

Thomas Dolliver Church

Thomas D. Church (1902-1978), born in Boston and raised in California, was trained at the University of California at Berkeley and the Harvard Graduate School of Design. He taught briefly before opening a practice in San Francisco in 1933, where he worked until his retirement in 1977. The War Memorial Court (Landmark #84) in Civic Center is an early example of Church's design work. His most notable landscape designs include the Donnell Garden (Sonoma, CA), Parkmerced (San Francisco, Ca), Bloedel Reserve (Bainbridge Island, WA), and General Motors Technical Center (Warren, MI). Church mentored many renowned landscape architects in the Bay Area and two of his employees, Douglas Baylis and Lawrence Halprin, would continue in his legacy in Civic Center in particular.



Church designed the War Memorial Court in 1932 between the Veterans' Building and the Opera House, completing the War Memorial Complex



Photograph of Thomas D. Church from The Cultural Landscape Foundation

In 1955, Church authored *Gardens are For People* in which he outlined the four major tenets of his design philosophy: **unity**, which is the consideration of the schemes as a whole, for both architecture and landscape; **function**, which is the relationship of practical service areas to the needs of the house, and the relationship of decorative areas to the desires and pleasures of those who use the space; **simplicity**, both in terms of the economic and aesthetic success of the layout; and **scale**, which rests upon the pleasant relationship of elements to each other.

Charles A. Birnbaum and Stephanie S. Foell, eds, *Shaping the American Landscape*, Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2009.
The Cultural Landscape Foundation, "Thomas Dolliver Church," <<http://tclf.org/pioneer/thomas-church>> August 29, 2013.