

That Exceptional One

INDIANA'S EARLY FEMALE ARCHITECTS & BUILDERS

"I cannot, in whole conscience, recommend architecture as a profession for girls. I know some women who have done well at it, but the obstacles are so great that it takes an exceptional girl to make a go of it. If she insisted on becoming an architect, I would try to dissuade her. If then, she was still determined, I would give her my blessing—she could be that exceptional one."

—Pietro Belluschi

Dean of the School of Architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1951-1965.
From the 1955 New York Life Insurance Company brochure "Should You Be An Architect?"

This quote, by a well-known Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, shows just how devoted a woman had to be to pursue a career in architecture. She had to be not only smart, but also driven, tough, and determined to face such attitudes and still persevere. And this was in 1955. Imagine what it must have been like in the late 1800s for a teenage girl who wanted to take mechanical drawing classes—or trying to persuade a professional architect to take her on as an apprentice, knowing that the odds were massively stacked against her. Mr. Belluschi was correct,

each of the women pictured here is indeed "that exceptional one."

This year the DHPA is highlighting the women who worked in Indiana and shaped our built environment, at least those we know about and could find photographs of. Certainly, there are others. Some sought a college degree in the field, others were apprentices to existing architects, and still others taught themselves.

To learn more about these women and their work, follow the DHPA's Facebook page during May 2022.



Grace Edith Crosby
1873-1962
Apprenticed

Alfred Grindle (Fort Wayne) • Wildwood Builders (Fort Wayne) • Self-employed
Steele-Myers Department Store (Fort Wayne)
Bowser Pump (Fort Wayne)
Griffith & Goodrich (Fort Wayne)
Bradley & Babcock (Fort Wayne)
Credit: The Fort Wayne History Center



Joel Abbott Roberts Ninde
1873-1916

Self-taught in design and building
Wildwood Builders (Fort Wayne)
Credit: ARCH, Inc



Clara Maude Richardson Parry
1878-1971

Industrial Technical High School & Apprenticed
Dupont & Johnson (Indianapolis)
David Gibson, Jr. (Indianapolis)
*Credit: Family photo c.1900
Janet McLachlan*



Jessie Gilbert Gibson Paine
1882-1959

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Architecture • 1903
Worked with her father, Louis H. Gibson from spring 1903 until her marriage in 1906 (Indianapolis)
*Credit: Family photo c.1900 Grandchildren,
Ellen Burnham Davis and William Lloyd Davis; Pamela Peirce*



Edith Leonard
1883-1957

University of Illinois
Champaign-Urbana
Architecture • 1906
Brubaker & Stern (Indianapolis)
Fermor S. Cannon (Indianapolis)
Herbert Foltz (Indianapolis)
Rubush & Hunter (Indianapolis)
Self-employed (Indianapolis & Brown County)
Credit: Illini Media 1907 yearbook



Effie May Johnston Schoen Morgan
1883-1960

Self-taught in real estate and building
Schoen-Morgan Realty (Indianapolis)
*Credit: Indiana Historical Society 1929
photo of World War I Pilgrimage trip*



Louise Josephine Pellens
1885-1965

University of Illinois
Architecture • 1909
Mahurin & Mahurin (Fort Wayne)
Wildwood Builders (Fort Wayne)
Walter Burley Griffin Architects (Chicago)
Mechanical Arts Teacher (Rockford, IL)
Mechanical Arts Teacher (Indianapolis)
Mechanical Arts Teacher (Chicago)
Credit: Illini Media 1910 yearbook



Isabella Griffith Sullivan
1893-1973

Self-taught in real estate and building
Mrs. S.E. Sullivan, Real Estate & Builder (Evansville) • Mrs. Sullivan & Brown (Evansville) • Mrs. Sullivan & Sons (Evansville)
Credit: Evansville Courier, October 13, 1956



Anne Gertrude Garrell Adams
1898-1985

Indiana State Normal College
Mechanical Drawing • 1920
Johnson, Miller, Miller, Yeager (Terre Haute)
John Byers & Associates (Los Angeles)
*Credit: Indiana State University Archives
1919 yearbook*



Juliet Alice Peddle
1899-1979

University of Michigan
Architecture • 1922
1st registered woman architect in Indiana
Perkins, Fellows & Hamilton (Chicago)
Edwin H. Clark (Chicago)
Historic American Buildings Survey (Illinois)
Miller, Vrydagh, Miller (Terre Haute)
Self-employed (Terre Haute)
*Credit: University of Michigan Bentley
Historical Library, 1922 yearbook*



Katharine Bock Mott
1900-1979

Attended Saint Mary's College
Music
Self-taught in design and building
Started real estate/building company with her husband (Indianapolis)
Real estate/building company with her husband (Houston)
Credit: Ancestry.com



Rose Mary Best
1913-1983

University of Michigan
Architecture • 1935
2nd registered woman architect in Indiana
A. B. Trowbridge (Washington, D.C.)
Rhees E. Burket (Washington, D.C.)
Faulkner & Kingsbury (Washington, D.C.)
Kelly & Gruzen (New York-ship design firm)
Freeman, French, Freeman (Burlington, VT)
McGuire, Shook, Compton, & Richey (Indianapolis)
*Credit: University of Michigan Bentley Historical
Library 1935 yearbook*



Barbara Wolfe Siemens
1922-2010

Ohio State University
Architectural Engineering • 1945
Huszagh & Dunmuth (Chicago)
H. Stewart Kline & Associates (Lafayette)
Credit: Makio, Ohio State University, 1945



Edith Jocelyn Windhorst Freeland
1923-2009

University of Cincinnati
Architecture • 1950
Virgil C. Hoagland (Indianapolis)
Burns & Burns (Indianapolis)
Dorste & Pantazj (Indianapolis)
Edward D. James & Associates (Indianapolis)
*Credit: Archives & Rare Books Library,
University of Cincinnati 1950 yearbook*



Elaine Aiken Doenges
1925-2017

DePauw University
Speech • 1947
Self-taught in architecture from Yale University curriculum
Self-employed (Bloomington)
Payne & Settecase (Salem, OR)
*Credit: DePauw University Archives
1947 yearbook*



Gladys Jacqueline Good Miller
1926-1993

University of Pennsylvania
Architecture • 1949
3rd registered woman architect in Indiana
Alfred Bendiner (Philadelphia)
Bolton, Martin, & White (Philadelphia)
Miller & Vrydagh / Miller, Vrydagh, Miller (Terre Haute) • Self-employed (Terre Haute)
*Credit: University of Pennsylvania
Archives 1949 yearbook*



Carolyn Josephine Henderson Goode
1931-2005

University of Colorado, *Architectural Engineering* • University of Illinois
Architecture Master's • 1971
Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill (Chicago)
Archonics (Indianapolis)
Self-employed (Indianapolis)
Credit: Indianapolis Star, November 12, 1967



Avel Joy Christie Shull
1931-1976

Attended Herron School of Art
Self-employed (Carmel)
*Credit: 1950 Indianapolis Times photo from
Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*

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