

APPENDICES

A

ARCHITECTS

ARTHUR H. RUDE

Arthur H. Rude (c.1962-2021) was born in Chicago and graduated from University of Illinois-Champaign. Rude served in the Navy during World War II and the Korean War. Following his service in the Navy, Rude arrived in Fort Lauderdale in the 1950s with his wife Catherine and worked as an architect designing both residential and commercial buildings. Starting in 1966, he served multiple terms as a state representative and was later elected as chairman of the Broward County Republican Executive Committee. Rude passed away in 2021.

CHARLES MCKIRAHAN

Charles Foster McKirahan was a prominent Fort Lauderdale-based architect who left an outstanding architectural legacy in South Florida and beyond. McKirahan was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1919, educated at Oklahoma State University and University of Illinois (B.S. Arch. 1947), and served during World War II, spending three years as a captain with the US Army Corps of Engineers. He was sent to the Pacific theater where he spent time in Australia, Hawaii, Guam, Japan, and the South Pacific. He moved to Fort Lauderdale soon after graduation.

McKirahan worked briefly as chief draftsman at the office of Gamble, Pownall & Gilroy before forming a partnership, Wilmer & McKirahan in 1951. He soon launched his own firm in 1953. An early project of McKirahan was the Mai Kai Restaurant in Fort Lauderdale. The renowned Polynesian-themed restaurant drew on McKirahan's experience in the Pacific. McKirahan's notable projects include Manhattan Tower, Coral Ridge Yacht Club, Breakwater Beach Surf Club Homes, Breakwater Towers, and Everglades House; all in Fort Lauderdale. He also designed the Playboy Club in Miami and the Gill Sheraton Hotel.

McKirahan's international work included buildings in the Bahamas, Ecuador, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, and Brazil. He designed residences for actor Raymond Burr and artist Alexander Calder. At its height, McKirahan's firm employed over 100 people and he had satellite offices in the Bahamas, Brazil, and Chicago. His prolific career was cut short when he was tragically killed in a car accident in West Palm Beach on February 12, 1964 at the age of 44.

COURTNEY STEWART, JR.

Stewart graduated from the University of Florida in 1929. He was the youngest and first Florida trained architect in Broward County and opened an office in Fort Lauderdale in 1934. Stewart's early work contains many Mediterranean style buildings. He worked as a draftsman for the City of Fort Lauderdale on maps and drawings for the Schermerhorn 1926-27 City plan. He also has a property listed on the National Register, the Coca Cola Bottling Plant in Ocala, Marion County (identical to the one located in Fort Lauderdale).

FRANCIS L. ABREU

Born in his grandparent's estate at Newburgh, New York in 1896. He entered Cornell University College of Architecture in 1916; he left school to join the Navy in WW I. After the war, he returned to the university and graduated in 1921. Following graduation Abreu joined his family at his father's home in Colee Hammock on the New River. He was a "society" architect who received many commissions from his social circle of friends. Abreu's beautiful homes, many of them built along the city's waterways, gave the new community a distinctive style.

Approximately forty of Abreu's identified projects remain in the city to this day. Abreu later moved his practice to Georgia.

GUY PLATT JOHNSON

Born in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida. When he was about 12, he is known to have lived for a time with his paternal grandparents in Michigan. He is later noted as working as an "engineering architect" for the "General Baking Co." in Tampa on his draft registration form in 1917. In 1920 Johnson was living with his wife and son in Cleveland, Ohio, where he is listed as working as a "structural engineer". By 1930, he was working as an "architect" for a rubber mill (Goodyear) in Akron, Ohio. Johnson is first mentioned as working as an architect in Fort Lauderdale in 1938. He is noted as the architect for the Maxwell Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, in an article in the Fort Lauderdale Times in 1940. Johnson died in Fort Lauderdale.

JOHN M. PETERMAN

John M. Peterman (1886-1972) was born in Iowa in 1886. Peterman enrolled in the School of Architecture at the University of Colorado and had an apprenticeship with the Chicago architecture firm Graham and Burnham. Once qualified, Peterman specialized in designs for affordable housing in Columbus, Ohio. After ten years in Ohio, the Petermans came to Miami to take advantage of the work to be had in the 1920s housing boom; but, dissatisfied with Miami, they soon moved on to Fort Lauderdale. In 1922, Peterman was commissioned by the Broward County School Board to design the new South Side Elementary School, one of three commissions that Peterman received from the board that year. The second commission was for the West Side School and the third design was for Old Dillard School in

the northwest section. The three commissions jump started Peterman's career in Fort Lauderdale. He was the first resident architect to open an office in Fort Lauderdale. Over the next five years, Peterman was the most successful architect of commercial buildings working in Broward County. Among his commissions was the second county courthouse built in 1927. John Peterman retired in 1962.

LESTER AVERY

Lester Avery (1891-1973) Avery was born in Montana and graduated from St. John's Academy in British Honduras where he studied architecture. His career began in Clearwater, Florida, but later moved to South Florida, actively designing in building types within various modern styles. He is primarily known for single-family residences in the modern vernacular and minimal traditional styles, and later in his career, he designed several mid-century modern and modern vernacular motels, hotels, and apartment buildings.

PAUL M. BRADLEY

Paul M. Bradley (Unknown-2014) Born in Philadelphia, in 1950 Bradley came to Broward County and set up his architectural practice. His practice included designs for hotels and subdivisions across Florida. In 1957 he designed the Wilton Manors City Hall, for which he used precast concrete slabs and reinforced columns. The design reflects a Modern approach where the massing and geometry make the statement, rather than more traditional styles that rely greatly on surface ornament. Sited on a downtown corner, Bradley takes full advantage of the location to create the piece de resistance of his composition. The semi-circular entrance bay (which has the prominence of a rotunda cut in half) spans three stories and is punctuated with geometrically placed windows. The semi-circular grand entrance on the corner gives way to the horizontally configured bays of the sides. They too are spaced precisely and continue the fenestration of the grand entrance. For the City Hall, Bradley used color effectively to separate different parts of the building. Bradley was fascinated by lighthouses and started an organization for their protection. As an artist Bradley achieved national prominence for his lighthouse paintings. The U. S. Post Office even issued a stamp based on a painting of a lighthouse by Mr. Bradley.

ROBERT LITTLE

Born in Uniontown, Pennsylvania in 1903 and studied architecture at the prestigious Beaux Arts School of architecture in Philadelphia. He moved to Miami in 1925 to work at an architectural firm designing buildings during the Land Boom era. The modern Solomon G. Merrick Building on the University of Miami's campus was one of his most significant achievements. In 1950, he designed this International style building around the frame of the proposed Mediterranean Revival building that was begun in 1926. He was instrumental in

designing the Lowe Art Gallery and the Ring Theater in 1951 with Marion I. Manley. Little had a very practical and economical approach to design and function. His simple designs used bare concrete walls and inexpensive materials. For the University, Little also designed the Eaton Residence College, Varsity Locker Room, School of Music Group, School of Law, Graduate School Dormitory, and Science Building, and renovated the Student Union and Student Health Center. Starting in the mid-1950s, local architect Frank Watson worked with Little on the University's projects.

In 1980, following a lifetime of design, the American Institute of Architects (AIA) awarded him their highest honor—the gold medal.

TONY SHERMAN

Tony Sherman (1910-Unknown) Sherman was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in 1910 and earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1933. He did post graduate work in design and New York University (1933-36) and also attended the Polytechnic Institute in Brooklyn. From 1938 to 1942 he had his own firm: M. Tony Sherman & Associates (Florida). After WWII he joined several firms including Shreve, Lamb and Harmon in 1945. In 1947 he reactivated his original firm of M. Tony Sherman & Associates in Florida. Sherman is best known for his modernistic, flamboyant and creative resort architecture. In the Central Beach area, the Jolly Roger Hotel (1954) and the Yankee Clipper (1955) are outstanding examples. Other famous designs include his Tropicana Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas (1959) and the non-extant Castaways Hotel (1952) in Miami Beach. Both his architectural office and residence were in Miami.

VICTOR LARSON

Victor Larson (c.1914 - Unknown) became a resident of Fort Lauderdale in 1926 at the age of 12. Larson partnered with architect Robert C. Kerley to form an architecture firm of Larson and Kerley in 1952 located at 3114 S. Andrews Avenue. In 1963, Larson was elected president of the Broward-wide chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

WILLIAM J. REDDEN

William J. Redden (Unknown) became licensed to practice architecture in the State of Florida in 1946 following his service as a naval architect during World War II. Redden graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1914 and practiced architecture for the following 25 years in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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