Internationally renowned architect Fay Jones, FAIA, (1921–2004) chose to live and work in the wooded hills of the Ozarks. Rooted in his native Arkansas, far from design centers on the east and west coasts, Jones created a unique style that stands apart from architectural trends. Celebrated for his soaring sacred spaces and residential designs responsive to their natural settings, Jones won recognition from the American Institute of Architects as one of the country’s “10 most influential living architects,” placing him on a list that included I.M. Pei, Robert Venturi, and Michael Graves. In 2000, the AIA ranked Jones’ Thorncrown Chapel in Eureka Springs as the fourth best building by an American architect in the 20th century.

Jones’ designs feature the clean lines of the mid-century’s modernism warmed by native materials and his own vocabulary of form and pattern. Though deeply influenced by the work of his mentor, Frank Lloyd Wright, Jones developed his own style shaped by his admiration for architectural history and reverence for craft. Jones’ early engineering studies prompted him to reveal structural elements that became a key design feature in buildings such as Thorncrown Chapel in Eureka Springs. Other influences included California architects Greene and Greene, Bernard Maybeck, Richard Neutra and, more directly, Bruce Goff, Jones’ colleague at the University of Oklahoma from 1951–53.

Throughout his career, Jones employed careful siting and Wrightian elements such as broad roofs, clerestory windows, and skylights to develop energy conscious designs suffused with natural light. Jones’ love of nature permeates his work.

“...these buildings were not made to be fashionable or to win prizes, but really, only to please those who would use them...and to belong to the places where they’re built.”

Fay Jones
Fay Jones focused primarily on small projects, designing 140 homes and 15 chapels and churches in 21 states across the United States. Here, we present a sampling of Fay Jones projects located in Fayetteville, his home for more than 50 years, plus two nearby chapels that brought him international recognition. These projects span Jones’ career and include residential, commercial, and religious structures.