



William “Bill” T. Mahan

About the Recipient

William “Bill” T. Mahan, FAIA has enjoyed a long and distinguished architectural career and is a proud member of the Iowa State University—*Order of The Knoll*.

In 2004 the Courthouse Legacy Foundation (CLF) was established to provide funding and oversee the historic conservation and restoration of the Santa Barbara Courthouse, a City/State/National Historic Landmark. Bill first joined the board and shortly thereafter appointed as Chair of the Conservation and Restoration Committee. In that, capacity he has overseen approximately \$1,500,000 of conservation or restoration projects in the Courthouse.

The American Institute of Architects Santa Barbara Chapter (AIASB) was chartered in 1929. For nearly fifty years the Chapter had no public presence outside the practicing architects that made up its membership. As President of the Chapter in 1979, the nominee established the first permanent office that included part-time staff; providing a vital link between the community, membership, contractors, potential clients, and the Institute. Also, as a past-president and board member he helped establish a permanent AIA Architectural Archive where all existing County permitted plans are stored, making them available to architects and citizens. He is a co-founder of the Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara (AFSB), a tax-exempt community organization. His central involvement in the Foundation allowed him to participate in identifying and purchasing the historic Acheson House with contributions given to the AFSB. It is the permanent home of the Architectural Foundation of Santa Barbara and the AIA Santa Barbara Chapter. He has served as representative of AIASB to the California Council-AIA and State Board of Architectural Examiners. In 2008 he was given the Citizen Architect Award by AIA National.

Bill has served on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce. One of their goals was to establish an attractive well located Visitor’s Center, but they had no means to reach that goal. At the same time, he was serving on a design review advisory committee to oversee the construction of the State Street U.S. 101 overpass. In the way of that project was an abandon historic stone structure known as the Larco Fish Store. He lobbied CalTrans



to save the building. He worked with City Council to donate a beach front site and encouraged local contractors and construction material providers to donate their labor and materials to remodel it. Since 1988 it has provided information to over 500,000 visitors, who come from all over world to visit Santa Barbara. For his leadership on this project, Congressman Lagomarsino presented him the Chamber of Commerce Volunteer of the Year award.

Bill's impact on the architectural profession includes a desk reference that almost every architect or designer in the country uses, the *Architectural Graphic Standards*, the Architect's Bible. He created exhibits for the transportation chapter of the 7th edition which included a six-page section on parking and vehicular maneuvers. Subsequent revisions were included in the 8th and 9th editions. Who really knows the national impact this work has had on the profession and design of countless parking lots across the country and maybe even the world?

Beginning in 1983, he was appointed to the City of Santa Barbara's Architectural Board of Review (ABR), where he would serve for 13 years. As vice chair and chair he completely reformed the process of design review as it related to city staff, the applicant's requirements for presentation, and the conduct of his fellow board members. He strove to make design review relevant to the applicant's needs and the community it was established to protect. In 1998, he was appointed to the City Planning Commission (PC), where he authored a comparative analysis of three-story buildings and while on the City PC, he helped to establish the Single-Family Design Review Board, which he chaired for three years. Often the only architect on these boards, his education, experience, and professionalism added a new dimension to Santa Barbara's planning review process. He currently is serving on the City's Historic Landmarks Commission—always with great composure, grace and respect for the public process and the realities of architectural practice.