

Matthews Street House watercolor

Thomas Gordon Smith

"I designed Matthews Street House for an empty lot in Berkeley, California in 1978 with the idea of using economical construction methods and salvaged columns to make a house for my young family. The cost was prohibitive, however, and instead of being constructed, the design was exhibited in three museums and widely published, including in Newsweek Magazine. To me, the house still signifies the potential for the rebirth of classical architecture."
Thomas Gordon Smith

Technique: Watercolour of the facade

Courtesy DAM Collection



Thomas Gordon Smith combined the practice of architecture and teaching. Smith taught at UCLA, Sci-Arch, Yale University, and the University of Illinois, Chicago before he was appointed chairman of the School of Architecture at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, where he transformed the School into a classical program. Smith won the Rome Prize in Architecture at the American Academy in Rome in 1979 and his façade and architectural designs contributed to the Strada Novissima Venice Biennale, The Presence of the Past, in 1980.

Smith's publications include *Classical Architecture: Rule and Invention*, *Vitruvius on Architecture*, and books related to early 19th century American architecture and furniture. Professional projects include architectural design for the Benedictine Annunciation Abbey at Clear Creek in Oklahoma; Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Nebraska; the Classical Galleries in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC; several university buildings in California and Indiana; and residences built in California, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and South Carolina.