

The “Swinging Sixties” are remembered as a time of social change and upheaval. Trends and traditions rapidly came and went, and with the changes in culture came changes in the way Americans lived, shopped, worked, and learned.

The good economy of the times presented opportunities for continued growth, which Irwin & Leighton realized through strong leadership and performance. The company earned vital new customers who were pioneers within their industries. Of particular note is Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, which, to this day, remains one of Irwin & Leighton’s core customers.

Long term relationships continued into the 1960s as Irwin & Leighton worked for Campbell Soup, RCA, Germantown Hospital, Lehigh University, and Sears – for whom the company built six more stores during the decade.

**ARMSTRONG CORK COMPANY’S  
STYLING AND DESIGN CENTER**

In 1968, Armstrong Cork Company, now Armstrong World Industries, selected Irwin & Leighton to build their Styling and Design Center at Lancaster. This expansion of their world headquarters would be the design and production center for their products for the next 40 years.



**1960-1969**

# Broadening Expertise and Relationships



**1968** ▽ **STYLING AND DESIGN CENTER, ARMSTRONG CORK COMPANY**

*Lancaster, Pennsylvania • Architect: Vincent G. Kling & Partners*



**1967** ▽ **DEPARTMENT STORE, SEARS, ROEBUCK AND COMPANY**  
*Saint Davids, Pennsylvania • Architect: Abbott, Merkt & Company, Inc.*



**1967** ▽ **DEPARTMENT STORE, SEARS, ROEBUCK AND COMPANY**  
*Watchung, Pennsylvania • Architect: The Ballinger Company*

## *Retail Revolution*

Changing trends in convenience and shopping, underscored by the continuing growth of suburbia, kept retailers and developers busy in the 1960s. Irwin & Leighton was at the forefront of the changes in the industry, accommodating leading retailers such as established customers Sears, John Wanamaker, and Strawbridge & Clothier as they expanded to meet the expectations of modern consumers.

In 1963, Irwin & Leighton collaborated with trend-setting architect Victor Gruen to build the Strawbridge & Clothier anchor store at the new Springfield Park Mall in Springfield, Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Gruen, the Viennese-American architect who designed America's first enclosed shopping mall in 1954, worked closely with Irwin & Leighton to ensure a well-blended vision of a "futuristic" venue. The large, sleek department store they built would cater to an ideal target market of middle-class suburbanites.

In 1967, the long standing relationship between Irwin & Leighton and Sears, Roebuck & Company continued, bringing Sears to the suburban clientele of St. Davids, Pennsylvania. The large new department store was one of the first in a 20-year expansion to suburban and rural locations for Sears. Many of these followed the new format, pioneered by Victor Gruen, and were also built by Irwin & Leighton.



Stone masons carve the Strawbridge's seal seen in photo below.

### **1963** ▼ **DEPARTMENT STORE, STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER**

*Springfield, Pennsylvania • Architect: Gruen Associates and Alexander Ewing & Associates*

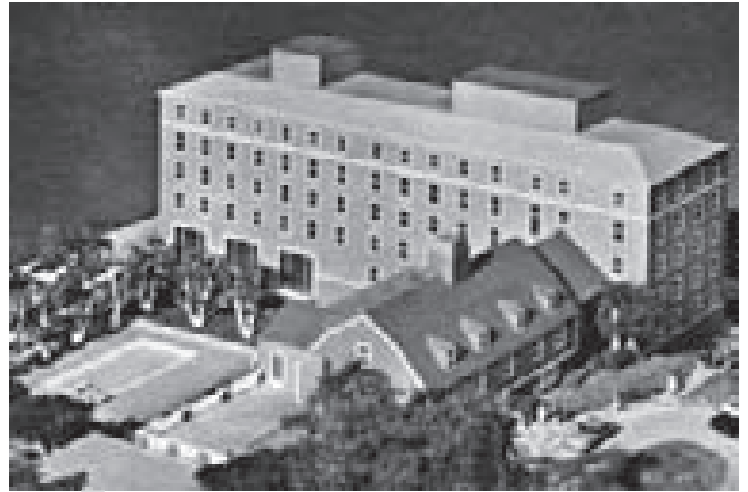


*Strawbridge & Clothier*

## Landmark Destinations

The hospitality industry continued to grow during the 1960s as customers began to expect a higher standard of amenities. The “mom ‘n’ pop” roadside motel became a thing of the past and the grand urban hotels, too, were less popular. The modern consumer was most concerned with convenience, cleanliness, and comfort. These were the virtues of the well-known Marriott Motor Inn, built by Irwin & Leighton in 1962 along City Line Avenue in Bala Cynwyd. The Kona Kai restaurant, located in the Marriott, became a very popular destination for locals.

The Nassau Inn, an older hotel, was expanded from 42 to 119 rooms by Irwin & Leighton in 1963. The Inn, founded in 1756, is famous for the Palmer Ballroom as well as its restaurant, the Yankee Doodle Tap Room, where a 13-foot Norman Rockwell mural hangs behind the bar. Irwin & Leighton’s expansion made this go-to Princeton landmark compatible with its modern counterparts and competitors.



**1963** ADDITIONS AND ALTERATIONS, NASSAU INN  
Princeton, New Jersey • Architect: William B. Tabler



**1962** MARRIOTT MOTOR INN AND KONA KAI RESTAURANT  
Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania • Architect: William B. Tabler

## *Building for Innovators of the 1960s*

The heat of the space race continued to cause an increase in spending on science and technology in the 1960s. Laboratories of the time facilitated the invention of modern marvels such as the laser, the contraceptive pill, and the first prototype of the Internet. Irwin & Leighton found many clients in the fields of pharmaceutical and chemical research, and built laboratories that would later produce some of the great advancing ideas of the time.



**1965** **OFFICE AND LABORATORY EXPANSION, SMITH KLINE & FRENCH LABORATORIES**

*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania • Architect: Edwards & Green*

Innovations in manufacturing during the 1960s changed the way this sector did business and the way facilities were designed and built. Workplaces began to be affected increasingly by regulatory and social factors; the challenge of providing American consumers with well-designed and well-made products was becoming more complex. Irwin & Leighton's manufacturing customers included such giants as National Lead Company, Air Products, Philadelphia Gear and FMC Corporation.

**1969** **OFFICE BUILDING AND RESEARCH LABORATORY, MOBIL OIL CORPORATION**

*Hopewell, New Jersey • Architect: Eliot Noyes & Associates*



### **MOBIL OIL CORPORATION**

Construction of the first buildings at the Hopewell facility began with Irwin & Leighton in 1969, with an office and research laboratory. Irwin & Leighton continued to be an integral part in the development of the campus through the 1980s, as it expanded to 1 million square feet of laboratories, office space, and computing facilities. The Hopewell Campus was sold in 1997 to Bristol-Myers Squibb.



**1961** **MANUFACTURING FACILITY,  
NATIONAL LEAD COMPANY**

*Hightstown, New Jersey • Architect: The Ballinger Company*

**1965** **LABORATORY AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDINGS, SHELL CHEMICAL COMPANY**

*Woodbury, New Jersey • Architect: The Ballinger Company*



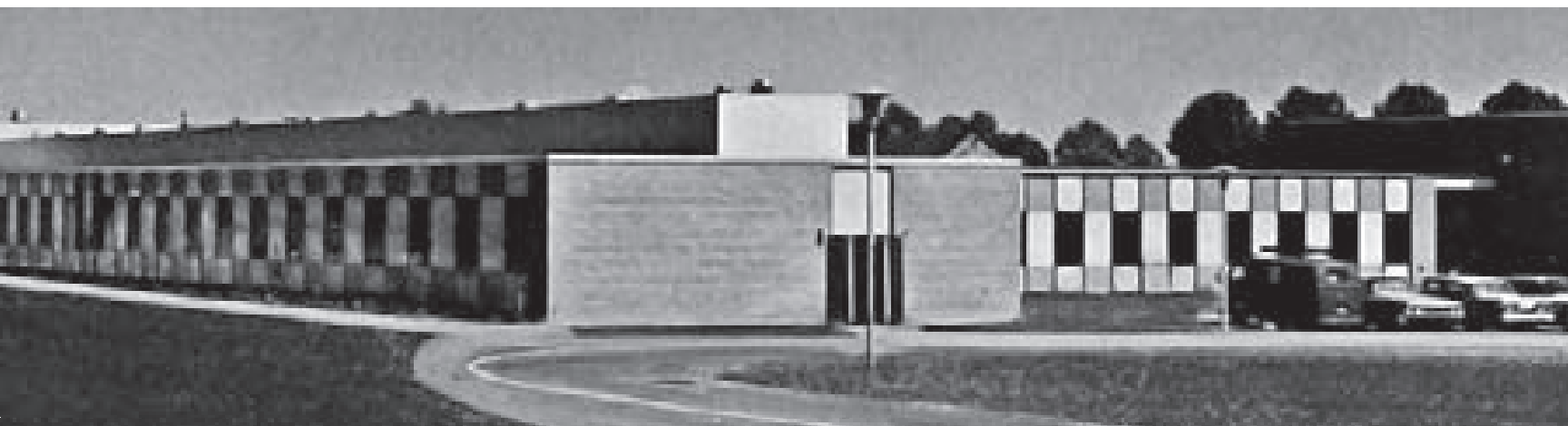
**1966** ▾ **OFFICE AND MANUFACTURING FACILITY, FMC CORPORATION**

*Horsham, Pennsylvania • Architect: Alexander Ewing & Associates*



**1961** ▾ **PATTERN SHOP, PHILADELPHIA GEAR CORPORATION**

*King of Prussia, Pennsylvania • Architect: The Ballinger Company*



**1964** ▾ **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE BUILDING AND LABORATORIES,  
AIR PRODUCTS CHEMICALS, INC.**

*Trexlertown, Pennsylvania • Architect: Voorhees, Walker, Smith, Smith & Haines*



## *Expanding With Education*



### **1961 OFFICE AND WAREHOUSING FACILITY, MCGRAW-HILL INC.**

*East Windsor, New Jersey • Architect: Alfred Easton Poor*

Irwin & Leighton's first project for McGraw-Hill began a long and positive relationship. The office and warehouse along Princeton-Hightstown Road were the predecessors of an entire campus in East Windsor. Every new building at the complex since 1961 has been constructed by Irwin & Leighton.



### **1960 OFFICE BUILDING, EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE**

*Princeton, New Jersey • Architect: Harrison, Abramovitz & Abbe*

### **EDUCATIONAL TESTING SERVICE'S OFFICE BUILDING**

The private authority on American educational testing, Educational Testing Service (ETS), was founded when three pre-existing institutions merged and took offices in a building on Nassau Street in Princeton. Within a few years, nearly 25 percent of all students were taking the tests they administered. Due to this growth, ETS purchased a 400-acre estate on Rosedale Road in 1954. The site had formerly served as a working farm and as the Stony Brook Hunt Club, but would become the sprawling corporate and educational campus of the institution. Irwin & Leighton first built on this campus in 1960, and continued to expand with ETS through the 1970s.

Academia was forever changed by the 1960s as students began to demand a different educational environment. Coeducation and desegregation also changed the American educational landscape.

While schools responded to the demands of a new generation, they were also forced to deal with the mathematical reality of a population boom. As enrollment reached all-time heights, Irwin & Leighton remained heavily involved with prominent institutions – building new dormitories, administrative buildings, laboratories, and classrooms to accommodate the needs of these institutions.

**1966** ▼ **CHEMICAL RESEARCH BUILDING,  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

*Ithaca, New York • Architect: Wanks, Adams & Slavin*



**1967** ▼ **ROBERT R. WILSON SYNCHROTRON LABORATORY,  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY**

*Ithaca, New York • Architect: William M. Brobeck & Associates*

Irwin & Leighton's 1967 project for Cornell presented new and technologically unprecedented challenges. The Physics Department, along with aid from several others nationwide, commissioned Wilson Synchrotron Laboratory, a facility where a large particle accelerator would help students and researchers make groundbreaking discoveries regarding the atom. The huge Cornell Electron Storage Ring (CESR) lies in a tunnel 15 meters below Alumni Football Field. Along with the CESR, the Wilson Laboratory houses support staff, collaborator offices, the CHES (Cornell High Energy Synchrotron Source) facility, and an electronics shop.



**1968** ▾ **NORTH DORMITORIES, HAVERFORD COLLEGE**

*Haverford, Pennsylvania • Architect: Harbeson, Hough, Livingston & Larson*

**1969** ▾ **UNDERGRADUATE RESIDENCES, UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER**

*Rochester, New York • Architect: Kenneth DeMay*

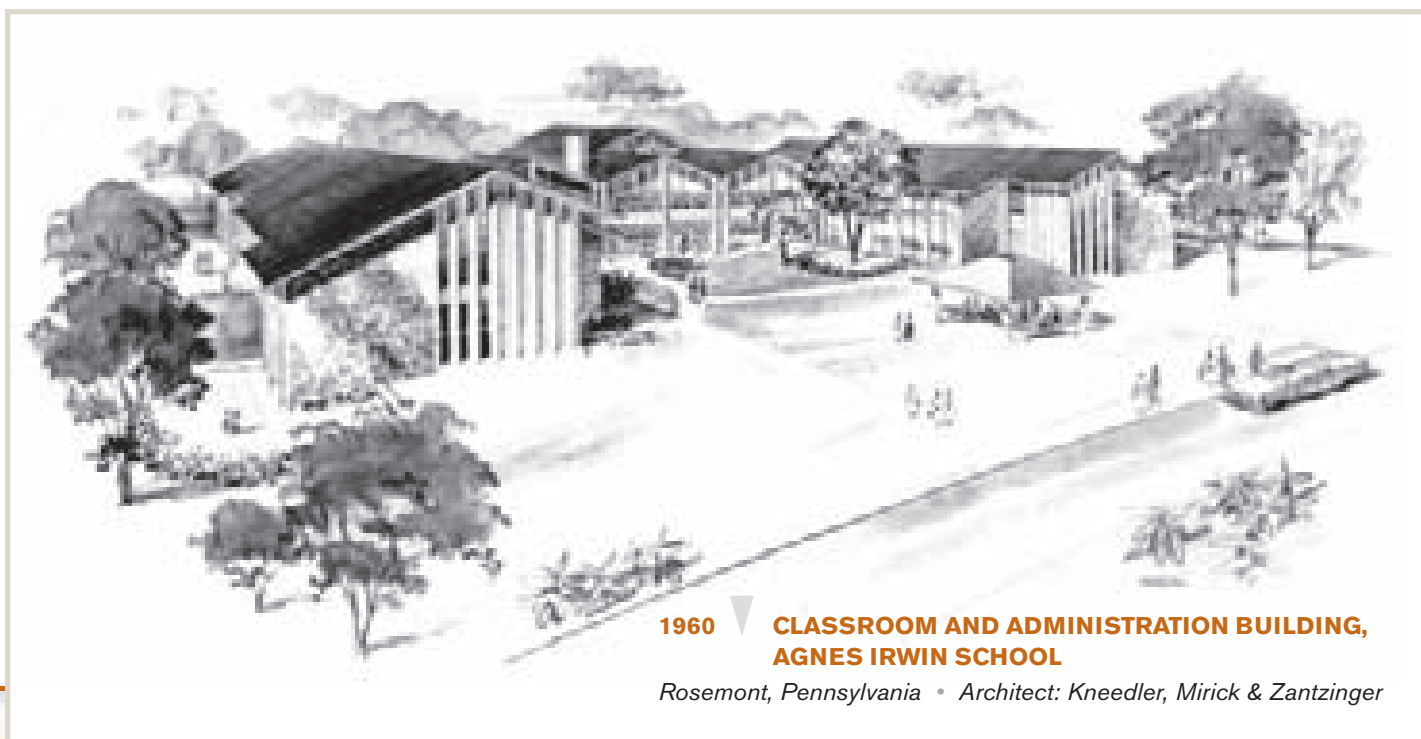


**1965** ▾ **WISMER HALL, URSINUS COLLEGE**

*Collegetown, Pennsylvania • Architect: Bond & Miller*



**1966** ▼ **METALLURGICAL AND CHEMICAL ENGINEERING LABORATORY BUILDING, LEHIGH UNIVERSITY**  
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania • Architect: Larson & Larson



**1960** ▼ **CLASSROOM AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, AGNES IRWIN SCHOOL**  
Rosemont, Pennsylvania • Architect: Kneedler, Mirick & Zantinger