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“Hiding in Plain Sight: The Architecture of Charles M. Robinson”

RICHMOND, VA September 10, 2019 — The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design is pleased to announce, **“Hiding in Plain Sight: The Architecture of Charles M. Robinson,”** an exhibition exploring the life and works of one of Virginia’s most prolific architects. The exhibit (October 3, 2019-January 5, 2020) will feature architectural renderings, photographs, and ephemera pertaining to the life and works of the architect Charles M. Robinson, whose career spanned from 1889 to 1932. The exhibit has a particular focus on Robinson’s prolific work on the design of educational facilities in Virginia.

In 1889, at the age of 22, Charles M. Robinson established his first architectural firm in Pennsylvania, where he designed over 60 buildings. In 1906, Robinson returned to his native Virginia and established his independent architectural firm in Richmond. During his long career, Robinson amassed commissions for the designs of hundreds of buildings across the Commonwealth, specializing as a school architect for institutions including, but not limited to, The College of William & Mary, University of Richmond, James Madison University, University of Mary Washington, Virginia State University, and the public school systems for localities such as Richmond, Henrico, and Portsmouth, among others. He was the official school architect for public school districts throughout Virginia and revolutionized approaches to school design that served to advance health and economy. Many of Robinson’s designs are familiar to Richmond residents as part of their day-to-day experiences, though probably without their knowledge—hidden in plain sight.

**Gallery Talk on Charles M. Robinson:
*Charles M. Robinson’s Richmond***

On October 17, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., Edwin Slipek will deliver a gallery talk at the Branch Museum: ***Charles M. Robinson’s Richmond***. The talk will focus on Charles M. Robinson’s architectural legacy in Richmond where much of his work still stands today. Details can be found and tickets purchased on the Branch Museum Website www.branchmuseum.org.

A native son, Edwin Slipek has examined Richmond's every block and alley. After studying at Boston University and Virginia Commonwealth University he remained in his home town to study its past. Formerly architecture critic for the Richmond Mercury, Slipek is currently senior contributing editor at Style Weekly where he has been architecture critic for 15 years. He is an adjunct professor of architectural history at VCU. For his writing and teaching, Slipek was awarded Honorary Membership in the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects. Professional bio source: www.architecturerichmond.com

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The Branch Museum of Architecture and Design is located at 2501 Monument Avenue in Richmond, Virginia's historic Fan District. The Branch is a not-for-profit organization that inspires current generations to appreciate, support and create exemplary architecture and design. The Branch is dedicated to the advocacy and stewardship of our rich regional heritage and invites the public to envision a world enriched by architecture and design. The Branch is open to the public Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. Learn more at www.branchmuseum.org.

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