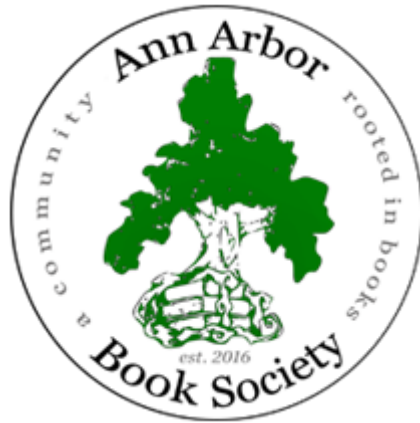


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July Newsletter

a2books.org

July Book Event Highlights

Thursday, July 5th 10 am to 10 pm: [Celebrate Batman and Catwoman's Wedding!](#) Vault of Midnight, 219 S. Main St.

Tuesday, July 10th at 7 pm: [Anna Clark, author of *The Poisoned City: Flint's Water and the Urban American Tragedy*](#), Ann Arbor District Library Downtown Branch, 343 S.Fifth Ave.

Wednesday, July 11th at 6:30 pm: [Jeff Goodell, author of *The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World*](#), presented by and in support of [Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice](#), Bookbound Bookstore, 1729 Plymouth Rd.

Saturday, July 14th 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday, July 15th 1 pm to 4 pm: [Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library Bag Sale](#), AADL, Downtown Branch, Multipurpose Room.

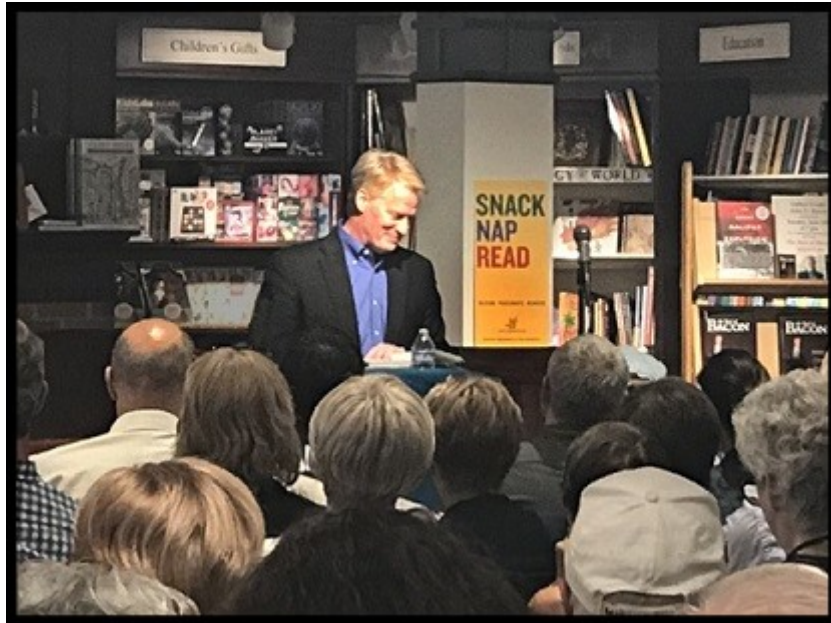
Sunday, July 15th from 10 am to 4 pm: [Second Annual Detroit BookFest](#), Shed 5, Eastern Market, Detroit.

Tuesday, July 17th at 7 pm: Renowned pastry chef and author [Stella Parks shares her new book, *BraveTart: Iconic American Desserts*](#), Literati Bookstore, 124 E. Washington.

Friday, July 27th at 7 pm: [Manchester United Warm-up Event with Gary B. France](#), author of *Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of United*, Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson Ave.

For more information on these and other book events, visit our [calendar](#)!

Event Photo Highlight



John U. Bacon, author of *Best of Bacon: Select Cuts*, at Nicola's Books, Tuesday, June 12th. Photo by Monica-Amit Misra.

Bookstore Road Trip!



Books & Mortar Bookstore
955 Cherry St SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49506
booksandmortar.com

In the heart of the East Hills neighborhood in Grand Rapids, Michigan sits a wonderful jewel of a bookshop, Books & Mortar, “Grand Rapids’ proudly progressive, consciously curated, and fiercely independent neighborhood bookstore.” Owned by partners Jonathan Shotwell and Christopher Roe, Books and Mortar is exactly the kind of bookshop I like to step into: wood floors, brick walls, wood shelves, eclectic tables, dynamic displays, a few rainbow accents - everything arranged with care that allows the space to flow. And the book covers pop! Which is how it should be - books taking center stage, bewitching me to explore.

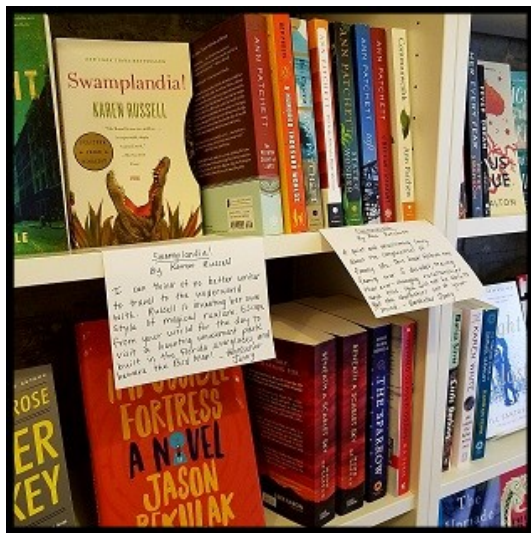
Shotwell and Roe don’t just let the books speak for themselves, however. The shelves are dotted with informative and fun to read recommendation cards, and the guys are ready to talk books, as well. I chatted with Roe a bit about the store, the books, and how well the store has been received in the neighborhood.

One thing that surprised them (and me), Roe said, was that the new releases don't sell nearly as well as classics and old favorites. He and Shotwell opened the store in the fall of 2016 after relocating from Chicago. They had previously lived in Grand Rapids and decided it was the perfect place to open a bookstore. There is a growing progressive population in Grand Rapids (there are over a dozen higher education institutions in the metro area) and not many independent bookstores in the city to serve them.

Browsing the shelves, I could tell that the store's collections are carefully cultivated. I was pleased to recognize several popular authors; George Saunders, Zadie Smith, Ann Patchett, Lisa See, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Lori Deschene, Elizabeth Gilbert... The children's section is full of wins, too, with *Pete the Cat*, *The Day the Crayons Quit*, *She Persisted*, *Ada Twist Scientist*, *Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls*, and so many more wonderful titles. There is also a fun collection of greeting cards, journals, calendars, candles, and other sideline items, making it a good place to pick up many different kinds of gifts. (I grabbed a few unique Michigan-themed postcards for an international postcard exchange that I participate in.)

Grand Rapids is lucky to have Books & Mortar, and if you find yourself in the GR area be sure to stop by!

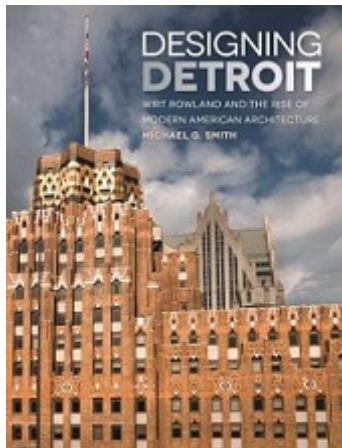
--Crysta Coburn





Book Ends

On the Shelf



**Designing Detroit:
Wirt Rowland and the Rise of
Modern American Architecture
by Michael G. Smith**

Wayne State University Press,
\$44.99
April 2017

About a hundred years ago, working within the most prestigious architectural firms in one of the most forward-looking and dynamic cities of the time, Wirt Rowland was made lead designer on scores of important contracts. Many of the most

Little Free Library



One of the co-founders of Little Free Libraries (LFL), in an interview a few months ago, remarked on the joy he sees on the faces of people when they first spot an LFL, "It's like seeing a puppy."

That has also been my experience. Good thing, too, because it was, in fact, my intent in creating one.

Since my retirement from the University of Michigan five years ago, I have been looking for imaginative ways to invest in my immediate neighborhood, Liberty Glen Subdivision. An LFL can be a

beautiful, and now iconic, buildings in Detroit were his creations. The book lifts this small-town Michigan man up, shines a light on his quiet genius, and tells the story of how he pursued and achieved a uniquely American building shape and design — and created beauty.

Much of Rowland's success flowed from his faithful practice of the forgotten yet cardinal principles of harmonious design from classical Greece and Medieval Europe. Never letting go of this intelligence from the Old World, Rowland actively sought inspiration for his art in the New World as well. He found it in the very rustic yet expressive shapes and colors of the ancient landscape and dwellings of the American southwest; he brilliantly translated that beauty into urban structures, such as his gorgeous Guardian and Penobscot buildings.

Michael G. Smith gives us a great feast. This book is biography and construction history, but the story of how an architect consciously designed beauty into the modern buildings of Detroit is exceptional.

--Brenda E. Bentley enjoys buildings, art, trees, and history; a long-time Ann Arborite, her [Riverwalks Ann Arbor](#) is a guide to pleasant walking routes that criss-cross the river, intersect social nodes in the city, and pass by historical landmarks

Did You Know?

The Ann Arbor District Library and the Ann Arbor Area Transportation

destination: a place to slow down, a place to chew the fat with neighbors, a place to soothe nerve endings inflamed these days by national news, a place to feel good.

My Little Free Library, at [2947 Atterberry Drive](#), is now one year old.

I had originally planned to retrofit a secondhand cabinet; but when I was not satisfied with my ability to seal it from the weather, I decided to begin my LFL adventure by purchasing a starter model from the Little Free Library online store.

I painted the box bright primary colors and tiled the roof with Formica samples from the Scrap Box. I installed auxiliary niches for toys for the little visitors and a dog treat dispenser for the other little visitors. In hot, sunny weather, I bring out my solar-powered water feature. The local reception has been nothing but positive, and it certainly brings *me* joy.

Like most LFL's I have read about, mine is not self-sustaining. Luckily, I have found sources of low-cost books and I try to keep it fresh by trading books in and out. A neighbor reported that he had prematurely returned *Walter the Farting Dog* and needed to take it back to get his daughter to bed. I'm not complaining. It's an ideal outcome.

--Judy Nowack retired from her position as Associate Vice President for Research at University of Michigan five and half years ago, and now stays busy with her art and

Authority have teamed up to give AADL library cardholders free bus rides as part of the AADL Summer Game. Now through August 26th, you can [ride the bus for free](#) every weekend if you have a library card from the Ann Arbor District Library!

Just show your card to the driver when getting on the bus and enjoy free trips on all fixed routes every weekend, all summer long!

volunteer activities with Washtenaw Literacy, as a Master Gardener, and as a board member of Ten Thousand Villages

Snapshot of the Past



A mother and her two young daughters leave the Washtenaw County Library Bookmobile with plenty of summer reading! July 1963. Courtesy of the [Ann Arbor District Library](#).

Our mailing address is:

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P.O. Box 7176
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

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