

Art and Architecture

THE LAW SCHOOL

EERO SAARINEN, ARCHITECT

Originally located in Stuart Hall on the other side of the Midway, the Law School needed to expand by the 1950s. A site across the Midway was chosen near the National Headquarters of the American Bar Association. The new facilities would be a mix of old and new, in keeping with the distinguished architectural design of Eero Saarinen. Saarinen, a famed Finnish-American modernist architect of the twentieth century, was known for New York's Idlewild Airport (now JFK) and St. Louis's Gateway Arch. He designed a space for the Law School that was thoroughly modern while respecting the formal beauty of the nineteenth-century gothic buildings across the Midway.

The original buildings in Saarinen's design include the Administration Wing, the D'Angelo Law Library and Green Lounge, and the Classroom Wing, including Classrooms I-IV. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren laid the cornerstone in 1958. Vice President Richard Nixon dedicated the buildings at their completion in October 1959.

Additions to the facility in the 1990s include the Arthur Kane Center for Clinical Legal Education and an expansion of classroom and seminar room space underneath the original row of auditorium classrooms.

Recent renovations include a revamp of the D'Angelo Law Library, which preserved the outer shell but modernized the infrastructure and replaced the interior finishes and furnishings with selections more in keeping with the exterior design; the relocation of Student Services to the third floor of the Library; and the replacement of the original spray fountain and pool in the front plaza with a zero-depth reflecting pool, which preserves the shape and flow of the original Saarinen design while increasing its reliability in all weather conditions.

CONSTRUCTION IN SPACE IN THE THIRD AND FOURTH DIMENSION

ANTOINE PEVSNER, SCULPTOR

The sculpture in the reflecting pool, Construction in Space in the Third and Fourth Dimension, was designed by Russian expatriate Antoine Pevsner and installed in 1964. It was hailed by critics as an expert use of the compositional space created by Saarinen's design. "The sculpture," writes Katherine Kuh, in the Saturday Review, July 25, 1964, "specifically planned to be seen from all sides, changes as the observer varies his position, an act requiring deliberation. To view it from a window in the Law Library is a radically different experience from approaching it at street level. Rarely has a sculpture been more fully oriented to the multilateral possibilities of its structure."

A-COW-DEMIA

The large fiberglass cow in the Green Lounge was part of Chicago's "Cows on Parade" public art installation in the summer of 1999. Dozens of the cows were decorated and displayed throughout the city. At the conclusion of the installation, 142 of the cows were auctioned to support charitable organizations. A-COW-demia, designed by students of the American Academy of Art, was purchased for the Law School by several faculty members.

**THE BURNING BUSH, PORTRAIT OF BESSIE SMITH, AND DAYS AT SEA
FREDERICK JAMES BROWN, ARTIST**

Three paintings by the Arizona artist Frederick James Brown can be found above the staircases leading to seminar rooms from the classroom wing hallways. Originally from Chicago's South Side, Brown was exposed at a young age to the world of jazz and blues. Much of his work focuses on portraying his musical heroes. These pieces, and many others in the Law School, are on loan to the Law School by Art Enterprises, an incorporated art collection founded by Burton Kanter, '52, and his wife Naomi.

**THE LAW SCHOOL SERIES
JUDY LEDGERWOOD, ARTIST**

Four monumental works, referred to simply as the Law School Series, by Chicago artist Judy Ledgerwood, were installed in the Green Lounge in 1994. Over a year in the making, the landscape-like abstracts were commissioned by the Law School with the generous help of Mrs. Marion F. Green. Judith Russi Kirshner, then Director of the School of Art and Design at the University of Illinois at Chicago and now Dean of that university's College of Architecture and the Arts, commented that "the paintings can be read metaphorically as the four seasons, four times of day, or four directional coordinates as they orient us in the space to respond specifically to the light levels in each corner. Those very same natural conditions will have their particular effect on the paintings, which will in turn vary as the seasons and light evolve and change."

**ROCKEFELLER MEMORIAL CHAPEL
BERTRAM GOODHUE, ARCHITECT**

Dedicated to the University's original benefactor, oil magnate John D. Rockefeller, Rockefeller Chapel was completed in 1928. It serves as a meeting place for all faiths on campus, and has been the site of the Law School's Diploma and Hooding ceremony in past years. Tour and worship schedule information can be found at <http://rockefeller.uchicago.edu/>

**ROBIE HOUSE
FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT, ARCHITECT**

Frank Lloyd Wright is possibly the most famous American architect of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Luckily for us, the Midwest in general and the Chicago area in particular are magnificent repositories of his work. Robie House, built in 1910 for Frederick C. Robie, is considered a "quintessential Prairie Style home." It is located at 5757 S. Woodlawn Ave., across from the Booth School of Business, itself inspired by the Robie House. Tour information can be found at <http://www.gowright.org/robiehouse/>

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ART AND ARCHITECTURE ON CAMPUS

For more information about art and architecture on campus, The University of Chicago: The Campus Guide, by Jay Pridmore, is a great resource. It provides two hundred pages of color photographs and architectural walking tours of the entire campus.