

Pietro Belluschi (August 18, 1899 — February 14, 1994) was an Italian-born American architect, a leader of the Modern Movement in architecture, and was responsible for the design of over 1,000 buildings

Pietro Belluschi was born in Ancona, Italy in 1899. He grew up in Italy and served in the Italian armed forces during World War I when Italy was allied with Great Britain, France, and later the United States. Serving in the army he fought against the Austrians at the battles of Caporetto and Vittorio Veneto. After the war, Belluschi studied at the University of Rome, earning a degree in civil engineering in 1922.

Belluschi's architectural career began as a draftsman in a Portland, Oregon firm. He achieved a national reputation within about 20 years, largely for his 1947 aluminum-clad Equitable Building. In 1951 he was named the dean of the MIT School of Architecture and Planning, where he served until 1965, also working as collaborator and design consultant for many high-profile commissions, most famously the 1963 Pan Am Building. He won the 1972 AIA Gold Medal.

He moved to the United States in 1923, despite speaking no English, and finished his education—as an exchange student on a scholarship—at Cornell University with a second degree in civil engineering. Instead of returning to Italy, he worked briefly as a mining engineer in Idaho earning \$5 per day, but he then joined the architectural office of A. E. Doyle in Portland, living in Goose Hollow. He remained in the U.S., as friends in Italy had cautioned him to not return home because of the rise to power of Benito Mussolini and the Fascist government.

At Doyle's office, Belluschi rose rapidly, soon becoming chief designer. After Doyle died in 1928, the firm took him into partnership in 1933. By 1943, Belluschi had assumed control of the firm by buying out all the other partners and was practicing under his own name.

In 1951, Belluschi became Dean of the architecture and planning school at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a position he held until 1965. When he accepted the position of dean and moved to Massachusetts, he transferred his office in Portland to the architecture firm Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. The move reduced his annual income from \$150,000 to a salary of \$15,000, but was prompted by health concerns attributable to the long hours of managing his office while still designing buildings.

Belluschi emerged as a leader in the development of American Modern architecture, with the design of several buildings reflecting the influence of the International Style and his awareness of the technological opportunities of new materials. Most important was the Equitable Building (1944–47) in Portland, Oregon: a concrete frame office block clad in aluminum, and considered the first office building with a completely sealed air-conditioned environment.

Belluschi's churches and residences differed from his commercial works. Although of Modern design, they fit within the development of the Pacific Northwest regional Modern idiom as they frequently used regional materials (particularly wood) and were often integrated with their suburban or rural sites.

Belluschi was elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1952. In 1953, he was elected into the National Academy of Design as an Associate member, and became a full member in 1957. He served as a presidential appointee on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts from 1950 to 1955. He was a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects (AIA), and was awarded the AIA Gold Medal, the

highest award given by the institute, in 1972. He was awarded the National Medal of Arts by the National Endowment for the Arts in 1991 for his lifetime achievements. Belluschi was on the jury that selected the winning design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

After leaving MIT in 1965, he continued to work. Belluschi would design and consult on both buildings and issues surrounding urban planning. Pietro Belluschi was married first to Helen Hemmila on December 1, 1934, the mother of his two sons, Peter (b. 1939) and Anthony (b. 1941). After her death in 1962, he married in 1965 Marjorie (1920-2009). Pietro Belluschi died in Portland on February 14, 1994.[2]

Works:

Commonwealth Building in Portland.

Belluschi's designs include:

Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company Building, southern addition, Portland, 1926

Pacific Building, Portland, 1926

Public Service Building, Portland, Oregon, 1927

Belluschi Building, Portland Art Museum (NRHP), 1932

Library Building (now Smullin Hall) at Willamette University, Salem, Oregon, 1938

St. Thomas More Catholic Church, Portland, 1940

Peter Kerr House, Gearhart, Oregon, 1941

Chapel, River View Cemetery, Portland, 1942

Sweeney, Straub and Dimm Printing Plant, Portland (NRHP), 1946

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Longview, Washington, 1946

Burkes House, Portland, 1947

Oregonian Building, Portland, 1947

Baxter Hall and Collins Hall, Willamette University, Salem, Oregon, 1947

Psychology Building, Reed College, Portland, 1947–1948

Equitable Building, Portland (NRHP), 1948

First Presbyterian Church, Cottage Grove, Oregon (NRHP), 1948

Percy L. Menefee Ranch House, Yamhill, Oregon, 1948[8]

Sacred Heart Church, Lake Oswego, Oregon, 1949

Zion Lutheran Church, Portland (NRHP) (Image), 1950

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Portland Branch, 1950

Central Lutheran Church, Portland, 1951

St. Philip Neri Catholic Church, Portland, 1952

YWCA building, Salem, 1954

Marion County Courthouse, Salem, Oregon, 1954

Trinity Lutheran Church, Walnut Creek, CA, 1954

Temple Israel, Swampcott, MA, 1953-1956

First Lutheran Church, Boston, 1954–1957

Temple Adath Israel, with Charles Frederick Wise, Merion, Pennsylvania, 1956–1957

Church of the Redeemer (Baltimore), 1958 [17][18]

Bennington College Library, Bennington, Vermont, 1957–1958

Central Lutheran Church, Eugene, Oregon, 1959

Temple B'rith Kodesh, Rochester, New York, 1959–1963

Goucher College Center, 1960

Trinity Episcopal Church, Concord, Massachusetts, dedicated October 6, 1963

First Methodist Church, Duluth, Minnesota, 1962–1969

The Alice Tully Hall at the Juilliard School within the Lincoln Center, New York City, 1963–1969

Pan Am Building, Belluschi and Walter Gropius as design consultants to Emery Roth & Sons, New York City, 1963

Rohm and Haas Corporate Headquarters, with George M. Ewing Co., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1964

Church of the Christian Union, Rockford, Illinois, 1964-1965

Hoffman Columbia Plaza, now Unitus Plaza, Portland, Oregon, 1966

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Silverton, Oregon, 1966

555 California Street, as consultant to Wurster, Benardi and Emmons and Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, San Francisco, California, 1969

One Boston Place, with Emery Roth & Sons, Boston, Massachusetts, 1970

University of Virginia School of Architecture, 1970

Woodbrook Baptist Church, 1970

Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption, San Francisco (collaborating with Pier Luigi Nervi and others), 1971

Clark Art Institute, with The Architects Collaborative, Williamstown, Massachusetts, 1973

Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall, Baltimore, Maryland, 1978–1982

Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall, with Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, San Francisco, 1980

One Financial Center, Boston, 1983

US Bancorp Tower, as consultant to Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, Portland, 1983

United Hebrew Congregation, Chesterfield, Missouri, 1986–1989

Murray Hills Christian Church, Beaverton, Oregon (1987–89)

Centennial Tower and Wheeler Sports Center, George Fox University [24][25] 1991

Breitenbush Hall, Oregon State Hospital, Salem (NRHP)[9]

Portsmouth Abbey School campus, Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Belluschi designed 14 of the 27 buildings on campus between 1960 and 1991.

Uncle Toby's Story House (1932), Blue Wing Lodge (1936), Guardians' Lodge (1929), Kiwanis Lodge (1931), Camp Namanu, Sandy, Oregon All being restored and updated as of 2010.

Lacamas Summer Home, Camas, Washington

Chapel of Christ the Teacher, University of Portland

Tallest buildings-

Wells Fargo Center U.S. Bancorp Tower KOIN Center PacWest Center Fox Tower Standard Insurance Center The Ardea John Ross Tower Congress Center Hatfield U.S. Courthouse Moda Tower 1000 Broadway One Main Place Green-Wyatt Federal Building Union Bank of California Tower Umpqua Bank Plaza Lloyd Center Tower

Historic buildings -

Public Service Building Wells Fargo Building Terminal Sales Building Dekum Building Meier & Frank Building Yeon Building Pacific Building Spalding Building Pittock Block Hamilton Building Flatiron Building Charles F. Berg Building Bank of California Building Bishop's House Ambassador Apartments Francis Marion Stokes Fourplex Pittock Mansion Ladd Carriage House Telegram Building Weinhard

Brewery Complex Solomon U.S. Courthouse

Government buildings-

City Hall Portland Building Pioneer Courthouse Multnomah County Courthouse 511 Federal Building
Central Library Hatfield U.S. Courthouse

Transportation-

Union Station Portland International Airport Portland Aerial Tram Washington Park MAX station Swan
Island Municipal Airport

Museums and entertainment venues-

Moda Center Memorial Coliseum Providence Park Portland Art Museum Oregon Convention Center
Keller Auditorium Crystal Ballroom