

= Dan Dworsky =

Daniel Leonard Dworsky (born October 4 , 1927) is an American architect . He is a longstanding member of the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows . Among other works , Dworsky designed Crisler Arena , the basketball arena at the University of Michigan named for Dworsky 's former football coach , Fritz Crisler . Other professional highlights include designing Drake Stadium at UCLA , the Federal Reserve Bank in Los Angeles , California and the Block M seating arrangement at Michigan Stadium . He is also known for a controversy with Frank Gehry over the Walt Disney Concert Hall .

Previously , Dworsky was an American football linebacker , fullback and center who played professional football for the Los Angeles Dons of the All @-@ America Football Conference in 1949 , and college football for the Michigan Wolverines from 1945 to 1948 . He was an All @-@ American on Michigan 's undefeated national championship teams in 1947 and 1948 .

= = College football at the University of Michigan = =

Born in Minneapolis , Minnesota in 1927 , Dworsky lived in the Twin Cities and Sioux Falls , South Dakota before attending the University of Michigan . Dworsky was a four @-@ year starter for Fritz Crisler 's Michigan Wolverines football teams from 1945 to 1948 . He played linebacker , fullback , and center for the Michigan Wolverines and was a key player on the undefeated 1947 and 1948 Michigan football teams that won consecutive national championships . The 1947 team , anchored by Len Ford , Alvin Wistert , Dworsky and Rick Kempthorn , has been described as the best team in the history of Michigan football . Dworsky won a total of six varsity letters at Michigan , four in football and two in wrestling where he competed in the heavyweight division . Dworsky is among the famous Jews in football , and has been extensively profiled in encyclopedic Jewish publications . Dworsky married the former Sylvia Ann Taylor on August 10 , 1957 . The couple has three children : Douglas , Laurie and Nancy . They reside in Los Angeles , California .

= = = 1947 season = = =

The 1947 Michigan Wolverines football team went 10 @-@ 0 and outscored their opponents 394 to 53 . Dworsky led a defensive unit that gave up an average of 5 @.@ 3 points per game and shut out Michigan State (55 ? 0) , Pitt (60 ? 0) , Indiana (35 ? 0) , Ohio State (21 ? 0) , and USC (49 ? 0) . He also played fullback and center for the 1947 team and was named a third team All @-@ American by the American Football Coaches Association .

In a 1988 interview with the Los Angeles Times , Dworsky described the 1947 team 's defensive scheme as follows : " We were an intelligent team and we had some complex defenses , the nature of which you see today . I called the defensive signals and we would shift people , looping , or stunting . "

After going undefeated and winning the Big Ten championship , Michigan was invited to Pasadena to face the USC Trojans in the 1948 Rose Bowl ? the Wolverines ' first bowl game since 1901 . Just before Christmas , the team boarded a train in Ann Arbor for a three @-@ day trip across the country . With little to do on the train , Alvin Wistert recalled that Dworsky entertained the team with music . " Dan Dworsky was a piano player . We 'd gather around and sing . There was a piano in the last car . "

After the long trip , the Wolverines beat the Trojans 49 ? 0 . Dworsky recalled that the coaching staff did an excellent job of scouting the Trojans . " When we went to the Rose Bowl , we had USC down pat . We knew their system as well as they did . " The Trojans gained only 91 yards rushing and 42 yards passing , moving past midfield only twice . Dworsky played center during the Rose Bowl , blocking USC 's All @-@ American tackle (and future Los Angeles city councilman) , John Ferraro .

In Dworsky 's collegiate days , the final national rankings were determined before the bowl games . At the end of the regular season in 1947 , Michigan was ranked No. 2 behind Notre Dame , but after

defeating USC 49 ? 0 in the Rose Bowl , the Associated Press held a special poll , and Michigan replaced Notre Dame as the national champion by a vote of 226 to 119 . Dworsky later noted , " Notre Dame still claims that national championship and so do we . "

= = = 1948 season = = =

The 1948 Michigan Wolverines football team went 9 ? 0 and outscored their opponents 252 to 44 . The defensive unit led by Dworsky held its opponents to just 4 @.@ 9 points per game , including shutouts against Oregon (14 ? 0) , Purdue (40 ? 0) , Northwestern (28 ? 0) , Navy (35 ? 0) , and Indiana (54 ? 0) . The 1948 Wolverines finished the season ranked No. 1 by the AP , but Big Ten Conference rules prohibited a team from playing in the Rose Bowl two years in a row . Dworsky did , however , play in the 1948 Blue @-@ Gray All Star game .

= = = Relationship with Fritz Crisler = = =

Dworsky was a four @-@ year starter under Michigan ? s legendary coach , Fritz Crisler . Dworsky later said that Crisler ? s " real genius " was in blending all the elements . The 1947 championship team included several older veteran players who had returned from military service . Dworsky recalled : " About half of us were 18 @-@ year old kids , and half were veterans . We had guys who were serious guys and guys who were excitable . Fritz struck a balance , so we never had to be pushed , but we never lost our focus either . "

Dworsky recalled : " Crisler was not only an intellectual in strategy , but also in the way he ran practices He ran practices rigidly and we called him ' The Lord . ' He would allow it to rain , or not . He was a Douglas MacArthur @-@ type figure , handsome and rigid I sculpted him and gave him the bust in 1971 . " Dworsky also kept another bust of Crisler in his office .

= = = Professional football with the Los Angeles Dons = =

In 1949 , Dworsky was the first round draft pick of the Los Angeles Dons of the All @-@ America Football Conference . The Dons were the first professional football team in Los Angeles . Dworsky played eleven games with the Dons in 1949 , his only season in professional football . Dworsky played linebacker and blocking back for the Dons and had one interception and one kick return for 14 yards . The AAFC disbanded after the 1949 season , and Dworsky turned down an offer from the Pittsburgh Steelers to return to the University of Michigan where he graduated in 1950 with a degree in architecture . Dworsky later noted : " It was a toss @-@ up whether I would become a pro football player or an architect . Being a linebacker is good conditioning for a young designer . You learn to block the bull coming at you from all sides . "

= = = Career as an architect = =

= = = Overview of Dworsky 's practice = = =

After receiving his degree in architecture in 1950 , Dworsky moved to Los Angeles and served as an apprentice in the early 1950s with prominent local early modernists William Pereira , Raphael Soriano , and Charles Luckman . In 1953 , Dworsky began his own architecture firm in Los Angeles , known as Dworsky Associates . The firm grew into one of the most prominent architectural firms in California , creating major public buildings in California . Dworsky Associates won the 1984 Firm of the Year Award from the California Council of the American Institute of Architects . In September 2000 , Dworsky Associates merged with CannonDesign and ceased to operate as an independent firm .

= = = Architectural style = = =

Dworsky belongs to the generation of post World War II modernists which took its cues from the 1920s German Bauhaus and the French Swiss master Le Corbusier . In 1988 , Dworsky noted : " I am most intrigued by the essential mystery of architecture . For me , built space will always be a kind of theater , a stage on which life is played , and played out . That ' s why I keep on being an architect . Asked what inspires his architecture , Dworsky said he draws from the " solid , resolved concepts " of modern designers such as Le Corbusier and Marcel Bruer , while being encouraged on occasion to experiment by such " new wave " designers as Frank Gehry and Eric Owen Moss .

= = = Crisler Arena and the Block " M " = = =

Dworsky ' s first major commission was to design a basketball arena for his alma mater , the University of Michigan . The members of the 1947 Michigan Wolverines football team had reunions with Fritz Crisler every five years in Ann Arbor , and it was at one of those reunions that Crisler (by then the school ' s athletic director) gave Dworsky one of his big breaks , asking him to design the arena . Built in 1967 , the arena was named Crisler Arena , as a tribute to the coach . Dworsky ' s design of the arena was well received and was said to demonstrate " his ability to combine majesty of scale with human accessibility . " The roof of Crisler Arena is made of two plates , each weighing approximately 160 tons . The bridge like construction allows them to expand or contract given the change of seasons or the weight of the snow . Crisler Arena remains the home of Michigan ' s basketball team and houses memorabilia and trophies from all Wolverine varsity athletic teams .

In 1965 , the wooden benches at Michigan Stadium were replaced with blue fiberglass benches . Dworsky designed a yellow " Block M " for the stands on the eastern side of the stadium , just above the tunnel .

= = = Drake Stadium at UCLA = = =

After his work on Crisler Arena , Dworsky was commissioned by UCLA to design a track and field stadium on the university ' s central campus . Dworsky designed the stadium , known as Drake Stadium . Since its inaugural meet on February 22 , 1969 , the stadium has been the site of numerous championship meets , including the National AAU track & field championships in 1976 , 1977 , and 1978 . It is also used each year for special campus events , such as the annual UCLA Commencement Exercises in June .

= = = Major works = = =

The major works credited to Dworsky and his firm include the following :

The Jerry Lewis Neuromuscular Research Center at UCLA (1979) .

The Tom Bradley International Terminal at Los Angeles International Airport (1984) .

A 35 acres (0 .055 sq mi ; 0 .142 km²) planned community complex for the California School for the Blind in Fremont , California . The design won a merit award from the California AIA .

The Theater Arts Building at California State University Dominguez Hills . Dworsky cited the theater as one of his favorite projects . Photograph of Building

The Angelus Plaza residential complex in the Bunker Hill area of downtown Los Angeles (1982)
Photograph of Building

The Ventura County Jail .

The Los Angeles Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank located at Grand Avenue and Olympic Boulevard in downtown Los Angeles (1987) . Dworsky Associates won several awards for its design of the 304 ,000 square feet (28 ,200 m²) , \$ 50 million building . Photograph of Building

The Northrop Electronics Division Headquarters in Hawthorne , California . Dworsky Associates received a Gold Nugget Grand Award for Best Commercial Office Building and top honors in the

Crescent Architecture Awards competition for the design .

The Kilroy Airport Center in Long Beach , California , a complex of office buildings fronting the 405 Freeway with direct runway access to the Long Beach Airport for private aircraft (1987) .

Photograph of Building

The Westwood Terrace building on Sepulveda Boulevard in West Los Angeles , California occupied by New World Entertainment. Photograph of Building

The 20 @-@ story City Tower in Orange , California near the intersection of the Garden Grove (22) and Santa Ana (5) freeways in Orange County . Photograph of Building

The Home Savings building on Ventura Boulevard in Sherman Oaks , California .

The Metropolitan , a 14 @-@ story upscale rental complex in downtown Los Angeles ? South Park area .

The Van Nuys Municipal Court building in Van Nuys , California . Dworsky Associates received the Kaufman & Broad Award for Outstanding New Public or Civic Project for the design .

The Federal Office Building in Long Beach , California . Dworsky Associates was awarded a 1992 Design Award from the General Services Administration for its design of the federal building .

The renovation of the Carnation Building at 5055 Wilshire Boulevard in Hollywood . The renovated building was occupied by The Hollywood Reporter , Billboard , and other entertainment industry companies .

The Beverly Hills Main Post Office in Beverly Hills , California . Dworsky Associates received a Beautification Award from the Los Angeles Business Council for the design .

The San Joaquin County Jail in French Camp , California . Shortly after the prison opened , six prisoners escaped after cutting through a one @-@ inch bar in the dayroom with a hacksaw . The prison break led to finger @-@ pointing among the construction firm , the architect , and the prison guards over who was responsible for the lapse in security .

The UC Riverside Alumni and Visitors Center (1996) . Photographs

The Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza , a project on which Dworsky Associates teamed with New Mexico architect Antoine Predock . The New Mexico chapter of the AIA gave Predock and Dworsky Associates an award in 1996 for their work on the Civic Arts Plaza .

The Calexico Port of Entry building in Calexico , California . The innovative design won the highest award from the California AIA , and it won a Presidential Design Award from President Bill Clinton . Photos and Drawings of Award Winning Calexico Port of Entry

Beckman Hall at Chapman University in Orange , California (1999) . Photograph of Building

The Lloyd D. George Federal Courthouse in Las Vegas , Nevada (2000) . Photographs of Courthouse

The Hollywood @-@ Highland station on the Metro Red Line (LACMTA) in the heart of Hollywood . Photograph of Station

= = = Awards and honors = = =

Dworsky has received numerous national , regional and community awards for design excellence , including the following :

Dworsky ? s numerous award @-@ winning projects in his first 14 years of practice led to his election to the American Institute of Architects College of Fellows at the early age of 41 .

Gold Medal Award from the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Service from the American Institute of Architects , California Council , awarded in 2004 . In granting the award , the Council noted that Dworsky had " made a major , positive impact on California architecture " and his " strong , simple sculpted work has provided a compelling statement for California architecture the past half century . "

He was voted one of the twelve most distinguished architects in Los Angeles .

Dworsky Associates won the 1984 Firm of the Year Award from the American Institute of Architects , California Council , for ? excellence in design of distinguished architecture ? and reaching for a livelier style beyond the boundaries of conventional modernism . ?

He was honored by the Southern California Institute of Architecture in May 1986 for his professional

accomplishments and his efforts on behalf of the school's scholarship program .

Dworsky was awarded a \$ 3 @. @ 5 million grant by the California Board of Corrections in 1982 to study the idea of the modular jail .

Dworsky served on the Architectural Evaluation Board for the County of Los Angeles .

Dworsky also served on the board of directors and the ? directors circle ? of the Southern California Institute of Architecture .

= = = Walt Disney Concert Hall controversy = = =

In February 1989 , the Walt Disney Concert Hall Committee selected Dworsky as executive architect to work with designated architect Frank Gehry in designing the future home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic . Dworsky was selected to translate Gehry 's conceptual designs into working drawings that would meet building code specifications . By 1994 , the cost of the project had skyrocketed to \$ 160 million (it eventually reached \$ 274 million) , and controversy halted the project . By 1996 , a major donor was sought to complete the project by 2001 (four years behind schedule) . Gehry and his design came under fire , and some considered him a spoiled , impractical artist .

Gehry publicly blamed Dworsky : ? The executive architect was incapable of doing drawings that had this complexity . We helped select that firm . I went to Daniel , supposedly a friend , and I said , ' This is going to fail and we now have the capability to do it , so let us ghost @-@ write it . ' ? Dworsky refused . Gehry was also quoted in the Los Angeles Times as saying : ? We had the wrong executive architect doing the drawings . I helped pick him , I ? m partly responsible . It brought us to a stop . ? Gehry told Los Angeles magazine in 1996 that he ? no longer speaks to his former friend (Dworsky) . ? Gehry continued his public attacks on Dworsky : ? He (Dworsky) made a lot of money . He begged me for the job . I ? d like to shoot him . ?

Dworsky was eventually told to stop working on the drawings before he completed them , but he defended himself against Gehry ? s criticism . ? Knowledgeable people were supportive of us . They were saying it ? s a very complex and unusual design , and they can understand the difficulties in trying to achieve this within a limited budget and a limited schedule . It was unfortunate that Frank came out with his criticism , but he was the center of the storm , having designed the building , and he was just trying to lessen the blame on himself . ?

Dworsky also told the Los Angeles Times : ? This is a one @-@ of @-@ a @-@ kind building . You just don ? t simply open up the plans and understand them quickly . ? Dworsky 's allies refer to Gehry 's work as " confusing " . Disney Hall official Frederick M. Nicholas also defended Dworsky ? s work against Gehry ? s attacks , denying that there were any problems with the Dworsky drawings not attributable to fast @-@ tracking . Nicholas said : " They were not ' bad ' drawings . It was a question of the subs not understanding them . "