

# George Young, Jr.

*August 24, 1878 — January 15, 1956*

George Young, Jr., Emeritus Professor of Architecture and former Dean of the College of Architecture, died at his home in Novato, California, January 15, 1956.

Dean Young was born at Napanoch, New York, August 24, 1878, the son of George and Sarah (Schoonmaker) Young. He was a graduate of Worcester Academy (1896) and of the College of Architecture, Cornell University (1900). In 1902 he married Helen Dorsey Binkerd, his classmate in Architecture who survives him.

As an undergraduate, while maintaining an excellent scholastic record, he also participated to some extent in extracurricula activities, winning his letter in both track and football as well as being vice-president of his class and serving on various committees. Throughout his college and professional life his chief interest was in the structural field of architecture. This interest was perhaps due, in part, to his having been a student under Professors Church and Jacoby. For several years after graduation he was employed as superintendent of construction by different architectural firms in New York and Pittsburgh.

In the fall of 1909 he returned to Cornell as Assistant Professor of Architecture to reorganize and develop the work of that college in the field of structural analysis and design. This he did most effectively. In 1915 he was advanced to a Professorship of Architecture in which post he served with distinction until his retirement. Appointed Dean of the College in 1928, he continued until 1937, when a serious illness, followed by a long period of recuperation, necessitated a sharp curtailment in his physical and professional activities. He withdrew from the deanship but continued to teach with his accustomed zest. Upon retirement in 1946, he removed to California where he passed the remaining years quietly but by no means idly.

Although Dean Young's chief interest and effort were always devoted to sound teaching and in organizing and implementing the curriculum of the college to that end, his restless energy kept him continuously involved with a multitude of other interests. In his early days on the Faculty his special abilities were utilized by the University in the erection or renovation of several campus buildings. During the first World War he served as Captain in the Army Air Service. In the early twenties, together with Dean Bosworth and others, he was prominently identified with several major changes and innovations in the curriculum which were introduced at that time, including the inauguration of the five year program at Cornell, a step which was soon to be followed by most of the leading architectural schools in the country. He was responsible for the beginnings of the City and Regional Planning

program. He was active in university affairs including service as Faculty Representative on the Board of Trustees. He was the senior author of two texts, *Descriptive Geometry* in 1921 and *Mechanics of Materials* in 1927.

Dean Young was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and was always actively engaged in the affairs of that organization. He had been president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, was a Corresponding Member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, and Panel Editor of the Architectural Forum, one of the leading professional publications. Among his social and professional affiliations were Phi Gamma Delta, Tau Beta Pi and Phi Kappa Phi

In his private life, Professor Young found relaxation in a variety of constructive activities. Besides composing light verse for his own and his friends amusement, and enjoying an excellent library and large collection of recorded music, he loved to work with tools. His home, both outside and within, bore the characteristic marks of his skillful handiwork and flair for design.

Though he discharged his administrative and other duties with competence, Professor Young's chief joy and satisfaction undoubtedly came in his teaching. Intensely interested in his subject and in his students as individuals, he gave time and effort to both without stint. The effectiveness of his stimulating and rigorous presentation of the work, though often achieved with a light touch, brought distinction to the College and the beginnings of understanding and maturity to many an underclassman. The door of his office and that of his home were always open to those who sought his counsel. He knew his students intimately and followed their later careers with friendly interest. The respect and admiration shown for his work and for himself were deeply impressive. Seldom did a former student neglect an opportunity to pay his personal respects, either in Ithaca while Professor Young was still active, or in California after his retirement. His passing is deeply felt by his students, by his colleagues of the faculty and by his professional associates everywhere.

*H. E. Baxter, D. L. Finlayson, R. M. Ogden*