FEATURED ARCHITECTS

Treadwell Bolling (1912-2006)
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 Metcalfe and several other firms, he opened his own practice in 1954. His corporate work included projects for the Ford Motor Company, Ford Foundation, and Chrysler Corporation. He taught at the University of Michigan School of Architecture and was a fellow of the Society of Architectural Historians. He received the American Institute of Architects’ AIA Gold Medal for his contributions to the field of architecture.

Wesley Bennett (1888-1944)
Wesley Bennett became dean of the U-M Architecture School in 1927 when it was transferring from Beaux-Arts to Modernism. 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 MacMurray, Edward Durrell Stone, Theodoros Lamos, Walter Sanders, Robert Metcalf and Treadwell Bolling. Bennett’s house was designed in 1925 and is now a modernist gem. It is owned by a very modern house at 2842 Geddes (A1A).

George S. Bridgham (1889-1973)
Educated in Beaux-Arts style at MIT, Bridgham pursued modern architecture after being exposed to modern architectural design and philosophy while teaching at Cal Tech. He came to U-M in 1932, where he taught concurrently practicing his trade, introducing modern architecture to the community. Starting in 1935, he designed over 40 houses in the area, including a two-family house he built for himself in 1937 at 577 Dowsing (A79).

Robert C. Metcalfe (1913-2003)
Educated at and on the faculty of U-M, Metcalfe worked as a draftsman for George B. Brinigan before starting his own practice. In 1952 he and his wife Olive built a house for themselves at 1852 Wabash, which is no longer there. Metcalfe went on to design 58 houses in Ann Arbor, the majority of which are on the city’s historic registry. His homes are known for their careful attention to detail and for sitting to maximize light and view. U-M graduate and colleague William Morris practiced in Metcalfe’s office for over forty years.

Walter Sanders (1898-1979)
Educated at MIT and in Boullée architecture under Peter Behrens in Vienna, MacMurray was a well-established New York architect when he came to U-M in 1956, where he taught until 1969 and lived in the dorm of a modern house at 1311 Heather Way that he designed for himself. In 1956 MacMurray was known for using color as an architectural medium and in its original execution, its own home utilized eighty-three different colors.

David Otey (1921-2006)
An Ann Arbor native, Otey worked with Douglas Lombe before starting his own practice in 1954. His 1955s and 60s residential work was usually for people in his peer group with modest budgets, so he designed mid-century modern homes that would function well. Not adhering strictly to modern principles, he made use of interesting materials and details, such as limestone, James Hardie siding, and mahogany, including #75 (1159) and #10 (1164) and #50 (1172). A1A.

Robert Pond (1924-2006)
Trainee of Taliesin, Pond came to Ann Arbor in 1950 to work for George B. Brinigan, who gave him the job of designing this house at 2911 University (A11) because he was too busy to do it himself. Pond left Ann Arbor when TRU asked him to supervise the building of the Turkey house in Detroit in 1955.

Walter Sanders (1898-1979)
Sanders was hired from his practice in New York to U-M in 1959. Sanders built three houses in Ann Arbor Hills including 1287 (A11) and two others at 2312 (A11) and 2717 (A11). He was especially interested in the use of bricks in his architecture, which he studied and used to build his own home in Barton Hills.

Frank Lloyd Wright (1867-1959)
In 1933 Mary and BA Fowner, a young faculty couple, convinced the then 53 year old FWP to design the house at 277 (Chicago) and EM asked him to design the house at 577 Dowsing. The Palmers stayed true to the original design, consulting Wright, or people trained under him after his death, before making any changes. Now a guest house, it is served as the Palmers’ family home for over fifty years.