

## Hamersky Receives Gold Medal

Albert Hamersky, AIA, will be awarded the 2010 Harry F. Cunningham Gold Medal for Architectural Excellence in the State of Nebraska. The Gold Medal is the highest honor that AIA Nebraska can bestow and is awarded in recognition of the most distinguished achievement in architecture or service to the profession of architecture in the State of Nebraska.



“Having served with Albert over the past six years on the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects, I have come to an enlightened understanding of the effect his 60 plus year career has had upon not only the profession of architecture, but perhaps even more importantly upon the careers of so many architects in our state, who because of his tutelage in their early careers, came to excel in their own profession endeavors many heading some of the largest firms in Nebraska,” said nominator, Mark S. Champion, AIA.

Albert Hamersky referred to his father as one of the early influences in his life. A cabinet maker and carpenter, his father immigrated to Nebraska from Czechoslovakia in 1912. “He taught me all aspects of working with tools such as saws, the square, planes and other hand tools. He also taught me the art of making windows, screens and cabinets; as well as framing and finishing houses including complex roof framing using the steel square,” said Hamersky. This proved to be valuable experience for a future career in architecture.

After three semesters at the University of Nebraska, Hamersky’s education was interrupted by the events surrounding World War II. He was called into service in March of 1943 and assigned to the United States Army Corps of Engineers. While overseas Hamersky prepared maps and surveys for the construction of beach installations during and after numerous invasions of New Guinea, New Britain, Phillipines and Japan. These maps are presently on file at The Library of Congress in Washington D.C.

Discharged from the military in December of 1946, Hamersky resumed his college career at the University of Nebraska. In 1948, he received his Bachelor’s of Arts and a year later earned his Bachelor’s in Architecture. In the 1940’s, a period when not many students went on to pursue graduate degrees, Hamersky applied to graduate school at both Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Hamersky started work in the Design Department at Skidmore Owings & Merrill on Oct. 30, 1950. He later transferred to architectural production in order to diversify his experience. Hamersky worked on several significant projects such as: New York Life - 20 story apartment complex, Tinley Park Mental Hospital, Greyhound Bus Terminal in Chicago, Great Lakes Naval Training Station and Sawyer Biscuit Company Factory.

Hamersky returned to Lincoln in 1952 and became head of the design department at The Clark Enersen Partners, President 1977–1989 and Chairman of the Board 1989–1992. The firm originally was titled Clark & Enersen Hamersky Schlaebitz Burroughs & Thomsen. Under his guidance and influences as the Director of Design, the firm received seventeen Honor Awards from AIA Nebraska.

Beginning in the late 1950s, the “Design Room” at The Clark Enersen Partners was the ‘incubation heart’ for many young architects in our state who would go on to become prominent professionals throughout Nebraska, the Midwest and the rest of the United States. His example & quiet mentoring of young architects set the ‘bar of expectation’ for quality in design and service to the public. “It is hard to imagine that Nebraska would have such a robust architectural community today without the influence that Albert had on multiple generations of design professions. He shared his talent and vision with so many of us, our communities, our state, and our country, said Lowell S. Berg, AIA, Senior Pricipal, The Clark Enersen Partners.

Albert Hamersky retired as chairman of the board from The Clark Enersen Partners in December 1991. Since then he has worked as a self-employed architect serving projects across the globe. Hamersky continues to represent the profession by serving his nineteenth year on the Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects.

The Gold Medal commemorates the achievements of Harry Francis Cunningham who came to Nebraska as lead architect for Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue's office during completion of the tower phase of construction for the State Capitol following Goodhue's death in 1924. It was Goodhue's revolutionary building design which won the nationwide competition in 1920 for the creation of the state house in Lincoln. Cunningham subsequently established the first school of architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.