

PHILADELPHIA CONCRETE ICONS



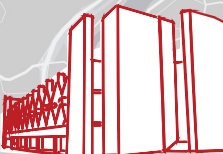
10



10



3



6



1



9



8



4

7



2



5

The golden age of concrete architecture in Philadelphia was from the 1950s through the late 1960s, marked by the rise of the Philadelphia School and led by prominent architects such as Louis Kahn, Romaldo Giurgola, Geddes, Brecher, Qualls & Cunningham (GBQC), and Robert Venturi. During this period, iconic concrete buildings were erected, leaving a lasting imprint on the city's skyline that continues to shape Philadelphia's architectural identity today.

The Philadelphia School's beginning can be dated to 1951, when G. Holmes Perkins became the Dean of the Architecture School at the University of Pennsylvania. It was a unique and flourishing time, when students at the school could choose for their studio instructors between Louis Kahn, Romaldo Giurgola, or Robert Geddes, to name a few. The Philadelphia School reflects a time of growth, and transformative changes in the city.

Robert Geddes defined the Philadelphia School's Architecture as "civic design", where concrete became the material of choice.

Architects experimented with this material exploring its full potential: from the solid, massive cast-in place concrete expressed by Bower & Fradley at the International House to the use of the lightweight and modular Shokebeton precast system employed by GBQC at the Philadelphia Police Headquarters, to the innovative prestressed concrete used at the Richards Laboratories by Louis Kahn and August Komendant.

This map includes a selection of representative concrete buildings researched and studied during the seminar on Topics in Conservation: Conserving Modern Concrete led by Frank Matero and Irene Matteini in the Spring of 2024 in the Historic Preservation Department of the Weitzmann School of Design.

PARCHITECTURE PHILADELPHIA

CONCRETE ICONS

MAP

1

1925
The Granary



ARCHITECT Reading Railroad
ADDRESS 411 N. 20th Street, Philadelphia
CONSTRUCTION TYPE Slip Form

2

1959
Beth Sholom Synagogue



ARCHITECT F. L. Wright
ADDRESS 8231 Old York Road, Elkins Park
CONSTRUCTION TYPE Cast in Place

3

1962
Richards Lab



ARCHITECT Louis Kahn
ADDRESS 3700 Hamilton Walk, Philadelphia
CONSTRUCTION TYPE Cast in Place, Pre-stressed

4

1962
Roundhouse



ARCHITECT Geddes, Brecher, Qualls, Cunningham
ADDRESS 750 Race St, Philadelphia
CONSTRUCTION TYPE Cast in Place, Pre-fabricated

5

1963
Northeast Regional Library



ARCHITECT Geddes, Brecher, Qualls, Cunningham
ADDRESS 2228 Cottman Ave, Philadelphia
CONSTRUCTION TYPE Cast in Place, Pre-fabricated

6

1963
Walnut 32 Parking



ARCHITECT Mitchell/Giurgola Associates
ADDRESS 3201 Walnut St, Philadelphia
CONSTRUCTION TYPE Cast in Place

7

1964
Society Hill Towers



ARCHITECT I. M. Pei
ADDRESS 285 St James Pl, Philadelphia
CONSTRUCTION TYPE Cast in Place

8

1964
Rohm & Hass Headquarters



ARCHITECT Pietro Belluschi & George M. Ewing Co.
ADDRESS 100 S Independence Mall W, Philadelphia
CONSTRUCTION TYPE Cast in Place

9

1965
Municipal Services Building



ARCHITECT Vincent Kling & Associates
ADDRESS 1401 John F Kennedy Blvd, Philadelphia
CONSTRUCTION TYPE Pre-fabricated

10

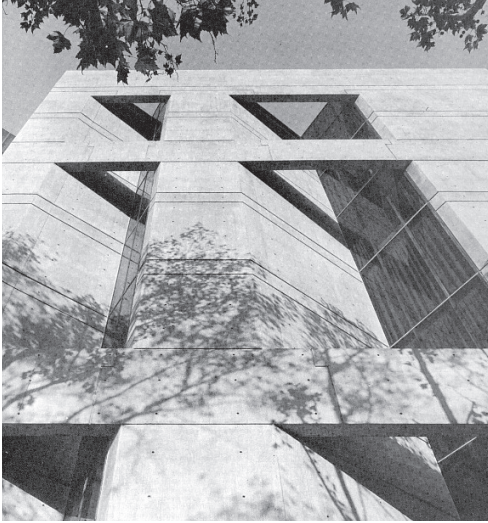
1970
International House



ARCHITECT Bower & Fradley
ADDRESS 3717 Chestnut St, Philadelphia
CONSTRUCTION TYPE Cast in Place

11

1971
United Fund Building



ARCHITECT Mitchell / Giurgola Associates
ADDRESS 1709 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy, Philadelphia
CONSTRUCTION TYPE Cast in Place

12

1976
George Pepper Middle School



ARCHITECT Caudill Rowlett Scott
ADDRESS 2901 S 84th St, Philadelphia
CONSTRUCTION TYPE Cast in Place, Pre-fabricated