FEATURED ARCHITECTS

Tivadar Balogh (1926-2006)
Educated at the University of Michigan, served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and again during the Korean War. After working with Robert Metcalf and several other firms, he opened his own practice in 1961 in Plymouth, MI. Balogh also taught drawing, graphic design and visual studies throughout his professional career at U-M. Well-known for his architectural renderings, Balogh completed approximately 150 residential, institutional and commercial projects in Michigan, Illinois and Arizona. He received two design awards from Progressive Architecture and the Michigan Governor's Award for Excellence in Design in 1977.

Wells Bennett (1888-1965)
Wells Bennett became dean of the U-M architecture school in 1937 when it was transitioning from Beaux Arts to Modern. At that time he designed several homes in Ann Arbor in the Colonial Revival style, but quickly began to appreciate Modernism in his practice and in his classroom. As dean, he made a number of impressive hires including William Muschenheim, Edward Olencki, Theodore Larson, Walter Sanders, Robert Metcalf and Tivadar Balogh. When Bennett retired in 1957, he built himself a very modern house at 2045 Geddes [#61].

George B. Brigham (1889-1977)
Educated in Beaux-Arts style at MIT, Brigham pursued modern architecture after being exposed to modern architectural design and philosophy while teaching at Cal Tech. He came to U-M in 1930, where he taught while concurrently practicing his trade, introducing modern architecture to the community. Starting in 1936, he designed over 40 houses in the area, including a two-family house he built for himself in 1937 at 517 Oswego [#79].

Alden B. Dow (1904-1983)
Columbia and Taliesin trained, Midland-based Dow designed his first house in 1932 in Ann Arbor for his sister Margaret Towsley, 1000 Berkshire [#36]. It was so unique for the time that one neighbor compared it to a gas station. His other Ann Arbor work includes the city hall, district library, university buildings, and two other houses (2228 Belmont and 7 Regent Drive). His motto "Gardens never begin and houses never end" is exemplified in the Towsley house with trees and planters coming up to the house.

Herb Johe (1914-2005)
Johe came to teach at U-M in 1947. Although his academic duties gave him limited time to practice architecture, he did manage to build nine houses including 1336 Glendaloch Circle [#13] in 1959, which was his favorite because he was given free rein in the design. The Scandinavian influence reflects the trip he and his wife, Sue, took there in 1956, studying contemporary church architecture.

Joseph Lee (1918-2009)
Trained at U-M and Columbia, he came to teach at U-M in 1952 after working in New York with both William Muschenheim and Walter Sanders. He often partnered with George Brigham, but also did many projects by himself including the adaptive reuse that is now known as Kerrytown Market & Shops.

James Livingston (1922-1975)
U-M trained Livingston worked closely with the original owner to design this strongly California-influenced house [#84] at 505 Burson Place. Livingston also designed 500 and 501 Burson Place as well as public buildings including the Lawton Elementary School, Lurie Terrace, and Weber's Hotel.

Robert C. Metcalf (1923-present)
Educated at and on the faculty of U-M, Metcalf worked as a draftsman for George Brigham before starting his own practice. In 1953 he and his wife Bettie built a house for themselves at 1052 Arlington [#1] to show potential clients what he could do. Metcalf went on to design 68 houses in Ann Arbor, the majority of which are on this tour. His houses are known for his careful attention to detail and for siting to maximize the light and view. U-M graduate and colleague William Werner practiced in Metcalf's office for over fifty years.

William Muschenheim (1902-1990)
Educated at MIT and in Bauhaus architecture under Peter Behrens in Vienna, Muschenheim was a well-established New York architect when he came to U-M in 1950, where he taught until 1989 and lived in the gem of a modern house at 1251 Heather Way [#5] that he designed for himself in 1953. Muschenheim was known for using color as an architectural medium and in its original execution, his own home utilized thirty-five different colors.

Edward Olencki (1922-2002)
Olencki studied architecture in Chicago at IIT under Mies van der Rohe, who invited him to work with him after graduation. Olencki joined the U-M faculty in 1948. In breaks from teaching, he managed to design at least four area houses, a Detroit office building, and worked on several churches. The house at 2601 Heather Way [#6], arranged in boxes similar to some of Mies van der Rohe's work, but in brick, was designed for U-M colleague Leonard Eaton, who taught architectural history. Olencki worked with U-M colleague Joseph Albano. Albano was a graduate of the Armour Institute and Northwestern. He began teaching at U-M in 1947.

David Osler (1921-present)
An Ann Arbor native, Osler worked with Douglas Loree before starting his own practice in 1958. His 1950s and 60s residential work was usually for people in his age group with limited budgets, so he tried to make simple straight forward houses that would function well. Not adhering strictly to modern principles, he created interesting one-of-a kind houses, including #15 (1959) and #10 (1966) and #50 (1962).

Robert Pond (1926-present)
Trained at Taliesin, Pond came to Ann Arbor in 1950 to work for George Brigham, who gave him the job of designing this house at 2417 Londonderry [#17] because he was too busy to do it himself. Pond left Ann Arbor when FLW asked him to supervise the building of the Turkel house in Detroit in 1955.

Walter Sanders (1906-1972)
Sanders was lured from his practice in New York to U-M in 1949. Sanders built three houses in Ann Arbor Hills including [#29] at 2250 Belmont and two others at 2120 and 2121 Tuomy. He was especially interested in the uses of Unistrut, a steel framing system, which he studied and used to build his own home in Barton Hills.

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959)
In 1950 Mary and Bill Palmer, a young faculty couple, convinced the then 83-year old FLW to design the house at 227 Orchard Hills [#75] simply by asking. The Palmers stayed true to the original design, consulting Wright, or people trained under him after he died, before making any changes. Now a guest house, it served as the Palmers' family home for over fifty years.











