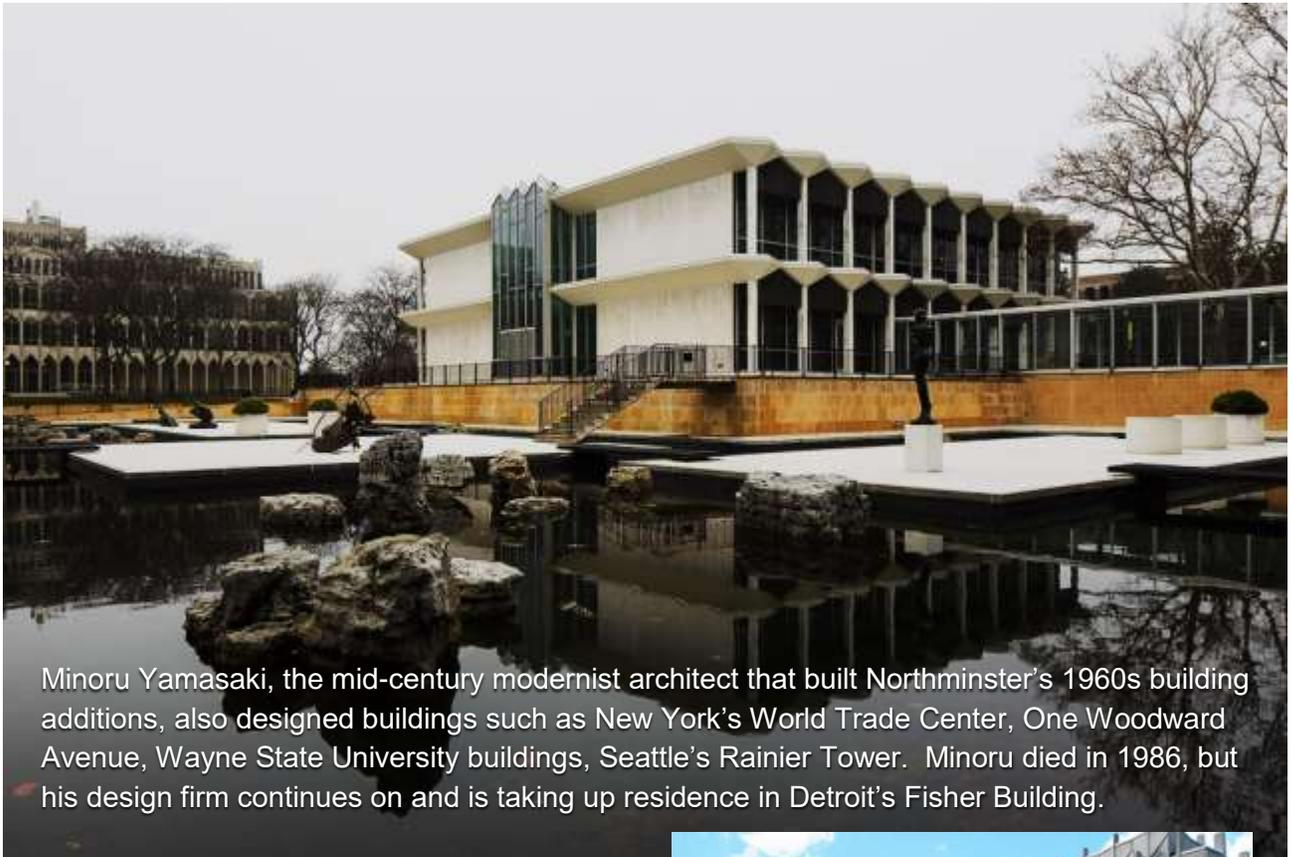


Northminster Architect Minoru Yamasaki's Work



Minoru Yamasaki, the mid-century modernist architect that built Northminster's 1960s building additions, also designed buildings such as New York's World Trade Center, One Woodward Avenue, Wayne State University buildings, Seattle's Rainier Tower. Minoru died in 1986, but his design firm continues on and is taking up residence in Detroit's Fisher Building.

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Yamasaki felt that man-made spaces should convey a sense of calm and serenity and worked to integrate that concept into his designs, including reflecting pools, predictable repetition, flow and light.

He completed many works in Missouri, Michigan and other areas of the country. His buildings on the campus of Wayne State University include the Helen L. DeRoy Auditorium, the Prentis Building, the College of Education, and the McGregor Memorial Conference Center.

Robert Szantner, who worked for Yamasaki from 1984 and until the firm closed in 2009, bought rights to the firm's name and intellectual property, first operating out of Birmingham but recently decided to move to Detroit, excited by the resurgence of activity and business downtown.



Wayne State University, top: College of Education; bottom: McGregor Memorial Conference Center

Northminster Architect Minoru Yamasaki's Work

Rainier Tower, Seattle



Minoru Yamasaki was a Japanese-American, whose career was just taking off as the attack on Pearl Harbor occurred, just days after his wedding. He experienced discrimination during his lifetime and political targeting and investigation during the WWII years. His lasting legacy is his enduring architectural projects, including the Lambert Airport in St. Louis; another example of domed construction and fluid design.

Yamasaki's work featured aspects of modernism's clean lines as well as artistic aspects of the Arts and Crafts movement.

His life and building projects, including Northminster, were highlighted in an extensive article in the September/October issue of Michigan History Magazine, as well as a September 14 piece in the Detroit Free Press that online readers can view [HERE](#).



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