The Importance of Drawing: Ralph Rapson’s Legacy

One of Ralph Rapson’s most admired skills – besides designing outstanding, humanistic architecture – was his exceptional ability to draw. For Rapson (1914 - 2008), drawing was one of the most important skills that an architect could possess. In “Five Primary Values of Architectural Education,” he stated:

Drawing embodies the process by which students of architecture learn to think conceptually. A student’s ability to analyze information and convey ideas with pencil and paper is directly related to his or her ability to produce exciting, creative solutions.

This exhibition includes selections of Rapson’s drawings and those of faculty and graduates of the University of Minnesota’s School of Architecture. All were influenced by Rapson’s strong drawing foundation.

Rapson’s influential “Minnesota Style” includes characteristic qualities: strong use of line to define three dimensional forms; mastery of the use of shade and shadow; and buildings and landscapes populated by believable characters of all shapes, sizes, ages, genders, and nationalities. Above all, the style that Rapson championed enlivens the design and engages the viewer in the theater of life.

Curated by James Dozier

Rental fee: $1,000 + outgoing shipping

Booking period: 4 weeks; (fee will be prorated for additional weeks)

Size: 1,400 sq. ft. (variable)

Security: Low (reprints mounted on board)

Available Dates: 9/1/2013 - 12/31/2017

No. of Crates: 2

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