has been awarded posthumously the 1962 Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects.

Other world famous architects who received the coveted AIA Gold Medal include Eero's father Eliel Saarinen who won it in 1947, Frank Lloyd Wright (1949), Clarence S. Stein (1956), Walter Gropius (1959), Mies van der Rohe (1960, and Le Corbusier (1961).

Eero Saarinen came to this country with his family in 1923 when he was thirteen years old. The family soon settled in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, where the elder Saarinen designed the buildings for the Cranbrook Academy of Art.

After graduation from high school, Eero Saarinen studied sculpture at the Academie de la Grande Chaumiere in Paris during 1929 to 1930. He entered the School of Architecture at Yale University in 1931, graduating with high honors three years later. The next two years were spent traveling in Europe on the Charles O. Matcham Fellowship.

From 1937 until the death of the elder Saarinen in 1950, father and son worked in close association. Thereafter Eero Saarinen launched his own firm which was just in the process of moving from Bloomfield Hills to Hamden, Connecticut, when he succumbed to a malignant brain tumor.

(MORE)

Father and son Saarinen both submitted separate entries for the competition for the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial for St. Louis, Missouri, in 1948. The younger man won and the memorial, a soaring stainless steel arch, is now under construction.

Among Eero Saarinen's other still to be completed buildings are the Dulles International Airport in Washington, D.C., the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City, and the Trans World Airlines' terminal building at Idlewild International Airport, New York.

Among Eero Saarinen's best known completed buildings are: the Stephens College Chapel, Columbia, Mo. (1954); the General Motors Technical Center, Warren, Michigan (1954); the auditorium and chapel for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1955); the campus for Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Indiana (1958); the David S. Ingalls Skating Rink, Yale University (1958); and the U.S. embassies in Oslo and London (1960).

Eero Saarinen strove to give each of his buildings a distinct and dramatic character. "Our architecture," he has said, "is too humble. It should be prouder, much richer and larger than we see it today. I would like to do my part in expanding that richness."

In addition to his buildings, Saarinen has designed several pieces of furniture manufactured by Knoll Associates. In 1940, in association with Charles Eames, he won two first prizes in the furniture competition of the New York Museum of Modern Art.

Noting that "even the most modern room is a slum of legs", he designed the now famous one-legged pedestal-based line of chairs, dining tables and coffee tables.

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The late Eero Saarinen, FAIA, awarded the AIA Gold Medal posthumously, 1962



Opening of exhibition of post-war Finnish architecture at the American Institute of Architects
new galleries in The Octagon House, Washington, D. C., November 1955.

Left to right: Mrs. John Pope, Director of Smithsonian Institution's Traveling Exhibition
Iiro Tukdila, architect from Helsinki
Mrs. Eero Saarinen
Eero Saarinen

Publ

DO NOT SEND

LAST COPY

EERO SAARINEN - Biographical Data

PERKINS
& WILL

APR 27 1962

Eero Saarinen, son of Eliel and Loja Gesellius Saarinen, was born in Kirkkonummi, Finland in 1910. In 1923 he came with his family to the United States, of which he was a naturalized citizen. In 1939 he married Lillian Swann, a sculptress, from whom he was divorced in 1953. In 1954 he married Aline B. Louchheim, associate art critic of The New York Times. He has three children: Eric, born 1942; Susan, born 1945 and Eames, born 1954.

He was principal partner in the firm of Eero Saarinen and Associates, 1300 North Woodward Avenue, Birmingham, Michigan.

Education:

Bachelor of Fine Arts, Yale University, School of Architecture, 1934
Charles O. Matcham Fellowship for European Travel, 1934-36

Honors, etc.:

Honorary Degree of Master of Arts, Yale University, 1949
Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, Valparaiso University, 1959
Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities, Wayne University, 1961
Honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering, Technischen Hochschule, Hannover, 1961

Fellow, American Institute of Architects, 1952
Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Letters, 1960
Member, National Academy of Design, 1954
Member, Society of Architectural Historians, 1959

Competitions:

Eero Saarinen with Associates won the three major national architectural competitions held between 1935 and 1956 and second prize in a major invited international competition in 1960:

- Smithsonian Gallery of Art for Washington, D. C., 1939
- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial for St. Louis, Mo., 1948
- U. S. Embassy (Chancery Building) for London, England, 1956.
- World Health Organization Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland (2nd prize)

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Architectural Awards:

First Honor Award, National Awards Program, American Institute of Architects, 1953
for Engineering Staff Building, General Motors Technical Center

First Honor Award, National Awards Program, American Institute of Architects, 1955
for Restaurant, General Motors Technical Center

First Honor Award, National Awards Program, American Institute of Architects, 1955
for Dining Hall and Dormitories, Drake University

(These were two top honor awards given out of five in 1955)

First Honor Award, Detroit Chapter Program, American Institute of Architects, 1955
for Restaurant, General Motors Technical Center

First Honor Award, Detroit Chapter Program, American Institute of Architects, 1955
for Dining Hall and Dormitories, Drake University

(These were two top honor awards given out of four in 1955)

First Honor Award in Education Category, Progressive Architecture Design Awards
Program, 1956, for Concordia Senior College

Elias Carter Award, Central Mass. Chapter of American Institute of Architects, 1959
for David S. Ingalls Hockey Rink

First Honor Award, National Awards Program, American Institute of Architects, 1959
for Concordia Senior College

Honor Award, Chicago Chapter Program, American Institute of Architects, and the
Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry, 1960
for Law School, University of Chicago

Citation for Civic Art, Municipal Art League of Chicago, 1960
for Law School, University of Chicago

Silver Medal, The Architectural League of New York, 1960
for the United States Embassy - Oslo, Norway

First Honor Award, National Awards Program, American Institute of Architects, 1960
for United States Embassy - Oslo, Norway

Early Works:

Prior to the death of his father, the late Eliel Saarinen, Eero Saarinen collaborated with his father on the following work:

First Christian Church, Columbus, Indiana - 1939

Crow Island School, Winnetka, Illinois - 1939 -

Antioch College, Yellow Springs, Ohio

Campus Plan - 1946

Dormitory Building - 1947

Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts

Campus Plan - 1948

Dormitory Building - 1949

Dining & Social Building - 1950

Berkshire Music Center, Lenox, Massachusetts

Opera Shed - 1940

Christ Church Lutheran, Minneapolis, Minnesota - 1949

Completed Buildings:

Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa

Science and Pharmacy Building - 1949

Dormitories and Dining Hall - 1953

Bible School - 1955

Chapel, Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri - 1954

** General Motors Technical Center, Warren, Michigan - 1954

A \$68,000,000, 320-acre project, involving complete planning and design of 17 major structures and subsidiary buildings, for General Motors most advanced research.

Auditorium and Chapel, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge - 1955

On a self-contained plaza, an auditorium seating 1200, covered by a dome of thin shell concrete construction, and a small brick chapel.

Irwin-Union Bank and Trust Company, Columbus, Indiana - 1956

A modern bank for a small town.

* Milwaukee County War Memorial Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin - 1957

Veterans administration, meeting and banquet rooms and an art gallery, part of a larger plan for a new cultural center.

continued.....

Irwin Miller residence, Columbus, Indiana - 1957

- * **Concordia Senior College, Fort Wayne, Indiana - 1958**
Complete campus planning and design of all buildings for a new college commissioned by the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church, for 450 pre-ministry students.
- * **David S. Ingalls Skating Rink, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut - 1958**
An arena of dramatic form and structure seating 3000.

Women's Residence Hall, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York - 1958
A modern dormitory in harmony with campus traditions.

Administration and Manufacturing, International Business Machines Corp., Rochester, Minnesota - 1958

- * **U. S. Embassy Office Building, Oslo, Norway - 1959**
The office building for the U. S. Embassy in Norway, the job awarded under the Foreign Buildings Operation program.

University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois
Womens Residence Halls - 1959
Law School - 1960
Campus Plan Consultant

- * **U. S. Embassy Chancery Building, London, England - 1960**
The most important Embassy building designed for the U. S. Department of State.

Women's Residence Hall, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. - 1960
A modern building providing gracious living facilities on a crowded urban campus.

- * **Research Center, I. B. M. Corp., Yorktown, New York - 1961**
A headquarters research center for this corporation.

Now Under Construction:

Morse and Stiles Colleges, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
Two new colleges for Yale, designed with an emphasis on individuality of student living. Called "polygonal citadels," these colleges use masonry in a new technological way to make buildings harmonious with the neo-Gothic neighbors. Scheduled for completion Summer of 1962.

continued.....

Research Center, Bell Laboratories, Inc., Holmdel, New Jersey

A new concept in laboratory and office design for the large and expanding research center of Bell Laboratories. Scheduled for completion November, 1961.

- * **Trans World Airlines, Terminal Building, Idlewild Airport, New York, N. Y.**
A thin shell vault for a new terminal, which expresses the drama of flight and excitement of travel. Scheduled for completion April, 1962.
- * **Dulles International Airport, Chantilly, Virginia (with Ammann & Whitney, Burns & McDonnell, and Ellery Husted)**
A revolutionary new concept of airport design for the jet age. Scheduled for completion July, 1962.
- * **Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, St. Louis, Missouri**
A memorial to Thomas Jefferson and commemorating the opening of the great West. Scheduled for completion March, 1964.

Deere and Company, Moline, Illinois

Administration Center for this manufacturer of farm equipment, appropriately rugged steel building in a wooded ravine. Scheduled for completion June, 1963.

ATHENS

Other Architectural Activities:

Eero Saarinen was consultant to the Secretary of the Air Force on the design of the Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, Colorado. He served as American consultant in connection with the design of the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. He served on numerous juries for architectural competitions in the United States and Canada. He was Chairman of the Committee of Art and Architecture, Yale University Council.

Furniture Design:

Eero Saarinen designed several pieces of furniture currently being manufactured by Knoll Associates, Inc. In 1940, in association with Charles Eames, he won two first prizes in the furniture competition conducted by the Museum of Modern Art.

Just before his last illness, he completed the designs for:

North Christian Church, Columbus, Indiana

Repertory Theatre, Lincoln Center, New York, N. Y.

Headquarters Building, Columbia Broadcasting System, New York, N. Y.

*Awards & medals
Gold Medal
Saarinen, Eero*

April 9, 1962

Mr. Philip Will, Jr.
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mr. Will:

Aline is away for a few days doing some lectures for the office. Before leaving she asked me to send you the enclosed copy of the remarks of Eero's which were read at the Memorial Service. She had edited these from some of his speeches to represent a condensed statement of his philosophy. She thought this material would be better than any other possible material for your purpose.

If we can be of any other service, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

EERO SAARINEN AND ASSOCIATES

Patricia A. Burley

Patricia A. Burley

PAB/jg GG

Enclosure

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Let us hear now the wisdom of the man himself, spoken out of his heart to us for our profit and use, words which ruled his life, and might well shape ours.

"It is on the individual, his sensitivities and understanding, that our whole success or failure rests. He must recognize that this is a new kind of civilization in which the artist will be used in a new and different way. The neat categories of bygone days do not hold true any longer. His job requires a curious combination of intuition and crust. He must be sensitive and adaptable to trends and needs; he must be part of and understand our civilization. At the same time, he is not just a mirror; he is also a co-creator and must have the strength and urge to produce form, not compromise."

"Architecture is not just to fulfill man's need for shelter, but also to fulfill man's belief in the nobility of his existence on earth. Our architecture is too humble. It should be prouder, more aggressive, much richer and larger than we see it today. I would like to do my part in expanding that richness."

"I think of architecture as the total of man's man-made physical surroundings. The only thing I leave out is nature. You might say it is the man-made nature. Now this is not exactly the dictionary definition of architecture which deals with the technique of building, but this is mine. It is the total of everything we have around us, starting from the largest city plan, includes the streets we drive on and its telephone poles and signs, down to the building and house we work and live in and does not end until we consider the chair we sit in and the ash tray we dump our pipe in. It is true the architect practices only on a narrow segment of this wide keyboard, but that is just a matter of historical accident. The total scope of the job is much wider than what he staked his claim on. So to the question, what is the scope of architecture? I would answer: It is man's total physical surroundings, outdoors and indoors.

'Now, what is the purpose of architecture:'

"Here again, I would like to stake out the most ambitious claim. I think architecture is much more than its utilitarian meaning--to provide shelter for man's activities on earth. It is certainly all of that, but I believe that it has a much more fundamental role to play for man, almost a religious one. Man is on earth for a very short time and he is not quite sure of what his purpose is. Religion gives him his primary purpose. The permanence and beauty and meaningfulness of his surroundings give him confidence and a sense of continuity.....the question, what is the purpose of architecture? I would answer: To shelter and enhance man's life on earth."

These are the words of this great man, but a man is proved not so much by the words that come from his pen, or even the noble works that come from his hand. His worth is most carefully weighed when he is called to choose between his own high standards and easy accommodation to the press of the world upon him.

To a client, happy with his design, eager to begin work, he wrote only a few months ago:

"It would be so easy just to say, 'Let's go ahead with it as it is.' But against that I have perhaps a greater conscience, because I would know in my heart that,.....it would not really be the best I can do.

"We have finally to solve this church so that it can become a great building. I feel I have this obligation to the congregation, and as an architect I have that obligation also to my profession and my ideals. I want to solve it so that as an architect when I face St. Peter am able to say that out of the buildings I did during my lifetime one of the best was this church, because it has in it a real spirit that speaks forth to all Christians as a witness to their faith."

*Awards & Medals
Gold Medal
Saarinen, Eero*

FILE COPY PLEASE RETURN

April 12, 1962

Mr. Philip Will, Jr., President
The American Institute of Architects
The Octagon, 1735 New York Avenue, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Dear Mr. Will:

I have just returned from a trip for the office and hasten to answer the letter which arrived just as I was departing. I hope that you have received the material I asked Mrs. Burley to send you.

After serious thought and discussion with Eero's Mother and several friends of Eero and mine, who also are friends of Lily and the two older children, I have decided that it would be better if the three children did not attend the ceremonies in Dallas. The presentation of the Gold Medal is always a solemn and dignified occasion.

This solemnity is perhaps intensified when the award is posthumous. None of us wants to do anything which would detract in any way from its dignity nor risk turning a professional moment into a sentimental family scene.

Eero's partners and I have decided, however, to have a "Gold Medal" celebration at the office on the Saturday following the Dallas presentation. At that time, Eero's two partners will read the citations of the New York Chapter and of the AIA Gold Medal--and will show the medals--so that every one feels a part of this singular honor. I have invited Eric and Susie to join with us on that occasion. We all feel it the nice and appropriate one at which to have the three children present. We think that this is the way Eero would have chosen.

I want to thank you again for all your kindness to Mrs. Saarinen and myself.

Very sincerely yours,

Aline B. Saarinen

Aline B. Saarinen (Mrs. Eero)

ABS:vsv

1962



ANNO DOMINI 1962

IN BESTOWING POSTHUMOUSLY THE HIGHEST
ACCOLADE WITHIN ITS GIFT

THE GOLD MEDAL OF HONOR
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

SEEKS TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF

EERO SAARINEN, FAIA

AND REFLECT THE ESTEEM IN WHICH HE IS HELD
BY THE ARCHITECTS OF AMERICA

AN ILLUSTRIOUS SON OF AN ILLUSTRIOUS FATHER, HIS
YEARS WERE FEW, HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS MANY. THE INNER
FERVOR IMPELLING HIM TO PRODUCE FRESH, INVENTIVE
AND APPROPRIATE ARCHITECTURE KNEW NO RESPITE.
GENEROUS IN HIS FREQUENT ASSOCIATION WITH OTHERS,
THE FUNDAMENTAL IDEAS CONTROLLING THE DESIGN
WERE GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE HIS.

WHATEVER EERO SAARINEN TOUCHED—A DESIGN FOR A
CHAIR OR A DESIGN FOR A GREAT AIRPORT—HIS CREATIVE
THOUGHT EXTENDED TO EACH MINOR DETAIL. NEVER
FULLY SATISFIED WITH HIS ACHIEVEMENT, 'ONLY A NEW
AND CHALLENGING PROBLEM COULD BRING HIM TO
WRITE 'FINIS' TO A PRECEDING TASK. HIS LIFE OF FIFTY-ONE
YEARS WAS DOMINATED BY HIS PASSION TO CREATE
BEAUTY AND USEFULNESS. THE WORLD IS, AND WILL
INCREASINGLY BECOME, A RICHER AND MORE BEAUTIFUL
PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID AND
WHAT HE WAS.

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Annual Dinner, May 10, 1962

PRESIDENT WILL: Will you join me in your hearts for the Presentation of the Gold Medal.

This gathering is a bittersweet occasion; for Eero Saarinen, the man we honor tonight, has been taken from us in body. Yet he remains with us still through the power of his works and the immortality of his spirit.

As for others here, this occasion is particularly moving for your President; for our personal association with Eero goes back to 1939 -- 23 years ago when both of us were beginning to practice. At that time, Eero was the junior partner of his great Gold Medalist father and we were associating on our very first school -- of itself a memorable experience.

Eero was then 29 years old and had lived in this country but sixteen years. Yet the qualities of his greatness promised by his inheritance and his record of high honors at the Yale School of Architecture were already evident. Even as a junior on the team, he played a vigorous role in our collaboration from sketch plans to the development of school furniture and the selection of draperies -- an early example of his total absorption in

all aspects of design.

Perhaps our most significant memory of Eero is dated 'summer of 1942.' The United States was at war and Eero had a defense housing project to do for the Willow Run Bomber Plant. He needed help; so we accepted his invitation and spent nine weeks as an employed draftsman on his boards.

Although the work then produced was not memorable, the evenings we spent together over a glass of beer were. Both of us were new in the AIA and determined to reform what seemed to such young Turks as ourselves as a weak and reactionary profession.

I wish that I could dredge from a failing memory a few suitable quotes from those intense evenings. I cannot. My point can only be that Eero did express his dreams, did become a giant among us and thereby did give us the best kind of leadership: personal example. We all share in the respect he has won for the profession and have taken new courage from his accomplishment. Because he lived as he did none of us will ever be the same again.

Tongith in respect and in love, you are honoring a great architect and a great man. His buildings will long stand as memorials to his creative genius and an inspiration

to all who experience them. While lesser men will flatter him by imitation, those who follow and who understand true creativity will listen to what Eero Saarinen said in words as well as in design -- will seek to understand and project to new accomplishment the philosophy which guided him and which may well be the important legacy which he has left to us.

Listen now to the wisdom of the man himself, spoken out of his heart to us for our profit and use, words which ruled his life, and might well shape ours.

"It is on the individual, his sensitivities and understanding, that our whole success or failure rests. He must recognize that this is a new kind of civilization in which the artist will be used in a new and different way. The neat categories of bygone days do not hold true any longer. His job requires a curious combination of intuition and crust. He must be sensitive and adaptable to trends and needs; he must be part of and understand our civilization. At the same time, he is not just a mirror; he is also a co-creator and must have the strength and urge to produce form, not compromise."

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of his existence on earth. Our architecture is too humble. It should be prouder, more aggressive, much richer and larger than we see it today. I would like to do my part in expanding that richness."

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"Now, what is the purpose of architecture: Here, again, I would like to stake out the most ambitious claim. I think architecture is much more than its utilitarian

meaning -- to provide shelter for man's activities on earth. It is certainly all of that, but I believe that it has a much more fundamental role to play for man, almost a religious one. Man is on earth for a very short time and he is not quite sure of what his purpose is. Religion gives him his primary purpose. The permanence and beauty and meaningfulness of his surroundings give him confidence and a sense of continuity...the question, what is the purpose of architecture? I would answer: To shelter and enhance man's life on earth."

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can become a great building. I feel I have this obligation to the congregation, and as an architect I have that obligation also to my profession and my ideals. I want to solve it so that as an architect when I face St. Peter, am able to say that out of the buildings I did during my lifetime one of the best was this church, because it has in it a real spirit that speaks forth to all Christians as a witness to their faith."

Eero Saarinen was true to his conscience, to his great inheritance and the profession he loved.

He gave his best.

And, now, with the Gold Medal, the highest honor that lies within its power to give, the American Institute of Architects affirms his achievement.

(The Presentation of The Gold Medal of Honor to the late Eero Saarinen, FAIA, was accepted by Mrs. Saarinen.)

MRS. SAARINEN: Thank you, Mr. Will, and thank you, all of you.

Mr. Will was nice enough to say that there need be no speech, for this is a very solemn moment for Eero's mother and for me. But Eero would think it wrong if I did not share in my knowledge of him what this moment

would have meant to him. And I want to tell you two small and simple things.

A number of years ago when I interviewed Eero as a reporter on the Times, I asked him: "For whom do you create?"

And he said, "In the end you create and you make decisions only according to your own integrity, but" -- And then he lit that pipe, and he answered: "It is true, also, that I think I want the respect of the architects I respect."

This was a very important thing because to him his peers meant more than the client or the critic or the intelligentsia or anything else. And by giving him this medal, you are showing that you, his peers, did respect him.

On the train to Philadelphia last year, and talking about the Gold Medalist, LeCorbusier, we discussed how sad and shocking it was that so little opportunity had been given to Corbu to build, as compared to Eero's great and fortunate opportunities, and how little Corbusier was recognized, even in France.

And I said, "Do you suppose they will ever given it to you?"

And Eero said, "I would like that very much, and maybe if I work very hard in ten or fifteen years from now they will."

You have, and now it will go down in history that you have, and I know he would be very happy.

Thank you.

(Applause and the members arose.)

PRESIDENT WILL: A Legacy.

And now, as the hours tick away yet another convention and the 105th year of Institute history nears its close. For your president, at least, it is five minutes to midnight and Cinderella is about to lose her glass slipper. But before the coach turns again into a pumpkin and the white horses into mice, we would stand on privilege to hold the clock and risk anticlimax to say a final word.

For six long years you have honored me with your confidences: six years....cherished for me and, I hope, uncomfortable for you. Except for outstanding accomplishment in personal creative architecture, there is nothing for which I would trade an equal span of time.

The office I hold is humbling: for it is larger than life size. Like Procrustes' Bed, it stretches the

FILE COPY - PLEASE RETURN

*Awards & Medals
Gold medal
Saarinen*

F

May 17, 1962

Mr. Ralph Bryan, President
Dallas Chapter, AIA
9th Floor, 1114 Commerce
Station C
Dallas, Texas

*Staff
Exec Dir
2. 2/16/62*

Dear Ralph:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Mrs. Saarinen, and a copy of my reply.

It is such a nice letter I thought perhaps you would enjoy reading it.

Also enclosed is the letter Mrs. Saarinen asked me to forward to you and Roscoe.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Scheick, AIA
Executive Director

WHS:mm

cc: Mr. DeWitt

10 ST. RONAN TERRACE
NEW HAVEN, CONN.

May 11, 1962

Mr. William Scheick
Executive Director, The A.I.A.
The Octagon
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Scheick,

I have written personally to Mr. Will to thank him for the perfect way in which he handled the difficult task of awarding the Gold Medal posthumously to Eero.

But I would like to send my profound appreciation to the A.I.A. for their recognition of Eero, for the very beautiful citation and for their many kindnesses to his Mother and myself. There were so many nice gestures---from having us called for to the flowers in the room--which made our visit memorable.

Would you be good enough also to forward for me the enclosed notes to the Dallas Chapter. I did get the names of the president of the Dallas chapter and of the Convention Director, but in the emotion of the occasion, I was careless enough to lose these.

Sincerely yours,

Aline B. Saarinen

Aline B. Saarinen

May 17, 1962

Mrs. Eero Saarinen
10 St. Ronan Terrace
New Haven, Connecticut

Dear Mrs. Saarinen:

It was a wonderful occasion for all of us to have you and Eero's mother come all the way to Dallas to receive the Gold Medal for Eero.

Everyone at the Annual Dinner was very very pleased with the presentation ceremony and with the fine grace with which you accepted the Award.

Your note has been promptly forwarded to the President of the Dallas Chapter, Mr. Ralph Bryan, 1114 Commerce, Station C, Dallas, and to Mr. Roscoe DeWitt, Chairman, Convention Committee, 2025 Cedar Springs Road, Dallas.

Sincerely yours,

William H. Scheick, AIA

WHS:mm

CC: Each Officer AIA
" Div. Dir.