A Pathfinder to

Eero Saarinen, Architect & Designer

Born: August 20, 1910, Kirkkonummi, Finland
Died: September 1, 1961, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

Arrived in America with his parents in 1923.
Studied architecture at Yale University, 1931-1934.
Apprenticed with Jarl Eklund, Helsinki, 1935-1936
Collaborated with Charles Eames on furniture design, later producing his “Womb” sofa and chair and “Tulip” furniture.
Joined his father’s architecture firm in 1941.
Formed own firm after his father’s death in 1951.

Principal Works

- Kresge Auditorium and Chapel, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA
- General Motors Technical Center, Warren, MI
- Concordia College, Fort Wayne, IN
- Thomas J. Watson Research Center, IBM, Yorktown, NY
- Ingalls Rink, Yale University, New Haven CT
- World Headquarters, John Deere & Company, Moline, IL
- U.S. Embassy, London
- Samuel F.B. Morse and Ezra Stiles Colleges, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- Bell Laboratories, Holmdel, NJ
- Dulles International Airport, Chantilly, VA
- Trans World Airlines Terminal, John F. Kennedy International Airport, New York
- North Christian Church, Columbus, IN
- Vivian Beaumont Theater, Lincoln Center, New York
- Columbia Broadcasting System Headquarters, New York
- Jefferson National Expansion Memorial and Gateway Arch, St. Louis, MO

Guidelines

Resources regarding particular architects will be found in the Morbito Library of the College of Architecture & Environmental Design, Taylor Hall. The call numbers for these items begin with the letters NA. Additional material may be found in other fine arts books whose call numbers begin with N and are found in the Main Library along with general reference materials. For more information on the NA classification, see: http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/ENVI/Browsers.html
To find books by or about Eero Saarinen, you may search via AUTHOR, SUBJECT or KEYWORD in KentLINK, the library catalog [http://kentlink.kent.edu/]. Subject headings best prescribed for searching are:

Saarinen, Eero, 1910-1961
Saarinen, Eero, 1910-1961 – Bibliography
Saarinen, Eero, 1910-1961 -- Criticism and interpretation
Architecture -- United States -- 20th century

When you have found an item in the catalog, be sure to note the entire call number.

GENERAL REFERENCE MATERIALS

Some general encyclopedias provide good introductory material. You’ll find these outside of the Architecture Library.

*The New Encyclopaedia Britannica*
“Saarinen, Eero”

*The New International Illustrated Encyclopedia of Art*
“Saarinen Family”
New York: Greystone Press (1967-71)

Architecture-specific general references include:

*Encyclopedia of Architecture: Design, Engineering & Construction*
New York: Wiley (1988-)

*The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture and Landscape Architecture*

*Contemporary Architects*
Detroit: Gale Research, Inc. (1994)

*Encyclopedia of 20th century Architecture*

*Encyclopedia of modern architecture*
New York: Harry N. Abrams, Inc. (1964)

*Encyclopedia of American Architecture*
The Architecture Library has two general books of particular note:

*Architecture: Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries*  
ARCH LIB reference  
NA645 .H55 1963

This is part of *The Penguin History of Art Series*. There are several references to Saarinen, placing him in context with others.

*The Oral History of Modern Architecture*  
ARCH LIB  
NA680 .P375 1994

This book, built on interviews with a variety of 20th century architects, includes a compact disc with the architects expressing themselves in their own words.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Only one bibliography is available through the Kent State Library.

*Eero Saarinen: his life and work*  
Monticello, Ill.: Council of Planning Librarians (1975)  
NE Regional Depository  
NA680 .P375 1994

In that this is stored at the Northeast Regional Depository, also consider these two other bibliographies available through OhioLINK:

*The Saarinens and American Architecture, 1967-1987*  
Monticello, IL: Vance Bibliographies (1988)  
Check OhioLINK

*The Work of Eero Saarinen: a selected bibliography*  
Monticello, IL: Vance Bibliographies (1980)  
Check OhioLINK

**BIOGRAPHICAL SOURCES**

There are two biographies of Saarinen; the first is edited by his wife.

*Eero Saarinen on His Work; a selection of buildings dating from 1947 to 1964 with statements by the architect*  
New Haven: Yale University Press (1968)  
ARCH LIB oversized  
MAIN oversized  
q NA737.S28 S2

*The Work of Eero Saarinen: a selected bibliography*  
New York: G. Braziller (1962)  
ARCH LIB  
MAIN see building guide  
NA737 .S28 T4

**CRITICISM AND INTERPRETATION**

*Eero Saarinen: an architecture of multiplicity*  
ARCH LIB  
NA737.S28 R66 2003

*Eero Saarinen: Introduction and note*  
New York: Simon and Schuster (1962)  
ARCH LIB  
MAIN see building guide  
NA737 .S28 T4


The fourth dimension in architecture : the impact of building on man’s behavior : Eero Saarinen’s administrative center for Deere & Company, Moline, Illinois 
Santa Fe, NM: Sunstone Press (1975)

Dissertations

Dissertation Abstracts, a ProQuest dissertation and theses database, is accessible through KentLINK. Titles published since 1997 are available in PDF format with 24-page previews. Among titles available are:

Architecture and Organization: United States of America, c. 1956
by Reinhold Martin, Ph.D., Princeton University, 1999, 715 pages

Eero Saarinen on the Frontier of the Future: Building corporate image in the American suburban landscape, 1939-1961
by Nancy Ann Miller, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 1999, 245 pages

Building Cultures By Designing Buildings: The corporate elite, the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, and Eero Saarinen
by Wesley Richard Janz, Ph.D., University of Michigan, 1995, 248 pages

Design Through Drawing: Eero Saarinen's design in the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Competition
by Handa, Rumiko, Ph.D., University of Pennsylvania, 1992, 345 pages

The Rainbow and the People: The Jefferson National Expansion Memorial as symbolic landscape (Eero Saarinen, St. Louis, Missouri)
by Wayne Arthur Mehrhoff, Ph.D., Saint Louis University, 1986, 225 pages

Making a Memorial: Developing the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial national historic site, 1933-1980 (Missouri; St. Louis; Parks, Urban)
by Sharon Alice Brown, Ph.D., Saint Louis University, 1984, 357 pages

Periodicals

The Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals is accessible through KentLINK and the Architectural Library website. It is a product of the Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library
of Columbia University and is operated by the J. Paul Getty Trust. The index covers more than 2,500 journals for architecture and design and is the sole source for three-quarters of them. Examples on articles about Saarinen include:

*Miller’s Modern Mission* by Amos Klausner  

*Randy Burkett: Gateway Arch, St. Louis* by Emilie W. Sommerhoff  

*Motor City: thanks to Eero Saarinen’s flexible plan and General Motors’s commitment to design, the original GM Technical Center is still a model corporate campus* by Paul Makovsky  

*Making a Memorial: Developing the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial national historic site, 1933-1980 (Missouri; St. Louis; Parks, Urban)*  
by Sharon Alice Brown, Ph.D., Saint Louis University, 1984, 357 pages

*Title Masters of light: Eero Saarinen* by Henry Plummer  
*A+U Architecture and Urbanism*, November 2003, extra edition, pp. 146-161

WEB-BASED RESOURCES

Be sure to check the Web Tools under Ready Reference on the library’s web site. There are a variety of links to search engines, some of which will produce searches from databases rather than just from web pages. In that web sites often are redesigned and updated,

A search, using “Eero Saarinen,” produces:

These feature his furniture designs  
http://scandinaviandesign.com/Eero_saarinen/

This is a biographical page from the National Parks Service.  
http://www.nps.gov/jeff/ar-eero.htm

Images resources:  
http://www.bluffton.edu/~sullivanm/index/saarinen/saarinenindex.html  
http://libraries.mit.edu/rvc/kidder/architects.html  
http://content.lib.washington.edu/buildingsweb/index.html

From the sites of his works.  
http://www.northchristianchurch.com/Architecture.htm  
http://www.mam.org/  
although it competes with the new Calatrava addition  
A Saarinen seminar at Yale University:
   http://www.yale.edu/opa/newsr/05-02-28-01.all.html
   http://www.architecture.yale.edu/events/lectures_symposia/eero_saarinen.htm

As an example of using search engines that reach into the “invisible web.” this site was
found only by working through the site of Suomen Rakennustaiteen Museo, the Museum
of Finnish Architecture [http://www.mfa.fi/]:
   http://www.eerosaarinen.net/

General Databases:
   http://www.archinform.net/arch/195.htm?ID=wn2Gm62yOqmVMJPe
   http://www.britannica.com/eb/article%3ftocId=9064590
   http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eero_Saarinen
   http://www.greatbuildings.com/architects/Eero_Saarinen.html
   http://www.mip.berkeley.edu/spiro

For broader worldwide library catalog searches, check:
   http://www.mcgill.ca/blackader/guides/architecture/twentieth/#Muse
   http://www.cca.qc.ca/

or use WorldCat FirstSearch accessible through Research Databases pages on the library
website.