Fort Atkinson Historic Preservation Commission &

The Hoard Historical Museum

Press Release October 27, 2017

“I Let My Buildings Do The Talking”

The Life and Work of Helmut Ajango

Presented By Jim Draeger

The Fort Atkinson Historic Preservation Commission and the Hoard Historical Museum are pleased to co-sponsor an upcoming program, on Sunday, November 12, at 2:00 p.m. “I Let My Buildings Do The Talking,” a presentation about acclaimed architect, Helmut Ajango. State Historic Preservation Officer Jim Draeger, will present architectural highlights of Estonia born architect, Helmut Ajango. Jim Draeger has worked at the Wisconsin Historical Society for 30 years. He is the co-author of several national award-winning books. The Ajango family has donated much of Helmut’s papers and files to the State Historical Society.

Helmut came to the United States as a refugee following WWII. He attended college in Ohio, and started his draftsman career there. He eventually came to Fort Atkinson where he and wife Martha, raised 3 children. In Fort Atkinson, Helmut designed private homes and commercial structures, such as the Fireside Dinner Theater and the Bank of Fort/Johnson Bank building. His work includes government buildings, such as the Fort Atkinson Municipal building renovation and the MATC-Madison College Campus, and houses of worship, including Grace United Presbyterian Church. His multi-family buildings included the Talcott Condominiums and the River View Manor. Helmut designed over 175 churches, and other iconic buildings, including The Gobbler Motel and Restaurant in Johnson Creek, and Fairhaven Senior Housing in Whitewater.

The museum is located at 401 Whitewater Avenue in Fort Atkinson. This program is free, and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. For more information, call the museum at 920.563.7769 or visit the web site at [www.hoardmuseum.org](http://www.hoardmuseum.org).