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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RATCLIFF: 100 Years of Distinguished Architecture

Award-Winning Emeryville Architectural Firm to Celebrate Its Centennial

<http://www.ratcliffarch.com>

Emeryville, Calif. – January 2006 – RATCLIFF, the architectural firm that designed Mills College, Oakland Airport Terminal II, and dozens of Bay Area landmarks, celebrates its Centennial in 2006 with a series of public activities devoted to chronicling the firm's distinguished history.

A recipient of the 2005 American Institute of Architects-California Council Firm of the Year award, the East Bay firm was founded by Walter H. Ratcliff, who began his practice in 1906. It has grown to an organization of 75 design professionals with healthcare, academic and civic clients throughout the Western United States. As one of the nation's longest continually-operating architectural firms, RATCLIFF has evolved with the industry, from the days when architects inked their life-size sketches on long linen sheets to today's thriving computerized practice illustrated by 3-D virtual image building models.

"We view the lasting influence our buildings have on their occupants as the strongest testament to our 100 years of practice," said Christopher P. Ratcliff, AIA, LEED®, NCARB, the third-generation president of the RATCLIFF firm. "Our primary focus is on the people who live, work, heal, and learn in our buildings. We take pride in the enduring value our buildings provide the communities they serve."

RATCLIFF Centennial events and activities include:

- » Mills College Art Museum Exhibit: January 18-March 11, 2006 – Free to the public, this architectural photography exhibit will feature the works of Imogen Cunningham and the campus buildings designed by Walter Ratcliff when he was campus architect for Mills College from 1923-1947, including the Art Museum and the Music Building. On Sunday, March 5, there will be a reception at the Art Museum followed by a Music Department performance at the Concert Hall.



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- » Mills College Architectural Tour: March 3, 2006. Offered by the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, this intimate tour will feature buildings designed by Walter Ratcliff and his contemporary, Julia Morgan.
- » Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association Spring House Tour: May 7, 2006. Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Ratcliff architectural firm, the tour will feature the work of Walter H. Ratcliff. The organization's extensively researched house tour guidebooks provide a permanent record not only of the featured houses, but of architecture in their neighborhoods.
- » Oakland Museum of California Exhibit: October 1, 2006-December 31, 2006. Free to the public, a retrospective of the firm's 100 years of work will be exhibited at the Oakland Museum Café.
- » *The Architecture of Ratcliff*: October 2006. Written by local historian Woodruff Minor with photographs by Kiran Singh and scheduled for publication by Heyday Books in the fall, this extensively researched book is a saga of the Bay Area's oldest architectural firm and the communities and University whose histories are intertwined.

RATCLIFF was recognized by the AIACC with the Firm of the Year Award for an organizational culture rooted in a core set of values that began with Walter H. Ratcliff, Jr., AIA, and have been carried on by his son, Robert, his grandson, Christopher, and the firm's designers today. What began as a family enterprise has evolved into a dynamic group of architects who are driven by a sincere interest in helping others and are dedicated to improving the built environment through design excellence. RATCLIFF offers a broad range of architecture, interior design and planning services to healthcare, academic and civic clients, choosing these practice areas for the opportunities they provide to interact with people at critical junctures in their lives. Visit www.ratcliffarch.com for more information.

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- » Walter H. Ratcliff, AIA, founded RATCLIFF, one of the longest-continually operating architecture and interiors firms in the country, in 1906 in Berkeley, California.
- » Headquartered in Emeryville, California, the firm's 75 design professionals offer a broad array of planning, architectural and interior design services to academic, healthcare, and civic clients throughout California and the Western United States.
- » RATCLIFF is the recipient of the 2005 Firm of the Year Award from the California Council of the American Institute of Architects.
- » In 2004, Ratcliff launched a Web-based tool called the Green Matrix™ (www.greenmatrix.net) as a symbol of its commitment to redesign environments and technologies for a sustainable human footprint. The Green Matrix was the first Web site to cross reference topics of sustainability similar to the United States Green Building Council's guidelines with the standard phases of project design.
- » Current academic architectural and design projects include: the new 165,000-square-foot campus for Berkeley City College in Berkeley, California; master planning and a new 20,000-square-foot student center for De La Salle High School in Concord, California; and seismic corrections and programmatic improvements to the Doe Library Annex at University of California, Berkeley.
- » RATCLIFF's health care projects include: the program, remodel and expansion of John Muir Medical Center in Walnut Creek, California; site planning for Kaiser Foundation Health Plan in Folsom, California; and design development for the Kaiser Comprehensive Cancer Center in Oyster Point/South San Francisco.
- » The firm's civic practice has been awarded the design commission for a new fire station in Yuba City, California and the commission for the renovation and addition to Fire Station No. 3 in Chico, California.



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» Five of Walter Ratcliff's buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings, including Berkeley Day Nursery, 1927; American Trust Building, now known as Wells Fargo Bank Building, 1925-27; Anna Head School for Girls, 1911-1927; Hillside School, 1925; and Merrill House, 1938. The firm has an additional two dozen projects that appear on the State of California and City of Berkeley Historic Registers.

Firm Evolution:

1906-1945

Walter H. Ratcliff, Architect

1945-1953

Ratcliff, Haymond & Ratcliff

1953-1960

Ratcliff and Ratcliff

1960-1978

Ratcliff, Slama & Cadwalader

1978-1999

The Ratcliff Architects

2000-present

RATCLIFF

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