Mangel's Store Building, Santa Fe

Kidder Residence, Santa Fe
Profile of An Architect:  
Bradley P. Kidder

Bradley P. Kidder of Santa Fe, a New Mexico architect for 25 years, has been selected to receive the 1959 Edward C. Kemper Award of the American Institute of Architects.

The award is given each year “to the one who has contributed significantly to The Institute and to the profession.” Only one Kemper award is made each year.

The award is to be presented to Kidder at the 1959 National Convention, to be held at New Orleans, La., in June. Miles W. Britelle, president of the New Mexico Chapter of AIA, commented, “We’re especially gratified that the National Board would nominate a man from our Chapter for the Kemper Award. No one is more deserving than Brad Kidder.”

Kidder came by his enthusiasm for architecture and the AIA naturally. His father, Frank Eugene Kidder, FAIA, was the author of the ARCHITECTS’ AND BUILDERS HANDBOOK, commonly referred to as the “Architect’s Bible.” F. E. Kidder also wrote authoritative books on superintending building and construction, on churches and chapels, roofs and roof trusses, and other subjects, which are widely known in the construction industry.

Bradley P. Kidder attended Denver public schools and received his B.A. in Graphic Art from Colorado College in 1924. He spent two years studying architecture at the University of Pennsylvania.

After graduation, Kidder entered architectural work as a junior draftsman with various architects in Denver, and worked one year as an advertising layout man and artist. He came in New Mexico in 1934 with the Historic American Buildings Survey, and was registered as an architect in New Mexico the same year—the first year in which written examinations were given. After five years as a draftsman for John Gaw Meem and Associates, he became an associate in the firm in 1939.

During World War II, Kidder served with the U. S. Navy C.B.’s in North Africa and Okinawa, and received an Admiral’s citation for his design of a military hospital in Oran, Algeria.

Since 1947, Kidder has maintained a private architectural practice in Santa Fe, primarily as a residential architect. His major works since 1947 include the Wood-Gormley Gymnasium and Assembly Building, Santa Fe Shopping Center, Mangel’s Store, Batts Office Building, J. C. Penney Store, and the Younger Boys’ Dormitory at the Industrial School, Springer. Kidder was a consulting architect for Meem, Zehner, Holien and Associates on the Ruth Hanna Memorial Addition and Bataan Methodist Memorial Hospital, in Albuquerque, and St. Vincent’s Hospital, in Santa Fe.

During the past two years, Kidder has designed churches at Farmington, Ft. Sumner, Las Cruces, Taos, and Catholic Missions at San Ildefonso and Isleta, and residences in various towns and cities throughout New Mexico.

Kidder’s services to the AIA, and in particular the New Mexico Chapter, won the Kemper award for him. He became a member of the New Mexico Chapter in 1947, and since that time has served as president of the Chapter in 1950-51; as Regional Conference Chairman in 1954; as Director of the Western Mountain District, AIA, in 1955-58; and as Trustee of the American Architectural Foundation since 1958.

His enthusiasm for improving his environment has led (Continued on Page 10)
Profile: Kidder
(Continued from Page 7)

Kidder into civic work unrelated to architecture. He has served as District Governor of the Lions Club, and in various other activities, including the vice-presidency of the Rio Grande Symphony Board.

Kidder married Katherine E. Newhall in 1928. They have one daughter, Katherine Alice, now with the Girl Scout Council in Los Alamos; and a son, Bradley P., Jr., with IBM in San Francisco.

Kidder has served the state of New Mexico as a member of the New Mexico Board of Examiners for Architects, and as secretary of the board from 1951-53, and chairman from 1953 to 1957. He also was a member of the New Mexico Housing Authority Board from 1951 to 1953.

In architectural circles, Kidder is known as a man of strong principles which are expressed forcefully and with precision, whose enthusiasm for his profession and concern with the problems of fellow architects never fail. The New Mexico Chapter, AIA, would not be what it is today if it had not been for the devotion and tireless efforts of Brad Kidder.

At 58, Kidder is able to look back on a long and successful career as an architect, and on service to his profession and his community which has seldom been equalled. But he also is young enough to plan future achievements, and to receive further honors.

(Editor’s Note: PROFILE OF AN ARCHITECT will be a regular feature in each edition of the NEW MEXICO ARCHITECT. Subjects for the profile will be chosen at random, and not according to alphabetical position or length of membership. The basic purpose of PROFILE is to introduce a member to his fellow members, and to present his background, accomplishments, and, on occasion, his ideas about his profession.)

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