

Eero Saarinen (1910-1961) At the Centennial of his Birth
Call for Papers, Special Issue of the *Nexus Network Journal*, Guest editor, j.m.rees



The posthumous evaluation of Eero Saarinen's legacy is well underway. In the last few years two important critical re-evaluations have come out in print (Antonio Roman, 2003 and Jayne Merkel, 2005), an exhibition of his work is traveling internationally (*Eero Saarinen: Realizing American Utopia*) and an Emmy-winning script was made into a movie titled *The Gateway Arch, A Reflection of America*—all concerning an architect whose independent practice spanned only 11 years. What is obvious is that Saarinen was an architect of fruitful (even fecund) complications. In “contradiction mode” he might be characterized as: a crowd pleasing innovator; vastly influential largely outside of the critical architectural mainstream; a foreigner who helped define American corporate culture; and as a Modernist of great stylistic variety. In “complimentary mode” Saarinen might be identified as: a pragmatic existentialist (Roman); methodical but not cautious (Saarinen's own words); historically trained, technologically futuristic; and as an architect with the soul of a poet in space and the mind of engineer in thin shell concrete.

This special issue of the *Nexus Network Journal* will be devoted to the ongoing evaluation of the **art and craft and engineering and geometry of Saarinen's architecture**. We are looking for essays that place Saarinen in the context of his father's work, American architecture, and/or design culture of the 1950s including his long collaborations with Charles and Ray Eames and Knoll, Inc. We are soliciting proposals that examine the **technology of thin shell construction** and/or the **geometry** of projects such as the Kresge Auditorium (MIT), the Ingalls Rink (Yale University), and the TWA Flight Center (JFK International Airport). As always, we are looking for contributions from thoughtful writers whose engagement with the work of Eero Saarinen is decisive and enlightening for the readers of the *Nexus Network Journal*.



We also welcome submissions dealing with the work of other architects and engineers whose work is inspired by or shares key qualities with that of Saarinen himself.

For paper preparation, consult the submission guidelines:

http://www.nexusjournal.com/submission_guidelines.html. Submission does not guarantee publication; all submissions will be peer-reviewed before being accepted for publication. Reviews of appropriate books and exhibits are also welcome.

Submissions of abstracts (ca. 500 words with 1-2 images) should be sent to:

j.m. (jack) rees <abcjmr@swbell.net>

Final papers will be requested after vetting the abstracts. Final papers will be due no later than September 2009.

Deadline for submission is 15 January 2009.

Questions? abcjmr@swbell.net Contact j.m. rees or Kim Williams <kwb@kimwilliamsbooks.com>

Founded in 1999, the Nexus Network Journal (NNJ) is a peer-reviewed journal for researchers, professionals and students engaged in the study of the application of mathematical principles to architectural design. Its goal is to present the broadest possible consideration of all aspects of the relationships between architecture and mathematics, including landscape architecture and urban design.

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