

## **Nomination**

**July 15, 2014**

I, Peter van Dijk, FAIA recommend the **University of Akron Polymer Science Building** for an Ohio AIA 25 year Building Award. Most of Richard Fleischman's buildings are light in structure and also, light-filled. The Polymer Science Building on the University of Akron campus is a great example.

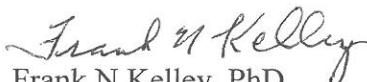
This is a very pleasant environment in which to work and learn. The well organized plan leads to a strong three-dimensional form. It is hard to believe that it is already older 25 years.

**Peter van Dijk, FAIA**  
2259 Chestnut Hills Dr  
Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4602  
T: (216) 721.9005  
E: vandijkarchitect@gmail.com

Richard Fleischman Architects  
1020 Huron Rd E  
Cleveland, OH 44115

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I wish to support the nomination of the Polymer Science Building (Goodyear Polymer Center) at the University of Akron for the Ohio AIA 25-Year Award. The building was designed by Richard Fleischman Architects. I was the dean of the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering at the University for 18 years before my retirement in 2006, and had worked with Mr. Fleischman on the original concept for the building and throughout its planning and construction. My colleagues and I have enjoyed the many features of the building: offices, laboratories, lecture halls and public spaces, which matched our needs and, particularly, the culture of a research intensive academic program. The building has achieved the status of an icon for the city of Akron and beyond; even to the international polymer community which has gathered there for major conferences and many have seen pictures of it at the beginning of each of our lectures abroad. The open spaces, namely, the large lobbies and atria are used by corporations, civic groups and institutions such as the National Inventors Hall of Fame for gala events. We are obviously very proud of the acclaim and recognition that the building has garnered. It should be noted that the building is still very impressive to all who have visited it and has remained as functional as the first day it opened. I visit frequently and can attest to its value in attracting the best faculty, and the over 300 graduate students who occupy it day and night. The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company was, and is, proud to have its name connected to the building as a result of its generous contributions to the program.

  
Frank N Kelley, PhD  
Dean and Professor Emeritus

fkelly@uakron.edu