

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

STATEWIDE OBSERVANCE OF TEXAS ARCHITECTS' WEEK

GOVERNOR ALLAN SHIVERS SIGNS PROCLAMATION

THE TRADITION OF THOMAS JEFFERSON

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APRIL
1953



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INSIDE THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

Governor Shivers Proclaims TAW	3
The Tradition of Jefferson	5
Texas Architects' Week Is Statewide	7
Regional Architecture Theme At Seattle	10
Use Of Texas Limestone Increasing	9
New Developments In Texas Building Products	11
News Of The Chapters	19

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 13-20—Texas Architects' Week.

June 15-19—84th annual convention, AIA, at Seattle, Wash.

May 12-14—Texas Hospital Association convention, at Galveston.

November 4-6—14th annual convention, TSA, at Austin.

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Official Memorandum

BY

ALLAN SHIVERS
Governor of Texas

AUSTIN, TEXAS

GREETINGS

Much of our creative and material progress is due to the profession of architecture and its practitioners, who plan and build for the present and for the future.

At every stage in our lives, architecture has the most profound influence in shaping the environment about us. Hospitals, homes, schools, churches, commercial and public buildings, theaters, museums, stadiums -- every type of structure which comes from the architect's imagination and skill shapes our way of existence.

Let us take pause to look about to see the importance of architecture to each of us, and to pay tribute to the architects of Texas. These men have combined their creative power and professional ability to bring us comfort, beauty, and utility that is everywhere about us.

THEREFORE, I, as Governor of Texas, do hereby designate the week of April 13-20, 1933, as

TEXAS ARCHITECTS' WEEK

and urge that every citizen join me in recognizing and honoring the profession of architecture and those engaged in it.



In official recognition whereof, I hereby affix my
signature this 13th day of April, 1933

Allan Shivers
Governor of Texas

extra whiteness

for mass or contrast in architecture


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THE TRADITION OF JEFFERSON

The tradition of Thomas Jefferson, versatile president-architect who accomplished so much in a long and busy life, remains strong today within the architectural profession he helped to establish firmly in America.

Jefferson believed that a man learned and practiced a professional skill for one principal reason: to better the lot of his fellow man. To our third president, architecture meant learning theory and application thoroughly; practicing according to accepted professional standards; and striving constantly to improve his professional ability. The result should be private and public buildings which an architect could design, live among, and be proud to leave to posterity.

Jefferson was such a thorough and continuing student of architecture that many of his ideas can be traced for generations in the development of a native American architecture. He adapted pure classic forms to public buildings, and then blended the classic and new ideas from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in designing homes.

Every school child knows how Jefferson the architect still lives amongst us, in such masterpieces as the original buildings of the University of Virginia, the state capitol of Virginia, and his home, Monticello. The beauty and utility of these structures has grown into a legend that proves Thomas Jefferson's tremendous ability as an architect. And they live on, to fulfill another of his basic ideas regarding the profession.

So it is that members of the Texas Society of Architects have shaped their annual observance of Texas Architects' Week around Thomas Jefferson. The week begins April 13, on Jefferson's 210th birthdate anniversary, and it is keyed over the state to these primary themes: (1) architecture is a force that is present everywhere about us, whether we are at home, at school, at work, at play, or worshipping our Maker (2) many Texans know little about architecture, and how it is an important function of our daily lives.

TSA members in 10 chapters over the state will remember Thomas Jefferson, and his tradition of the architect as a public servant, in various projects designed to tell you more about the profession they follow. These projects vary. Sometimes, they take the form of exhibitions of recent architectural work. In other areas, they are built around the part that architecture can play in solving serious problems of the moment, such as overcrowding in our schools. Some chapters have offered their services as consultants on other civic projects, or have planned joint meetings with others who work in building. But in every case, TSA chapters want the public to know what architecture is, and what it can do.

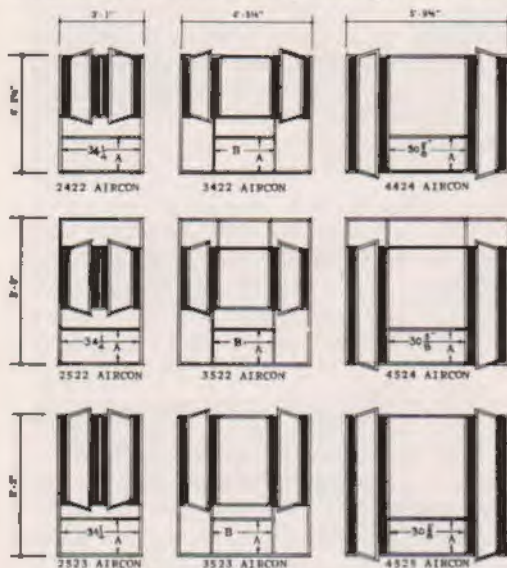
During the week of April 13-20, every citizen of Texas will be near one of these special programs which spell out the part that the architectural profession plays in the life of all. Everyone as fellow Texans and fellow citizens, is invited to celebrate Texas Architects' Week in the tradition of Thomas Jefferson, and to learn about architecture and its part in the life of the citizens of Texas.

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At Austin, Governor Allan Shivers signed the official memorandum proclaiming Texas Architects' Week with three TSA officials looking on. Left to right, standing, are TSA President Albert S. Golemon, Houston; R. Max Brooks of Austin, chairman of the legislative committee; and Louis Southerland, president of the Central Texas Chapter, also from Austin.

Texas Architects' Week Set for April 13-20

Statewide Program Will Emphasize Role of Architecture in Life of All Texans Today

The Texas Society of Architects will observe Texas Architects' Week from April 13-20 with special programs in every part of the state.

Gov. Allan Shivers has proclaimed Texas Architects' Week in a memorandum calling attention to the architectural profession and the accomplishments of the more than 1000 registered architects in the state.

The 10 TSA chapters, located from Dallas to El Paso and from the Panhandle

to the Rio Grande Valley, will emphasize the part that architecture plays in the daily life of every Texan through projects planned for many months.

"Jefferson The Architect" Shown

This is the second annual Texas Architects' Week, believed to be the only event of its kind in the U. S. It opens on the 210th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, famed architect-president who designed Monticello and the

(Continued on page 12)

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2048

Texas Limestone Industry Grows in Importance

By Dave Johnson, president, Texas Quarries, Inc.



Location of Main Deposits, Quarrying and Finishing Operations Described

Until 1929, when Texas Quarries, Inc. at Austin was founded, Texas limestones were not utilized as extensively as today. Generally, quarrying and fabricating operations were local in nature. Today the limestone industry is increasingly important in the industrial development of Texas.

From virtually a one-company beginning, the industry now has five major Texas limestone producers. Three operate both quarries and mills; two are quarries and fabricators of splitface limestone. Several cut stone contractors are also engaged in operations of a lesser scale.

Two Major Districts

The two major limestone districts are Cedar Park in central Texas and Lueders in north central Texas. From the Cedar Park district comes Cordova Cream and Cordova Shell Lueders limestone is from the Lueders district.

Cordova Cream closely resembles Caen stone of France. Cordova Shell is a fossiliferous limestone abundantly marked with shell.

Lueders resembles Indiana limestone.

The Cedar Park stone can be obtained in sizes limited only by handling facilities while Lueders is more limited in size, since the usable stone seldom exceeds 20 inches in thickness. Thus cut

stone should be designed within these limitations.

Methods of Quarrying

Quarrying differs with stone deposits. In the Cedar Park district, electrically powered channeling machines are used to cut the stone from the ledge. These machines have several chisel-shaped bars on each side of the machine.

The bars move rapidly up and down chiseling a cut in the ledge as the machines move forward and back on tracks. When the depth of cut is reached the track is moved over and the operation repeated. The "cut" is bottom drilled, broken free with wedges, turned over and broken into mill blocks.

Lueders stone lies in a thin ledge and is removed by drilling and breaking blocks from the ledge with wedges.

Fabricating Operations

In fabricating, mill blocks are sawed into slabs of varying thickness as required by gang saws. Sawing is done with blades spotted with hard metal. The slabs are ripped to approximate size by diamond blade saws, planed to exact dimensions for height and width and finally jointed. Mounds, drips, etc., are planed. When shaping cannot be done by machine it is cut by stone cutters or carvers. Finally the stone is hand-smoothed to remove tool marks. Other limestone products include splitface and Romanstone. The former is sawed to course heights, usually 2¼", 5" and 7¾", then machine split to a 4" bed thickness. Lengths are random and end-jointed.

Romanstone, the limestone brick, is sawed to dimensions of 15½"x4"x1¾".

Regional Architecture Theme of Seattle Convention

"A New Country—A New Architecture" is the theme chosen for the 85th annual convention of The American Institute of Architects, which will meet in Seattle, Wash., June 15-19. AIA officials predict that an estimated 1,500 architects will converge on Seattle for their first convention in the Pacific Northwest.

This "New Country" with its magnificent redwood and sequoia forests, its mild, moist climate and its heritage of Northwest Indian culture, is producing a new and distinctly regional architecture. The convention program will center on the area's forest resources, its wood construction techniques and allied local arts and crafts.

Thunderbird Is Emblem

A Siwash Indian Thunderbird, designed

by John Detlie, member of the Washington State host chapter, has been chosen as the convention emblem and will be used in the meeting rooms, on greeting placards featured by local stores, and on all convention paraphernalia.

Feature of the first day of the Convention will be a trip across Puget Sound to the Olympic Peninsula for a logging exhibition. Under the auspices of the Washington State Chapter, and as guests of the Simpson Logging Company, approximately 1,000 convention visitors will see a demonstration of the company's operations, from felling one of their giant trees through lumber milling and manufacture of plywood. A logging camp barbecue lunch will be served on the shore of Lake Mason. Entertainment will include log rolling exhibitions by masters of the sport.

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Maurice J. Sullivan At AIA Luncheon

Second from left is Maurice J. Sullivan, TSA-AIA, at an Octagon luncheon in Washington, D. C. for incoming government officials including Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay. Left to right: Leonard H. Bailey, Oklahoma City; Mr. Sullivan, who is serving currently as treasurer of the AIA and is a candidate for re-election; Irving G. Smith, Portland, Ore.; and Secretary McKay.

Texas Leads In Development Of Expanded Shale

By Alex T. Mickle, executive vice-president, The Featherlite Corporation.

Widespread increases in volume and variety of uses of expanded shale lightweight aggregate, especially in Texas, have been attracting the interest of the entire building industry.

In Dallas, for instance, there was not a multiple-story building in which this material was used before May, 1949. But since that time there has not been a single major structure which has not utilized its advantages in one way or another. This includes the Republic National Bank Building, now under way. It

will be the tallest skyscraper in the entire South.

Expanded Shale Institute

One of the most important developments was the organization about a year ago of the Expanded Shale Institute. At its first meeting since organization, held in Dallas last December, an extensive program of research and experimentation was launched under the direction of Frank G. Erskine, widely known structural engineer, with headquarters in Washington.

(Continued on page 16)

TVA Needs Architects For Design Work At Knoxville, Tennessee

The TVA is advertising for architects to assist in the design of steam and hydroelectric generating plants at Knoxville, Tenn. Salaries start at \$4450 and \$5325 annually for a 40-hour week, with vacation leave, sick leave, and retirement benefits.

Inquiries should be addressed to E. A. Shelley, Chief, Personnel Office Branch, Tennessee Valley Authority, Knoxville, Tenn.

Texas Architects' Week

(Continued from page 7)

University of Virginia. A special film, "Jefferson The Architect", will be shown at many of the Texas Architects' Week programs over the state.

TSA chapters have a wide variety of special projects scheduled for the period from April 13-20, many of which tie in directly with community service or educational programs. Often, architects have volunteered their services on a consulting basis for some community project, set up special tours or exhibitions of architectural work, or scheduled a competition for craftsmen or students. There are a number of joint meetings with engineers, contractors, craftsmen, or others engaged in construction, all to be held from April 13-20.

President Golemon Tours State

TSA President Albert S. Golemon, of Houston, has been touring the state since early February to help chapters complete arrangements for Texas Architects' Week programs. Here is what the various TSA affiliates are doing:

In Austin, the Central Texas Chapter will sponsor an architectural exhibit at the University of Texas, with many en-

tries from the showing placed in downtown business windows.

Dallas will hold a symposium on school design, aimed at securing understanding of a number one civic problem, plus a tour of recent architectural projects. Funds from the tour are to be used for architectural scholarships.

Fort Worth will choose an outstanding craftsman from the building trades, and honor him at a dinner program aimed at increasing understanding and cooperation between those engaged in all phases of construction.

Civic Help Offered

Houston Architects are offering their services to the city, on a consulting basis, for a civic project of public interest. They will also stage a special dinner meeting.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, observance of the special week will center around programs at many civic clubs and a joint dinner with the Associated General Contractors.

The Coastal Bend Chapter, at Corpus Christi, has one of the most ambitious programs, a project in which local TSA members are aiding in the development of Boys' City, a major civic undertaking which has attracted great interest.

YWCA To Benefit

The Panhandle Chapter, centered at Amarillo, has prepared perspectives and models of recent architectural work in the area for downtown display. The principal project, however, is a tour of recent architectural work. Fees from the tour will be donated to a fund for the YMCA and YWCA building program.

Observance of Texas Architects' Week at San Antonio, El Paso, and Bryan, centers for the remaining three chapters, will emphasize the part that architecture plays in shaping the everyday life of millions of Texans, through educational programs.

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Prefabrication Is Important Woodwork Trend

By J. R. Byford, sales manager, William Cameron & Company

During recent years, the woodwork manufacturing industry has made marked progress in developing new ways to provide the home building public with better products at competitive prices. These new processes and techniques have also helped the building industry to meet the unprecedented demand for new homes quickly and efficiently.

Perhaps one of the most important developments has been the widening trend toward prefabrication of such items as window and door units, kitchen cabinets, and other woodwork products. This prefabrication and pre-assembly trend has led to the substantial reduction of on-the-job construction time and costs. And since the great majority of such products are turned out on a mass-production basis in large factories, their cost has been kept well within the range of most prospective home owners.

Another most important trend in the woodwork manufacturing industry has been the voluntary establishment of standards set up to guide manufacturers in their construction and assembly processes. These "Commercial Standards" have led to the general improvement of the quality of wood window units, doors, windows, screen doors and other products.

A third trend in recent years has been the wide-scale adoption of the preservative treat process — a chemical treatment which greatly prolongs the life of wood and protects it against insect and fungus attack. Preservative treating has been especially effective when used on exterior woodwork.

The combination of these factors has led to a vast improvement in the quality of products and has brought them within the range of even the modest home building budget.

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**Marvin Eichenroht Speaks
To State DAR Group On
Early Architecture**

Marvin Eichenroht of San Antonio, TSA-AIA, spoke before the state conference of the Texas Society, Daughters of the American Revolution at Fort Worth recently. Mr. Eichenroht, formerly a regional director of the Historic American Buildings Survey, spoke on early Texas architecture.

He was introduced by Mrs. Harry Payne of Houston.

**Wirtz, Calhoun, Tungate
Announces Association
With Graham Jackson**

The Houston architectural firm of Wirtz, Calhoun, and Tungate has announced association with the firm of R. Graham Jackson, under the name of Wirtz, Calhoun, Tungate and Jackson.

Mr. Jackson, a resident of Houston since 1925 has been a principal in R. Graham Jackson-Frank C. Dill since 1946.

**Good Design Conserves,
Advisory Board Reports**

A report by the Building Research Advisory Board, initiated by DPA, will praise architecture as a means of effecting competent design that conserves materials, money, and manpower. The report is due to be issued in early summer. It was made by seven advisory panels in various fields of architectural and structural research and practice.

Expanded Shale

(Continued from page 11)

Precast products from this material, such as concrete joists and roof channels, are in growing demand. Both the White House and the capitol at Washington were recently re-roofed with expanded shale concrete.

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Letters to the Editor

Reynolds Metals
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Gentlemen:

At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of the Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, one of its members recounted the delights of your "Mr. Peepers" show and it was generally agreed that this TV program is one of the most looked for hours.

We even think the Commercials are interesting when they make mention of Architects and tell of the services they perform.

It would be hard for you to choose a program more to the liking of Architects, so we say "Thanks."

J. Herschel Fisher
President Dallas Chapter AIA

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News of the Chapters

HOUSTON—Three films on South American were shown by a representative of Braniff International Airways at the March meeting, which was held at the Forest Club. Much of the business session was devoted to final plans for the Chapter's observance of Texas Architects' Week, which is under the chairmanship of Woodrow W. (Woody) Alexander. A resolution commemorating the memory of Joseph Finger, a charter member of the South Texas chapter formed in 1924, has been adopted.

DALLAS—The March meeting was on "School Building Planning", under the chairmanship of Terrell Harper. Principal speaker was Dr. Warren T. White, superintendent of schools for the Dallas School District, who discussed educa-

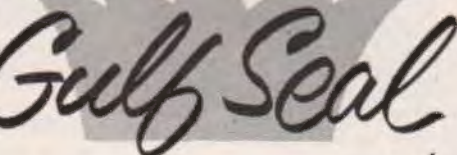
tional planning in building, and the purposes which school buildings should fulfill, both for students and for the community in general. Proposed amendments to Chapter by-laws have been distributed and will be voted upon at the April meeting.

WEST TEXAS—The March meeting was held at the St. Anthony Hotel, and featured an address by Harwell H. Harris, head of the Department of Architecture, University of Texas. Members were urged to attend the March Producers' Council meeting which emphasized new applications of glass in building.

CENTRAL TEXAS—A special March meeting featured a discussion of the proposed new city building code. The regular meeting had Louis Kahn of Philadelphia, city planner and former resident architect at the American Academy in Rome, as guest speaker.

FORT WORTH—The March meeting was in charge of Bob Woltz, TSA-AIA.

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The Producers' Council recently held a two-day conference at Rye, N. Y. at which building product manufacturers traded ideas on trade publication and consumer advertising, teaching salesmanship, measuring the effectiveness of convention exhibits, and doing research on the selling power of promotional programs. The principal difference of opinion was as to whether architects prefer technical data or "eye-catching" appeal in advertisements directed to them.

Ed C. Jancik of Houston has been named general sales manager for the Gulf Coast area for the Texas Lightweight Aggregate Company of TEXAS INDUSTRIES, Inc.

A new self-stacking, insulating window which may be assembled into a panel window wall or any window combination has been introduced. This completely modular window system is produced by Solar Air-Flo, Inc., Elkhart, Ind., and is designed to be glazed with L-O-F Thermopane insulating glass.

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