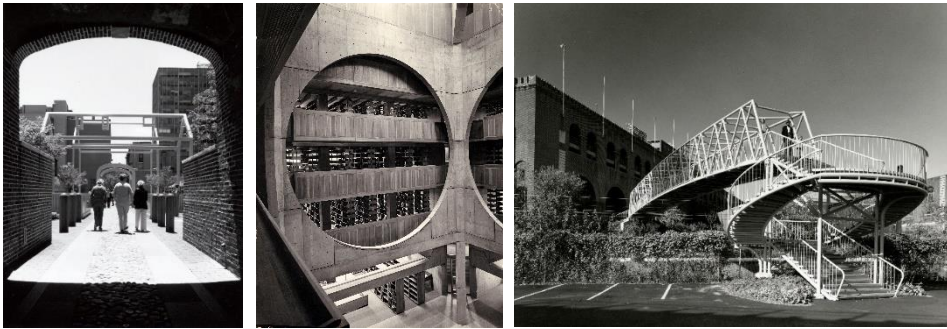


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press Contact:
Amelia Popovic, 267-259-1857, apopovic@keasthood.com



**Structure & Purpose: The Legacy of Engineering at Keast & Hood
On View at the Athenaeum of Philadelphia
January 9, 2020 – March 31, 2020**

This exhibition examines the role of the founders of Keast & Hood in the iconic structures and modernist designs emanating from Philadelphia in the second half of the 20th Century.

Philadelphia, PA – Keast & Hood is excited to present the exhibition ***Structure & Purpose: The Legacy of Engineering at Keast & Hood***, opening on Thursday, January 9th 2020. The exhibition, curated by architectural historian Izzy Kornblatt, posthumously explores the role of the firm’s founding engineers, Carl A. Baumert Jr., Nicholas L. Gianopulos, and Thomas J. Leidigh, longtime principals at the firm of Keast & Hood Co. from the years 1953 – 2007. Their collaborations with such renowned architects as Louis I. Kahn and Venturi, Scott Brown, and Associates spanned decades and their structural solutions underlie numerous landmark buildings of the 20th century.

“...At Guild House, Nick Gianopulos’s unusual and excellent suggestions saved structural density, allowing the usable to unusable space ratio to be very favorable and this characterized the contribution of Keast & Hood to Venturi and Rauch and subsequently Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates. Also there was faithfulness. When Bob awakened at 2 AM with a nightmare of our show at the Whitney Museum and the thought of a Grecian statue out on the tip of the cantilever at the building’s entrance and the possibility of it falling off, nothing would prevail but that I call Nick, which I did at 4:30 AM. By 7 AM, Nick had sent Carl Baumert to the Whitney and he called us immediately to say that he checked all the fixing and design and everything was safe so Bob could go to sleep. I know this story is a legend at Keast & Hood and it is with us too.” - Denise Scott Brown, *excerpt from Denise’s letter on the historical importance of Keast & Hood founders, Nick, Carl, and Tom.*

Working in collaboration with the architects of the Philadelphia School, these engineers charted a new course in American architecture while pioneering in the nascent field of structural preservation.

This retrospective examines the scope and importance of their work. Through an array of never-before-exhibited materials, it demonstrates the invaluable role played by these engineers in 16 major projects—from Franklin Court to the restoration of Philadelphia City Hall to the National Assembly of Bangladesh. Objects on display will include original drawings by Kahn, Robert Venturi, Renzo Piano, and Romaldo Giurgola; documents and drawings from the archives of Keast & Hood; models and material samples; and video interviews, among many others. Lending

institutions include the Architectural Archives of the University of Pennsylvania, the Renzo Piano Foundation and several others.

Structure & Purpose will be on view through March 31, 2020.

The Exhibition is free and open to the public.

Open Hours: Monday through Friday 9 AM – 5 PM

Related Events

Opening Reception by Invitation (press welcome)

Thursday, January 23rd, 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Public Gallery Talk

Thursday, March 5th, 5:30 – 7:00 pm

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About Keast & Hood

Keast & Hood is a structural engineering firm founded in 1953. Over the course of its history, the firm has earned a reputation for committed client service and high quality, technically astute engineering. In addition to structural design for new buildings, the firm is a nationally recognized leader in building diagnostics and the preservation, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic structures. For additional information, visit www.keasthood.com.

Facebook: [@KeastHoodCo](https://www.facebook.com/KeastHoodCo) | Twitter: [@keasthood](https://twitter.com/keasthood) | LinkedIn: [Keast & Hood Co.](https://www.linkedin.com/company/Keast-Hood-Co) | Instagram: [@Keast and Hood Co](https://www.instagram.com/KeastandHoodCo)

About The Athenaeum of Philadelphia

The Athenaeum of Philadelphia is an independent member-supported library and special collections that engages members, scholars and the interested general public in the cultural and intellectual life of Philadelphia through historical, literary, and educational programming. The Athenaeum was founded in 1814 to collect materials "connected with the history and antiquities of America, and the useful arts, and generally to disseminate useful knowledge" for public benefit. Supported by more than 1,100 active members who utilize its lending library and attend its diverse programs, the Athenaeum's nationally significant collections attract thousands of researchers annually both in-house and online: graduate students and senior scholars, architects, interior designers, museum curators, and private owners of historic buildings. It provides the Philadelphia region with a resource of first resort on matters of architecture and interior design history, particularly for the period 1800 to 1945.

www.philaathenaeum.org

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