

# ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS

The Laurelhurst neighborhood includes houses designed by a number of architects over the past decades, many of whom were famous for their accomplishments in the design of other important Portland buildings and the development of Portland as a whole.

## Landscape Architects involved in Laurelhurst

**Emanuel Tillman Mische** was a landscape architect and horticulture specialist in Portland. He worked for the Olmsted Brothers for nine years before leaving to work for the City of Portland as the Park Superintendent in 1908. In this role, Mische designed the plan for Laurelhurst Park based on plans that the Olmsted Brothers had included with their comprehensive plan of the City in 1903. He was also responsible for the design of Peninsula Park and Terwilliger Boulevard in Portland.

**Thomas Hawkes** designed the layout of Block 1 in Laurelhurst for four showcase homes (three were built). The layout was published in the Oregonian in July, 1910. Hawkes also worked in Chicago, where he designed the grounds for the South Shore Country Club, completed in 1916. He also designed the grounds of the Isaac Hodgson Jr. House in Portland.

**George H. Otten** designed the formal garden for the Bader House at 3604 SE Oak Street. He also helped lay out the "Laurelhurst Group of Cottages," in a block bounded by NE Couch, NE Davis, NE Laurelhurst Place and NE Cesar Chavez Blvd to be developed with English Cottages. His work elsewhere in Portland included the grounds of the Temple Beth Israel, and the Rose City and Lloyd Golf Courses.

## Portland-area Architects Involved in Laurelhurst

**Ellis Lawrence or Lawrence & Holford** designed the Murphy House at 3574 E Burnside as well as a number of others in Laurelhurst between 1909 and 1929. The nine homes in the "Laurelhurst Group of Cottages" were designed by Lawrence and Holford and laid out by the firm in collaboration with George Otten, landscape designer. Lawrence was an architect who practiced in Portland for 40 years. He was in practice with William Holford, an MIT classmate, from 1913 until 1928, when Fred Allyn and Ormond Bean joined the firm. In the Laurelhurst neighborhood L. and H. designed in the Classical Revival, Arts & Crafts, Mediterranean, and English Cottage styles.

**Ora M. Akers** designed at least 2 homes in Laurelhurst during the 1920s, one of which is individually listed on the National Register ("Brick House Beautiful" at 4005 NE Davis). He also produced a 1924 "pattern book" of home designs, called The Telegram Plan Book, published by the Portland newspaper of the same name.

**Wade Hampton Pipes** designed a twin-gabled Arts and Crafts style home on E. Burnside in 1919. He is a Portland architect that is best known for his unique style of design, the Wade Pipes style, evoking elements of the English Cottage and Arts & Crafts styles that he studied in his education and travels abroad in Europe.

**Bennes & Hendricks** designed a number of residences in Laurelhurst for the Chapin-Herlow Mortgage and Trust Company. Six of these were to be "modern two-story buildings" (as reported on January 1913); another four were reported to cost \$5500 each (May 1912). One of these designs is the Little, Carl M., house at 3711 NE Davis St.

**Doyle & Patterson** designed the "Mayor's Mansion" (Albee residence) at 3360 SE Ankeny. The architectural firm was responsible for many iconic Portland structures such as the Wells Fargo Building. At one point, this firm had surpassed Whidden & Lewis as the most influential firm in Portland.

**Claussen & Claussen**, two brothers from Chicago who moved to Portland in 1908 and began their architectural firm, designed the Laurelhurst School in 1923. This firm was responsible for designing the Roosevelt Hotel, Park Heathman Hotel, the Loyalty Building, the Ira Powers Warehouse, and the Portland Van and Storage Building, all of which have been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

**Roberts & Roberts** was another architecture firm led by brothers, William A. and Bruce W. Roberts. The firm designed at least 8 residences in Laurelhurst in 1912 alone, most for the Provident Trust Company. A third architect, Earl A. Roberts, was for a time in practice with William and Bruce, and may have also been a brother of theirs.

Earl Roberts was responsible for at least two Laurelhurst designs himself for the Lawyers Abstract and Trust Co, though he appears to have been primarily based out of Seattle.

**Kenneth Birkemeier** was an architect-builder whose career spanned the 1930's to 1950's. He designed two houses in Laurelhurst as well as many more in the Alameda area of NE Portland.

**Charles Ertz or Ertz & Dole:** Ertz was a prolific architect who worked on commercial and residential projects in Portland for 40 years. His partnership with Dole lasted only about a year, in 1912. Ertz designed the Eighth Church of Christ Scientist as well as at least a couple of homes at 4135 and 4200 NE Flanders Street in Laurelhurst.

**Edward L. Merritt**, though not a Portland architect, developed a series of pattern books with partner Jud Yoho. Their designs were used in Laurelhurst in at least a handful of instances. Merritt practiced in Seattle and clearly had a strong connection with Paul C. Murphy. Yoho & Merritt published various plan books of Craftsman bungalows, several of which are likely constructed in Laurelhurst.

# ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS

## Portland Builders Associated with Laurelhurst

**Albin M. Pajunen**, builder of the Holahan residence at 128 NE Cesar Chavez Blvd, the Kelly house at 108 NE Laurelhurst Place, houses at 3632 NE Davis Street and 3905 E Burnside Street, and other fine houses in Laurelhurst. Pajunen also constructed McArthur Court on the University of Oregon campus. Pajunen immigrated from Finland in 1905.

**Spencer McCain**, builder of the now-demolished showplaces Homer Keeney residence and Charles K. Henry residence, as well as others in Portland such as the R. W. Shepherd house on Talbot Road.

**Wade Hampton Pipes** designed a twin-gabled Arts and Crafts style home on E. Burnside in 1919. He is a Portland architect that is best known for his unique style of design, the Wade Pipes style, evoking elements of the English Cottage and Arts & Crafts styles that he studied in his education and travels abroad in Europe.

**Frank A. Read** constructed at least 13 homes in Laurelhurst, including his own 1924 residence at 3469 NE Oregon Street, where he lived until his death in 1950. He also constructed at least 18 homes during the late 1930s in the Alameda area of NE Portland, where he leaned stylistically toward Colonial Revival and Tudor styles.

**A. W. Kutsche** constructed the Laurelhurst Club as well as the original Albina branch library in Portland. He appears to have moved on to a successful career in Detroit by the 1920s.

**Walter N. Everett**, contractor who was working in Laurelhurst during the 1910s. He built his own house on Hazelfern Place which is probably the first house constructed in Laurelhurst, as well as multiple others that he sold, including at 109 SE 41st Avenue, and at 520, 530, 535, and 745 Laurelhurst Place.

**Augustus P. Smith** constructed at least 17 homes in Laurelhurst. He himself lived in Laurelhurst with wife Letia at 454 NE Floral Place from at least 1920 until at least 1963. Smith moved to Oregon from West Virginia and was born c. 1869.

**Nels O. Eklund**, builder of residences in the late 1910s and early 1920s at 1215 E Ash Street, 3944 SE Ankeny Street, and 3967 and 4011 E Burnside Street, among others. Eklund, wife Signe, and family resided at Sandy Blvd. and 60th Avenue. Nels and Signe had immigrated from Sweden. By 1930 Nels Jr. (age 18 as of the 1930 census) was also working as a contractor.

**Thomas B. Winship**, very prolific builder of homes at 3935, 4217, and 4229 NE Laurelhurst Place, 3935 SE Pine Street, 6 and 43 Meikle Place, and multiple others in Laurelhurst throughout the 1920s. Winship immigrated from England in 1915 and resided in Rose City Park.

**Willis M. Chandler** constructed at least 10 homes in Laurelhurst, including two "matching" houses at 4330 and 4336 SE Pine Street in 1923. Chandler was age 38 at the time of the 1920 census.

**George E. Weller** built 846 NE 43rd Avenue, 3224 E Burnside Street, 4227 NE Flanders, 4358 NE Glisan, 66 and 75 NE Meikle, 3423 NE Multnomah, and likely others in Laurelhurst. His houses trend towards Colonial Craftsmans. He also built the A.L. Carson House in the Irvington Historic District, which was designed by Ellis Lawrence and William Holford. Weller emigrated to Oregon from Nebraska; he and his wife, Maude, lived on 50th Street with their sons in 1920.

**John Cleland** moved to Oregon from Pennsylvania. He lived on Division Street with his wife Marion and two children in 1920. Cleland built at least 13 homes in Laurelhurst, sometimes with Judson A. Hubbell, with whom he owned the firm Cleland and Hubbell. Cleland designed and built the Dr. Norman D. Hampton house at 3406 E Burnside Street.

**Robert S. McFarland** lived at 325 East 39th Street in 1923. McFarland built at least six residences in Laurelhurst, including those at 3338, 3346, and 3717 E Burnside. He also worked on buildings in other areas of Portland such as an apartment complex at 1806 NE 13th Avenue in the Irvington Historic District.

**William W. Yager** moved to Oregon from Kansas, and lived in an apartment building on 5th Street in 1920. He is known to have constructed five Colonial Craftsmans in Laurelhurst and sometimes partnered with William Bixell.