



The American Institute of Architects

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

APPLICATION NO AP 13860

Dated January 27, 19 58
Received June 30, 19 58
Granted ~~August 5, 19 58~~
May 26, 1959

MEMBERSHIP NO 13860

- A Name of applicant Robert Lee Wold Chapter Western Michigan
- B Address of applicant 1062 Sweet Street, N.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan
- C Application received with check for \$ 20.00 on June 30, 19 58.
- D Application returned for correction 19 ..
- E Application in due order on June 30, 19 58.
- F Acknowledgments to applicant and chapter on June 30, 19 58.
- G Certified resolution of chapter executive committee recommending admission ~~of that applicant be elected~~ received on June 30, 19 58.
- H Record of registration, Form S39, Sent May 15, 19 58 Received. June 30, 19 58.
- I The applicant has been examined as to his professional qualifications by Michigan State Bd. of Registration for Architects, Professional Engrs. & Land Surveyors
- J The applicant is currently registered as an architect or licensed to practice architecture in the states of Illinois & Michigan
- K Application sent to The Committee on Membership July 28, 19 58
November 19, 1958
- L The Committee on Membership reported on application on April 22, 1959 and May 19, 1959
July 28, 19 58
- M The applicant was - requested to furnish additional evidence of his professional qualifications on or before July, 19 58, which was received, in May, 1959. May 19, 1959

REPORT:

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

THE COMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP

Date July 28, 1958.
Resubmitted: November 18, 1958
April 25, 1959
May 19, 1959

Charles B. Smith
Chairman

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTION AND ASSIGNMENT

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

Date ~~August 5, 19 58~~
May 26, 1959. Edward L. Wilson
Secretary

- N Applicant was admitted on May 26, 1959 ~~August 5, 19 58~~
- O Notice to applicant and notice of assignment to chapter on May 26, 1959 ~~August 5, 19 58~~
- P Notice of denial of application to chapter and applicant and \$..... returned to applicant on

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A.I.A. Form 50
2500—Rev. 4-8-57

App Feb 5-58 203
OK 2-9-58
APPLICATION NO 15860



INSTRUCTIONS

Type in all information carefully and sign with ink.

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

OK JK November 2/22/58
o.k. - C.H.Z. - 2-28-58

The American Institute of Architects

APPLICATION FOR CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP

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

1. My full name is **ROBERT LEE WOLD**
2. I am a **NATURAL** citizen of the United States.
3. My legal residence is in the City of **GRAND RAPIDS**
County of **KENT** State of **MICHIGAN**
4. My address in The Institute records will be **MY RESIDENCE**
Number **1062** Street **SWEET STREET, N. E.**
City **GRAND RAPIDS** Zone **5** State **MICHIGAN**
5. I am engaged in the profession of architecture as **A PRACTICING ARCHITECT.**
6. I desire to be a member of the **WESTERN MICHIGAN** Chapter.
7. I declare that I will comply with the By-laws; and the Standards of Professional Practice of The American Institute of Architects, which are attached hereto; and the Rules and Regulations supplementary thereto; and that I understand the duties, responsibilities, and obligations of a member of The Institute; and that I have read and understand all the information contained in this form and its attachments.
8. I am not indebted to The Institute or to any of its component organizations.
9. I enclose my check for \$20.00, for admission fee and the first year's annual dues, of which \$5.00 is for a year's subscription to the *Journal of The American Institute of Architects* and the *Memo—a Newsletter*. It is my understanding that if I am not admitted to membership \$10.00 will be returned to me, and \$10.00 retained by The Institute as an examination fee.

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State whether natural or a naturalized citizen.

State whether residence or office address.

State whether a practicing architect, a teacher, a public official,

Date **January 27 19 58**

Robert L. Wold
Applicant sign full name in ink

PAID
20.00 - 2/30/58

STATISTICS

10. Date of birth Oct. 20, 1931 Place of birth Oak Park, Illinois

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

State of Illinois - Certificate No. 4260
 State of Michigan - Certificate No. 10165

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

State of Illinois and State of Michigan

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

EDUCATION

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

Name of School, College, University	Location	No. of Years	Year of Graduation	Degree
Glenbard Township H. S.	Glen Ellyn, Illinois	4	1949	H. S.
University of Illinois	Urbana, Illinois	5	1954	Bachelor of Architectural Engineering

(b) I have held the following-named scholarships or other honor awards, and have traveled in the following-named countries: Gargoyle Society, Tau Beta Pi, Sigma Tau.
 Lydia E. Parker Bates Scholarship in Architecture.
 Plym Prize in Architectural Engineering
 DuPage County Scholarship to the University of Illinois

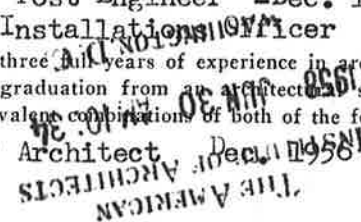
PROFESSIONAL TRAINING *

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

Employer's Name-Address	Type of Business	Classification of Position	Period of Employment by month and year
DeLeuw, Cather & Co. 150 N. Wacker Dr. Chicago, Illinois	Consulting Eng. - A. N. Rebori, Architect.	Architectural Draftsman - five summers for 3 mo. each while attending school	1949 - 1954
Perkins & Will, - 309 W. Jackson, Chicago, Illinois	Reidar Asker	Designer-Draftsman	June 1954-Dec. 1954
U. S. Army, Corps of Engineers, Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C.	Engineers,	Asst. Post Engineer Post Installations Officer	Dec. 1954-Dec. 1956
Russell F. Donker, - State of Michigan.	Reg. Engineer	Chief Architect	Dec. 1956 to date.

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

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PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

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

From

To

15. Is architecture your principal vocation? Yes.

BUSINESS AFFILIATIONS

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

None

PRESENT OR PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIPS AND APPLICATIONS IN ARCHITECTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

17. I have previously applied for membership or associateship in the Western Michigan chapter of The American Institute of Architects. The details concerning this application are as follows: On Jan 18, 1957, I applied for corporate membership, but this application was declined because I was not at that time registered in the State of Michigan and was not employed by an Architect.

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

REFERENCES

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

Table with 2 columns: Name and Address. Includes names like Ruard A. Vanderploeg, William S. Kinne, Jr., Lewis J. Sarvis, Gordon Belson, and Philip Will, Jr. with their respective addresses in Michigan and Illinois.

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THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Western Michigan

(Chapter)

334 State St. S.E. Grand Rapids, Mich.

(Address)

SECRETARY,

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS,

Address

RECORD OF REGISTRATION

OF

Robert Lee Wold

(Name of Applicant)

Dear Sir:

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

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

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

Date May 15 1958

David E. Post
Chapter Secretary

1. Is the applicant registered or licensed to practice architecture in your state? Yes
2. Was his registration or licensing by examination? Yes or by exemption?
3. What was the scope of the examination? Mechanical Equipment, 4 hours; Composition, 4 hours; Design, 12 hours; Structural, 4 hours; Specifications, 4 hours.
4. What was the period of the examination? 3 days. Written examination 28 hours; Oral examination None hours.
5. When examined, did applicant have a certificate from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards? No If so, give Certificate No.
6. Date of first registration 10-25-57 19..... Registration No. 10165 Is it current? Yes

Henry Groelmer
(Signature of Secretary of Board)

Michigan St. Bd. of Registration for Architects,
Professional Engineers & Land Surveyors

(Name of Board)

Date May 22, 1958

ga

*Sept
Can in mem*

July 29, 1958

Mr. David Post, Secretary
Western Michigan Chapter, A.I.A.
334 State Street
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dear Mr. Post:

Re: Application of Robert Lee Wold

In reviewing the application for corporate membership for Robert Lee Wold, the Task Force of The Committee on Membership notes that Mr. Wold has been with Russell F. Donker, Engineer, from December 1956 to date.

The Committee would like additional information as to the nature of the work Mr. Wold performs with his engineering firm, and whether this firm is in the practice of architecture.

We shall appreciate it if the reply to this letter comes from the Chapter, and not from Mr. Wold.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Brown, A.I.A., Chairman
The Committee on Membership

LB/G

Com on mem

October 13, 1958

Mr. David Post, Secretary
Western Michigan Chapter, A.I.A.
334 State Street
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Re: Application of Robert Lee Wold

Dear Mr. Post:

On July 29th Leon Brown, Chairman of the Committee on Membership, wrote to you as follows:

"In reviewing the application for corporate membership for Robert Lee Wold, the Task Force of The Committee on Membership notes that Mr. Wold has been with Russell F. Donker, Engineer, from December 1956 to date.

"The Committee would like additional information as to the nature of the work Mr. Wold performs with this engineering firm, and whether this firm is in the practice of architecture.

"We shall appreciate it if the reply to this letter comes from the Chapter, and not from Mr. Wold."

Can you advise us at an early date concerning Mr. Wold's application in order that the Committee may give this matter further consideration?

Sincerely yours,

Florence H. Gervais
Secretary of Membership and Records

FHG/mk



WESTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER, INC.
The American Institute of Architects

November 4, 1958

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JOSEPH T. DAVERMAN,
Director
2 Grandville Ave., S.W.
Grand Rapids, Mich.
5-4405

JUL E. FLANAGAN
Director
26 Mc Kay Tower
Grand Rapids, Mich.
6-1527

IAN C. IRONSIDE,
Director
23 Oxford Street
East Lansing Mich
5-3436

GEORGE W. SPRAU,
President
10 W. Walnut St.,
Hamazoo, Mich.
5-2145

CHARLES V. OPDYKE,
Vice-President
3536 W. Saginaw St.,
Lansing, Mich.
9-3002

DAVID E. POST,
Secretary
33 State Street,
Grand Rapids, Mich.
6-6838

HOWARD De WOLF
Treasurer
17 Maplewood Dr.,
East Lansing, Mich.
5-3436

Mr. Leon Brown, A.I.A., Chairman
Committee on Membership
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mr. Brown,

Re: Application of Robert Lee Wold

After some investigation, the following information on Mr. Wold has been found as to his work in connection with the Donker Engineering Co..

While Mr. Wold is employed by Mr. Donker who operates both an Architectural and Engineering firm, Mr. Wold has no connection other than employer - employee relationship.

I believe that Mr. Wold is conscientiously interested in furthering the architectural profession as an individual, and because of his interest and excellent character, we felt that he should be a member on this basis alone, disregarding his present employment.

Very truly yours,

David E. Post, A.I.A., Sec'y
Western Michigan Chapter

DEP/mp
cc: Florence H. Gervais

*Com on
membership*

November 19, 1958

Mr. David E Post, Secretary
Western Michigan Chapter, A.I.A.
334 State Street
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dear Mr. Post: Re: Application of Robert Lee Wold

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of November 4, 1958, with reference to the application of Robert Lee Wold.

The Committee on Membership notes that you state Mr. Wold is employed by Mr. Donker who operates both an architectural and engineering firm.

My letter of October 13, 1958, specifically asks that you furnish us with information as to the nature of Mr. Wold's work with this engineering firm, and we would further like to know what type of architectural work the Donker firm does.

Our next meeting will be on or about December 16th, and if you could furnish us with this information prior to that time action could be taken on Mr. Wold's application.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Brown, A.I.A., Chairman
The Committee on Membership

LB/G



WESTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER, INC.
The American Institute of Architects

November 4, 1958

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JOSEPH T. DAVERMAN,
Director
24 Grandville Ave., S.W.
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616-4405

JUL E. FLANAGAN
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FRANK C. IRONSIDE,
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22 Oxford Street
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517-5-3436

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10 W. Walnut St.,
Lamazoo, Mich.
616-5-2145

CHARLES V. OPDYKE,
Vice-President
3526 W. Saginaw St.,
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517-9-3002

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33 State Street,
Grand Rapids, Mich.
616-6-6838

HOWARD De WOLF
Treasurer
67 Maplewood Dr.,
East Lansing, Mich.
517-5-3436

Mr. Leon Brown, A.I.A., Chairman
Committee on Membership
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mr. Brown,

Re: Application of Robert Lee Wold

After some investigation, the following information on Mr. Wold has been found as to his work in connection with the Donker Engineering Co..

While Mr. Wold is employed by Mr. Donker who operates both an Architectural and Engineering firm, Mr. Wold has no connection other than employer - employee relationship.

I believe that Mr. Wold is conscientiously interested in furthuring the architectural profession as an individual, and because of his interest and excellent character, we felt that he should be a member on this basis alone, disregarding his present employment.

Very truly yours,

David E. Post

David E. Post, A.I.A., Sec'y
Western Michigan Chapter

DEP/mp
cc: Florence H. Gervais

FAG

ROBERT L. WOLD

REGISTERED ARCHITECT

3261 Springbrook Drive N W
Comstock Park, Michigan
March 28, 1959

The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue N W
Washington 6, D. C.
Atten: Mr. Edmond L. Wilson, Sec.

Dear Sir:

On January 27, 1958, I submitted an application for Corporate Membership in the AIA through the Western Michigan Chapter.

On June 30, of the same year, I received a letter from your office stating that my application and check for \$20.00 had been received and would receive prompt attention.

Since that time, I have heard nothing regarding my application.

Due to the time lag, several items of information on my application have changed. They are as follows:

- Item 4. My home address is now;
3261 Springbrook Drive N W
Comstock Park, Michigan
- Item 13. I am now employed by a corporation of Engineers and Architects rather than by an individual Registered Engineer. The Proper corporate name is:
Russell F. Donker & Associates, Inc.
Architects and Engineers
158 Bostwick N E
Grand Rapids, Michigan
I am a Director and an Officer of the above corporation.

Would you please inform me as to the status of my application for membership in the AIA? Thank you very much

Sincerely

Robert L. Wold
Robert L. Wold

Common Name

April 3, 1959

Mr. Robert L. Wold
3261 Springbrook Drive, N.W.
Comstock Park, Michigan

Dear Mr. Wold:

Your letter of March 28th is received and I am responding to it on behalf of the Secretary, Mr. Wilson.

We regret that there has been such a long delay in completing action on your application. It has been pending since June, 1958.

In the interim, we have been in correspondence with the Secretary of the Western Michigan Chapter in an attempt to ascertain the nature of work which you perform with the Engineering Firm of Russell F. Donker. So far a satisfactory explanation has not been received and we have been awaiting, from the Secretary of the Western Michigan Chapter, an answer to our letter of November 19, 1958.

Your letter of March 28th will be brought to the attention to the Committee on Membership at its next meeting on April 21st and it may be that the information contained therein will enable the Committee to act on your application. If not, we will write you further after that meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Florence H. Gervais
Secretary of Membership and Records

FHG:mk

cc: Secretary of the Western Michigan Chapter, A.I.A.

April 22, 1959

Mr. Robert L. Wold
3261 Springbrook Drive, N.W.
Comstock Park, Michigan

Dear Mr. Wold:

At the meeting of the Membership Committee on April 21st, your letter of March 28th was brought to our attention.

We regret we are not able to take action until we hear direct from the Secretary of the Western Michigan Chapter.

I am writing to the Secretary of that Chapter asking that they please supply us with the necessary information so that we can take action on your application.

We sincerely regret this delay, but the letter that Miss Gervais sent to you under date of April 3rd explains that the Western Michigan Chapter had not answered our letter sent to them under date of November 19, 1958.

Our next meeting will be held on or about May 19th, and we hope that we will be able to take action on your application at that time.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Brown, A.I.A., Chairman
The Committee on Membership, A.I.A.

LB/G

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April 22, 1959

Mr. Howard E. DeWolf, Secretary
Western Michigan Chapter, A.I.A.
167 Maplewood Drive
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mr. DeWolf:

Under date of November 19, 1958, I wrote a letter to your predecessor in office, concerning the application of Mr. Robert Lee Wold.

We specifically asked that he furnish us with information as to the nature of Mr. Wold's work with the firm of Russell F. Donker & Associates, Inc., but to date we have not had a reply to our letter of November 19th.

We have a letter which Mr. Wold himself wrote us on March 28th asking about this application. He stated in his letter that the proper corporate name of the firm with which he is now associated is Russell F. Donker & Associates, Inc., Architects and Engineers, 158 Bostwick, N.E., Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Mr. Wold stated in his letter that he is a Director and Officer of the above Corporation.

In order that we may take action on Mr. Wold's application it will be necessary for you (not Mr. Wold) to write us and inform us of the type of work Mr. Wold is doing with the Russell F. Donker Company.

We shall appreciate a reply to this letter so that we can take action on this application at our meeting scheduled for May 19, 1959.

Sincerely yours,

Leon Brown, A.I.A., Chairman
The Committee on Membership, A.I.A.

LB/G

RUSSELL F. DONKER & ASSOCIATES, INC.

158 BOSTWICK N E GRAND RAPIDS 3 MICHIGAN GL8-5317 GL8-0256

RUSSELL F. DONKER—ENGINEER & SURVEYOR
ROBERT L. WOLD — REGISTERED ARCHITECT

April 28, 1959

The American Institute of Architects
Attn: Mr. Leon Brown, Chairman
The Committee on Membership, A.I.A.
1735 New York Ave., N.W.
Washington 6, D.C.

Dear Mr. Brown:

I greatly appreciate your prompt action on and attention to my letter of March 28. It is a very pleasant surprise and a definite credit for the A.I.A. to receive this type of attention after my dealings with the Western Michigan Chapter, which seem to have been bogged down for more than a year, and still are, as indicated by your letter of April 22.

My firm belief that the A.I.A. is a vital, active, forward-looking organization, has received a much needed boost through your efforts.

Thank you again for your prompt action. If I can supply you with any additional information, I will be glad to do so.

Sincerely,

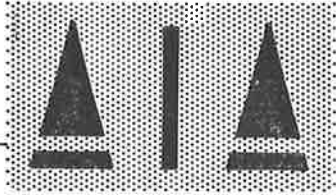


Robert L. Wold

RLW;pm

western michigan chapter, inc.,

Common Memberships



April 30, 1959

Mr. Leon Brown, A.I.A.
Chairman, The Committee on Membership, A.I.A.
1735 New York Avenue
Washington 6, D.C.

Re: Application of Robert L. Wold

Dear Mr. Brown:

Upon investigation we have obtained the following information which will be of interest to your committee in processing the application of Mr. Robert L. Wold.

The firm of Russell F. Donker & Associates, Inc., Architects and Engineers, Grand Rapids, Michigan (formerly known as Donker Engineering) was incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan, according to papers filed October 1, 1958.

There are presently just three principals, Robert Wold, registered architect, and two registered engineers. Their work, representing approximately eighty-five per cent in the architectural classification, includes a recently bid medical center, a fire station, church and a building for the Cascade Country Club. They are now preparing plans for two churches, a medical center, an office building and an automobile agency.

Mr. Wold, who is in charge of all architectural aspects of the business, is assisted by four other persons, one of whom is expecting to take his examination for registration in the state of Michigan this June.

We hope that this is sufficient information concerning this applicant so that his approval and subsequent assignment to our Chapter may be made. We are sorry there has been a delay in obtaining sufficient data properly executed for the approval of his application.

Very truly yours,

Howard E. DeWolf
Howard E. DeWolf, Secretary

- | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|---|-----------------|---|----------------------|---|----------------------|---|----------|
| President | • | George W. Sprau | • | 410 W. Walnut St. | • | Kalamazoo , Mich | • | Fi-52145 |
| Vice pres. | • | Paul Hazelton | • | Grand View Parkway | • | Traverse City , Mich | • | Wi-77318 |
| Secretary | • | Howard De Wolf | • | 167 Maplewood Dr. | • | East Lansing , Mich | • | Ed-21921 |
| Treasurer | • | Gordon Cornwell | • | Anderson Building | • | Traverse City, Mich | • | Wi-68571 |
| Directors | • | Joseph Daverman | • | 924 Grandville, S.W. | • | Grand Rapids , Mich | • | Ch-13481 |
| | | Claude Sampson | • | 115 Fourth Street | • | Jackson, Michigan | • | St-20007 |

May 5, 1959

Mr. Howard E. DeWolf, Secretary
Western Michigan Chapter, A.I.A.
167 Maplewood Drive
East Lansing, Michigan

Dear Mr. DeWolf:

Re: Application of Robert L. Wold

On behalf of Leon Brown, A.I.A., Chairman of The Committee on Membership of The Institute, this will acknowledge receipt of and thank you for your letter of April 30th on behalf of Mr. Wold who is applying for admission to corporate membership.

This is received in good time for submission to the Committee at its meeting scheduled to be held on May 19th, when it is hoped final action may be taken on the application in the light of the information which you have submitted.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss) Florence H. Gervais
Secretary of Membership and Records

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

1735 NEW YORK AVENUE, N. W.
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

COPY

May 26, 1959

Mr. Robert Lee Wold, AIA
1062 Sweet Street, N. E.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Dear Mr. Wold:

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

You are assigned to the Western Michigan Chapter and the Michigan Society of Architects, effective May 26, 1959.

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

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

Sincerely yours,

Edward L. Wilson
Secretary

Enclosures



Michigan Society of Architects, 553 East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan 48226, (313) 965-4100

Contact: Michael Franck
10/13/80
IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARCHITECTURAL FIRMS RECEIVE HONOR AWARDS

Five Michigan architectural firms are receiving 1980 Honor Awards for "excellence in design" from the Michigan Society of Architects. The awards will be presented during the course of the 65th Annual MSA convention at the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn on October 15 to 17.

The 1980 MSA Honor Award winners are:

Gunnar Birkerts & Associates of Birmingham for the IBM office building in Southfield; Robert Lee Wold & Associates of Grand Rapids for the Gull Lake Country Club in Richland; Volk & London Architects of Southfield for the Las Vistas De Santa Fe townhouses in Sante Fe, New Mexico; Rossen/Neumann Associates of Southfield for the Cleaners Hanger of Bloomfield township and the United Technology Automotive Group of Dearborn; William Kessler and Associates of Detroit for the Detroit Receiving Hospital - Wayne State University, and Wayne County Community College - Taylor Campus.

WOLD (ROBERT LEE)



Michigan Society of Architects, 553 East Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan 48226, (313) 965-4100

The 1200-member Michigan Society of Architects is a region of the American Institute of Architects - a national professional association of 30,000 members. The Michigan Society headquarters is in the historic Beaubien House located on 553 East Jefferson in Detroit.

##

ARCHITECTS: ROBERT WOLD

MI-626 Grand Rapids Press
(514) 600 4020/3000

JANUARY 6, 1983

CLIPPED BY Bacon's

Quality, not mere growth, is architect's goal

By Michael J. Bologna
The Grand Rapids Press

Robert Wold's boyhood dream of becoming a commercial artist was shattered at age 17 when the head of a Chicago advertising agency told him he was just too sharp to be a good artist.

"He saw that I had all A's in math and physics and he told me I'd never make it because my grades were too good," said Wold, who is now president of his own architecture firm.

"I was crushed."

This little bit of teen-age trauma, however, didn't get in the way of success. Wold refocused his efforts toward architecture a few months later and now, after 34 years in the business, he is regarded as one of the most creative and progressive architects in West Michigan.

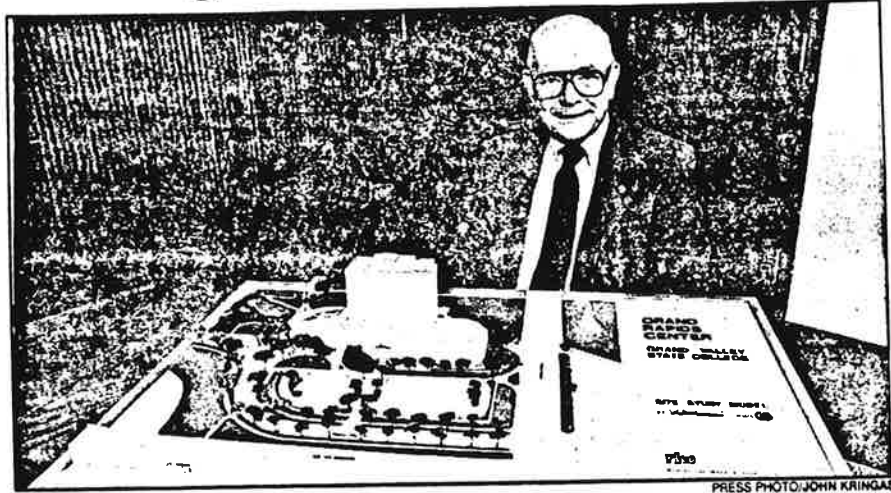
He also has created a firm, Robert Lee Wold & Associates, which boasts a dozen major architectural design awards. Since starting in 1976, Wold & Associates, 678 Front St. NW, has captured major awards from groups such as the Michigan Society of Architects, the American Institute of Architects and the local chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors.

"We specialize in design-oriented projects but we have tried to keep our practice broad so we can do many things," Wold said.

"My philosophy has been that any project can benefit from a good design and it doesn't have to cost a lot of money. That works for a lot of different buildings, it works for manufacturing."

Wold said his 35-person staff is working on as many as 50 projects at one time in offices in Grand Rapids, Traverse City and Battle Creek. Projects range from 20-story office buildings to churches. Currently the firm is designing Grand Valley State University's new science center, a proto-type for all National Bank of Detroit branch offices and six movie theaters for the Loeks Theater chain. The firm does \$40 million to \$50 million in billings each year.

Wold's major projects have included the Mutual Home Building on the Monroe Mall, GVSU's L.V. Eberhard Center downtown, the Stow & Davis Co. plant and showroom in Kentwood, the Kentwood



PRESS PHOTO/JOHN KRINGAS

Robert Wold's projects include Grand Valley State University's downtown center.

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

City Center and the Campau Square parking ramp at 39 Monroe Ave. NW.

Wold, a native of Glen Ellyn, Ill., graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in architecture in 1954 and went to work for a large Chicago firm.

This job lasted only two years before the Korean War called Wold to duty with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Washington.

When his responsibility to the Army was finished in 1957, Wold and Paul Bowers, a friend from the University of Illinois and the Army, decided that they would find jobs with competing architecture firms in the same city and eventually create their own firm.

The pair looked for positions in seven different cities but finally ended up in Grand Rapids, confident that it was a growing area and a good place to bring up a family. Wold and his wife, Susan, raised three children, Kyle, 28, Eric, 26, and Karla, 22.

In 1960, the pair decided that they had developed enough contacts and expertise to form Wold &

Bowers Architects Inc. Later the firm evolved into Wold, Bowers, DeShane and Covert. Bowers is now president of the firm which now is called WBDC Group.

The partnership was long and successful, but in 1976, Wold decided he wanted to do other things with a firm of his own. Wold said he was beginning to feel uncomfortable with WBDC because it was growing too big and the quality design aspect of the business was taking a back seat.

"Within our business, we have to remain competitive in fees and in cost of building, but we have to be able to constantly upgrade our quality," Wold said. "That goes back to why I left WBDC — I couldn't control the quality aspects any more."

Bowers declined comment on the break-up but said he continues to have a great deal of professional respect for Wold and his firm.

"I think they are good architects, they have certainly done some good projects such as the (Eberhard Center) down by the river," Bower said.

Wold said he enjoys the design aspects of his job most and believes that creativity in even the most mundane projects makes for great

er happiness for the client and the people who eventually will live and work in the building. He likes to point to the Campau Square parking ramp as an example of how a fairly straight, uninspiring facility can become a design winner when a firm concentrates on quality in the design.

"Good design and good planning create good buildings," Wold said. "That improves the community and the quality of life for the people."

Wold has held offices in many professional trade organizations. He is a past president of the Michigan Society of Architects and was named to the American Institute of Architects "College of Fellows," a distinction only 1 or 2 percent of all architects achieve.

Wold said his firm will grow during the coming year, but he is not necessarily interested in seeing Wold & Associates turn into a large firm. He fears that additional size and complexity will cause the firm to lose track of its reputation for quality in design.

"I don't want to be a big firm," he said. "I want to be big enough to work on any project that comes along, but small enough to control the quality."

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WOLD, ROBERT