

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

EDITORIAL COMMENT ON TEXAS ARCHITECTS' WEEK
THE INCREASING TREND TOWARD ARCHITECTURE
SITE ORIENTATION AND AIR CONDITIONING
TWO DALLAS TSA MEMBERS NAMED FAIA
PICTURE PAGE OF TAW CLIPPINGS

MAY
1954

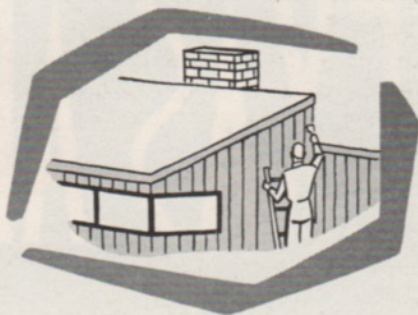


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THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

VOLUME 5

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THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 18-20—Texas Hospital Association convention, Shamrock Hotel, Houston.

June 15-19—86th annual AIA Convention at Boston.

November 3-5—15th annual convention, TSA at Fort Worth.

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Editorial Comment On Texas Architects' Week

"As this community observes Texas Architects' Week, civic-minded San Antonians are reminded how great is their debt to those skilled, gifted, far-
visioned and often daring creative men who planned and built this city.

"Much as customs, occupations, commodities, diversions or artistry, but
more conspicuously, a city's architecture—that Goethe termed "frozen music"
—tell the world what that city is.

"By that standard, San Antonians have many occasions for felicitation and
gratitude. They may view not only a skyline of business blocks, towers and
spires; La Villita, the Spanish Governor's Palace, San Fernando Cathedral
and the Franciscan Missions, but also schools, colleges, universities, markets,
community centers and—most to be prized—attractive and livable homes.

"Such are the solid achievements which, on this occasion, members of the
San Antonio Chapter, Texas Society of Architects, American Institute of
Architects, may contemplate with satisfaction. But the local architects do not
propose to rest upon their laurels. They are even now busy with a planning
and research program from which they expect a City Master Plan to emerge."

—San Antonio Express, April 9, 1954.

"Significant basic principles of public school education were stated by
Dr. J. W. Edgar, state commissioner of education, in his address (here Tues-
day evening) to Houston architects. It is interesting that throughout his
speech Doctor Edgar stressed the importance of local control of the schools.

"Doctor Edgar said that 'Houston has an excellent public school system.'
This applied to both the scholastic and the building phases of our schools.
The commissioner especially praised the architects of Houston and other parts
of Texas for their contributions in improving the design of school buildings,
from the viewpoints of usefulness and economy."

"Doctor Edgar's statements are timely. There is a trend in Houston and
elsewhere in the state to by-pass or encroach on the authorities of local
school boards. It was heartening to hear the educator who heads the state
public school system strongly indorse the doctrine of local control.

"Doctor Edgar's speech merits the attention of every citizen."—The Hous-
ton Chronicle, April 19, 1954.

These two editorials, from leading Texas newspapers which are among the
largest dailies in the U. S., indicate the wide range of programs and the
different areas of interest connected with the third annual observance of
Texas Architects' Week. In every part of the state, other newspapers joined
with radio and television stations to bring the observance of TAW to public
attention.

Officers and members of the TSA note with appreciation this increasing
recognition of the role of architect in shaping the environments about us.

Increasing Trend Toward Use Of Architect

Statewide Survey Indicates Clearly That Professional Skill And Knowledge Of The Architect Used More At All Levels

(Editor's note: The Texas Society of Architects, as it launches the fifth publication year for the TEXAS ARCHITECT, has begun a statewide survey to determine if there is any trend toward increasing use of architects. As the survey continues during 1954, we will present further findings.)

Preliminary findings in a statewide survey to determine the extent to which the professional skills and knowledge of TSA members is being employed across the state as compared to five years ago indicates the following:

A definite trend toward an increasing use of architects in the following fields:

1. By prospective home owners planning either their first residence, the building of a larger residence to take care of a larger family or changed living patterns, or the remodeling of a residence.

2. By small to medium-size business concerns which had in the past failed to use professional architectural services, but now want new or remodeled structures designed by an architect.

3. By merchant home builders who had tended in the past to omit the use of architects for low-middle and middle-priced homes built for sale.

4. By larger companies which had employed architects in the past for principal structures, but had not done so on warehouses and subsidiary buildings.

5. By smaller school districts which heretofore had retained architects for only part of their building and remodeling programs, but are now using these services for all construction.

6. By smaller church congregations. In addition to the above areas, which constitute principally the use of architects where their services have been either employed sparingly or not at all, the survey indicates that clients who have consistently used architects over the years are also calling upon TSA members more frequently.

These findings are substantiated by the consistent growth in the number of architects who since 1949, have registered to practice in Texas and by the large increase in TSA membership, which has more than doubled.

Among the reasons for this very noticeable growth in the employment of architects are the following:

1. Increasing public recognition of the services and functions of the architect.

2. Accomplishments of TSA members in architectural design which have attained state and nationwide notice.

3. Growing recognition of the fact that higher home and commercial loans are often available where the owner is using professional architectural advice and design.

4. Better understanding by bankers, other financial authorities, and public officials of the additional value, service, and personal and public satisfaction that comes from structures which have been designed and constructed with competent architectural assistance.

In future 1954 issues, the TEXAS ARCHITECT will present actual case histories illustrating major survey findings.

Some of Statewide Texas Architects' Week Publicity

6-C EDITORIALS: THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 1954

San Antonio Express

Significance of Texas Architects Week

The community believes Texas architects' week, commemorated this week, is a landmark event in that it is the first time that a group of architects has been recognized for their contribution to the state's progress. It is a tribute to the men who have built the state's infrastructure, from the bridges and highways to the schools and hospitals. It is a recognition of the fact that without the architects, the state would be a very different place. It is a celebration of the art and science of building, and a reminder of the importance of the architect in our society.

Such are the solid achievements which, on the occasion, members of the American Institute of Architects, Texas Institute of Architects, American Institute of Architects, may contemplate with satisfaction. But the local architect is not to be forgotten. It is his work which is the backbone of the state's progress. It is his work which has built the state's infrastructure, from the bridges and highways to the schools and hospitals. It is a recognition of the fact that without the architects, the state would be a very different place. It is a celebration of the art and science of building, and a reminder of the importance of the architect in our society.

Architects To Mark Special Week at Meeting in Lubbock

A special meeting of the Texas Institute of Architects will be held in Lubbock on Tuesday, April 20, to mark the beginning of the state-wide celebration of Texas Architects' Week. The meeting will be held at the Hotel Lubbock and will feature a luncheon and a presentation of the week's program. The Texas Institute of Architects is proud to have such a large number of members participating in this special week.



A graduation dinner meeting with architects in Lubbock has been given by Mayor S. E. "Bud" Curtis. Whelan, the speaker, was E. A. Rogers, left, John S. Ward and E. W. Page.

State Education Commissioner Stresses Need of Local Control

Significant local participation in public school education was stressed by Dr. J. W. Edgar, state commissioner of education, in his address to the Texas Institute of Architects. He stressed the importance of local control in the operation of the public school system. He stated that the state should not interfere with the traditional concept of local initiative and local control, but should provide the necessary support and resources. He emphasized that the state's role is to ensure the quality of the education system, while the local community is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the schools.

Architects Pay Tribute To Fishin' Stenomason

The 1954 architects paid tribute to the memory of the late Fishin' Stenomason, a prominent architect and community leader. The tribute was given during a luncheon at the Hotel Lubbock. The architects expressed their admiration for Stenomason's contributions to the profession and to the community. They noted his dedication to the highest standards of architectural practice and his commitment to the public good. The tribute was a fitting recognition of his life and work.



FISHIN' STENOMASON



Architects gathered for a luncheon at the Hotel Lubbock during the week's celebration. The group includes several prominent members of the profession.

Education Chief Speaks To Architects

Dr. J. W. Edgar, state commissioner of education, addressed the architects during a luncheon at the Hotel Lubbock. He discussed the state's efforts to improve the quality of education and the role of the architect in this process. He emphasized the importance of local control and the need for the state to provide the necessary support and resources. He also discussed the state's plans for the future and the role of the architect in this process.

FINE CRAFTSMAN RECOGNIZED

A fine craftsman was recognized during the week's celebration. The craftsman was a member of the American Institute of Architects and was recognized for his exceptional work in the field of architecture. The recognition was given during a luncheon at the Hotel Lubbock. The craftsman's work was praised for its quality and attention to detail. The recognition was a fitting tribute to his skill and dedication to the profession.

Architects Salute Public Schools In Celebration Of Special Week

Architects throughout the state saluted public schools during the week's celebration. The salutes were given in the form of letters and resolutions. The architects expressed their appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the teachers and school administrators. They also expressed their commitment to the improvement of the public school system. The salutes were a fitting recognition of the important role of the public schools in our society.

Observance By Architects Is Set April 7

The observance of Texas Architects' Week is set for April 7. The observance will be held in Lubbock and will feature a luncheon and a presentation of the week's program. The Texas Institute of Architects is proud to have such a large number of members participating in this special week. The observance is a fitting recognition of the architects' contributions to the state's progress and to the community.



NEED FOR SCHOOL GROWTH CITED

The need for school growth was cited during the week's celebration. The architects expressed their concern about the state's current school facilities and the need for new schools. They noted that the state's population is growing rapidly and that the current school facilities are inadequate to meet the needs of the students. They called for the state to invest in the construction of new schools and to improve the existing facilities. The architects emphasized that the state has a responsibility to provide a quality education for all of its children.

Orientation and Insulation in Air Conditioning

By Bernard G. Johnson,
Bernard Johnson & Associates,
Consulting Engineers,
Houston



It is often said that the proper orientation of a building and the use of insulating materials in its construction are the most inexpensive aids to air conditioning.

In the Gulf Coast area, more actual money is spent in ventilating and cooling, particularly on commercial buildings, than on heating. A large portion of present day design leans toward large glass

areas and opening up buildings to the outside. Under these conditions, orientation plays a very major part in the design of winter-summer air conditioning. A building must be oriented to keep the direct rays of the sun off as much glass area for as much of each day as possible.

Various means are used to shade large glass areas. Canopies, louvers and the like
(Continued on Page 9)

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NELSON

Herbert M. Tatum, Donald S. Nelson Named Fellows Of Institute

Two Dallas members of the TSA, both prominent in the architectural profession and in work of the TSA and AIA, have been named Fellows of the American Institute of Architects. The newly-created fellows are Herbert M. Tatum, former TSA president, and Donald S. Nelson, chairman of the statewide Texas Architects' Week observance just concluded.

Design and Service

Mr. Tatum's selection as a fellow came on the basis of his work in design and his service to the AIA. A native of Dallas, he is a graduate of Texas A. & M. College and was formerly chief of military construction for the U. S. Engineers, Southwestern Division. A partner in the firm of Tatum & Quade, Mr. Tatum has designed many distinguished residences, churches and public buildings.

Mr. Nelson was selected because of his excellence in design. A native of Chicago, he is a graduate of M.I.T. and did graduate work at the Ecole des Beaux Arts and the Ecole Superieure des Beaux Arts in France. Mr. Nelson's designs have included government structures in Washington, D. C., the Wrigley Memorial on Catalina Island (with Bennett, Parsons, & Frost), and Texas Centennial and Chicago World's Fair structures. He is a partner in Broad & Nelson.

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Orientation and Insulation In Air Conditioning

(Continued from Page 6)

are sometimes designed for this purpose. Many times these add to the appearance of the building; however, they can not always be justified on the basis of reducing air conditioning cost. More positive means of reducing the instantaneous heat transmission through large glass areas include the application of outside awnings, reflective screens, heat reflective glass, inside venetian blinds, draperies, or any method of interior decoration.

In recent years, great strides have been made in the design and manufacture of building materials, and there has been a reduction in the heat transmission through many of these materials. On the average building in the Gulf Coast area, the areas affected mostly by heat transmission are the first roofs and second walls. Proper insulation of these areas in that order will materially reduce both initial and operating cost for the cooling and heating system.

The use of insulation should not be overlooked in preventing possible condensation in some areas due to moist air contacting cold surfaces. In order to fulfill the necessary requirements for preventing heat and moisture transmission through the building structure, various types of insulation are available, which, when properly applied, solve these problems. Considerable research has been made on the practicability of covering a roof with water. This provides a reflective surface for the sun's heat rays and also lengthens the life of the roof construction.

Since insulation and orientation are so important to both the architectural and engineering aspects, very careful consideration should be given to these in the very early preliminary discussions between the Architect, Engineer and Owner. This approach should lead to a more economical and practical building.



C. H. Benckenstein, Jr. Home at Orange

Shown is an exterior view of the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Benckenstein, Jr. at Orange, which won an award of merit for the Houston architectural firm of Cato, Austin & Evans, TSA-AIA, in the "Texas Architecture—1953" competition.

Lift Slab Method Shows Gains

The Youtz-Slick lift slab method of construction, now licensed through the United States Lift Slab Corporation of Austin, showed substantial gains during 1953. As of December 31, 1953, there was under construction by this method more than 3,600,000 square feet of many types of buildings.

The lift slab method consists basically of pouring the upper floors and roof of a structure at the ground level in their relative positions in the building, and then lifting them to the proper elevations, where they are permanently fastened to columns. It is more ap-

plicable to concrete construction and structural steel columns.

The method has been acclaimed for savings in concrete form costs, and for the fact that all slab work is done at ground level with additional efficiency. Fireproof construction is also a considerable factor.

Lift slab construction has now been used in more than half the states, and in Canada and Puerto Rico. At present, a 1500-man Navy barracks, a Louisiana state prison, the RCA Cherry Hill, N. J. project, and Clemson College dormitories are among the varied structures being built by the lift slab method.

86th AIA Convention June 15-19 in Boston

The 86th annual convention of the American Institute of Architects will meet from June 15-19 in Boston, Mass., with headquarters at the Statler Hotel. With a theme of "Forces That Shape Architecture", the meeting is expected to attract more than 2000 architects and guests to Boston, a city famous both for its historic buildings and as a center of modern architectural thinking.

Forces To Be Assessed

Among the forces to be assessed at the convention, as factors which have changed the architectural profession radically in the past few decades are the following: modern technology, govern-

ment building programs, developments in health, education, and industry; new commercial patterns; and the changing structure of the family, the community, and the city.

Among the special events at the convention will be a series of seminars on the theme, the presentation of honor awards in the annual exhibition of outstanding American architecture, a pre-convention meeting of various architectural and allied groups, and a special Pops Concert by the famed Boston Symphony, a reception at the Boston Art Museum, and a dinner at Symphony Hall.

A delegation of TSA members will attend the Boston convention.

Glamour Touch

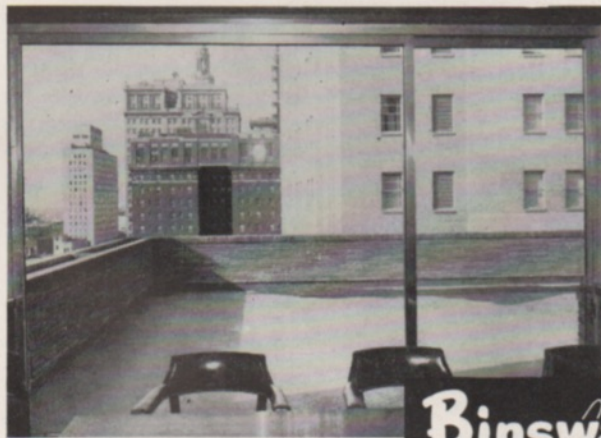


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With Our Advertisers

The Fort Worth Sand & Gravel Company and the Texcrete Company, both of Fort Worth, have combined their operations, according to a joint announcement. George A. Meihaus, formerly general manager of Texcrete, is now a vice-president of Fort Worth Sand & Gravel.

Vaughan Carleno of Houston has been named territory sales representative for Morrison Supply, Inc., distributors for Youngstown Kitchens. Morrison Supply is expanding its entire sales operation in the Houston sales area, which includes Beaumont, Port Arthur, Bryan, Lufkin, Wharton, Freeport, Galveston, and nearby areas within a radius of approximately 150 miles from Houston.

The Acme Brick Company has leased the Buffalo Brick & Tile Company at Buffalo, Kan., and now has 17 plants in five states. Acme, with headquarters at Fort Worth, operates Texas plants at Bennett, Bridgeport, Denton, Ferris, Garison and Houston.

Houston Architect Named To Board Of Planning & Civic Association

Karl Kamrath, TSA-AIA of Houston, has been elected to the board of directors of the American Planning & Civic Association, Washington, D. C., and will attend the Association's annual meeting at Columbus, Ohio in May.

Mr. Kamrath is chairman of the Texas State Planning Committee.

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