

fay jones

“...these buildings were not made to be fashionable or to win prizes, but really, only to please those who would use them...and to belong to the places where they’re built.”

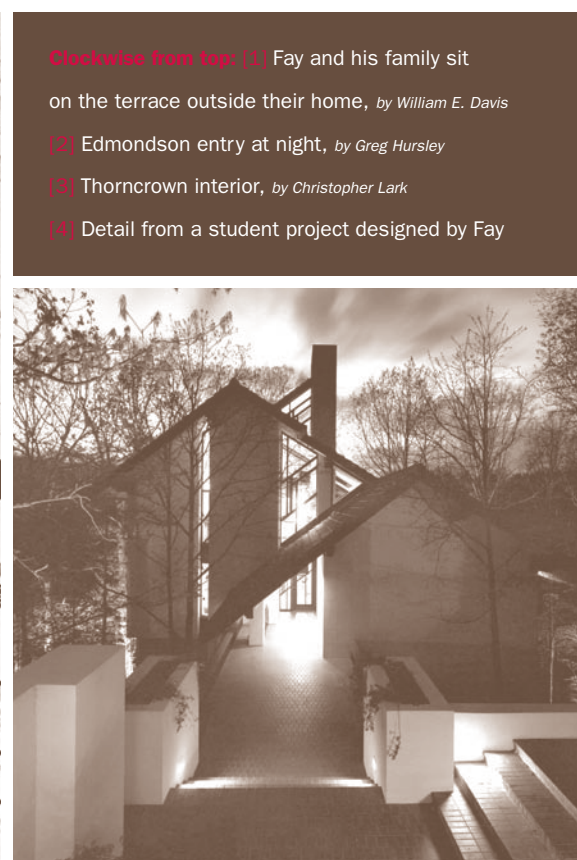
Fay Jones

Internationally renowned architect Fay Jones, FAIA, (1921–2004)

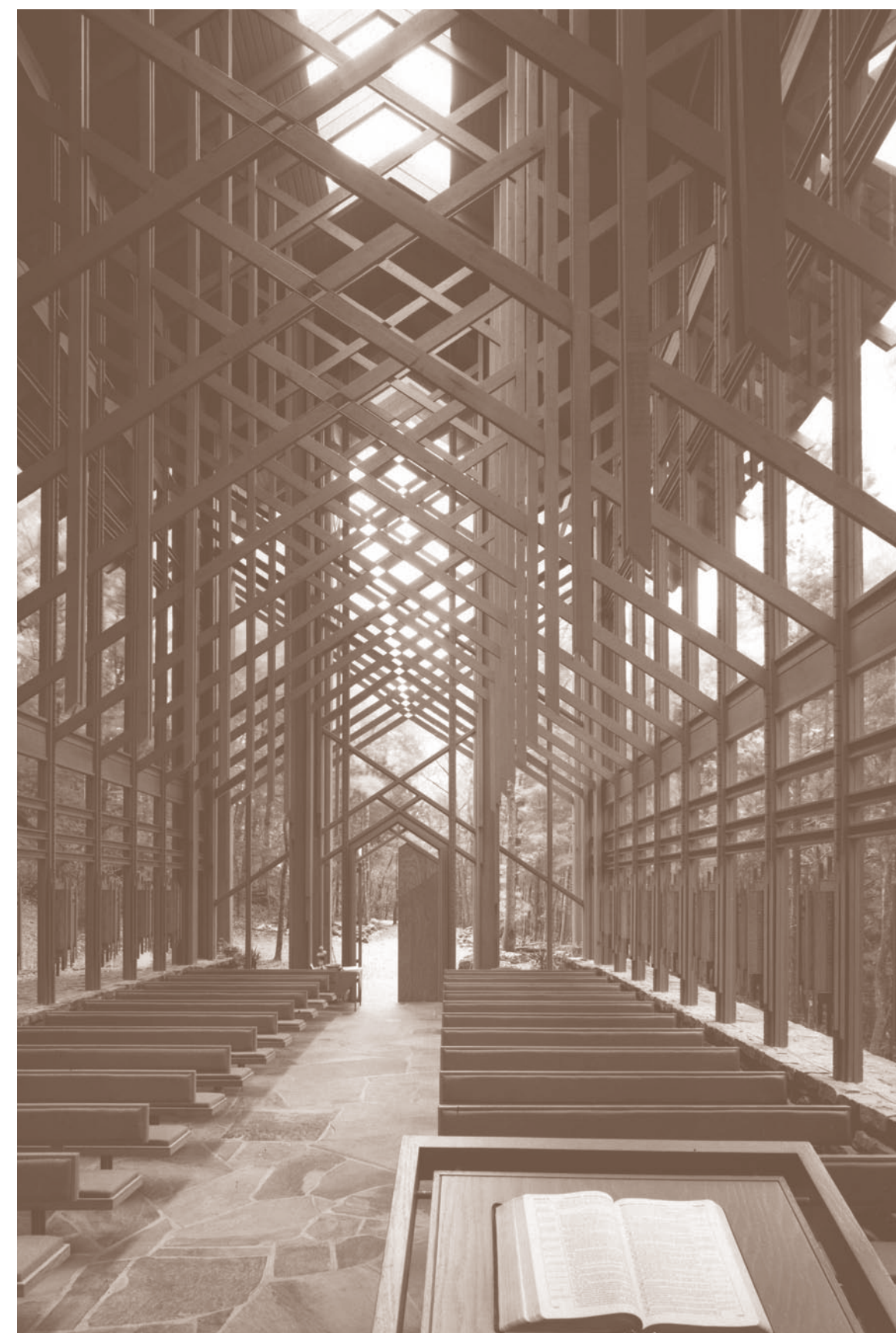
chose to live and work in the wooded hills of the Ozarks. Rooted in his native Arkansas, far from design centers on the east and west coasts, Jones created a unique style that stands apart from architectural trends. Celebrated for his soaring sacred spaces and residential designs responsive to their natural settings, Jones won recognition from the American Institute of Architects as one of the country’s “10 most influential living architects,” placing him on a list that included I.M. Pei, Robert Venturi, and Michael Graves. In 2000, the AIA ranked Jones’ Thorncrown Chapel in Eureka Springs as the fourth best building by an American architect in the 20th century.

Jones’ designs feature the clean lines of the mid-century’s modernism warmed by native materials and his own vocabulary of form and pattern. Though deeply influenced by the work of his mentor, Frank Lloyd Wright, Jones developed his own style shaped by his admiration for architectural history and reverence for craft. Jones’ early engineering studies prompted him to reveal structural elements that became a key design feature in buildings such as Thorncrown Chapel in Eureka Springs. Other influences included California architects Greene and Greene, Bernard Maybeck, Richard Neutra and, more directly, Bruce Goff, Jones’ colleague at the University of Oklahoma from 1951–53.

Throughout his career, Jones employed careful siting and Wrightian elements such as broad roofs, clerestory windows, and skylights to develop energy conscious designs suffused with natural light. Jones’ love of nature permeates his work.



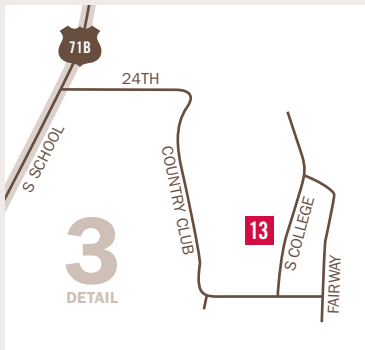
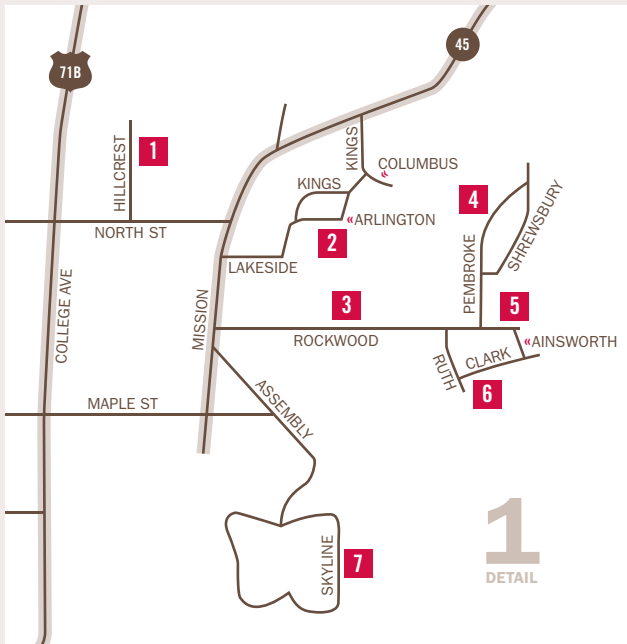
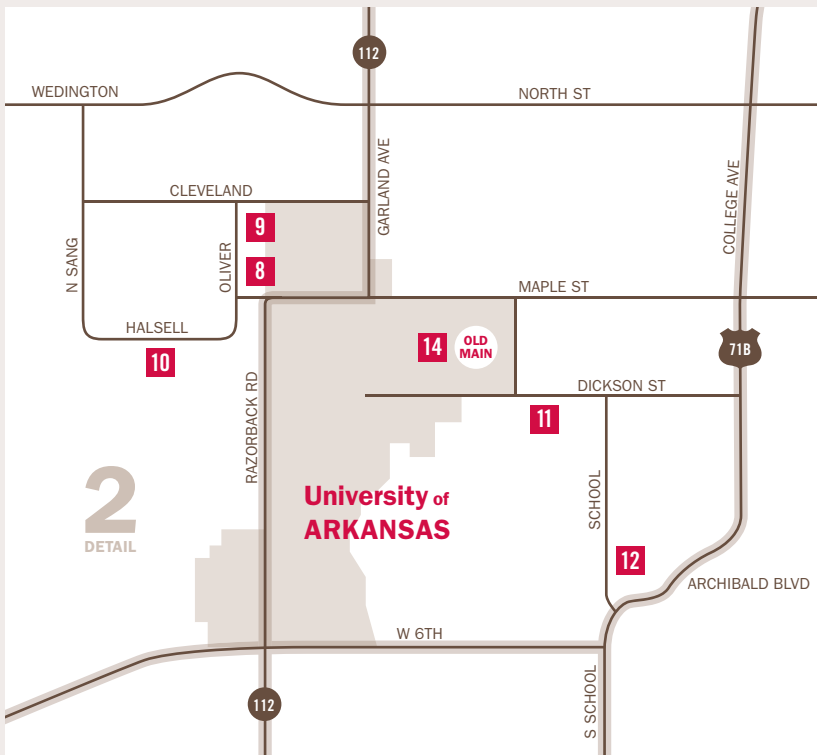
- Clockwise from top: (1) Fay and his family sit on the terrace outside their home, by William E. Davis
(2) Edmondson entry at night, by Greg Hursley
(3) Thorncrown interior, by Christopher Lark
(4) Detail from a student project designed by Fay



Fay Jones focused primarily on small projects, designing 140 homes and 15 chapels and churches in 21 states across the United States. Here, we present a sampling of Fay Jones projects located in Fayetteville, his home for more than 50 years, plus two nearby chapels that brought him international recognition. These projects span Jones’ career and include residential, commercial, and religious structures.

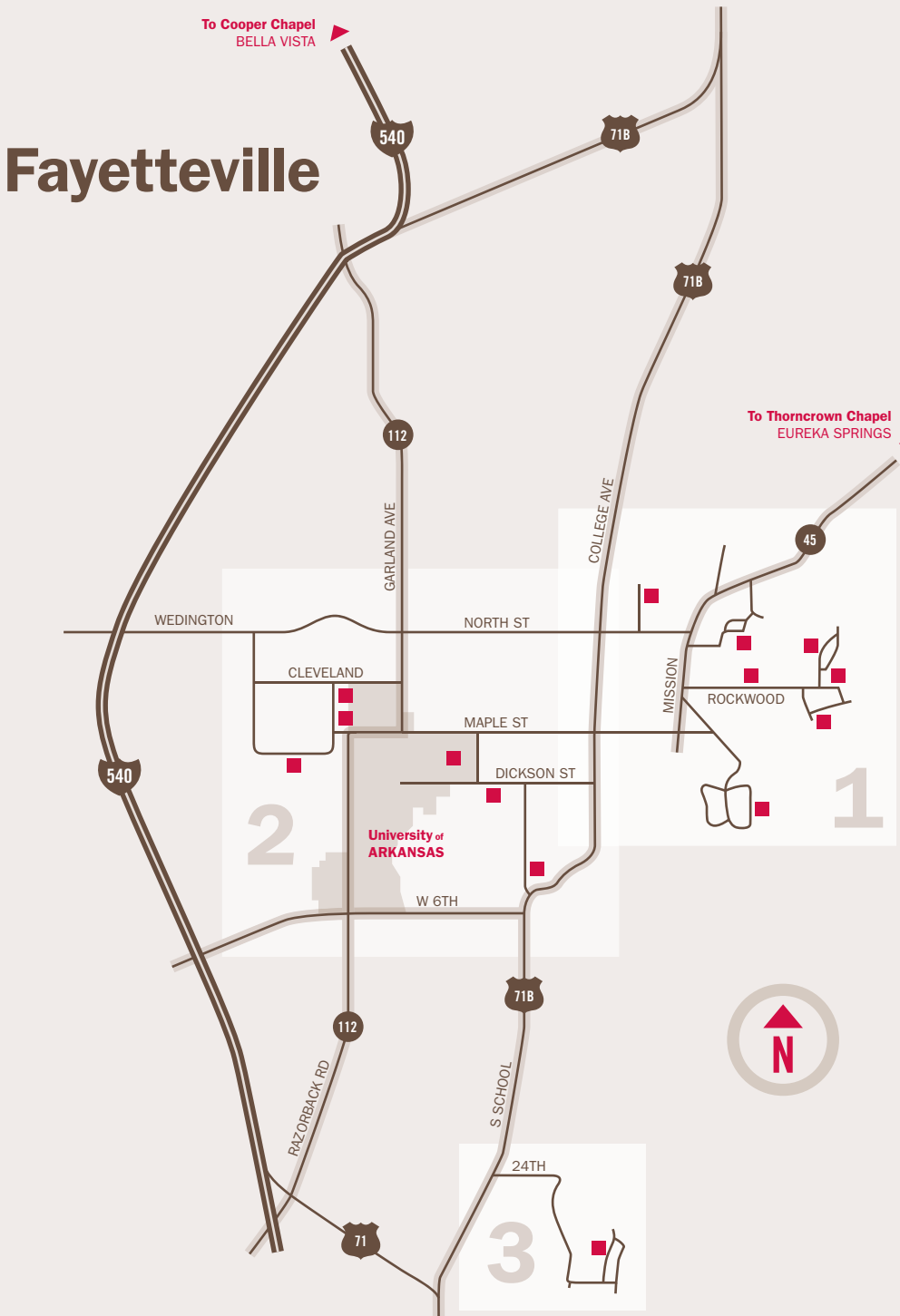


Click below from top: [1] Fay’s drafting table, located in the entry of his home, by Wayne Wright [2] Fay and several students discuss the history of architecture [3] Living room/fireplace inside Fay’s home



Note: Please stay on public property at all times. These maps do not in any way convey permission to enter private property or disturb the privacy of indwellers.

{DETAIL MAPS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE}



Thorncrown Chapel
12968 U.S. 62 West, Eureka Springs, AR
Fay Jones & Associates, 1980
James Reed

This small building brought international acclaim to Jones. Inspired by Paris’ Sainte Chappelle (1243-48), Jones organized his first chapel commission around a single luminous space. He replaced Sainte Chappelle’s Gothic buttresses with interior diagonal cross bracing that draws the eye upward and activates the room. Walls of glass and a simple palette of natural materials link the chapel with its wooded setting. Nearby Thorncrown Worship Center, designed by Jones + Jennings in 1989, was built to accommodate larger groups in a more traditional setting.

For visiting hours visit www.thorncrown.com or call 479.253.7401.

Mildred B. Cooper Memorial Chapel
504 Memorial Drive, Bella Vista, AR
Jones + Jennings, 1988
Children of John B. and Mildred B. Cooper

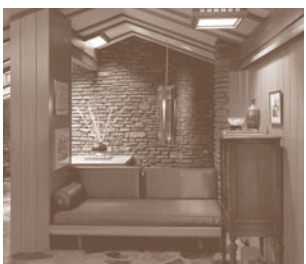
Thorncrown’s wooden structural system with steel connectors is replaced here with a steel structural system sheathed in redwood. An unglazed oculus and a steeply pitched gabled roof crown the deep Gothic arch of the entryway, which is further dramatized by the interlaced wooden lathes above the doorway. Inside the chapel, arches formed from standard steel shapes by a company that typically built water tanks trace the length of the sanctuary. Robert Ivy compared Jones’ “exuberant metal construction” to 19th-century masters in metal such as Gustave Eiffel and Joseph Paxton.

For visiting hours call 479.855.6598.



[1] Jones Residence 1330 N. Hillcrest Ave.
Fay Jones, architect, 1955 | Fay and Gus Jones

offers views to the conservatory and through the screen door to the greenery outdoors.



[2] Buckley Residence 964 E. Arlington Terrace
Fay Jones, architect, 1967 | Dr. Carie and Marjorie Buckley

Jones transformed practical aspects of his buildings into works of art. Here, the battens that cover joints on insulative ceiling panels create a rhythmic ornamentation that emphasizes the linear plan of this home. As in all homes designed by Jones, the broad eaves eliminate the need for gutters.

[3] The W.D. Harral residence (“Butterfly House”) designed by Fay Jones in 1958 at 1100 E. Rockwood Trail

[4] The Glenn W. Clark residence designed by Fay Jones in 1964, with an addition by Maurice Jennings + David McKee Architects in 2001, at 951 Pembroke Road



[5] Joe Marsh Clark Residence 1724 E. Rockwood Trail
Fay Jones, architect, 1963 | Addition by Dennis Becker, 1998 | Maxine and Joseph Marsh Clark

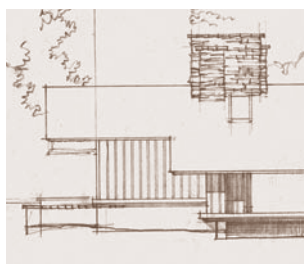
Jones incorporated large boulders and numerous plantings in the living room of this home for a botanist and geologist. The sheet glass reaches deep into the soil with no sill, creating a seamless flow between indoor and outdoor space. The custom cabinetry in this home’s kitchen was standard in Fay Jones’ residential designs. He also designed built-in and freestanding furniture and custom millwork for his clients.



[6] Goetsch/Winkler Residence 1619 E. Clark St.
Fay Jones, architect, 1968 | Alma Goetsch and Katherine Winckler

Frank Lloyd Wright recommended Fay Jones to these clients, who previously lived in one of Wright’s Usonian houses. Jones frequently used native stone, usually fieldstone from a nearby quarry, in his designs.

[7] Lothar and Gabriele Schafer residence designed by Fay Jones in 1962 at 828 E. Skyline Drive



[8] Hotz Residence 556 N. Oliver Ave.
Fay Jones & Associates, 1980 | Hartman Hotz

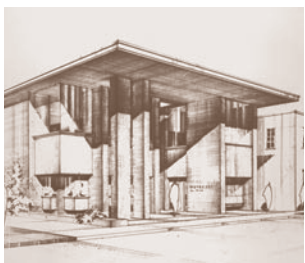
Though only 1,600 square feet, this home has a spacious feel thanks to its open plan and abundance of natural light. Jones always keyed his designs to the natural features of the site. This home opens to the wooded area to the south. The project also boasts a custom-designed doghouse for the owner’s pet Scoundrel.



[9] Barnhart Residence 634 N. Oliver Ave.
Mike Stousland and Fay Jones, architects, 1950 | Ralph C. Barnhart

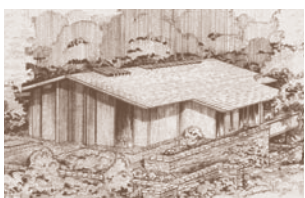
While a fifth-year student in the architecture program, Jones worked with his professor to design this home for Barnhart, a professor and, later, dean in the law school. University of Arkansas faculty members, typically creative individuals with limited budgets, gave Jones free reign to develop the innovative designs that established his career.

[10] The Orton Residence designed by Fay Jones in 1959, at 1641 W. Halsell Road



[11] Underwood Building 611 W. Dickson St.
Fay Jones, architect, 1965 | Bill Underwood

With its generous use of butt-jointed sheet glass, this commercial structure opens to the vibrant activity of Dickson Street. A custom-designed lantern illuminates the entrance. The home of Jones’ firm for 33 years, the second story now houses the firm of Jones’ former partner, Maurice Jennings.



[12] DePalma Clinic 220 S. School Ave.
Fay Jones, architect, 1963 | Restored by Maurice Jennings + David McKee Architects, 2001 | Anthony DePalma

Originally a medical clinic, this building features a fretted gate typical of Jones’ metalwork designs. The chapel-like interior space is graced by tall cathedral ceilings unusual for commercial buildings of that era.



[13] Nelms Residence 2933 S. College Drive
Jones + Jennings, 1990 | Don Nelms

Located in a residential setting close to the Fayetteville Country Club, this home differs programmatically from many of Jones’ designs, which typically present a more private face to the street. The sheltered porch and terrace areas invite interaction with passers-by.



[14] Fulbright Peace Fountain
University of Arkansas campus, Fayetteville
Jones + Jennings, 1998 | Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences

Jones viewed the 41-foot-tall Fulbright Peace Fountain, one of his last projects, as the “exclamation point” of his career. The fountain is located in front of Vol Walker Hall, home to the Fay Jones School of Architecture. Jones’ 58-year relationship with the school began in 1946, when he enrolled in the first architecture classes offered at the university, and extended through 35 years of teaching. He also served as the school’s first dean.

For further reading consult

For further reading consult:
The Department of Arkansas Heritage, “Outside the Pale”: The Architecture of Fay Jones (The University of Arkansas Press, 1999).

Robert Ivy, Fay Jones: The Architecture of E. Fay Jones, FAIA (McGraw-Hill, 2001).

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