The Plym Foundation Endowed Library Collection in Architecture was created in honor of Lawrence J. Plym by the Plym Foundation, a charitable organization established in 1952 that focuses on education in the United States.

Larry Plym was a longtime friend and supporter of the University and was president of Kawneer Co., Niles Broadcasting, and the Daily Star. He was also vice president of AMAX and served on many boards, including the Swedish Council of America. He attended the University of Illinois and graduated from Babson College in 1929. The father of three children, Sarah P. Campbell, J. Eric Plym, and Andrew J. Plym, he was the recipient of the Babson Medal for Distinguished Leadership in 1983, received an honorary doctoral degree from Hillsdale College in 1989, and was awarded the Order of the Polar Star. A strong believer that America’s heritage must be defended, he felt that the best way to preserve it was through the education of its citizenry.

The Plym Foundation Collection focuses on the acquisition of materials for the study of vernacular and traditional architecture. These strong collections complement the School of Architecture’s emphasis on classical architecture and theory, while expanding upon the notion of classicism to encompass traditions in various cultures. Holdings reflect the study of traditional building design throughout the world—in both rural and urban contexts—allowing for the examination of traditional settlements and structures from the broadest possible geographic, historical, and cultural perspectives.