

*The*  
**TEXAS**  
**ARCHITECT**

*August*  
1950

THE TEXAS SOCIETY  
OF ARCHITECTS

## OFFICERS

President

**EDWARD L. WILSON**  
209 Majestic Building  
Fort Worth, Texas

Vice-President

**EUGENE WERLIN**  
3501 Buffalo Drive  
Houston, Texas

Secretary-Treasurer

**ROBERT P. WOLTZ, JR.**  
810 Dan Waggoner Building  
Fort Worth, Texas

## DIRECTORS

Central Texas

**LEE ROY BUTTRILL**  
P. O. Box 45  
Temple, Texas

Coastal Bend

**NAT W. HARDY**  
59 Country Club Place  
Corpus Christi, Texas

Dallas

**THOMAS D. BROAD**  
618 Reserve Loan Life Building  
Dallas, Texas

El Paso

**OTTO H. THORMAN**  
El Paso National Bank Building  
El Paso, Texas

Houston

**FRED MACKIE**  
2713 Ferndale Place  
Houston, Texas

Fort Worth

**HUBERT HAMMOND CRANE**  
3711 Camp Bowie Boulevard  
Fort Worth, Texas

Panhandle

**JAMES E. ATCHESON**  
204 Sanford Building  
Lubbock, Texas

Lower Rio Grande

**ZEB RIKE**  
Nelson Building  
McAllen, Texas

West Texas

**MARVIN EICKENROHT**  
Maverick Building  
San Antonio, Texas

Committees of

## THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

### COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC RELATIONS

Chairman — David C. Baer, 1202 Bissonnet, Houston

Members — R. Max Brooks and J. Robert Buffler, Austin; J. Murrell Bennett and Ralph Merrill, Dallas; Richard Licht and E. W. Carroll, El Paso; Hubert H. Crane and Alfonse W. Malin, Fort Worth; Lowell Lammers, Baytown; Albert H. Howze, Houston; E. Dexter Hamon and Nat W. Hardy, Corpus Christi; Robert I. Lockard, Lubbock; Don N. White and Richard Vander Straten, Jr., San Antonio.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COUNSEL, George Kirksey & Associates,  
1428 Commerce Building, Houston 2, Texas

# THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

The Bulletin of  
THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

Editor  
David C. Baer

Editorial Assistant  
George Kirksey & Associates

Correspondence and all material for publication in THE TEXAS ARCHITECT may be addressed to David C. Baer, Editor, T.S.A. Public Relations Committee, 1202 Bissonnet Street, Houston 6, Texas.

\*\*\*\*\*

## INSIDE THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

Mast Head, Publishing Information	1
Third Quarterly Board of Directors Meeting	
Hears Reports on Progress of TSA Projects	2
Next Board of Directors Meeting in Dallas	3
Max Abramovitz, United Nations Architect, Accepts T.S.A. Convention Seminar Invite	4
Appointed to National Committees	5
Architectural Exhibit to Feature Member's Work In Many Categories	6
Student Competition Details Will Be Submitted	7
The Present Architectural Registration Act	8
West Texas Chapter to Extend T.S.A. Convention Invite for '51	9
Merle Jones, A.I.A., Dies in Amarillo	9
Healthful Homes and Public Buildings	10
The Architect - Trained for War, An Editorial	12
Calendar of Events	13
A Progress Report on T.S.A. By Edward L. Wilson, President	14
Houston Chapter A.G.C. Approves Emergency Clause	18
Architectural School Problems Discussed At Panhandle Chapter Meeting in Lubbock	19
Regional Planning and the Small Town, By Lewis Mumford, Part 2 of a Feature Article	20



THIRD QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
HEARS REPORTS ON PROGRESS OF TSA PROJECTS

Reports from special convention Committee chairmen highlighted the third quarterly meeting of the TSA officers and Board of Directors in San Antonio June 24. Attending the business session were:

President Edward L. Wilson, Secretary-Treasurer Robert P. Woltz, Jr., C. O. Chromaster, Hubert H. Crane, all of Fort Worth; Jack Corgan, Donald Nelson, Grayson Gill, Dallas; Vice President Eugene Werlin, David C. Baer, William Ward Watkin, Fred MacKie, Jr., Walter T. Rolfe, George Kirksey, Houston; Nat W. Hardy, Corpus Christi; Wm. H. Collier, Jr., Abilene; Lee Roy Buttrill, Temple; Ralph H. Cameron, Leo M. J. Dielmann, Marvin Eickenroht, Raymond Phelps, O'Neil Ford, all of San Antonio.

The reports of the convention Exhibit Committee and Seminar Committee appear separately in this issue. Other reports and business covered included:

1. Announcement that Jack Corgan, president of the Dallas chapter, AIA, had been elected TSA Director to fill the unexpired term of Tom Broad, recently elected Director from the Texas district of the AIA.

2. Appointment of Zeb Rike, TSA Director from the newly formed Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter.

3. A report from Nat W. Hardy, chairman of the Committee for Inter-Professional Relations, that a joint rules of practice between architects and engineers had been formulated; that the Professional Engineers fee schedules had been posted with the Architects Committee, and that the Engineers request fees of architects be posted with their Committees.

4. A report from C. O. Chromaster, chairman of

the Committee to the Texas Construction Council, that the Council was attempting a hand-book for the various municipal officials on "How To Select The Individual Service Required" and "What To Expect of Each Professional Man." It was moved and seconded that this Committee be instructed to make a statement for selection of the architect within the scope of the manual.

5. A report by Raymond Phelps, chairman of the Committee to study State-Wide Fee Schedules, indicated that an investigation is still being made on the assets and liabilities of both a straight fee schedule for all types of work, and varied fees for varied types of work. He expects to have his recommendations to the Board completed at the next meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEXT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 9th IN DALLAS

A meeting of TSA Officers, Board of Directors and all Committee Chairmen has been called for 9:30 a.m., September 9th, at the Baker Hotel in Dallas.

President Edward L. Wilson urged that since this is the last meeting prior to the convention, that as many Directors and Committee Chairmen as possible attend. Members expected to attend should notify Robert P. Woltz, Jr. in Fort Worth of the probability of attendance.

Due to the lengthened agenda attendant to the convention, it is possible that the meeting will run into the evening after dinner, but President Wilson added that he will try to close early enough for out of town men to catch the night train to their homes.

Individuals planning to stay over night will be expected to make their own hotel reservations.

\* \* \* \* \*

MAX ABRAMOVITZ, UNITED NATIONS ARCHITECT,  
ACCEPTS T.S.A. CONVENTION SEMINAR INVITE

Max Abramovitz, deputy director of planning for the United Nations Permanent Headquarters, New York City, is the first Architect to accept an invitation to speak at the "Lightweight Construction" Seminar at the T.S.A. convention in Dallas in November.

Walter Rolfe of Houston, Chairman of the Convention Seminar Committee, stated that at least five other outstanding architects have also been invited. An outstanding structural engineer of Texas reputation will also be invited to relate the problems of design, fabrication and construction.

In a report to the Board of Directors at the San Antonio meeting, Mr. Rolfe recommended also that a panel of engineers, research institute directors and material producers be invited to answer questions at the two principal sessions of the Seminar.

Fabricators of lightweight materials for use in the construction industry will be asked to present exhibits including mock-up sections, pictures, movies, models and other means of visual illustration in connection with the general exhibition of the convention.

Abramovitz Has Impressive Background

Max Abramovitz, a member of the firm of Harrison & Abramovitz, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City, was born in Chicago, Ill. in 1908.

He was graduated from the University of Illinois with a B.S. in 1929, and from Columbia University in 1931 with a M.S. Further study was done at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Paris, from 1932 until 1934.

From an Instructorship in Architecture at New York



University in 1937, Mr. Abramovitz stepped to an Assistant Professor in Architecture at Yale University, where he taught until entering service in 1942.

He holds Architectural Licenses in seven states, including Texas, and in 1936 served as a member of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

The list of work of Mr. Abramovitz includes: The Clinton Hill Housing Development, Brooklyn; Infantile Paralysis Hospital, Caracas, Venezuela; Administration Building for Aluminum Company of America, Davenport; and the Astoria Houses, New York City.

#### Lightweight Construction of Universal Interest

Because of the high cost of building today, the subject chosen for the Seminar should be of interest to all architects.

There can be large and small buildings of almost any type in which lightweight construction may apply.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### APPOINTED TO NATIONAL COMMITTEES

National AIA President Ralph Walker has announced the following appointments for Texas architects:

Herbert Voelcker, to the Committee on Hospitalization and Public Health.

Karl Kamrath, to the Committee on Buildings and Grounds for the national headquarters.

David C. Baer, reappointed chairman of the Committee on Standardized Accounting for Architects.

Edward L. Wilson, to the Committee on Standardized Accounting for Architects.

Voelcker, Kamrath, and Wilson will represent the Texas district of the Institute.

\* \* \* \* \*

ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBIT TO FEATURE  
MEMBER'S WORK IN MANY CATEGORIES

The architectural exhibit at the annual TSA convention in Dallas in November will present a truly comprehensive professional display of the fine work being done by Texas architects.

Donald Nelson of Dallas, chairman of the Exhibit Committee, submitted many recommendations to the TSA Board of Directors meeting in San Antonio that will increase the value of the exhibit to both the contributors and the viewing public.

The three brackets of qualification previously agreed upon will be changed to include all possible examples of fine architecture executed by TSA members. This will include work done pre-war, but never before exhibited at any TSA convention.

All designs will be selected and reviewed at chapter level first. A fee of \$10.00 will be established for each entry. Each contributor will send his photographs and plans ready for mounting to the Dallas chapter not later than September 15. A proposed layout of the mounting may accompany the entry.

Dallas chapter members will be responsible for the mounting of all material to assure continuity in the exhibit.

Each contributor should submit with his design a full outline of construction, square footage, cubical content, cost, etc. together with the name of the owner, builder, sub-contractor, and material furnished by each sub-contractor.

Although the above material will be available, there will be no "carrying of the freight" by material companies in the exhibit, and no advertising will be permitted to appear in the exhibit other than "as the



TSA exhibition" and the regular credit lines.

Edward D. Stone of New York and Arkansas has been invited to be the Chairman of the Jury of Awards.

Awards will be made in as many categories as the Jury of Awards desires. It is probable that the awards will be in the form of metal plaques bearing the TSA seal, and awarded in duplicate. A small replica would go to the architect, and a larger plate would be provided for the winning building or design. A catalogue of the exhibition will be published.

Following the convention, the architectural exhibit will be sent to the architectural schools of Texas and to the individual chapters and cities where the exhibits would receive proper attention. Later, the individual designs will be returned fully mounted to each contributor.

\* \* \* \* \*

STUDENT COMPETITION DETAILS  
WILL BE SUBMITTED IN FALL

Submission of the TSA Student Competition program to the five Schools of Architecture in Texas has been delayed until the beginning of the school term in the fall, according to a report from Arch Swank of Dallas, chairman of the Student Competition Committee.

Two colleges requested specifically that the program be delayed. Previous plans were to have the details of the competition in the hands of the students prior to the beginning of the summer vacation.

This recommendation for delay was approved. All colleges will now receive the program at the same time.

"A Doctor's Clinic" is the subject approved by the Board for the competition. The competition is limited to fifth year architectural students of A&M College, University of Texas, Rice, Texas Tech, and the University of Houston.

THE PRESENT ARCHITECTURAL REGISTRATION ACT

By

Lee Roy Buttrill, A.I.A., Temple

The primary reason for an act requiring the registration of Architects was to safeguard the public. Certain benefits do accrue to the architectural profession, but this is incidental.

Any registration act that is going to benefit the public in this regard should define the Architect as "any person who proclaims himself as able to perform OR WHO DOES perform the practice of architecture." The present act defines both Architect and the practice of architecture, but the wording is such that any person practicing the profession, but not calling himself "Architect," is not covered by the act, and therefore, may continue in effect to practice architecture whether qualified or not. The act, when boiled down, only copyrights the name and title "Architect."

The present act states that it is: "An act to correct malpractice in the building construction industry by safeguarding the public against the irresponsible practice of the profession of architecture; ---." The intent of the act is clearly stated, but the final wording does not meet the intent.

The act also states that "The Texas State Board for Architectural Examiners shall cause the prosecution of all persons violating any of the provisions of this act, and may incur the expense reasonably necessary in that behalf." However, the annual appropriation set up for the Board by the act does not provide enough money for this purpose.

The Board can only take care of the very necessary administration and still stay within the appropriation. The architects are paying their own way, but the act prevents them from spending these needed amounts of their own money.

The act provides for an Examining Board of three members. The work connected with the administration of the act is much increased. It is causing an undue amount of work on these three Board members. There is added work due to large numbers of people who take the semi-annual examinations provided for by law; the issuing of the annual registration cards; and the big number of inquiries and other time consuming duties required of the members.

One has only to work with the members during the week of one of the examinations to fully realize the need for an increase of three to five Board members.

Until such time as all of these faults and dangers in our present act are eliminated, the intent of the act is voided, and the public welfare will be poorly served.

\* \* \* \* \*

WEST TEXAS CHAPTER TO EXTEND  
TSA CONVENTION INVITE FOR '51

The West Texas Chapter, meeting in San Antonio, voted unanimously at the last meeting to extend an invitation to the Texas Society of Architects to hold their 1951 convention in San Antonio.

Summer chapter meetings have been confined to noon luncheons and round table discussions of local problems.

\* \* \* \* \*

MERLE JONES, AIA, DIES IN AMARILLO

Members of the Texas Society of Architects have learned with extreme regret of the sudden passing of their fellow member, Merle Jones, A.I.A., in Amarillo during the latter part of July. The entire Society, and especially his close friends in the Panhandle chapter, deeply feel the loss of this young man.

In the TSA, Architect Jones served as a member of the Committee on Public Relations from Amarillo.

\* \* \* \* \*



HEALTHFUL HOMES AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

By

Thad Patrick, Jr., Engineer  
Texas State Department of Health

The complex subject of "housing" as well as public buildings can be approached from the political, economical, social, mental, structural, and environmental or health viewpoint.

Housing is like the weather in that everyone gripes about it; but with housing everyone tries to do something to change it. Even the selected bibliography on the subject consist of some 20 pages. Called "Bibliography on Housing and Health," it is prepared and distributed by the Housing and Home Finance Agency, Public Housing Administration, Washington.

Housing is related to health in numerous ways, and if you broaden the meaning of the word "health" then housing plays an even greater role. The World Health Organization defines health as a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. This implies that attention is going to be given to such items as room size, heating, lighting, ventilation, noise, and neighborhood environments by public health officials. Special notice is being given now to sanitary facilities and environmental sanitation.

In planning large housing developments that cannot be served by city utilities, it is now necessary to include financial allocations for safe water supplies, adequate sewage disposal systems, and the collection and disposal of garbage and refuse. Such items as drainage, noise, smoke and odor sources, and convenience to parks, shopping centers and transportation facilities must be considered.

Within each unit, attention should be given to eliminating health and safety hazards and providing

facilities and space for comfortable and healthful living. Adequate light and ventilation should be provided in every room. Many authorities disagree on the subject of room size and occupancy, but an allowance of 400 to 500 cubic feet for each occupant of any habitable room should be taken as the absolute minimum. Of course, stairs and steps should be designed to avoid safety hazards, as should the location of electrical outlets.

Of primary importance in any dwelling unit is the provision of facilities to meet the basic sanitation needs. Hot and cold water should be brought to a sink inside the unit, and private bathing and toilet facilities should be installed in an approved manner.

The bathroom should be available within the unit and without making it necessary for any person to pass through another bedroom. Windows and doors should be screened to prevent the entrance of mosquitoes, flies, and other insects; and attention should be given to rat-proofing the building.

The General Sanitation Law of 1945 (Article 4477-1 - Vernon's Civil Statutes) contains a section covering the health features of public buildings. Section 8 of this code reads as follows:

"Public Buildings: Any and all public buildings hereafter constructed shall have incorporated therein all such heating, ventilation, plumbing, screening, and rat-proofing features as may be necessary to properly protect the health and safety of the public."

The Texas State Department of Health will gladly consult with any person or firm on the health aspects of proposed buildings.

\* \* \* \* \*



An Editorial

THE ARCHITECT - TRAINED FOR WAR

The Architects of Texas, as well as the nation, have already begun to think in terms of any war eventuality that should develop from the presently localized Far Eastern situation. Another world conflict could mean, in a brief time, a dislocation of our civilian economy, and a curtailment of private building.

However, an international situation should not mean a cessation of activity for the Architect. As in World War II, the Architect because of his special training in varied related fields, will prove invaluable to the government, both in civilian and military positions.

The importance in civilian life was voiced recently when the U.S. Government classified Architects high among the professions to be deferred by the Reserves.

During World War II, Architects served in Washington in the planning of military camps and air installations, and other government projects. Over the nation, Architects served on civilian defense committees, and in the designing and planning of war-time production plants to turn out the tools of war.

In the military, the Architects were useful in many ways. They were the liason men between builders and the armed forces, the Army Post Engineers who supervised building construction and maintenance, the camouflage experts designing to protect military and civilian installations, the combat engineers who supplied their knowledge to overcome nature's barriers. Last, but not least, many Architects served in actual combat with the enemy on land, sea and in the air.

The American Institute of Architects earlier this



year empowered its president to appoint a Committee on National Defense to cooperate with government officials and agencies.

In preparation for any contingency, the Institute is urging all members of the American Institute of Architects to develop carefully prepared experience records in an impressive form to be used by the Institute, and to be left when the Architect visits governmental agencies. Existing architectural records already on file should be brought up to date.

Ralph Walker, national president of the Institute, said in a memo to all AIA Chapter officials, "If the architectural profession is to be effectively used during this great effort, we must be prepared to cooperate fully with the government. What we hope now is to have the architects engaged earlier this time."

\* \* \* \* \*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 9 - Next quarterly Board of Directors meeting of the Texas Society of Architects, 9:30 a.m. at the Baker Hotel in Dallas.
- Sept. 18-21 - 52nd Annual Convention of the American Hospital Association, Atlantic City, N.J.
- Sept. 25-26-27 - Semi-annual Meeting of the Institute's Board of Directors at Yosemite Valley, Calif.
- Nov. 2-3 - 11th Annual Convention of the Texas Society of Architects, at the Baker Hotel in Dallas.
- May 1951 - 83rd Annual Convention of the American Institute of Architects, Chicago, Ill.

\* \* \* \* \*

A PROGRESS REPORT ON T.S.A.  
By Ed. L. Wilson, President

The fast moving drama of International Events in the past few weeks have pushed into the background somewhat the every day affair, but sooner or later we find it necessary to devote time and thought to matters pertaining to the profession with which we are all concerned.

Our effort has been to so conduct the affairs of the Texas Society of Architects that it would continue to become more useful and valuable to its members and to merit the recognition it has gained by the public and in official government circles.

The first six months of 1950 have witnessed some interesting developments. Chief among these has been the enthusiastic interest displayed by many members of the TSA in their Society, and its possibilities for future activity. Our Committees have been working faithfully and a large number of very busy architects have been devoting their personal time and effort in doing a splendid job.

There has been some increase in membership, although as you know no additional members can be taken into TSA except as corporate members of the AIA. The state of Texas is now a separate region of the American Institute of Architects, and Tom Broad, who was formerly Regional Director for the Gulf States Region, is now Director for the Texas Region.

One of our chief projects for this year is to try to have the Texas Society of Architects recognized by the Institute as a State Organization. By that process TSA would become a Regional Association of the AIA Chapters and its unity and effectiveness would be greatly enhanced.

We have seen evidence that state officials and

departments are coming to have greater recognition of the architects of Texas as represented by TSA. We have been called upon to render services to these officials and departments as a body and this is something that could be done only by an organization such as the Texas Society of Architects.

Two examples come to mind: The Board of State Hospitals and Schools has been confronted with the job of selecting architects for its forthcoming building program. The procedure is for them to recommend to the State Board of Control certain architects for certain jobs, and under the law the Board of Control is charged with the responsibility of making contracts with the architects.

Heretofore, it has been the practice of the Board of Control to ask the architects to quote their fees and unfortunately the supposition has arisen that there may have been a possibility that the amount of the fee entered unduly into the negotiations.

At the request of these Boards, a TSA Committee was appointed to confer with these bodies in an effort to determine a fair fee for the work which could be established in advance, and thereby take the matter of fees out of the negotiations.

This was done. Tom Broad and Raymond Phelps conferred with various members of the Committees and Boards, and after considerable negotiation a schedule of fees was determined. In this way, the selection of the architects was placed on a much higher level than would have been possible under the former procedure.

Another instance of service which TSA is about to render to one of the state departments is in the case of the State Department of Education. A Committee of architects has been appointed consisting of Herbert Voelcker, Bartlett Cocke, and Ed Wilson to meet with



a Committee set up by the State Department of Education for the purpose of consulting and advising in procedures in the department relating to the checking and approval of plans for school buildings.

Here again is a service activity which could only be performed by the representatives of a state-wide Society such as TSA. We are particularly pleased that the State Department of Education has recognized the Texas Society of Architects to this extent, and naturally we are grateful for the opportunity of working on this matter.

A further indication of recognition of this Society is in the matter of selection of a Dean of Architecture for Texas University. At the request of Dean Granberry of the University, a Committee of TSA members was appointed consisting of Tom Broad, Karl Kamrath, Bartlett Cocke, and Ed Wilson to consult and advise on prospective candidates for the position.

At this date we have not heard of the selection, but a number of candidates have been considered and the Committee gave what advice it felt able to and the advice was received with appreciation. This opportunity of serving in a very worthy cause is a further reason for gratitude that we have a unified Society such as TSA.

I doubt that the University would have wished to call on any individual chapter for such service and the action of a Committee representing the state-wide organization lends weight and authority to any advice given.

It is the cause for deep appreciation on the part of your President that so many fine architects of the state have entered into the work of preparing for our forthcoming convention in Dallas in November.

At our last Board Meeting in San Antonio in June,

there were at least 20 architects from all over the state who devoted a full day to the discussions and reports and planning for the convention.

You can look for something outstanding in this convention, and something you can't afford to miss. So much time and thought by so many architects cannot fail to produce outstanding results. Detailed announcements of the program will appear in later issues of THE TEXAS ARCHITECT, so I shall not go into this more fully at this time.

I have heard comments from time to time from architects questioning the necessity for what they term two organizations in Texas among the architects. This concept springs from a misunderstanding of the functions of the AIA and the TSA. At the risk of seeming repetitious I would like to say that both organizations in no way conflict or overlap. Both are necessary.

On the one hand, we have the AIA, a national organization to which every architect should belong, fostering the high ideals of architecture and standing for everything good in the profession, welding the architects of the nation into one body, all engaged in the conscientious effort to produce better architects and better architecture.

On the other hand, we have TSA, a local organization of state-wide scope concerned with the intimate affairs of a region having its own peculiar problems to deal with. It can exert a force within Texas which could not possibly be done by a national organization.

Texans are peculiarly resistant to outside influences and a mandate from Washington, or even an opinion, will have little weight with Texas officials, Legislators or Departments, whereas a unified state

body, such as TSA can make its voice heard in the Council Chambers and is qualified to deal competently with matters of state and local nature. It can perform services which individual chapters could not do.

The benefits to be derived from TSA will be in direct proportion to the effort put into it. The Society which does much for its members has a membership which does much for the Society.

There are tremendous opportunities in Texas for development of the profession toward making it more outstanding, useful and satisfying. Our responsibilities are heavy. I urge every member of TSA to lend enthusiastic support to the work which is being done.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### HOUSTON CHAPTER AGC APPROVES EMERGENCY CLAUSE

The Board of Directors of the Houston Chapter AGC has approved a modified draft of the emergency provision to be added to standard contract forms as developed by the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc. Authorization has been given for its immediate distribution to all architects, engineers, school boards and other awarding authorities in this area.

These emergency provisions are recommended for insertion in present and future contracts and specifications. Mimeographed copies of these provisions are available by writing to The AGC News Service, 2103 Crawford, Houston 4, Texas.

Briefly, the purpose of the clause is to adjust the cost of construction with any material or labor cost increase due to the national war emergency now facing the United States.

\* \* \* \* \*



ARCHITECTURAL SCHOOL PROBLEMS DISCUSSED  
AT PANHANDLE CHAPTER MEETING IN LUBBOCK

Problems involving the architectural schools were the main point of discussion at the July meeting of the Panhandle chapter, AIA, in Lubbock.

Professor F. A. Kleinschmidt, AIA, a member of the staff of Texas Tech, told the representatives from Amarillo, Big Spring, Plainview, and Lubbock, that the problems now facing the architectural schools bear serious thought and possible future study by the AIA.

One problem is the increasing number of sub-college level courses, of a trade-school type, which have been introduced in the Junior Colleges over the country. Accrediting and appraisal of these courses is already facing the Colleges by students who wish to continue their architectural study at Senior College level.

The continuing problem of attachment of Architectural Schools to engineering divisions of Colleges, and the confusion and conflict of accrediting standards were also discussed by Prof. Kleinschmidt.

Some discussion centered around the cooperative action of the Producer's Council and the AIA on projection slides of new products and new methods of construction. Several sets of the slides have already been received in Prof. Kleinschmidt's office.

Other action by the chapter included the initiation of a Craftsmanship award for the Panhandle area. It was suggested that the design for the award might be the subject of a competition.

Macon Carder, AIA, reviewed the high points of the National AIA convention. Prof. Kleinschmidt reported on the meeting of the Collegiate Schools of Architecture, also held in Washington prior to the AIA convention.

\* \* \* \* \*

REGIONAL PLANNING AND THE SMALL TOWN

By

Lewis Mumford

Part 2

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* This is the second and final part of excerpts \*  
\* from a paper by Lewis Mumford, visiting profes- \*  
\* sor at North Carolina State College. The orig- \*  
\* inal paper was read at the AIA convention Sym- \*  
\* posium I in Washington, D. C. on May 13, 1950. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Summary of first part: The congested metropolis, unlivable in terms of human needs, is giving way now to a post-metropolitan economy achieved by organization and plan. The new cities will be a group of cellular units, limited in size and density. When the social cell has achieved its optimum growth, a new cell must be started, with a nucleus of its own, and allowing for agricultural and recreational spaces. The normal size of the small town will be between 20 to 50 thousand people, and in exceptional cases a 100 thousand. Each town will be surrounded by a permanent green belt and will have a green core within its superblocks. This pattern will govern fresh growth and guide the internal reconstruction of the small town, as it seeks to develop its own qualities and resources.

Now the conditions we are laying down here, as essential for the small town, cannot be achieved by any single small town, nor can it be achieved by allowing the forces that produce disorderly growth to prevail in the future as they have in the past.

The small town cannot survive by itself simply because it is not worthy to survive by itself; no small town, however peaceful and orderly and healthful, can afford by itself more than a modicum of our civilization.



In the old pattern of life the small town was necessarily an ingrown place of narrow horizons, so that its active spirits either left it for the city, or sought to make it over into a bigger community. If we wish to limit the size of the cities, we must offer to the small town special advantages to make up for that limitation, and must provide the kind of political organization which will even out advantages between otherwise competitive towns within the same general area, so that people will be loyal to the region as a whole.

The need for finding a regional equivalent to metropolitan advantages has not been sufficiently stressed. Many have stressed the purely rural advantages of decentralization. In some degree, this movement has been a backward-looking one; an attempt to recapture the good old days. But when all is said for the rural, the primitive, the direct, and the simple, most people in our culture still have what seems to me a healthy desire to participate in the intellectual and social advantages of a highly-developed civilization. So the great question for regional planning is how these advantages are to be achieved in terms of the city of limited size.

I must question Howard's original assumption that a city of 30,000 people would have all the facilities that urban life in our time can provide without the disadvantages of bigness. Those who have read his work know that toward the end of the book, he properly modified his original assumption. He knew that the big city has one great advantage over the small town—it brings together a greater number of people, and therefore larger range of talents, aptitudes, professions, with a common field for cooperation.

Taking note of this fact, Howard suggested that ten garden cities, properly grouped and woven together into a close unity by a rapid transportation system would have all the advantages of a city of



300,000 people. If the growth of the small town must be limited, its limitations will be more acceptable if it becomes part of a regional constellation of cities.

We have yet to invent the form of a political authority that will make this growth possible. But we have a precedent for it in America in the old New England Township. The Township was often a relatively large area, which united the inhabitants for the purposes of town government. Certain purely local functions were reserved for the smallest local unit. Common functions were performed by the Township through its elected officers.

Unless we create active centers of regional administration, a large part of what is called regional planning is mere paper work.

Let us not talk about regional planning until we believe in the principles of regionalism with sufficient conviction to demand the political authority that will be necessary to carry them out.

We need a regional authority with the power to float bonds and to make investments in new communities; to zone land for urban and rural uses, and to buy land for public uses; that will be capable of planning new cities, in order to keep new towns from passing beyond the normal limits of their growth; to set aside primeval areas and to fix new industrial sites, so that recreational facilities and industrial opportunities will be planned with a view to the needs of the population as a whole. No such community, however enlightened, can make such plans or carry them out.

Once the ideals of organic balance was effectively established in people's minds, it would be possible to give to the smallest community within a region most of the positive benefits that the inhabitants of a great metropolis now profit by. Our problem is to create by organization and plan what the big city

has produced so far only by congestion. But let us not fool ourselves; there are things that a million people can do, when they have achieved an appropriate mode or organization, that a few thousand people cannot, with the best will in the world, achieve.

What the advocates of the small city says is that it is not necessary to promote congestion and waste in order to have the advantages of cooperation. With a regional pooling of purpose, and with appropriate political powers, the small town, will not merely come abreast of the metropolitan center—it will surpass it.

There are certain parts of this country where a particularly happy development of the small town would be possible, areas where because of a slowness in industrial development or the thinness of settlement there are no obstacles, except lack of imagination and initiative.

One of the loveliest valleys for habitation in our whole country is the San Bernardino Valley in Southern California, now seriously threatened with a tidal invasion from the West. Still another place where the development of the small town must be furthered by appropriate regional planning is the Tennessee Valley.

But if one state in the country is more outstanding than any other in providing a favorable occasion for regional planning of the small town, it is North Carolina—a state that does not boast a single city with much over a 100,000 population. If the forces of the past continue to operate in North Carolina these small towns will form dense metropolitan aggregates.

One more illustration of the new regional pattern. Take the matter of giving access to books and works of art. The metropolitan method is to heap up all the necessary facilities in one place, often in a

single building, which becomes as overcrowded and disorganized in time as the city itself.

We need a regional grid for culture. In England the library authorities have created such a cultural grid. The borrower who cannot find the book he wants in his local library, gets it through the regional library system. When the regional system does not contain it, he draws upon the national pool. Once we develop such a regional and inter-regional system we shall dismantle the gigantic catacombs in which art is now stored. Without such planning, we cannot hope to give the small town the social and cultural advantages of the great metropolitan centers of the past.

What I have sought to demonstrate is that a balanced community, limited in size and area, in density, in close contact with the open country, is actually the new urban form of our civilization. This new pattern can be achieved only by deliberate political organization, through regional authorities having larger scope in their planning than any existing municipality.

The further purpose of regional planning is that of creating a balanced environment, for people who are determined to lead an autonomous and balanced life. Just as a town of limited size is much more favorably disposed to the use of planes and helicopters than a big metropolis, so such towns are more capable of making use of many other inventions and institutions.

The age of the big city is over. If the small, biotechnic city is to come into its own, it will have to learn the arts of regional planning, regional culture and regional design; and create a life more highly organized and more purposeful and far more widely cultivated than that of the outmoded metropolis.

THE END

\* \* \* \* \*



#### COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

Chairman — Lee Roy Buttrill, Box 45, Temple

Members — Walter C. Moore, Jr., Austin; Hubert H. Crane, Fort Worth; John Lynn Scott, Austin; L. W. Pitts, Beaumont.

#### COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL PLANT STUDY

Chairman — Herbert Voelcker, 1202 Dennis, Houston

Members — Srayton Nunn, Houston; Robert L. Vogler, Corpus Christi; Jos. J. Patterson, Fort Worth; Louis Daeuble, Jr., El Paso; Jesse D. Dixon, Wichita Falls; Marvin Eickenroht, San Antonio; Everett V. Welch, Dallas.

#### COMMITTEE ON CONSULTING MEMBERS

Chairman — William Caudill, F. E. 32, College Station

Members — W. R. Bodine, Austin; D. B. Knudson, Austin.

#### COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Chairman — Herbert M. Tatum, 2812 Fairmount, Dallas 4

#### COMMITTEE ON ARCHITECTURAL AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Chairman — Ralph Cameron, 1701 Transit Tower, San Antonio

#### COMMITTEE ON CAPITOL PLAN

Chairman — Harry D. Payne, 3908 Main, Houston

Members — Karl Kamrath, Houston; W. W. Dornberger, Austin; O'Neil Ford, San Antonio; J. Murrell Bennett, Dallas.

#### COMMITTEE ON REVISED CHAPTER BOUNDARIES

Chairman — Wm. H. Collier, Jr., 212 Morris Building, Abilene

Members — Louis Daeuble, Jr., El Paso; James E. Atcheson, Lubbock; R. S. Feinberg, Dallas.

#### COMMITTEE TO STUDY STATE WIDE FEE SCHEDULES

Chairman — Raymond Phelps, 1515 Majestic Building, San Antonio

Members — Robert P. Woltz, Jr., Fort Worth; Albert S. Golemon, Houston; W. Ralph Merrill, Dallas; Louis C. Page, Austin; J. Roy Smith, Amarillo.

#### COMMITTEE ON PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY RELATIONS

Chairman — Nat W. Hardy, 59 Country Club Place, Corpus Christi

#### COMMITTEE TO THE TEXAS CONSTRUCTION COUNCIL

Chairman — C. O. Chromaster, Century Building, Fort Worth

Members — Bartlett Cocke, San Antonio; Grayson Gill, Dallas; Charles T. Granger, Austin; George W. Rustay, Houston.

#### COMMITTEE ON 1950 CONVENTION

Chairman — Herman G. Cox, 401 Neil P., Anderson Building, Fort Worth

#### COMMITTEE ON 1950 SEMINAR AT CONVENTION

Chairman — Walter T. Rolfe, 915 Woodrow, Houston

Member — Herbert Cowell, Houston

#### COMMITTEE ON MEMBER COMPETITION OF ARCHITECTURAL WORKS

Chairman — Donald S. Nelson, 618 Reserve Loan Life Building, Dallas

#### COMMITTEE ON STUDENT COMPETITION

Chairman — A. B. Swank, Jr., 2025 Cedar Springs, Dallas