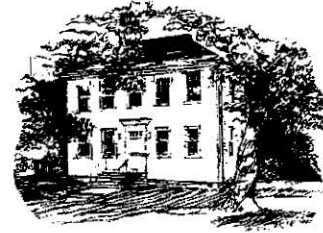


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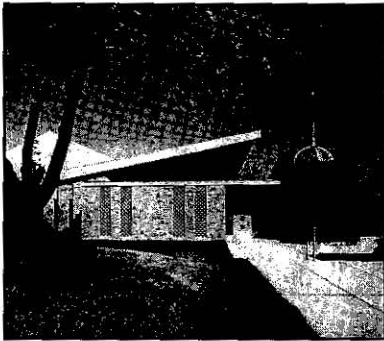
... then and now

From The Indian Hill Historical Society



Buckingham Lodge
1861

Remembering Albert Walters



Bellarmino Chapel

Corryville and Covedale during the Depression and started a family in 1935. A decade later they had a son and 2 daughters and resided in Price Hill.

Walters had an associate partner at first, but later worked from an office located at the Federal Reserve Bank Building at the corner of 4th and Race Streets downtown. In the 1940s he attained a National Council of Architectural Registration Board Certificate and started a solo practice. Early projects completed were ecclesiastical, including Our Lady of Peace Shrine and the Armory Building at Xavier University, St. Antoninus Church, and the Men of Milford Retreat House in Milford. These commissions led to other jobs for churches and faith-based organizations. He built several classrooms, a dormitory and Bellarmine Chapel at XU, St. Dominic Church on Delhi Township, the Monastery of the Holy Name in Hyde Park, and the Boy Scout Chapel at Camp Friedlander in Loveland. In 1956 he was selected to design the new St. Xavier High School.

Over the decades, Walters designed residential, educational, commercial, institutional and medical buildings which he described as "of contemporary design, functional in nature, and having (their) own personality." Working collaboratively with local engineering firms, he assured the viability of his modern structures such as the geometric roof at Bellarmine Chapel. Walters was a very thorough supervisor. Once when he thought some masons were cutting costs, he had them dismantle a retaining wall to examine the supposed reinforcing rods. When no reinforcements were found, the masons had to reconstruct the entire wall under his scrutiny. Walters worked with clients when designing residences. Among the Indian Hill homes he completed were those of the Philip Wymans and the Harold LeBlonds.

In the 1950's the family moved to 5535 Miami Road – a residence designed by Walters – with 4 stone fireplaces and a kitchen with cherry cabinetry. The children attended St. Gertrude School. Mr. & Mrs. Walters were religious people; their home was filled with ecclesiastical art and they supported Catholic charities and missions. Also at this time Mr. Walters relocated his firm's office to Erie Avenue in Hyde Park. It was staffed by co-op and graduate students from UC's School of Architecture; and when Walters' son Tim joined the practice, the firm became Walters and Walters Architects.

A tall mustached man at 6' 3", Albert Walters was dedicated to his work, his family, and his faith. Not vocal by nature, he had a commanding presence. He maintained an office until he was 81 and was a regular luncheon customer at The Echo. When he died in 1993 at age 87, he left a legacy of many buildings to the city of Cincinnati. Memorialized by a family member, Walters' personal philosophy was "Do it right or don't do it at all."

Special thanks to Mike Calvin for assistance with this article.