

Courthouse addition will meet a need

By Tim Richard
Staff writer

TODAY the firm of Minoru Yamasaki Architects is getting a 24-0 signal from Oakland County. A couple of months ago the signals were mixed.

The internationally known Troy firm is designing a new courthouse, law library and computer center — and doing it far differently from the original idea.

"Our strategy was not to go after a building but to go after a need," said Clifford Snyder, a member of the firm.

"All (architects) started out with a perception of a building. But after a walk-through, we heard mixed signals."

What judges wanted was different from what the County Board of Commissioners wanted — "by 300 percent," Snyder said.

OAKLAND WILL spend tens of millions of dollars on expanding facilities at 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac, and many architects were eager for a cut of the business. Yamasaki was picked for not just one project but three.

In January, as architects were making their pitches, Commissioner

Anne Hobart, R-White Lake, chair of the county board's planning and building committee, drew out the information that commissioners were interested in more than a pretty building — they wanted new facilities integrated with present ones, and they wanted employees to be able to work comfortably.

"It caught everyone off guard but us," said Snyder.

LAST WEEK, the county board gave unanimous approval to a site plan (see photo).

"Yes, we do buildings and enclosed space," said Modris (Mike) Pudists, a principal of the Yamasaki firm. "But people dictate the needs. A monument doesn't solve problems. We took pains to interview all the major users."

What Yamasaki is designing is a series of buildings to meet Oakland's needs until the year 2008.

Hobart said the work probably will start with a parking structure because that is the least disruptive move.

THE LAW LIBRARY will follow "because we need to move the (existing) library out for the judges we're going to get in two years," she said.

Oakland is scheduled for two circuit judges in 1990, followed by two

more and two probate judges in 1992. The plan is for some of them to hold court on the fifth floor when the existing law library moves out.

The time schedule, costs and financing plans are yet to be determined.

The Yamasaki firm's "massing model" — foam miniatures of the buildings — indicate the parking structure will have three stories (including one below grade) for 1,550

cars, and the courthouse additional will have some 280,000 square feet of space.

Between the old and new courthouses, there will be space for all judges plus one super-courtroom 50 percent larger than the others for complex cases with multiple juries and high media interest.

Altogether, the Yamasaki architects developed 25 combinations of

plans. Some would have involved tearing up existing tunnels and utility lines and were rejected.

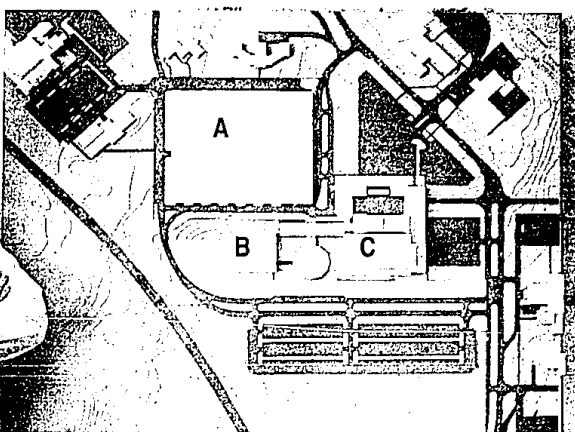
THE COMPUTER center, to go up on the west side of Telegraph Road, will be a \$10 million free-standing structure.

A south wing will house training facilities for its employees and police agencies. The main part of the

building will house county computers.

The Yamasaki firm has been authorized to proceed with construction documents.

"Our time span is 15 years," said Paul N. Hunter, a senior associate in charge of the computer project. One saving grace of computers is that each time a new generation of equipment is developed, it requires less space than the previous generation.



JIM RIDER/staff photographer

OCC libraries hold open house

Oakland Community College's libraries next week will hold a series of open houses for the public, students, library professionals and librarians-to-be.

Demonstrations, exhibits, refreshments and live music will be featured in four separate celebrations.

Rotating on successive days among the college's campuses, each event is scheduled from noon to 2 p.m. The schedule:

- Monday, April 3: Royal Oak Campus, Building C, 739 S. Washington
- Tuesday, April 4: Highland Lakes Campus, Woodland Hall, 7350 Cobble Lake Road, Union Lake
- Wednesday, April 5: Orchard Ridge Campus, Building K, 27055 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills
- Thursday, April 6: Auburn Hills Campus, George R. Mosher Learning Resources Center (Building D), 2900 Featherstone

THE OCC BOARD of Trustees last year approved a plan to modernize the collection, equipment, staffing and services of the college's four libraries.

The theme of the open houses, "Responding to the Challenge," is designed to show the progress that has been made over the past year.

"We intend to provide an overview of the services available to library users, both now and as the college moves into the 21st century," said Royal Oak Campus librarian Thomas Lewandowski.

Hands-on demonstrations will include OCC's new computerized catalog, special telecommunications facilities for hearing-impaired learners, and VCR/video monitors for individual viewings of teleconferences and other special presentations.

Exhibits will explain OCC's recent affiliation with DIALNET, a computerized system linking 12 institutional libraries throughout the metropolitan area which gives users access to any item in the total collection.

INFORMATION will also be presented on Wilssearch, another computer system that makes a wide variety of indexes, encyclopedias, directories and other reference materials available.

Library patrons will be able to undertake many of these activities without staff assistance via "user friendly" personal computers specifically for public use.

OCC library services have traditionally been available free to students, researchers and the general public.

Probate trains volunteers

Oakland County Probate Court will train volunteers to work with troubled children, aged 10-16, in two sessions this month.

Sessions are 7-9 p.m. on two Thursdays, April 13 and 20.

Meetings are in the court's confer-

ence room, second floor, east wing of the Oakland County Courthouse, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac.

Information about the program is available during weekday business hours from Kevin Threault, volunteer coordinator, at 858-0041.

POp plans Vegas night

The ladies auxiliary of Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 128 will hold a Las Vegas night fundraiser from 7 to 12 p.m. Saturday, April 29, in the Eagles lodge at 1721 Glengary, Wolverine Lake. Admission is \$5.

The auxiliary is a support group for the FOP lodge, which covers the Oakland County Sheriff's Department and police departments in

Farmington, Farmington Hills, West Bloomfield Township and several other Oakland communities.

Proceeds will support Mi-Cops, the Haven refuge for abused spouses and children, Special Olympics and other projects, according to president Beverly Schell, who has information about the group at 624-1314.

OCC chef is certified

Chef Kevin M. Enright, an Oakland Community College faculty member, has earned his professional certification from the American Culinary Federation Educational Institute.

Enright, now a certified executive chef (CEC), has been with OCC since 1985 and is coordinator of the chef apprentice program.

The ACEFI is a subsidiary of the American Culinary Federation, the nation's largest professional association.

Enright was evaluated by other certified chefs in 13 different areas of cooking, supervision and administration of a commercial kitchen.

Enright has been the head chef at the Double Eagle in Troy and the Wellington LTD in Grosse Pointe Farms executive sous chef at the Renaissance Club in Detroit; sous chef at the Trio in Franklin Place; and second cook at both the Golden Mushroom in Southfield and Topinka's Country House in Detroit.



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