



Englewood

JAMES STEWART POLSHEK, Architect ***Englewood Department Public Works - 1968***

James Stewart Polshek enrolled in premed at Case Western Reserve University's Adelbert College in 1947, with thoughts of becoming a psychiatrist. He began taking a variety of courses, including a course in the history of modern architecture. After deciding to study architecture he enrolled at Yale University, and graduated in 1955 with a Master of Architecture degree. He was also a Fulbright/Hayes fellow in Denmark and received a number of grants from the Graham Foundation.

Polshek worked for I.M. Pei prior to starting his own firm, James Stewart Polshek Architect, in 1963. He is presently retired and maintains the title of Senior Design Counsel at the Polshek Partnership. Polshek is unusual among top-tier architects for taking the position that architecture is more craft than fine art, and that architects have some measure of social responsibility.

1972-1987: Polshek served as the Dean of Columbia University's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation.

1986: The Gold Medal award from the New York City Chapter of the American Institute of Architects was awarded to James Polshek.

2002: Polshek was honored with the Municipal Art Society's Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Medal, and was inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

2004: Polshek Partnership designed the Clinton Presidential Library, Little Rock, Arkansas.

2005: Polshek was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Honorary degrees were awarded to Polshek from Pratt Institute (1995), the New School/Parsons School of Design (1995) and the New Jersey Institute of Technology (2002).

Polshek designed the Rose Center Earth and Space entrance/Hayden Planetarium at the American Museum of Natural History, New York City (2000).

*Mayor Robert Miller (1968-69) had a policy that public buildings be designed by major architects
Polshek biography prepared by City of Englewood -- January 2010*