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History of Geddes Brecher Qualls Cunningham: Architects

Geddes Brecher Qualls Cunningham: Architects have offices in Philadelphia and Princeton. The Philadelphia office started in 1954 when Bob Geddes and Mel Brecher, recent graduates of the architectural school at Harvard, opened a one room office. They were joined by Barney Cunningham to execute their first building commission, the Moore School of Electrical Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania, which won a national Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects in 1960. George Qualls joined in 1956, and during the first ten years, most of the work was involved in the urban and architectural renaissance of the City of Philadelphia. Geddes and Qualls taught architecture at the University of Pennsylvania. The Princeton office opened in 1965, when Bob Geddes became Dean of the Princeton School of Architecture.

The office now has seventy people. It has won two national AIA Honor Awards and many state and regional design awards. It won first prize in three major design competitions: for the Urban Extension of Vienna, Austria; for the Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center; and for the Architects Housing Company, Trenton, New Jersey, the first architects' society sponsored housing to be completed in this country.

The major works now underway include Liberty Park in the New York Harbor; The Franklin Plaza Hotel and SmithKline Headquarters in Philadelphia; the Chesapeake Center in Baltimore; and master planning for the Downtown Government Center in Miami.

Major Work, Completed

Public Buildings

Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center, Birmingham, Alabama
United States Embassy, Islamabad, Pakistan
Police Headquarters, City of Philadelphia
Northeast Regional Library, City of Philadelphia
Civic Plaza, Corning, New York

Institutional Buildings

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois:
Humanities and Social Sciences Center
Moore School of Electrical Engineering, University of Pennsylvania:
Pender Laboratories and Graduate Research Center
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey:
Dining Commons and Academic Building
Stockton State College, New Jersey:
Master Plan and Academic Buildings for a New College
Rutgers University, New Jersey:
Academic Buildings on the Newark, New Brunswick and Camden Campuses
Beaver College, Glenside, Pennsylvania:
Science Academic Building
University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware:
Residence Halls

Housing, Urban Development and Urban Design

Bernard Street Housing, for Chester County Housing Authority,
West Chester, Pennsylvania
Market Street Renewal, for the City of Corning, New York
Town Center Master Plan, for the City of Rockville, Maryland
Penn's Landing Master Plan, for the City of Philadelphia
Vienna-South Urban Extension Plan, for the City of Vienna, Austria
Holmecrest Houses, for the Philadelphia Housing Authority

Commercial Development

Radnor Corporate Center, Radnor, Pennsylvania
Dock Street Theatres and Shops, Society Hill, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Philadelphia Hilton Hotel, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Master Plans

Penn's Landing, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Stockton State College, Pomona, New Jersey
Market Street Renewal, Corning, New York
Vienna South Urban Extension, Vienna, Austria
Liberty State Park, Jersey City, New Jersey

Major Work, Current

Liberty Park

For the Department of Environmental Protection

State of New Jersey

Development of the urban design, landscape and architectural plans for the west side of Upper New York Bay, the 700 acre open space between the Statue of Liberty and the New Jersey Turnpike.

Medical Education Building and Hamilton Walk Development

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

238,500 square feet multiple use teaching and research facility, part of a general plan for the renewal of the medical school and hospital center.

Computer Center and Office Building

For the Social Security Administration

Woodlawn, Maryland

600,000 square feet administrative facility, featuring a GSA systems building method.

Housing for the Elderly

Trenton, New Jersey

120 unit housing sponsored by the Architects Housing Company, a non-profit corporation of the Central Chapter, New Jersey Society of Architects (GBQC selected as architects in a chapter competition).

Housing for the Elderly

West Orange, New Jersey

Sponsored by the Daughters of Israel Geriatrics Services, this 134-unit project enjoys a unique location which gives easy access to public transportation as well as to the YM-YWHA and its programs for the elderly.

Franklin Plaza Hotel and Office Building

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

An 800-room, 26-story hotel approved by the City of Philadelphia as its new convention center, and an office tower, both units of the Franklin Town Triangle redevelopment area.

Philadelphia Geriatrics Center

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

This six-story major addition to the center is connected to the existing wings by a ground floor public mall.

Miami Downtown Government Center

Miami, Florida

Architectural coordination of a 30-acre, multi-million dollar complex in the core of downtown Miami, including city, county, state and federal buildings; a cultural complex; and the main station of mass transit and people mover system.

Awards

1979 Architectural Firm Award American Institute of Architects

Humanities and Social Sciences Building Southern Illinois University

Honor Award, American Institute of Architects, 1977
Bartlett Award, for building design attentive to
the needs of handicapped users, 1977
Gold Medal, Philadelphia Chapter, AIA, 1976
Design Award, New Jersey Society of Architects, AIA, 1976
First Honor Award, Pennsylvania Society of Architects, 1976

Moore School of Electrical Engineering University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

First Honor Award, American Institute of Architects, 1960
Gold Medal, Philadelphia Chapter, AIA, 1958
Silver Medal, Pennsylvania Society of Architects, 1958

West Chester Public Housing West Chester, Pennsylvania

First Honor Award, U. S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development, 1966

Town Center Rockville, Maryland

First Honor Award, U. S. Department of Housing
and Urban Development, 1968

Stockton State College Pomona, New Jersey

Silver Medal, Pennsylvania Society of Architects, 1976
Design Award, New Jersey Society of Architects, AIA, 1976
Design Award, Philadelphia Chapter, AIA, 1976

Market Street Renewal and Restoration Corning, New York

Silver Medal, Pennsylvania Society of Architects, 1978
Honor Award, Philadelphia Chapter, AIA, 1978

Police Headquarters City of Philadelphia

Gold Medal, Philadelphia Chapter, AIA, 1963
Silver Medal, Pennsylvania Society of Architects, 1963
Exhibition of Modern Architecture, Museum of Modern Art,
New York, 1963

Master Plan for Penn's Landing City of Philadelphia

Outstanding Proposed Building, Philadelphia Chapter, AIA, 1961
Design Award, Urban Design, Progressive Architecture, 1962

Awards, continued

Classroom/Office Building

Rutgers University, Newark, New Jersey

Design Award, New Jersey Society of Architects, AIA, 1972

Temple Beth Sholom

Manchester, Connecticut

Honor Award, Philadelphia Chapter, AIA, 1963

Exhibition of Synagogue Architecture, Jewish Museum,
New York, 1963

Northeast Regional Library

City of Philadelphia

Silver Medal, Philadelphia Chapter, AIA, 1964

Moore School Graduate Research Center

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Gold Medal, Philadelphia Chapter, AIA, 1968

Silver Medal, Pennsylvania Society of Architects, 1968

Science/Academic Building

Beaver College, Glenside, Pennsylvania

Design Award, Pennsylvania Society of Architects, 1971

Design Award, New Jersey Society of Architects, AIA, 1974

Institute for Advanced Study

Princeton, New Jersey

Design Award, Philadelphia Chapter, AIA, 1974

Design Award, New Jersey Society of Architects, AIA, 1973

University of Delaware Dormitories

Newark, Delaware

Outstanding Proposed Building, Pennsylvania Society of
Architects, 1964

First Honor Award, Pennsylvania Society of Architects, 1968

Public Housing Project

Delaware County, Pennsylvania

First Design Award, Progressive Architecture, 1958

Eastwick Redevelopment Proposal

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Design Award, Urban Design, Progressive Architecture, 1960

Radnor Corporate Center, Buildings 2 and 3

Radnor, Pennsylvania

Design Award, Philadelphia Chapter, AIA, 1979

Dock Street Theatres and Shops

Society Hill, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Design Award, New Jersey Society of Architects, AIA, 1978

U. S. Navy Recreation Facility

Colts Neck, New Jersey

Design Award, Philadelphia Chapter, AIA, 1979

Competitions

Birmingham-Jefferson Civic Center

First Prize

National Competition for Selection of Architects

Birmingham, Alabama

Housing for the Elderly, Trenton, New Jersey

First Prize

State Competition for Selection of Architects

Sponsored by Central Chapter, New Jersey Society of Architects

Vienna-South Urban Extension

First Prize

International Town Planning Competition

PA Design Awards Competitions

Schaeffer House

Fotteral Square

Dolphin Swim Club

Eastwick Renewal Area

Penn's Landing Master Plan

Delaware County Housing Authority (First Award)