

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

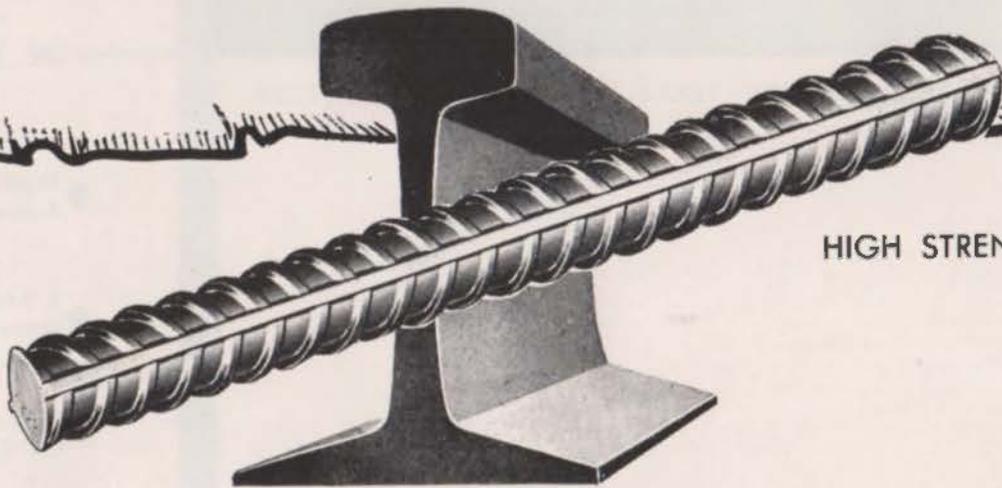
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St. Paul Lutheran Church, Fort Worth, Texas, has been selected by members of the Fort Worth Chapter, TSA-AIA, as representative of recent work in the Chapter area. Architect: Wm. R. Lane, Fort Worth, TSA-AIA.

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THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

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FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR ADVANCE PLANNING

Many a Texas town and city, faced by the problems brought about by continuing growth and expansion, must provide now for future growth in order to avoid the intensified problems brought about by lack of advance planning.

It may be of interest to these communities to know about the broadened program of public works planning recently announced by the Community Facilities Administration of the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

States, counties, municipalities, school districts and regional bodies are eligible under the newly expanded program for advance planning funds, to be used for a wide range of public works.

These advances are repayable to the Federal government when construction starts on the projects involved. They are interest-free. The advances are not a debt obligation on the local government until construction is actually underway. They are usually made for preliminary planning only, in order to reduce obsolescence brought about by changes in community requirements in the interim between planning and building.

In the past, approvals under the program were limited to water and sewer facilities because of a limitation of funds. The 1955 changes in the law involved greatly expand the list of eligible projects, and lift a \$10,000 ceiling on individual jobs. Inquiries concerning these advances should be addressed to W. H. Sindt, Housing and Home Finance Agency, Region V, 300 West Vickery Boulevard, Fort Worth.

The President's Letter

By

Grayson Gill

TSA-AIA

President,
Texas Society
of Architects



The annual meeting of the Texas Society of Architects in Houston last month dramatized most impressively many effective contributions by our profession and its Texas organization to the progress and development of the Southwest.

At this meeting were assembled top-ranking architectural students, many of whom participated in design competitions sponsored by members of the construction industry. These young men and women recognized the necessity for, and the benefits to be derived from, frequent professional contact with their fellow students.

Here also were assembled the exhibits of the producers of the architects' designs, our associate members with whom the graduates from schools of architecture will work during their period of sub-professional training, and the practicing architects whose responsibility it is to provide the opportunities for this training. These architects of tomorrow benefitted by attending the convention and we practitioners and the general public benefitted from their being present.

The technological development of the art of building is being accelerated through extensive research conducted by the producers of raw materials and finished sub-assemblies. The results of this research were impressively displayed in the products exhibit at the Houston TSA Convention. This exhibit has been excelled at no regional or national convention, and we are indebted to our exhibitors for bringing to the more than one thousand registrants and many guests this wonderfully organized display.

The arrangements made by the convention committee and particularly the outstanding quality of the seminar programs, left nothing to be desired. This 16th annual convention of the Texas Society of Architects was a fitting climax to a year of unequalled activity and progress made possible by the loyal, aggressive and effective work of every member of the Society.



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Houston Convention of TSA Most Successful Ever Held

The November 2-4 convention of TSA at the Shamrock Hilton Hotel in Houston was the most successful ever staged by the Society, in terms of attendance, quality of program, exhibits and general interest. The theme "An Approach to Good Design" was followed closely throughout.

Total attendance went over 1000 with the addition of a record turnout of architectural students. A number of the seminars were so well attended that all seating capacity (in excess of 400) was taken, in the combined Azalea and Bluebonnet Rooms of the Shamrock Hilton.

Keynote Address by Owings

A feature of the opening day, and of the entire meeting, was the keynote address by Nathaniel A. Owings, FAIA, of the firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, architects. Forcefully outlining his own philosophy as a practitioner, Mr. Owings sketched a concept of architecture in which boldness is tempered with sound design, in buildings that are both functionally useful and aesthetically beautiful.

Two afternoon seminars, one an approach to good design in the small office and the other on the same topic from the viewpoint of the larger architectural office, were also of particular interest on the first-day program. Stimulating discussions were led by Ulysses Floyd Rible of Los Angeles and by Mr. Owings, who emphasized the paramount importance of good design in any architectural practice, whether small, medium or large in scope.

Dorothy Draper Stimulating Speaker

Another seminar of particular interest opened the Thursday program, with Seymour Fogel of Austin, painter, sculptor and muralist; and Dorothy Draper, the internationally-known interior decorator from New York City, as principals. Mr. Fogel, with the aid of color slides, showed dramatically how his work is coordinated with that of the architect for maximum effect. Mrs. Draper, one of the most stimulating speakers on the entire convention program, showed how the interior decorator uses color effects, textures, materials and arrangements to complement architectural design. Illustrating



Rible, Moderator Rolfe at Seminar

Ulysses Floyd Rible, AIA (left) is shown with Walter T. Rolfe, TSA-FAIA of Houston, before the opening seminar discussion at the TSA convention. Mr. Rolfe was moderator for all the seminar sessions. Mr. Rible, a Los Angeles architect, appeared with Nathaniel A. Owings of San Francisco on a Wednesday afternoon discussion of the problems of the small and the large architectural office. Mr. Rolfe's summary of the seminar sessions is presented on page 4 of this issue.

her address with a number of anecdotes concerning important decorating commissions executed by her firm, Mrs. Draper held the attention of an overflow audience on into a lengthy question-and-answer period. This convention session was attended by many decorators, artists, and others in fields allied to architecture.

City Planner Featured

The main event on the Thursday afternoon program was the appearance of landscape architect Garrett Eckbo, of San Francisco; and Harald F. Wise, Los Angeles city planner, on a seminar. Mr. Eckbo discussed the relationship between landscape architecture and good design which necessitates close teamwork between architects and landscape architects. Mr. Wise, currently engaged in developing a master plan for the city of Austin and the State Capitol Area, emphasized the need for advance planning if good design is to be achieved in the overall aspects of our cities.

On Friday, the concluding day, Professor Jean Labatut of Princeton University opened the morning seminar with a discussion of the convention

theme "An Approach To Good Design" from the viewpoint of the professional teacher of architecture. He was followed by Walter Megronigle, public relations consultant to the AIA, speaking on "You Can Sell Good Design." Mr. Megronigle stressed the public relation aspects of good design.

Summarized by Rolfe

Following this seminar, Walter T. Rolfe, FAIA of Houston, who had served as moderator throughout the three days, summarized the seminars presented. The text of Mr. Rolfe's remarks are presented in full in this issue.

An awards luncheon, held for the second year, was again a feature convention attraction on the final day. The meeting concluded with sessions of the AIA committee on school buildings, held as an open seminar, and the annual business meeting of the Society.

A full social schedule made the Houston meeting one of the most enjoyable in TSA history, in addition to the excellent quality of the seminar presentations.

Summary of Convention Seminars

By Walter T. Rolfe, FAIA, Moderator

AN APPROACH TO GOOD DESIGN:

SEMANTICS:

An: — one or any — your
Approach: — nearness, approximation, opportunity, access, means.
Good: — Capable of producing satisfaction, physical, mental or moral—agreeable to the senses—benevolent—kindly—divine.
Design: — artistic invention—plan—project invent—object of reason—purposeful.

DEFINITION:

Design is artistic invention, creative purpose at work in a constructive and inspiring manner. Its end is to serve the human spirit, and to give physical, mental and moral agreeableness through the human senses. It is benevolent, kindly and divine when the attribute good is appended to it. Then can there be any other design than good? If it is bad, is it design at all?

The approach to the opportunity, the access the means.

THEN WE ARE NOW READY TO PROCEED:

You will note the convention committee has carefully set the subject of these seminars as "An Approach to Good Design." You have been told that the purpose of these discussions is not whether or not there should be good design. We are assuming that design must be and should be good. The purpose is rather to find improved ways of using good design, of bringing it to public consciousness, and of securing a greater acceptance of it.

Therefore we have selected for you panelists from the allied creative arts of— City Planning, Landscape Architecture, Interior Decorating, Mural Painting and the Practice of Architecture. We are interested both in education and the extension of education to practice. We hope we may excite your thinking toward a projection of design purposes for the next 50 years. We hope you will be so stimulated that from this conference can come a summary of our approach to good design so realistic and yet so adventurous that our profession and its allies, both in this region and throughout the nation, can secure much practical benefit from our deliberations.

It is design that makes the great spiritual impact upon man's soul. It takes him to all the corners of the earth in search for this elixir of the spirit. He finds it in the pyramids, the Taj Mahal, the temples of the classic Greeks, the Gothic structures of Middle Time and in the contemporary of today. It is the expanded sense of esthetics he sees projected from the unity of the universe, from which we get our light, our sense of seasons and the importance of time. Design is this master theme projected throughout all time and eternity—this sense of divinity so ever-present—so real—so practical—and so misunderstood by the public.

The practical-minded may depreciate design because it is not so arithmetic—and yet who can deny that things of the spirit are the less present, the less practical simply because they do not respond to measure and to the little minds of the uncreative person.

Design is creative and not reproductive. It is freshness of mind and approach, it is the ectoplasm of life—calling up responses of those attuned to it. It does not exist for those who cannot feel—see and understand it. It is ever-present to all who do.

This series of seminars had as its main objective the exploration of this vital difference between the arts and the merely reproductive crafts. Design is the magnificent difference between them. It is the concerto, the sculpture, the painting, the architecture, the furniture, the city planning. It spreads across the gulf between uninspired copy and tremendous creation. Design beget the world and the universe around it. It keeps them harmoniously afloat in space. It lifts men's souls, it beckons, it beseeches, it soothes and it satisfies.

Each generation rediscovers its own code of esthetic satisfaction. This code springs from the social life of the times—concepts of law and order—of discipline, restraint, mental achievement and intellectual freedom. Creative depression and slavery go hand in hand. Freedom of spirit will not be stilled. Design goes on, advances, retrogresses—now down—now up, on to eternity.

In my world I hear and see the magnificent future. A future based firmly on better understanding—greater moral and spiritual values—inspired design for finer living and world peace. The urge should be the same whether in Texas, America, or the world as a whole.

Four Schools Announce Winners of 1955 TCMA Award Competition

The architectural departments at Texas A. & M., Rice Institute, Texas Tech and the University of Houston have announced \$150 awards to senior architectural students under terms of the Texas Concrete Masonry Association competition.

The four TCMA winners for 1955 are: Texas A. & M.: Paul A. Kennon. University of Houston, Fernell V. Rozas. Rice Institute, Edward G. Jackson. Texas Tech, Gerald Worrall.

All awards were for \$150 cash prizes. The total amount allotted by TCMA for these prizes is \$750, but one school, the University of Texas, did not hold a 1955 competition.

George Bickel presented the awards at the Houston TSA convention for TCMA.

Elgin-Butler Brick Co-Sponsors of Costume Party at TSA Convention

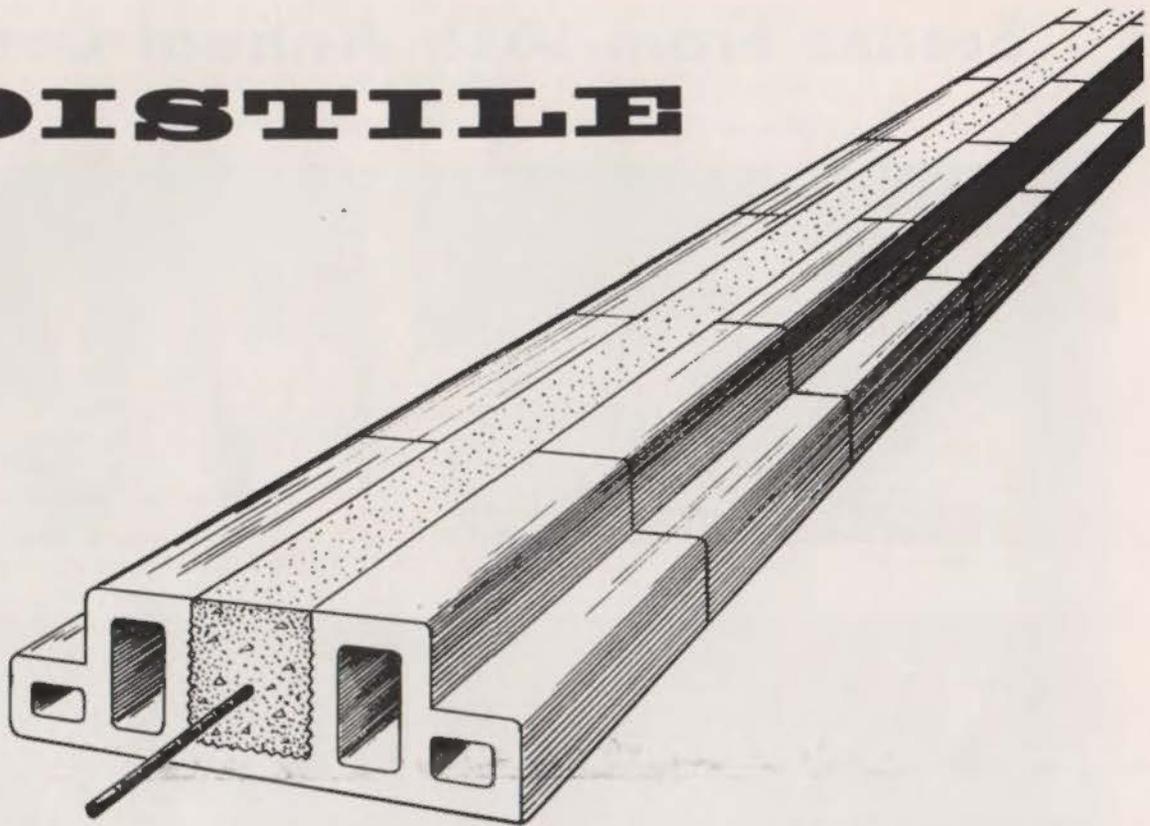
The Elgin-Butler Brick Company, 82-year-old Texas firm with offices in principal cities of the state, was a co-sponsor with TSA for one of the most enjoyable parties at the Houston convention, a brilliant costume ball with costumes designed to illustrate song titles. More than 600 architects and their guests attended the affair, and the decorations were so outstanding that the management of the Shamrock Hilton asked if they might purchase them for later use.

Featherlite Again Provides Photographer For TSA Convention

As in the past several years, the Featherlite Corporation again provided the services of Jimmy Laughead, Dallas photographer, for all events at the Houston convention. Mr. Laughead, assisted by his daughter Betty Laughead, made more than 200 pictures at the Houston meeting.

Virtually all pictures in the December issue of the TEXAS ARCHITECT are by Mr. Laughead through courtesy of the Featherlite Corporation, and a number of his pictures are also scheduled to appear in the January issue.

JOISTILE



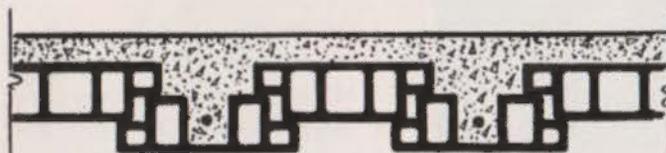
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Scenes From 16th Annual Convention



1. Costume party.
2. President's Dinner.
3. AIA president speaks.
4. Friday reception.
5. Featherlite winners.
6. "Song Titles."
7. Group at final dinner-dance.

The Annual Meeting of the Society in Houston last month dramatized most impressively one of the effective contributions by our Society to the progress and development of the Southwest in general, and particularly to that of the construction industry. At this meeting were assembled top ranking students, many of whom participated in design competitions sponsored by members of the construction industry and other students from our Schools of Architecture, who recognized the necessity for and the benefits to be derived from frequent contact with their fellow students from the other schools. Here also were assembled the exhibits of the producers of building equipment and material which make possible the execution of the Architect's designs, our associate members with whom the graduates from schools of architecture will work during their period of sub-professional training and the practicing architects whose responsibility it is to provide the opportunities for this training. These young men are the Architects of Tomorrow!

technological development of the art of building is being made possible through extensive research conducted by the producers of raw materials and finished sub-assemblies, the results of which were so impressively displayed in the Products Exhibit at the Convention. This exhibit has been excelled at no Regional or National Convention and we are indebted to our exhibitors for bringing to the more than on thousand registrants and many guests this wonderfully organized and dramatically presented display of the resources and the results of research activity of the construction industry.

The arrangements made by the Convention Committee under the leadership of Mr. Baldwin N. Young, AIA, for the comfort and convenience of everyone attending the Convention and particularly the outstanding quality of the seminar programs left nothing to be desired. This 16th Annual Convention of the Texas Society of Architects was a fitting climax to a year of unequalled activity made possible by the diligent, aggressive and effective work of every member of the Society.

HOUSTON CONVENTION GREAT SUCCESS:

The Houston convention was the best held in the history of TSA. The program, based upon "An Approach to Good Design", was excellent. Attendance and interest at all seminars was at a new high. The registration figures set new records in every category. The exhibits, 85 strong, were superior in many respects to those shown at the national conventions. The social events, even a Wednesday

Houston Convention Great Success (Con'd)

night party which ran afoul of a blue norther and had to be moved in at the last moment, was great fun.

The one drawback to such a convention, as the Executive Board heard in a preliminary report from John G. Flowers, Jr., Executive Director, and others, is that it always cost somewhat more than was anticipated. For this reason the returns from the Houston meeting, while showing a profit in excess of \$5000, did not bring in the \$8500-\$10,000 profit expected. Those who did not attend missed a splendid convention. Plan now to make it up at Corpus Christi in 1956.

MAX BROOKS HEADS NEW SLATE:

R. Max Brooks, formerly 1st Vice-President, we elected President of TSA to succeed Grayson Gill. Fred J. MacKie was elected Vice-President, and Reginald Roberts of San Antonio was elected to the position of 2nd Vice-President, made vacant by the elevation of Fred MacKie. Louis F. Southerland was re-appointed Secretary-Treasurer.

HOUSTON COMMITTEES PRAISED:

The Executive Board took formal notice of the excellent job done by Houston convention committees, passing a resolution of commendation. The entire Houston Chapter and the very active Women's Auxiliary there, certainly deserved such praise.

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Watkins, Mr. & Mrs. W., Houston

Werlin, Mr. & Mrs. E., Houston
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Wilson, Mr. & Mrs. T., Houston
Winslett, Mr. & Mrs. H., Houston
Wirtz, Mr. & Mrs. L., Houston
Woestemeyer, Otto, Houston
Woodruff, Louis J., Houston
Young, Mr. & Mrs. Baldwin, Houston
Zander, Mr. & Mrs. R., Houston

HIGH COURT UPHOLDS REGISTRATION BOARD:

In New Mexico, in a case involving an engineer but with direct implications for our own profession, the state supreme court has ruled that the powers delegated to an engineering registration board to revoke a license creates a sufficiently definite legislative standard. The case originated when the New Mexico State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors revoked the licenses of two engineers for misconduct, incompetency, and gross negligence in practice.

On appeal to a district court, the two men involved won a reversal, the district court holding in general that the statute giving the board licensing and revocation power was "an unconstitutional delegation of legislative authority." The supreme court held the law does "create a sufficient definite legislative standard."

The high court's opinion cited similar registration laws governing architects and others, as also conforming to the general pattern of thought in the engineer registration act. The district court involved in the case has been ordered to set aside its judgment and enter a new one which will in effect revoke the licenses of the men in question.

COVERS FOR TEXAS ARCHITECT:

The Chapters will shortly be circularized by John G. Flowers, Jr., with the request that each furnish well in advance of the month set forth, a cover picture for the TEXAS ARCHITECT. The suggestion for doing this is set forth

in the memorandum from Mr. Flowers. We would like to emphasize the importance of this, and the necessity for selecting your cover by whatever means the Chapters deem best, and then getting it in as soon as possible for future publication.

1956 OFFICERS:

Something else required immediately from Chapter officials is a list of 1956 officers. Included should be the TSA Director. It is customary to run a complete list of these new officials in the January issue of the TEXAS ARCHITECT, the deadline for which is December 15th.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND A

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Continuation of Article from
the October TANL:

"THE BUDGET AND THE TOO-HIGH BID"

If the client is satisfied that the architect has done all that is humanly possible to satisfy him, he is perfectly willing to pay for services received. Take the example of the local architect who sent out bids on a "perfect house" just at the start of the Korean incident. The bids were hair-raising, and no amount of revising or cutting down, could bring the project anywhere near feasibility. The client and the architect commiserated together, and sat back to wait for more favorable times—the client meanwhile having paid 75 percent of the full fee, based on the original estimate. After the building situation had returned to normal, the client called the same architect back, they worked out a completely new set of plans which resulted in an even more satisfying house than the first, and everyone was happy. The important thing here is that had not the clients been convinced of the architects integrity and equally convinced that circumstance, not incompetence, had foiled their plans to build, they would not have called him back. Unfortunately, the architect-client relationship often becomes so strained in similar situations that the client is architect-shy for the rest of his life.

Arbitration:

What happens when the client refuses to pay his fee, and feels unjustly used?

The architect, as a last resort, will do well to consider the Arbitration Procedure established by the AIA and available to architects, contractors and clients alike. In recent months, an Arbitration Board composed of three members of the Northern California Chapter arbitrated a bitter and unresolved controversy between a contractor and a client which had been headed for the courts. The Arbitration Board met in open session with both parties - each accompanied by his lawyer - hear all evidence, dismissed the contestants, reviewed the evidence, and came up with a decision which satisfied both parties. Arbitration is always preferable to court action, and in addition keeps a dispute within the architects own association, where it does not become a public squabble which harms the whole profession.

Some Safeguards:

First, the architect must constantly bear in mind the fact that he is responsible for controlling costs, even though the AIA contract states that he cannot guarantee them. If the clients dreams get out of hand, putting the budget in peril, the architect must so inform him at the outset. Some architects merely take the precaution of warning the client just how much each change will cost him. Others make a practice of setting forth in a letter to the client the cost of each addition or change, which must then be approved by the client.

Second, the architect must perfect his own techniques and knowledge of estimating costs. If he is uncertain of his own figures, he can obtain preliminary cost estimates from his contractor. When the drawings are still in the preliminary stage, one architect goes over the drawings, with his contractor discussing materials, finishes, other specification, and asks him for a preliminary estimate.

The architect has a weighty responsibility to his client. If he parts on bad terms with a dissatisfied client, who has spent his money and has nothing to show for it but plans which he cannot use, the whole profession has been done a great disservice. A satisfied client at whatever cost to the architect becomes a public relations agent of incalculable value!

Houston, Texas—November 2, 3 & 4



1. More song titles.
2. The golf tourney.
3. Head tables.
4. Opening party.
5. New president.
6. School committee.
7. Crowded seminar session.



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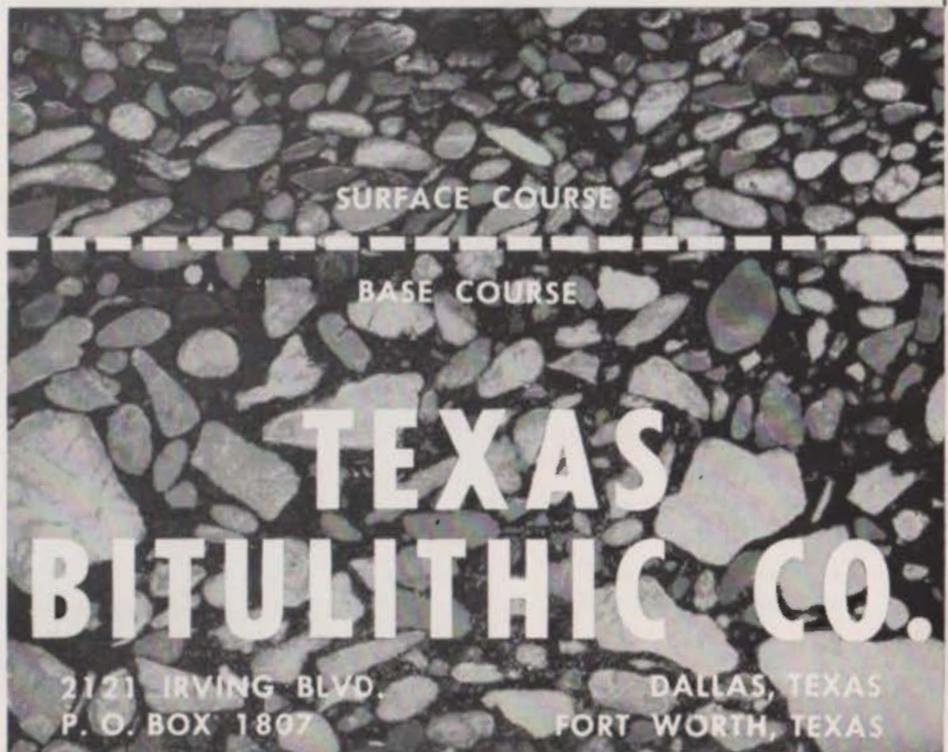
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New Officials & TSA Executive Board

Shown after the concluding business session at the Houston convention are the newly elected officers of TSA, members of the executive board, and staff.

The new officers are shown at the extreme right of the front row, beginning with R. Max Brooks of Austin (third from right in front row), president; Fred J. MacKie of Houston, vice-president; and Reginald Roberts, San Antonio, second vice-president.

R. Max Brooks, TSA-AIA of Austin, was elected president of the Texas Society of Architects at concluding business sessions of the TSA convention in Houston November 4. Mr. Brooks, a well-known architect and civic leader from Austin, succeeds Grayson Gill of Dallas. He is a partner in the Austin firm of Kuehne, Brooks & Barr.

Fred J. MacKie of Houston was elected vice president, and Reginald Roberts of San Antonio was elected second vice president. Louis F. Sutherland was appointed again by the Executive Board of TSA as secretary-treasurer. This is a post he has held since 1953. Mr. Sutherland, an Austin architect, is a member of the architectural firm of Page, Southerland & Page, TSA-AIA. Mr. MacKie is a partner in the Houston firm of MacKie & Kamrath, TSA-AIA.

ROYAL TILE & OWENS-CORNING WIN EXHIBIT AWARDS

An outstanding attraction at the Houston convention of TSA was the total of 85 exhibitor booths, most of which followed the convention theme of "An Approach To Good Design" and were both extremely attractive and technically interesting.

A jury composed of visiting speakers at the convention judged the booths and made the following awards on a basis of four principal criteria: booth design, product attention, lighting, color composition and overall effect.

Two first prizes were given. The first went to the Royal Tile Company on a basis of product attention and lighting. The second went to Owens-Corning Fiberglas Company for product attention, lighting and color.

Two Second Prizes Given

The two second prizes were awarded to the Roy Jacobs Company, for design composition and product attention; and to Libbey-Owens-Ford for product attention and lighting.

Third prizes went to Suniland Furniture Company for display of product and composition of booth, and to Wright Manufacturing Company for product display.

Resolution by Board

Many delegates and visitors remarked upon the excellence of the exhibits, which were more numerous and better prepared than the booths seen at many national conventions. On the basis of this technical exhibit, TSA has already received more than 20 requests for booth space at the 1956 convention next November 9-11 in Corpus Christi.

The Executive Board of TSA was so impressed by the excellence of these technical exhibits and by the caliber of the personnel manning them that a special resolution was passed on the final day of the Houston convention, commending exhibitors for the quality of their displays and for the technical experts who were on hand to explain products and services.

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TSA Officials Speak At Joint Meeting of Real Estate Appraisers

Charles T. Granger of Austin, president of the Central Texas Chapter, TSA; Eugene George, Jr., Chapter public relations committee chairman; and John G. Flowers, Jr., executive director of the Texas Society of Architects, were guests at a recent joint meeting of the Austin and San Antonio chapters of the Texas Real Estate Appraisers Association.

Mr. Granger and Mr. George spoke on contemporary architecture in residential construction. They presented more than 25 colored slides of recent work in the Central Texas area to illustrate their points, which emphasized the importance of design in establishing and maintaining values in individual residences and in an overall residential area.

Toxeramics President Elected President of Southwest Ceramic Group

Peter P. Zanawiak, president of Toxeramics, Inc. of Mineral Wells, has been elected chairman of the Southwest Section of the American Ceramic Society, which includes Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico and Old Mexico.

Mr. Zanawiak and Samuel A. Hawes, University of Texas graduates in ceramics engineering, founded the Toxeramics Company in 1948 and have utilized the dry-press method in making clay tile.



Joseph M. Mills & Harwood K. Smith Award Winner

This is the Stewart Company Building in Dallas, which won one of the four honor awards for non-residential buildings in "Texas Architecture—1955", statewide architectural competition sponsored by TSA and the Dallas Chapter, AIA.

It was reported in the November TEXAS ARCHITECT, based on the results of TA-55 judging sent to editors, that the architect for the Stewart Building was Harwood K. Smith, TSA-AIA of Dallas. The correct listing of this award should also include Joseph M. Mills, TSA-AIA of Dallas, as architect. Mr. Mills' name was inadvertently omitted in the listing of honors awards.

Eight Firms Entertained TSA Members, Guests at Informal Convention Party

Eight firms were contributing sponsors for the Wednesday night informal party which was one of the features of the Houston TSA convention. These firms were the Eljer Company, Master Builders, Inc.; Parker Brothers; South End Building Materials; Eureka Concrete; North Side Concrete; W. D. Haden Company; and the Mosher Steel Company, all of Houston.

Students of Eight Schools Named 1955 Winners of Clay Products Scholarships

Architectural students from eight Southwest schools have been named as winners of the 1955 Clay Products Scholarship Awards, sponsored by the Clay Products Association of the Southwest.

Winners Listed

The winners and their schools are: Texas A & M, Paul A. Kennon; Rice Institute, Morton L. Levy, Jr.; University of Houston, Robert F. Lindsey; Texas University, James E. Collier; Texas Tech, Darrell D. Smith; Louisiana State University, Odie Kirst Tucker; University of Oklahoma, Robert L. Foust; and Oklahoma A & M, Albert S. Merker.

Judges for the competition were Bartlett Cocke, San Antonio; Fred J. MacKie, Jr., Houston; Charles Granger, Austin; Professor Ernest Langford, College Station; and C. T. Grimm, Clay Products Association of the Southwest. The first four judges are all members of TSA-AIA.

The CPAS award was initiated in 1954, and is administered through the Texas Architectural Foundation.



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New North Texas Chapter To Hold First Meeting At Wichita Falls

The North Texas Chapter, American Institute of Architects, thirteenth chapter in TSA, the regional AIA organization in Texas, will hold its first formal meeting on the evening of December 5 at Wichita Falls.

The new chapter was chartered by the Board of Directors, AIA in October. It takes in areas previously included with that of the Fort Worth, the Panhandle, and West Texas Chapters.

The new chapter marks a continued strong trend toward increasing membership in TSA. Its establishment follows a policy of adding Chapters in geographically suitable areas over the state as required.

AIA Officials Present

Installing officials at the December 5 meeting in Wichita Falls will include Albert S. Golemon of Houston, regional director of the AIA; and Edward L. Wilson of Fort Worth, national AIA secretary. TSA representatives scheduled to attend the inaugural meeting include John G. Flowers, Jr. of Austin, executive director of TSA and executive secretary of the Texas State Board of Architectural Examiners.

This will be the first Chapter added in the Texas region since the chartering in 1954 of the Southeast Texas Chapter in the area centering around Beaumont. TSA-AIA now has chapters in the Lower Rio Grande Valley, at Corpus Christi (Coastal Bend), El Paso, San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Bryan-College Station (Brazos), Panhandle (Amarillo-Lubbock), West Texas (Abilene-Midland-Odessa), and Austin (Central Texas), in addition to the Southeast Texas and North Texas Chapters.

Details In January

Details of the inaugural meeting of the North Texas Chapter, with the names of Chapters officials elected on December 5, will be carried in the January issue of the TEXAS ARCHITECT. It is expected that the beginning membership of the North Texas affiliate, including associate members, will total approximately 10.



Wins \$2500 Featherlite Competition

John K. Hatteberg, Jr., of Houston, 23-year-old senior architectural student at the University of Houston, won first prize in the \$2500 Featherlite Competition, results of which were announced at the TSA convention. Officials of the Featherlite Corporation also announced that the competition was already being set up for 1956.

Mr. Hatteberg's design of an arts center for the joint use of music, art and drama groups brought him a \$250 top prize. He had previously won a \$125 second prize in a preliminary competition at the University of Houston, with a solution to the design problem which included a 400-seat auditorium, a 6000-square-foot hall, a lounge, and office space on a triangular, sloping site.

Other convention prizes in the Featherlite Competition went to C. C. Newton of Texas A. & M., second prize, \$150; and third prize, \$100, to Jamie Robison of Texas Tech.

The total Featherlite Corporation prize money is allotted as follows: \$2000 goes to the five architectural schools in the state at \$400 each, for school-level competitions. The remaining \$500 is awarded at the convention where all entries from the schools are judged together.

At the school level, other prizes were awarded as follows: Rice Institute: Martin W. Levy, Jr., first, \$175; Hyman A. Appelbaum, second, \$125; Edward G. Jackson, third, \$100. Texas A. & M., one prize only, a third award of \$100 to Mr. Newton. Texas Tech: H. L. Simon, first, \$150; Mr. Robison, second, \$115; Beryl Durham, third, \$85; George DuSang, fourth, \$50. University of Houston: Robert F. Lindsey, first, \$175; Mr. Hatteberg, second, \$125; Daniel K. Speer, third, \$100. University of Texas: Don Wrightsman, first, \$125; Pentard W. Sandefur, second, \$100; John W. Notestine, third, \$75; Vernon A. Hallum, fourth, \$50; and Don Paul Johnson, fifth, \$50.

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Masonry, Metal Walls
Discussed At Meeting
Of Dallas Chapter

The relative advantages of masonry and metal walls were discussed at the November dinner meeting of the Dallas Chapter held November 9 at the Melrose Hotel.

Clayford T. Grimm, executive secretary of the Clay Products Association of the Southwest, listed the following and other advantages of masonry: variety of colors, resistance to weathering, maintenance costs, flexibility in form and texture, fire resistance, and insulation qualities.

John R. Leary of the Aluminum Company of America listed the following as being among the advantages of metal skin walls: light weight, fewer units, savings in transportation and handling costs, weathering qualities, permanent finish, ease of installation and versatility.

President Roscoe DeWitt presided at the meeting, during which certificates of membership were distributed to new Chapter corporate members.

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The Featherlite Block Company of San Antonio has installed two 120-foot long, 104-inch inside diameter steel autoclaves, for giving the latest and best known method of cure to masonry units. To supply the steam necessary, two 125-horse power boilers were installed.

Autoclaved blocks are units which have been cured in a high pressure vessel or container at 150 pounds per square inch steam pressure (this is ten times atmosphere pressure). At this pressure the steam is heated to over 350 degrees.

This pressure and heat changes the chemical combination between the cement particles and silicates of the aggregate, and causes the curing cycle to be speeded up so that the resulting product is said to be equivalent in strength to curing by other methods now employed of six months. A new chemical reaction takes place that brings about not only greater strength, but a large reduction in the drying shrinkage of the concrete.

When the 8-hour curing period is completed, the steam is exhausted, and a vacuum is pulled on the large autoclave. The vacuum pulls the moisture from the units so that they are completely dried when removed from the autoclave. They immediately take on moisture from the air and actually expand a small amount.

The units are ready to be used upon delivery from the autoclave. Manufacturers claim that strength and curing properties are equal and superior to other units cured six months and longer. The Featherlite Block Company of San Antonio uses Featherlite expanded shale lightweight aggregate for the production of these units.

Lighting Products, Inc.'s new "Thin-Lite" series of fluorescent luminaires is now available with Corning #70 low brightness lens.

This lens is said to be lightweight and efficient with a very low surface brightness. It is designed to deliver maximum illumination in useful directions with brightness reduced by prismatic action in the glare zone.

A folder specifically designed to provide accurate knowledge on monumental building applications of porcelain enamel is now available through the Bettinger Corporation, Waltham, Massachusetts. Highlight of the folder is a set of details on various applications of architectural porcelain enamel such as honeycomb core panels, plywood core panels, and copings. These details are only the beginning of a series which the company envisions as eventually providing a complete data book on applications of architectural porcelain enamel.

Reflex photocopies of opaque originals and originals printed on both sides can now be made on diazo-process printers (Ozalid, Bruning, and similar machines) by using a yellow filter, in a procedure developed by Peerless Photo Products, Inc. With this filter, a sheet of negative paper is exposed with the original in any diazo-process printer and a negative obtained. The image on this negative is then transferred to a positive sheet in a separate processing unit.

Block-Brallier, 3010 Dixie Drive, in Houston, has been appointed exclusive distributor for Filon in the southern and coastal area of Texas.

Filon is the trade name for a new plastic, translucent sheet of building material now being used extensively for patio covers, car ports, room partitions, and sky lights.

"Filon is the only building material of this sort manufactured by a continuous molding operation. This exclusive method of manufacture by Filon has enabled the factory to produce it in millions of square feet and in a fraction of time ordinarily required," said George Black, president.

A new opaque india ink, developed by Artone Color Corporation, called E-Z-Rase, looks just like ordinary india inks, draws just like ordinary india inks, is waterproof and free-flowing like ordinary india inks. But it erases quickly and cleanly with a regular pencil eraser.

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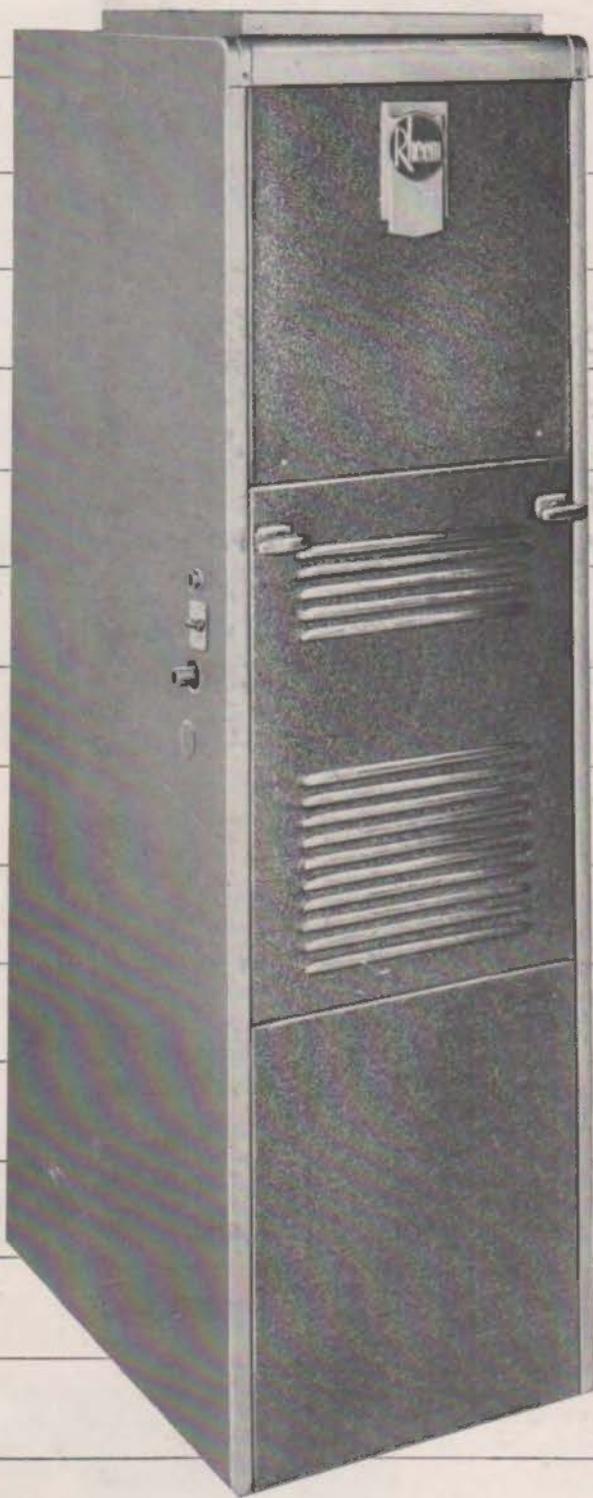


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