

ALBERT KAHN DIES; FAMOUS ARCHITECT

**Creator of Willow Run Made
Revolutionary Changes in the
Design of Industrial Plants**

'MAN WHO BUILT DETROIT'

**Directed Construction of 500
Soviet Factories—Erected
Hospitals and Shipyards**

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DETROIT, Dec. 8—Albert Kahn, world-famous architect and engineer, often referred to as "the man who built Detroit," who supervised the construction of much of the industrial plant of Soviet Russia, died in his home here this morning at the age of 73. He had been suffering from a bronchial ailment for several days.

He leaves a widow, Ernestine; a son, Dr. Edgar Kahn, and three daughters, Mrs. S. L. Winston, Mrs. Edward Rothman and Mrs. Martin Butzel. His brother, Julius Kahn, died recently.

His Work in 1,000 Cities

Albert Kahn was the fastest and most prolific builder of modern industrial plants in the world. As the father of modern industrial design he revolutionized the concept of what a great factory should be; his designs made possible the marvels of modern mass production, and his buildings changed the faces of a thousand cities and towns from Detroit to Novosibirsk.

Much of the United Nations' war production is flowing today from war plants designed by him and erected or converted almost overnight—some of them, such as the new Ford Willow Run bomber plant, conceived on a scale undreamed of only a few years ago.

A catalogue of the buildings designed by Albert Kahn runs to astonishing figures. He drew up plans for more than 1,000 factories and buildings for Henry Ford alone; he designed 127 major buildings for General Motors, he designed upward of 500 factories in twenty-five cities of the Soviet Union under the first Five Year Plan, as well as hundreds of other structures here and abroad—hospitals, university buildings, office buildings, newspaper plants, shipyards, aviation, naval and Army bases.

From his drawing board emerged the first "all-under-one-roof" concept of factory construction, and later the "all-on-one-floor" design, which was to provide the revolutionary housing idea for the conveyor belt and mass production innovations in American industry.

In four decades his firm supervised the building of \$2,000,000,000 worth of industrial structures alone.

Born in Ruhr District

Albert Kahn was born in the town of Rhaunen, near Germany's Ruhr Basin, on March 21, 1869, the son of Joseph and Rosalie Kahn. The family emigrated to the United States when Albert was 11, and as soon as it was settled in Detroit, Albert looked for work and took the first job that was offered him—apprentice in an architect's office. The young boy had a hard time of it until one day Julius Melchers, father of the artist, Gari Melchers, happened to talk to him and was sufficiently impressed with the boy to take him into the Melchers Sunday morning drawing class. Melchers soon placed Albert with the Detroit architect George D. Mason, and there the boy began the fourteen hard years he devoted to learning his craft.

Mr. Kahn's first large commission was the building for Henry B. Joy of a new factory for the Packard Motor Car Company. He was assisted in this task by his brothers, Julius, Louis, Moritz and Felix.

Work in First World War

By the outbreak of the first World War Mr. Kahn's fame as an industrial designer was secure. He built camps, warehouses, airfields, hangars all over the country and designed altogether some \$200,000,000 worth of construction for the military-aviation section during the conflict.

After the war the Kahn firm continued to expand its operations. Mr. Kahn's design of the Standard Club in Chicago, his General Motors Building in Detroit, his University of Michigan buildings are looked upon as outstanding examples of his work outside the field of industrial design.

His design for the Brooklyn building of THE NEW YORK TIMES at Third Avenue between Pacific and Dean Streets, erected in 1930, won first prize in a competition held under the auspices of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce in 1931. In 1932 Mr. Kahn designed an addition to The New York Times Annex on West Forty-third Street, Manhattan.



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