

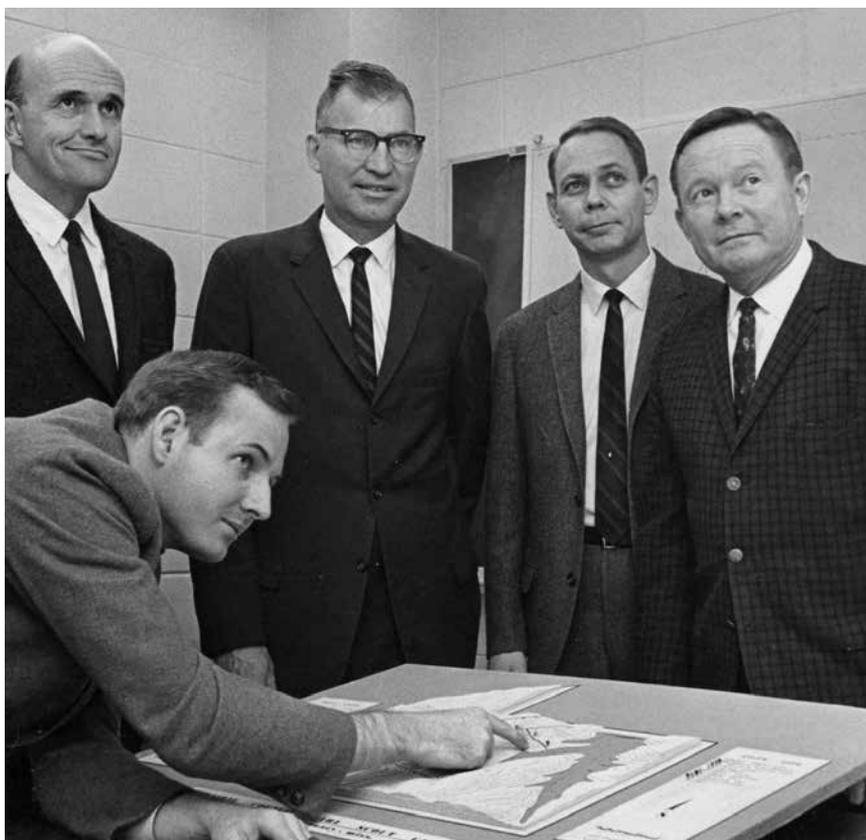
A young Bill Lutrick (left) meets with representatives from the Girl Scout Council to discuss his senior project, a master plan for a 360-acre program center for the area council. (Photo submitted)

William E. Lutrick

William E. (Bill) Lutrick graduated with a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture in Fall 1968, becoming the first student to be awarded the BLA degree. Originally, Lutrick wanted to be an architect, however, during the 1960s, no colleges in Mississippi offered an architectural degree. He started at MSU as a liberal arts major, but once he heard about the new landscape architecture department, he switched majors and has spent nearly 50 years in a career he loves.

DESCRIBE AN MSU MEMORY. My first year at State was 1963. There was a lot going on nationwide at that time, but MSU was a safe haven where students enjoyed college life and focused on getting an education. The campus became my home. My parents passed away while I was in college so the curriculum, faculty, and fellow students became my life and my family at that particular time. I was truly blessed to be in the right place at the right time.

DISCUSS YOUR CAREER JOURNEY. For my senior project, I had the opportunity to master plan a 360-acre program center for the area Girl Scout Council. Immediately after graduation, I earned a Master's of Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Mississippi. Following graduation, the Girl Scouts hired me in the Atlanta office as one of six regional landscape architects across the U.S. Five years later, a career change placed me in the field of large tract planning and design that included commercial and residential development. A specific career influencing project was the design of the Butterfield Trail Commerce Park at the El Paso International Airport. As the



result of the project, the airport director hired me as the director of planning and development, shifting my career to the aviation industry for the next thirty-five years. The EPIA project became known as the first large scale, non-aviation project intended for the revenue diversification on an airport. The international aviation industry became a key part of my career and included projects across the globe.

HOW DID YOUR DEGREE PREPARE YOU?

Landscape architecture gave me the vocabulary to communicate between different disciplines. Landscape architecture also taught me to create value through the programming, planning, and design, particularly as it relates to the user, their activities, and associated space. This vocabulary also provides the insight and knowledge to make quick and quality adjustments to field issues.

DISCUSS YOUR CURRENT CAREER FOCUS.

Since retiring, the opportunity has presented itself to combine my interests in historical preservation research, writing,

and large-format black and white photography. In 1980, I was privileged to be selected to participate at the Ansel Adams Workshop at Yosemite National Park, California. The personal, technical, and visual tutelage by one of the great black and white photographers helped me fine-tune my craft. Recently, I have had the opportunity to put those skills to work, participating in the Federal Heritage Documentation Program and the companion Historic American Landscape Survey. Administered by the National Park Service, documentation produced through this program constitutes one of the largest archives of the historic landscapes. The projects consist of large-format photographic negatives, measured drawings, and a written report maintained in a special collection at the Library of Congress. The large-format negatives are stored with a film longevity anticipated in excess of five hundred years. I presently have twenty-two images in the special collection with the anticipation of an additional fourteen in 2017 with two projects being undertaken in North Carolina.