

March 30, 2017

The Honorable Jay Fisette  
Chairman  
Arlington County Board  
Suite 300  
2100 Clarendon Boulevard  
Arlington, Virginia 22201

Dear Mr. Fisette:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 11.3.4 of the Arlington County Zoning Code I hereby nominate the Arlington Public School (APS) Education Center and the David M. Brown Planetarium, completed in 1969 and both located at 1426 North Quincy Street, for Local Historic District Status.

In August, 1965, the then County Manager, Bert Johnson, added \$1 million dollars to his total County bond request for that year. The additional money was to fund a "proposed cultural-educational center," already approved by the School Board for inclusion in a school bond for that year. The center would house the School Board offices, as well as educational facilities. At the time, the County Board was divided if this new center should be sited near the Courthouse, or, at the location the School Board had chosen – near the Central Library (Washington Post article, August 7, 1965 – Attachment 1.) Later in 1965 the voters of Arlington did indeed approve the bond request for the buildings we now know as the APS Education Center and David. M. Brown Planetarium.

A year later, Washington Post articles (August 19, 1966 and August 28, 1966 – Attachments 2 & 3) outlined four Arlington school projects – a new elementary school, additions to Yorktown High School, Swanson Junior High, and a new five-story Education Center with special features including a public planetarium. Mr. William P. Young, an elementary supervisor, was quoted as saying "We utilized teachers, principals, supervisors, and all types of people from the County to take part in the [Education Center] planning." They had even canvassed school systems across the United States and Canada for state-of-the-art ideas. It was noted the "attractive curved building [would] be visible from the new Rte. 66 and "It is both functional and imaginative – a worthy symbol, officials feel, of Arlington's educational goals."

The Education Building and Planetarium –as well as the elementary school and additions – were designed by the then well-known Cleveland, Ohio firm of Ward and Schneider. This firm also designed buildings for Kent State University as well as Case Western University and other civic structures (Attachment 4), such as the University Branch Library in Cleveland. Most likely because of the amount of design work Ward and Schneider were doing for the County, they established an office in Arlington at 2425 Wilson Boulevard. Several notices in the Washington Post from 1967-1968 requesting bids to build the additions noted above, as well as the Education Center, indicate the drawings for these projects could be viewed at the Ward and Schneider office in Arlington.

The design of the Education Center and Planetarium did change over time (Washington Post September 12, 1966 and February 12, 1967 – Attachments 5 & 6 & 7) no doubt in response to the ongoing consultation noted above. However, the two structures – the Center and the Planetarium – were always designed together and their designs respond one to the other and are inextricably linked. The 1967 article states the “American Association of School Administrators has given high praise for the new education-center to be built in Arlington County. A special citation said the center ‘should attract the public and focus attention on the importance of education.’”

Ward and Schneider used a design vocabulary established by other architects active at the time including Edward Durrell Stone (Kennedy Center and Home Federal Savings/Pacific Mercantile Bank [Attachment 8]) and Wallace Harrison (Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center—Attachment 9.) Their work, as well as others like Philip Johnson and Minoru Yamasaki, had moved from the International Style to one known as “New Formalism.” New Formalism “...combines decorative elements and established design concepts of classicism with ...new materials and technologies...” (Attached article from Fullerton Heritage website – Attachment 10.) Other New Formalism buildings in Arlington included the so-called “Paperclip” Building at 400 Army Navy Drive (now demolished- Attachment 11) and the Architects’ Building in Rosslyn (a site envisioned for redevelopment in the Realize Rosslyn plan – Attachment 12.) The Education Center remains the best example and the one still extant.

The Education Center also was constructed with a new, cost-saving method that involved designing 11 repetitive wedge-shaped sections of steel. This innovation was touted by Bethlehem Steel in a trade magazine of the time. (Attachment 13.)

The County’s dedication to its students and commitment to providing the most forward-thinking educational atmosphere is the same today as it was 50 years ago when the now iconic Education Center and Planetarium were planned, funded and constructed.

Structures are literally visual landmarks of our shared history; the Education Center is emblematic of an important era of Arlington’s past. Arlington as an organized community is young in comparison to Washington, D.C. and Alexandria, VA. Our defining structures, save for the Glebe House, are not Federal-style structures of Alexandria or even Washington, D.C. Our built heritage is that of a younger community, formed by the introduction of transportation infrastructure (railroad) that made us an accessible suburb of Washington, D.C. Arlington should celebrate the structures that note our milestones.

Clearly the 1960s was a boom time for the County – a time when we were beginning to plan for the future of the Rosslyn/Ballston corridor and time of great growth in our schools but also still a time of grappling with social issues in our schools. The Education Center and the planetarium are physical embodiments of the forward thinking of Arlington and our County’s hope for the future. They should stand as reminders of our accomplishments and goals of the past as we continue to provide for the future.

The Education Center and Planetarium are proud civic buildings of a set, carefully designed and constructed with taxpayer funds on publicly owned land. It is not unlike the commitment we've made to the new school on the Wilson site. They are a part of our shared civic heritage.

Sincerely,



Nancy Iacomini

4318 18<sup>th</sup> Street North

Arlington, Virginia 22207

Attachments

Cc: Cynthia Liccese-Torres, Historic Preservation Coordinator, Arlington County  
Joan Lawrence, Chairman, Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board  
Mark Schwartz, Manager, Arlington County  
John Chadwick, APS, Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and Operations  
Nancy Van Doren, Chair, Arlington County School Board



County Adds \$1 Million to Bonds Ballot  
*The Washington Post, Times Herald (1959-1973); Aug 7, 1965;*  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Washington Post  
pg. B2

## **County Adds \$1 Million to Bonds Ballot**

Arlington's bond issue recommendations for school construction and other needs jumped to \$17.3 million yesterday when County Manager Bert W. Johnson added another \$1 million to his requests.

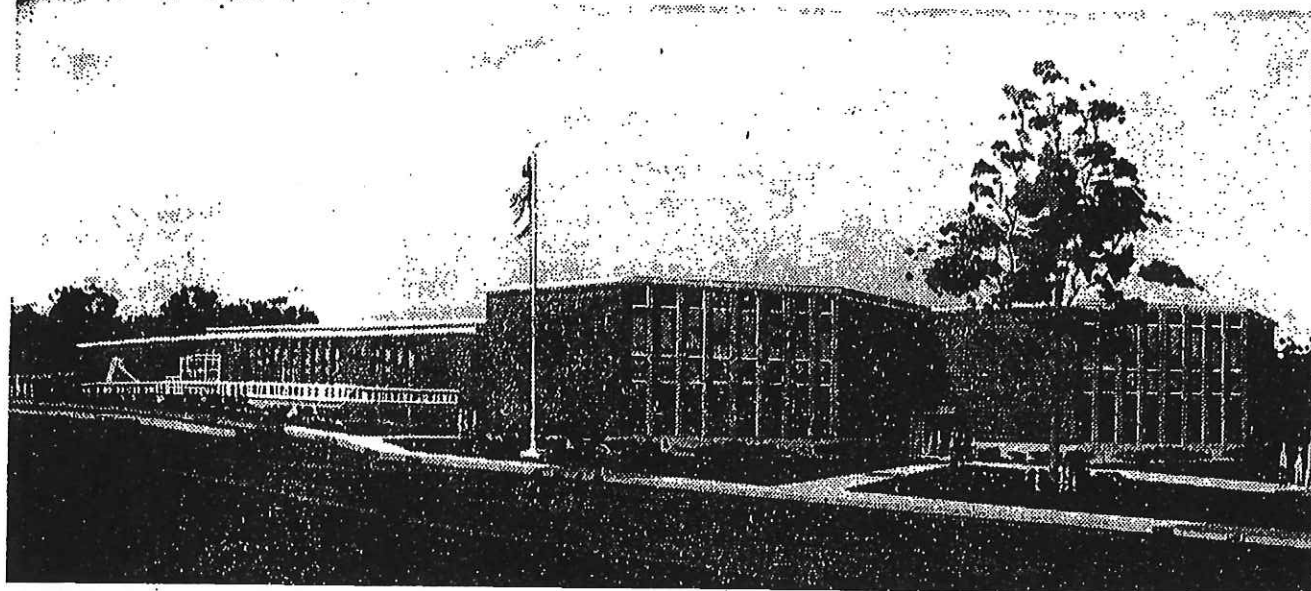
The addition of funds for a 700-seat theater in a proposed cultural-educational center brought Johnson's capital requests to \$8 million.

The action followed School Board approval Thursday of a \$9.3-million school bond request, including \$1.5 million for 59,000 square feet of Board offices and educational facilities in the center.

The County Board, which is expected to eliminate a number of items from school and county requests before the bond referendum Nov. 2, has not yet decided on a site for the center.

Two Board members want the center in a complex near the Courthouse, while others support the School Board plan for a site near the County's Central Library. The center will combine school offices and the theater with a television studio, a music hall and a graphic arts display area.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.



**REVOLUTIONARY PLANS**—An architect's drawing of the proposed Monroe Wilson Elementary School in Arlington

## 4 Arlington School Projects Outlined

By Gail Bensinger

Washington Post Staff Writer

Plans for a new elementary school that would have flexible "suites" of classroom space for each grade level and specially built facilities for mentally handicapped students were presented to the Arlington School Board last night. The proposal for the new Monroe-Wilson Elementary school was the most unusual of four new school projects shown by school officials yesterday. Arlington voters last November approved four school projects in a bond referendum.

The other projects shown last night are:

- An \$875,000 addition to Yorktown High School providing a library and the equivalent of 14 new classrooms.

- A \$1 million addition to Swanson Junior High containing a library, cafeteria, eight classrooms, science laboratories and other special facilities.

- A \$1.5 million County Education Center—\$1 million of which was included in the referendum—to house the school administration and special countywide services.

Construction schedules will be made after the plans are approved by the School Board, the Arlington Planning Commission and the State Department of Education.

Monroe-Wilson, which will house 700 students from the area around Rosslyn, will cost \$1.2 million. Designed by Ward & Schneider, a Cleveland firm specializing in school design, it will be built on part of the present Monroe school property and land adjacent to it.

The first new elementary school to be built in Arlington for more than a decade, Monroe-Wilson will have a split-level complex, arranged around a two floor library and somewhat in the shape of a three-leaf clover.

Each grade will have four smaller seminar rooms—some with movable partitions—built around a common "individual pursuits" area. Different size class groupings will permit what officials called "cooperative teaching arrangements."

Other special facilities the new building will offer are speech and hearing laboratories, physical education and locker rooms, a music room, an arts and science room and a library built for current and future electronic teaching devices.

The new Yorktown library school will be a round two-level structure with individual study areas and facilities for special teaching equipment. Fourteen new classroom spaces will allow conventional classes, seminars and individual study.

The five-story Education Center, to be built on school-owned land next to Washington-Lee, will contain administrative offices and meeting rooms.

Special features include a public planetarium, a professional library and teaching materials center and a full equipped television laboratory for teachers to produce their own shows for closed circuit or educational TV.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.



y Gail Bensinger Washington Post Staff Writer  
he Washington Post, Times Herald (1959-1973); Aug 28, 1966;  
roQuest Historical Newspapers: The Washington Post  
g. B2

# Arlington Plans Ultra Education Center

By Gail Bensinger  
Washington Post Staff Writer

Arlington's proposed Education Center will offer County residents an unusual combination of administrative services and facilities for devising school programs, school officials report.

Three quarters of the handsome building's space will be devoted to educational planning, experimentation and research, says William P. Young, elementary supervisor and chairman of the Center's General Planning Committee.

Preliminary plans already have been presented to the Board of Education for the \$5 million structure to be located at 1426 N. Quincy st. Two-thirds of the funds were voted in a bond referendum last November and the remainder came from the sale of the old Dolley Madison school grounds.

The middle floor of the five-story building will be devoted to an "instructional resource center," Young said. Rooms will be set aside for curriculum laboratories where teachers and supervisors can experiment teaching in such fields as math, science, social studies and language arts.

Up-to-date equipment and materials will be available for

study and students also will be available so instructors may experiment in teaching techniques.

Another section of that floor will contain a professional library for school personnel and a teaching materials center housing books and equipment available for classroom use. Preview and listening rooms will allow teachers to review audio-visual materials and facilities will be available for them to prepare their own transparencies and tapes.

A television studio offers space for instructors to videotape special programs for students. They can now be shown by renting time on Washington's educational station, Young said. He anticipated a time "in the future" when closed circuit TV programs can be shown at individual schools by mobile units.

A planetarium will be used for instructional purposes during the day and will be open to the public at night and on weekends. A computer center not only will provide administrative and educational services to the staff but also will be used for teaching programming to secondary students.

Other features include a public display area and facilities for health and guidance. A

central processing center will handle much of the paperwork for individual school libraries.

The architects, Ward and Schneider, a Cleveland firm specializing in schools, now are assembling the final building specifications. No starting or completion dates have been set yet. "We're taking our time and planning this right," Young said.

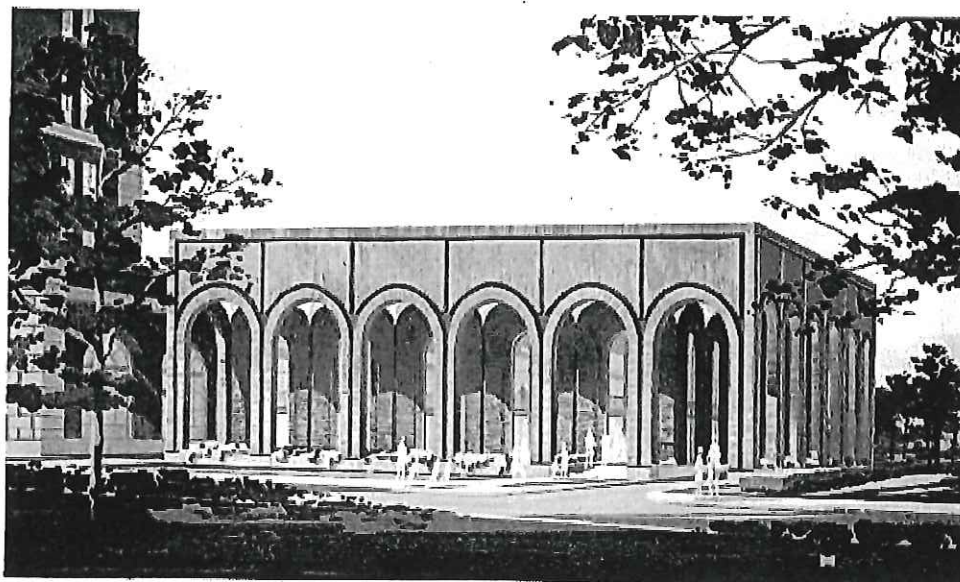
"We utilized teachers, principals, supervisors, and all types of people from the

County to take part in the planning," Young said. The committee sent out questionnaires to school systems in all 50 states and some in Canada to get ideas for the structure, he added.

The result of all this careful preparation is the present Center, an attractive curved building to be visible from the new Rte. 68. It is both functional and imaginative—a worthy symbol, officials feel, of Arlington's educational goals.

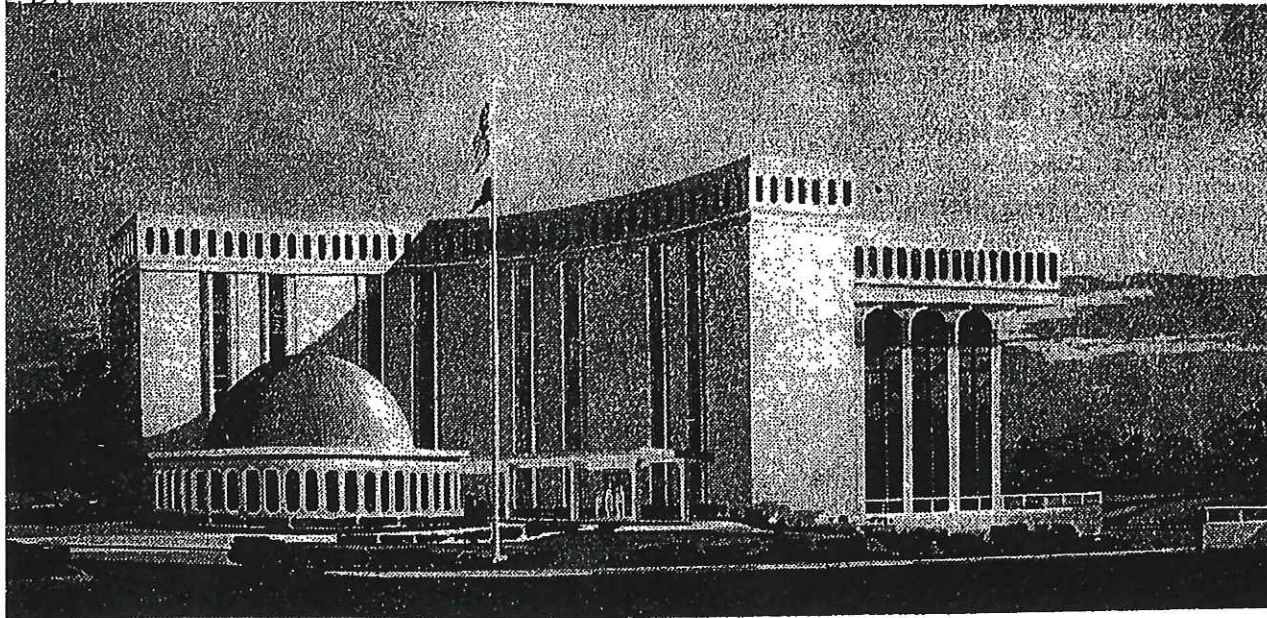
reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

Print this item: **Martin Luther King, Jr. 1969: Architectural Rendering**



UNIVERSITY CIRCLE BRANCH LIBRARY - CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY, CLEVELAND, OHIO  
WARD AND SCHNEIDER, ARCHITECTS - CLEVELAND, OHIO - ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA



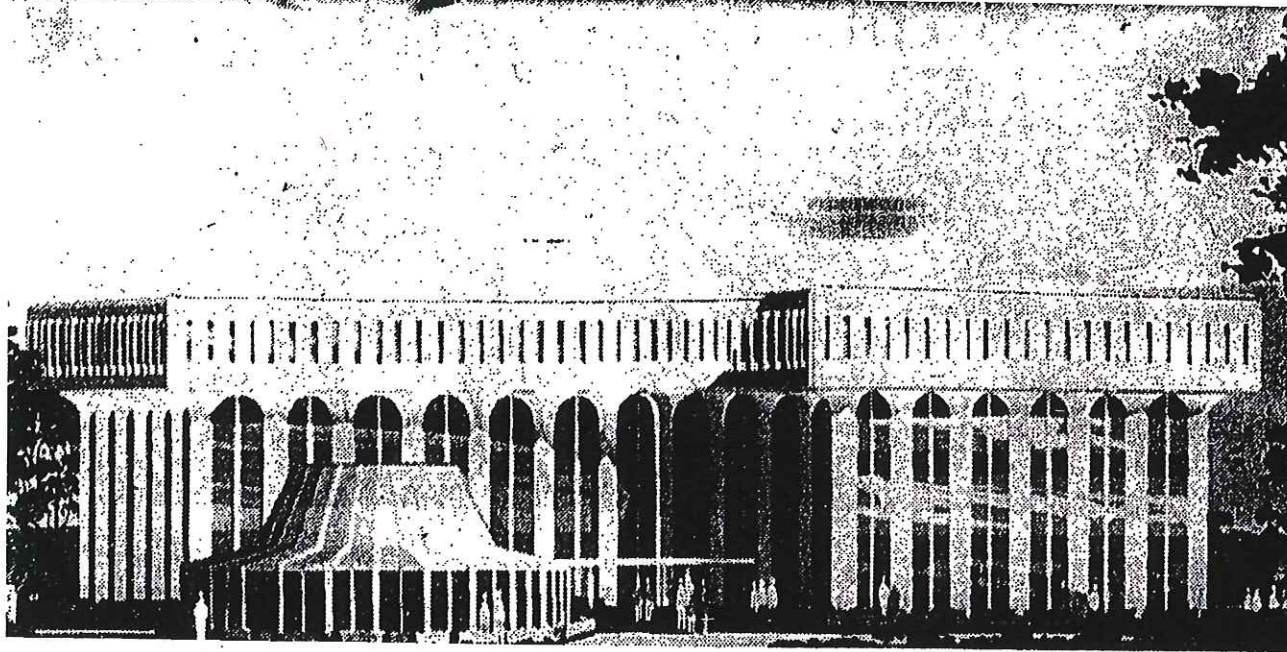


**ULTRA EDUCATION CENTER**—An unusual combination of educational services will be housed in this proposed \$1.5 million structure at 1426 N. Quincy st., Arlington.

Three quarters of the building's space will be devoted to research in teaching techniques, with up-to-date equipment and materials.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.

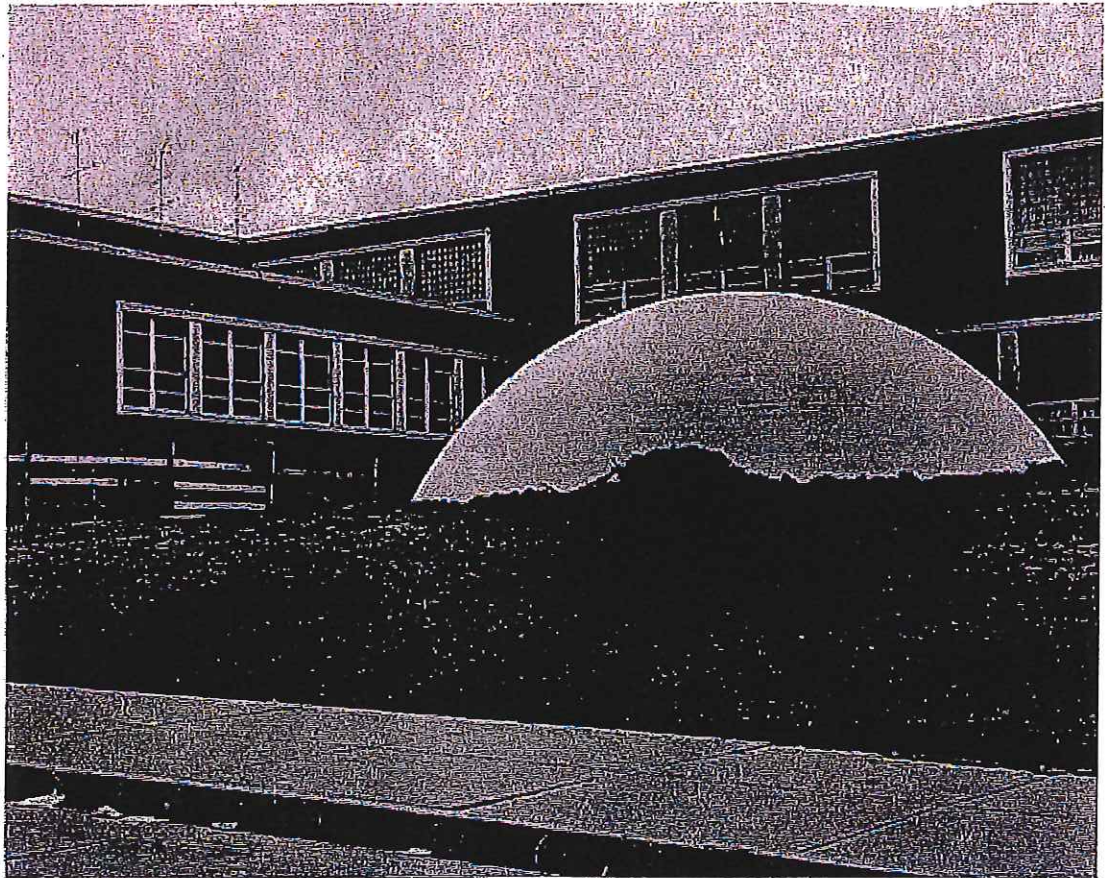




**ANS CITED**—The American Association of School Administrators has given high praise for the design of the new education center to be built in Arlington County. A

special citation said the center "should attract the public and focus attention on the importance of education." Wash and Schneider architects designed the building.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.



The dome for the planetarium which is to be in front of the new school board building rests on the school's front lawn.

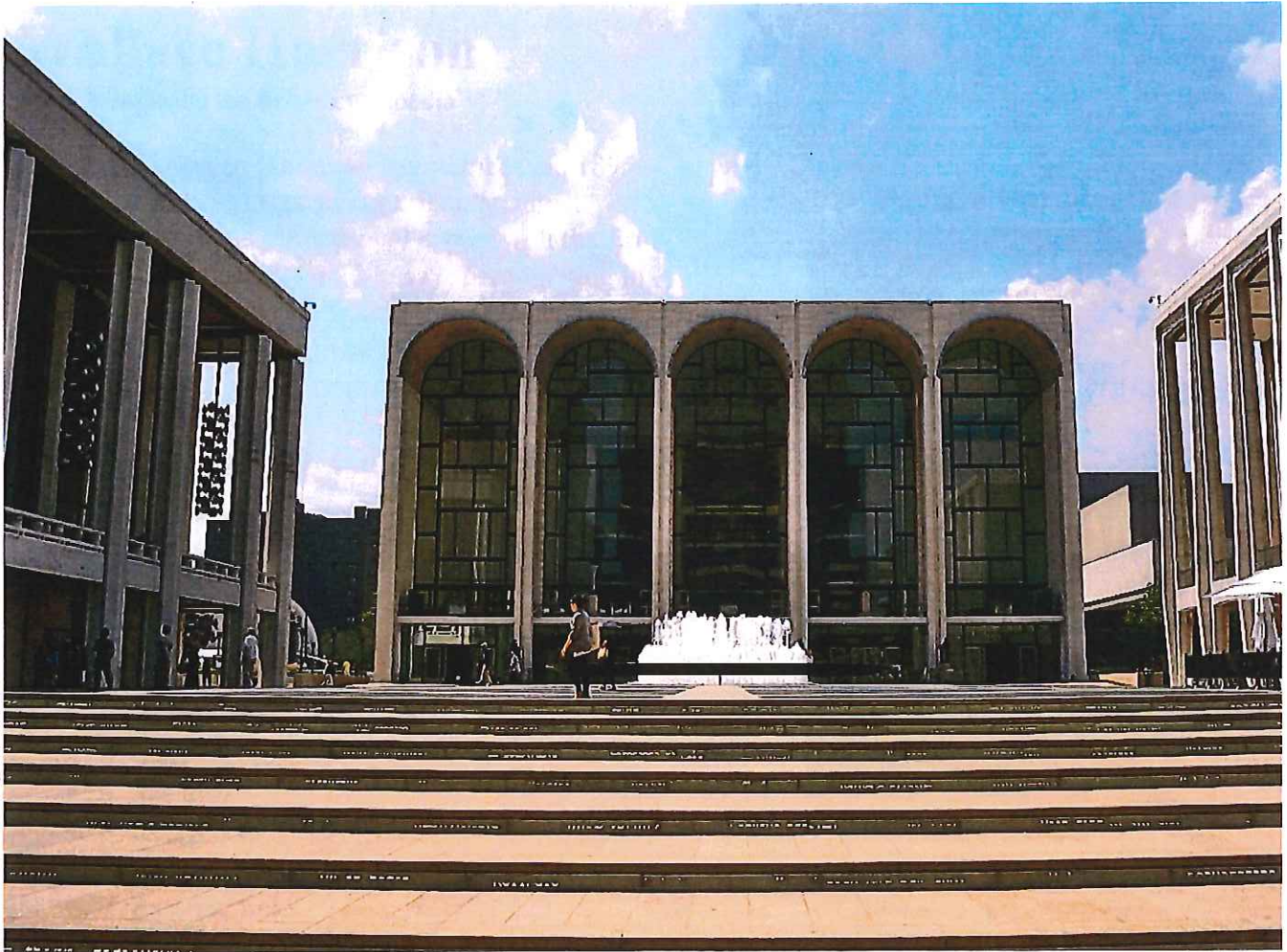
Washington-Lee High School Yearbook 1968





Attachment 8

Home Federal Savings / Pacific Mercantile Bank Bldg.  
Edward Durrell Stone LA 1962



Attachment 9

*metropolitan opera house - lincoln center - 1963-1966  
opened 1966*



# Fullerton Heritage

About Fullerton Heritage | News & Events | Advocacy & Issues | **Resources** | Real Estate | Views & Tours | Join | Contact

## Architectural Styles in Fullerton

[Introduction](#)

[Victorian Era](#)

[Shingle Style](#)

[Colonial Revival](#)

[Gothic Revival](#)

[Beaux Arts](#)

[Neoclassical Revival](#)

[Early 20th Century Commercial](#)

[Sullivan-esque](#)

[California and Craftsman Bungalows \(Arts and Crafts\)](#)

[Bungalow Courts](#)

[Mission Revival](#)

[Monterey Revival](#)

[Pueblo Revival](#)

[Spanish Colonial Revival](#)

[Tudor Revival](#)

[Cottage/Storybook](#)

[Cape Cod](#)

[Art Deco: Zigzag Moderne & Streamline Moderne](#)

[PWA/WPA Moderne](#)

[International Style](#)

[Post WWII Tract Homes](#)

[Ranch Houses](#)

[Eichler Homes](#)

[Exaggerated Modern/Google](#)

**[New Formalism](#)**

[Brutalism](#)

[Post-modernism](#)

['Green' Homes](#)

[McMansions](#)

[Muddled & Conflicted Architecture](#)

[Return to Resources](#)

## New Formalism

New Formalism developed in the mid-1950s and continued into the early 1970s. It was a reaction against the rigid formulae of the American version of the International Style. Its three main architects - Edward Durrell Stone, Philip Johnson, and Minoru Yamasaki - had all achieved prominence working within the International Style but wanted to try new styles and materials. New Formalism architecture combines decorative elements and established design concepts of classicism with the new materials and technologies incorporated in the International style. Edward Durrell Stone's New Delhi American Embassy (1954), which blended the architecture of the east with modern western concepts, is considered to be the start of New Formalism architecture.

Common features of the New Formalism style, which was quite often expensive to build, include:

- Use of traditionally rich materials, such as travertine, marble, and granite or man-made materials that mimic their luxurious qualities
- Buildings usually set on a podium
- Designed to achieve modern monumentality
- Embraces classical precedents, such as arches, colonnades, classical columns and entablatures
- Smooth wall surfaces
- Delicacy of details
- Formal landscape; use of pools, fountains, sculpture within a central plaza

The style was used primarily for high profile cultural, institutional and civic buildings, including the Los Angeles Music Center and the Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles, the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena, the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City, and Edward Durrell Stone's Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C. In Southern California, the style was applied mainly to museums, auditoriums, and college campuses. The University of Southern California, the California Institute of Technology, and Harvey Mudd College in Claremont all have significant buildings of the New Formalism style, designed by different architectural firms. Other local examples of New Formalism include the Ahmanson Center in Los Angeles and the Ambassador Auditorium in Pasadena.

There are a couple of buildings in Fullerton that are designed in the New Formalism style. The present Fullerton City Hall (1963) at 303 W. Commonwealth Avenue is probably the best example of the style in Fullerton, although the type of materials used for the building is comparatively modest. A second building exhibiting features of this style is the Western State University College of Law (1975) at 1111 N. State College Boulevard.

Read More about New Formalism Architecture:



Fullerton City Hall (1963)  
303 W. Commonwealth Avenue



Western State University College of Law (1975)  
1111 N. State College Boulevard



Student Health Center (1974)  
CSU Fullerton campus



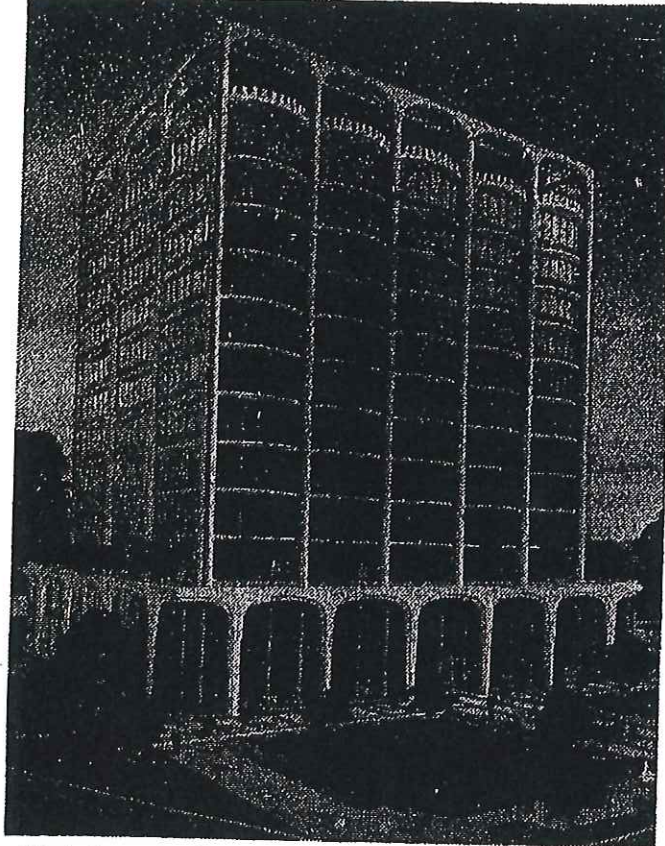


Attachment 11

400 Army - Navy Drive 1967 office bldg.



Rosslyn to Get 12th New Office Building  
*The Washington Post, Times Herald (1959-1973); Feb 25, 1965;*  
 ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Washington Post  
 pg. F6



Work is under way on this Architects Building at the northwest corner of Oak Street and Wilson Boulevard in the Rosslyn section of Arlington.

## Rosslyn to Get 12th New Office Building

The rapidly redeveloping Rosslyn section of Arlington will have its 12th new building next year.

Builder-owner Louis Pomponio Jr. has started the Architects Building, a 12-story, \$4.2 million structure on a 36,000-square-foot site near the Linn, Donata and Pomponio buildings done by the same builder-developer in conjunction with his brothers Peter and Paul Pomponio.

The new building is designed to have 116,798 square feet. A two-story arcade was

designed by H. D. Nottingham, architects, around the ground level. The building will be faced with glass and embellished by curving sun shields over each level.

At top, the Architects Building will have a series of arches that will camouflage air conditioning equipment.

With \$16 million worth of buildings completed or under way in Rosslyn, the Pomponio group also has plans for five more buildings there. The total valuation of the nine buildings is expected to approximate \$36 million.

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction prohibited without permission.



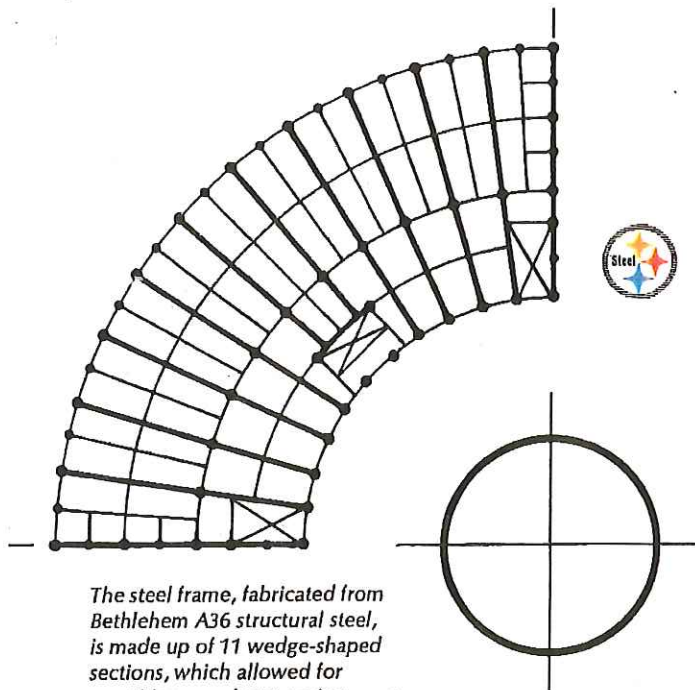
# Cost of steel frame lowered

by designing 11 repetitive  
wedge-shaped sections

Architects: Ward and Schneider, Cleveland, Ohio. Consulting engineers: Barber & Hoffman, Cleveland. General contractor: Hill and Kimmel, Inc., Silver Spring, Md. Steel fabricator: Arlington Iron Works, Arlington, Va.







The steel frame, fabricated from Bethlehem A36 structural steel, is made up of 11 wedge-shaped sections, which allowed for repetition—and cost-saving—in fabrication.



### *New headquarters building reflects Arlington County's pride in its educational system*

The bond issue that authorized the Arlington County (Va.) Education Center called for a building that would "reflect the importance" of the 26,000-student school system. Steel helped the architects achieve a striking building, at a cost below the budget figure.

The basic shape of the Center is an arc. A circular, domed planetarium was used as a radius point, and grid lines extend from that point to form 11 equal wedge-shaped sections in the main building. Here is where steel came into its own. Because of the repetition of the wedge shapes, structural steel could be fabricated using the same shapes repetitiously, at a significant saving in cost. To form the curves of the building, the steel frame was cut and fit from short straight sections. Bethlehem A-36 structural steel was used, and all connections were bolted.

The building takes advantage of a naturally sloping site, allowing for five stories at the outward curve of the arc, four on the inner face. The lowest level contains the school system's data processing center, the ground floor has the rooms most often visited by the public, and the upper three floors house staff offices.

Steel is versatile, adaptable, economical. It can lighten a structure, give it shape, shorten construction time, provide more usable floor space. Want to discuss your next building? The Sales Engineer at the nearest Bethlehem office is available to you at any time.

## **BETHLEHEM STEEL**



The Arlington County Education Center has 58,800 sq ft of floor space including the Planetarium building. The Center was built at a cost well below the budgeted figure.

