

**ARN HENDERSON, FAIA**  
**ARCHITECT, EDUCATOR, POET, HISTORIAN**

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*2024 Nomination to the Gibbs College of Architecture Hall of Fame*



# BIOGRAPHY

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Arnold G. “Arn” Henderson was born November 10, 1934, in Oklahoma. He earned degrees in architecture and architectural engineering from the University of Oklahoma in 1961 and a Master of Architecture from Columbia University in 1964. He served as Assistant Professor of Architecture at the University of Illinois from 1964 to 1968; and as **Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Oklahoma for 34 years** (from 1968 to 2002). He retired as Professor Emeritus of the University of Oklahoma Christopher C. Gibbs College of Architecture.

Throughout his career, Henderson was committed to the University of Oklahoma’s architecture program, and the teachings of Bruce Goff and the American School legacy. **He was a devoted advocate of historical preservation in Oklahoma and the nation.** Henderson was a poet, artist and author of several books, including Bruce Goff: Architecture of Discipline in Freedom; Architecture in Oklahoma: Landmark & Vernacular; and co-authored The Physical Legacy: Buildings of Oklahoma County, 1889 to 1931 with Bob L. Blackburn and Melvena Thurman. Arn Henderson joined Society of Architectural Historians in 1999 and was a member thru 2015. He served as the SAH Archipedia Coordinator for Classic Buildings-Oklahoma from 2014-2019.

Henderson designed and built his home in Norman, Oklahoma in 1976, which was recognized by the Oklahoma Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture (AIA) for its unique design. In 1996, **he was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows for his exceptional professional career** and contributions to the industry and community. In 2013 he received the Oklahoma Humanities Council’s highest honor, the Oklahoma Humanities Award, for his study of architecture as it relates to Oklahoma. Arn Henderson passed away on June 27, 2019.

# ARCHITECTURAL WORKS

## HENDERSON HOUSE



*The Henderson House, designed by Arn for his family, is located in Norman and won the AIA Award for Excellence in 1976*

*Images: Arn Henderson papers. WHC M1064. American School Archive, University of Oklahoma Libraries, Norman, Oklahoma.*

## EDUCATION

Bachelor of Architecture, University of Oklahoma, 1961

B.S. Architectural Engineering, University of Oklahoma, 1961

M.S. Architecture, Columbia University, 1964

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Architecture, Columbia University, 1962-1964

Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Illinois, 1964-1968

Associate Professor of Architecture, university of Oklahoma, 1968-1973

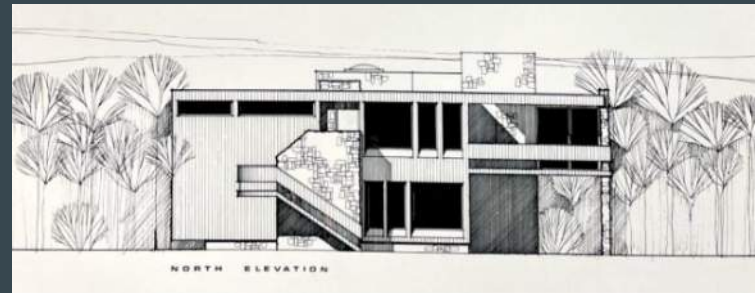
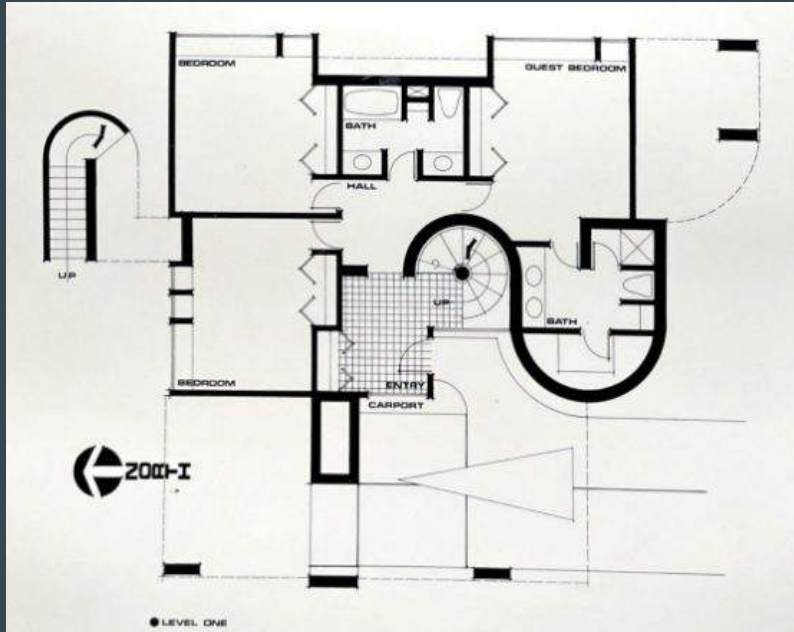
Professor of Architecture, University of Oklahoma, 1973-2002

Professor Emeritus, University of Oklahoma, 2002-2019

Architectural and Historic Preservation Practice, 1975-2019

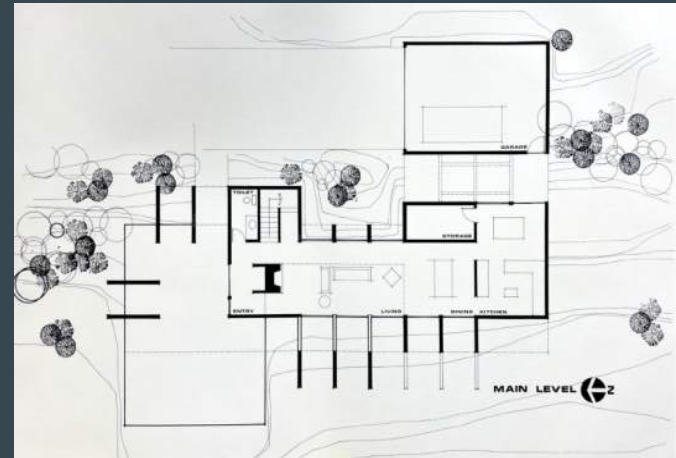
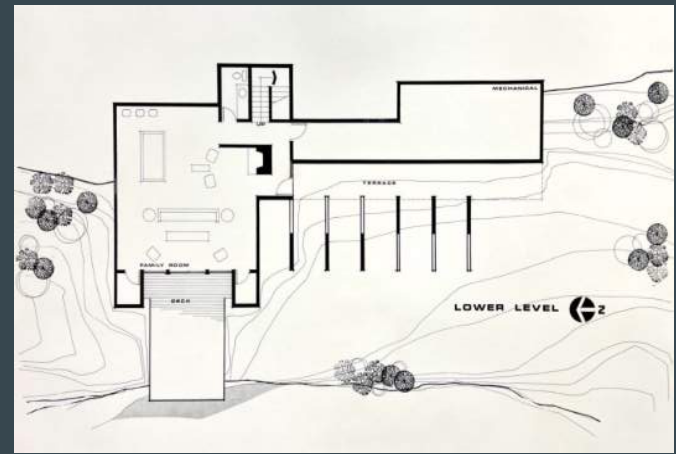
# ARCHITECTURAL WORKS

## THE K.E. DICK RESIDENCE



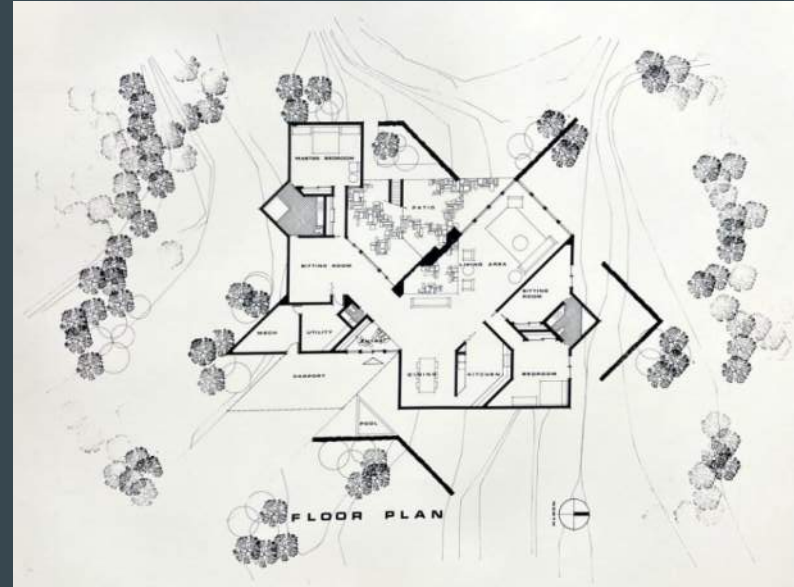
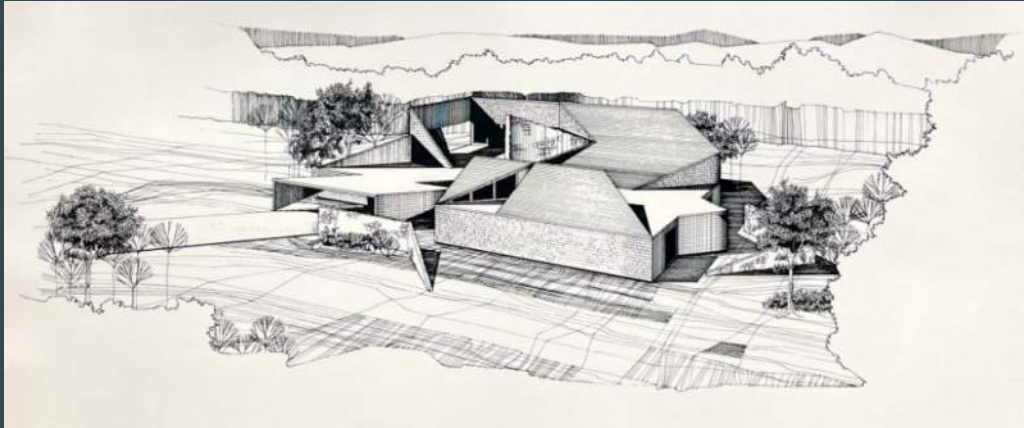
# ARCHITECTURAL WORKS

## THE FESSARD HOUSE



# ARCHITECTURAL WORKS

## THE C.W. KRAUSS RESIDENCE



# AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS AWARDS

Award for Excellence, Oklahoma Chapter, 1976, Henderson House

Award of Commendation, Oklahoma Chapter, 1985, Foucart Building Restoration

Special Award, Central Oklahoma Chapter, 1989, Contributing Writer on Tour Book

Special Award, Central Oklahoma Chapter, 1992, Architect's House Tour

College of Fellows, 1996

William Wayne Caudill Award, Central Oklahoma Chapter, 1999

# HISTORIC PRESERVATION AWARDS

Preservation Award, 1989, Norman Depot, Inc.

Citation of Merit, 1990, Oklahoma Historical Society

Shirk Memorial Award for Historic Preservation, 1991, Oklahoma Historical Society

Friend of Main Street, 1994, Oklahoma Main Street Program



# OKLAHOMA ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

In 2001, Arn submitted fifteen Bruce Goff-designed properties to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Successful nominations are as follows:

1. Ledbetter House, Norman (2001)
2. Bavinger House, Norman (2001)
3. Riverside Studio, Tulsa (2001)
4. Pollock House, Oklahoma City (2001)

Other successful nominations in other years include:

1. Beta Theta Pi Fraternity House by architect Harold Gimeno, Norman (1982)
2. John Frank House by architect Bruce Goff, Sapulpa (2002)
3. Hopewell Baptist Church by architect Bruce Goff, Edmond (2002)



*Ledbetter House by Bruce Goff, Norman*

*Source: Oklahoma Historical Society*

# SELECTED CIVIC + PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Chairman, Housing Authority for the City of Norman, Oklahoma, 1972-77.

Board of Trustees, Cottonwood Arts Foundation, 1973-77.

Bicentennial Committee for the City of Norman, Oklahoma, 1974-76.

Co-Chairman, Community Development Steering Committee for the City of Norman, OK 1974-75.

Literature Advisory Panel, Oklahoma Arts Council, 1975-1980.

Capital Townsite Historic District Commission, Guthrie, Oklahoma, 1978-1983.

Board of Directors, Cleveland County Historical Society, Norman, Oklahoma, 1983-88.

Main Street Program Advisory Committee, Oklahoma Department of Commerce, 1989-1998.

Board of Directors, Norman Depot, Inc. 1986-1993.

Board of Directors, Capital Domers, Inc. 1990-93.

Advisory Board, Oklahoma State Arts Council Design Arts Program, 1990-92.

Historic Resources Committee, American Institute of Architects, 1991-93.

American Institute of Architects Honor Awards Jury, Alaska Chapter, 1999.

Oklahoma Historic Preservation Review Committee, 1999-2012

# OKLAHOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW COMMITTEE



*Historic Preservation Review Committee, 2001  
Arn Henderson (Second from Right)*



*Historic Preservation Review Committee, 2016  
Arn Henderson (Right)*

# PUBLISHED BOOKS

Document for an Anonymous Indian, Point Riders Press, Norman, Oklahoma, 1974, 160 pp. (poetry).

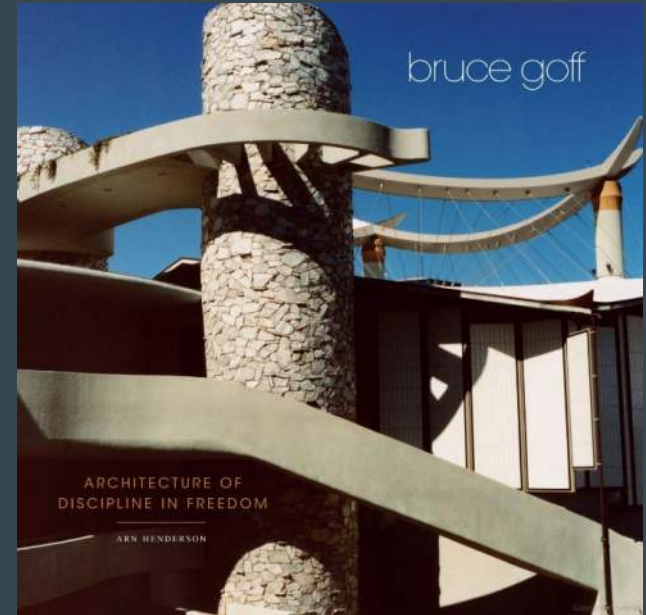
The Surgeon General's Collection, Point Riders Press, Norman, Oklahoma, 1976, 64 pp. (poetry).

Architecture In Oklahoma: Landmark and Vernacular, Co-authors F. Parman and D. Henderson, Point Riders Press, Norman, Oklahoma, 1978, 216 pp.

The Physical Legacy: Buildings of Oklahoma County 1889 to 1931, Co-authors B. Blackburn and M. Thurman, Southwestern Heritage Press, Oklahoma City Oklahoma, 1980, 80 pp.

The Point Riders Great Plains Poetry Anthology, Co-editor F. Parman, Point Riders Press, Norman, Oklahoma 1982, 176 pp.

Great Buildings Ahead: A Guided Tour of Central Oklahoma Architectural Landmarks, contributing writer, Central Oklahoma Chapter American Institute of Architects, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 1989, 158 pp.



*Bruce Goff: Architecture of Discipline in Freedom, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, 2017, 312 pp.*

# SELECTED ARTICLES, JOURNALS, + WORKS IN BOOKS, 1963-1980

“Elementary Schools as Rejunative Elements,” Contributor, Progressive Architecture, April 1963

“A User Needs Analysis of Housing for American Indians,” Man-Environment, Vol. 3, No. 2, March 1973

“A User Oriented Approach to Housing Design for Indians,” Co-author R. Bauman, Journal of the American Society of Civil Engineering, March 1974

“The Influence of Information Systems on User Perceptions of Rural Housing Policy,” Co-author J. Bohland in Planning Frontiers in Rural America, Committee Print of the 94th Congress, 2nd Session, Subcommittee on Rural Development of the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry, United States Senate, February 17, 1976. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1976

“Low-Rent Public Housing for the Elderly: User Satisfaction in Oklahoma Projects,” Proceedings of the 11th Annual Research Conference of the American INstitute of Architects, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, 1976.

“Joseph Foucart, Territorial Architect,” in Of the Earth: Oklahoma Architectural History, H. and M. Meredith, Editors, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 1980.

# SELECTED ARTICLES, JOURNALS, + WORKS IN BOOKS, 1980-2005

“Wooden Silos of the Southern Great Plains,” Co-author T. Isern, Pioneer American Society Transactions, Vol. 8, Akron, Ohio, 1985.

“Teaching Strategies for Historic Preservation in an Architectural Curriculum,” Proceedings of the 100th Anniversary Conference of the American Institute of Architects Historic Resources Committee, Washington, D.C., 1990.”

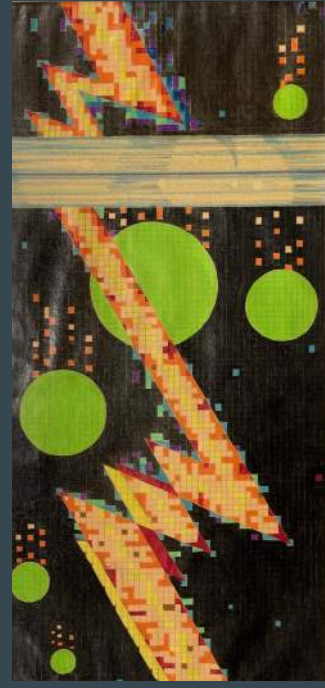
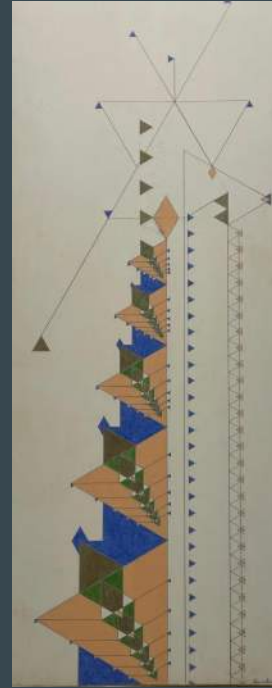
”Low-Style/High-Style: Oklahoma Architectural Origins and Image Distortion,” In The Culture of Oklahoma, H. Stein and R. Hill, Editors, University of Oklahoma PRes, Norman, Oklahoma 1993.

“Oklahoma Architects” in Atlas of Oklahoma, Robert C. Goins, University of Oklahoma, Press, Norman, 2006.

“Architecture,” “Bruce Goff,” and “Joseph Foucart,” in Encyclopedia of Oklahoma, ed. Dianna Everett, Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City.

Excerpts from “The Lost Journal of the Second Trip to Purgatorie,” Broomweed Journal, Vol. 1, No. 2, Spring 2005, Cheyenne, Oklahoma (Poetry).

# SELECTED ARTWORK



*In addition to being an architect, educator, and historian, Arn Henderson was an artist*

*Images: Arn Henderson papers. WHC M1064. American School Archive, University of Oklahoma Libraries, Norman, Oklahoma.*