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APRIL

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

IN THIS ISSUE

Fire Prevention
and the Architect

Texas Winner
In Top AIA Awards

Will Wilson
Commends Architects



This home for Dr. and Mrs. T. M. Dobbins of Wichita Falls has been selected by members of the North Texas Chapter, AIA, as representative of recent work in the Chapter area. Architect: Glynn Harris Associates, TSA-AIA, Wichita Falls.

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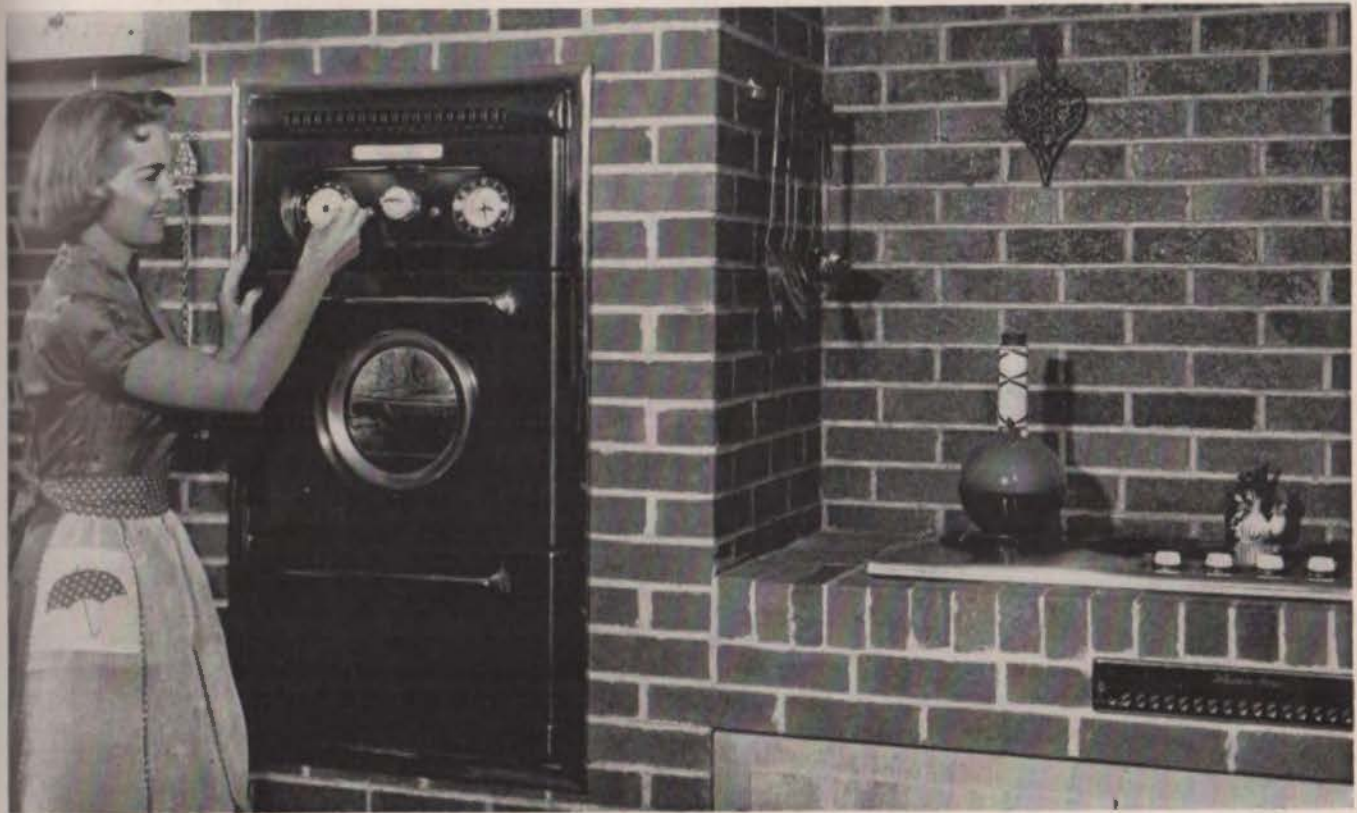
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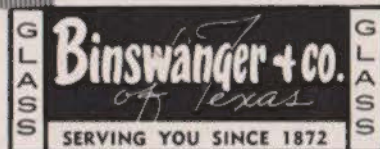
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The Architect and Fire Prevention

Every American is familiar to some extent with the terrible cost of fires, through the excellent and continuing programs of publicity and information maintained in every part of the U. S. Thousands of lives and billions of dollars in property are an annual toll, in spite of the continual campaigns emphasizing fire prevention.

Few persons outside the architectural and engineering professions, or those engaged in some phase of the building and construction industry, realize the key role that the architect plays in preventing fires.

Against carelessness and related causes of fire and explosion, there is little that the architect can do directly, even though many members of TSA and AIA combat even these sources of death and destruction by serving on local information committees. In terms of expert knowledge of materials, planning, design, and construction, however, the architects of Texas and the U. S. are in the forefront in what has become an increasingly important means of preventing and minimizing damage from fire.

This has been long recognized by actuaries, underwriters, and others connected with the insurance industry, who must base their rates upon long and detailed study of millions of loss claims. The well-designed home, commercial structure, or institutional building can often save the owner substantial amounts in lower premiums over the years, because of the architect's professional skill in minimizing the possibility of certain types of fire losses.

Here is another, and little recognized, major reason for utilizing the professional services of the architect whenever you build or remodel.

The President's Letter

By
Fred J. MacKie
TSA-AIA

President,
Texas Society
of Architects



Texans will have an unusual opportunity to see the work of one of the great architects of all time from May 7 to June 7, when the Fort Worth Chapter, AIA is staging a special exhibition of the work of Louis Sullivan at the Fort Worth Art Center.

Mass media magazines have begun to spread the fame of Louis Sullivan, long known to practitioners, students, and critics of architecture, throughout the land. Cities and towns in the Middle West have initiated campaigns to preserve and restore examples of Sullivan's work. Fresh attention is being called to the great importance of his designs in evolving the modern skyscraper. The centennial of the AIA has also served to emphasize the genius of Sullivan and the key role he has played in the development of the profession he so loved and devotedly served.

A TSA member who saw the distinguished showing of Sullivan's work in Chicago has this to say of it, and of the architect whom it represents: ". . . Sullivan was more than an architect—a Whitman, an Emerson, discovering what is new and distinctive in the idea and spirit of America . . . the exhibition is interesting whether you have an interest in architecture or not, for it is an architecture expressing a concept of man, society, and the universe."

The Fort Worth Chapter is certainly to be commended for making this great exhibit available to Texans, and for a plan just announced whereby each of the five senior architectural schools in the state are being urged to send their students to see it. Those in the Fort Worth-Dallas area, and indeed throughout the state, should attempt to avail themselves of the opportunity to view the works of Louis Sullivan.

Attorney-General Wilson Is Centennial Dinner Speaker

(Editor's Note: This is an abstract of the speech delivered by
The Honorable Will Wilson, Attorney-General of Texas
at the 100th anniversary dinner of the American Institute of Architects
at the Commodore Perry Hotel, Austin, Texas
February 28, 1957)

What is our nation's most important resource? Is it coal? Steel? Atomic power? Actually, it's the creative talent and technical ability of its professional people. This week our nation is saluting its architects on the 100th anniversary of the founding of their profession.

During the past century, we have grown from a pioneer society on the move into a nation with the highest standard of living in the world. One of the most important contributions to that development has been that of America's architects.

We are here this evening to observe the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Institute of Architects in New York on February 23, 1857, when just 13 members gathered to seek professional companionship and to organize a vehicle for advancing the architectural profession. The association now has 124 chapters throughout the United States with more than one-tenth located in Texas.

PART OF LEADERSHIP

The emergence of professional organizations in mid-19th century America was part of the predicate laid for the assumption of world leadership by our nation in the mid-20th century. Much of the strength of America is generated by—or at least made possible because of—the independent-minded professional people who achieve in one fashion or another a specialized education and skill, and who make their living and feed their families by personal earnings. The great American middle class is directed and led by the engineers and teachers, the doctors and architects, the lawyers, journalists, and ministers who usually attain a comfortable living standard but who seldom become wealthy.

The American Institute of Architects is only ten years younger than the American Medical Association and is 21 years older than the formal organization of the nation's lawyers. For a lawyer to be invited to address a group of architects might not, at first

thought, seem especially appropriate, but I suppose no two professions are more intertwined than these. Both are directly confronted in their daily work with the conflict between freedom and discipline, with the difficulty of reconciling functionalism with tradition, and with the necessity of achieving liberty through planning.

Neither lawyers nor architects would for long be entitled to rank as members of a profession if they failed to keep before themselves the obligations to so shape both the law and architecture as to preserve freedom within discipline, to require that the traditional also be functional, and to recognize that with each generation, as the density of the mass of the people increases, individual liberty can only be achieved through planning and discipline.

Last fall on television I watched Frank Lloyd Wright outline his plan for one building which would contain all of the Governmental offices in the city of Chicago. It may be that in some future generation the architect and the city planner will merge into one person with one plan, and that may not be so far off. In Dallas now Senator Blakley is building an office and shopping center which, if I understand it properly, will be essentially one structure with air-conditioned streets and walks. We cannot foresee what Frank Lloyd Wright's concept of condensing city planning into the architecture of a single building will do to the freedom of the individual citizen. It could increase freedom—but certainly it would eliminate one whole area for initiative and individual enterprise, and that is the building of office buildings. It might eliminate a few dozen architects also.

We have been talking of the way the law is intertwined in architecture. Now, I want to mention an intertwining of architecture into the law. There is no way to measure the extent to which the architecture of many of our Texas court houses built in the period 1889-1900 has entered into jury verdicts, but the absence of comfort, conven-

ience, and acoustics which these builders achieved can only be measured by the money spent on useless ornamentation.

PRAISE FOR MISSIONARY WORK

Your Texas society deserves praise for the missionary work it now is doing. From your headquarters here in Austin you are working to advance the practical efficiency of the architectural profession in the state and to make the profession one of ever-increasing service to all the people.

You have established a foundation providing scholarships for worthy students of architecture. You are working in many areas of public service collaborating with such other professional groups as engineers and landscape architects in conducting statewide competitions and exhibits of architectural work, encouraging the preservation of historic buildings, and cooperating with contractors and all those engaged in the building industry.

Appropriately enough the American Institute of Architects now maintains its headquarters in Washington in the old Octagon House used by President Madison who, it may be remembered, was the first United States President to wear long trousers instead of knee breeches.

Before the American Revolution most professional men were educated in England, but afterward it became unpatriotic to look to English universities for an education. The professions in America suffered grievously. With the advent of President Andrew Jackson and the era of the common man the belief became widespread that any native-born American was equal to any task, and that an education was something to be apologized for. The professions in America hit an all-time low and only began to climb back after the Civil War.

HIGH CODE OF STANDARDS

From its founding in 1857, the American Institute of Architects has been active in developing a high code of professional standards which govern both the practice of the profession and the relationship of the architects to their clients. Through efforts of the Institute, most states including Texas now have registration laws which require an architect to demonstrate his competence.

Back of the members of the American Institute of Architects lies a cen-

tury of planning, experience, and performance. Any professional architect will bring the benefit of long-acquired knowledge to problems arising in the construction of new schools, churches, hospitals, office and store buildings, factories, libraries, public institutions, and homes. He can advise on sites, materials, construction details, and the efficient utilization of space, both exterior and interior. Such things are no task for amateurs. He can go much further than those material things. He can put the spirit of his time and of his generation into his work.

Edward Bateman Morris, in a delightful booklet published by your AIA, has said this:

"Eras are not interchangeable. Trinity Church wouldn't go today. Lever House would have shocked the ornament-conscious 'Nineties. In the same bracket, the monkey-petticoated, many hook-and-eyed females costume of the end of the century makes us laugh. And the tight, small-yardage skirt and transparent, just ample blouse of today would have put the sixty-years-ago public into an apoplexy of disapproval. But the intent and direction of thought would be the same. Each system is searching as to how best to say 'Here is a girl.'

"It is pleasant, therefore—and convincing—to say that the best architecture of a hundred years ago was honest and sincere and that the best architecture of today is honest and sincere. In this anniversary year, as one looks back at the architecture of the successive decades, honesty and sincerity is apparent and the best aesthetic results of each period — I say the best—are the logical fitting of design to needs.

"I don't often find it stated, though it must be believed, that there is a pleasant solace in the stillness of our present architecture. Perhaps stillness, serenity, is a part of simplicity; since there must be many parts and a definite amount of decoration to cause movement and the restless pointing toward a focal point.

"I wonder if I can get by with the statement that there is Gothic spirit about the best of modern. Not in the skin form, certainly, but in the spirit. When I note the heaven-seeking form of Empire State, of U. N., of Alcoa, of this Rockefeller Center, I seem to see the simplified long lines of the cathedrals, uniting earth to zenith. But —so what? So they stick up in the air."

The history of American architecture is the history of America. The genius of our architects has replaced the log cabins and rustic communities of pioneer days with towering buildings, beautiful churches; modern, comfortable houses, and schools which provide the best possible atmosphere for learning. Our monuments and parks are products of the architects' talents. Architects help communities make their building laws, and plan the best use of land for the safety and welfare of the public. Investors are

guided by architects in getting the best rate of return from their real estate. Yes, there isn't much in American life that isn't influenced and aided by the profession of architecture. Today, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the architectural profession in America, we can look back on much progress and the emergence of a native architecture.

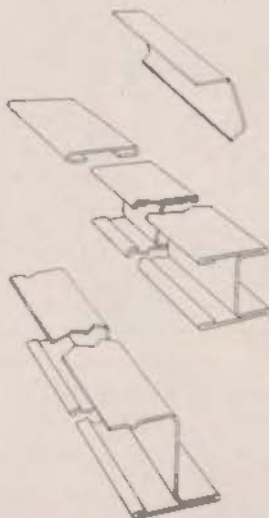
Let's all join in saluting these talented professionals as they look forward to another century of service to the American people.



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Representative Selection, North Texas Chapter, AIA

CLIENT: Dr. and Mrs. T. M. Dobbins, Wichita Falls

ARCHITECT: Glynn Harris Associates, TSA-AIA, Wichita Falls

ENGINEER: J. R. Killebrew, Wichita Falls

CONTRACTOR: C. W. Dennis, Wichita Falls

This was a problem in designing a residence for a dentist and his family who do a great deal of entertaining, and whose two children are teen agers, and have their personal entertaining problems. This is of course a widespread problem in Texas and the U.S. today, and one of very considerable importance in the designing of modern residences in our time.

The Dobbins home has been designed in a plan with the living and dining units as one section, with a connecting passage to the bedroom wing. This makes it possible for the parents to retire to their bedroom-sitting-room area and avoid the noise made by a group of teen agers in the other wing of the house. Conversely, the parents and their friends do not disturb teenage children who are studying or sleeping, and it is quite possible for both parents and children to entertain simultaneously if desired.

NO FORMAL LIVING ROOM

The residence consists of a large playroom-den with adjoining kitchen, which is so designed as to form a separating bar directly to the playroom area, as shown in the interior photograph. There is no formal living room whatsoever, reflecting an increasing trend in so many modern homes.

The three bedrooms, two and one-half baths, and a dressing room off the master suite combine with a patio which is accessible to the entrance passage and to the playroom area.

The construction is brick veneer, with cement asbestos board panels, supporting a built-up roof. All floors throughout the house, with the exception of the three bedrooms, are terrazzo. The client desired the terrazzo for easy maintenance and up-keep, and also for the ease with which it lends itself to entertainment areas.

The climate of the Wichita Falls

area being hot, windy, and dusty, is the major factor in preventing the more open-type living that we find along our more mild Texas coastline. Therefore, there are very small windows, generally, and the only large glass areas open onto the patio, which is protected both by a sun screen over the major portion and a private fence.

The result is designed very specifically for the special climatic features encountered in the Wichita Falls area, although residents are now looking forward hopefully to an end to the drought and its intensification of the dust problem, excellent rains having fallen in the late winter and early spring.

Modern Skyscrapers Feature Walls of Many Materials

The great modern skyscrapers, in New York and elsewhere, now are more and more taking advantage of another major consequence of metal framework construction—one just as important as its ability to build towards the sky.

This is the fact that the metal framework, by relieving the walls of their previous function of supporting weight, makes it possible to treat them purely as curtains—and to construct them of any material desired.

Sullivan's genius recognized this almost 60 years ago, when his design for the Gage Building designated glass and terra-cotta as the wall materials.

The walls of today's skyscraper are constructed of stainless steel, aluminum, glass or, as in the case of the Seagram Building, bronze—a fact which makes Park Avenue's modern skyscraper the world's first bronze building.

This almost unlimited freedom in the choice of wall materials has made possible the treatment of light and space themselves as integral parts of the modern skyscraper.



North Texas Winner

This interior view of the home designed by Glynn Harris Associates, TSA-AIA, Wichita Falls, for Dr. and Mrs. T. M. Dobbins of Wichita Falls, demonstrates the large playroom-den with adjoining kitchen, designed so as to form a separating bar directly to the playroom area. The home was selected as representative of recent architectural work in the area by members of the North Texas Chapter, AIA.

Brazos County Courthouse Wins National AIA Award

Six buildings representing a wide range of human activities—an office building, a school, two churches, a home and a court house jail—were top winners in the Ninth Annual Honor Awards Competition of The American Institute of Architects. Among them is the Brazos County Courthouse and Jail at Bryan, designed by Caudill, Rowlett & Scott & Associates, TSA-AIA of Bryan, and featured in the March, 1957, issue of the Texas Architect.

The six buildings, and fourteen others chosen for Awards of Merit, were selected from 244 entries submitted by architects to a jury of five architects. Eligible for submission in the competition, which is held to honor outstanding architecture, are buildings by any American architect completed in the past five years.

This year's first honor awards were given for an office building in Waltham, Mass., designed by Anderson, Beckwith & Haible, of Boston; a high school in Greenburgh, N. Y., by Warren H. Ashley of West Hartford, Conn.; a house in New Canaan, Conn., by Eliot Noyes of New Canaan; the courthouse and jail in Bryan, by Caudill, Rowlett, Scott & Associates; a priory for Benedictine Fathers in Tokyo, by Antonin Raymond and L. L. Rado, of New York City; and a chapel at Sedona, Ariz., by Anshen & Allen, of San Francisco.

Included in the fourteen awards of merit were four residences, three schools, a laboratory, two medical

buildings, a public library, a department store, a memorial hall in Japan and an inn.

PRESENTATIONS IN WASHINGTON

Certificates will be presented to the architects of all award-winning buildings at the Centennial Celebration of The American Institute of Architects in Washington, D. C., May 13-17. An exhibition of the winning buildings will be shown at the Shoreham Hotel during that period. Stainless steel plaques, specially designed, will be presented for installation in the six buildings that won first honor awards.

Austin Architect Named National Historian Of Theta Chi

Carl H. Stautz, TSA-AIA of Austin, is now serving as national historian of Theta Chi fraternity, a post to which he was elected at the centennial convention of the fraternity at Norwich University in Vermont.

Mr. Stautz is alumnus advisor of the Theta Chi chapter at Texas University and has served since 1950 as counselor for the Texas region. He is currently a member of the Grand Chapter.

The Austin architect is past president of the West Austin Rotary Club. A 1934 graduate of the University of Texas, he is married and has one child.

Fort Worth Architects Appear on Nationwide Religious Broadcast

Three members of Fort Worth's architectural profession appeared recently on a National Broadcasting Company network radio program over WFAA, Fort Worth.

"Faith in Action," 15-minute religious program originating by tape transcription from New York, featured a discussion on "Architecture in Religion." This is the fourth in a series on the general theme of "Religion in Culture" produced by the Southern Baptist Radio-Television Commission.

Participants in the program were: William R. Lane, Preston M. Geren, Jr., and William W. Echols, all TSA-AIA.



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Architects and Engineers Cooperating More and More

Architects and engineers are working closer together today than ever before and, as a result, industrial buildings are scientifically planned and increasingly in tune with mass production and the machine, says Ralph W. Hammett, professor of architecture at the University of Michigan.

"This goes for all our buildings, wherever we look—whether at houses, hospitals, museums, college buildings, or research centers and even churches," he says.

The University architect contends that, as the machine has led this age, so industrial architecture has influenced all of our present day work.

"Certainly in 1900 few industrial buildings around the world could be classified as architecture. They boasted no scientific study, and had no elements of art. Factories were necessary evils that were ruining the classic scene. If there was any scientific planning or work to be done in connection with the factories, that could be done by builders and engineers; architects were not trained to think along those lines," Professor Hammett says.

90% BUSINESS, 10% ART

"But in Detroit there was a young architect who had come up the hard way, starting as an office boy. Kahn's slogan, shocking to his contemporaries, was 'Architecture is 90 per cent business and 10 per cent art'."

In 1903, Kahn designed a factory for the newly organized Packard Motor Company. It was the first reinforced concrete factory in the world and the first factory where light was considered important.

By World War II, near the end of Kahn's life, he had been Packard's architect for 35 years, Ford's for 30, Chrysler's since the firm was incorporated in 1926, and General Motors' on 127 important structures.

EARLY FACTORIES DESCRIBED

Recalling the history of Detroit's industrial development, Professor Hammett recalls that the early automobiles were made in machine shops by skilled mechanics. "The buildings which housed them were brick walled, with mill-constructed interiors—wood columns, timber beams and plank floors. The interiors were badly heated and never painted. Sanitary facilities were improvised in courts or simply out in the back yards.

"Artificial light was by means of ten candle power incandescent carbon electric lamps, hanging on cords, one lamp per machine. Machines were operated by belts driven from central shafts, either over head or under foot, and which were powered by a steam engine in a nearby coal burning engine room.

"Every factory had a steam whistle which used to screech gaily at start-

ing and quitting time at seven o'clock in the morning and six o'clock at night.

"These factories were very inefficient, dark, unsanitary and dirty."

INFLUENCE SPREADS

As Kahn worked to improve these conditions, however, the influence of industrial architecture spread. The professor continues: "The efficiency of space, and the brightly-lighted interiors such as we see in the Buick Plant in Flint in 1919, were beginning to make our ill-lighted schools, office buildings, hospitals, and homes seem dingy and obsolete. Remember that in the decades up to 1940, most of our schools were being designed as multi-storied structures in classic or collegiate gothic dress. Many were rather beautiful monuments but most were ill-lighted and inefficient by the standards being set by Kahn's industrial architecture."

"Finally, in 1941, Kahn designed the great Willow Run Bomber Plant 30 miles west of Detroit. This plant is one of the great industrial buildings of the century. Here we see a building of light steel construction, mostly all on one floor, and because of the war and black-out, this factory had to be completely lighted and air conditioned artificially.

"Here in 1942, I saw an interior as bright as sun light, clean, pleasant and efficient. This building contained drafting rooms, offices, restaurants, and hospital for first aid, or emergencies. This great ensemble is truly wonderful, but hardly more so than hundreds of other factories that were being erected, or had been erected since 1920.

NEW PHASE COMING?

"True, atomic energy may give us advanced sources of power, and may lead to another phase 20, 30, or 40 years hence, but the age of automation was introduced to industry by the automotive engineers about the time of World War I; and certainly one could see it in its perfection in Willow Run."

In addition to his industrial architectural achievements, Kahn designed Angell Hall and Clements Library at The University of Michigan, the Fisher Tower, and the General Motors Office building in Detroit.

Professor Hammett described Kahn's work at a recent meeting of the Society of Architectural Historians at the Detroit Art Institute.

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Colonel Hansen to Succeed McCrone As Army District Engineer

Colonel E. A. Hansen will become District Engineer of the Army Engineers' Galveston District in August, succeeding Colonel W. P. McCrone, who will be assigned overseas.

Colonel Hansen has been Engineer Camptrroller in the Office, Chief of Engineers in Washington since 1955.

The newly designated District Engineer, who is 41 years of age, is a native of Coos Bay, Oregon, and a graduate of Oregon State College.

He was commissioned in the Army Engineers in 1940.

In World War II, Colonel Hansen served as Engineer for construction troops in the Pacific Theater.

He has served on the General Staff for the Department of the Army in Washington; has been Resident Member of the Beach Erosion Board; has served as Assistant District Engineer with the Omaha District, Nebraska; and in the North District in Iceland.

He is married and the father of 2 children.



Houston Architects Win Honor Award

The Houston architectural firm of Golemon & Rolfe, TSA-AIA, has been awarded an Honor Award by the American Institute of Architects for their design of the Medical Towers in the Texas Medical Center in Houston.

The building will be on display in a special exhibit at the centennial convention of the AIA in Washington May 14-17.

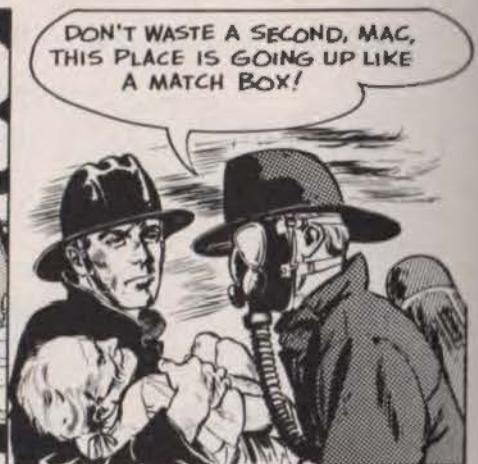
MEET A MODERN TREND WITH KITCHEN CABINETS



The trend in modern home planning, due to the influence of imaginative architects, is to incorporate the kitchen as part of the living area. Eating, family activities, even entertaining, is done with the kitchen in full view. This makes selection of cabinets for the kitchen as important a decision as choosing furniture for the rest of the home. Favor your clients with the last word in kitchen beauty and convenience by specifying IDEAL Kitchen Cabinets.

They are made of Western Ponderosa Pine and can be finished to look like fine furniture. They give warmth, character and dignity to the "Living Kitchen" and are perfectly suited to the "Age of Color" and the trend to natural stains and finishes. Because they are made in a wide range of sizes, IDEAL cabinets are easily arranged to fit any size or shape room. They are precision machined in the largest standard millwork plant in the South.

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Architect Is Chairman of Modular Coordination For Standards Association

C. E. Silling, AIA, architect of Charleston, W. Va., has been appointed chairman of the national committee on modular coordination organized under the auspices of the American Standards Association.

The appointment was made at a meeting of the sponsors of the project at ASA offices in New York. The four sponsors of the seventeen-year old committee are the American Institute of Architects, Associated General Contractors of America, National Institute of Home Builders and the Producers' Council.

Mr. Silling is one of the pioneers of modular coordination. One of his famous modular jobs is the \$15 million West Virginia University medical center, the State's largest building.

Modular measure is the system of coordinating the designer's dimensions for a building with the actual unit sizes of the materials of which it is to be constructed. This is accomplished by using the American Standard 4-inch module as the least common denominator for dimensioning buildings and building products.

The committee headed by Mr. Silling is continuing the task of developing additional American Standards for dimensional coordination. *Architectural Forum* has estimated that complete modular coordination would save the U. S. building industry more than one billion dollars a year.

The American Standards Association is the national clearinghouse for voluntary engineering, industrial, safety and consumer standards. It is a federation of 116 technical societies, trade associations, consumer groups and 2300 individual company members. ASA is the United States member of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

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Fact Book Available As Reference Brochure On Resilient Flooring

"Facts and Data on Resilient Floors," published by the Gold Seal Division of Congoleum-Nairn as a ready reference brochure for architects, has won an award as one of the finest publications in the 1957 Building Products Literature Competition sponsored jointly by the American Institute of Architects and The Producers' Council, Inc.

More than 50,000 copies have been distributed since the first of its three printings last September. "Facts and Data on Resilient Floors" facilitates the specification of the correct resilient floor for any type of residential, commercial or institutional building. The booklet is devoted to the twelve outstanding properties of resilient flooring products and their influence upon the architect in making his specifications. The discussion of each characteristic is accompanied by illustration and charts.

Copies of the booklet can be obtained free of charge by writing to the Architect Service Department, Congoleum-Nairn Inc., Gold Seal Floors and Walls, 195 Belgrave Drive, Kearny, N. J.

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Texas Hospital Association To Hold Annual Convention In Houston May 14-15-16

The Texas Hospital Association and affiliated groups will hold their annual convention at the Shamrock-Hilton in Houston May 14-15-16. The first day will be devoted to registration and tours of exhibits and to an afternoon speech on "Leadership" by Dr. Kenneth McFarland of Topeka, Kan., educational consultant to General Motors.

On the second day, May 15, eight selected topics will be discussed in sectional meetings. The program will be repeated during the afternoon so that all at the convention may attend the entire schedule of eight discussions.

The final day will be devoted to the annual business session, to an address by B. T. Terrell of San Angelo, president-elect of the American Hospital Association, and to the annual banquet closing the convention.

Award-Winning Metal Lath Specifications Available In New MLMA Booklet

The 1957 award-winning edition of "Specifications for Metal Lathing and Furring" is now ready for free distribution by the Metal Lath Manufacturers Association.

Granted a "Certificate of Merit" in the 1957 Building Products Literature Competition, sponsored jointly by The American Institute of Architects and The Producers' Council, Inc., this explanatory 20-page booklet covers all phases of metal lath construction. Included are: specifications for solid and hollow partitions; wall furring; metal lath attached directly to wood supports; contact, furred, and suspended ceilings; beam and column protection for fire-proofing; and reinforcing for exterior stucco.

A page devoted to fire-resistive ratings and descriptions of construction depicts the protection of structural steel members and assemblies. Both hollow and solid partitions are listed.

The various spans and spacings for supporting metal lath and plaster ceilings have been summarized in descriptive tables.

Appearing in the 1957 issue of Sweet's Architectural File, reprints of "Specifications for Metal Lathing and Furring" are available without charge from the Metal Lath Manufacturers Association, Engineers Building, Cleveland 14, Ohio.

NEW PRODUCTS

A new product in electric wiring for both residences and commercial buildings has just been announced by the National Electric Products Corporation of Pittsburgh.

It's Baseduct—a new, complete electric wiring system at the baseboard level where it is most convenient and yet least conspicuous.

There are several inherent advantages to Baseduct. In re-wiring masonry structures, for instance, where wires connect hidden inside walls, Baseduct is a speedy and economic answer to the problem.

Johnson Construction Specialties Organized

Purchase of the Gulf Coast operation of Mocatee, Inc., building specialties firm headquartered in Dallas, has been made by a Houston group.

The group, headed by Curtis O. Johnson, Jr., general manager of the Houston branch for the past eight years and former vice president of the Dallas company, will operate as a Texas corporation under the firm name of Johnson Construction Specialties, Inc. The purchase included all physical assets of the Houston office.

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Four-Hour Bid Closing Voted by AGC Members In Houston Chapter

The active and associate members of the Houston Chapter, Associated General Contractors, have voted unanimously to put into effect immediately a four-hour bid closing.

Details of the plan are as follows:

The plan is to be all-inclusive, for non-members as well as members of the AGC.

No quotations or sub-bids, or revisions thereto, will be considered unless they are submitted four hours before a bid opening time.

Sub-bids and quotations may be withdrawn at any time prior to the bid opening.

Architects will be asked to cooperate in this effort by setting up bid opening times during the afternoon only.

Contractors agree to hold all bid quotations entirely confidential during the four-hour period.

On new commercial or residential construction and especially prefabricated housing, Baseduct means ease of installation, good looks, utility and relatively low cost.

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tas board, roof decks, acoustical treatment and movable partitions. Among the well-known firms they will represent are Johns-Manville Sales Corp., Keasbey & Mattison Company, U. S. Gypsum Co., Elf Hanson, Inc., Tecum Division of Peoples Research and Manufacturing Company and Asbestos-spray Corporation.

Reynolds Metals Produces \$500,000 Work on Aluminum

A two-volume work, "Aluminum in Modern Architecture", which has cost over \$500,000 to compile, edit and produce, has been published by Reynolds Metals Company, which sponsored and financed the project as a service to architects, engineers, and others. The volumes have been under preparation for three years and cover the use of aluminum in building throughout the world.

Volume I is by John Peter, a consulting editor of *Look* magazine and a former editor of *Life* magazine. Paul Weidlinger, well-known in this country, Europe and South America, as an architectural engineer, is the author of Volume II which is the most complete technical review ever undertaken of the structural applications of aluminum.

R. S. Reynolds, Jr., President of Reynolds Metals Company, in announcing publication, said: "We decided to sponsor this project on the urging of leading architects, engineers and others who told us they were often handicapped by a great lack of information on the characteristics and potentials of aluminum in architectural, engineering and decorative use."

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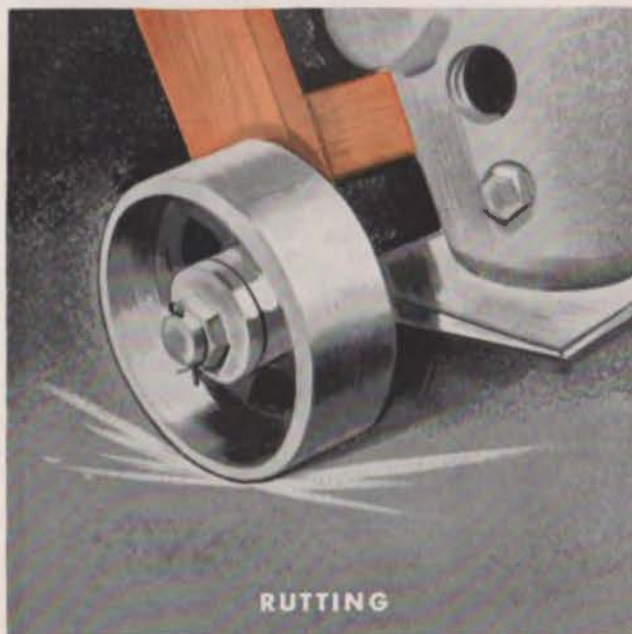


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