

Architect Walter Netsch was born in 1920 in Chicago, where he has lived for most of his life. He studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and upon receiving his degree in 1943, he enlisted in the United States Army Corps of Engineers. He began his career as an architect working for L. Morgan Yost, and in 1947 joined Skidmore, Owings and Merrill (SOM). Mr. Netsch has designed buildings for cities all over the world and won numerous awards, particularly for his library buildings. In 1963, he married Dawn Clark, an alumna and former professor at Northwestern University. Mr. and Mrs. Netsch's art collection has been featured in several exhibitions. Mr. Netsch was elected a fellow of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) in 1967, and received the Library Building Award from the AIA and the American Library Association in 1978. The US Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel, one of Mr. Netsch's best-known buildings, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2004.



## Northwestern University Library Art Collection

[www.library.northwestern.edu/art/](http://www.library.northwestern.edu/art/)

### Exhibit co-curators:

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### Special thanks to:

Walter and Dawn Netsch  
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Photographs courtesy NU Archives  
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# Walter Netsch and the Northwestern University Library



February 7-March 31, 2006

**Northwestern  
University Library**  
1970 Campus Drive  
Evanston, IL

[www.library.northwestern.edu/  
exhibits/walternetsch/](http://www.library.northwestern.edu/exhibits/walternetsch/)

## Chronology of Northwestern University Library

### Fall 1961

Library Planning and Building  
Committee appointed by J. Roscoe  
Miller, University President

### 1962

Architect Walter Netsch of  
Skidmore, Owings & Merrill hired

### May 1964

Press conferences held in New York  
and Chicago to unveil design  
for library

### September 1964

Proposal for construction accepted

### August 1966

Construction of new building begins

### May 1967

\$4 million granted in Federal  
construction loan

### Winter 1969-1970

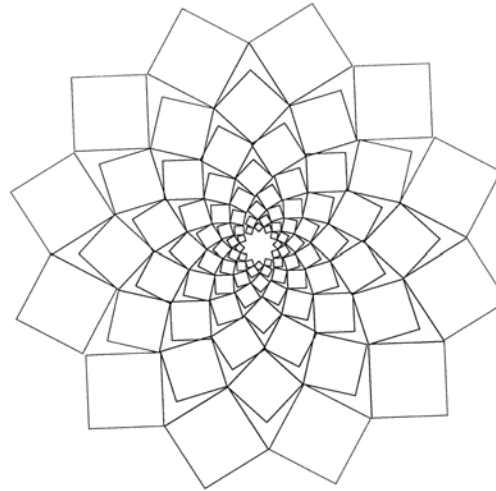
Materials and equipment moved  
into new building

### January 19, 1970

University Library officially opens

### October 21, 1970

Dedication ceremony held on  
Library Plaza



Field Theory drawing by Walter Netsch

**"The rotated square was the  
way we broke the box."  
--Walter Netsch**

**"Field Theory is as important  
as Le Corbusier's Modulor or  
Buckminster Fuller's dome.  
Netsch makes beautiful  
buildings with it."  
--Architectural Record, 1980**

**A comprehensive bibliography  
of primary and secondary  
literature on Walter Netsch is  
available at the exhibit website:  
[www.library.northwestern.edu/  
exhibits/walternetsch/](http://www.library.northwestern.edu/exhibits/walternetsch/)**

## Projects by Walter Netsch

- 1954-63** US Air Force Academy and  
Academy Cadet Chapel,  
Colorado Springs, CO
- 1961-65** Circle Campus, University of  
Illinois at Chicago
- 1962** University Library, Illinois Institute  
of Technology, Chicago, IL
- 1962-68** Northwestern University  
lakefill expansion plan **NU**
- 1964-70** University Library **NU**
- 1966** Lindheimer Astronomical Research  
Center (razed 1995) **NU**
- 1968** Rebecca Crown Center **NU**  
Louis Jefferson Long Library, Wells  
College, Aurora, NY
- 1970** Joseph Regenstein Library,  
University of Chicago
- 1971** O.T. Hogan Biological Sciences  
Research Building **NU**
- 1972** Frances Searle Building **NU**
- 1979** Central Library, Sophia University,  
Tokyo, Japan
- 1973** Medical Sciences Library,  
University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
- 1976** East wing, Art Institute of Chicago
- 1977** Seeley G. Mudd Library for  
Science and Engineering **NU**  
Regenstein Music Building **NU**