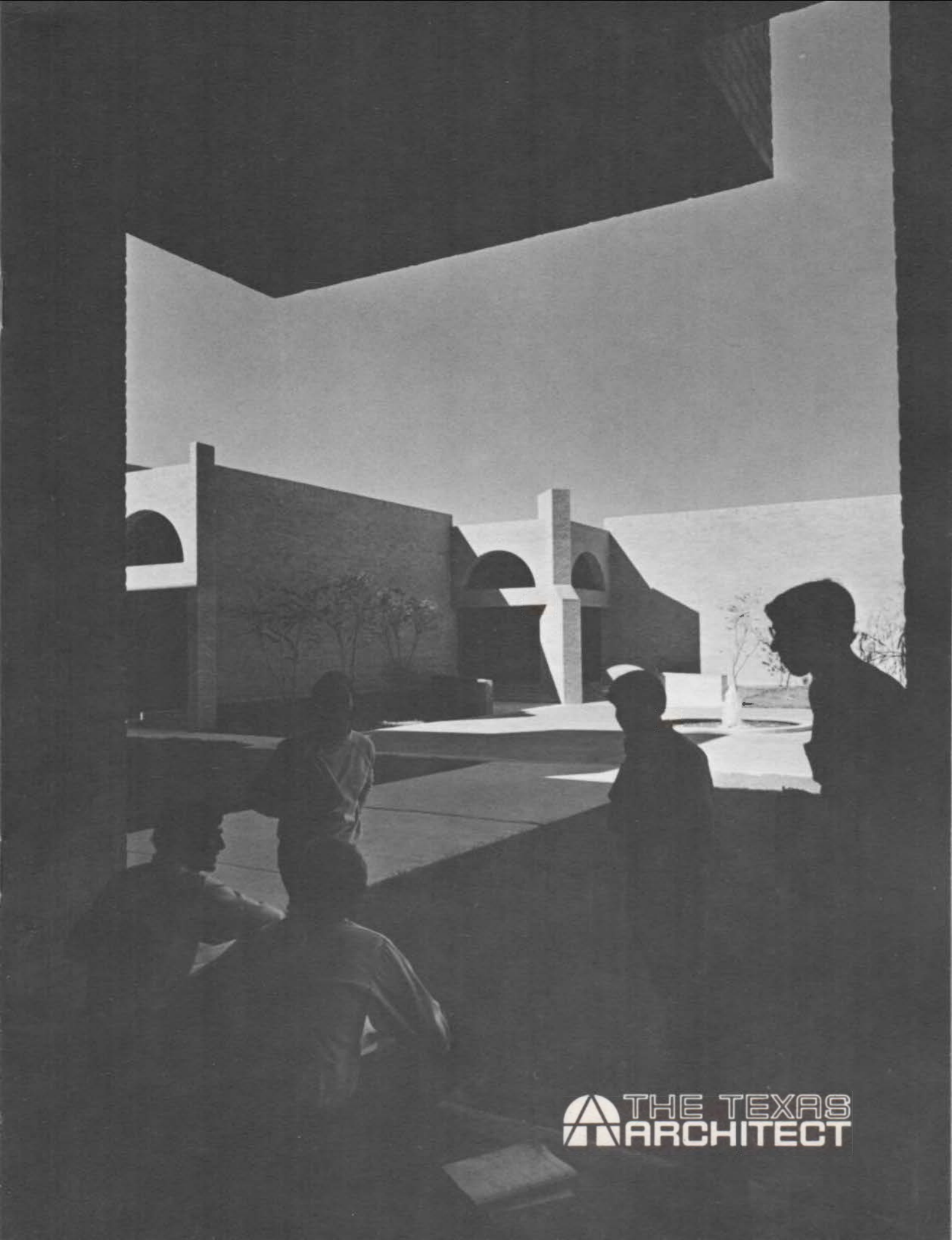

THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

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THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

VOLUME 21 / SEPTEMBER, 1971 / NO. 9

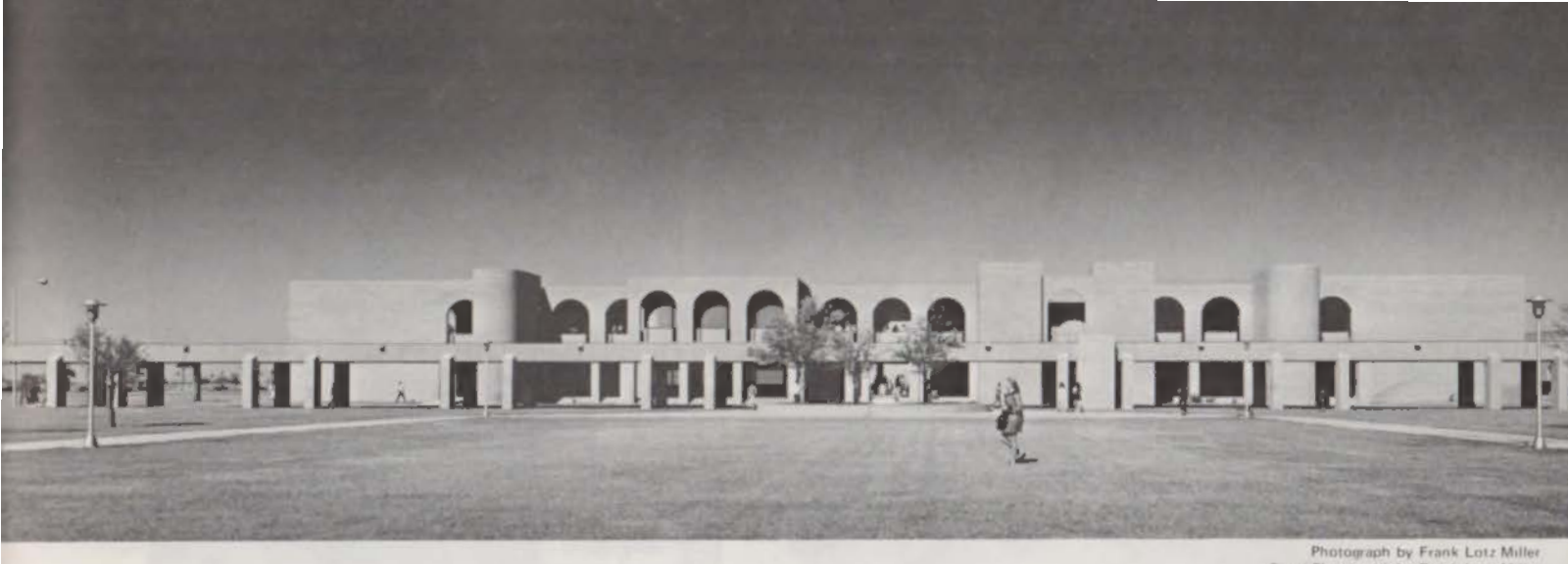
COVER AND PAGE 3

Old and new forms have been incorporated in the design of the new Science Building at Pan American University in Edinburg. A strong bridge with the architectural heritage of the region has been created. Open colonnaded corridors shade out the hot Rio Grande Valley sun, and buildings cluster around inviting plazas.

7 Texas has joined the rest of the nation in the unprecedented growth of community colleges. Twelve new campuses have opened since 1965 and three additional ones are under construction or funded. Enrollment has more than doubled in this span. TA takes a look at some of these institutions in both metropolitan and small communities.

14 Another example of early Texas architecture is the Hayden House in Big Spring. Built in 1901, of red Pecos sandstone, the structure displays Victorian tendencies adapted to West Texas climate conditions.

TEXAS ARCHITECT ADVERTISERS:



Photograph by Frank Lotz Miller
Cover Photograph by Frank Lotz Miller

Pan American Science Building

EDINBURG **TEXAS**

KENNETH BENTSEN ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS

HOUSTON **TEXAS**

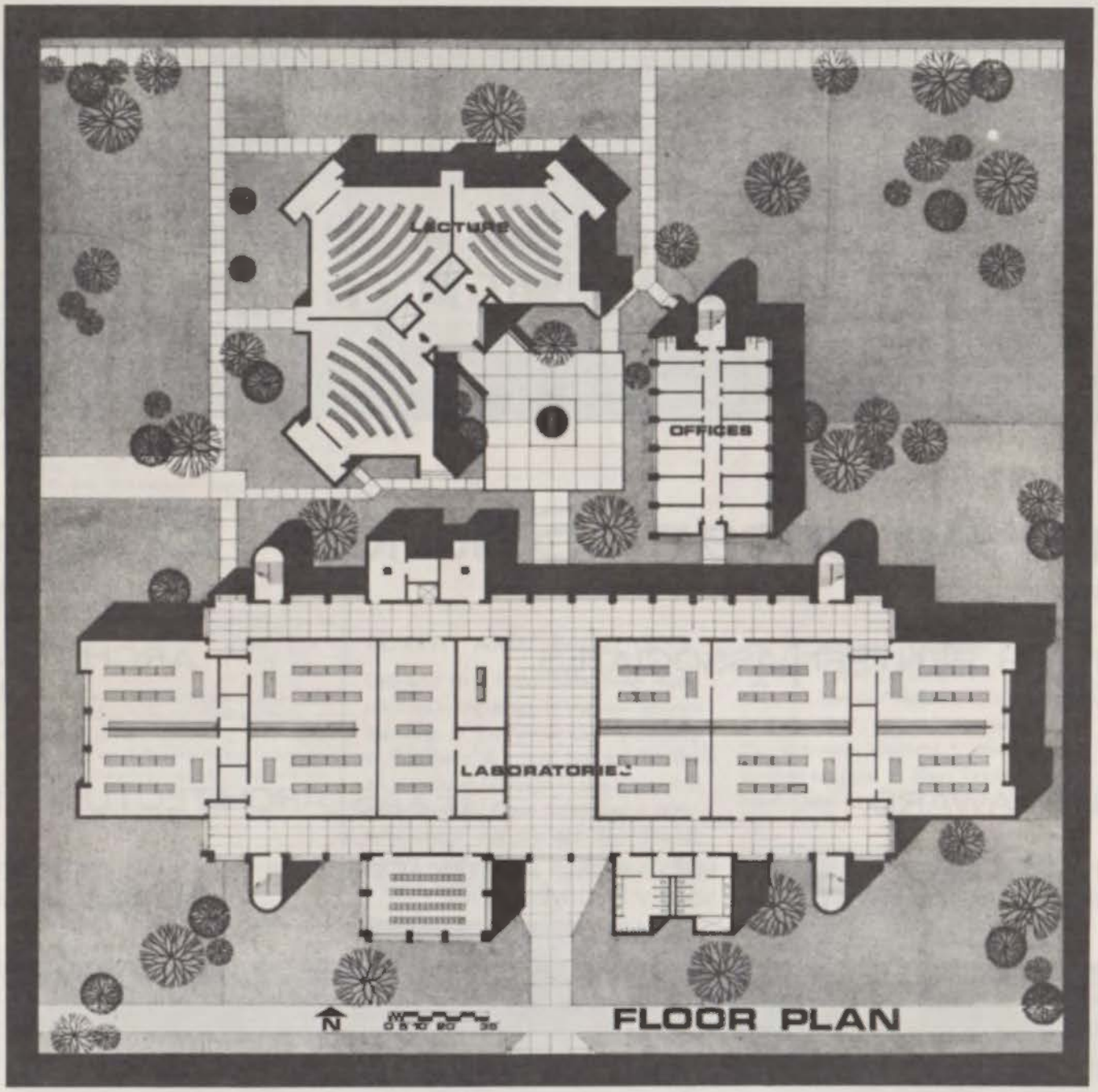
HONOR AWARD TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1970

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER:
WALTER P. MOORE & ASSOCIATES

MECHANICAL - ELECTRICAL ENGINEER:
BOVAY ENGINEERS, INC.

CONTRACTOR:
MARCHANT BROTHERS

Photograph by Richard Payne



PROBLEM

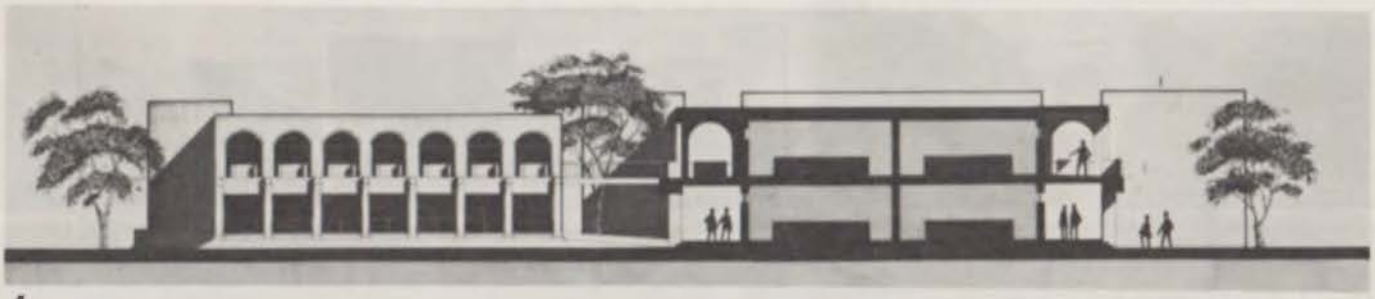
DESIGN A COLLEGE SCIENCE BUILDING ON A RELATIVELY NEW CAMPUS LOCATED IN THE SOUTHWEST. CONTROL THE SEVERE SUN AND HEAT AND PROVIDE A FLEXIBLE INTERIOR FOR FREQUENT LABORATORY MODIFICATION. RELATE TO EXISTING ARCHITECTURE BUT ESTABLISH A STRONG DESIGN DIRECTION FOR NEW STRUCTURES.

SOLUTION

A CENTRAL LABORATORY CORE IS SURROUNDED BY PERIPHERAL OPEN CORRIDORS THAT SHADE OUT THE HOT SUN. INTERIOR WALLS ARE NON-LOAD BEARING, FINISHED CEILINGS ARE ELIMINATED, AND UTILITY ACCESS IS AVAILABLE AT FLOOR AND CEILING. FIXED ELEMENTS ARE LOCATED OUTSIDE THE LABORATORY CORE SO THAT MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IS ACHIEVED.

MATERIALS

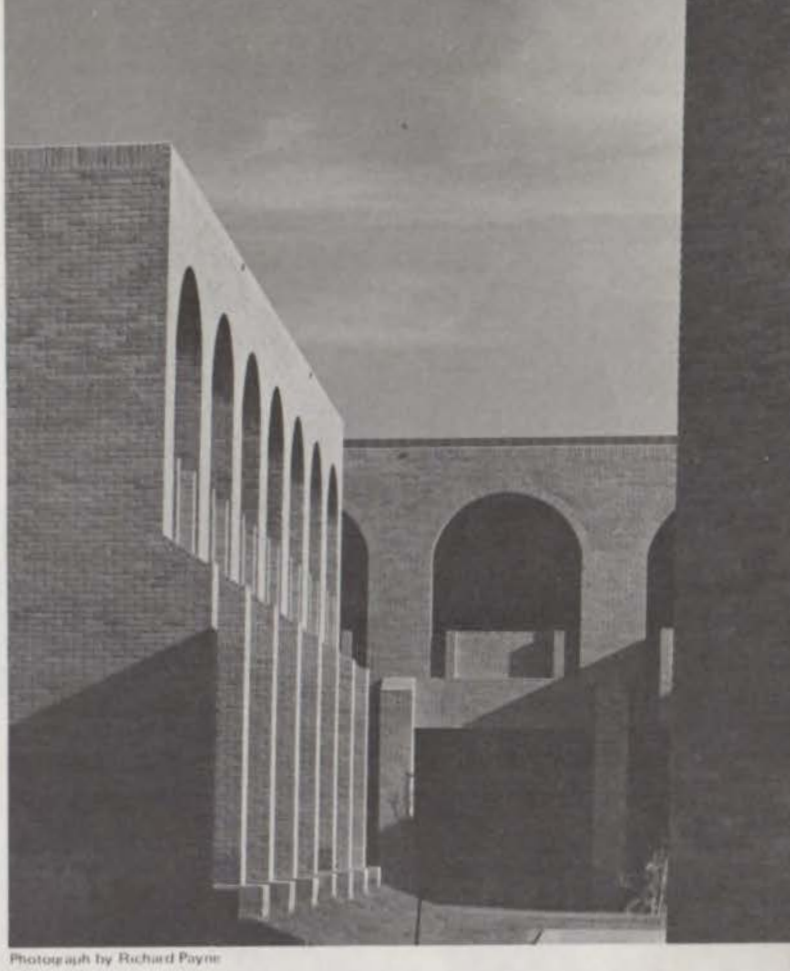
STRUCTURE IS CONCRETE, EXTERIOR WALLS ARE BRICK, PARTITIONS ARE CONCRETE BLOCK, FLOORS ARE CONCRETE.



The new Science Building was the first structure of seven new academic buildings to be completed in the expansion program at Pan American University in Edinburg. The program required that aside from satisfying critical space shortages, the principal goal of the new structures was to establish a direction for the total environment of the campus which would blend into the subtropical area.

A mile-long pedestrian connector forms the major circulation pattern for the campus in addition to supplying mechanical service to the various buildings. The campus expands either horizontally and vertically depending upon growth or changing needs and clusters the various facilities around this main traffic artery.

The Science Building is designed as a central laboratory core surrounded by peripheral open corridors. Interior walls are non-load bearing, and finished ceilings are eliminated allowing easy access to utilities for frequent laboratory modifications. Fixed elements are located outside the laboratory core so that maximum flexibility is achieved.



Photograph by Richard Payne

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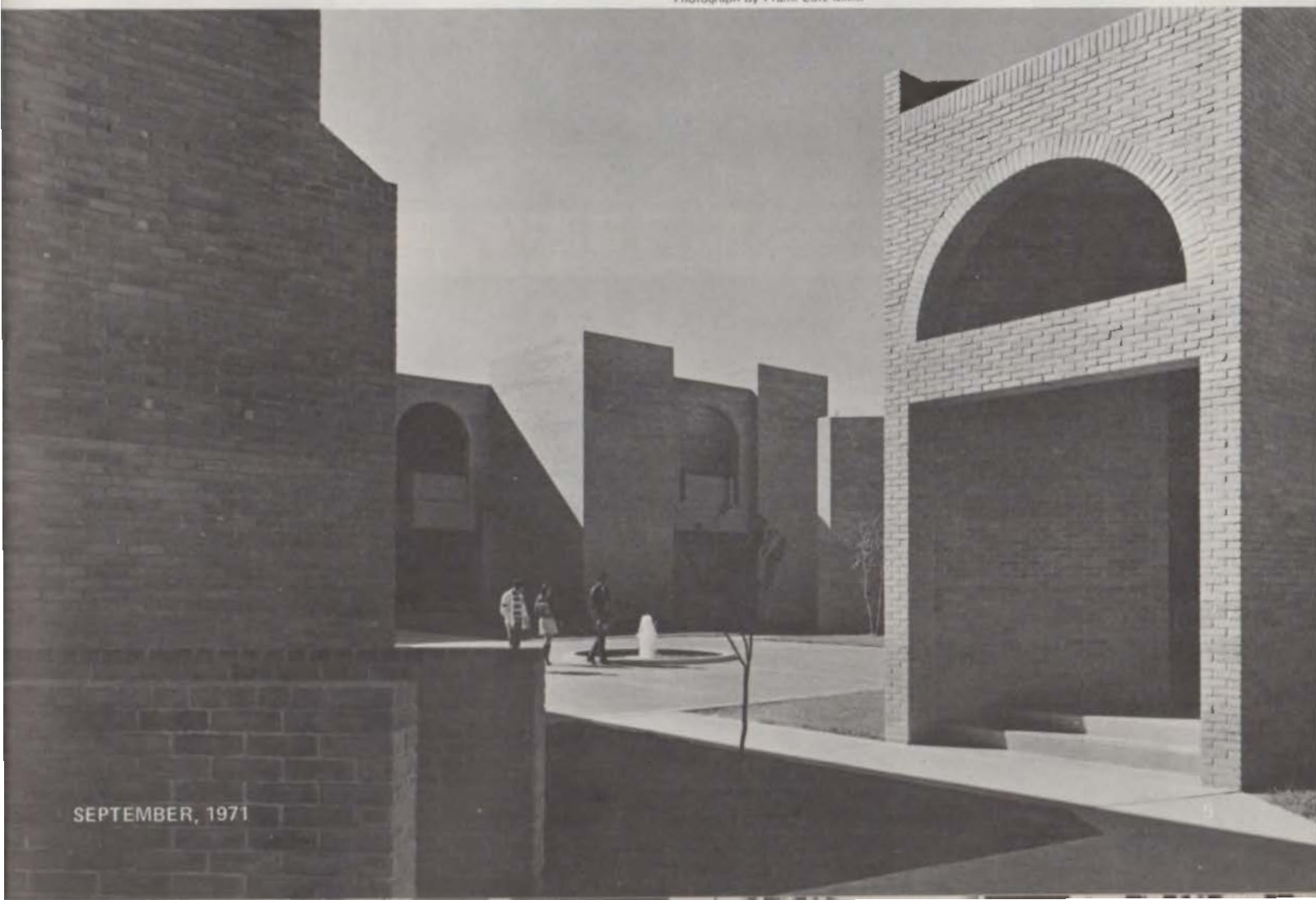


Photograph by Richard Payne

Photograph by Frank Lotz Miller

TEXAS COMMUNITY COLLEGES

By William J. Martin, Director of Facilities Planning, Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System

"We are confronted with the explosive growth of the community college—a truly unique American educational effort. It is a development of this era as revolutionary as was the land grant college for the 19th Century", Robert H. Finch, Secretary, U. S. Department of Health Education and Welfare.

"The community college has proven its great worth to American society and should remain two-year institutions and not expect to become four-year or graduate institutions. Between 230 and 280 new two-year colleges need to be constructed by 1980", The Carnegie Commission on Higher Education.

Texas community colleges have experienced a 100% increase in enrollment during the past 5 years.

- One out of every four college students in Texas is enrolled in a public two-year community college.
- In Texas public two-year colleges there are more than nine-million square feet of enclosed space in 600 buildings valued at 115 million dollars on 44 separate campuses.
- Although providing facilities in these colleges is primarily a local responsibility, projections by the Coordinating Board indicate that by 1975 an additional 5,600,000 gross square feet of enclosed space will be required to accommodate increased enrollments at these two-year campuses.
- Two of the fastest growing newly-created junior college districts within the state include Tarrant County which first began accepting students in 1967, and now boasts an enrollment of over 11,000 on two campuses; and the Dallas County Junior College System which opened its innovative downtown campus, El Centro, in 1966 with 4,028 students and now has 16,666 enrolled on three campuses. Although the greatest rate of growth has been experienced by the campuses in metropolitan areas, several new campuses have also been created in some of the more sparsely populated regions of the state making higher education more accessible geographically to an increasing number of youth who still reside outside the 22 metropolitan areas of the state.

Certain criteria have been established by the Coordinating Board in order to help a community predetermine the economic and educational feasibility of creating a junior college district. These criteria serve as a guide in helping gage how many students could be expected to attend the institution and to foresee what additional financial burden would be placed on each local taxpayer within the proposed district to make the institution educationally and economically viable. Other factors in screening any newly proposed district include existing institutions within commuting range and the tax evaluation of the county or area proposing the creation of such a district.

Public two-year community colleges are by far the fastest growing segment of higher education in the nation as well as in Texas. Nationally, during the past 10 years these new colleges have been established at the rate of from 35 to 50 per year and during the past few years at the rate of one per week.

Texas has shared in this growth as shown by the following table:

	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1971
Total number of 2 year public colleges in Texas	32	34	39	41	42	44
Enrollment	52,462	62,289	75,842	86,913	96,524	108,284

Twelve new campuses have been created in Texas between 1965 and 1970 during which time enrollment more than doubled. At present, three additional new campuses are funded or under construction.

This growth in community colleges reflects the post war baby boom. These young people have now reached college age and are seeking entrance on campuses in increasing numbers. However, this influx is predicted to drop by 1980 not withstanding the fact that the current rate of those eligible and most likely to attend college in the 18 to 24 age group is currently 30% and increasing.

Background Photo: El Centro College, Dallas, Enslie Oglesby architect, See Sept. 1968 "Texas Architect" for additional coverage.

DALLAS COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE SYSTEM

Eastfield and Mountain View are recently completed satellite campuses within the Dallas County Junior College System. Four additional campuses are in various stages of planning in Dallas to accommodate 50,000 students expected to be enrolled in the district by 1980. Being relatively new on the educational scene, community two-year colleges are free from traditions which characterize other more established segments of higher education and therefore can be expected to spawn new and innovative approaches to learning which call for innovative architectural solutions.

The 244-acre site is very flat, with little native vegetation or topographic features. The plan is a compact arrangement of several building complexes, ranging from one to three stories, and organized around a series of highly developed courts, sometimes referred to as educational village.

EASTFIELD COLLEGE

HARWOOD K. SMITH & PARTNERS/ERNEST J. KUMP ASSOCIATES, ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS

photos by bill cox

photos by tom north

The response to new educational ideas at the Mountain View campus resulted in 345,000 square feet of floor space with bridges spanning a scenic ravine linking continuous clusters of air-conditioned pedestrian malls, offices, dining facilities, a two-level 10,000-volume library, a 500-seat performance hall-auditorium, plus a variety of instructional spaces under one roof.

The Mountain View campus, opened in 1971 with 2400 students, was designed to accommodate 5000 community students initially and 10,000 ultimately.

A skillful example of site planning, Mountain View was designed to keep artificial cuts in the ravine to a minimum and to capitalize on this visually interesting aspect of the site. A series of small lakes was created along the creek which flows through the campus.

MOUNTAINVIEW COLLEGE

OMNIPLAN HARRELL & HAMILTON/CHAN & RADER, ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS

TARRANT COUNTY JUNIOR COLLEGE DISTRICT

South Campus:

Loop 20 in South Fort Worth, 158 acres, 17 buildings, 374,233 gross sq. ft. valued at $18 million, opened September 1967 with 4,211 students, Fall 1970 enrollment 6,446. Construction time, 13 months.

Northeast Campus:

Approximately 160 acres, 14 buildings, 317,821 gross sq. ft. valued at $3,500,000, opened Fall 1968 with 3,415 students, Fall 1970 enrollment 4,930. Construction time, approximately 16 months.

Planning Stages –

Northwest Campus – 193 acres, expected completion date middle 1970's.

All branch campuses are designed to accommodate 5,000 full time equivalent students maximum.

SOUTH CAMPUS

PARKER - CROSTON ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS

NORTHEAST CAMPUS

AL KOMATSU, ARCHITECT

photos by paul iverson

CLARENDON COLLEGE, CLARENDON

RITTENBERRY & ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS

Clarendon Junior College located in the Texas Panhandle was established in 1927 and in 1968 moved into an all new campus consisting of six buildings including two dormitories totalling 85,600 gross sq. ft. Combined buildings are valued at over 1½ million dollars. Clarendon College, one of 42 publicly supported junior college districts in Texas, enrolled 410 students in 1970.

Master plan perspective

McLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE, WACO

BUSH & DUDLEY, ARCHITECTS; BENNETT, CARNAHAN, HEARN & THOMAS, ARCHITECTS
HAL E. STRINGER, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT – SITE PLANNER

McLennan Community College opened with 858 students in September 1966 in temporary quarters, moved to a new campus in January 1969, and now boasts an enrollment of over 2200.

The decision to locate this new campus on a beautiful tree studded 150-acre site adjacent to Cameron Park and overlooking the scenic Bosque River created an ideal and conveniently located learning environment from the outset.

The successful design of this campus is primarily due to the skillful manner in which the buildings were located on the heavily-wooded site preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area.

Consisting of 11 contemporary buildings enclosing 220,200 GSF, the campus represents an investment of almost six million dollars.

Library Building

Liberal Arts Building

Administration Building

Fine Arts Building

BEE COUNTY COLLEGE, BEEVILLE

PAGE • SOUTHERLAND • PAGE & WHITTET, ARCHITECTS

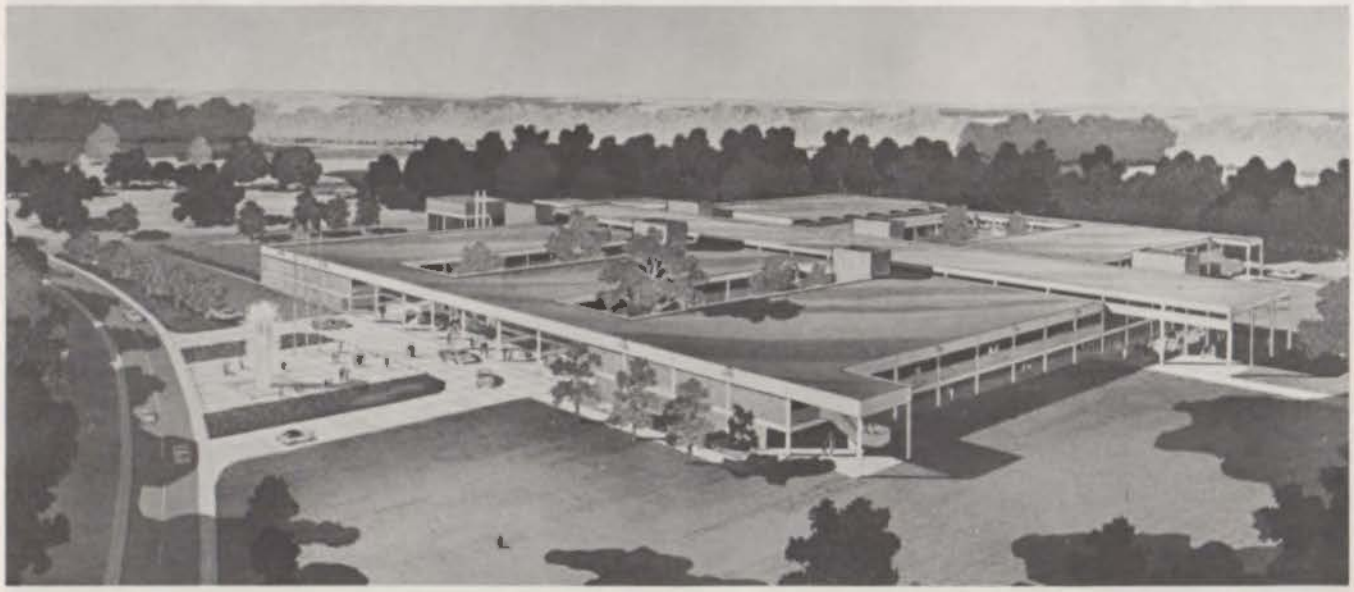
View of Fine Arts Building — art, music, speech, drama, classrooms, offices, auditorium and stage.

The Bee County Junior College District was created in 1965 and two years later had an opening enrollment of 790 which reached 1122 in the fall of 1970. The 100-acre campus now consists of eight buildings containing 128,900 gross sq. ft. It is valued in excess of four million dollars.

BRAZOSPORT COMMUNITY COLLEGE, FREEPORT

CAUDILL ROWLETT SCOTT, ARCHITECTS

Phase I development is designed to accommodate 1100 full-time students in 213,300 gross square feet of building area. Architectural form reflects desires specified by the academic plan to maximize the possibility for association and exchanges between all students, faculty and staff. This resulted in a compact arrangement of related spaces under one roof interspersed periodically with landscaped courtyards. It effectively integrates the activities of students pursuing occupational courses and those engaged in transfer level course work avoiding the sometimes undesirable distinction which can result by physically placing these activities in separate buildings. Long range growth plans call for expansion in phases to accommodate an enrollment of 4500 by 1980.



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All-electric features include air conditioning, strip heating, landscape lighting, and an all-electric kitchen. Additional features of interest include an automated window-washing system and a vertical conveyor belt system which automatically "trips out" mail on the desired floor.

At present, the Zale Corporation is occupying approximately half of the building, with the other half leased commercially.

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THE HAYDEN HOUSE

TEXAS HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE

EXCERPTS FROM A GRAPHICAL ESSAY BY JON IRWIN, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Around the turn of the century, the halfway point of the Texas-Pacific Railroad line between Ft. Worth and El Paso was considered to be Big Spring. Here resided Mr. Joseph Potton, the master mechanic for that 560-mile stretch of track. The west end of that then small and reckless "cowtown" was where Joseph Potton decided to build a house in 1901.

The north corner lot which faced east on Gregg Street was selected as the site for this house of red Pecos sandstone. The building's original plans still exist, although they do not represent the configuration of the interior spaces as they were finally built. Mr. Potton did not live in the house until 1912 having rented it out after its completion. He lived there only two years, at which time his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Henry R. Hayden, and their three children moved into the house.

The two Hayden daughters remember that their father was quite protective of his family, as reflected by the presence of a wire fence which remains around the property today. The yard and the front porch were always a haven for the neighborhood children in the hot West Texas summertime and the porch, whose roof was supported by cast iron columns, was also the scene of family gatherings in the evenings. The family would often retreat to the screened porch at the rear of the house when the heat was too intense indoors. This, however, was a rare occurence, since the twelve foot ceilings and the thick exterior walls kept the temperature pleasant most of the time.

The front pediment contains a Palladian window above which is placed the date of construction of the house. Above the date is a medallion of galvanized tin, on which is stamped the Star of Texas. Other pediments were similarly but less flamboyantly treated, but all were adorned with a pattern of shingles which resemble fish scales. Above the red stone walls rises the typically

steep Victorian roof planes with their hips and gables (grill work and tracery included), a few small dormers, and a metal gutter along the eaves.

A small wood structure was built at the rear of the lot to house the carriage horses, two small compartments for fire wood and coal, not to mention the outdoor convenience, were located nearby. Two wrought iron gates mark the entrance into the back yard.

The address can be seen in the transom above the front door. The door contains a metal knob, which when turned, manipulates a bell. Visitors enter the hall or entry space, which originally contained a grandfather clock, a hat tree with seat and mirror, and other assorted furnishings.

The family entertained in the parlor, which was carpeted with a red rug adorned with a floral design. Long satin draperies contrasted to the natural wood patterns in the mantel of the fireplace, which is covered by an embossed cast iron door. Ceramic tile was used around the door. The dining room, which contains a cast iron fireplace was the setting for formal evening meals. A china pantry served as a passageway from the dining room to the kitchen. Noon meals were often served in the kitchen, which also contained a large pantry.

Throughout the Hayden home can be seen ornate brass light fixtures either hanging from the ceiling or attached to the walls. Doors or openings are accentuated with beautifully carved woodwork in contrast to the smoothly plastered pastel walls. From these walls originally hung elegantly framed portraits, still life and landscape paintings.

The future of this excellent example of Victorian life and its architecture is uncertain at this time. All three of the owners, the children of H. R. Hayden, strongly intend that the house be preserved. Several citizens of Big Spring hope that it may later serve as headquarters for and be maintained by a historical society of the community.

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Architects' liberation movement

TRANSLATIONS FROM THE PROMOTER

1. This is definitely going to go ahead!
   Translation: It's a one in a million shot!
2. This job looks pretty sure!
   Translation: It doesn't have a prayer!
3. Plans will be completed this month!
   Translation: They haven't selected an Architect yet!
4. Construction is scheduled to start next week!
   Translation: They haven't selected an Architect yet!
5. Construction is scheduled to be complete in three months!
   Translation: They've started to look for land!
6. The land is free and clear!
   Translation: It has four mortgages and 38 liens against it!
7. The financing is all set!
   Translation: One mortgage company has reluctantly agreed to look at the plans!
8. Construction costs in excess of four million dollars!
   Translation: Construction costs of less than $500,000!
9. Six floors have been leased to prime tenants!
   Translation: A Notary Public has expressed interest in 100 sq. ft.!
10. Money is no problem!
    Translation: Money is the problem!
11. If you will work with us on your fee for this project, I guarantee you will get all our other projects coming up!
    Translation: They don't intend to pay the Architect!
12. We will pay you out of the first three construction draws!
    Translation: They don't intend to pay the Architect!
13. Our word is as good as a contract!
    Translation: They don't intend to pay anybody!

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