



Restoration of the McGregor Pond and Sculpture Garden, Detroit

Wayne State University, Quinn Evans Architects, and McCarthy & Smith Inc.

The McGregor Memorial Conference Center, with its pool and sculpture gardens, is frequently hailed as a masterpiece of modern architect Minoru Yamasaki. Completed in 1958 on the campus of Wayne State University, the center and gardens were designed as a serene gathering place for the campus and the local community.

During the 1990s the pond was drained due to problems and the grounds lost much of their integrity. People no longer gathered in the space. In 2011 Wayne State hired Quinn Evans Architects to design a \$1.8 million-project that would restore the original character and appearance of the pond and garden while improving the pool's performance. The project involved installing new sanitization and recirculation systems, correcting problems with the pond basin to prevent leakage, replacing non-original brown pavers with white marble, and replacing non-original plantings with those that were in the original plan. In addition, the entry ramp to the plaza was modified to meet current accessibility standards.

In May 2013 dignitaries poured ceremonial pitchers of water into the pool to celebrate the restoration of the purity of Yamasaki's design.