

REVIEW

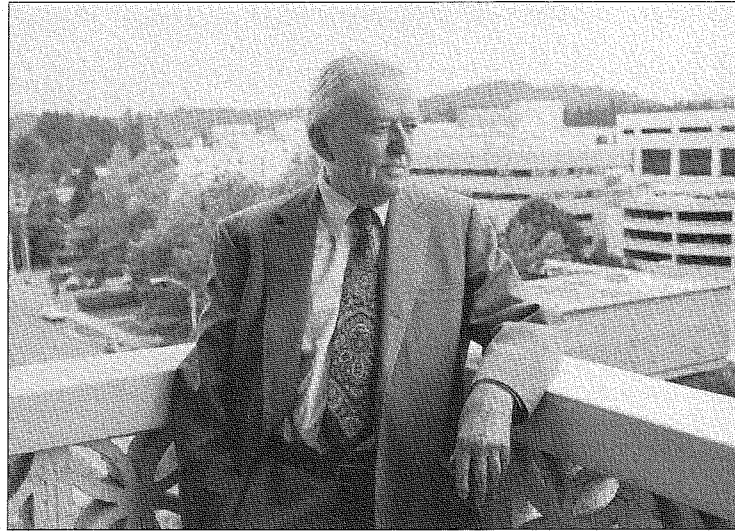
Marion Dean Ross, 1913-1991

*A teacher affects eternity; he can
never tell where his influence stops.*
Henry Adams, 1907

After many years of devoted service to his students, the University, and his adopted state, Marion Dean Ross died quietly in his sleep on April 2. He had become a legend in his own time, known among several generations of students as a stern master as well as a captivating lecturer, a fountain of information on subjects ranging from Victorian floral clocks, landscape architecture, Latin American architecture, Islamic architecture, 19th-century literature, to his specialty, modern architecture, most particularly the architecture of Oregon.

Professor Ross was born in Williamsburg, PA, and earned a B.S. in Architecture from Pennsylvania State College (later University) in 1935, followed by a short period of study at the Universidad Nacional in Mexico, and two years earning a Master of Architecture degree at Harvard from 1935 to 1937, where he came under the strong influence of the eminent architectural historian, Kenneth J. Conant. Ross pursued further study at Harvard during the summers of 1938, 1940, and 1948, becoming (as he noted in a speech) a disciple of modernism in the mold of Walter Gropius, who had just come to Harvard. Nonetheless, with other students of Conant, he helped found the Society of Architectural Historians while at Harvard in 1940. From 1937 through 1946, he taught design and architectural history at Tulane University, adding antebellum plantation architecture to his scope of learning. After teaching at Pennsylvania State College, he was invited to come to Oregon in 1947, where he remained until his retirement in 1978, when he became Professor Emeritus.

At Oregon, he was head of the developing program in art history and became its first chairman when departments were formally established in 1963, serving in



*Marion Ross, former
Department Head of
Art History, was a
strong influence in
the School.*

Paul Neevel

that capacity until his retirement. He also served as acting Dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts in 1962-63.

The particular distinction of Ross's achievement was that, although a student of the Modern movement, he quickly came to value the dark, heavy 19th-century architecture that his design training had taught him to dismiss. He was one of the first historians to look at such architecture closely. After arriving in Oregon, he began to seek out, photograph, and record the hulking Victorian piles so fast being demolished, while keeping a close eye on the rise of an indigenous and humane Modernism in the hands of Pietro Belluschi and John Yeon. Ross urged his close friend, the eminent architectural historian Henry-Russell Hitchcock, to come to Oregon to see both the new architecture, and the superb Oregon expressions of Greek Revival, Richardsonian Romanesque, and McKim, Mead & White classicism. The result was a series of articles by Ross explaining the significance of early Oregon architecture, particularly in Jacksonville, where he was instrumental in the town's preservation.

Perhaps most important for his students, and those who felt his influence at long range, was this: while Modernism advanced itself as the revealed truth of matchless rationality, he maintained an

ever-increasing breadth of knowledge, teaching his colleagues and students to see meaning and value in the diverse architecture of peoples distant in time and space. The School, the Department of Art History, and the program in Historic Preservation, all share in his legacy; these institutions remain as the lengthened shadow of this singular man.

The principal reading room in the newly constructed A&AA Library was named the Marion Dean Ross Reading Room at the dedication of the renovated Lawrence Hall on April 27. Happily, Professor Ross was informed of this planned honor before his passing and was pleased with this recognition. Continuing donations in Professor Ross's memory, to equip and furnish this room, are still most gratefully appreciated.

by Leland Roth, Professor, Art History

INSIDE:

Alumni Relations & Development	16
Architecture	6-7
Art Education	10
Art History	11
Fine & Applied Arts	12-13
Landscape Architecture	14
Planning, Public Policy & Management	15
Portfolio of Student Work	8-9