

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

*December*  
1950

THE TEXAS SOCIETY  
OF ARCHITECTS

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# THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

The Bulletin Of  
THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

Editor  
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RAYMOND PHELPS, SAN ANTONIO, ELECTED  
PRESIDENT OF TEXAS SOCIETY FOR '51

Raymond Phelps, AIA, of San Antonio, 1950 Chairman of the TSA Committee on Statewide Fee Schedules, was elected President of the Texas Society of Architects for 1951 by the delegates in convention at Dallas.

Herbert Tatum, Dallas, a past president of the Dallas chapter, AIA, was elected vice-president. President Phelps appointed Richard Vanderstraten, San Antonio, secretary-treasurer, in compliance with the practice that the secretary shall be from the same chapter as the president to make for more efficient service.

The only new Director on the Board will be Herman Cox, appointed to fill the expired term of Hubert H. Crane of Fort Worth. Remaining as Directors will be: Lee Roy Buttrill, Temple; Nat W. Hardy, Corpus Christi; Jack Corgan, Dallas; Otto H. Thorman, El Paso; Fred Mackie, Houston; James E. Atcheson, Lubbock; Zeb Rike, McAllen; and Marvin Eickenroht, San Antonio.

The new officers were installed immediately after election. The retiring officers will serve ex-officio until December 31, 1950. They are: Edward L. Wilson, president, and Robert P. Woltz, Jr., Fort Worth; and Eugene Werlin, vice-president, Houston.

President Phelps is a member of the firm of Phelps, Dewees and Simmons in San Antonio. During World War II, he served with the rank of Colonel in the artillery of the 36th Division. He is a member of the Institute's national Committee on Architectural Practice.

Herbert Tatum is a member of the firm of Tatum and Quade, Dallas. For the past year, he has been Chairman of the TSA Committee on Education.

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CONVENTION DELEGATES UNANIMOUSLY APPROVE  
STATEWIDE FEE SCHEDULES FOR TSA MEMBERS

Architects attending the 11th annual convention of the Texas Society of Architects voted 100 per cent for the proposed Statewide Fee Schedules, suggested by the Committee headed by Raymond Phelps of San Antonio, newly elected TSA President.

It is felt by the Executives of the TSA that this adoption of the Statewide Fee Schedules is one more step in the unification of architects in Texas. The members of the Committee, which submitted the Schedules, have attempted to set a fair minimum value on the worth of architectural services in Texas.

Of course, an iron bound agreement on any fee schedule would be a violation of the anti-trust laws. The schedule presented is considered fair and equitable in the average well conducted office producing clear, concise, and sufficient plans and specifications as they apply to the architectural engineering aspects of a building.

The new schedules, as printed in the October issue of the TEXAS ARCHITECT, will now be printed on a high quality paper and distributed among the various chapters and entire membership of the state.

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FACTS AND FIGURES GIVEN BY TSA SECRETARY

Robert P. Woltz, Jr., outgoing Secretary-Treasurer of TSA, reported the following facts in his annual report at the 11th annual convention: As of October 31, 1950, the TSA list 654 members, 85% of which are in good standing. As of noon on November 2, some 130 men and 78 ladies registered for the convention. Many came in later just for the President's Dinner. \*\*\*\*\*

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT,  
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEES OF  
THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

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Following are excerpts from the Consolidated Report  
given by the President, Edward L. Wilson, at the 11th  
Annual Convention of the TSA, November 2-3 at Dallas.  
\*\*\*\*\*

It is gratifying to report splendid progress,  
outstanding cooperation from the members, and diligent  
effort on the part of all Committees to work for the  
interest of TSA. It has been a deep satisfaction to  
the President to note the enthusiasm and willingness  
to work on the part of all of these individuals. There  
have been five meetings of the Board of Directors,  
each with a fine turnout of Board members and Commit-  
tee representatives.

Much could be said about the necessity for a  
strong state organization such as TSA. The Texas Soc-  
iety of Architects functions as a representative of  
the Texas architects at the state level. The Insti-  
tute, remote as it is from the local scene, could not  
be effective in state matters, nor could the indivi-  
dual chapters representing various localities perform  
this service.

Each year brings added realization of the value  
of cooperative effort and good fellowship. Knowing  
each other better we can work together on a higher  
level of professional ethics than if we were all  
strangers. Such mutual fellowship and understanding  
cannot help but result in a higher level of profess-  
ional practice. It exist as an intangible force for  
good in architectural affairs in Texas, and its value  
is in direct proportion to the effort and thought put  
upon it by its members.

We have the many activities of the Society devoted

to the improvement of architectural education, a higher standard of service to the client, improvement in individual practice, and a constant effort to maintain architectural design on a high level of value.

During the year, 1950, two new chapters have been added, one in El Paso and one in the Rio Grande Valley. This makes a total of nine chapters in Texas, with nine Directors to the TSA Board.

Early in the year a Public Relations Committee was established with David C. Baer, chairman. The Committee started its year's work with a meeting in connection with the TSA Board meeting in Dallas in March, and an overall public relations policy was formulated. The Board approved the plan, with the main objective for the year being to re-unite the architects of Texas in the Texas Society.

Publication of the TEXAS ARCHITECT was inaugurated with more than 1000 copies being sent out each issue. This year more attention was given to the setting up a general editorial policy. News of TSA activities reported in the TEXAS ARCHITECT have served as one of the most important means of uniting the profession in Texas, and proving the value of the state organization.

No great effort has been made this year to set up the program for telling the story of the architectural profession other than to distribute the TEXAS ARCHITECT to a number of public officials to whom it brings news of the statewide activities of architects.

The "Press Book" being used in connection with dissemination of news of the Convention is an example of the work which can be accomplished by a vigorous overall public relations program.

The Committee on Legislation, Lee Roy Buttrill, chairman, has done splendid work in connection with any possible legislation that may be necessary in the

interest of the profession. The Committee has given careful consideration to all proper suggestions in regard to Legislation and recommendations have been made for the year, 1951.

The Committee on School Plant Study, headed by Herbert Voelcker, has had under consideration all possible activities which might assist the State Department of Education to improve its service with respect to the construction of school buildings.

At the request of Dr. J. W. Edgar, Commissioner of Education, a Committee was appointed to collaborate with the State Education Agency in cooperation with other groups. At a later meeting of this group, a tentative program was developed for reorganizing the School Plant Department within the Texas Education Agency so that it would better serve the school building public that it has in the past.

Attention has been given by the Committee on Education, Herbert Tatum, chairman, to matters pertaining to architectural education in Texas. A sub-committee acted at the request of the University of Texas in advising and consulting on the employment of a Director to head the new independent department of architecture.

The Committee on Architectural and Government Relations, Ralph Cameron, chairman, stood prepared for action in any special matters requiring their attention; however, we are happy to report that no special business has been required.

The Capitol Plan Committee, with Karl Kamrath, newly appointed chairman, consults and advises with state officials on development of the Capitol Plan in Austin. It is suggested that this Committee continue intact for the coming year, as they are organized and familiar with the work to be done.

Work has virtually been completed for the Committee on Chapter Boundaries, Wm. H. Collier, Jr., head.

Principle duties were concerned with making the territory of various TSA chapters coordinate with that of the AIA chapters.

A study of Statewide Fee Schedules was made by a Committee, chaired by Raymond Phelps, and deemed of utmost importance to the welfare of the profession in Texas. Several Committee members had worked on similar activities for local chapters. In the October issue of the TEXAS ARCHITECT, the Schedule proposed by this Committee is printed in full.

It is understood, of course, that an iron bound agreement on any fee schedule would be a violation of the anti-trust laws. The schedule presented is considered fair and equitable in the average well conducted office.

The fees set by certain governing agencies of city, county, state and national scope were discussed by the Committee, and in many cases believed unfair to practicing architects who render a full, complete and satisfactory architectural service. It was felt that each chapter should appoint a Committee to see that proper schedules are adopted by governmental agencies. On a statewide basis, a state Committee should be in a position to meet and discuss with the officials the proper fees.

The Committee on Professional Society Relations, Nat W. Hardy, chairman, has been active in working on a set of rules for joint practice between architects and engineers in Texas. The document, approved by the Committee, awaits the approval of the convention.

The Texas Construction Council, a comparatively new activity of TSA, is extremely valuable to TSA. Associations with other groups in the Council has helped establish a wider knowledge among municipal officials, engineers, and municipal contractors about the function of architectural service. During the year, upon recommendation from C. O. Chromaster, chairman, the TSA contribution to the Council was increased

from \$50 to \$100 to be in line with that of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

The Committee on Insurance, newly formed with Harry Payne, chairman, has done a splendid job in investigating and reporting of the possibilities for Insurance Protection in the practice of architecture. On page 20 of the October issue of the TEXAS ARCHITECT is an outline of the types of insurance which should be given consideration by the architects.

During the year, a special Committee consisting of Marvin Eickenroht, Lee Roy Buttrill, and Fred MacKie was set up to provide assistance to the State Board of Architectural Examiners. This Committee has assisted in two of the Architectural Examinations by providing personnel from among the architects to help in giving examinations and performing other duties required by the Board.

The Committee on By-Law Revision, Milton McGinty, chairman, prepared certain amendments to be voted on at the convention. Official notice of these By-Laws were printed in the October issue of the TEXAS ARCHITECT. Purpose of the revisions were: (1) To cover the necessary changes in the present By-Laws to meet Institute Requirements for State Organization Membership; and (2) To provide that the Regional Director of the new Texas Region, AIA, be an Ex-Officio Director of TSA.

We should like also to recognize certain Committees set up for the arrangements for the convention. Members who headed these jobs were: George Dahl, Herman Cox, Walter Rolfe, Arch Swank, and Donald Nelson.

The foregoing represents a very streamlined resume of the activities of the various Committees and of the Board of your Society during the past year. Of necessity it is brief but this should not lead you to believe that the time and effort spent on these activities has been sketchy. I can attest from personal knowledge that never before in the history of TSA

TSA AWAITS INSTITUTE BOARD MEETING  
TO BECOME REGIONAL CHAPTER OF AIA

Following action by the TSA convention delegates the Texas Society needs only the vote of the Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects to become a regional organization of the Institute.

Convention delegates voted unanimously to amend the present TSA By-Laws to meet the Institute's requirements, and to provide that the regional Director of the new Texas region, AIA, be an Ex-Officio Director of TSA.

At present, New York state is the only other one-state district of the Institute, with a total membership of 695 as of December 15, 1949. The Pennsylvania Society of Architects, which is a chapter of the Institute, but not a district, has a total of 630 by the December 15, 1949 count. The Texas Society of Architects, with 654 members enrolled as of November 1, 1950 should be among the top three in size.

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have individuals, and Committee members, and Chairmen worked with more enthusiasm and interest than they have this year. The results are bound to be evident.

We sincerely hope that the interest of the membership in our Society will be unflagging and that succeeding years will continue to evidence growth, activity, better fellowship, higher professional relations and better Architecture. - Respectfully submitted,  
Edward L. Wilson, President.

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KENNETH WISCHMEYER, AIA 2nd V-P, REVIEWS  
"EIGHT YEARS OF INSTITUTE PROGRESS"

Kenneth Wischmeyer, second vice-president of the Institute, reviewed many phases of the development of the American Institute of Architects in his address to the delegates and their guests at the President's Dinner and Ball, climaxing the 11th annual T.S.A. convention in Dallas.

In 1940, the Institute was rather weak, Mr. Wischmeyer explained, with only 2,800 members, a budget under \$100,000, and a staff of 12 people. Ethics and fees were the main fields of interest.

The Armed Forces did not recognize the Institute as a professional society during the war, but many architects utilized their training and experience in both military and civilian capacity to good effect. During the war steps were begun to raise the position of the Institute.

A succession of five very strong Presidents now finds the Institute in 1950 with a roster of 8,500 members out of a potential 15,000 architects in the nation. It operates on a budget of \$400,000 a year, and with a staff of 36 people.

The officers and board of directors, one from each region of the AIA, have attempted to set-up strong policies, encourage regional seminars and meetings, improve the publications of the Institute, and bring about a more Democratic organization throughout, Mr. Wischmeyer said.

Referring to publicity, the speaker explained that the Board of the Institute feels that every man is his own best public relations counsel. Money and time spent on the national level has brought nothing but unsatisfactory results he said. A survey is now being

conducted for re-education of the people, and this is expected to aid the program considerably, Mr. Wischmeyer indicated.

Facts and figures point up the needs for re-education, because 52% of all building in 1950 was done by home builders, but that architects only did 2% of this type of work. Of the other 48%, the architects did 98% of the work.

It is expected that the Institute will aid in correcting the former situation Mr. Wischmeyer said, through joint meetings with the National Association of Home Builders, in which the architects and builders can work out their problems and find a solution which will prove congenial and profitable for both parties.

In listing the various Committees of the AIA, Mr. Wischmeyer urged that all architects take part in the activities of the Institute. Mr. Wischmeyer complemented the members of the Texas Society of Architects having become the second state in the nation to become a full region of the Institute.

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FEATHERLITE CORPORATION MAKES GIFT  
TO TSA FOR '51 STUDENT COMPETITION

The Featherlite Corporation of Dallas, headed by Jack Frost, presented to outgoing President Edward L. Wilson a check for \$2000 to be used in the 1951 student competition of the Texas Society of Architects.

In a letter to the TSA, Alex T. Mickle, executive vice-president of Featherlite, suggested that a student competition might be established for the design of a multi-storied building, incorporating in its planning and design, the most advanced thinking and scientific development in the use of expanded shale aggregate lightweight concrete.

Suggested prizes are \$1000 first prize, \$500 second prize, and five additional \$100 prizes.

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WORK GROWS, MORE MEMBERS REQUESTED FOR  
STATE BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EXAMINERS

The State Board of Architectural Examiners should be increased from three to five or more members to handle the large number of applicants for architectural licenses in Texas, so stated Bartlett Cocke, a member of the Board himself, at the TSA convention. Mr. Cocke said that about 130 candidates annually take the comprehensive examination in 10 subjects which is given twice a year. This number of papers in each subject must be graded at the time of the examination and under direct supervision of the Board.

The Board has no discretionary powers, but serves only to administer the law which sets down the four ways of obtaining architectural registration in Texas, Mr. Cocke said. They are: (1) by written junior examination, or oral senior examination, (2) through 10 years practical experience, and no revocation of a license in any other state, (3) by reciprocal transfer of license from one state to another and practical examination, and (4) presentation of an architectural school diploma and three years practical experience.

Subjects covered in the four-day, 36-hour junior examination are: Structural Design, Truss Design, Selection and Use of Materials, Mechanical Equipment of Buildings, Supervision, Counselling and Administration, Architectural Design, Composition, Urban Planning, and History of Architecture. Each applicant must make an average of 75%, with not less than 60% on any one subject.

Mr. Cocke said because of the detailed grading that must be done, the work required of the Board has been very sizeable. Each member grades a portion of each exam, then grades are combined and the candidate receives the benefit of the average of three grades.

Mr. Cocke asked that the TSA sponsor and support a bill in the next legislature to alleviate this situation.

AUSTIN SET FOR NEXT TSA BOARD MEETING

TSA President Raymond Phelps, newly elected, has called the first meeting of the new officers and Board of Directors of the Texas Society of Architects tentatively for January 6, 1951 in Austin. The hotel location will be announced later.

"It is of extreme importance that all the TSA officers and directors attend this first meeting so plans can be made for the work of the Society without losing valuable time," President Phelps explained. He also asked all Committee Chairmen to attend the meeting with recommendations for their Committee's work for the year.

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1951 TSA COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ANNOUNCED

The following TSA members have been appointed by the 1951 officers and directors to head the TSA Committees for the year 1951.

Leo J. Dielmann, San Antonio, Architectural and Government Relations.

Karl Kamrath, Houston, Capitol Plan.

Herbert Tatum, Dallas, Education.

Albert S. Goleman, Houston, Fee Schedules.

→ Harry D. Payne, Houston, Insurance.

→ Max Brooks, Austin, Legislation.

Nat Hardy, Corpus Christi, Professional Society Relations.

David C. Baer, Houston, Public Relations.

Herbert Voelcker, Houston, School Plant Study.

Fred MacKie, Houston, Assist State Board of Architectural Examiners.

C. O. Chromaster, Fort Worth, Texas Construction Council.

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An Editorial

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION ROSTER OF APPROVED  
HOSPITAL ARCHITECTS

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The American Hospital Association has agreed to accord to a request of the American Institute of Architects to end publication of its Roster of Approved Hospital Architects.

This request was made in person to the American Hospital Association by Ralph Walker and Kenneth Wischmeyer, president and vice-president of the AIA, on March 23 of this year at the request of the Board of the Institute. The Council on Hospital Planning and Plant Operation and the Committee on Hospital Architect's Qualifications of the American Hospital Association by joint resolution on October 20, 1950 voted to cease the publication of this Roster forthwith.

Considerable opposition to this list and any such published list of specialized architects has developed within recent years among many members of the Institute. This began soon after an effort was made to have the Institute prepare a list of Architects qualified to do government work and which list could be made available to Federal Agencies.

The Roster of Hospital Architects was inaugurated by the American Hospital Association to promote the sound designing of hospitals and to facilitate the selection of specialized architectural talents and counsel for hospitals in the U.S. and Canada.

The Architects listed thereon were selected for and are eligible to become Associate Personal members of the American Hospital Association. To be so selected, an Architect must, among other things, have established that: He is of good character; he has adequate training in, and previous personal experience in the practice of architecture; he is the architect with a

responsibility for the design of three hospital construction projects, one of which must have been constructed within a reasonably recent time; and he is licensed to practice architecture if he resides in a state requiring such license.

The Board of the Institute has not voiced objection to any architect maintaining membership in the American Hospital Association. Its position in regard to the roster of Hospital Architects reflects the voice of many members of the Institute who have spoken out in opposition to such list.

In taking such a position the profession and particularly those members of the profession who do object to this particular list should not overlook the added responsibility thereby placed upon themselves and the profession.

Steps should be taken by the architectural profession to assure better hospital design. With the question of the Roster out of the way, perhaps more architects will now feel free to join the American Hospital Association in its work to improve hospitals by improving their planning.

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\* BETRAM E. GIESECKE DIES IN AUSTIN \*

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\* Betram E. Giesecke, 58, past president of TSA\*  
\* and former state commander of the American Legion,\*  
\* died of a heart attack in Austin December 6. \*

\* The first architectural graduate of the U. of\*  
\* Texas' School of Architecture in 1913 under his \*  
\* father, he designed many of Austin's buildings, in\*  
\* cluding the yet-to-be constructed administration \*  
\* building of the Texas Public Safety Department. \*  
\* In Houston, he designed the M. & M. Building, and \*  
\* in Washington, the National American Legion Head- \*  
\* quarters now under construction. \*

\* The TSA extends its sincerest condolences to \*  
\* his widow, and two children. \*

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE ADVISES  
ON NATIONAL DEFENSE MEASURES OF AIA

"Our enemies are determined to destroy that way of life that makes it possible for you to carry on your work as architects...As architects and as leaders in the construction industry we should point the way to victory." This was the climatic thought that Edmund Purves, executive director of the Institute in Washington, left with TSA convention delegates.

"All of us realize, even our enemies, by this time that an all out war brings nothing but a Pyrrhic victory," Mr. Purves said in his discussion of the preparedness measures and actions being taken by the American Institute of Architects for the present international world conflict.

One of the first things done by the Institute's Committee on National Defense, which was organized last Spring, was to arrange conferences with the three agencies probably to be concerned with any sort of construction program, excluding housing. These were the Corps of Engineers, Army; the Bureau of Yards and Docks, Navy; and Public Building Service. All three agencies indicated there would be no defense or war program unless the situation deteriorated very much.

Mr. Purves said the Institute is not at all sympathetic with the drastic policy order of the public housing administration issued late in October. This statement by P.H.A.'s Mr. Egan indicated that rising cost will not be met by attempting to find less expensive ways of building, but by eliminating various features on public housing projects and cutting down on room sizes.

In referring to other agencies interested in war construction, Mr. Purves listed the National Security Resources Board as a policy-forming and policy-advising agency. The policy itself insofar as mobilization

is concerned will be carried on by the National Production Authority under Major Gen. Harrison.

In all of the government organizing, very little attention is paid to the building industry. In fact, we have reason to believe that we have been purposely overlooked, Mr. Purves said. As a result, the construction industry formed a committee of its own, under the egis of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The sub-committee on construction mobilization is headed by Ralph Walker, President of the Institute.

In a meeting with Gen. Harrison, and representatives of Labor, Mr. Walker stated that the construction industry would like to know why certain restrictive orders are coming out, and wanted a chance to express itself to the Government prior to the time policies are formulated. The M-4 order, curtailing amusement construction, was pointed out as example.

Mr. Walker was largely instrumental in getting Gen. Harrison to cancel the clause in the M-4 order stating that the government will retain the right to stop any kind of building included in one of these orders even after construction on such a building has been started with the permission of the government. This clause, Mr. Purves said, would probably have had a most drastic effect on the construction industry, and would have seriously curtailed building in this country.

Mr. Purves then explained briefly the organization and plans of the Institute for the coming years, and outlined the Committees and department functions.

"I think we are living through an awful period of world history, one that will probably fascinate historians in years to come. Maybe if we could recognize our own importance in the history of the world it would be some solace to us and would help us to carry on through this period," Mr. Purves said.

19 ARCHITECTS, 6 STUDENTS, RECEIVE  
DESIGN AWARDS AT TSA CONVENTION

Meritorious Design Awards in nine categories, seven honorable mention certificates, one special home award, and six student awards climaxed the 1950 TSA competition program.

President Edward L. Wilson presented plaques to the owner or representative of the owner, and a certificate to the architect on the following design awards.

St. Frances Cabrini Hospital, Alexandria, La.,  
Goleman and Rolfe, Houston.

Houston Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, Stone and Pitts,  
Beaumont.

Fondren Library, Rice Institute, Houston, Staub  
and Rather, Wm. Ward Watkin, Houston.

Memorial Grand Lodge Temple, Waco, Robert L. White,  
Thomas D. Broad, Donald S. Nelson, Dallas; Walter  
Cocke, Jr., Waco.

Temple Emanu El, Houston, Gabert, Mackie and  
Kamrath, Houston.

Staub and Rather Office Building, Houston, Staub  
and Rather, Houston.

St. Theresa School, Houston, Goleman and Rolfe,  
Houston.

McCleary Residence, Houston, Thompson H. McCleary,  
Houston.

Rio Grande National Life Building, Dallas, Grayson  
Gill, George Harrell, Dallas.

Honorable Mention Certificates went to:

B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, Austin, N. Straus  
Nayfach, San Antonio, Howard R. Meyer, Dallas.

U. S. Post Office, Medical Center Station, Dallas,  
White and Prinz, Dallas.

Mesita Elementary School, El Paso, Carroll and  
Daeuble, El Paso.

L. O. Donald School, Dallas, Broad and Nelson, Mark Lemmon, Dallas.

William R. McKee Duplex, Dallas, Wiltshire and Fischer, Dallas.

Thomas D. Broad residence, Dallas, Thomas D. Broad, Dallas.

#### SPECIAL AWARD

The William R. McKee Duplex, Wiltshire and Fischer, Dallas, received also the special "Living" award, given by "Living For Young Homemakers" magazine and presented by Mrs. Edith Braswell Evans, editor of the magazine. In presenting a silver plate to Mr. McKee, she complimented him for being a merchant builder who has the good sense to call an architect to plan his homes, and for being fortunate enough to live in it himself.

The duplex was a one-story design with a large patio separating the two units.

#### STUDENT AWARDS

Student competition was limited to fifth-year architectural students of the five architectural schools in the state. The problem was for a "Clinic For Medical Doctors." The designs were judged without identification as to school or student. Cash prizes were made to:

→ Harwood Taylor, 1st prize, \$150, University of Texas; William R. Lenzen, 2nd prize, \$100, Texas A. & M.; Lee Moore, 3rd prize, \$75, University of Texas. Honorable Mentions: Harry L. Butler, Texas A. & M.; Frank Valdez, University of Texas; Conrad G. Walton, Rice Institute. Each of the 14 student competitors whose designs were chosen by the schools for final judgement at the convention received \$25 travelling expenses to the meeting.

#### JUDGES COMMENTS

D. A. Hamilton, head of the School of

Architecture and Applied Arts at Oklahoma A. & M. College, and chairman of the Jury on Awards, expressed to the delegates his disappointment at the small number of submissions, especially in the residential section.

"What is the best piece of architecture is a matter of opinion," Mr. Hamilton said, qualifying his selections. The Meritorious Design Awards, he said, are honoring two groups--the architects and the clients-- and he elaborated on the latter.

A good architect with a poor client cannot produce good buildings, Mr. Hamilton said. An architect can only do good work if permitted to use and develop his taste.

"I think the Institute is thinking straighter today than ever before," Mr. Hamilton suggested, by urging closer cooperation among the architects.

Following the convention, the architectural exhibits are scheduled for display at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, and the five Schools of Architecture in Texas. They are available for display, and requests should be forwarded to the Secretary, TSA, for reservations.

Additional architectural firms having exhibits in the competition were: Adams and Adams, Dallas; Atcheson and Atkinson, Lubbock; Carlton Brush, J. Robert Buffer, Austin; Buttrill and Turley, Temple; Jon D. Carsey, Dallas; Wm. B. Collier, Jr. Abilene; Jack M. Corgan, Dallas, and Annan and Gilmer, Shreveport, La.; George L. Dahl, Dallas; Marvin Eichenroht, San Antonio; Card G. Elliott, Houston; John W. Floore, Fort Worth; Preston M. Geren, Fort Worth; Wilbur Green, Houston; and Jackson and Dill, Wirtz, Calhoun and Tungate, Houston.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHAPTER HOST TO  
INSTITUTE PRESIDENT RALPH WALKER

TSA's newest chapter, the Rio Grande Valley chapter, was host to National President Ralph Walker at a dinner meeting November 8 in Reynosa, Mexico.

In after dinner remarks, President Walker reviewed his recent activities, both in the states and abroad. He expressed belief that the problems of architects may become serious in event of further curtailment of building, and anticipated "more restrictions and possibly some price fixing in the next few months."

President Walker suggested that the Valley architects should take appropriate steps for zoning of buildings along the main Valley highway, because "like many other places in the Country, this is an unusual Main Street, but not a very pretty one."

Upon arrival in Brownsville on the evening preceeding the meeting, President Walker was presented a certificate branding him a "Temporary Texan," permitting him to wear boots, a ten-gallow hat, refer to acquaintances as 'Tex.' He was also presented with a visa for travel in Texas.

Escorting President Walker during his Valley trip were Wm. C. Baxter, president of the Valley chapter; Zeb Rike, vice-president; Alex H. Woolridge, secretary and treasurer; and Walter Bowman, past president of the Valley organization of architects.

More than 39 persons attended the cocktail party and meeting. In addition to the chapter members and wives, special representatives came from the West Texas and Coastal Bend chapters, from the Valley chapters, AGC, and many Valley newspapers.

PROBLEMS IN STRENGTHENING AND MOBILIZING  
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY RESOURCES FOR DEFENSE

By Ralph R. Kaul

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Following are excerpts from a talk by Mr. Kaul, in charge of Housing and Community Facilities Office, National Security Resources Board, Executive Office of the President, before the Convention of the Texas Society of Architects, November 3, 1950 in Dallas.

He is a graduate of Reed College, Portland, Oregon, and did graduate study as a Littauer Fellow at Harvard University and as a Rockefeller Research Fellow at Columbia University. Since 1935, he has served as an economist and housing consultant in the Federal Government and with private industry.

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It is a real privilege and pleasure for me to participate in your convention to discuss with you some of the problems in strengthening and mobilizing housing and community resources for defense.

Our Chairman, Walter Rolfe, asked me to talk briefly and bluntly on problems of planning in an atomic age. I believe I can cover the highlights of planning for war housing and community facilities by speaking to three questions:

First, I would like to explain the functions of the National Security Resources Board because its role is crucial to effective planning and also its functions are frequently misunderstood.

Then, I would like to enumerate the major problems or requirements for housing in an atomic war, as we now see it to give perspective to our planning problems.

Finally, I want to discuss two or three measures of preparedness which must now be planned and accomplished now and in which architects have a major

responsibility for leadership.

#### NOV, WHAT IS THE NSRB ROLE?

Some people have expected it to become a kind of super agency containing under one command a revived WPB, OPA, Labor Board, and other World War II agencies which would take over and run the country's defense effort. This has not been the case. The Board was established by the National Security Act of 1945 under which a Chairman, with the Secretaries of State, Treasury, Defense, Interior, Agriculture, Commerce and Labor as Board members, was designated to advise the President and to coordinate mobilization planning within the Federal Government. The basic concept under the Act has been and is now that mobilization is the function of all agencies of government; in fact all private and public institutions, each in its own area of peacetime responsibility and competence.

The Chairman and President have repeatedly emphasized the policy advisory function, not operating functions of the NSRB. Operating responsibilities have been farmed out to the agencies equipped to handle them. For example, the Commerce Department is administering priorities and allocations; manpower mobilization is the job of the Department of Labor; the Department of Defense is handling military procurement and stockpiling. The NHFA will have the major responsibility for building up or mobilizing our resources of housing and community facilities.

Mr. W. Stuart Symington summarized the functions of the Board as follows:

1. "By statute, to advise the President concerning the coordination of military, industrial and civilian mobilization.
2. "By Executive Order 10161, with approval of the President, to coordinate the defense activities of the various departments of the Government now working to make this country strong, to resolve inter-agency issues, prescribe policy and program directives, obtain reports and information on the status of work

in said various agencies, coordinate related policies and activities among these agencies; and advise the President on the progress of the program."

#### HOUSING PROBLEMS IN ALL OUT MOBILIZATION

In general, we can expect urgent housing needs to arise almost immediately in all industrial communities and military centers. These needs will arise when war industries are expanded, essential plants have to be relocated, or when military installations are suddenly put into full operation. When housing and community facilities are destroyed in target areas shelter must be provided for the disaster victims and evacuees.

Specifically, the housing and community planning is being developed in five major areas:

(1) Utilization of Existing Housing. In any future war, we cannot count on having the time or resources to meet emergency needs with large construction programs. Bombed out people of England and Germany had to be accommodated in existing dwellings or buildings converted to shelter. In the U.S., some four-out-of-nine million migrant war workers were taken care of by doubling up in existing dwellings. Our communities must plan to be prepared to use their existing resources wisely and fully in any future emergency.

(2) Orderly Regulation of Construction, Maintenance and Repair. At any time an emergency arises, it will be necessary to quickly authorize completion of essential housing underway, start production of new war housing in the locations needed, and maintain and repair existing facilities. The magnitude of the problem is suggested by the \$9 million of private housing and \$2 million of public housing built between 1940 and 1945. During the same period normal maintenance ran to nearly \$8 billions. As large as this is, it may be small compared with the repair and restoration of facilities damaged by atomic attacks. There is no way to estimate this requirement precisely.

(3) Emergency and Mobile Housing. Less than 0.1% of the 43 million dwelling units in this country are

mobile, or capable of being moved from areas of housing surplus to the areas of need. We must be prepared to produce housing and community facilities of many types which can be shipped into disaster or shortage areas, ready for immediate use, or which can be built quickly with a minimum of critical labor and material. Planning for these requirements must be accomplished now if we are to be able to act intelligently and adequately when the problem is thrust on us.

(4) Assuring That War-Supporting Community Facilities and Services Will Be Available To Maintain The Morale and Sustained Efficiency of the Civilian Population. The magnitude of housing expenditures sometimes causes us to lose sight of the importance of community facilities. In the last war we built \$5 billions in community facilities, or approximately \$30 for every \$100 spent on housing.

(5) Encouraging Peacetime Research and Development Which Will Be Essential in Wartime. This must be done to conserve critical materials, save manpower, speed construction, and provide mobility or portability. For example, the new research division of NHFA is working on construction standards which can be applied in wartime in the interest of conservation and speed; the Department of Defense is doing research on special materials and construction techniques which are adaptable to both military and civil defense requirements. Other research programs, such as those of the Southwest Research Institute in Texas, the School of Architecture at the University of Michigan, the Bemis Foundation of M.I.T., or the Pierce Foundation will be used increasingly as this mobilization research program progresses.

WHAT CAN THE ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS DO TO FURTHER THE NATION'S PREPAREDNESS?

Emphasize the design and production of the low-cost, low-rental types of housing that the average worker needs when he takes a job in expanding military

production centers. This does not mean temporary war housing. We must build up the resources of housing within the income range of defense workers or military families in those permanent communities which will be carrying the bulk of the defense production load.

The architectural profession has much to contribute to the development of mobile or portable housing for non-permanent military or industrial installations. We need to strengthen our community resources with the types of housing units that meet fully requirements for livability, durability, and economy, but can also be readily and economically moved to new locations as it becomes necessary to contract the defense program in one area and expand it in another.

For example, I saw a demountable house in Houston with more than 1000 sq. ft. of space which can be erected, disassembled and moved to another location and re-created - the entire operation with less than 1000 manhours. This house meets the FHA standards of livability, durability, and structural soundness.

The architects have a responsibility for assisting in the development of such construction systems and guiding them into sound, economic uses in our peacetime building program.

The conservation of labor, particularly site labor, is another mobilization objective to be served by the architects, an objective which is closely related, if not synonymous, with mobile portable housing. The increased use of power equipment and line production methods, and greater degree of fabrication will result in savings in our labor resources.

Plan for housing which will provide the greatest flexibility in the conservation and substitution of critical materials. We can expect almost every material to get scarce at some stage in all-out mobilization and war. The building industry should be prepared to use the widest possible range of alternative materials, and show resourcefulness in adjusting to the inevitable shortages and delays in material supply.

Certainly, one of the most important preparedness measures, we must plan and develop our cities to be increasingly less vulnerable to atomic attack. An atomic attack may not come next year, or in ten years or perhaps never if the United States and United Nations policy of preparedness and collective security establishes an enduring peace.

There is a defense against atomic attack by the dispersion and protective construction of essential industrial and community facilities, and it is economically feasible if approached as part of our regular job of building and developing our cities. The architects and engineers have a major responsibility of developing in cooperation with the Government, the city planning and construction standards that will adequately serve the requirements for national security. The problem is basically the same as designing for earthquake or other natural hazards.

When you consider that we are building and remodeling at a rate of about \$28 billions a year, you can realize how much we can accomplish in a few years if we apply protective standards on a sound and sensible basis to the building for our normal community requirements.

We should accomplish much on this objective in the coming years, especially since the standards for dispersion and protective construction are consistent with our standards for good living and sound, long-range community development.

I have mentioned these five objectives which are specific to our field of interest, housing and community facilities. I would like to mention also the grave responsibility we have to resist the inflation-are pressures inherent in any national mobilization.

The Chairman of the Resources Board and The President have stressed repeatedly the importance of resisting in every way the temptations to take some special advantage of our urgent defense needs now in this period of partial mobilization, or in the future if total mobilization and war cannot be avoided.

AIA DIRECTOR THOMAS BROAD TALKS TO  
PANHANDLE CHAPTER AIA AT AMARILLO

Thomas D. Broad, AIA Director from the Texas Region of the Institute, discussed at length the many problems of the Institute at the October 28 meeting of the Panhandle chapter, AIA, in Amarillo. James Atcheson, president, presided.

Pointing up the TSA convention, Mr. Broad explained the values and advantages of developing a strong Society of Architects in Texas.

Prof. F. A. Kleinschmidt of Texas Tech College submitted a proposed constitution for the Panhandle Student Chapter of AIA. Committees were then appointed to examine the constitution for report at a future meeting.

Announcement was made for a Student Competition at Texas Tech for a memorial bookplate for two books placed in the College Library in memory of two chapter members deceased.

Four additional counties were accepted by vote as a part of the Panhandle chapter, AIA, in order to complete revision of chapter boundaries for TSA. The counties were Midland, Upton, Crane and Ector.

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The architects and other members of the construction industry have a real challenge in holding down costs and prices in providing the housing and community resources which are so essential to the economic strength and preparedness of the country.

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#### COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION

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#### COMMITTEE ON 1950 CONVENTION

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

#### COMMITTEE ON 1950 SEMINAR AT CONVENTION

Chairman — Walter T. Ruffe, 915 Woodrow, Houston

Member — Herbert Cowall, 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