



CONNECTICUT ARCHITECTURE FOUNDATION

From Humble Roots Allan Dehar Memorial Scholarship Fund

The Connecticut Architecture Foundation (CAF) formally announced the Allan Dehar Memorial Scholarship Fund on June 26, 2020 (Allan’s birthday). This Fund is the first new scholarship program for the CAF since the Suzanne Sheng Fund was established in 1997.

Allan was born and raised in Dearborn, Michigan, in the shadow of the Ford Motor Company’s River Rouge Plant, then the largest integrated factory complex in the world. The expectation for young men of that era and opportunity was to get a good job at Ford with steady work until retirement. In that spirit, Allan attended trade school. After one summer of working at Ford, however, he discovered his true passion and caught the “architecture bug”. He never looked back.

While attending night school at Lawrence Technological University, he secured a day job as an intern at Eero Saarinen & Associates, working on such projects as the TWA Flight Center at Idlewild (now JFK) Airport in New York. He then moved to Minoru Yamasaki & Associates. A 1961 Christmas letter from Minoru reads, in part:

“This has been a busy and happy year for us, and we can all take pride in the work we have done. We appreciated your vital part in the accomplishments of 1961, and look forward to working with you towards an even more meaningful year in 1962.”

When Eero Saarinen & Associates relocated from Michigan to Connecticut, Allan was recruited to follow. He continued to work on the firm’s signature projects, including the St. Louis Arch in Missouri. After Saarinen, Allan continued practice with several Connecticut

architecture firms before founding his own office – Allan Dehar Associates in New Haven. Dehar Associates was responsible for many significant projects in Connecticut and New England, with an emphasis on higher education. For many years, he served on the Connecticut Architectural Licensing Board. In addition, he was a regional director for the National Council of Architectural Boards. For service to the profession, Allan was elevated to the AIA College of Fellows in 1995.

Allan never forgot his humble roots. He enjoyed mentoring high school students, directly and through the Ace Mentor Program, and often spoke to vocational classes about the value and satisfaction of a career in architecture. The Dehar Memorial Scholarship Fund recognizes that passion and focus. When fully vested, the Fund will focus on students from the Connecticut Vocational/Technical School system and accredited architectural



programs at the Connecticut Community Colleges to encourage and support students from all walks of life. Founded by Allan’s professional and personal friends, the Fund is anticipated to award the first scholarship next year.

Contributions are encouraged and appreciated. For more information, contact the CFA at:

*Connecticut Architecture Foundation
370 James Street, Suite 402
New Haven, CT 06513*