

Bradley P. Kidder, FAIA

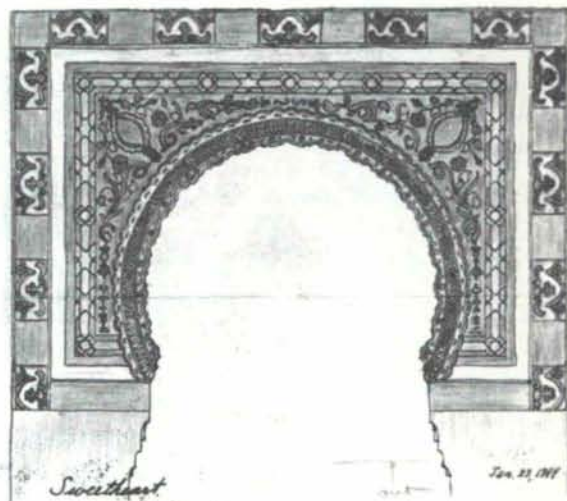
some notes by John McHugh, AIA

On Saturday, January 27th, 1973 my partner, Bradley P. Kidder, F.A.I.A., died in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Brad was born in Denver in 1901, son of Frank E. Kidder who together with Harry Parker wrote the KIDDER-PARKER ARCHITECTS' AND BUILDERS' HANDBOOK, the construction bible for several generations of architects across the nation. Brad grew up in Colorado and took his B.A. degree from Colorado College in 1924. After that he went on to take special courses at the University of Pennsylvania, finishing there in 1926. After graduation he entered architectural work as a junior draftsman with several architects in Denver including Fisher & Benedict and Temple Buell. He worked one year as an advertising layout man and artist. He married Katherine (better known to us as Harriet) Newhall in Colorado Springs in 1928. His daughter, Katherine, was born in Denver in 1929, and in 1930 Harriet presented him with a son, Bradley Jr.

He came to New Mexico in 1935 and worked with John Gaw Meem on the Historic American Buildings Survey. Some of the handsomest drawings of native New Mexico architecture that are in the national archives were made by Brad. After living in a variety of amusing — if not particularly convenient — rented quarters, he and Harriet built a handsome adobe house in Santa Fe in 1939-40 and lived in it while continuing to work with Mr. Meem until the beginning of World War II when he joined the SEABEES, the Construction Battalion of the United States Navy. Being one of the luckier members of the services, he actually worked on construction both in North Africa and in Okinawa. He received an Admiral's citation for his design of a military hospital in Oran, Algeria.

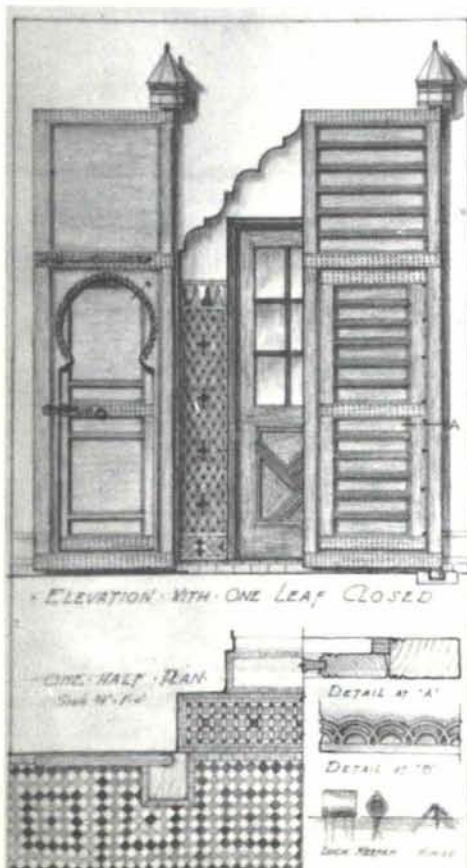
After the war he returned to his home in Santa Fe and went back into the practice of Architecture. He served as chairman for the New Mexico Board of Examiners for Architects for six years. In 1951 he acted as consultant to the then firm of Meem, Zehner, Holien and Associates while they were planning the St. Vincent Hospital in Santa Fe. I was working for Mr. Meem at the time, and it was in that office that I first met Brad. At the time I was a little frightened of him, for not only was he chairman of the architect's board, District Governor of Lions International, a consultant to Mr. Meem — but he was the official appraiser for the Veterans Administration who made the appraisal for my own newly constructed home!

Back in 1946 he was president of the New Mexico Chapter, A.I.A. In 1955-58 he was Director from the Western Mountain Region of the A.I.A., and in 1965 he became first president of the newly established New Mexico Society of Architects. His public service activities were many, including presidency of the Board of Trustees, A.I.A. Foundation 1957-1959, and as president of the foundation in 1960-61, presidency of the Rio Grande Symphony in 1960-61 and first





These sketches are copies of illustrations from letters to his family by Brad while serving with the U. S. Navy Seabee Battalion in North Africa, 1943-1944.



chairman of the State of New Mexico Construction Industries Commission 1967-1970. He served on nine national A.I.A. board committees while he was a director. He was chairman of the Architectural Competitions Committee and of the august Committee on Committees, and was a member of the national judicial board from 1965 to 1970. In 1959 Brad received the 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."

McHugh, Hooker and Kidder designed the original Santa Fe Opera Pavilion in 1957 and after the disastrous fire in 1967, which destroyed the entire structure, the firm was commissioned to design a new Santa Fe Opera Pavilion. This was a truly challenging commission in that we had a progressive and imaginative client, a limited money budget, and a very strict time budget. Brad wrote the specifications, kept the accounts, and made most of the inspections. He frequently had to make rather momentous decisions on the spot when certain materials turned up short, or even missing. By the efforts of Brad and the rest of the team, the building was finished on time and cost \$60,000 less than the estimate!

He was an occasional lecturer at the Department of Architecture, University of New Mexico, 1966-69. In 1967 he was one of the speakers discussing the effects of humidity in historic buildings at a meeting of the International Council of Monuments and Sites in Rome, Italy.

Besides being a man of the highest professional integrity, Brad was a gentle and thoughtful man, full of generosity. He was a man with strong principles which he expressed forcefully and with precision. His untiring enthusiasm for the profession of architecture has left a strong imprint on us all. His passing is a loss to that profession, to his friends, and to civilization.

J McH

In the name of Bradley Kidder a continuing scholarship fund has been established at the University of New Mexico. Through the Fund, new monies will be available for students in the Architecture Department, and dispersment will be based upon need and scholastic ability. Contributions are needed and are, naturally, tax deductible. Checks should be made payable to:

*Greater UNM Fund
(Bradley P. Kidder Scholarship)
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106*