

Sleek, Shiny and New

Olympia's Post WWII Architecture



Capitol Way looking south - 1954



A-Frame

Brutalism

Post Modern

International Style

Mansard

Populuxe

**Geodesic
Dome**

Curtain Wall

Shed

New Formalism

Solid End Wall

Neo-Expressionism

MODERN MOVEMENT

Northwest Regional

Miesian

Contemporary

Wrightian

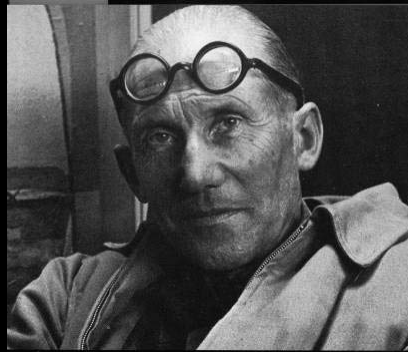
Deconstruction

Solid End Wall





Mies van der Rohe



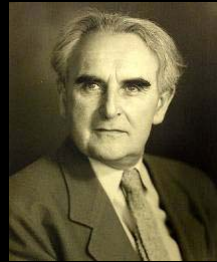
Le Corbusier



Walter Gropius



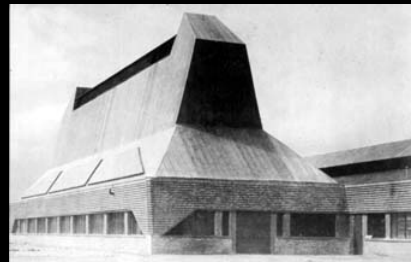
Phillip Johnson



Richard Neutra



Bauhaus
Walter Gropius, Dessau,
Germany, 1925



Hat Factory Eric Mendelsohn,
Brandenburg, Germany, 1921-23



Schroder House Thomas Gerrit Rietveld
The Netherlands, 1924





Olympia –
Mid 1920s to late 1930s



Barefich Building, 1936

Thurston County
Courthouse, 1939



6651
Capitol Park Building, 1939



G.V. Valley Shopping Center, 1938





P-767 Capitol Way looking north - Olympia, Wn.

Mid 1940s - Capitol Way & 7th Ave., looking North



Grant Talcott Fire Station

Built: 1948



Architect: Joseph
Wohleb

221 NW Perry St

Thorp Motors

Built: 1945

222 N
Capitol Way



Olympia USO

Built: 1945



1314 4th Ave



Clow Apartments

Built: 1949



Architect: George Ekvall

506 16th Ave

State Theater

Built: 1949



204 4th Ave

Architect: Robert H. Wohleb



Memorial Clinic

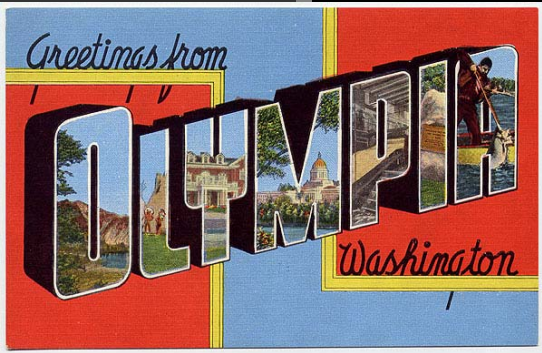
Built: 1948



Architects:
Wohleb & Wohleb
Contractor:
Strand & Sons Co.

529 4th Ave W.





Mayor
Amanda Smith
(1953-60)
First Woman Mayor



Governor
Rosellini
and Family
(1957-65)



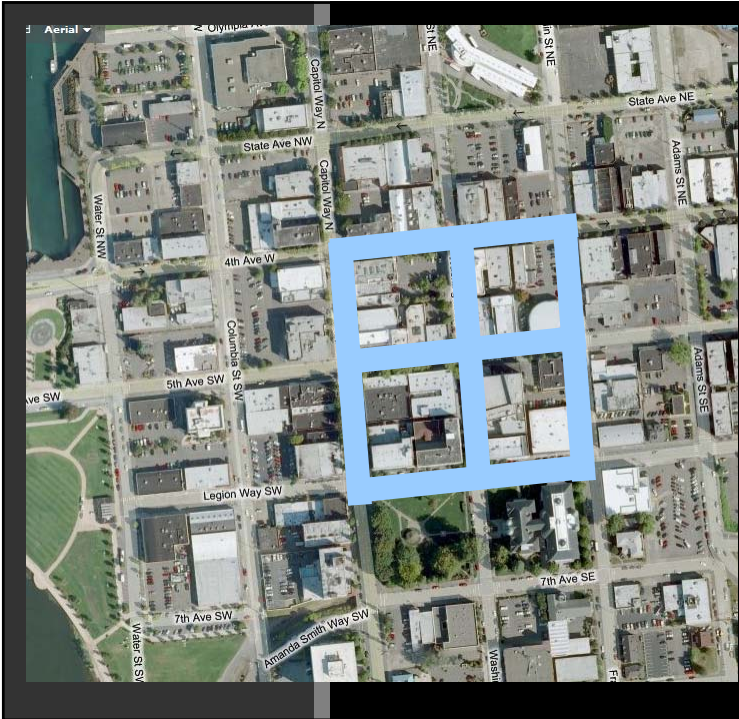
Capitol Lake Dam

Built: c.1951



5th Ave SW





WISE Study 1958

Proposed
elevated
parking
structure
above streets
in heart of
downtown



INTERNATIONAL STYLE

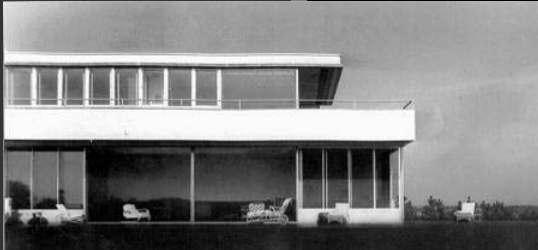




Lovell House
Richard Neutra,
Los Angeles, CA -
1924



Lovell Beach House
R.M. Schindler, Newport
Beach, CA - 1925



"Windshield" House Richard
Neutra, California - 1938



Weissenhof House
Le Corbusier, Stuttgart,
Germany, 1927



**Sy & Mildred
Nash House**
Built: 1941



Architect:
Paul Thiry

7608 Cooper Point Rd



Capitol Center Apartments

Built: 1949



Architect: Fred Rogers



1517 Capitol Way



Georgia - Pacific Plywood Company Office

Built: 1952 / 60



Architects:
NBBJ
Wohleb & Wohleb

600 Capitol Way N



General Administration

Built: 1956



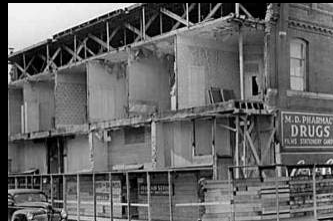
210 11th Ave SW



Architect: A. Gordon Lumm



1949 Earthquake





Goldberg's Furniture Store

Built: 1950

Architects:
Wohleb & Wohleb

403 Capitol Way



Sears Department Store

Built: 1952



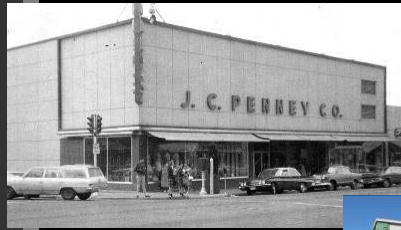
600 Franklin St

Architect:
George Ekvall



JC Penny Department Store

Built: 1958



521 Capitol Way



520 Capitol Way

Miller's Department Store

Built: c.1954



CURTAIN WALL





Blue Cross Building
Seattle, 1959



City Hall
Richland,
1965



Richland High School
Richland, c. 1965



WWP Building Spokane, 1959



Logan Building
Seattle, 1957



**1007
Washington
Building**
Built: 1959



1017 Washington St



Contractor: Dawley Bros. Construction





Sunset Life Insurance Co.

Built: 1959



Architects:
Wohleb &
Wohleb



3200 Capitol Blvd



Capitol Center Building

Built: 1966

Architects: Bennett & Olson
Contractor: Cascade
Olympia



FRANK BAKER AND PROJECT
The Tower In Town



410 5th Ave





Metropolitan Life Insurance Company

Built: 1958



Architect: Kenneth Ripley

1006 4th Ave



IBM Building

Built: 1959



Architect: Jared Morse

106 Maple Park Dr.



NEW FORMALISM



Amon Carter Museum
Philip Johnson,
Fort Worth TX, 1961



Bon Marche
Tacoma, c. 1962



Helen L. DeRoy Auditorium, Wayne State University
Minoru Yamasaki, Detroit, MI, 1955-59



US Science Pavilion
Minoru Yamasaki, Seattle,
1962



Dry Falls Interp. Center
Coulee City, 1966



Seattle First National Bank

Built: 1958

Architects:
McClelland &
Osterman



210 5th Ave



Moses Lake



Toppenish



Seattle



Bremerton





Washington State Library

Built: 1959



Architect: Paul Thiry

415 15th Ave SW



Washington State Library

Built: 1959



415 15th Ave SW





Olympia Federal Savings

Built: 1967 / 78



Architect:
Bennett & Johnson
Contractor:
Andy Johnson



421 Capitol Way N



Washington State Employees Credit Union

Built: 1967

Architect:
Bennett & Johnson



502 Union Ave SE



SOLID END WALL



120 Union Avenue Building
Built: 1954



Architect & Contractor:
Dawley Bros.
Construction



120 Union Ave SE



Golden Gavel Motor Hotel

Built: 1958



Architect & Contractor:
Dawley Bros.
Construction

909 S Capitol Way



Olympia Medical-Dental Building

Built: 1957



Architect: Unknown
Contractor: Lurie
Construction Co.



108 SW 22nd Ave



Architects:

- George Ekvall
- Robert Wohleb
- G. Stacey Bennett
- Steve Johnson
- Robert T. Olson
- Irv Flotree
- Gerald Peters
- Don Avery
- Donn Sibold



Bennett

Wohleb



Ekvall



Sibold



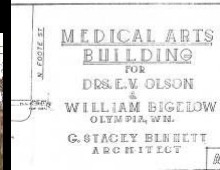
BJSS



Medical Arts Center

Built: 1962

Architect: G. Stacey Bennett
 Contractor: McClain
 McDowell

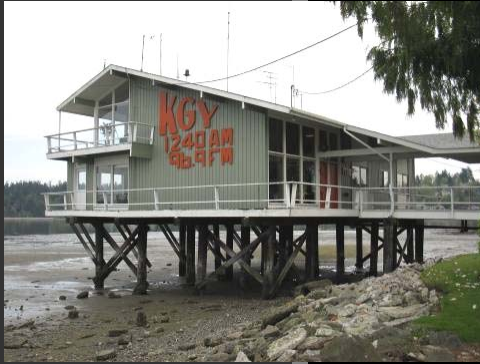


1015 W 4th Ave



KGY Radio Station

Built: 1960



...and this is KGY, one of the country's most uniquely situated radio broadcasting stations, at the Point of Olympia, Washington, owned, 100% of INDIVIDUALITY on the island, standing on Whittell Three TWELVE-FOUR and the address is TWELVE-FOUR North Washington Street, Olympia, Washington.

1240 Washington St

Architect: Robert Wohleb
Contractor: A.J. Phillips



DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION &
CIRCULATION
FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Committee for the '60's

These are the people who will be giving hundreds of hours of their time during the next year to prepare a comprehensive Capital Improvement Program for the City of Olympia. They earnestly solicit your assistance and suggestions.

WASHINGTON STATE LIBRARY
OLYMPIA, WA



WARREN BROWN

CITY HALL & PUBLIC BUILDINGS
Don Olson
George Yantis
Harold Bergant
Tony DeWitt
Archie R. King
Ralph Stormans
D. M. Smith
Rev. Walter McArthur



GEORGE MEYER

STREET LIGHTING
Don Sims
William Bennett
Gene Smith
Kenneth M. Smith



MRS. HELEN CHRISTOPHER

AUDITORIUM
Wm. Russell Pinsky
Gene Jackson
Lyle W. Armstrong
Mrs. J. Henderson
Bryan W. Kelly
Robert T. Olson
Francis L. Collins
Walter Henderson
M. J. Gardner
George A. Heston
Dr. Ralph Kariello



JERRY MALRY

CITY UTILITIES
CONCRETE DIV.
James V. Howard
Ralph Hightower
Ralph O'Hara
Dr. Gary W. Chesney
A. B. Cook
Dale B. King
Walter G. King
Payton Schmittmann
Mark A. Anderson



SHERMAN HUPFING, General Chairman

HAZEL BLACKLER, Secretary

PARK & SWIM FACILITIES
Morton Ripley
Jack Smith
Herbert B. Anderson
John
Henry M. Luger
George Kavan
K. J. Davidson
M. J. King
Wanda Peterson
Betsy Wilson
Mrs. Jan Sauerburt
David DeMolen



BOB SELENE

STREETS & ARTS/FESTIVALS
Byron H. Smith
James Gray
Carl R. Wiser
James M. Mack
Viggo L. Adams
Dr. R. D. Quince
John L. Slaggy
Jan Sauerburt
Roger Wiser



MILT GOSNELL

DOWNTOWN SPECIAL ACTION
Kathy A. Hamilton
William Johnson
John Henderson
Thomas W. Richards
Steve Lemish
M. M. Smith
Jim Blanton
Clinton Burns
Walter Talbot
A. P. Shaw
Dwight L. Wierwille, Jr.
James C. Wright
Robert H. Wolke



DEAN PROFFITT

Committee for the 60's

OLYMPIA'S FUTURE IS YOUR FUTURE

VOTE YES
ON ALL THREE IMPROVEMENTS

NO INCREASE IN PRESENT TAX LEVIES!

NO INCREASE IN PRESENT TAX LEVIES!

NO INCREASE IN PRESENT TAX LEVIES!

A MILLION DOLLARS
(\$1,200,000 to be precise)

Capital Improvements
and
Beautification
for
The City of OLYMPIA

Presented by — OLYMPIA'S COMMITTEE FOR THE 60'S — Thomas Sullivan, Chairman

NO INCREASE IN PRESENT TAX LEVIES!



DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION &
CIRCULATION
FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

HOW can we accomplish the THREE PROJECTS outlined with NO INCREASE IN PRESENT TAX LEVIES?

1985
INCREASE the City will be free of bonded indebtedness incurred in 1985 to pay for street lights — storm sewers and street improvements. The bond issue recommended for the Committee for the 80's program, will be issued in amounts and at such times that they will be covered by the same levy now being used to retire the maturing bonds.

- PROPOSITION NO. 1 — Extension of Henderson Boulevard
G. O. BONDS ---- \$100,000.00
- PROPOSITION NO. 2 — City Administration Building
G. O. BONDS ---- \$850,000.00
- PROPOSITION NO. 3 — Capital Lake Development
\$250,000.00
- TOTAL G. O. BONDS TO BE ISSUED** ---- \$1,200,000.00

EVERYBODY BENEFITS — This Capital Improvement Program means:
JOBBS — INDUSTRY — TRADE — FOR ALL OLYMPIANS
 ALL THREE PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN OFFICIALLY APPROVED AND RECOMMENDED — — BY THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

- The Thurston County Taxpayers Association
- The Thurston County Labor Council — (Central Labor Council)
- The Olympia Area Chamber of Commerce

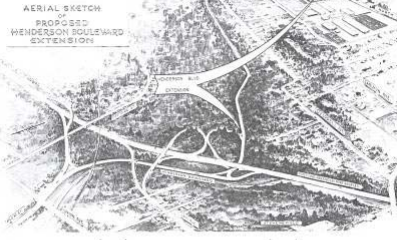
WE NEED YOUR APPROVAL AND YOUR VOTE ON SEPTEMBER 11

Vote with Us! - Build with Us! - Benefit with Us!

Vote Yes On All Three Propositions Separately

NO INCREASE IN PRESENT TAX LEVIES!

Proposition No. 1 - EXTENSION OF HENDERSON BOULEVARD



The project will extend Henderson Boulevard — from the Northbound Freeway west to the Capital Campus and downtown Olympia — East and South to North Street. This improvement is on the Federal Aid Route which will eventually run from Boston Harbor, on the North to the Olympia Airport on the South, via East Bay Drive-Plum Street - Henderson Boulevard and the Gleason Road.

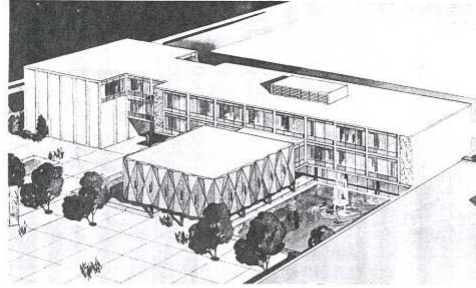
There is an urgent need for an additional arterial connection from the downtown area to the South-East area of the City and specifically to the new High School area. The extension of Henderson Boulevard — as proposed — will make the High School and future school components more accessible from all parts of the City and the surrounding areas.

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$430,000.00
 Less—Federal Aid, arterial funds, L.I.D. funds **\$30,000.00**
Our participation by G.O. Bond issue \$100,000.00

NO INCREASE IN PRESENT TAX LEVIES!



Proposition No. 2 New City Administration Site and Building with Provisions for Future Expansion



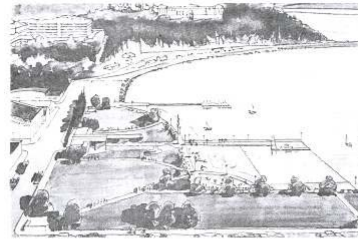
ABOVE IS AN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION FOR THE PROPOSED NEW CITY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
 The present City Hall was built in 1912 for use as a fire barn. It was adequate for the horses and the pumps of those days but it is completely inadequate for the many additional functions that have since been crowded into it.
 Present police department housing fails to measure up to minimal standards of space requirements for normal operations and confinement facilities. The New City Administration Building will include space for adequate police facilities.
 It is proposed that sufficient land be acquired to provide for a complete civic center including adequate parking and with sufficient area for the development of such future additions as the City may need.
 The central fire department station will remain at its present location. There it is most accessible to the arterial routes which serve the entire City and to near our industrial areas which present the greatest fire hazards.
 It has been recommended that the new City Administration and Police facilities be located in the vicinity of Union Avenue and Plum Street. The exact location in this area would depend upon property acquisition costs. No definite site can be designated until the voters have approved this proposition.

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST — land and buildings — \$850,000.00
 Our Participation by G. O. Bond Issue — — \$850,000.00

EACH PROPOSITION WILL BE VOTED ON SEPARATELY

NO INCREASE IN PRESENT TAX LEVIES!

Proposition No. 3 Development of Park & Swim Facilities of the Northeast Corner of Capitol Lake



ABOVE IS AN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF THE PROPOSED PARK AND SWIM FACILITIES TO BE LOCATED ON CAPITOL LAKE

Capitol Lake offers the people of Olympia an unparalleled opportunity to develop an outdoor swimming facility at the time magnitude. The proposed land acquisition and installation can be the beginning of the beautification of the entire lake area.

The contemplated improvement includes the construction of a bath house, outdoor swimming areas, and the development of a park area in this vicinity.

TOTAL ESTIMATED COST \$250,000.00
 Our Participation by G. O. Bond Issue — — \$250,000.00
EACH PROPOSITION WILL BE VOTED ON SEPARATELY

NO INCREASE IN PRESENT TAX LEVIES!

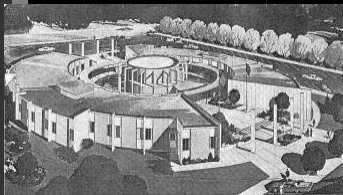
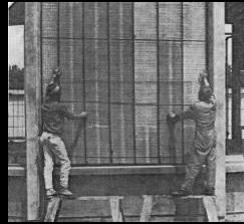


Olympia City Hall

Built: 1966



Architect: Robert H. Wohleb & Assoc.
Contractor:
Andy Johnson



900 Plum St SE



Olympia City Hall

Built: 1966



From left, Ray Beetle, Robert Wohleb, Irv Flotree and unidentified man review plans for the new city hall



Capitol Lake Restrooms

Built: 1963



Intersection of Water St & Legion Way

Architect:
George Ekvall

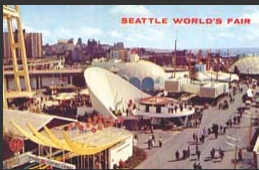
Contractor:
Unknown



CENTURY 21 EXPO AND FAIR ARCHITECTURE



Seattle World's Fair 1962



DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORIC &
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION
FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Capitol Savings & Loan

Built: 1963

Architect: Sibid & Nesland
Contractor: Andy Johnson



222 E 5th Ave

DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORIC &
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION
FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

**Plywood
Home of
Living Light**
Built: 1962

Architect: Liddle
& Jones
Landscape
Architect: Richard
Haag



1525 N Washington St



**1962 Seattle World's Fair
Space Age Totem Poles**



Architect: Fred Bassetti



DAHP 2002



Daily Olympian
- Sept 15, 1966

Architect, Portsman Drowns

Daily Olympian
Serving Southern Puget Sound
Olympia, Washington, Thursday, September 15, 1966
The Coast

Pool Board Seeks Smaller Budget

Members of the new board called for a smaller budget for the pool board. The board will meet on Sept. 16 to discuss the budget. The board will meet on Sept. 16 to discuss the budget. The board will meet on Sept. 16 to discuss the budget.

G11 Make A Splash

The G11 will be a splash. The G11 will be a splash. The G11 will be a splash. The G11 will be a splash. The G11 will be a splash.

FOULED ANCHOR LINE
CAUSES TRAGIC DEATH
OF ROBERT H. WOHLER



ROBERT H. WOHLER
Last - A Public And Private Life Of Note

Robert H. Wohler, general manager of the Olympia Chamber of Commerce, died yesterday when his foot became entangled in the anchor line of his yacht, the Discovery, while dropping the anchor from the yacht. He was pulled back on board after several minutes in the water, and artificial respiration was applied.

Boat Mishap Kills Port Official

SHELTON (AP) — Architect Robert H. Wohler, a member of the Olympia Port Commission, died Wednesday when his foot became entangled in the anchor line of his yacht and he was pulled overboard.

The accident occurred off the north end of Haristene Island as Wohler was participating in the annual Olympia Chamber of Commerce outing for servicemen.

He was dropping the anchor from the yacht, the Discovery, while a strong current was running. He was pulled back on board after several minutes in the water, and artificial respiration was applied.

Mishap Claims Architect

SHELTON, Wash. (AP)—Architect Robert H. Wohler, a member of the Olympia Port Commission, died yesterday when his foot became entangled in the anchor line of his yacht and he was pulled overboard.

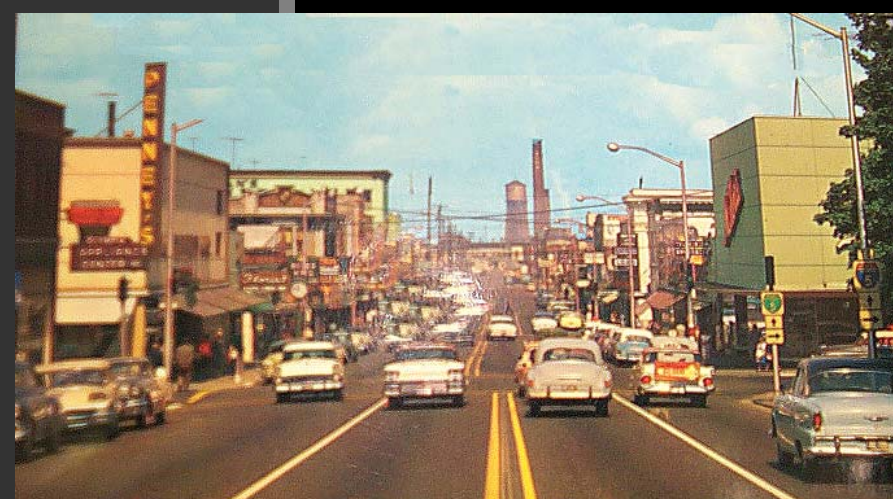
The accident occurred off the north end of Haristene Island as Wohler was participating in the annual Olympia Chamber of Commerce outing for servicemen.

Foreign Aid Cut Called For

The accident occurred off the north end of Haristene Island as Wohler was participating in the annual Olympia Chamber of Commerce outing for servicemen.

Spokane Daily Chronicle
- Sept 14, 1966

Tri City Herald

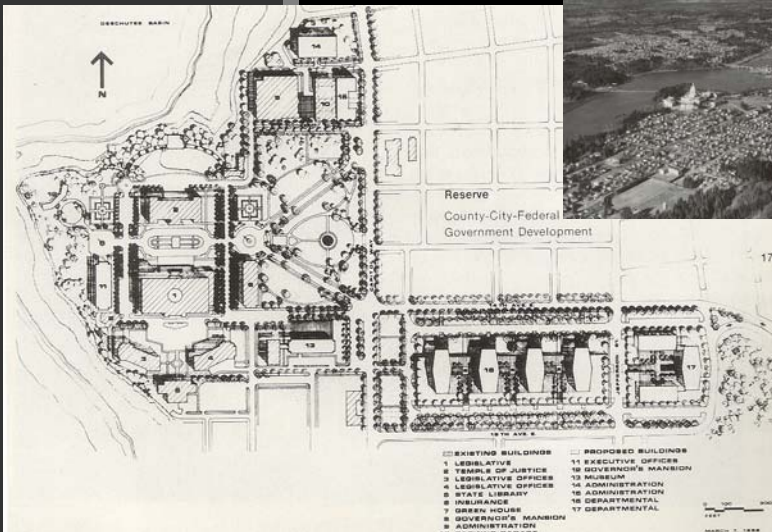


Circa 1958 - Capital Way & Legion Way looking North.



EAST CAPITOL CAMPUS

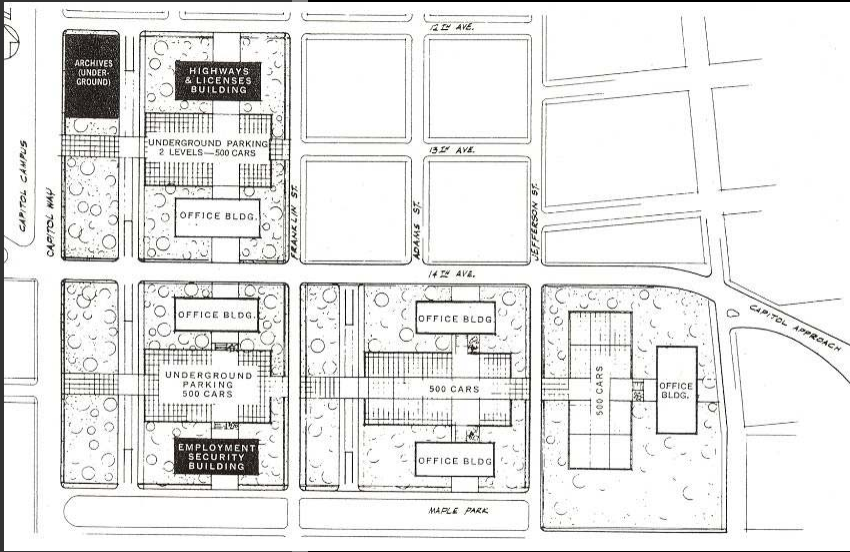
New Designs, New
Traditions



**PROPOSED MASTER
PLAN - 1958**

Architect: Paul Thiry





**PROPOSED MASTER PLAN
- 1964**

Architect: Harmon, Pray
& Detrich



**Employment
Security
Building**
Built: 1962

Architects: Harmon,
Pray & Detrich

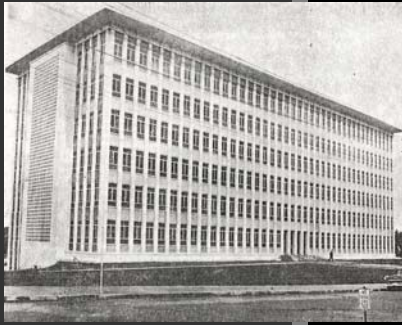


212 Maple Park Dr.



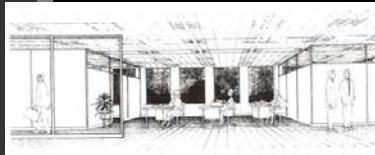
Highway & Licensing Building

Built: 1962



Architects: Harmon, Pray & Detrich

1125 Washington St



Highways Headquarters Easing Into New Office



Photo Shows Van In New Highway Building

When the Highway Department moved into its new headquarters building, it was a busy day. The building is a large, modern structure with a grid of windows. The van is parked in front of the building, and several people are visible around it. The scene is captured in a black and white photograph.



Staff Member In New Highway Building



State Archives Building

Built: 1963



1129 Washington St



BRUTALISM



Unite d' Habitation
Le Corbusier, Marseilles,
France, 1946-52

Boston City Hall
Kallmann, McKinnell
and Knowles, Boston,
1963-68



U.S. Mint Philadelphia, c.1968



Third Church of Christ Scientist
I.M. Pei, Washington DC, 1971





Christ Episcopal Church
Paul Thiry, Tacoma, 1970



Psychology Building CWU
Grant, Copeland, Chervenak, Ellensburg, 1972



Bank of California Annex
John Graham & Assoc.,
Tacoma, 1964



Prosser Public Library Doudna & Williams, Prosser 1972



Pence Student Union Building EWU
Brooks, Hensley, Creager,
Cheney, 1971



State Parking Garages

Built: 1958, 1972



Union Ave &
Columbia St.





Washington Mutual Bank
Bennett & Johnson, 1968



Bank of Olympia Building
BJSS, c.1972



Water Garden
Lawrence Halprin, 1972



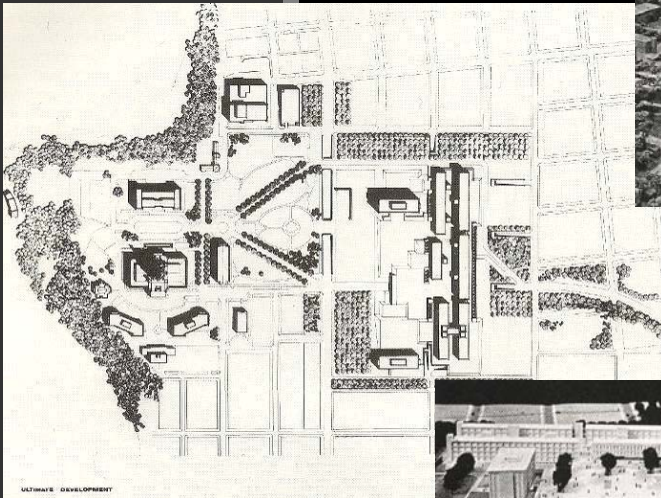
The Evergreen State College

Built: 1971-73



Architects: NBBJ; BJSS;
R.B. Price; Bumgardner
Partnership; Harris, Reed
& Litzenberger; Durham,
Anderson & Freed





**PROPOSED MASTER PLAN
- 1970**

Architects: Walker,
McGough, Foltz



**Highway
Administration
Building**

Built: 1970



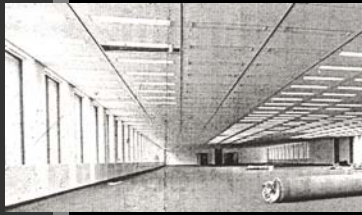
Architects:
The Richardson
Associates



310 Maple Park Ave



Architects:
The Richardson
Associates



Dept. of Social & Health Services Bldg

Built: 1975



310 Maple Park Ave



Circa 1968 - Capital Way & Legion Way looking North.



RESIDENTIAL DESIGNS



Forest Hills



Westwood



Rogers Street






 DEPARTMENT OF
 PARKS, RECREATION &
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 "To Not Just Live, But Live"

Norman & Isabelle Benner House

Built: 1959





Architect:
 G. Stacey Bennett
 Contractor:
 Clyde Abermon

512 Sherman


 DEPARTMENT OF
 PARKS, RECREATION &
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 "To Not Just Live, But Live"



Jacob Duplex

Built: 1959

Architect:
Unknown
Contractor:
John
Alegrader



1310 – 1316 Conger Ave



Glen Sloan House

Built: 1960

Architect:
Unknown
Contractor:
Unknown



2150 Edgewood Circle



Irving Flotree House

Built: 1965



3216 French Lane



Architect: Irv Flotree
Contractor:
Unknown



John Clark House

Built: 1966

Architect: Irv Flotree
Contractor:
Unknown



3208 French Lane



Dr. Hellyer Cabin

Built: 1958

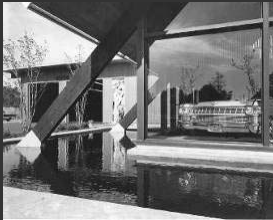


Henderson Inlet



Dick Lewis Pontiac-Cadillac Dealership

Built: 1964



Architect:
Bennett & Johnson

1100 Plum St





Ernest & Anne LeVasseur House
Built: 1968
2903 Sherwood Drive



Raymond & Lois Johnson House
Built: 1969
1809 Forest Hill Drive

Berschauer Built Houses



John Berschauer House
Built: 1961
2606 Fir Street



House
Built: 1964
1929 Forest Hill Dr.



THREATS



Demolition

unawareness

APPATHY

Neglect



FIRE



Edward Duley House

Built: 1962

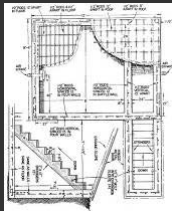


3220 French Lane

Oriental Accents Noted In Pooles' Bay View Home

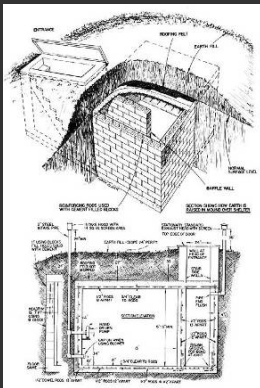


Architect: G. Stacey Bennett



Loftis Fallout Shelter

The Practical Handyman's Encyclopedia



410 Fir St NE



May 2003 - 2005

Nifty From The Last Initiative

A Survey of Post WW II Resources

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facebook

Mid-Century Modern Olympia

Mid-Century Modern Olympia is a Facebook page dedicated to the preservation and appreciation of mid-century modern architecture in Olympia, Washington. The page features photos of various buildings, historical information, and updates on local events and tours.

Mid-Century Modern Olympia OPEN DOORS HOME TOUR

A tour of mid-century homes, 10 am - 4 pm, Saturday, May 4, 2013

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- 2 - Adams House**
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OLYMPIA MODERNISM

A self-guided tour of mid-century buildings

This self-guided tour highlights a collection of mid-century modern buildings in Olympia, Washington. The tour includes photos and descriptions of several key structures, such as the 1947 Washington Building and the 1948 Union Ave Building. The tour is designed to help visitors appreciate the architectural significance and historical context of these buildings.

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MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY OLYMPIA

A CONCISE STATEMENT ON LOCAL REPERTOIRE MODERN ARCHITECTURE, 1945-1975

This concise statement provides a detailed overview of the mid-century modern architectural repertoire in Olympia, Washington, from 1945 to 1975. It includes a line graph showing the growth of mid-century modern buildings over time, as well as a list of key buildings and their architects. The statement is intended to serve as a resource for architects, historians, and the general public.

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