

From City College To Urban University

By TIM RICHARD
Sunday Editor

The ground-breaking ceremony last week at Wayne State University was dull, as those things usually are, but it had a tremendous symbolic significance.

First, the building is going to cost \$24 million — the largest ever built with state funds, and in gross size only a shade smaller than Cobo Hall. It marked a big step for a school that had been fund-starved most of its life.

Second, the building, going up on E. Canfield at Brush streets in Detroit, will be the Basic Sciences Building of Wayne's excellent medical school. It was 100 years ago this year that Wayne's seeds were planted only three blocks away as the Detroit Medical College.

Third, this particular building, besides having closed circuit television and a long list of other significant features, will be nine stories tall. Space is scarce in Detroit, and Wayne is not only building out but up. (Altogether, it has \$46 million in projects under construction.)

Wayne is a century old, yes, but only a generation ago it was one main hall and a few converted houses forming some city colleges. Today it's a big and increasingly attractive urban university.

Which, incidentally, is the theme of its centennial observance — "the urban university in an urban society."

AFTER THE CIVIL WAR, so the story goes, the U.S. Army founded Harper Hospital to care for veterans, and five doctors started the medical college to train more doctors.

In 1881, after 15 years of urging by superintendents, the Detroit Board of Education started a one-year Normal Training School for teachers, on the theory that a teacher ought to have more than a high school education. In 1913 it became a two-year school, and in 1920 it was expanded to a four-year Detroit Teachers College.

Wayne's third prime root was a junior college founded in 1896. It was much like today's community colleges.

It was in the depression year of 1934 that (the medical college (under public domain since 1918), the teachers college and the liberal arts college were welded into Wayne University.

At the end of World War II, Wayne was still a function of the Detroit school district; its prime structure, Old Main Hall, was the former Central High School built in 1896; other classes were conducted in converted houses with above-ground heating pipes.

But then Wayne began to get some state money for construction of a few classroom buildings, and in 1956 it became a state university with its own, separate, elected board of control.

WAYNE STATE IS BEST known for

medicine and teaching—many Observerland schools are heavily staffed with WSU graduates—but the urban university has a full range of programs.

Besides the arts, sciences and engineering, there are professional programs in law, social work, business administration, education and nursing — 10 colleges and schools, and 70 departments.

It's a huge university now in terms of students—32,000 in degree programs, another 20,000 or more in extension or non-degree programs.

They come from 40 states and 90 foreign countries, but most are from this part of Michigan, and most commute.

Three-fourths of them hold jobs, too. Classes start at 7:30 in the morning and run to 10 at night. The agricultural summer vacation has been dropped in favor of four 11-week quarters.

Wayne State has never had a world of school spirit — at least the kind that's evidenced by whopping big alumni donations—but there is a fund, created in 1954, that has \$1 million for scholarships, loans, research and faculty awards.

Last year's football team was the first that had a genuinely good season in years. But basketball fortunes are expected to pick up now that that team has its own court for the first time in 35 years. The school is also button-popping proud of its debate team. And next summer it will host an important fencing tournament.

ARCHITECTURALLY, Wayne State is a mixed campus.

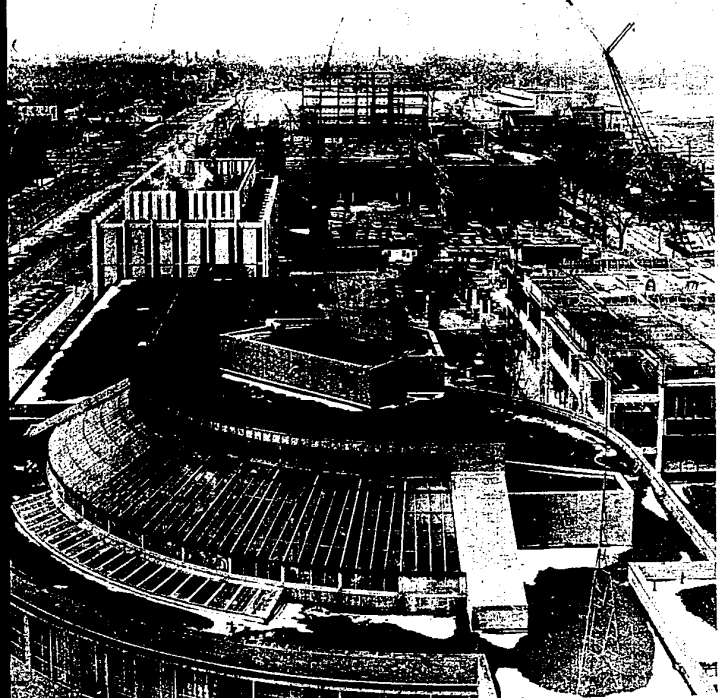
Some schools — notably Schoolcraft College, Oakland's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington, and Western Michigan University — are designed by a single architect in a single general style.

Wayne State has spread its business around. The new Mathaei Physical Education Building (\$2.8 million) on the athletic campus west of the Lodge Freeway was designed by Alden Dow & Associates, as is the under-construction University Center (\$4.5 million).

Jickling & Lyman, designed the now-abandoned Foreign Language and Speech Classroom Building (\$4.7 million), and Ralph Calder & Associates drew up the Natural Science Building and Science Library (\$9.2 million when complete). Giffels & Rosetti and John Williams Associates designed the Basic Medical Sciences Building that was started last week.

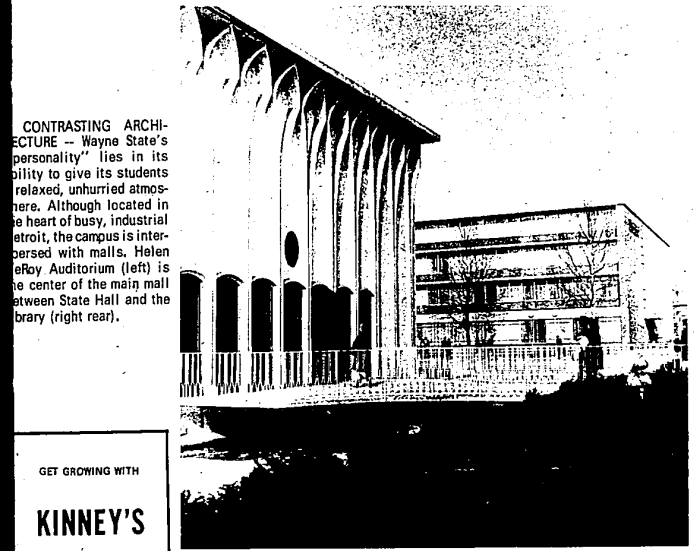
Some of the most unusual and popular work was done by Minoru Yamasaki & Associates, most notably the DeRoy Library completed in 1964. Yamasaki likes to make low, compact buildings around courts and green spots rather than build upward.

Wayne State is a century old and has a tradition as a little city college. But today it's an urban university, big and complex and fascinating.



MOVING WEST — Wayne State's westward of the last decade is clearly seen in this view from the windy top of Mackenzie Hall. At left is Warren Ave. In foreground is Science Hall, one of the first of the post-war buildings. The steel

skeleton in the upper center will be the Natural Science Building and Science Library. The new building to its right is the recently completed Mathaei Physical Education and Recreation Building.

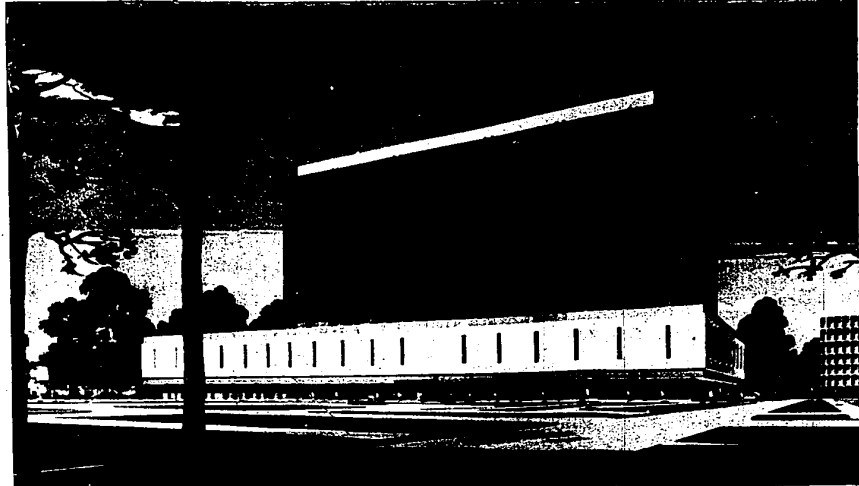


CONTRASTING ARCHITECTURE — Wayne State's personality lies in its ability to give its students relaxed, unhurried atmosphere. Although located in the heart of busy, industrial Detroit, the campus is interspersed with malls. Helen DeRoy Auditorium (left) is the center of the main mall between State Hall and the library (right rear).

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FUTURE MEDICAL PLANS — Upon completion, the eight-story Basic Science Building will allow an increase in the entering class of medical students from 125 to 200. The building will be located directly across Brush St. from Grace and Harper Hospitals' and will house six of the medical school's 25 departments. Ground was broken this month.



ENTHUSIASTIC LEADER — Wayne State's President William R. Keast breaks ground with the first shovel load of earth from the spot where the Basic Science Building will be located.

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