

1955

APRIL

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

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- ◆ Texas Architects' Week, April 13-20
- ◆ Thomas Jefferson, Architect of the Union
- ◆ Austin Architect Named "Outstanding Citizen"

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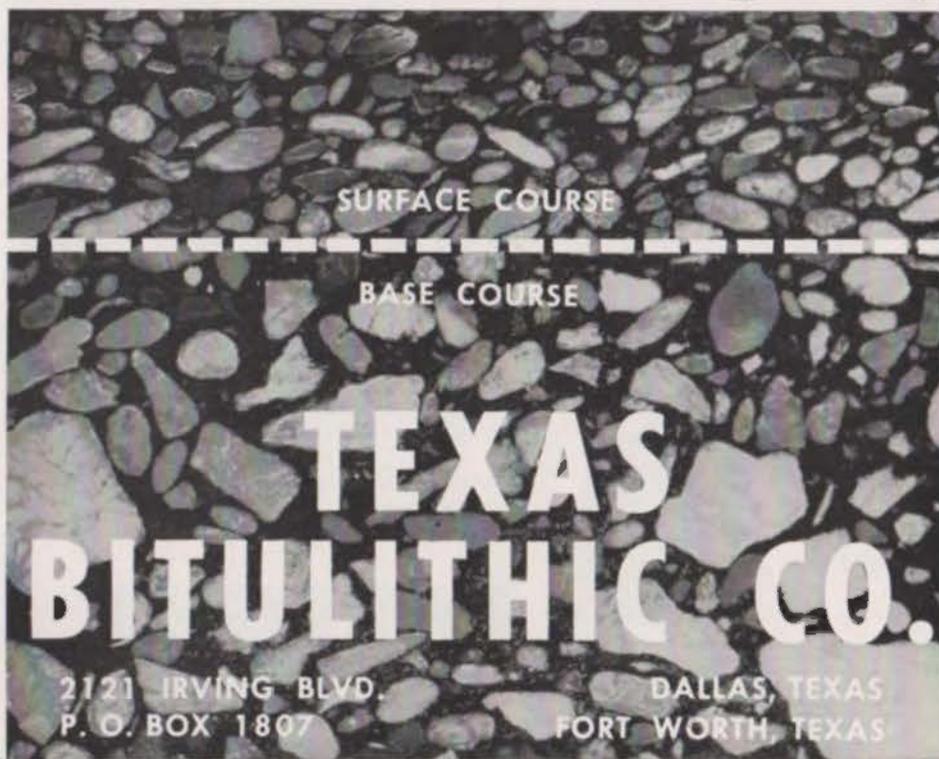
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The President's Letter

By
Grayson Gill,
TSA-AIA.

President,
Texas Society
of Architects



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Like the visitation of the seven-year locust, the construction industry is periodically plagued with the idea, advanced by well-meaning but technically uninformed boards or groups of citizens, that the cost of public buildings can be reduced by the duplication or re-use of plans and specifications from which satisfactory buildings have previously been constructed.

The virtues of duplicated plans have been advanced more of late because of the natural inclination to seek means of reducing the costs of producing the additional classrooms so badly needed in every part of the nation.

Experience, that hard but sound teacher, has demonstrated that as a general rule the use of duplicated plans is false economy. There is in a vast majority of cases a considerable net loss, instead of savings. And the loss is in a number of areas, including actual dollars expended.

There are of course exceptions to every general rule, and there have been rare occasions wherein the duplication of drawings and specifications has resulted in good buildings.

The trouble is that in these rare instances, public officials are exceedingly prone to call wide attention to their resourcefulness and good business judgment in using duplicated plans. In the vastly more numerous situations wherein duplications result in excessive cost, failure to adapt the building to the building site, failure to take advantage of new materials and techniques, or other negative results, there is little inclination to bring the matter to public attention.

This matter has generated increasing interest in the past few months, and the editors of the TEXAS ARCHITECT plan to devote one or more articles in the near future to the problem of duplicated plans. We invite your attention to these articles. They will show clearly the dangers and false economies involved in something that has the appearance of effecting savings.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 13-20—Texas Architects' Week.

June 21-25—87th annual convention, AIA,
Radisson Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.

November 2-4—16th annual convention,
TSA, Shamrock Hotel, Houston.

- Duplicate Plans Are False Economy
- Results From Chapter TAW Competitions
- Fort Worth Chapter, AIA
- TSA Delegation To Minneapolis

In This Issue

The President's Letter points out the facts about the use of duplicate plans and announces a series of articles on the same subject.

A beautiful and interesting building at Lamar State College, the new three-story \$208,000 Men's Dormitory, provides our cover picture. The architects, Stone & Pitts, TSA-AIA of Beaumont, used the Lift Slab system.

The new illustrated series on the Japan of today is continued.

Austin honors Hugo F. Kuehne, architect and citizen, and the result is an interesting story of a man's civic contributions.

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New Products

The new "Link-Belt-Walk"—a moving rubber sidewalk, has been installed in a pedestrian bridge that links the Sam Houston Coliseum's exposition hall and auditorium in Houston with new parking areas which will accommodate 2,500 cars when complete.

First moving sidewalk to be installed on a pedestrian bridge, the Beltwalk spans the Buffalo Bayou at a height of 50 feet. It carries passengers up a seven-degree (12 per cent) incline at a speed of 132 feet per minute—taking about 52 seconds for the 114-ft. course. To accommodate persons leaving the Coliseum, the direction of the sidewalk is reversed.

The Link-Belt-Walk at the Houston Coliseum features an 82-in. belt—the widest ever used commercially to transport people. It is capable of handling 15,000 passengers in an hour.

Free literature on the new high efficiency Aerosolve Filter is now available from its manufacturer, Cambridge

Filter Corporation, Syracuse, New York.

The Cambridge Aerosolve Filter, designed for high efficiency air filtering in commercial and industrial ventilating air conditioning systems, has recently been placed on the market.

Among the "new products" made by Richard Teller Crane, founder of the

Crane Company, in a little frame shop just outside the Chicago Loop in 1855 were copper tips and brass couplings. Now, as the Crane Company prepares to celebrate its 100th anniversary on July 4, 1955, it has become a leading supplier of plumbing fixtures and allied products, with a trademark known around the world.

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The fourth annual observance of Texas Architects' Week begins on April 13, the 212th anniversary of the birth date of Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States and "Architect of the Union."



Texas Architects' Week was established in 1952, with a gubernatorial proclamation by Governor Allan Shivers which has become part of the TAW tradition. Since that time, TAW has been observed in more and more communities across the state as a time when Texans have a particular opportunity to learn about the architectural profession followed by more than 1500 of their fellow citizens.

From 13-20 April, all of the 12 TSA Chapters will be putting on special events including local competitions, exhibits, awards to outstanding craftsmen and others who have distinguished themselves by service to their communities: special newspaper, radio, and television coverage; home tours; award dinners; community service projects; and other events. You will be informed of these events through your local newspapers and radio and television stations, and we join with the several Chapters in inviting you most cordially to participate in public events during Texas Architects' Week.

As part of the theme for TAW, you will probably note the bus cards, smaller "tent" cards, and brightly colored stamps in use by individual TSA members and Chapters. All of these, appropriately

enough, carry the profile of Thomas Jefferson as shown above. They are intended to emphasize the important role that the president-architect of Monticello played in the development of the profession of architecture in the United States.

In the emphasis on Thomas Jefferson's other careers as third U. S. president, statesman, and "Architect of the Union," we are likely to overlook the fact that the red-headed squire of Monticello exerted a wide influence in his chosen profession, and was instrumental in the early establishment of architecture here as a leading professional field.

The recent restoration of Monticello, Jefferson's beautiful hilltop home near Charlottesville, and the work of architectural historians has brought fresh attention to the president-architect's accomplishments. Not the least of these, as outlined in some detail in an earlier article in the TEXAS ARCHITECT (see "Thomas Jefferson—The Architect," April, 1952), was Jefferson's beautiful and aesthetically sound adaptation of the pure classic forms to public buildings of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. In designing homes as well, Jefferson successfully blended the old and the new, always producing structures that served succeeding generations by combining utility and beauty.

As they observe Texas Architects' Week, TSA members point with pride to Thomas Jefferson the president-architect, whose guiding principle was this: A man learns and practices a profession for one principal reason: to better the lot of his fellow man.

Better guidance for the professional man would be difficult to come by. A century and a half have made architect Jefferson's words ever more meaningful.



At the State Capitol, Governor Allan Shivers signs the Official Memorandum proclaiming the fourth annual Texas Architects' Week from April 13-20.

Left to right: Louis F. Southerland, TSA - AIA, secretary-treasurer of TSA; Hugo F. Kuehne, TSA-FAIA, who is mentioned specifically in the proclamation; John G. Flowers, Jr., executive director, TSA; Governor Shivers; and R. Max Brooks, TSA-AIA, vice-president, TSA. All are from Austin.



Lundgren And Maurer Win AIA Award

The architectural firm of Lundgren & Maurer, TSA-AIA of Austin, won an Award of Merit from the American Institute of Architects for their design of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house in Austin, shown above.

When the design was entered in competition, architects Lundgren and Maurer noted the following among the

many unusual problems which they were asked to solve in connection with the design for the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity house: very limited budget, building site had considerable east-west fall, client needed flexibility in living, dining, social, and recreational areas.

The AIA award-winning design al-

lowed the fraternity house to be built at a cost per square foot of \$8.50, including year-round air-conditioning, built-in cabinets and storage areas, and architectural fees.

At right inset is shown a recent ceremony at which Edward Maurer, TSA-AIA, representing his firm, presented the AIA Award of Merit to Pi Kappa Alpha officials. Left to right in inset: Ray Rabke, fraternity chapter president; Robert C. Duke, board member; Joe Scott, national rush chairman; Mr. Maurer; and Dr. George Hoffman, faculty advisor.

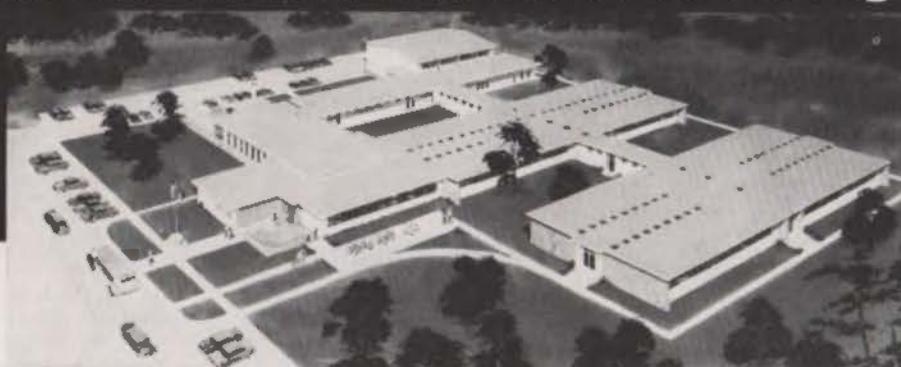
Lathing & Plastering Bureau Appoints Two New Representatives

The Texas Bureau for Lathing and Plastering has appointed W. E. Matlack, Jr., Dallas; and W. F. Wesig, Houston, to be field representatives.

The appointments were announced by Karl F. Doerner of Houston, Bureau president.

The Bureau is sponsored jointly by the Texas Lathing and Plastering Contractors Association, the Lone Star State Council of Lothers, and the Texas State Conference of Plasterers as a service to the construction industry.

Another new Texas school chooses CLOW Gasteam Radiators for heating



New Junior High School, Spring Branch Independent School District, Spring Branch, Texas.
Superintendent of School: Dr. H. M. Landrum

Architect: Stayton Nunn & C. A. Johnson, Houston
Mechanical Engineer: H. C. Will, Houston

Structural Engineer: Waller P. Moore, Houston
General Contractor: Marshall Construction Co., Houston

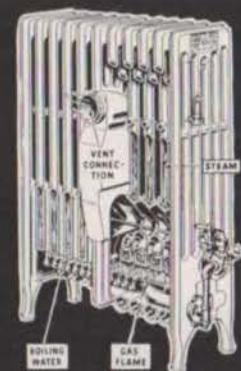
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PRESIDENT'S LETTER - Like the seven year locust the construction industry is periodically plagued with the idea, advanced by well meaning but uninformed boards or groups of citizens, that a reduction in cost of public buildings can be secured by the duplication or reuse of plans and specifications from which satisfactory buildings have previously been constructed.

Experience has demonstrated that as a general rule the anticipated economies by this procedure are not realized, but that generally the reverse is true. There are exceptions to all general rules including this one, but unfortunately the successful exceptions are cited in support of this procedure and come to public attention, whereas unsuccessful applications do not.

On those rare occasions when the reuse or duplication of drawings and specifications has resulted in good buildings, public officials call attention to their resourcefulness and good business administration in the public interest. When this procedure results in excessive costs, and in buildings which do not serve their purpose as well as if new drawings and specifications, incorporating improvements in planning, better and more effective use of building materials and techniques, had been prepared, those responsible for the results naturally feel that the less said about it the better.

At a meeting of school superintendents from cities of 200,000 population or over, held last October in Louisville, Kentucky, the cities of Wichita, Kansas; Tulsa, Oklahoma, Washington, D.C., Columbus, Ohio; Norfolk, Virginia; Baltimore, Maryland; Long Beach, California; Indianapolis, Indiana, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, were reported to be "repeating plans" in their building program. Long Beach was reported as having used the same Junior High School plan as many as four times. This aroused much interest among school administrators facing the problem of providing school buildings to house the unprecedented increase in enrollment as a result of the high birth rate of the past decade.

The Wichita Section of the Kansas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects has presented to the Board of Education of Wichita the following statement:

"Certainly in the public interest every effort shall be toward the best possible school facilities with the most economical construction and operating costs.

"Education is not a static thing but dynamic. It is a challenge to the school administrators to keep the curriculum current and progressive. It is also a challenge

and a duty of the Architect and the school officials to provide facilities that are advanced in all respects.

"We believe the following points to be important in the development of well designed schools.

"1. Duplication of building generally prevents proper improvements and progress.

"2. Each new project no matter how identical in basic needs provides the opportunity to:

- a. Do a better job of planning
- b. Simplify and improve construction methods
- c. Incorporate more economical methods of construction
- d. Make better use of space
- e. Profit from previous experience

"3. A new project leaves the Architect free to take advantage of:

- a. Utility locations
- b. Community requirements
- c. Topography
- d. Orientation
- e. Location
- f. Traffic requirements
- g. Present and future requirements
- h. Available space

"4. Money and time saved in duplication of planning may often be lost in attempting to make the building fit a site, in losing an opportunity for improved and more economical planning and construction details, etc. It is felt that advanced planning as used by the board in certain instances does much to solve the time problem and obtain better results.

"We believe that as architects we can better serve you and the community by designing each building required as a separate project."

This important statement, and the general subject of duplicated plans, is a vital one. It will be the subject of a series of articles.

Grayson Gill
President
Texas Society of Architects

TAW PROGRAM LOOKS GOOD:

After some delays in getting TAW programs geared up over the state, public relations chairman Harold E. Calhoun of Houston reports that 11 of the 12 Chapters have reported in with what adds up to an excellent overall program for the fourth annual observance of Texas Architects' Week.

The details of this program, taken from a TAW Bulletin issued by Mr. Calhoun, are given in this issue of TA. Since this issue of TA went to press many tentative events have been confirmed, and it is confidently expected that a first-class program is underway over the state.

Although the details of TAW programs, and sometimes the amount of work on TAW which can be done by a given Chapter, will necessarily vary at given times across the state, this important fact should be kept in mind: on overall balance, TAW is better established, better conducted, and wider in scope each year. And the results of this program are being felt, to the benefit of every TSA member, whether you realize it at any given time or not.

Let's give some well-deserved commendation, and just as much cooperation as possible, to TSA committeemen who are carrying on the sometimes difficult and time-consuming, but very beneficial, Texas Architects' Week work. And give a hand when you are called on in your own Chapter.

TAW STAMPS CAN BE USED ALL DURING YEAR:

The response has been good to the attractive new TAW stamps, with their eye-catching color and design, and the motto: "Good Design Doesn't Cost ----- It Pays". Remember that these can be used throughout the entire year, and that they are particularly appropriate in view of the theme for the 1955 convention (November 2-4) at the Shamrock Hotel in Houston.

It is ironic that some of the largest users of these stamps have been the firms who supply architects, or work with them, rather than TSA members themselves. On balance, however, the demand for them, through the TSA headquarters at 327 Perry-Brooks Building, Austin, has been quite good, particularly among the active firms over the state who know that public relations pays off in hard dollars, not only in good will.

The stamps are still available, and we hope that every member of TSA will use them on all correspondence right through the convention.

HOUSTON HONOR AWARDS.

The Houston Chapter was the first to announce its 1955 honor awards, in one of the six competitions currently underway in connection with TAW. The four medals of honor went to Cowell & Neuhaus, for the residence of Miss Nina Cullinan; to Lloyd & Morgan, for the home of G. Burton Liese; to MacKie & Kamrath, for the M. D. Anderson Hospital; and to Cato, Austin & Evans, with Edmund Furley, associate, for the Engineering Building, University of Houston.

Awards of merit went to Bolton & Barnstone, for the home of Herbert Blum in Beaumont; to Pierce & Pierce for the Magcobar Building and the Durham Clinic (two separate awards to same firm); O'Neil Ford and Richard Calley, San Antonio, were associated on the Magcobar Building; to Robert W. Maurice for Sally's Sandwich Shop; to Milton Foy Martin for the Texas Crippled Children's Hospital; and to Hamilton Brown for the Chapelwood Methodist Church.

All winners in any Chapter competition are being asked to submit 8" x 10" glossy photographs, through their Chapter public relations chairman, to Pat Nicholson, P. O. Box 20014, Houston 25, for publication in the TEXAS ARCHITECT.

Public relations chairmen are also asked to furnish complete lists of winners in all Chapter competitions to Mr. Nicholson just as soon as possible, so that these competitions can be publicized in the TEXAS ARCHITECT and over the state.

Judges in the Houston competition were Nathaniel C. Curtis, AIA, New Orleans; William W. Caudill, AIA, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Bryan; and John Ekin Dinwiddie, AIA professor of architecture, Tulane University, New Orleans.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE WELL UNDERWAY:

A special membership "crash team" including TSA President Grayson Gill,

AIA Regional Director Albert S. Goleman, Executive Director, John G. Flowers, Jr., and others helping at various times has been particularly successful in emphasizing the strong benefits of TSA and AIA membership in recent meetings at Beaumont and Houston.

The "membership" meetings are planned well in advance, so that individual members may have the opportunity to bring younger men from their office, independent non-TSA-AIA practitioners and others outside the fold.

One excellent indirect result of these meetings: long term members have been made freshly aware of the advantages and privileges of membership, thereby becoming excellent "salesmen" themselves.

Other meetings over the state are in the planning stage.

RECENT NATIONAL PUBLICITY:

March, 1955 issue of FORTUNE carries a beautiful half-page in color of the mural in Kuehne, Brooks & Barr's American National Bank Building in Austin.

TIME's mention of the MacKie & Kamrath design for the tremendous M. D. Anderson Hospital in Houston.

The annual report of the Federal Sign and Signal Corporation features Kenneth Franzheim's new Texas National Bank-Continental Oil Building, now rapidly nearing completion in down town Houston.

February, 1955 ARCHITECTURAL FORUM shows DeWitt & Swank's expansion of Neiman-Marcus. (This is a store in Dallas). Coverage includes six pages, 1 1/2 in full color.

A very considerable number of national publications have carried extensive articles on the Republic National Bank in Dallas (Harrison & Abramovitz, with Gill & Harrell).

APRIL 2 BOARD MEETING:

The April 2 board meeting at the Commodore Perry Hotel in Austin will have

been held by the time this TANL issue reaches you, and a report of principal business will be carried in May. Among the very important matters on the agenda, however, are the following: detailed discussion of planning for November 2-4 convention, and how this is progressing; report on legislative situation; report by Executive Director John G. Flowers, Jr., on accomplishments of first quarter of a very busy year, and progress toward final three quarters' objectives; special reports by President Grayson Gill on a number of vital matters including the plague of duplicated plans and the Dallas situation regarding this; report by public relations chairman Harold E. Calhoun on TAW and PR work in general; various key committee reports; and a discussion by PR counsel Pat Nicholson on accomplishments of first quarter, tabulation and analysis of community activities questionnaires, with recommendations thereto; and progress on remainder of 1955 program.

OFFICE CONSULTANT FEE:

John Stetson, AIA, Palm Beach, Florida, believes that the reluctance to accept small office consultant fees is (1) depriving many architects of a source of income that adds up considerably, and (2) driving away people who might later turn into good and well-paying clients. Following are Stetson's interesting remarks on this subject:

"LET'S STOP GIVING AWAY GOOD ADVICE!

"Our profession in Florida is daily losing thousands of dollars of personal income because of either a reluctance to accept the \$5 or \$10 office consultant fee, or by our failure to let the public know we are interested therein. Many old timers and quite a few of the larger offices frown on this source of income. So we continually give away advice or squabble over fee schedules.

"Ever since the first witch doctor concocted a brew of roots, or drove off evil spirits by beating on drums, the medical profession (admittedly the best paid) has found no indignity in sending a bill for \$5.00 for an office visit. Beating the tom-toms won't help us.

But certainly a little well-organized interest in this direction would produce an added source of fuel for maintaining a safe distance between the 'wolf' and our door.

"For the newly-registered the consultant service is a natural. Hardly a month passes when Mr. and Mrs. Householder do not find themselves in a dilemma. Should we re-hang this door? How about a wall versus a fence around our patio? Can that large bedroom be successfully divided into two smaller ones?

"Doctors still treat hangnails, blisters and hangovers. But we? We are thumbing our noses at a 100% increase in personal income.

"Our holier-than-thou attitude also just might be scaring away a lot of good job prospects. Most people are a lot more afraid of visiting an architect than going to a doctor or lawyer. Convince a man you don't bite by giving him some such needed advice about eliminating a drip over his kitchen door - for the grandiose fee of \$7.50 - and he will be much more willing to pay an 8 per cent fee on the new house he builds next year.

"This thing can mushroom. Let's stop sniffing the blossoms and start tapping some of the life producing sap. There are hundreds of thousands flowing by us each year, while we make like Ferdinand!"

GYPHUM ROOF DECKS WITHSTOOD HURRICANE, COMPANY CLAIMS:

U. S. Gypsum, which has just announced plans to build a multi-million-dollar plant at Houston, claims in a recent release that paired-in-place gypsum roof deck construction successfully withstood 125-mile winds during hurricane Hazel.

Company engineers reportedly made extensive checks of varying structures using this type of roof construction, including schools in differing stages of construction, and found no damage.

NOTES OF INTEREST FROM ACROSS THE U.S.

Officials of the Boston Chapter are disturbed over the fact that the nearby city of Brockton, Massachusetts, ran newspaper ads requesting architects to appear for interviews in connection with a housing job. Steps are being taken to inform those concerned of the specific AIA method for setting up a competition.

The Washington State Chapter has produced an excellent brochure on "The Practice of Architecture". It is terse and to the point, and very readable. Cartoon illustrations are used in a dignified manner to increase reader interest. TSA headquarters will study this publication for possible ideas.

The BAY STATE ARCHITECT, referring to the PRINTER'S INK debate between Leonardo Cano, Jr., Havana, Cuba; and Elliot Spratt, president of the Producers' Council on "Should Architects & Other Professional People Advertise?", says this brings up a closely allied subject: "Shall architects solicit work, and what procedure should be used?".

REVISED TSA BY-LAWS PUBLISHED:

The By-Laws Committee under the chairmanship of Herbert Tatum of Dallas has just authorized the publication of a new edition of the by-laws as amended at the 15th Annual Convention in Fort Worth. The Executive Director has asked each chapter to determine the number of copies desired for circulation within that chapter. It is therefore suggested that all architects having a particular interest in the by-laws should request his chapter secretary to include his name on the list of those to receive copies since the supply is limited.

Texas Architects' Week, April 13-20, Being Observed By All TSA Chapters

The fourth annual observance of Texas Architects' Week, from April 13-20, finds all 12 TSA Chapters participating in a statewide program aimed at making the services and functions of the architect better known by the general public.

Public Invited To Participate

You are cordially invited to attend public events including the many fine exhibits of architectural work, during TAW in your area.

Special cards of varying sizes and 50,000 TAW stamps carrying the profile of Thomas Jefferson will be distributed.

From the Panhandle to the Rio Grande Valley, and from El Paso to East Texas, here are some of the varied events in which TSA members will be participating during Texas Architects' Week, proclaimed by Governor Allon Shivers:

Chapter members and officials who are working in key TAW jobs are listed with their respective Chapters:

Brazos Chapter (Richard Vrooman, College Station): An awards dinner and special exhibits.

Coastal Bend Chapter (Earl R. Ford and Nat Hordy, both of Corpus Christi): Special TAW meeting and local exhibits.

Central Texas Chapter (Claude M. Pendley, Austin): Chapter competition; awards banquet; special award to J. F. Johnson, Austin contractor; newspaper section; social events.

Dallas Chapter (Enslie Oglesby, Jr.): Chapter competition; special project, awards dinner.

El Paso Chapter (C. Ewing Waterhouse and Robert D. Garland, Jr.): Special awards dinner, craftsmanship award to craftsman selected by Chapter ballot for workmanship; panel exhibit of national architectural awards at El Paso Public Library.

Fort Worth Chapter (William R. Lane): Craftsmanship award dinner, sponsored annually since 1952 by Chapter; social events.

Houston Chapter (Robert W. Maurice): Chapter competition, reception and exhibition at Contemporary Arts Museum, honor awards dinner and craftsmanship award.

Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter (Warren C. Suter, Mission): TAW dinner, special television program.

Panhandle Chapter (Howard Ensign,

Amarillo): Craftsmanship award dinner.

San Antonio Chapter (Thomas B. Thompson, R. Edwin Nicholson): Chapter competition; presentation of books on architecture to City Library, and three-year subscriptions for architectural magazines to all city high schools, awards dinner with presentation of citation to citizen named for public service.

Southeast Texas (Douglas Steinmann, Jr., Beaumont): Chapter competition, awards dinner, craftsmanship award, special exhibit at Museum of Fine Arts.

West Texas Chapter: Abilene, William E. Collier, Jr.: craftsmanship award and dinner, special exhibit showing sequence of architectural work. In Midland, Joe Bill Pierce; and in San Angelo, Max D. Lovett, will work in cooperation with other cities in Chapter area on overall program.



Local Exhibitions to Feature Texas Architects' Week

Local competitions, to form the basis for later entries in "Texas Architecture — 1955," statewide competition at the State Fair of Texas next October, will feature Texas Architects' Week programs across the state from April 13-20.

The scene above is from the 1954 statewide event, which drew more than 100,000 visitors while on exhibit during the State Fair.

HOUSTON HONOR AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Ralph Anderson, Jr., TSA-AIA, chairman, has announced the honor awards in the 1955 Houston Chapter competition, as follows:

The four medals of honor went to Cowell & Neuhaus, for the residence of Miss Nina Cullinan; to Lloyd & Morgan, for the home of G. Burton Liese; to MacKie & Kamrath, for the M. D. Anderson Hospital; and to Cato, Austin & Evons with Edmund Furley, associate, for the Engineering Building, University of Houston.

Awards of merit went to Bolton & Barnstone, for the home of Herbert Blum in Beaumont; and to Pierce & Pierce for the Magcobar Building and

the Durham Clinic (two separate awards to same firm). O'Neil Ford and Richard Colley, San Antonio were associated on the Magcobar Building. Also to Robert W. Maurice for Sally's Sandwich Shop; to Milton Foy Martin for the Texas Crippled Children's Hospital; and to Hamilton Brown for the Chapelwood Methodist Church.

Judges in the Houston competition were Nathaniel C. Curtis, AIA, New Orleans; William W. Coudill, AIA, Oklahoma City, Okla., and Bryan and John Ekin Dinwiddie, AIA, professor of architecture, Tulane University, New Orleans.

Winning designs will be exhibited in Houston during Texas Architects' Week.

Can I Be An Architect? This May Answer Your Question

Can I be and would I want to be an architect?

Most young men or women have asked those questions of him or herself in the search for a life's work. It must be answered individually, and the decision should be based on facts concerning what an architect is and what he does.

The architect is a man of many facets and many skills. He must have detailed knowledge of many things. He is the designer of buildings that meet his clients' needs. Second, he must strive to obtain a pleasant appearance. He works in the realms of art, as well as those of science, business, human relations, public relations, and many others.

The architect differs from the artist in that he must have a client before he can do his design. He does not have the freedom of the artist because of the many limitations placed upon his work by his client. Buildings normally serve a purpose and must be designed around that purpose. His ultimate goal in every instance is a completed building. He makes drawings to explain how the building is to appear when completed and how it shall be constructed. He is not, however, concerned with his drawings as works of art except as they serve to explain the project and to influence the owner and public to understand the design he has evolved. Among his many sides are the following:

He works in the field of pure design and therefore is a designer, an artist and a student of that which is esthetic. His buildings must give a good appearance.

He must have an intimate knowledge of the whole fabric of society to be able to plan for its needs as it affects each individual client.

He must have a knowledge of human relations to be able to design buildings which have pleasant and healthy influences on the people who live and work therein or who enter through their portals and pass down their corridors.

The architect must be civic minded to integrate his work with the feeling and character of his community. He must take part in com-

munity activities and civic enterprises. He must be a citizen.

He must have a feeling for public relations for he must sell his personal services to his clients and he also must help his clients present their services or wares to the public.

He must be trained in business and business procedures to operate his own office and to advise his client on building economy and to guard against loss during building operations.

The architect must acquire a knowledge of construction costs. Every project must be built within same type of budget. The architect is responsible for preparing estimates to check anticipated costs, and for designing his building within the costs as they are set.

The architect must be acquainted with the legal aspects of contracts to be able to write good specifications.

The architect must know materials and finishes to be able to provide a building that will withstand use and the ravages of time. He must know construction methods to be able to arrange materials and equipment so his building can be built.

He must know something of psychology for he must learn the influence of surface color and texture on human emotions and how these may be used to control human behavior and mental attitudes.

He must gain experience with many types of buildings. The problems of planning hospitals are different from those of schools, churches or department stores. Much study and research is necessary in each individual case.

College gives the student the technical background and much more. Experience in practicing architects' offices should follow. Work in offices provides actual experience.

Before the young man can begin his practice he must secure a state license. This license serves as an indication of his ability and training and protects the public from the unqualified individual who lacks the necessary training and experience.

A person wishing to build takes his

ideas to the architect. The architect then makes preliminary drawings to determine if the ideas are feasible.

The architect uses his imagination, artistic talent, research and study to develop a scheme that solves the owner's problems. This requires considerable conversation, time and talent. This process is usually called architectural design.

The scheme is developed in the preliminary drawings then it is translated into working drawings and specifications which are graphic instructions to the contractor and those who furnish equipment and materials. These drawings and specifications eventually become part of the contract which is arranged between the owner and the contractor; the architect is named in the contract as an interpreter of the documents.

Like everyone else, an architect is first an individual. His analysis and solution of a condition does not always coincide with interpretations of others who might consider the same conditions. To translate the original idea into a completed project is a difficult task. Often the final results may be very different from the original conception. The architect must be a person with imagination and vision who can analyze the conditions and requirements, look ahead to the results and achieve those results.

Naturally some architects develop talents in certain directions which can be best utilized in that field; they are specialists. Some architects also are known for their work in other fields such as designing furniture, dresses, fixtures, and multitudes of articles in common use.

The monetary reward to the architect is not as great as in some other professions or other fields. Let it be said that architects do not become millionaires through the practice of architecture. They can and do, however, achieve respectable levels of income quite comparable to that of most professional groups, and they can enjoy much personal satisfaction in the practice of their profession.

In summary, the young person who has the specific talents needed, who is willing to listen and learn, who is willing to grow as an individual and who is willing to work honestly for the satisfaction of seeing an idea grow into reality, is one who may become an architect.

Austin Architect Kuehne Named "Most Worthy Citizen Of 1954"

Hugo F. Kuehne, TSA-FAIA, senior member of the Austin architectural firm of Kuehne, Brooks & Barr, was honored recently at a dinner signaling his selection as Austin's "Most Worthy Citizen For 1954."

The dinner, held at the Commodore Perry Hotel, was attended by a large audience including leading state and city officials. Mr. Kuehne, who founded the University of Texas School of Architecture and served as the school's first professor before entering upon 40 years of private practice, has devoted himself for many years to service on important civic groups such as the Austin Zoning Board, City Planning Commission, City Parks & Recreation Board, and the City Building Code Commission.

Citation and Plaque Presented

A citation and silver plaque were presented to Mr. Kuehne at the dinner. Following are some abbreviated quotations from the citation:

"... His professional skill as an architect... attested by his election as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, the highest professional recognition given an architect in the United States, has given the city many of its most handsome and distinctive buildings.

Rare Insight and Vision

"His interest in sound professional education was responsible for the establishment of a new department (the School of Architecture) at the University of Texas.

"The third aspect of his service, as yet not recognized, is perhaps the most valuable of all. For 20 years Mr. Kuehne's rare insight and vision have been devoted to bringing about a

healthy and orderly development of our city, to the immeasurable benefit of all its citizens."

This marks the second time within recent months that a member of TSA has been selected as an outstanding



OUTSTANDING CITIZEN

Hugo F. Kuehne, TSA-FAIA, has been named "Most Worthy Citizen for 1954" at Austin, where he was honored recently with a presentation dinner.

citizen of his community. Professor Ernest Langford of College Station was honored recently as Man of the Year in his city, where he is currently serving as mayor.

Houston Architect Presides As New Joint Agreement With Engineers Evolved

David C. Baer, TSA-AIA of Houston, chairman of the national AIA committee on office practice, presided in Washington, D. C. at recent sessions aimed at producing a new joint agreement for use between architects and engineers.

Present at the meetings were representatives of the NSPE, ASCE, ASME, and ASEE, national organizations for professional, civil, mechanical, and electrical engineers.

A new agreement was approved at the meeting and sent forward to the AIA and to the boards of the national engineering organizations.

Mr. Baer had represented the AIA at earlier discussions of this important new agreement, aimed at providing better service for clients of both the architectural and engineering professions.



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Clay Products Group Offers Nine \$100 New Scholarships

A fourth-year architectural student in each of nine Texas and Southwestern universities will receive a \$100 scholarship under terms of the new Clay Products Association competition, details of which are now being worked out in cooperation with TSA.

Work of the nine \$100 scholarship winners will be judged at the 16th annual TSA convention in Houston November 2-4, and the winning student will receive an additional \$400 grant from the Clay Products Association.

Impertinent Comments On Japanese Life And Architecture

By TOM W. SHEFELMAN

Editor's Note: Mr. Shefelman is a young Texas architect who has been traveling and studying in Japan with his wife Janice. Last month the TEXAS ARCHITECT presented the first of a series of articles in which Mr. Shefelman records his impressions of Japan today, particularly of its architecture. We now continue his account, illustrated by Mr. Shefelman himself:

By all outward indications the Jap-

onese people should be extremely familiar with their country. They can travel under the sponsorship of one of the most highly organized tourist systems of any nation in the world. Punctual trains, caravans of sightseeing buses, Japan Travel Bureau Hotels, professional guides, road maps, shrine maps, even the most detailed trail

maps for the popular pastime of hiking through the densely forested mountains which make up most of this overcrowded country—all of these forces are constantly herding crowds of people past our bewildered eyes anywhere we go in any weather, during any time of the week. We selected one sunny weekday to hike through some of the relatively secluded temples, shrines and scenic spots in the colorful mountains overlooking Kamakura two hours by rail from Tokyo. There was no danger of getting lost, however. We could simply follow the crowds back to civilization.

A Post-War Development

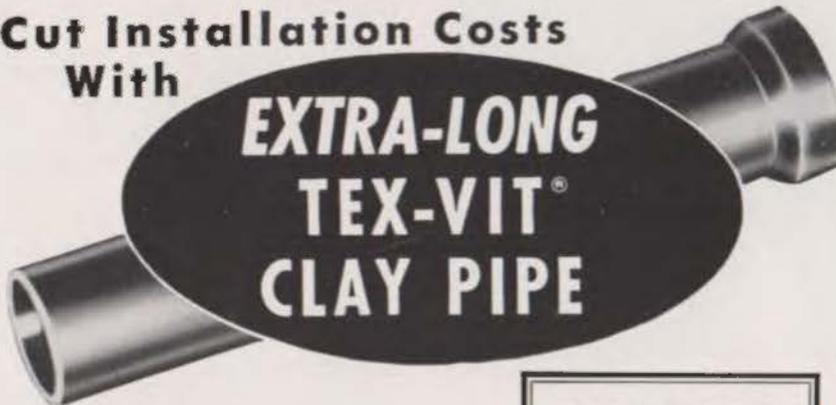
People tell us this phenomenon of crowds constantly on the move is to some degree a postwar development. There is such freedom of movement compared to times past, and these crowds express it. But the phenomenon also must express in some way that purely aesthetic pleasure derived from the beautiful and the sacred in nature, or in man's interpretation of it. We might be tempted to call it a form of reverence.

It was not always so easy for a Japanese to see nature in all its glory in the mountains or on the sea shore. But the ability to do this was an essential part of his being. So it became the Japanese genius to bring all of this in either condensed or suggested form to within sight of himself and his guests as the kneeled before a bowl of tea. Hence, the misty landscape painting; the meaningful arrangement of flowers, leaves and twigs; the isolated art object, sometimes in itself suggestive of some natural form, all became concentrated in a single "viewing alcove" called the "tokonoma." And this display became so controlled as to be but a complement to a condensed landscape visible through the simple sliding doors.

Subtle Message For Architect

This brings us to the garden, which in itself contains a subtle message for the young Western architect. As might be expected, the art of landscape gardening was first the privilege of priest and noble. With suggestions that influence from China was prevalent we are told that as long ago as the Nara Period, in the seventh and eighth centuries, the Imperial Court was benefiting from an already highly developed landscape art. Essential was the technique of mastering nature, of even modelling it, in such a way as to suggest on a small scale the abundant and

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Fort Worth, Tex.	100,000
Arlington, Tex.	300,000
Grand Prairie, Tex.	200,000
Amarillo, Tex.	300,000
Midland, Tex.	400,000
Haltom City, Tex.	300,000
Weatherford, Tex.	100,000
Huntsville, Tex.	100,000
Big Spring, Tex.	200,000
Odessa, Tex.	200,000
Carlsbad, N. M.	300,000
Hobbs, N. M.	150,000
San Angelo, Tex.	300,000
Los Cruces, N. M.	200,000
Alamoqordo, N. M.	100,000
Lamesa, Tex.	100,000
Borger, Tex.	100,000
Ardmore, Okla.	100,000
Oklahoma City, Okla.	150,000
Irving, Tex.	150,000
Nacogdoches, Tex.	150,000
Del Rio, Tex.	140,000
Los Alamos, N. M.	100,000
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dramatic beauty of the countryside or the seashore. The landscape garden soon crystallized into basic elements each with particular meaning — the pond, lake or sea; pebbles, seashores; mound or boulders, mountains, etc.

In the Edo Period, from the 17th Century until the Meiji "Reformation" in 1867, the artist achieved the peak in his ability to compose these elements into a variety of gardens both large and small. Two schools of thought developed, the "Hill Garden" and the "Flat Garden" schools. The former succeeded in carrying to a stunning extreme the "unreal" realism of a beautiful and varied Japan into one complex picture. The latter school is famous for its abstractness. White, raked sand became the sea, twin boulders the waterfall, flat stones islands; and the real landscape beyond the garden wall often played a vital part in the picture which the observer's imagination was supposed to complete.

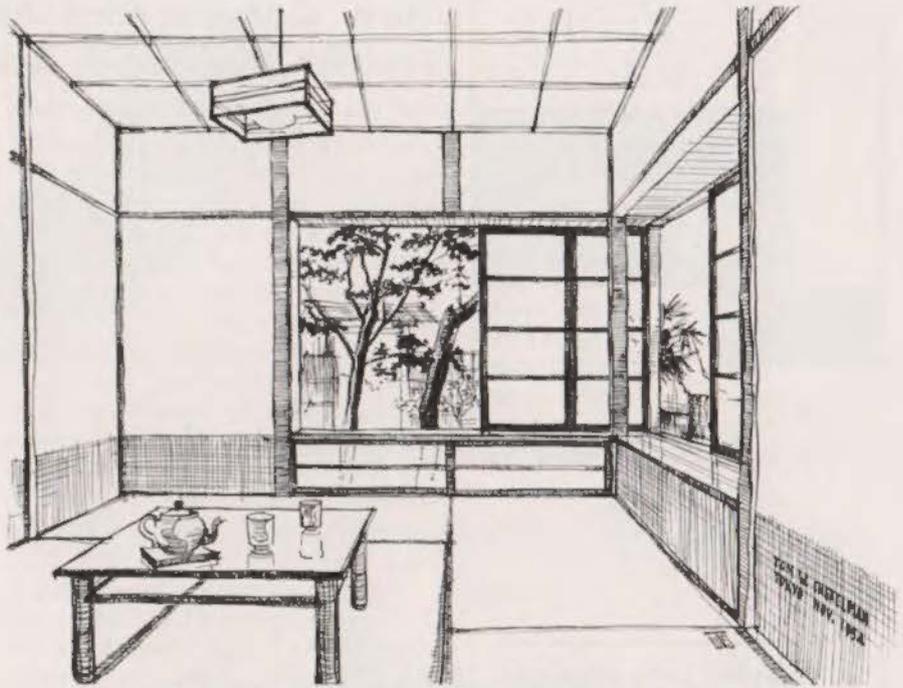
"Tea-House" Architecture

During this same period the art became a popular one as did the simple, highly refined "tea house" architecture which complemented it. It became, we might say, not only the privilege but the duty of the common man to "appreciate" beauty in the many ways becoming available to him. Today, if we dare generalize, there still appears to be some unseen compulsion which makes the Japanese continue to appreciate. So the crowds in the country, in the parks, in the temple and shrine grounds; so the exclamation "Very beautiful!" at our elbow; so too can we wonder among some of the most squalid houses and shops on the city of Tokyo and see everywhere small well-pruned trees twisting above provoking cedar or bamboo fences and above stone walls.

Land Is Scarce

Today it seems the Japanese gift to the world to isolate the tiniest plot of ground completely from the distracting world outside. Tiny that plot of ground must be, for land is dear both in price and availability. The last big front lawn we saw was in California. Instead, out of the damp, dark soil is created a spot of timeless beauty with tiny gnarled trees and shrubs, boulders, moss, gravel and a few flowering plants—almost a mathematical reduction of the particular countryside the individual had in mind.

We must add, regrettably, that there is quite a gap between the general



The Maple tree and gate from our room in a Japanese home located in Meguro-Ko, Tokyo

attitude toward beauty and order behind these walls and fences and the attitude outside of them. The citizen of Tokyo is proud and a frequent user of the numerous parks and shrine grounds in his city. These spots are rich in the unique Japanese sense of the beautiful in nature. Yet we find these but islands in a sea of civic chaos. Tokyo is notorious for lack of order in street organization, zoning, any city planning whatsoever. The new and the big is growing too rapidly over the fabric of the old and the small.

Maple Tree Framed In Windows

The Japanese garden has become a part of our own lives. As soon as the

sunshine breaks through the clouds we slide open our great frosted glass windows so that the whole room seems like a porch. The bright red leaves of the little maple tree framed in one of the window openings glow as the warmth of the precious sun reaches us. Widely spaced stepping stones sunk in the wet, mossy, black earth stagger by a variety of shrubs, some sub-tropical plants and outcroppings of boulders.

These stones finally follow a sharp curve which disappears through an almost shrine-like gateway in a split garden belonging to the landlady.

(To be continued)



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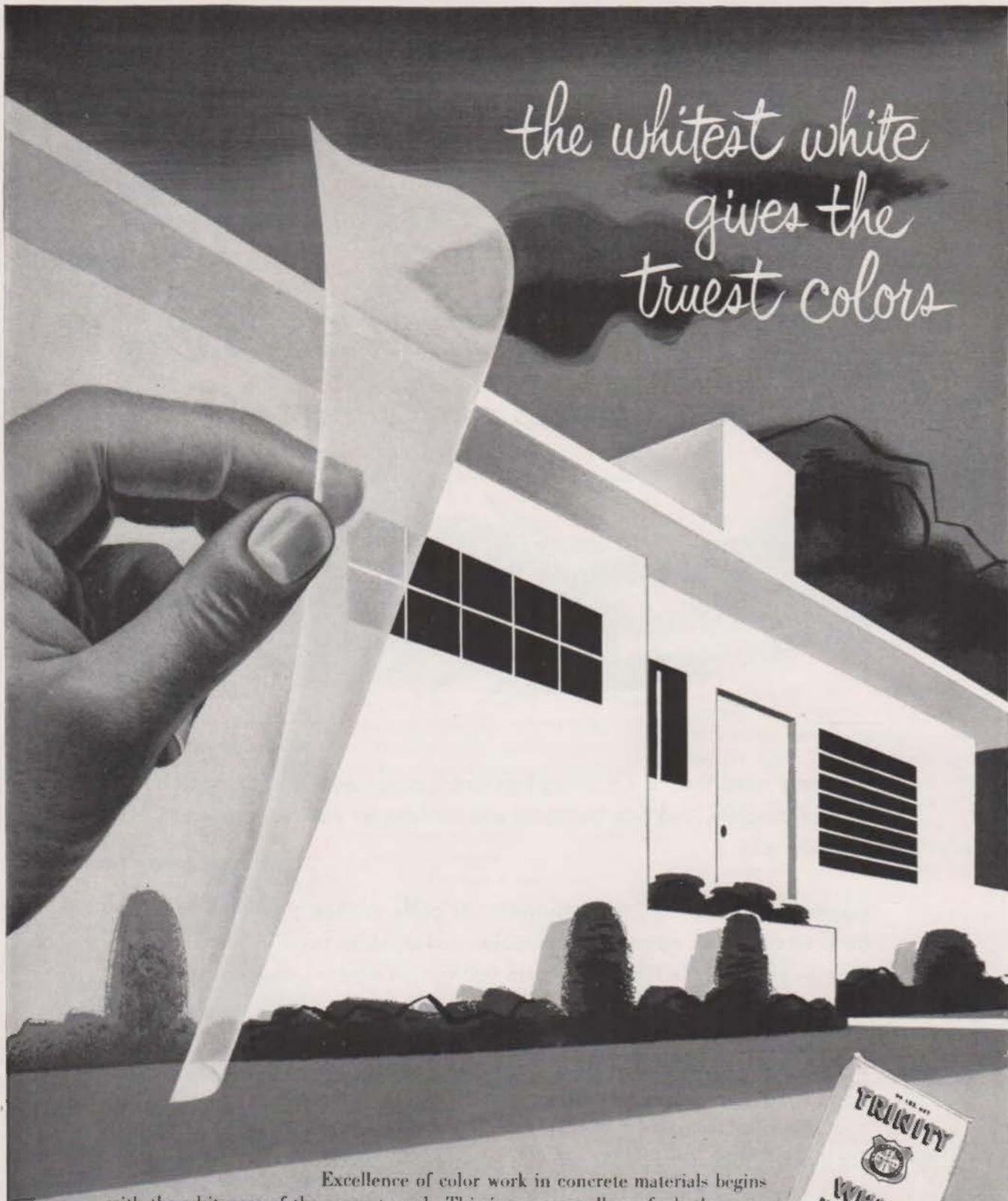
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