

2018 SAH AWARD FOR FILM AND VIDEO

Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future

Peter Rosen, Director

Peter Rosen Productions, 2016

Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future is a film about one of mid-century America's most successful yet least critically celebrated architects. Directed and co-produced by Peter Rosen for the PBS American Masters series, it narrates the trajectory of Saarinen's architectural career from the moment in 1947 when he unexpectedly triumphed over his father, Eliel, in the St. Louis Gateway Arch competition, to his untimely death at the age of 51. Woven into this account of an architect and his buildings is another, more personal story of fathers and sons. The narrative of Eero's emergence from under the long shadow of his famous father is elegantly paralleled by the coming to terms of Eero's son, Eric Saarinen (the film's director of photography and co-producer), with the father who abandoned him at an early age. In the end, the architect is redeemed by his buildings. The exhilarating cinematography, which incorporates cutting-edge drone footage, conveys a vivid sense of the glamorous spaces Saarinen created over the course of his brief career. The great accomplishment of *Eero Saarinen: The Architect Who Saw the Future* is its masterful use of the medium of film to celebrate architecture itself.

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