

Clifford Holforty, AIA, PE Architecture Book Collection Donated by Ralph W. Moxley, AIA, LEED AP

After my father-in-law, Clifford Holforty, passed on, the family was faced with how to manage his extensive architecture book collection. With the intent of finding new homes for most of the 130 architecture books, the family asked that they be donated to architecture schools in Michigan, preferably those schools he had attended, or a public library that would emphasize and display architecture books. They requested that each donated book include a decal inside the front cover that states "Donated by Clifford Holforty, AIA, PE".

I was asked to supervise the distribution of Cliff's collection. Before offering the book collection to any architecture school, I documented the entire collection so the schools would be able to compare these books with their current collection and decide if they wanted the books. Further, I developed a detailed spreadsheet of the books available for donation, including title, author, date of publication, publisher, ISBN number, number of pages, physical size, color or B&W photos, color or B&W sketches and drawings.

The first six books donated went to the "Rae Dumke 100 Essential Architecture Books" collection at the Baldwin Library in Birmingham. We later donated another 23 books to Baldwin Library for their general display of architecture books, which are always in demand in a town that has many resident architects. We also donated one book on Richard Rogers to the University of Michigan Duderstadt library. This book was difficult to find in the US because it was printed in China. Cliff visited China in the early 80's and picked up the book at that time.

The University of Detroit Mercy requested 22 books for their School of Architecture. Lawrence Technological University (LTU) requested the remaining 80 books from the collection for their architecture program.

While moving the books from the Holforty library, we discovered a set of Frank Lloyd Wright (FLW) Monographs. The 12 volumes were protected by individual cardboard boxes, and many appeared to have never been opened! After researching the FLW Monographs on the internet, we found they were quite rare and very valuable! After some discussion, we determined that the 12 volumes should be donated to a Michigan architecture school for the students to utilize and study.

In mid-August, I mentioned the existence of the 12 FLW Monographs to Ben Tiseo, FAIA, who is an adjunct faculty for Lawrence Tech University's College of Architecture and Design, and member of the Gregor S. and Elizabeth Affleck House Restoration Council. He suggested that the Monographs be given to LTU, since they own the Affleck House designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and have a great architecture program. Ben linked me with the Julie Vulaj, Philanthropy Director at LTU. Julie said they would be honored to accept the FLW Monographs on behalf of the Holforty family. In late August, I met with Glen LeRoy, FAIA, FAICP- Dean of the College of Architecture & Design, and Gary Coccozoli, Director of the Library, both from LTU. I showed them the 12 volumes for the first time. They were both grateful for the FLW Monograph donation, and agreed the books will be displayed at the LTU Library for students to examine, learn from and appreciate for many years to come.

The Holforty family is glad that all of the books, including the 12 FLW Monographs, have found new homes and will be utilized by architecture students and the public.



About the author: Ralph Moxley is currently Chairman of APAC (Architects Political Action Committee), Task Force Chair of the AIA MI Speakers Bureau and an active member of the Government Affairs Committee.