

Top ranking

K- Univ. of KS Buildings and Grounds

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Author rates KU campus architecture

By TIM CARPENTER
J-W Staff Writer

The Kansas University campus in Lawrence is one of the most architecturally pleasing in the nation, according to a new book.

Author Thomas Gaines of Hampton, Conn., said KU's distinctive buff-colored limestone and red-tiled roofs helped it earn the No. 13 ranking.

His new 180-page book, "The Campus as a Work of Art," names the 50 college and university campuses most worthy of recognition.

"I expect a great number of disagreements," he said.

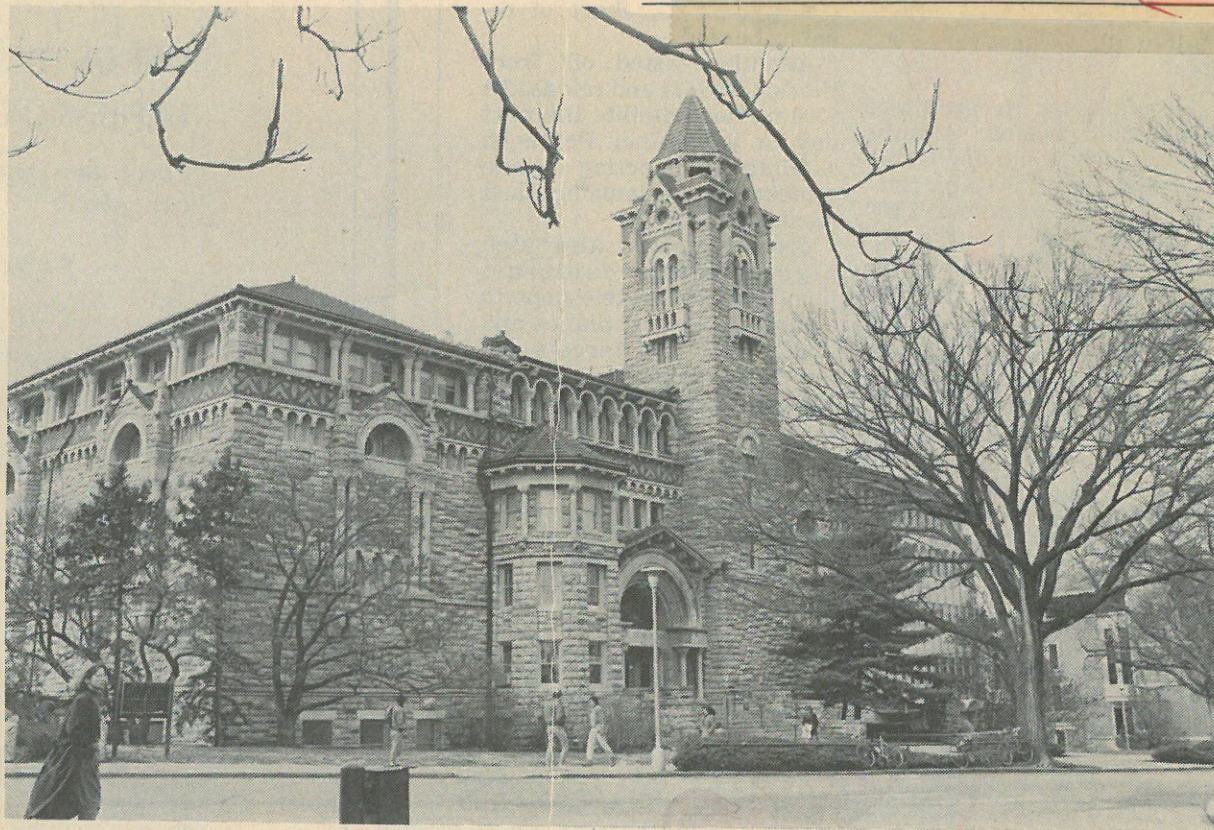
Gaines, a retired architect, visited hundreds of campuses during 30 years. He recently flew himself by private plane to selected schools.

The goal was to find the campuses that came closest to his artistic ideal — well-scaled college grounds, harmonious buildings, professional landscaping.

"Campuses should be an art form. After all, they're man-made and a cultural center. If we can't do it right on campuses, we ought to hang our head in shame," he said.

GAINES SAID he was impressed with KU's Dyche Hall, calling it the university's "signature structure."

"It is encrusted with old world architecture elements like pinnacled pavilions, multisided



(Staff photo by Mike Yoder)

Author and retired architect Thomas Gaines said he was impressed with Kansas University's Dyche Hall, calling it the university's "signature structure."

Alto, Calif.; Princeton (N.J.) University; Wellesley (Mass.) College; University of Colorado, Boulder; Indiana University, Bloomington; Evergreen State College, Olympia, Wash.; Columbia University, N.Y., N.Y.; Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass.; Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology; and State University of New York, Albany.

Gaines spent nine months revisiting campuses and writing the book.

"The main work was deciding which of the hundreds of cam-

element to him was whether a campus had "urban space" — a mix of buildings, trees, fountains and outdoor furnishings.

"A campus should be diverse and well-scaled with narrow paths opening to wide areas and closing with narrow paths. Not too many campuses have really done that," he said.

"Buildings should be distinctive, but not clash too greatly. That eliminates a lot of campuses," he said.

He said Harvard's famous yard could have been more

buildings marching around the yard, not belonging at all. That's not the way to make a cohesive whole," he said.

In selecting the Top 50, the utility of campus structures — such as whether the plumbing worked, for example — wasn't a factor. Neither was style, Gaines said.

"I DIDN'T eliminate a campus just on style or if it was falling apart. This was strictly aesthetics," he said.

Gaines said when architects ignore art and beauty univer-