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STAFF

Editor Eric Kudalis
Contributors this issue Bill Beyer, Jack El-Hai, Bette Hammel, Richard L. Kronick, Camille LeFevre, Robert Roscoe
Graphic Design Rubin/Cordaro Design
Photographer Don F. Wong
Advertising Sales Judith Van Dyne
Circulation Distribution Susan Belland
Publisher Peter A. Rand, FAIA

Cover Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center/Highway Rest Area Architect: David Salmela and Cheryl Fosdick of Salmela Fosdick Ltd. Photographer: Peter Kerze
Firmly commodified
and not too delighted

By Bill Beyer

One of my favorite stories in Richard Brautigan's Trout Fishing in America describes a trip to the Cleveland Wrecking Yard. Among the salvage items stored in this place is a trout stream, cut up into sections, and available priced by the foot, like lumber or any other commodity. Certain sections are richer in fish than others; one even comes with a bridge. Insects are free with a 10-foot minimum purchase. Birds are 35 cents each, used. Waterfalls are stored in the used-plumbing department, priced individually.

Vitruvius, writing in the first century B.C., in The Ten Books on Architecture, spoke of essential architectural attributes, which have been variously translated as "firmness, commodity and delight," or "durability, convenience and beauty." (Commodity is from the Latin word commodus—fit, convenient, useful.) Commodity was a good thing then. In our more aggressively commercial culture it has evolved into a pejorative term for interchangeable or standardized items of little value. Lumber, corn and soybeans are commodities, as are common nails. Prices are set on the world market. You buy commodities based on price alone, because quality is assumed to be roughly equal, or irrelevant. HMOs are commonly said to have commodified medical services.

Architects' construction documents, plans and specifications have been the subject of standardization over the years, to the general benefit of the architectural profession and building industry. Architects' drawings now appear almost generic, all perfectly plotted with the aid of the computer. The CADD sweatshops of southeast Asia are a reality, with workers busily stitching scupper details together while we sleep and zapping them back to us electronically. The production of architects' drawings has been commodified, but the content remains widely variable.

The drafting skills once necessary to render elegant pencil-on-linen, hand-lettered construction drawings are no longer evident or necessary today. The art of drafting was not perfect, however: The passage of light through linen or vellum to fix the drawn image on blueline paper involved some loss of line quality. Today ink-jet printers crisply lay down black on white every time. Digital memory conveniently stores every jot and title for future use.

Time used to be necessary just to make the drawing. Now the time must be consciously taken. Drawing time was training/thinking time. Ideas of connection were rolled around in our minds, and parts became more perfectly formed and connected as hands slowly applied understanding to linen. The time it once took to develop, trace and retrace details now can be replaced by a few keystrokes. Without special attention, such sudden images can lose their embodied understanding.

Architects produce more drawings and more massive specifications for projects these days, but don't seem to communicate intent any better. Perhaps we confuse the clarity and perfection of machine drafting with actual content, much as we confuse the exchange of information with communication. Drivel rendered beautifully is nothing more than attractive drivel. True communication requires understanding and connection; neither of these are quickly or easily achieved.

Information and knowledge seem to be increasingly used interchangeably. They are not the same. Information is useful stuff, but knowledge implies comprehension and understanding. Has our electronically commercial culture finally driven us toward the commodification of knowledge itself? I don’t believe real knowledge can be priced or valued by unit measure. Commodification short-changes the relational qualities of understanding and separates the knowing from the doing.

In AIA’s national newsletter, the drums are beating out the latest message that architecture is a "knowledge-based" profession. Are there any ignorance-based professions? Has the meaning of professionalism finally become so debased that we have to utter this vacuous twaddle? Do we really differentiate and elevate our profession by claiming to be knowledge-based, or do we only advertise our desperation?

The profession of architecture is like the trout stream, alive and ever-changing, sparkling with eddies of information and ripples of intellectual challenge. The water level is rising and the current increasing. The pesky insects of change buzz in our ears. In spite of the trends of commodification, our stream cannot be effectively cut into sections and sold off. Architecture is a continuum of discovery and investigation, a river of challenge and of delight. It must be learned and practiced whole, by wading in and engaging the current while enjoying the beauty.
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Many towns in western Minnesota owe their origin to railroads that needed a "stop"—a place for support facilities at various intervals along newly laid tracks. Favorable geography lured speculators and settlers to turn prairie soil into productive enterprise. In the late-19th century, Delhi grew from a railroad stop into a typical southwestern Minnesota village, with flour mills, a creamery, blacksmith shops, hotels, livery stables, general-merchandise stores and a bank. Churches, schools and houses clustered around these commercial buildings on Third Street.

In 1896 a local musical organization, the Delhi Coronet Band, built a wood-framed, 1-story band hall with a simple "false-front" incorporated into the gabled roof and crowned by an open belfry housing a cast-iron bell. Drop-lap siding clads the 24-by-64-foot structure. This simple architectural expression survived well beyond the structure's initial use.

In the late-19th century, coronet bands provided a creative expression for young farmers, as well as an important part of popular culture. Brass instruments were readily obtainable and their wide-horned rims were built-in amplifiers that rendered music with a veritable civic presence. In its active years the Delhi Coronet Band Hall also served community meetings, elections and weekend dances. Its rooftop bell announced fire calls.

Today the band hall sits silently alone, amid wide expanses of grass where commercial buildings once bustled with activity. At some time in the early 20th century, advances in rail transportation and consolidation of agricultural markets made Darwinian winners and losers out of small towns throughout southwestern Minnesota. The bank building down the street, now used for storage, is the only other survivor of Third Street's turn-of-the-century streetscape.

The only active buildings in Delhi today are the newish vinyl-wrapped houses whose inhabitants work in nearby Redwood Falls and other surrounding towns, a few churches and various commercial activities in small, scattered prefabricated metal buildings.

The Delhi Coronet Band Hall remains standing, its wood frame a bit racked, with some of its once-decorous, stamped-metal ceiling peeled away from roof framing that shows occasional bits of daylight. Young musicians no longer brass off for the townspeople. Today, the coronet band hall's only civic function is its service as a raw sarcophagus for Delhi's old Model T firetruck that sits near the stage like an Egyptian sun chariot ready for its ultimate voyage.

The village council a few years ago deliberated over renewing the hall, but ultimately voted to raze it. That, fortunately, didn't happen. Last summer the city hired a contractor to power wash the walls to prep the building for painting. The power washer went to work and got the job done. The painter never showed up. For now, the band hall waits in limbo.

Robert Roscoe
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Five projects from a pool of 100 submissions received 1997 AIA Minnesota Honor Awards. The jurors, who favored the small and intimate over the large and impersonal, were most impressed with buildings that reflected a consistently high level of detail, a "quality of restraint yet exuberance."

Winners are a Prairie House Renovation (featured May/June '95) in Hamel, Minn., by Mulfinger, Susanka, Mahady & Partners; "The Whim" Guest House in Pepin County, Wis., by Stageberg Beyer Sachs; the Chanhasen Pedestrian Bridge in Chanhasen, Minn., by Meyer, Scherer & Rockcastle; Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center/Highway Rest Area (featured this issue) in Two Harbors, Minn., by Salmela Fosdick Ltd.; and Brandenburg's Ravenwood Studio in Ely, Minn., by Salmela Architect, initiated by Salmela Fosdick.

The three jurors included William Bruder of New River, Ariz., Wendy Evans Joseph of New York City, and Mehrdad Yazdani of Los Angeles.
IT'S NOT ABOUT SPORTS DESIGNING WITHIN RULES [America's Cup/Formula One]
DETECTING AND BENDING THE RULES [Time + Space in the NBA]
SIMULATION INITIATION AND DECEPTION [Fly Fishing]
IMPROVING PERFORMANCE WITH NEW FORMS AND MATERIALS [Shaped Ski and Pump Shoe]
THE FORMAL DESIGN OF FESTIVALS [The Olympic Games]
DESIGNING FOR DISABILITIES + CAPABILITIES [Mono Ski + Racing Wheelchair]
FORMS FOR RITUAL & TRADITION [Sumo Wrestling]
THE ETHICS OF DESIGNING THE BODY - THE AESTHETICS OF ATHLETICS
BETTER PERFORMANCE WITH BETTER THEORY [Biomechanics and the Physics of the Curve Ball]
FAILURE AND SUCCESS IN DESIGN [The bike that was so successful it failed]
DESIGNING INSTRUMENTS & MEASUREMENT
DESIGNING THE SPORTS LANDSCAPE - THE STREET AS A PLAYING FIELD - KEEPING GEESE OFF THE GOLF COURSE
DESIGNING BODY COVER FOR SPEED AND PROTECTION - SPORTS CLOTHING
INNOVATION AND DESIGN - DESIGNING SYMBOLS FOR BRAND RECOGNITION AND PRODUCT LOYALTY
THE SHOCK OF THE NEW [X-game]

IT'S ABOUT DESIGN

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Firm Award

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Architects are fond of flexing their design muscles outside of strict building design, as seen with this fanciful series of art lamps by Joseph Krumpelmann and Eric Amel. The two designers, working by day at Minneapolis architecture firms, pursue individual and collaborative lamp ventures through their freelance studio Rosencrantz and Guildenstern. The lamps clearly draw inspiration from architecture, functioning as both decorative elements and explorations in architecture. For more information, call Krumpelmann at (612) 373-4620.

Pillsbury redux

FOR THOSE LAMENTING the demise of Ralph Rapson's famed 1962 Pillsbury House, which was razed last winter along Lake Minnetonka, you now can scan a new CD-ROM for a virtual tour of the modernist classic. Produced by Lisa Nebenzahl Productions, the Jewel on the Lake is available through Walker Art Center and Minneapolis Institute of Arts bookstores, or by calling (612) 866-0600.
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Roofs shown depict potential usage.
One morning 40 years ago, 13-year-old Karal Ann Marling helped her younger brothers color pictures on a cereal box during breakfast. Her mother submitted the pictures in a contest and young Karal Ann won a trip to Disneyland. Her dream had come true. Walt Disney’s new theme park had opened two years earlier in Anaheim, Calif. In Disneyland, animator and moviemaker Walt Disney had created a kid-friendly world of amusements, doll-house buildings, model trains and “lands” (Fantasyland, Adventureland, Frontierland, Tomorrowland) that celebrated the child’s point of view.

But adults have found Disneyland appealing, too, argues Marling, now curator of an exhibition at the Walker Art Center titled “Designing Disney’s Theme Parks: The Architecture of Reassurance.” The buildings’ turn-of-the-century façades and forced perspectives (first stories are full-scale, the second and third stories are 5/8 scale) offer feelings of comfort and control. Disneyland’s pedestrian orientation (all cars are parked outside its gates) and public transportation (a train carries passengers along the perimeter of the park) put people back on their feet.

A berm surrounding the park shields it from the outside world. Disney’s “hub and wiener” layout (“wiener” being Disney’s term for tall vertical elements or “visual treats” that aid orientation) ensures no one gets lost. And Main Street U.S.A., the gate-way to Disneyland through which all visitors pass, represents the American ideal of a safe, harmonious community. Together, these components give the visitor a sense of reassurance not readily available in the outside world, Marling says.

Since opening in 1955, Disneyland has become an international symbol of America’s blithe spirit, spawning variations in Orlando, Tokyo and Paris. But while it represents the dream vacation to many people, critics have vilified Disneyland as fascist and fake, as a horrific encapsulation of the dregs of American culture. One French critic even described Disneyland Paris as a “cultural Chernobyl.” For Marling, then, there’s a fightin’ words.

Today a professor of art history and American studies at the University of Minnesota, as well as a curator of other exhibitions, Marling is a historian with a passion for what she calls “ordinary people’s aesthetic standards and taste.” She has celebrated cultural icons of the middle class in her books Graceland: Going Home with Elvis (1996), As Seen on TV: The Visual Culture of Everyday Life in the 1950s (1994) and Blue Ribbon: A Social and Pictorial History of the Minnesota State Fair (1990). In “The Architecture of Reassurance,” she casts a fresh eye on Disneyland and examines its influence on contemporary American architecture. Architecture Minnesota talked with Marling about architecture that reassures and Disney’s legacy.

Disneyland architecture, with its skewed perspectives and cartoon angles, strikes me as an architecture of illusion. How did you come to find reassurance in it?

One thing Walt Disney wanted to do with Disneyland was counter what he saw as not-so-good stuff going on outside the park. In particular, as a great lover of Los Angeles, he was increasingly dismayed by the chaos in the city, particularly after the Second World War. It’s ironic that the creation of the Santa Ana freeway let people come to Disneyland, but it also atomized spaces that were already becoming progressively more atomized in the years after the war.

So one of the things Disneyland helped to create was a kind of public experience, a public space, that was lacking in southern California as downtown L.A. disappeared and became insignificant, as householders drove one by one to their own homes in the suburbs where there aren’t any sidewalks. One of the key issues here is common space and pedestrianism; the fact that Disneyland forces you out of your automobile and makes you walk, and that walking becomes a pleasurable experience, but also becomes in many cases the only kind of common culture and common use of space that people experience beyond the edges of the freeway.

Also, Walt had spent lots of time in cities around the world. I think he was intrigued by the fact that Paris, in particular, was such a walkable city, largely because you could see your destination. There were landmarks.
... now imagine how color delineates the columnar elements which focus on the semi-circular atrium that is bifurcated by a corrugated stripe that leads the inhabitants to the core of the vertical access points. This will undoubtedly work well with these samples on my material boards...

Some projects may require more than fancy words, sample boards and colored blue lines...
Charting alternatives
Many trained and licensed architects are discovering career moves outside of traditional practice

By Camille LeFevre

A

s with life in general, one thing is fast becoming clear about the profession of architecture: Change is inevitable. With increasing frequency, clients are expecting architects to be more flexible, to act as coordinators or facilitators of problem-solving teams and to take on responsibilities formerly considered outside the sphere of "traditional" practice. In response, many of today's trained and licensed architects are adapting by choosing professions long seen as beyond the architectural mainstream.

"Right now, about 15 to 25 percent of national AIA members are involved in activities other than the traditional firm," says Richard W. Hobbs, vice president of professional practice at AIA national in Washington, D.C. Of the organization's some 50,000 members, he says, "about 2,000 members are in construction-management activities, about 1,500 work as corporate architects, 3,000 are in design-build, about 1,500 are in facility management and about 1,000 work as public architects. As the world becomes more sophisticated, the number of specialties will continue to grow. Because architects are understanding and fulfilling changing client needs. And AIA is saying we must be totally open and flexible to meet those needs."

Not only are architects today addressing changes in the profession, the architects of tomorrow are keenly aware of the shifting horizon. A survey conducted by the University of Minnesota's College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (CALA) found that close to 20 percent of students entering the college had non-traditional career paths in mind, says Thomas Fisher, dean of CALA. Similarly, Fisher adds, a national survey of AIA's student membership indicated that a majority of their projected career possibilities were outside of traditional practice, and ranged from World Wide Web design and animation, to industrial and clothing design, and community activism.

"More and more students are looking at design education as a way of learning about and operating in the world," Fisher says. "We teach a rigorous curriculum of form, aesthetics, politics, and social, economic and cultural issues—filtered through a discipline that teaches people to think visually. So in the next century, certainly in the next 10 years, that interest in and demand for design education will continue to increase with people moving out from it in a number of different directions."

To prepare students, CALA has retooled its undergraduate degrees to be more liberal-arts oriented, and made its master’s degrees the accredited ones. Still, studies indicate that a degree and a license don't mean a person will practice architecture. Dick Swett, an architect and former member of the federal House of Representatives from New Hampshire, speaks frequently on how architecture is a field of study well-suited to leadership preparation, Fisher says. "I've heard him say that a leader is someone who is a visionary, can see the whole, can get diverse groups of people working together toward a common good, who brings real tangible change," Fisher says. "That's exactly what architects are trained to do. He was urging us to stop thinking about our role as just producing professionals that follow traditional routes, and begin to think of architecture as leadership training for people who will also become political leaders and community activists."

For architect Margot Fehrenbacher, principal designer with planning and economic development for the city of St. Paul, "architecture school is where you learn a kind of creativity that you can carry into any job that needs creative solutions. Clients today are demanding more services because they need more problem solvers," she continues. "Who is more perfect for that than architects? Architects are trained to look at problem solving in creative ways. We're taught to think outside of the box."

As an urban designer, Fehrenbacher says that she's
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Northern Crop Research Center, Fargo, ND

"We wanted...(the structure) to tie into other buildings at the University, so we used a color of brick found on the adjacent structure, plus two other colors predominant on campus. The patterning of the brick draws from the Scandinavian tradition of enlivening utilitarian structures with color and pattern, creating visual interest during the long northern winters."

- Loren Ables, AIA, Project Designer
- Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc., Minneapolis
- Photography: Tom Ivany

Burnsville Marketplace – Burnsville, MN

"Brick was chosen as the primary facing material...for all the long established, practical advantages; durability, low maintenance and cost effectiveness. Equally important...were the major aesthetic benefits...Brick was consistent with the surrounding context. The inherent design flexibility of unit masonry coupled with the available ranges of color and texture ensured us that Burnsville Marketplace would indeed age with interest."

- John Gould, AIA, Director of Design
- KKE Architects, Inc., Minneapolis
- Photography: Leo Babcock

Bailey Elementary School
– South Washington County Schools, ISD 833, Dan Hoke, Superintendent

"Brick brought the appropriate scale to this building for a sense of strength and warmth. Its color provides a pleasing contrast to the brightly colored steel elements, and its long-term durability adds value."

- James Rydeen, FAIA, President
- Armstrong, Torseth, Stohl and Rydeen, Inc., Minneapolis
- Photography: Ralph Berlvitz

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Gooseberry Falls State Park is the first major scenic attraction along Minnesota's North Shore from Duluth. Here the best ingredients of the North Shore’s allure merge in the rugged woods abutting the jagged shoreline of Lake Superior. Most people stop at Gooseberry because of the natural features offering outdoor activities. The park, however, also hosts some of Minnesota's finest architecture with a collection of sturdy, stone-and-timber park buildings constructed during the Great Depression by the Civilian Conservation Corp. In the 65 years since completed, these pavilions, shelters and outbuildings remain integral park elements. Framed with material drawn from the surrounding landscape, the buildings are an organic, natural part of the setting.

Designing lasting architecture is no easy task in our disposable culture. By European standards, 65 years is not a long time; but in the relatively young Upper Midwest, that’s old. In downtown Minneapolis, the Conservatory shopping center on Nicollet Mall is set to come down, even though it’s only 10 years old. A couple blocks away, the historic 1910 Shubert Theater on Hennepin Avenue’s Block E may kiss the dust soon, despite preservationists’ arguments to save this abandoned performance house. The fate of the Federal Reserve Bank Building, a 1972 landmark designed by Gunnar Birkerts, teeters in limbo now that the Federal Reserve has moved to new quarters on the banks of the Mississippi River. Yet the park buildings at Gooseberry Falls look as if they will last another 65 years and beyond. A building achieves longevity for many reasons. Good design is only one reason. Often a building simply outlives its usefulness—and down it goes.

Yet strong design is always the best safeguard against the uncertainties of the future. Gooseberry Falls State Park banked on good design 65 years ago, and it paid off with lasting buildings. The park again has invested in architecture with a new visitor center (page 20) that surely will last decades. Strong or innovative design, unfortunately, is never a guarantee. If it were, Ralph Rapson’s acclaimed 1962 Pillsbury house on Lake Minnetonka would still be standing.

Each year AIA Minnesota conducts an Honor Awards program (page 11) to recognize new buildings by Minnesota architects. The jurors evaluate the buildings based on their current function. They also speculate about how these structures will survive the years. Will the buildings be viable in the future? No one can predict, but as one juror commented about the Scandinavian-influenced Ravenwood Studio in northern Minnesota, “It looks as though it had been left here by Leif Ericson himself.”

Surely if something seemingly transcends the centuries, it has lasting value.

Among other criteria, architectural value is determined by the owner and users. Douglas County, Wis., saw value in renewing its 80-year-old courthouse (page 26). Now the county’s original 1918 investment is maturing with the promise of additional decades of use. Several Twin Cities colleges are wagering on the future by opening new campus buildings (pages 34-45). Will they last 80 years? That depends on how adaptable they are to a constantly changing marketplace. Douglas County renewed its lease on historic architecture by adapting old architecture for contemporary uses.

A building’s value also is realized through quality design, construction and material. But frequently buildings must evolve to survive when they no longer function as first intended. Through creative thinking about adaptive reuse, we can save more of our older buildings, rather than simply toss them out with the evening trash.

ERIC KUDALIS

P.S. Speaking of lasting value, Architecture Minnesota recently won three publication awards through the Minnesota Magazine Publishers Association. We are proud of the many contributors who help make Architecture Minnesota a successful magazine.
A visitor center/rest area continues
Gooseberry Falls State Park’s rustic
architectural tradition

By Eric Kudalis

David Salmela calls himself a modernist. For those familiar with his award-winning homes, that statement may seem a bit odd. If anything, Salmela seems more a traditionalist or neotraditionalist as many of his homes reflect the Scandinavian architectural vernacular popularized by Edwin Lundie a generation before him. As with Lundie’s work, Salmela’s projects possess the warm textures of indigenous stones and finely crafted wood. His houses are judiciously sited—almost hidden—amidst the thickets of Minnesota’s rustic northern landscape. They are warm, welcoming, comforting.

Yet his architecture is modern, if by modern we mean an unfettered aesthetic in which minimal materials and straightforward planning effectively create lasting pieces of design. His houses are modern, but they are Minnesota modern. Salmela says that if he were living in a different part of the country, his houses would look different. Well, thank goodness he lives here and his designs look the way they do. When you see one of his houses, you think, “Ah, yes, that’s Minnesota.” They fit so comfortably on the landscape that surely they must have sprouted and grown with the trees, braved the whip of subzero temperatures and monster blizzards, and flourished.

Salmela’s latest endeavor, however, is not a house at all, but a visitor center and rest area at Gooseberry Falls State Park. Designed with Cheryl Fosdick while part of Salmela Fosdick Ltd., Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center/Highway Rest Area is the first major stop north of Duluth along Minnesota’s North Shore drive, where the pines of the North Woods meet the jagged, rocky edge of Lake Superior stretching from Duluth to Canada. When Minnesotans flock to the North Shore, they find rustic cabins and roadside fish huts, but they also find—much to the chagrin of many—the chains and generic resorts capitalizing on the region’s growing tourist trade.

Despite some gauche new arrivals, the North Shore’s architectural tradition is well preserved in the splendor of Edwin Lundie’s heavy-timber Lutsen Resort of 1949, Holstead and Sullivan’s shingle-style Namiboujou Lodge of 1929, and the many stone-and-timber park struc-
tures built by the Civilian Conservation Corp during the Great Depression. Salmela Fosdick Ltd.'s Visitor Center/Highway Rest Area fits securely into the tradition of these great buildings.

Gooseberry Falls State Park is one of Minnesota's most popular parks, a 1,662-acre preserve with five waterfalls tumbling from the Gooseberry River, hiking and snowmobile trails, and a well-preserved collection of CCC park buildings. The 10,500-square-foot visitor center/rest area evokes the era of the CCC buildings, when care and thought equaled timeless architecture that blended seamlessly with the environment. Salmela says that he looked to many of these stone-and-timber structures throughout the park for inspiration, yet he notes that the new building was never meant as a knock off. This is a modern building with multiple functions. Salmela's challenge was to create a contemporary park structure that accommodates various functions, evokes an updated sensibility, yet still relates to the rugged, woodsy site and the park's traditional earthy architecture.

Funded through the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources,
the $1.7 million visitor center pulls seven different functions under one roof. In addition to bathrooms (one reason many stop in the first place), the building houses an interpretive center and adjacent presentation room, visitor-information desk, gift shop, an open gathering space (or Trail Center) anchored by a stone fireplace, and the usual administrative, storage and support facilities.

For Salmela, siting is everything. The visitor center is hidden in the woods midway between the surface-parking lots just off Highway 61 and the waterfalls. The building slowly reveals itself at the end of a winding, landscaped footpath; first we see a portion of its sloping cedar-shake roof and stone base, then more, until we finally come upon the whole building as we stand on the bluestone court or walk under the colonnade along a wood-framed glass wall.

Nothing is exceptional or unusual about the basic design; even Salmela admits that it's a fairly straightforward building. But what shoulders the building above the ordinary is its attention to detail and thoughtful use of first-rate materials. Here quality radiates from every square inch, from the heavy-timber framing and stone base to the exterior cedar siding, redwood door and window framing, bluestone court, interior fir finishes and black terrazzo floors.

Much of the material is recycled. The timber posts and beams, for instance, come from 19th-century West Coast
The visitor center is sited at the end of a landscaped path by Coen + Stumpf (above and plans left). Walls of windows (top) open the center to the surrounding woods and river. The building's simple wood-clad, gabled form (opposite) contrasts with its snowy setting.
warehouses, while the exterior redwood windows and doors come from the old wine vats of a California winery. The heavy stone base is from just down the road, literally, as it was blasted out of the hills during a highway-tunnel project. Wood and stone—just what you expect in a rugged North Shore setting.

What you don’t expect is the interior steel I-beam spanning the 40-foot-long Trail Center. Because of the span, Salmela couldn’t use a timber beam without planting a post in the center of the room, which he says he was happy to do. Yet park personnel wanted to keep the room unobstructed; thus the steel beam. Despite the beam’s seeming textual incongruity, it fits in comfortably. The black color is in sync with the black terrazzo floors, exposed hardware, and dark-tone stone contrasting with the light-tone wood; and the steel echoes the nearby steel replacement bridge, currently under construction over Gooseberry River.

In naming the building a 1997 AIA Minnesota Honor Award winner, the jurors referred to it as an architecture of great resorts and lasting design distinguished by texture, scale and play of materials. The public has embraced the building, as well. Paul Sundberg, park manager, says visitors often congratulate him on wise use of public money. That’s quite a switch from the usual public grumbling about tax-dollar spending.

For those traveling Up North, Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center/Highway Rest Area is an instant North Shore landmark.

Honor Award
Gooseberry Falls State Park
Visitor Center/Highway Rest Area
Two Harbors, Minn.
Salmela Fosdick Ltd.
The post-and-beam interior (above) includes an interpretive center and theater, Trail Center, gift shop and information area. A steel beam spans the Trail Center (left). The main entry hall runs parallel to the exterior colonnade, divided by a glass wall (opposite). Shimmering black terrazzo floors offset the light-tone wood interior.
Superior, Wis., is often considered Duluth's dowdy cousin. While Duluth has dramatically increased its tourist trade recently with a restored Canal Park and newly landscaped lakewalk along the Lake Superior shoreline, Superior has languished in the shadows as the place you go only if you can't find a hotel room in Duluth. Yet the city does have its attractions, among them a few decent downtown restaurants and the freshly revamped Douglas County Courthouse.

The Courthouse, on the National Register of Historic Places, is classic early 20th-century civic architecture, the kind of grand, majestic architectural gesture that gave many hinterland towns instant legitimacy and urban sophistication. Towns, large and small, proudly looked toward the future by constructing great pieces of public architecture—libraries, banks, city halls, courthouses, post offices. St. Paul was no longer an outpost when it threw open the doors of its Cass Gilbert-designed State Capitol in 1905. Owatonna, Minn., certainly was no one-horse-town with its gem of a bank designed by Louis Sullivan in 1908. Superior, likewise, could hang its civic banner high with the completion of the Douglas County Courthouse in 1918.

Built for a then-whopping $600,000 by the architectural team of J.M. Royer of Urbana, Ill., and E.S. Radcliffe of Superior, Wis., the Beaux Arts-inspired Douglas County Courthouse reminds us of a more lustrous era of public architecture, now seemingly lost in a sea of banal new construction. The new Federal Courthouse in downtown Minneapolis, for instance, is indistinguishable from the corporate high-rises surrounding it.

Thank goodness 70 or 80 years ago civic leaders had more than corporate image in mind when they christened their public buildings. Beaux Arts may have knocked off ancient and Renaissance architecture, but it sure has great curb appeal.

Sheathed in light-tone limestone and accentuated with a series of Ionic columns spanning the second and third levels along the front façade, the courthouse recently has been updated by Stanis Johnson architects, Inc., of Duluth. The firm, which devotes approximately 15 percent of its practice to historic renovation, had a pretty strong palette to start with. Exterior renovation consisted mainly of cosmetic scrubbing and sprucing, in addition to replacing all the windows and adding two new stair towers cloaked in a reinforced concrete that closely match the original limestone.

The brunt of the renovation was inside. Because this is a working courthouse with daily court sessions, the renovation team completed all construction in the evenings over a 2 1/2-year period. The interior assignment balanced restoration with a total gut job. The main lobby, flanked by two marble staircases and encircled with marble columns, is a grand 3-story-high space culminating in an art-glass ceiling. Here the architects sought to undo years of neglect by buffing and polishing the marble, replicating original lighting fixtures and rosebud ceiling patterns, and painting and renewing the trim throughout.

From the atrium, Stanis Johnson converted an 80-year-old office and courthouse into a modern building. Aside from renovating two existing 2nd-floor courtrooms on either side of the atrium, the team gutted the building, reconfiguring modern offices and support facilities within the classic shell, as well as adding a third courtroom. The architects also carved a narrow, 4th-level office suite out of attic space along one half of the building. From the 4th level, you can open a service door that overlooks the art-glass ceiling.

Douglas County's commitment to good architecture 80 years ago is still paying off. With Stanis Johnson's renovation, the Douglas County Courthouse continues to infuse this small Wisconsin town with civic pride.

E.K.
Since opening in Anaheim, Calif., in 1955, Disneyland—as well as its subsequent sister theme parks—has set the standard of escapist entertainment. Yet Disneyland’s influence reaches beyond pure entertainment, inspiring the design of shopping malls, resorts and even the urbanscape. In “The Architecture of Reassurance: Designing the Disney Theme Parks,” at Walker Art Center through Jan. 18, more than 350 architectural drawings, models, paintings and plans from the archives of Walt Disney Imagineering reveal the creative process behind the theme parks. As guest curator Karal Ann Marling argues, “This process—Disney’s distinctive approach to re-presentation of the past, the present and the future in concrete form—has helped to transform our responses to architecture and the city.” This sampling offers glimpses into the magic of Disney.
Color study for façade of Snow White ride in Fantasyland (opposite top). Tomorrowland (left) in colored pencil and watercolor on brownline shows monorail system and “Wienie” rocket in background, while watercolor drawing repainted in acrylic (below) shows detail of monorail system.

The ultimate Disney “Wienie,” a watercolor of Sleeping Beauty Castle (above) with its soaring turrets. Another Disney attraction is this color study for entrance to Frontierland from the Hub (opposite bottom).
London

A visit to the Globe Theater, Wimbledon and the Isle of Wight is a walk through literary England

By Bette Hammel

The Globe Theater on the south banks of London's Thames River is a Shakespearean step back in time. At this 1997 replica of the 1599 original Globe, Shakespeare's language comes to life without the benefit of sets, props or high-tech lighting. Standing in a spring drizzle at a performance of Henry V, I was so carried away by the authenticity of the scene and the powerful acting that I could visualize English troops crossing the channel only to be cut down by the French, while the King agonized over the bloody conflict.

With standing-room tickets procured at the last minute, a friend and I were fortunate to experience a Globe production in June shortly after it opened. And it is an experience. Here is theater the way Shakespeare himself staged it. Roof-covered bleachers with backless seats surround an open-pit area flanking the stage, allowing standees to be close to the performers. When we grew tired of standing, we leaned against the nearest bleacher railing. The curtainless stage, topped with a thatched roof, projects into the semi-circular, roofless area, supported by two marbled, wooden columns with gilded capitals. Actors, wearing rich and colorful Shakespearean costumes, entered through a curtain at the back and overhead. In a balcony, three trumpeters announced the entrance of the King.

It's easy to spot the Globe from pedestrian walkways along the Thames. At first glance, the theater's exterior resembles white stucco with timber trim. We soon learned that the exterior coating is actually ground limestone with goat's hair, and that the polygon-shaped structure is built of English oak right up to the thatched roof. No wonder critics have called the new Globe "a remarkable reconstruction of Shakespeare's original wooden 'O'." Such modern amenities as restrooms and coffee bars are available in an adjoining brick building connected to the theater via a covered walkway or an outdoor plaza.

A relative's gift of two tickets to Wimbledon brought me to London in the first place. It was a perfect excuse to revisit London with tennis friend Peggy Watson, see the latest architecture, theater and more English gardens. Clutching our two-day tennis tickets when we arrived in late June, we were greeted by almost continuous London rain that week.

Fortunately, the sun shone brightly over Wimbledon on the second day of play (our first). The complex encompasses two major, partially roofed stadiums, countless green-grass outdoor courts with bleachers, huge scoreboards and assorted food pavilions. At the entry, row upon row of festive tents striped in green and white Wimbledon colors greeted us. On a grassy hillside, purple and white petunias decorated a picnic area. Strawberries and cream (or its substitute, frozen yogurt) were the order of the day with accompanying champagne, or tea and crumpets served in the tea pavilion.
Our seats were in historic Centre Court, originally opened in 1922. Recently remodeled with a sweeping new roof, the oval-shaped, open-air stadium now holds more than 13,000 fans, a new royal box and improved broadcast booths. Nearby is Wimbledon’s newest stadium, Court No. 1, accommodating 11,400. Watching such tennis stars as Michael Chang and Sanchez Vicario was exciting, but experiencing Wimbledon itself was the real thrill. As English journalist Simon Barnes wrote, “It is not the strawberries that make Wimbledon great….Wimbledon happens to be one of the finest theatres of sport in the world.”

Thanks to the legendary “tube” (London’s subway), we whisked around London visiting such famous museums as the Tate, National Gallery and the British Museum, shopped at Harrods, and naturally indulged in a few of London’s fine restaurants.

The current building craze in London is shiny new restaurants, especially those designed by Sir Terence Conran in former automobile “garages” or other historic buildings. One of the hot spots is Bluebird. Located on Kings Road in Chelsea, Bluebird is much more than a fine restaurant with a striking design. It is a Gastrodome, combining a European-style food market, informal cafe and bar, kitchenware shop, wine merchant, bakery and flower mart under one roof. Designers have created a vivid atmosphere on all three floors of this converted 1923 building, once Europe’s largest motor garage, where the racecar “Bluebird” was assembled. With an art-deco exterior and its Bluebird banner flying, the restaurant-market announces itself as a destination. A long, narrow skylight across the roof lights up the stylish blue, white and stainless-steel interior. The sophisticated design combined with excellent food and European-style markets downstairs has made Bluebird an instant success. Conran’s operates five other restaurant-market shops around London, ranging from Michelin House to the newest one, Orrery.

After enduring a week of rain, we escaped London and headed for the Isle of Wight on the seacoast. By taking a train south to Portsmouth, a ferry to the island, then a short train and bus ride, we arrived in Ventnor in about two and a half hours. I had chosen this South Coast town for its location overlooking the sea and for its famous botanical garden. Victorian brick and stone homes dot the area. We stayed at the Burlington Hotel, a former convalescent home transformed into a bed and breakfast. The Isle of Wight is known for its coastal walks, sandy beaches, picturesque villages, historic sites and yacht harbors. Wight also was Queen Victoria’s favorite escape. Her Italian-inspired mansion, “Osborne House,” with its lush gardens, is open for tourists. (Portions of the recent film Mrs. Brown were filmed here.)

Because we had only two days on Wight, we were eager to start hiking the coastal paths, but again the rains came despite the island’s sunny, warm reputation as a favorite vacation spot for northern Brits. Fortunately, a kindly neighbor (a retired travel agent), hearing our dismay, intervened and insisted in driving us around “his” island to see Wight’s sights. (Wight is small; you can see most of it in a day or two.) Thanks to him, we took in the delightful thatched cottages of Calbourne village, sampled a short coastal walk on the top of the Downs, lunched near the “Needles” (chalky white perpendicular cliffs), explored Tennyson Downs where Alfred Lord Tennyson lived and wrote, and visited Carisbrooke Castle and the busy harbor of Yarmouth. Wight’s topography is immensely varied, with a high ridge of chalky downland leading to steep valleys. Spectacular sea views mingle with gentle meadows sprinkled with wild flowers, and beautiful gardens with tropical plants abound. Hiking and biking is popular along 60 miles of coastal paths.

“The air on the Downs is worth sixpence a pint,” Tennyson wrote more than a century ago.

True. Like Queen Victoria, I want to return often to “the Garden Isle,” the Isle of Wight where from high up on the downs you can look over the English channel and dream about sailing to France.
Clients often chose one of several approaches in applying art to architecture.

The Percent For Art Program, for instance, conveniently separates architect and artist in any publicly funded building project. The architect simply leaves space at primary focal points; sculptors or other artists later fill in the voids. Ego clashes are adroitly avoided, but there is almost zero chance for true integration. A prominent local example is the Minnesota History Center. A year after Hammel Green and Abrahamson completed the building, environmental artist Andrew Leicester of Minneapolis created a contiguous but decidedly disengaged outdoor sculpture garden.

A much more gutsy strategy is to hire a broadly talented person who can design a building that is architecture and sculpture in one. The prime example in Minnesota is Frank Gehry’s remarkable Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, the art container as art. The problem with this approach is that people with Gehry’s combination of architectural skill, sculptural vision and chutzpah are exceedingly rare.

A third strategy is to find a sculptor with experience in architectural practice, and who can work directly—and sympathetically—with architects during the building-design process. One such person is Alexander Tylevich.

Tylevich, who immigrated to St. Paul from Minsk, Byelorussia in 1989, has impressive credentials in both architecture and sculpture. He received a bachelor’s degree from the Minsk Architectural College, a master’s degree from the Byelorussian Polytechnic Institute, and studied privately with sculptor Zair Asgur. Tylevich was elected a Fellow of the Architectural Association of the USSR (analogous to Fellow of the American Institute of Architects) at age 29, and was a winner of the Soviet Architectural Association’s First Prize for his design of the Minsk Historical Center. In addition, he co-authored a master plan for the Minsk City Center and designed numerous prominent structures in Byelorussia, including the Minsk city-government building and four subway stations. As an architect in the former Soviet Union, he often created sculptures for buildings of his own design, as well as by other architects.

But over his 20-plus years in Minsk, Tylevich also endured the endemic frustration of the Soviet Union’s waning years. The Communist Party—which was the client for almost all buildings and simultaneously the overseer of all design, contracting and subcontracting—looked for reasons why every building should be designed, redesigned and redesigned again. With ideological baggage thrown on top of a weighty bureaucracy, there was a continuous and extravagant waste of creativity, time and money. Paper architecture became an end in itself. Tylevich says it was common for projects to go through as many as 10 complete sets of specifications before they were built. And even then, he says, “Designs and the buildings constructed from them were rarely twin brothers. In the USSR, most ideas were only partly realized.”

When he arrived in the United States, Tylevich found that he couldn’t prac-

The art of Alexander Tylevich

For this Russian émigré, integrating sculpture and architecture is the creative core of his work

By Richard L. Kronick
tice architecture because of his limited proficiency in English, lack of CADD experience and unfamiliarity with American business practices. Nine years later, his English is charmingly inflected, his computer skills have caught up and he is an American citizen. He is happy that circumstances channeled him into a new career as a full-time sculptor. “Most of my education was in architecture, but I think sculpture is in my soul,” he says.

“Soulful” is an apt descriptor of Tylevich’s work. Whether for a secular or religious client, his sculpture speaks to spiritual values.

He works closely with several architects and designers. One is Rafferty Rafferty Tollefson Architects (RRT) of St. Paul, which specializes in churches. Working with RRT, Tylevich has created sculptures that combine equal parts history, spirituality and architectural-design sense.

The most recent example is The Meditation Place, a chapel at Fairview-University Medical Center in Minneapolis. To grace RRT’s interior architecture, Tylevich designed a granite offering table and the room’s center piece, a bronze and brass sculpture entitled “Tree of Life.” The image of a tree was chosen as a multicultural religious symbol.

Tylevich elaborated on the multicultural theme in several ways. Apropos of a medical institution, the tree’s trunk is transformed into the double helix of DNA. At the base of the helix is a fig leaf and seed pod, traditional symbols of the Buddha. Along the spiraling strands are life forms—leaves, sticks, flowers, snails, fish and birds—all streaming upward. The tree grows from a fountain that spills into a granite pool, thus producing The Meditation Place’s ambient background sound. Integration of structure and art is seamless.

Craig Rafferty, design principal at RRT, feels strongly about the collaborative approach he uses with Tylevich. “You will always have the most successful project if the architect and sculptor are working together,” Rafferty says. “That is superior to the situation where either one is imposing ideas on the other.” He laments the typical separation between architect and artist in public-building projects. “There is a tendency to put off hiring the artist until the last moment. I think the project always suffers as a result.”

Whether in religious or secular settings, another of Tylevich’s persistent themes is inspiration. This is exemplified in his 1992 project for the Winona Aviation Technical College in Winona, Minn., where he worked with Architectural Alliance of Minneapolis. Seeking to infuse the everyday activity of both students and faculty with heroic spirit, Tylevich created a group of related works entitled “The Process of Becoming Airborne.” The central object is a brightly colored 30-foot-high triumphal arch over the building’s main staircase. The arch’s cross section is that of an airplane wing that incorporates airplane wing ribs and struts. In a nearby alcove are large bronze images of Charles A. Lindbergh and his airplanes, as well as a ceremonial table made of wing ribs. The table’s glass top is removable. At graduation time, students and faculty sign their names on the glass, which is then hung in a nearby place of honor.

Not yet a household name in the Twin Cities art world, Tylevich surely will win more local and national attention with his recent and upcoming projects beyond Minnesota’s borders. Whenever his work takes him, though, Tylevich says he will continue to look for opportunities that combine art and architecture. “The best situation,” he says, “is where I can work with the architect from the very beginning of the design process. That way, everything is architecturally tight. I am happy to contribute something most architects cannot do by themselves.”

Montessori Vision (opposite top) at Lake Country School in Minneapolis, 12-feet-high, cast fiberglass, plate steel and stainless steel; Tree of Life (left) and granite offering table within The Meditation Place at Fairview-University Medical Center, Minneapolis, cast-bronze, fabricated brass and granite base; The Process of Becoming Airborne (top) at Winona Technical College, painted steel, perforated steel and aluminum.
The Carlson School of Management squeezes onto the University of Minnesota's West Bank campus

business MINDED

Since first leap-frogging the Mississippi River in the early 1960s, the University of Minnesota has built its West Bank campus in a decidedly modernist vein. Unlike the classically inspired scale of the East Bank’s main Mall, the West Bank is a collection of corporate-like buildings that just as easily could fit into a suburban office park. The grassy lawns and columnar buildings of the East Bank are replaced with concrete plazas and dull façades of the West Bank. Ralph Rapson’s 1971 Rarig Center is perhaps the most architecturally significant building on the West Bank, yet its concrete interior lacks traditional warmth.

In addition, the West Bank buildings feel tightly packed in. The much larger East Bank, on the other hand, feels roomier with its grassy Knoll and classical Mall.

Now adding to the tight fit is the 243,000-square-foot, five-level Carlson School of Management, designed by Ellerbe Becket of Minneapolis. Built on a triangular site at the corner of 19th Avenue South and Fourth Street, the Carlson School bumps elbows with the Humphrey Institute just to the north and Wilson Library and Rarig Center to the east.

“We wanted to create a distinctive statement on the West Bank, although we wanted to fit in,” says Richard Varda of Ellerbe Becket. “We wanted a forward-looking building.”

The building certainly sets its sights on the future rather than looking to past academic architectural traditions. As with the other West Bank buildings, this is modern architecture, with a sleek, glass-and-brick exterior that adopts the high-tech look of the business world. The management school had been located in neighboring Blegen Hall since 1963, but had long-since outgrown that facility and was scattered throughout several buildings. Administrators and students complained that there was no real sense of community for the management school. Night students especially felt alienated, arriving in the dark and leaving in the dark without any central place to call home. In addition, the electronic and computer revolution had changed the whole process of business education, and the school’s facilities couldn’t properly accommodate all the new technology.
The Carlson School of Management curves along 19th Avenue and Fourth Street (opposite top). Upper floors of the glass, metal, and brick building cantilever out over the West Bank campus (above and opposite).
could have been an overpowering monolith if handled by a less skilled architect. Ellerbe Becket did much to tame the massive scale. By breaking the building in two halves and connecting them with a glass-enclosed atrium, the architects lightened the load, and by varying the facade treatments they created visual interest. This is not your standard rectilinear shoe box. The straight edge along Fourth Street curves around the corner at Fourth and 19th. On the northeast side, the top floors cantilever out to form a covered underpass, while the glassy north facade curves along a sunken landscaped plaza between the management school, Humphrey Institute and library.

As the University of Minnesota continues to build up its West Bank campus, the Carlson School of Management makes the best of a difficult site. Ellerbe Becket has given the university a new building that will provide decades of good business.

E.K.

The new $45 million building provides a state-of-the-art facility while bringing all students, faculty and administrators under one roof. For the management school, the building is an opportunity to increase its visibility nationally and locally. After all, business schools are big business, and to remain competitive they need high-profile, up-to-date buildings, as this one certainly is. In addition to the fully wired classrooms and lecture halls, the building contains break-out rooms, a 250-seat auditorium, faculty and administrative offices, food services, boardroom, an executive-education center and computer labs.

The heart of the Carlson School is the atrium. The light-filled, oval-shaped atrium connects the two curving halves of the building while providing a primary gathering place that was sorely missing in the management school’s old home. Here, students and faculty surely must feel at home.

From the exterior perspective, the building is less welcoming. Ellerbe Becket designed the school to reinforce the city grid along 19th Avenue and Fourth Street. But because the building is so big and the site so tight, it’s difficult to stand back and get a good overall look at the structure. Approaching from Wilson Library, you see only a wedge of the building bursting from its constraining site.

Yet the building’s whopping size, dictated by an extensive program,
The collegiate-Gothic science center includes two separate buildings clad in a multitone limestone (above). The science center faces two landscaped plazas on either side of the complex. Windows in Owens Hall (opposite center) overlook the second plaza. Windows (opposite top) reflect traditional Gothic detailing.
The Frey Science & Engineering Center bridges a gap at the University of St. Thomas' St. Paul campus

Strictly Science

The University of St. Thomas surely is a growing Twin Cities school, if the number of new buildings sprouting up around its two campuses is any indication. Several years ago the Catholic university opened a downtown Minneapolis building, designed by Opus Architects & Engineers, to house its business school, and has just broken ground on an addition by Opus that further will establish a true sense of campus in its downtown setting.

The flagship St. Paul campus, an attractive grouping of limestone-clad, collegiate-Gothic buildings at the corner of Cretin and Summit avenues, also has seen growth in recent years. In 1987 the university acquired land and buildings from the St. Paul Seminary to form a south campus diagonally across the intersection from the main campus. This collection of red-brick buildings, used primarily for offices and administrative functions, had little aesthetic sense of connection to the main campus—at least until the completion this past fall of the $37 million, 210,000-square-foot Frey Science & Engineering Center.

Located at the southwest corner of Cretin and Summit, the science center bridges the gap between the south and main campuses. With a similar collegiate-Gothic design
wrapped in a limestone façade, the new building blends with the main campus. Two landscaped sculpture courtyards in front and back of the science center reinforce the pedestrian connection between the two halves of campus.

Designed by Holabird & Root of Chicago with Opus Architects & Engineers of Minneapolis, Frey Science Center is actually two separate buildings connected by a skyway. The 90,000-square-foot O'Shaughnessy Science Hall houses such “dry” sciences as geology, mathematics and engineering, while the 120,000-square-foot Owens Science Hall houses such “wet” sciences as physics, biology, chemistry and laboratories. In all, the two buildings combine the science departments—once scattered among three separate buildings—into a single complex of 35 classrooms, 76 laboratories, 117 offices, a 115-seat auditorium, and a greenhouse.

Under Holabird & Root's guidance, the complex is a graceful interpretation of traditional Gothic architecture. While many of the older campus buildings appear monochromatic in their yellow tones of limestone, Frey Center and offices. Yet Opus Architects & Engineers, overseeing interior design, managed to surmount the building’s-by-the-numbers interior with colorful and stylized terrazzo floors along the public spaces of each of the two building’s four floors. Basing these brush strokes of color on stories from the Book of Genesis, Opus turned the terrazzo floors into the interior’s visual icing. One pattern, for instance, interprets life’s origins as vegetation, fish and birds spilling from an egg.

Unique to this building project was the university’s commitment to combining art, architecture and landscaping, with two courtyards, five outdoor sculptures, hand-chiseled signage, indoor art pieces and stained glass surrounding a 5th-floor tower in Owens Hall. Many of the art pieces were designed by local artists.

This commitment to art and architecture has given St. Thomas a valuable new building.

E.K.

O'Shaughnessy Hall (right in plan) houses the dry sciences, while Owens Hall (left in plan) houses the wet sciences. Interiors spaces include laboratories (top) and an auditorium (middle) in Owens Hall, and brightly colored terrazzo floors (opposite) in corridors throughout the two buildings.
or many Twin Citians, the most salient Augsburg College landmark is a high-rise dormitory with the college's name wrapped around the top, visible to motorists passing on I-94. This small Lutheran college, wedged between the freeway and Riverside Avenue in Minneapolis, is somewhat overshadowed by the neighboring West Bank campus of the University of Minnesota and the sprawling Fairview-University Medical Center complex. Augsburg's muscular neighbors are part of the college's appeal, though, as administrators note that the Twin Cities are an extension of Augsburg's 23-acre campus.

Indeed, the campus has a decidedly urban texture, even though it surrounds a landscaped square that offers some respite from the busy surrounding highways. While the high-rise dormitory probably will remain the college's unwitting marker for some time to come, Augsburg has a more distinguished architectural contender in the 73,000-square-foot James G. Lindell Family Library, designed by BWBR Architects of St. Paul. This striking campus addition replaces a bland, modernist box that served as the college's library since 1954.
Augsburg's library is a lively combination of glass, metal and brick. The entrance (above) faces Foss chapel and performing-arts center, forming a focus of student activity. Glass walls (opposite bottom) open the interior to the street and campus; the more staid brick side (opposite top) is turned away from the street.
"We wanted it to feel like a good, old-fashioned library—but one with the latest technology," says Elaine R. Cline, former director of the library and information technology.

The latest it has, with a multimedia computer-development lab, multimedia classroom, library-instruction classroom that doubles as a public computer lab, a curriculum library for teacher education, various study spaces, archives and special-collections room, art gallery and storage space. And though its collection of 175,000 volumes may seem meager to someone attending a college larger than 2,500 students, Augsburg is part of a network of seven private-college libraries sharing resources.

The 1953 library, which is being remodeled as offices, is here replaced with a welcoming 4-level facility that reinforces a loci of student activity already established by the Foss chapel and performing-arts center directly across 22nd Avenue. The library bridges the world of modern technology and traditional campus architecture. The glass and metal exterior treatment looks up-to-date, yet the warm-tone brick plants the building firmly in classic campus design. Because of so much glass, the interior is visible to passersby.

This interior-exterior visual connection is perhaps the building’s strongest trait. A glass-roof spine cuts through the center, filling all levels with light. The upper two levels overlook the spine, connecting them to the main level, while a circular, glass-top rotunda ushers additional light into a lower-level student lounge. Interior brick further blurs the line between inside and outside. As for that requested "good, old-fashioned" look, BWBR took its cue from classic library reading rooms and included a barrel-vaulted, wood ceiling under the stacks on the upper level. Unfortunately, the book stacks grouped toward the center of the floor obscure ceiling views. The floor would work better if the stacks were pushed to the sides and study carrels lined up under the wooden ceiling, in classic library fashion.

Even so, the library is a valuable college addition. Augsburg’s campus, while clean and pleasant, is not particularly noteworthy. This new library certainly lends the campus distinction among its bigger urban neighbors.

E.K.
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scattered around the city quite deliberately as part of its planning. Disneyland also does that; it lets you steer from one point to another through the use of a tall vertical element.

You're referring to what Disney called the "hub and wienie" plan?

Exactly. Another thing: The visual over-stimulation of the city, created by capitalism, is something Walt found baleful; that one store will be absolutely different from the one next door, to create a competitive climate. Also, skyscrapers make the city an alienating kind of place. Whereas Disney kept his scale—despite the use of forced perspective—almost uniformly domestic. And he kept the buildings all of a piece; for example, the colors were planned for a whole street, not one building by one building, and that creates a feeling of inherent harmony that's also at odds with the city outside of the theme park.

So Disneyland architecture is really an attempt to soothe or comfort the harried visitor.

I think soothing or comforting is too mild a term. I think it was an effort to create an alternative environment that could reassure the visitor that the world was more or less under control. The world of the 1950s, spatially and architecturally anyway, seemed to be spinning in another direction.

Since it opened in 1955, Disneyland has influenced American architecture from shopping malls to Los Angeles's City Walk to newtown development. Psychologically and architecturally, why has Disneyland exercised so potent an influence?

Because we feel so very good in this space, and millions of people pay a lot of money to come from vast distances to be in these spaces because they feel the same way. Because at Disneyland, people are in one of the few places in the world where they feel in control. And clearly that's not something architects are very good at giv-

Continued on page 48
Charles R. Stinson
Architects
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Altman Residence
Builder: Streeter & Assoc.
Interior: Faye Gallus

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Architects
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ing people. In fact, I would suggest, to be heretical about it, that vernacular architects are in general much better about that. The slab who is building tract housing in the suburbs or gated communities, or putting front-porch detailing on a house or a little decorative fence around a yard, is probably giving people a better feeling of psychological comfort. All of the things Walt Disney did—and these builders are probably doing them for the same reasons—were instinctual rather than theoretical.

Do the criticisms that Disneyland has withstood come from the same place as current criticisms of ventures like City Walk and new-town planning?

High modernism holds that the only thing that’s good for you is a nice straight line and getting rid of any illusion to narrative in architecture. That’s just an artificial set of principles. We don’t have to believe that for a minute. Nine times out of 10 it’s the modernists who are launching the criticism. But people don’t buy it. People like to have houses that remind them of their grandma’s house, or of what they saw on their summer vacation or of pleasant experiences they’ve had. New Urbanism creates real comfort zones. Architecture, I believe, ought to be for people.

How did Disney find architects to create his buildings?

By and large his buildings were not created by architects. The closest thing to an architect who worked for Walt Disney was Marvin Davis, who worked on the site plans for Disneyland. Mary tells the story that when he and his fellow architects were getting out of architecture school at UCLA in the ’30s, there were no jobs for architects. So, many young men of his generation went to work as art directors in Hollywood studios; they went to work building fake buildings or movie sets. Most of the architecture in Disney theme parks comes out of art directors’ work. For the last 35 years, those art directors haven’t necessarily been architect-trained.

The usual process in making a Disney building is to first start with a finished rendering of the building in context, showing how people are using it and responding to it, and how it tells a story. If everybody thinks that’s a cool idea, they hire a contractor and everything is then negotiated between the contractor and the art director who created the first image.

The other medium they use is models, which they use for an astonishing variety of reasons. Some of the models are created to sell ideas. A lot of them are meant to be boxed in plexi-cases and taken to the site to show a contractor how to build a building that doesn’t have a right angle in it.

The model of the Disneyland Paris castle in the exhibition, made for promotional use, is one of many castle images. How did the icon of castle become the heart and soul of Disneyland?

Originally Walt put his castle in the center of his park—and this is specula-
ton on my part—to signal the fact that you were about to walk over a drawbridge and into a fantasyland. At the time the park opened, he was working on a movie yet to be released called Sleeping Beauty, in which a castle was the most prominent motif. Also, one of Walt’s greatest background designers for his animation, Herb Ryman, had been doing extraordinary renderings of castles, many of them based on medieval manuscripts. So I think Walt was absolutely captivated by castles.

What’s more interesting is that once Walt committed himself to building the castle, people responded to it so strongly that the image suggested dreams come true. Fantasy played an important role in the lives of people in the 1950s. They were very regimented in their work environments. The alternative was unbridled fantasy; things like fairy godmothers and castles figure prominently in the advertising, filmmaking and iconography of the ’50s.

It’s also interesting that the castle should have become the logo for all the Disney parks. What the castles ultimately say is that these parks are about collective creative fantasies. And we shouldn’t forget that. You can almost chart how grim daily life has become since the 1950s by how big the Disney castles are getting. The smallest one is Anaheim [1955] and the largest one is Paris [1992].

Disney wrote in a draft proposal that Disneyland was to be “the essence of America as we know it...the nostalgia of the past, the exciting glimpses of the future.” He included the phrase “the complexities of the present,” but then crossed it out. Does this anecdote sum up the legacy he’s left on contemporary architecture?

Bill Clinton is the only human being on the planet who takes his vacations at a “think tank.” Most of us recoil from that idea and that’s been true since the days of ancient Rome. People do not like to go on vacation and run their calculators or worry about world peace. I think it’s so important that people lighten up when they come to see this exhibit. Or when they think about theme parks. Disneyland is a place to go on vacation. It’s a place that is meant to soothe and instruct, and make you feel decent about yourself.

We should recognize that where Disneyland does influence the world maybe architects ought to take notice, and ask whether they’ve failed their clients by imposing their personalities too strongly without thinking enough about what their clients might like. Walt Disney was somebody quite ordinary who figured things out for himself and lots of other people liked it. It just irks me that no one has paid any attention to what people seem to prefer in great numbers.

When I went to school you would just be killed if you didn’t spend your whole time studying large male architects wearing round black glasses. The house that you lived in was of no concern, for example. I find the house we live in of enormous concern. And clearly, Walt Disney did, too.

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Fax: 612/333-4444
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- Dean Dovolis, AIA
- Brian Johnson, AIA
- John Trapp, ASLA
- John Dillingham, PE

**Activities:** Geotechnical - Boring, monitor wall installation, field and laboratory tests, engineering analysis and reports. Environmental - Site assessments, air emissions control, remedial investigations, corrective action design, waste management, import studies. Materials - Engineering evaluation and consultation, field and laboratory testing, quality control observation and testing, non-destructive testing.

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- Gayden Melby, PE
- Jim Lange, PE
- Terry Skoled, PE
- Philip Behrend, PE

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- Thomas J. Dowis, PE
- Ronald J. LaMere, PE
- John A. Clark, PE

**Activities:** Site planning, structural and civil engineering, environmental engineering, project management, permitting and contract administration.

---

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Fax: 612/331-4572
Established 1971

- Dr. David Braslau PE
- Firm Personnel by Discipline
  - Acoustical Engineers 1
  - Other Professional/Technical 1
  - Administrative 1
- TOTAL 3

Architectural and performance space acoustics, building and partition noise isolation, environmental noise control, exterior facade attenuation for aircraft and other sources, sound system design, industrial noise control, acoustic and noise measurements, control of vibration, blasting and small arms ranges, land use compatibility, environmental assessments, impact statements and indirect source permits.

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Fax: 612/370-1378
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- Richard P. Wohlfeld PE, AICP
- Craig Ar mundsen AIA, AICP
- Gary Ellet PE
- Tony Heppelmann PE
- Firm Personnel by Discipline
  - Civil Engineers 82
  - Structural Engineers 12
  - Transportation Engineers 32
  - Architects 3

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Administrative 77
TOTAL 419

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**Cain Ouse Associates Inc.**

1310 East Highway 96
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Tel: 612/426-9549
Fax: 612/426-5048
Internet: CainOuse@aol.com
Established 1983

- Jay J. Cain PE
- Wallace M. Ouse PE
- Scott D. Thomas PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
- Mechanical Engineers 3
- Electrical Engineers 2
- Technical Administrative 2
TOTAL 14

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Established 1985

- Anne R. Carroll MP
- Bruno M. Franck Ph.D., PE

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- Writing/Communication Consultant 1
TOTAL 2

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Established 1966.

Lloyd W. Darg  PE
Gene Bolgren  PE
Harry D. Menk  PE

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Civil Engineer  1
Structural Engineers  4
Technical  2
Administrative  1
TOTAL  8

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1024 N. Riverfront Drive
Mankato, MN 56001
Tel: 507/625-7809
Fax: 507/388-9225
E-mail: dolejs@mankato.mn.us
Established 1977.

Other Offices: Burnsville, MN
Joseph M. Dolejs  PE
David A. Kroells  PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Mechanical Engineers  1
Technical  9
Administrative  1.5
TOTAL  12

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Internet: dunhamassociates.com
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Other Offices: Rapid City, SD; Las Vegas, NV
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Kathleen Kolbeck  PE
Dale Holland  PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
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Mechanical Engineers  14
Electrical Engineers  10
Building Code Specialist  1
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Technical  85
Administrative  13
TOTAL  134

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Electrical Engineers  3
Administrative  1
TOTAL  8

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Mike Wehert  PE

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Electrical Engineers  3
Administrative  1
TOTAL  8

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E-mail: enganarchitects@willmar.com
Established 1979

Jeffrey M. Nagel
AIA, CID
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Firm Personnel by Discipline
Mechanical Engineers 1
Architects 2
Interior Designer 1
Technical 5
Administrative 2
TOTAL 11

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Established 1986

Sean K. Hallet
PE
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 1
Structural Engineers 1
Technical 5
Administrative 1
TOTAL 5

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Established 1974

Bruce K. Johnson
PE
William F. Thiesse
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Richard A. Hoag
CPM
James H. Art
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Firm Personnel by Discipline
Mechanical Engineers 5
Electrical Engineers 2
Registered Communications/Distribution Designer (RCD) 1
Technical 38
Administrative 5
TOTAL 51

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Alfred G. "Bud" Ericksen
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CPM
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Firm Personnel by Discipline
Structural Engineers 12
Technical 11
Administrative 3
TOTAL 26

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James R. Johnson
PE
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Firm Personnel by Discipline
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Electrical Engineers 4
Technical 1
Administrative 1.5
TOTAL 12.5

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<td>5</td>
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- Roger Sanethman PE
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- Harry Wilcox PE

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<td>Civil Engineers</td>
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<td>Structural Engineers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanical Engineers</td>
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<td>Architect</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interior Designers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical</td>
<td>38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>370</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HGAE Engineering, in addition to serving clients through the full-service A/E approach, has a broad independent client base. HGA engineers pride themselves on using their creativity and innovation to develop workable cost-effective solutions to engineering challenges. Each discipline is highly capable and intent upon providing the best possible service to all clients.

- Geridian Corporation, Bloomington, MN; Discovery Bay at the Marine Education Center, Minnesota Zoo, Apple Valley, MN; Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport, St. Paul, MN; Fine Arts Interdisciplinary Resource (F.A.I.R.), School, Robbinsdale, MN; Performing Arts Center, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

### KRECH, O'BRIEN, MUELLER & WASS, INC.

6115 Cahill Avenue
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076
Tel: 612/451-4605
Fax: 612/451-9917
Established 1985

- Jim Krech PE
- Dan O'Brien PE
- Brady Mueller PE
- Brian Wass PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Structural Engineers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architects</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interior Designer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Structural engineering for commercial, industrial, medical, retail, agri-facilities and residential projects. We offer Auto-CAD and have a current library of structural design software. Services are provided for architects, owners, contractors, and various agencies.

- McDonough Community Center, St. Paul, MN; Oaks of Mainstreet, Hopkins, MN; Resource Plastics, Eagan, MN; ADDCO, Inc., St. Paul, MN; Merchants State Bank, North Branch, MN

### L & S ENGINEERS, INC.

200 South Main Street
Le Sueur, MN 56058
Tel: 507/665-6255
Fax: 507/665-6818
E-mail: lsen@ic.le-senner.mnsu.edu
Established 1989

- Robert L Speareger PE
- William P. Lehertz PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
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</table>

Structural engineering services for all building types in the areas of industrial, commercial, religious, institutional, residential, manufacturing, as well as specialized structures for water and waste water plants. Full range of services including feasibility studies, investigations, construction documents, cost estimates, and field observations.

- Northfield Elementary School, Northfield, MN; Boeing Mechnical Painting Platforms, Seattle, WA; Kluza Lampur City Center Curtainwall, Kuala Lampur, Malaysia; Hennepin Technical College Pavements, Brooklyn Park, MN; Church of St. Joseph, Lino Lakes, MN

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Continued on next column

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Seneca Foods Warehouse, Blue Earth, MN; Bethany College Men's Dorm, Mankato, MN; Taylor Corporation Office Building, Mankato, MN; Best Buy Stores in MN, FL, IN, IL, TX, IA, VA; Sun Country Hanger, Minneapolis, MN

---

LARSON ENGINEERING OF MINNESOTA

3524 Labore Road
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Tel: 612/481-9120
Fax: 612/481-9201
E-mail: lage@larsoneng.com
Internet: WWW.TARSONENG.COM
Established 1979
Other Offices: Naperville, IL; Appleton, WI; Atlanta, GA

- Lee Granquist PE
- Kesh Ramchelhar PE
- Henry Voth PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Engineers</td>
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<td>Structural Engineers</td>
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<td>Administrative</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Larson Engineering specializes in the structural design of industrial and commercial buildings of all types, with additional specialization in curtain wall design, pavement design and maintenance, crane design, materials handling, machine design and civil engineering.

---

Paid Advertising
LHB ENGINEERS & ARCHITECTS
21 West Superior Street, Ste. 500
Duluth, MN 55802
Tel: 218/727-9446
Fax: 218/727-9456
E-mail: info@lhbcorp.com
Internet: http://www.lhbcorp.com
Established 1965
Other Offices: Minneapolis, MN

Harvey H. Harvala
PE
William D. Bennett
PE
David M. Shively
PE
William J. Zerfas
PE
Lauren A. Larsen
PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 10
Structural Engineers 10
Mechanical Engineers 5
Electrical Engineers 1
Architects 18
Landscape Architects 2
Certified Interior Designers 3
Registered Land Surveyors 2
Technical 24
Administrative 17
TOTAL 85

Civil, structural, mechanical, electrical engineering and surveying services for municipal and other governmental agencies, as well as industrial, commercial, educational and health care facilities. Typical project types include streets, roadways, highways, bridges, utilities, trails, parks, site development, M/E systems, parking structures, fuel transmission systems and structural investigation and feasibility studies.

City Streets Improvement Program, Duluth, MN; Moose Lake Sewer System Study, Moose Lake, MN; Municipal Services Building Indoor Air Improvements, Superior, WI; Eko K-12 School, Eko, MN; Lakehead Pipe Line Pump Stations, Various Locations from MN through IL.

LIGHTowler JOHNSON ASSOCIATES INCORPORATED
700 Main Avenue, Ste. 40
Fargo, ND 58103
Tel: 701/293-1350
Fax: 701/293-1353
E-mail: LJA@rnet.com
Internet: lightowlerjohnson.com
Established 1954

Frank L. Krunky
AA
Dennis S. Martin PE
Stevan G. Dewald
PE
Winton D. Johnson
PE
Joseph Lightowler, Jr.
PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 3
Mechanical Engineers 4
Electrical Engineers 2
Architects 2
Technical 6
Administrative 3
TOTAL 20

Specialized consulting engineering for state institutions, municipal government, schools, colleges and universities, and private commercial-industrial clients. Mechanical, civil and electrical engineering for water distribution, wastewater treatment, municipal and county road replacement, power plant construction and modernization, heating-ventilating-air conditioning systems, land survey and plat layouts, electrical power distribution, lighting systems, energy management systems, energy conservation studies and parking ramp structures.

Soybean Processing Plant, Volgo, SD; Central Power Plant, Concordia College, Moorhead, MN; Water Distribution System, Clinton, MN; Streets Replacement, Canby, MN; Steam Distribution Systems, MN Correctional Facility, St. Cloud, MN

LUNDQUIST, KILLEEN, POTVIN & BENDER, INC.
1935 W. County Road B2
St. Paul, MN 55113
Tel: 612/633-1225
Fax: 612/633-1355
E-mail: vkaruf@lkpb.com
Internet: www.lkpb.com
Established 1969

Leonard Lundquist
PE
Peter Porvin
PE
Gayland Bender
PE
John Killeen
PE

Continued on next column

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Mechanical Engineers 6
Electrical Engineers 4
Technical 24
Administrative 7
TOTAL 34

LKPB is a mechanical and electrical consulting engineering firm, founded in 1969, working with a broad range of clients in a number of project environments, including public and private academics, Fortune 500 corporations, health care, senior assisted living complexes and municipal organizations.

50 Meter Olympic-Sized Natatorium, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT; New Science Building, St. John's University, Collegeville, MN; Lawson Software Base Building and Parking Ramp, St. Paul, MN

MATTSON/MACDONALD, INC.
1516 West Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN 55408
Tel: 612/827-7825
Fax: 612/827-8805
Established 1983

Wesley Mattson
PE
David MacDonald
PE
Stephanie Gross
PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Structural Engineers 5
Technical 2
Administrative 1
TOTAL 8

Structural Engineering Services for commercial, educational, industrial and institutional buildings. Design of new buildings, building expansion and renovation, restoration of existing buildings. Experienced in the restoration and adaptive re-use of historic buildings.

Earle Brown Conference Center, Brooklyn Center, MN; 5th Precinct Police Headquarters, Minneapolis, MN; Lac Qui Parle High School, Madison, MN; Mille Lacs Indian Museum, Garrison, MN; Lifetouch Corporate Headquarters, Eden Prairie, MN

MAXIM TECHNOLOGIES INC.
662 Cromwell Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55114
Tel: 612/645-3601
Fax: 612/669-7348
Established 1938
Other Offices: Rochester, MN

Pete Cangialosi
PE
Tracy Toepfer

Maxim Technologies, Inc./Twin City Testing provides QA/QC testing for all types of construction projects including geotechnical engineering, construction materials testing, drilling and failure analysis. Additional services include environmental consulting, materials testing and analytical chemistry. Maxim offices total 53 nationwide with Minnesota offices located in St. Paul and Rochester.

Maple Grove High School, Maple Grove, MN; Midway Market Place, St. Paul, MN; Sears, Mankato, MN; Faribault Elementary School, Faribault, MN; Hopkins Schools, Hopkins, MN; Civic Center, St. Paul, MN

McCONKEY & ASSOCIATES, INC.
3144 Hennepin Avenue S.
Minneapolis, MN 55406
Tel: 612/822-6950
Fax: 612/822-8385
E-mail: HMcconkey@aol.com
Internet: America Online
Established 1978

L. James McConkey
PE
Richard W. Johnson
PE
Christian Soltermann
PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Structural Engineers 3
Technical 2
Administrative 1
TOTAL 6

Structural engineering consulting services for commercial, industrial, institutional, public and residential building projects. Special designs for bins, stacks, equipment supports, material handling, rehabilitation and remodeling of existing structures. Structural investigations and reports. Licensed in 24 states.

Interlachen Golf Club Additions and Remodeling, Eden, MN; Excelsior Henderson Motorcycle Plant, Belle Plaine, MN; Lac Court Oreilles K-6 School, Hayward, WI; State Bank of Chanhassen, Chanhassen, MN; Stockwoods Restaurant, Lincoln, NE
MEYER, BORGMAN & JOHNSON, INC.
12 South Sixth Street, Ste. 810
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Tel: 612/338-0713  Fax: 612/338-0713
E-mail: dmurphy@mjbjeng.com
Established 1955

John E. Meyer PE
Richard E. Wiehle PE
Daniel E. Murphy PE
Michael J. Ramoth PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Structural Engineers 12
Technical 6
Administrative 2
TOTAL 20

Specialize in the design of structural systems and foundations for commercial, industrial, educational, institutional, performing arts and religious facilities. Services are rendered to architects, contractors and owners for all types of projects which require structural engineering services.

Imation Discovery Tech Center, Oakdale, MN; Minnesota Library Access Center, University of Minnesota; Lakeville, MN; State Capitol Structural Restoration, St. Paul, MN; H. B. Fuller Laboratory Addition, Vadnais Heights, MN; Minneapolis Institute of Arts, 1997 Addition, Minneapolis, MN

MICHAUD COOLEY ERICKSON
335 S. Seventh Street, Ste. 1200
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Tel: 612/339-4941  Fax: 612/339-8354
E-mail: micnecdode.com
Established 1946

Dean A. Rafferty PE
Monty L. Talbot, Jr. PE
Douglas C. Cooley PE
Joseph A. Tennison PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Mechanical Engineers 31
Electrical Engineers 16
Administrative 16
TOTAL 98

MCE designs mechanical, electrical, lighting, and special systems for corporate, medical, data processing, high tech, retail, industrial educational, public, and commercial buildings. Examples of special systems include: security and surveillance, life safety, fire protection, audiovisual and sound reinforcement, paging and intercom, video or master television antenna signal distribution.

Imation, Oakdale, MN; Woodwinds Health Campus, Woodbury, MN; 800-Bed Close-Custody Correctional Facility, Rush City, MN; Children’s Museum, St. Paul, MN; (New) Federal Reserve Bank, Minneapolis, MN

MJP ASSOCIATES
4362 Oakmede Lane
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
Tel: 612/426-7037  Fax: 612/476-6643
E-mail: yukonones@aol.com
Established 1993

Michael J. Preston PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Structural Engineers 12
Technical 6
Administrative 2
TOTAL 20

Specialized structural engineering services tailored to high-end residential projects including investigative studies, feasibility studies, value engineering related to alternative structural systems, structural analysis, and design, preparation of contract documents and construction observation.

KTC’s Hometime "House with Character, Minnetrista, MN; Altman Residence, Minnetonka, MN; Colvin Residence on White Bear Lake, MN; Davis Residence on Bald Eagle Lake, MN; Burrell Residence in Chanhassen, MN

The Mountain Star Group, Incorporated
7800 Metro Parkway, Ste. 218
Minneapolis, MN 55425
Tel: 612/851-3085  Fax: 612/851-3086
E-mail: mstar@plink.com
Internet: www.mountainstarfire.com
Established 1988

Other Offices: Londonerry, NH

Michael A. O’Hara PE
Robert J. James CLCFC

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Fire Protection Engineers 5
Technical 1
Administrative 1
TOTAL 7

MountainStar provides code consulting on building codes, fire and life safety, and ADA to facility owners and the design and construction community. The company’s performance-oriented philosophy provides for acceptable levels of code compliance relative to the building’s unique function and purpose, and allows for freedom of design and efficient use of building materials.

NIKE, Memphis, TN; Grand Casino, Mille Lacs, MN; Virginia Regional Medical Center, Virginia, MN; Excel- sior Henderson Motorcycle Co., Belle Plaine, MN; Banta Warehouse, Kansas City

ORR-SCHLEEN-MAYER & ASSOCIATES, INC.
300 Park Place East
5775 Wayzata Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55416-1228
Tel: 612/595-5775  Fax: 612/595-5773
E-mail: OSM@wawave.com
Established 1992

Jack L. Hunter PE
John M. Menter PE
Dale A. Tranten PE
Robert C. Kilgore PE
Richard J. Nelson PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 8
Structural Engineers 5
Mechanical Engineers 9
Electrical Engineers 5
Other Engineers: Transportation, Environmental, Water Resources 8
Architects 9
Other Professional: Marketing, Interior Design, Survey, Modeling 17
Technical 46
Administrative 15
TOTAL 122

Continued on next column

OWNES ENGINEERING SERVICES
930 E. 80th St.
Bloomington, MN 55420
Tel: 612/354-3800  Fax: 612/354-3769
E-mail: Engineering@OwensCo.com
Established 1957

Jim Owens PE
Roger Martin PE
Bruce Boerner PE
Paul Euly PE
Boris Pevmer PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
Mechanical Engineers 12
Electrical Engineers 2
Technical 70
Administrative 3
TOTAL 87

Activities: Design of heating, ventilating, air conditioning, plumbing, fire protection, temperature controls, automation and energy management, power, lighting, communication systems and energy management studies. Building/mechanical and electrical systems evaluations. Facilities utility systems master planning studies. Building mechanical and electrical systems commissioning. Indoor air quality analysis. Heating, ventilating and air conditioning equipment, testing and evaluation.

Marshall Field’s Department Store, Madison, WI; Hudson’s Department Store, Pontiac, MI; Hudson’s Department Store, Tyler, OH; Park Nicollet Clinic Headquarters, St. Louis Park, MN; Fingerhut, St. Cloud, MN

Paid Advertising
TOLTZ, KING, DUVALL, ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES INC.
1500 Piper Jaffray Plaza
444 Cedar Plaza
St. Paul, MN 55101-2140
Tel: 612/292-4400
Fax: 612/292-0083
Established 1910
—
Duane T. Prew PE
Durrel H. Beckowitz PE
Robert A. Boyer PE
Richard N. Sobich PE
Westly J. Hendrickson AIA, NCICP
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 43
Structural Engineers 12
Mechanical Engineers 6
Electrical Engineers 3
Other Engineers 13
Architects 8
Technical 5
Administrative 24
TOTAL 166
—
A multidisciplined A/E firm offering services in civil, electrical, environmental, mechanical, structural, and transportation engineering. Electrical, mechanical and structural building systems design in support of our architectural department. Design of municipal utilities, highways, bridges, airports and railroads.
— Bio-Solids Storage Facility, St. Cloud, MN; Caterpillar Facility Expansion, Brooklyn Park, MN; Alliant Technologies Assembly IV Building, Elk River, MN; Sturgeon Lake Road Reconstruction, Red Wing, MN; Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport Runway 4/22 Extension, Minneapolis, MN

Directory of Consulting Engineering Firms

SCHAEFF & MADSON, INC.
10580 Wazana Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55305
Tel: 612/546-7601
Fax: 612/546-9065
Established 1956
Other Offices: Eden Prairie, MN
—
James Schaeff PE
Kenneth Adler PE
Theodore Kenna RLS
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 3
Mechanical Engineers 23
Electrical Engineers 7
Chemical Engineers 2
Architects 1
Technical 28
Administrative 30
TOTAL 103
—
SB&A is a specialty engineering and management consulting firm providing services to institutional, health care, industrial and public markets nationwide. Services include: utility infrastructure modernization and optimization, building systems design and analysis, commissioning, architectural lighting, controls and automation, process engineering, and power generation, transmission and distribution, facilities support services, construction management.
—
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN: Mayo Foundation, Rochester, MN; 3M, St. Paul, MN; Minnesota Power, Duluth, MN; Architect of the Capitol, Washington, DC; Kraft Foods, Champaign, IL.

SEBESTA BLOMBERG & ASSOCIATES, INC.
5075 Wayzata Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55416
Tel: 612/546-0494
Fax: 612/546-0494
E-mail: info@Sebesta.com
Internet: www.Sebesta.com
Established 1994
Other Offices: Chicago and Champaign, IL; St. Louis, MO; Boston, MA
—
James J. Sebesta PE
Paul J. Blumberg PE
Rebecca T. Ellis PE
John A. Carlson PE
Oleksa P. Breslawe PE
Dean R. Sharpe PE
—
Firm Personnel by Discipline
Civil Engineers 22
Structural Engineers 5
Architects 11
Other Professional 22
Technical 62
Administrative 22
TOTAL (in MN) 187
—
SE is a full-service consulting firm offering Architecture, Engineering, Environmental and Transportation Services.
—
AGCC 7-12 School, Litchfield, MN; Anoka-Burnsville Air Traffic Control Tower: Highway 96 Reconstruction; Arlington-Jackson Industrial Park St. Paul, MN; Empire WWTP Expansion, Farmington, MN.

SHORT ELLIOTT HENDRICKSON INC.
3535 Vadnais Center Drive
St. Paul, MN 55110
Tel: 612/490-2000
Fax: 612/490-2150
Homepage: www.sehinc.com
Established 1927
Other Locations: Minneapolis and St. Cloud, MN; Chippewa Falls and Madison, WI; Lake County, IN
—
Gary R. Gray PE
Brad Forbrook AIA
Dan Boxrud PE
Joe Bettendorf PE
—
Continued on next column

Continued on next column
Proud Advertising

WENCK ASSOCIATES, INC.
P.O. Box 428
1300 Pioneer Creek Center
Maple Plain, MN 55359
Tel: 612/479-4200
Fax: 612/479-4242
E-mail: wenckmap@wenck.com
Internet: www.wenck.com
Established 1985
Other Offices: St. Paul and Duluth, MN; Grand Rapids, MI; El Paso, TX

- Norman C. Wenck
  PE
- Joseph J. Grabowski
  RLS
- Paul D. Josephson
  PE
- Keith W. Benker
  PE
- Michael A. Panzer
  PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
- Civil Engineers 8
- Mechanical Engineers 3
- Electrical Engineers 1
- Environmental Engineers 17
- Other Personnel:
  - Environmental Scientists 11
  - Technical 5
  - Administrative 12
  - Total 57

Wenck Associates, Inc. is a Minnesota, employee-owned civil and environmental engineering firm dedicated to providing solutions for our clients' concerns. We specialize in wetland management issues, stormwater management, contaminated site remediation, and municipal-related concerns, including street and sewer design. Our expertise includes property assessments; radon, asbestos, and lead management; septic and tank management; and well management services.

- Environmental Site Assessments
- Real Estate Company, Upper Midwest
- Wetland Delineation, Developer, Brooklyn Park, MN; Dlu Dilligence Audit, Brewery, Minneapolis; Wetland Reclamation Project from Oil Spill, Grand Rapids, MN; Environmental and Safety Compliance Audit, Recreational Vehicle Manufacturer in MN, IA and WI

WENZEL ENGINEERING, INC.
10100 Morgan Avenue S.
Bloomington, MN 55431
Tel: 612/388-8516
Fax: 612/388-2397
E-mail: WENZEL@USINTERNET.COM
Established 1990

- Lowell E. Wenzel
  PE
- Patricia A. Cole
  PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
- Structural Engineers 4
- Technicians 1
- Administrative 1
- Total 6

WENZEL is a Structural Engineering firm dedicated to understanding and meeting our clients' goals. Our experience includes new facilities, renovations, additions and investigations for commercial, industrial, public, retail, educational, religious and healthcare clients.

- Maple Grove Executive Office Building, Maple Grove, MN; Addition to Grand Casino Hinckley, Hinckley, MN; Ho Chunk Wellness Center, Baraboo, WI; Climbing Pinnacles, REI Store, Bloomington, MN; Parke-Davis Building, Holland, MI; Boston Store, Underpinning, Milwaukee, WI

WESTWOOD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
7599 Anagune Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344
Tel: 612/937-5150
Fax: 612/937-5822
E-mail: wp@westwoodps.com
Established 1972

Other offices: Buffalo, MN

- Dennis Marhula
  PE
- Martin J. Weber
  PE
- Dwight Jelle
  PE
- Bruce Miller
  PE
- Allan Klugman
  PE
- Tim Erkkila
  ASLA

Firm Personnel by Discipline
- Civil Engineers 9
- Traffic Engineers 3
- Landscape Architects 7
- Surveyors 3
- Economic Dev. Planners 2
- Environmental/Wildlife 3
- Technical 37
- Administrative 71
- Total 79.5


- County Road 4 Upgrade, Eden Prairie, MN; West Ridge Market, Minnetonka, MN; Dufferin Park 1-13 Additions, Savage, MN; Mn/DOT Guisdear Al SCI Project, Minneapolis, MN; Woodbury Village, Woodbury, MN

WOLD ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS
6 West Fifth Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
Tel: 612/227-7773
Fax: 612/223-5646
E-mail: WOLD@MN.USWEST.NET
Internet: www.woldae.com
Established 1968
Other Offices: Elgin, IL

- Kevin Sullivan
  AIA
- Michael Cox
  AIA
- Norman Glewe
  PE
- Craig Anding
  PE

Firm Personnel by Discipline
- Mechanical Engineers 11
- Electrical Engineers 7
- Architects 43.5
- Interior Designers 3
- Technical 3
- Administrative 12
- Total 79.5

WOLD offers indoor air quality consulting services, HVAC system design, plumbing system design, fire protection systems engineering, energy management engineering, voice/data communications systems, media technologies, design specifications of primary/secondary electrical systems, and security system design.

- City of Mounds View, Mechanical Systems Evaluation and Rehabilitation, MN; Eastview High School, Apple Valley, MN; New Praghs High School, New Prague, MN; Steele County Law Enforcement Center, Owatonna, MN; Goodhue County Jail and Law Enforcement Center, Red Wing, MN

Paid Advertising

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learned to "deal with problem solving in a big, broad sense. A lot of it is working on vision. It's dealing with big ideas. It's marketing ideas to the community and helping the community look at solutions."

Because she works with many different people, organizations, businesses and neighborhoods, urban design is also "a community-based process," she says. "You have to like people. And you have to have a high tolerance for an involved decision-making process. A house or building may just take several years, while it takes decades to design a city. But it's so fun to hang onto an overriding vision, and then see a community evolve and thrive."

Like Fehrenbacher, architect Della Kolpin worked for several years in traditional firms, then became the first architect to be hired by Best Buy. "I'm the development wing of the company," says Kolpin, director of architecture and store planning for the corporation's real-estate department. Her duties range from site planning, to design, budget and feasibility, through interior-store planning.

"It was scary stepping out of private practice to work with a retail corporation that just plunks boxes out," she says. "But I wanted to see what I could do to add to the exteriors of big boxes, how I could push the prototype, by understanding the retailer and their image." In architecture school, she says, "I learned how to understand a program and to complete a design to fit that program," which is what she does in her job today, as well. "There's always a process and an end result," she says.

In her work, Kolpin adds, she's met business people, developers and people from the construction industry who have architecture backgrounds. "Businesses are changing; corporations are creating their own staffs rather than going out of house," she explains. In forging a new direction in her profession, Kolpin also has learned skills that enhance her own marketability. "In taking this job, I've gained a better understanding of the economics of a project; how the dollars affect the client or myself if I'm acting as the developer," she says. "That piece has made a huge difference to me. I have a better, more solid background for whatever I do in the future."

Franz Hall's training in architecture provided an opportunity for a new career altogether, and a springboard for launching a business. While working as a staff architect, he took photographs of projects for the firm's marketing department. While working for a different firm, he started a side business photographing for contractors. Eventually, Hall went full-time as a self-employed, architectural photographer.

Hall shoots projects for architects, engineers, developers, contractors and interior designers for their promotional materials, magazine articles and advertisements. "The big advantage to being an architect in my profession is that I understand what my clients are thinking, the terminology they use," he says, "and I have an ability to interpret photographically the images, composition and sculptural elements of the architecture that other photographers may not see."

Architecture school, he says, "is certainly a unique education. It provides you with an intestinal fortitude that you don't get anywhere else; doing all nighters and surviving the juries that tear you to shreds gives you an advantage in the competitive business world. You can hold your ground." Learning how to work through a project from beginning to end with strict deadlines, he adds, is a discipline that carries over into other fields or careers. "Quite a few people I graduated with are now working in fields other than architecture," he adds.

Information technology is the field David Jordani, president of Jordani Consulting Group, chose to work in after years in traditional firms—an era he refers to as "a past life." Using his degrees in computer-graphics systems and architecture, he found the opportunity to marry his educational and professional background by applying the computer to architectural design. His company provides software development, management consulting and systemsintegration services for building owners, government agencies, private organizations and design firms.

"We use information technology to help solve design, construction and facility-management problems for people in the building industry," he explains. While he doesn't see computers as key to the future of the architecture profession, he does believe "design professionals need to understand that they're in the information business and need to manage information effectively."

"Our clients expect it. Our competition is doing a good job of it," he emphasizes. "So firms need professionals who know how to provide effective technology services. Understanding information technology and how it applies to design problems is an opportunity. All of this technology can be leveraged into better services, more profitable services and a broader base of services that can be marketed." The upshot, he adds, is that "architecture is going to become increasingly specialized in order to offer unique services that owners are requiring."

In fact, according to Hobbs, national AIA is currently drafting a redefinition of the architecture profession that "will go way beyond projects to include a broad range of services and related responsibilities," he says. "There will be a relationship approach with many clients and users. Services will be performed through the whole facility lifecycle. And the role of the architect will be as a service facilitator, coordinator and innovator. It's becoming clear that it's no longer meaningful to characterize any architect as engaged in 'alternative careers' or occupying 'nontraditional roles'."

"The great potential for the profession is outside of the box, outside of the traditional firm," Hobbs continues. He predicts that in another decade, national AIA's membership ratio currently at 75 percent in traditional firms/25 percent specializing outside of them, will equalize at 50/50. "This means that within 10 years," he adds, "50 percent of those in the profession will be involved in areas beyond the design and construction of buildings."

National AIA's 22 Professional Interest Areas, groups that provide forums, conferences and information on specialty areas outside of traditional practice, are further legitimizing these architectural career options. "AIA recognizes the expansion of the profession, we're working toward redefining it just as our clients are, and we're providing our members in these specialty areas with the information they need," Hobbs says.

"It's an incredibly exciting time for the profession," Fisher confirms. "At a moment when some in the field are a little bit down about the demand for traditional services, on the other hand a whole new world is opening up. If we can think expansively about ourselves, the opportunities have never been greater."
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Credits

Carlson School of Management
Location: Minneapolis
Client: University of Minnesota
Architect: Ellerbe Becket
Principal-in-charge: Richard Varda
Project manager: St. Paul
Project architect: Greg Kozulka
Project designer: Ted Davis
Structural engineer: Mike Shekhter
(Miller Beckett)
Mechanical engineer: Rex Rundquist
(Miller Beckett)
Electrical engineer: Mark Johnson
(Miller Beckett)
Contractor: Knutson Construction
Interior design: Ira Keer (Ellerbe Becket)
Landscape architect: Randy Manthey
(Miller Beckett)
Acoustical consultant: Kvernmoen,
Kehl & Associates, Inc.
Photographers: Koyama Photograph
Don F. Wong

Douglas County Courthouse
Location: Superior, Wis.
Client: Douglas County Board of Supervisors
Architect: Stanius Johnson architects, inc.
Principals-in-charge: Kenneth Johnson,
Ronald Stanius, Rickard Stanius
Project architect: Mark Lundberg
Project designer: Kenneth Johnson,
Mark Lundberg
Structural engineer: Kreh and Ojard
Consulting Engineers
Mechanical engineer: Foster Jacobs
Johnson, Inc.
Electrical engineer: Foster Jacobs
Johnson, Inc.
Contractor: Nor-Son, Inc.
Interior: Stanius Johnson architects
Photographer: Jeffrey Frey

Frey Science and Engineering Center
Location: St. Paul
Client: University of St. Thomas
Design architect: Holabird & Root
Architect of Record: Opus Architects & Engineers
Principals-in-charge: John Albers (Opus),
James Beird (H&B)
Project manager: Kent Davidson (Opus),
Dennis Vovos (H&B)
Project architect: Ed Gschneidner
Project team: Joe Mamer, Scott Cochrane,
Tim Hannan
Structural engineer: Opus Architects & Engineers
Mechanical engineer: Michaud Cooley
Erickson
Electrical engineer: Opus Architects & Engineers
Contractors: Opus Corporation
Interior design: Barb Elton
Landscape architect: Ernst & Associates
Acoustical consultant: Frank Snidarich
Photographer: Don F. Wong

Gooseberry Falls State Park Visitor Center/Highway Rest Area
Location: Two Harbors, Minn.
Client: State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, State of Minnesota Department of Transportation
Architect: Salmela Fosdick Ltd.
Principal-in-charge: David Salmela
Project architect: David Salmela
Project designers: David Salmela,
Cheryl Fosdick
Project team: David Salmela, Cheryl Fosdick,
Jeremy Fryberger, Mora McCusker
Structural engineer: Just & Heurichs, Ltd.
Mechanical engineer: Gausman & Moore
Electrical engineer: Gausman & Moore
Civil engineer: LHB Engineers & Architects
Contractor: Reuben Johnson & Son
Interior design: Salmela Fosdick Ltd.
Landscape architect: Coen + Stumpf & Associates
Photographer: Peter Kerze

James G. Lindell Family Library
Location: Minneapolis
Client: Augsburg College
Architect: BWBR Architects
Principal-in-charge: Stephen Patrick,
Lloyd Bergquist
Project manager: Katherine Leonidas
Project architect: Ken Frey
Project designer: Charles Knight
Project team: Greg Fenton, Dan Noyes
Structural engineer: BKBM Engineers
Mechanical engineer: EEA
Electrical engineer: EEA
Contractor: Kraus Anderson Construction
Interior design: Donald Thomas
Landscape architect: Damon Farber & Associates
Photographer: Don F. Wong

Contributors

Bill Beyer is a principal of Stageberg Beyer Sachs, Inc., in Minneapolis and 1997 AIA Minnesota president.

Jack El-Hai, who writes our Lost Minnesota column, is a Minneapolis writer whose books include Minnesota Collects and The Insider's Guide to the Twin Cities.

Bette Hammel, a frequent contributor of Architecture Minnesota, writes about architecture and design for various publications.

Richard L. Kronick is a Twin Cities-based writer.

Camille LeFevre is a regular contributor of Architecture Minnesota and is editor of The Prairie Reader.

Robert Roscoe is a preservation architect who runs his own firm, Design for Preservation. He is also a commissioner on the Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission and is editor of Preservation Matters, published by the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota.
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a great read, a great gift!
As recently as 1950, there were 50 million outdoor privies in the United States. Today, that number has plunged to 4 million—none of them within the city limits of Minneapolis or St. Paul.

At the beginning of the century, however, outdoor privies were common in the Twin Cities. Indoor plumbing did not begin appearing in expensive homes until the 1880s. In 1911 the Minnesota State Board of Health estimated that half of the state's population still used privies, many of them in cities and towns. By 1930, when St. Paul finally completed its public sewer system, outdoor privy use was banned for local city folk and in virtually every U.S. urban area.

A nostalgia lingers for that pre-flush era, however. Those with a keen memory recall the many fanciful names for the outhouse: the backhouse, dooley, pokey, Johnnie, donnicker, Willie, post office, convenience and back forty (a term of Canadian origin). Some outhouses had one hole, others had two; a few boasted two stories. (One of those rare double-deckers, built in 1870, is preserved at the Bowler Hillstrom House in Belle Plaine.) Several decades ago, Gentille Yarusso, who lived in the now vanished Little Italy district of St. Paul, published a wealth of urban privy lore in his book The Classics of Swede Hollow. He recounted the pleasure of a smooth and beveled seat, the route of human waste from Phalen Creek into the Mississippi River, the frequent snow shoveling of the path to the outhouse and certain distinctive wintertime dangers. "One never knew when using the outdoor privies whether half his hide was going to be left stuck on the cold wooden plank when he was finished," Yarusso recalled. "In the summertime, however, one lingered a little longer in the old time outhouses, even though he was pestered by mosquitoes, flies, wasps, and other insects. Sitting there, one got to know every nail, crack, hole, and knot in the building."

A few Twin Cities outhouses hung on into the 1960s and maybe even the '70s. Recommended reading for anyone seeking a vivid evocation of the world of privies is Ronald S. Barlow's The Vanishing American Outhouse (Windmill Publishing, El Cajon, Calif., 1992.)

Jack El-Hai