

# TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

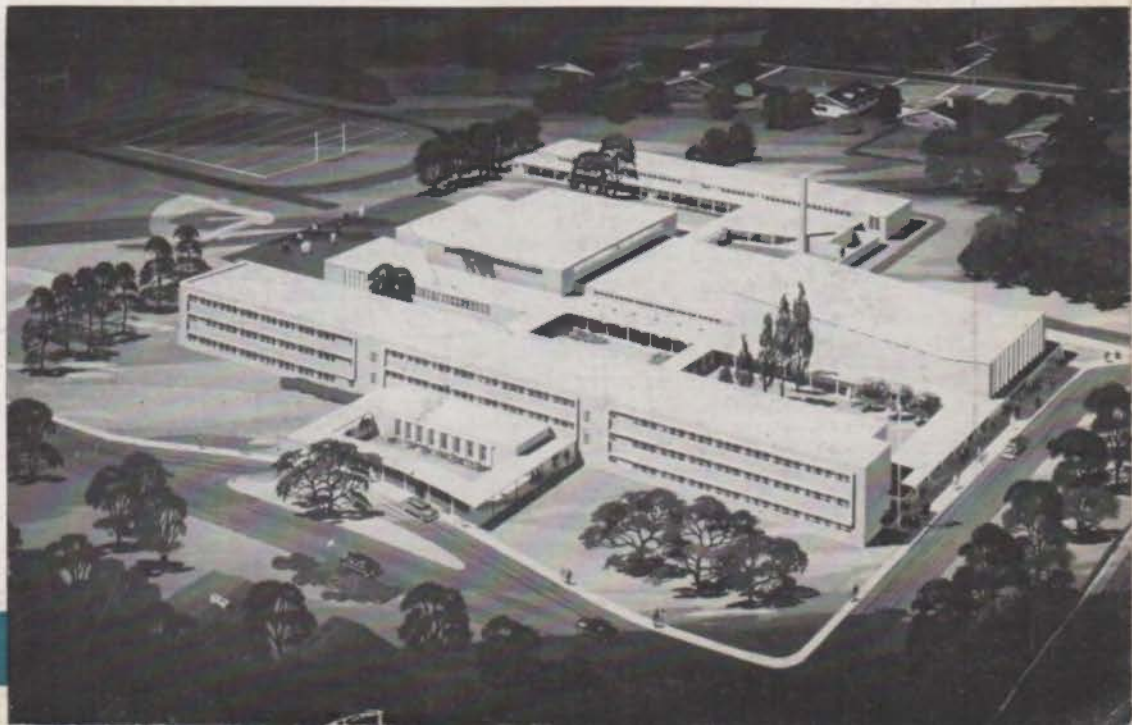
APRIL  
1958



▶ Texas Architects' Week  
To Be Observed April 13-20  
With Statewide Programs

▶ Representative Selection  
From Houston Chapter, AIA

▶ Impressions Of A  
Fifth-Year Student In  
Architecture At University



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# THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

VOL. 9

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THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

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Texas Architectural Foundation, 327 Perry-Brooks Building, Austin, Texas

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## Texas Architects' Week

The 215th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, architect-president who designed Monticello and the University of Virginia, will open Texas Architects' Week on April 13.

This year the theme will be the 75th anniversary of the University of Texas, which has produced many outstanding practitioners of architecture during its three-quarters of a century of service to the state and nation. The commemoration of the University's founding in 1883 is being celebrated so generally over Texas that it was felt a salute to one of the state's great institutions would be particularly fitting.

In an age when not only every week, but every day of the year, has been claimed by some organization, institution, product, or service, Texas Architects' Week has grown steadily to become an event of considerable stature across the state. Each of the 14 TSA Chapters will be staging varied programs, many of them in conjunction with hundreds of other Texans. The end result is an increasingly better knowledge of architecture and those who practice the profession.

To our non-architect friends and readers, we issue a special invitation to take note of, and to participate in, the events of Texas Architects' Week within your own community. They afford you and your neighbors a valuable glimpse into the profession that touches all of us—because it is so intimately concerned with shaping the environment about us.

## The President's Letter

By  
Reginald  
H.  
Roberts

President,  
Texas Society  
of Architects



The Executive Board of TSA will hold its traditional spring meeting in Austin April 26 with the organization's 1958 program well launched in the 14 affiliate Chapters. Preliminary reports indicate that the principal projects for the year are well underway under the leadership of Chapter directors, officers, and committeemen, working in conjunction with members of the TSA directorate.

With more than 40 persons now attending the quarterly meetings of the TSA Executive Board, it is interesting to estimate the tremendous amount of travel, time, and actual cash which TSA members invest in these sessions. Some in attendance travel 500 miles, even though Austin is near the geographical center of the state. The average distance involved is well in excess of 200 miles, one way.

Yet all of these men at the Austin meeting April 26 will as usual consider their being there a normal part of constant investment in their profession and in the enhancement of their own professional competence. TSA is of course in no way unique in this. The state has dozens, even hundreds of organizations whose members consider it a privilege to participate regularly in such meetings. And many of those in attendance are active in other professional and community service groups.

None of the participants wants or expects any special recognition for these efforts toward the betterment of a profession, an organization, or the community in general. It is the accepted thing, in the American tradition. But it might be well to think for a moment, sometime, of the very significant contribution toward our way of life made by the many hundreds who will be in sessions such as the TSA directorate on April 26.

## The Life & Times Of Jim Norton - - - Fifth-Year Architectural Student

Crew-cut, athletic-looking Jim Norton is a busy young man at an important juncture in his life. He is a fifth-year student hoping to graduate in architecture at the University of Texas this June, and is in the midst of his thesis problem. A great deal of research has gone into his thesis (which is a Masonic Grand Lodge for Texas), just as a great deal of hard work and determination have gotten him to this point in his education.

Jim has wanted to be an architect since his first art and mechanical drawing classes in junior high school. He won a mechanical drawing competition sponsored by A & M College in high school, and met his first practicing architects at this time. Nothing in his background predisposed him toward architecture. His father was and is a plant manager for Atlantic Oil & Refining Co., in Beaumont.

### At Drafting Board Early

Jim Norton is at his drafting board at Barnes, Landes and Goodman, Architects, Austin, Texas, by eight o'clock every morning. By one o'clock he is in design lab at the School of Architecture, where he remains until the building is closed and locked at 10:00 p.m. Then it is back to his employers' office for a couple of hours of work or study before "lights out."

Jim's friendly, straightforward manner and enthusiasm for his employers' projects as well as his thesis problem belie the near man-killing hours he works and studies every week. Rugged or not, Jim likes what he is doing and would not trade his lot for an easier road to an education and future professional standing. It has taken him six years to finish the five-year curriculum because of the necessity for working his way through school. He considers working no imposition, for seventeen of the twenty-two men in his class have part-time jobs and a goodly number take more than the prescribed five years to complete their degree.

### WORK HEIGHTENS DEDICATION

The necessity for working affects Jim in different ways. The first couple of years of waiting on tables merely kept him in school. The next four years of doing delineations and layouts for interior decorators, drafting

for a structural engineer, and working in the offices of practicing architects have matured him beyond his years and greatly heightened his dedication to a profession he feels offers even more challenge than he first be-

lieved.

On the other hand, the necessity for working has left Jim with little time for the social life that is traditionally a part of university existence. A few coffee dates during the day (a current invention of super-busy students who like to be reassured there are still pretty girls around) and a few late dates after the design lab closes are about all young Norton's schedule permits. And Jim begrudges the lack



Jim Norton at work in office of Barnes, Landes & Goodman.



Coffee date with coed Edith Lester, daughter of faculty member



--- Photographs by John G. Flowers, Jr.

Student Norton works with fellow-student Lennart Aldeen.

of time to read and study in the humanities, which his packed curriculum has had to skim over more lightly than he would wish.

Jim and his classmates spend a good deal of time talking and thinking about the arduous program leading to the architecture degree and how they would like to change it. He is kidded by his friends as being "too dedicated to the profession" because he wishes there were time for much more study. He would like to have had more rigorous training in engineering and structures (he finds he needs this in actual practice), more mathematics including calculus, and more courses in the School of Fine Arts, such as sculpture, painting, color, composition. He feels the need for courses in philosophy and history, and would like some training in public relation of his university years and the motivates the clients he hopes to be dealing with someday. He smilingly admits he is talking about a nine- or ten-year program; but an architect needs to know so much to do his job properly.

#### HUMILITY PLUS POISE

This intense young man has a beguiling humility about him along with a surprising poise and self confidence. He is grateful for the intellectual stimulation of his university years and he

invaluable opportunity of two years of part-time office experience (20-25 hours per week). He is a good student and made the honor roll in '55 and '56. He feels he is acquiring a philosophy of architecture that owes allegiance to no school or cult, but grows out of his understanding of the historic role of the architect.

#### What Does Future Hold?

What does the future hold for Jim Norton? Graduation will find him with some indebtedness to retire. He hopes fifteen months' work will see him with some savings to finance a year of graduate work starting in the fall of '59. He wants to enter upon a practice that will provide as broad an experience as possible. Buildings are a reflection of a nation's culture, and he wants to help design and build them. He hopes to have time for the outdoor sports he has been missing, including swimming, water skiing, and hunting. He wants to continue his hobby of sketching. He will continue his active church work (First Baptist Church in Austin) where he has been president of various young people's groups. He may be looking forward to marriage, an estate that fifty percent of the members of his class have already entered.

This compulsive competitor who feels he must always be crusading for

## Houston Architects Survey School Building Costs As Public Service Project

The School Building Committee of the Houston Chapter, AIA is currently aiding the Houston Independent School District in surveying school building costs within the District. Committee members have prepared questionnaires which are being sent to architects in Austin, Beaumont, San Antonio, and Corpus Christi. The questionnaires seek complete information on elementary, junior high, and high schools throughout the Gulf Coast area.

Participating architects are being asked to select their best school, in terms of service to the tax-paying public and to the students in attendance. This, it is pointed out, will not necessarily be either the least expensive, or the most costly school in any area.

Completed questionnaires will be analyzed and compared to similar schools in the Houston Independent School District. The committee of architects from the Houston Chapter will show graphically, from compiled statistics, how various school building functions contributed to the direct cost of specific schools. This will permit a meaningful analysis on the basis of services required and provided, specific school needs in various districts and cities, and accurate cost figures related to the exact type of school plant involved.

Results of the survey are expected to be available shortly.

## February Construction Contracts Up 6% Over Totals One Year Ago

Total future construction contracts for the month of February in Texas amounted to \$119,721,000, an increase of six percent compared to February 1957, F. W. Dodge Corporation, reported.

something may very well be the "dedicated man" his classmates accuse him of being. And we believe that Jim Norton, the future architect, will be a credit to his profession, to those who are training him . . . both at the University and in school practice . . . to his family, and to himself.

# REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION, HOUSTON CHAPTER, AIA

PROJECT: Bellaire Senior High School

ARCHITECTS: Golemon & Rolfe, TSA-AIA, Houston

GENERAL

CONTRACTOR: American Construction Company, Houston

Bellaire Senior High School was completed in 1955. It was built by the Houston Independent School District to serve the community of Bellaire and surrounding residential subdivisions in the rapidly-expanding southwest area of the city. The site consists of approximately nine acres which the School Board recognized was less than the recommended minimum area for such a project. It fronts on an east-west residential street and is adjacent to a major thoroughfare. In addition to the building area, approximately one-half of the site, at the west end of the property, was reserved for recreation and the school track. The school was designed to accommodate 2100 students.

## *Description of the Plan:*

The basic plan developed from the consideration of prevailing breezes, important in an unairconditioned building, orientation of the rooms for natural light, the isolation of quiet from noisy areas, and the flow of students through a typical class schedule from arrival until departure.

The main structure is the three-story academic building, which contains 36 classrooms including arts and sciences classrooms, laboratories, the administrative suite, and the library. The height of this building is especially effective in capturing the prevailing breezes which hit the building broadside. The multi-story, compact planning of the classrooms was required by the limited size of the site.

The middle building group contains the cafeteria and kitchen at the center of the plan. The two gymnasiums, swimming pool, and adjoining athletic department facilities are at the west end adjacent to the recreation field and track. The auditorium, music and drama classrooms are at the east end

adjacent to the major street, for ease of access.

Furthest from the academic building, at the back of the site, are the shop building and boiler plant with a direct service connection to the major street.

These buildings are separated by open patios but are connected by covered walkways.

## *Special Features of the Buildings:*

The academic building has a reinforced concrete structure with brick and terracotta wall finish and aluminum sun shades. Inside, the corridors and stairs have terrazzo floors and glazed structural tile walls, for resistance to wear. The rooms have structural tile walls, painted with multi-color enamel which eliminated the usual plaster finish, without sacrificing an attractive effect. Glazed structural tile

bases and window stools reduce maintenance problems. All ceilings are hard surfaced acoustic plaster.

The lighting in this building is by suspended, direct-indirect fluorescent troffers and heating is by steam convectors, thermostatically controlled.

The auditorium, which seats 1200 people and is used weekends and evenings for adult civic activities, was designed with careful attention to acoustics, ventilation and lighting. It has a luminous plastic ceiling which can be lighted to various levels of intensity as required by the many different functions of the room. Windows were omitted to eliminate the darkening problem and ventilation is accomplished by a positive mechanical system. The room was designated to have a distinct theatrical atmosphere. Its location in the plan permits it to be used while the rest of the school is closed.

Throughout the planning of the school an effort was made to create a functional and durable group of buildings that expressed the dignity befitting a senior high school, but with a friendly, open, and light atmosphere attractive to teen-age students. All colors were chosen for a minimum of visual contrast, and for a maximum of variety and aesthetic interest to heighten this effect. Materials were selected for maximum durability and ease of maintenance, but minimum institutional appearance.

## Bellaire High School Is Winner



The auditorium of the Bellaire High School, designed by Golemon & Rolfe, TSA-AIA of Houston, seats 1200, and is used weekends and evenings for adult civic activities. Features include a luminous plastic ceiling with variable lighting intensity.

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# Excerpts From Address By Leon Chatelain, Jr., AIA

(Editor's Note: Following is an abstracted version of the portions of an address by Mr. Chatelain, president of the AIA, before the 39th annual convention of the Associated General Contractors of America, Inc. at Dallas, dealing with the future of architecture in America and the need for more emphasis on scholastic excellence in American education.)

The biggest industry in the United States is the construction industry. It is going to grow bigger, and even today, it is changing before our very eyes. In these changes, we as architects and the public are going to have to accept many new ideas and learn many new things. We may also find that our responsibility does not end with building alone. In fact, I believe that this day is here now.

For one thing, our client has changed. It is very seldom today that we design a building for one person. This is the age of the corporate client—the collective client, if you will. The criteria for an office building are decided by a committee appointed by and responsible to a board of directors. A church project is supervised by a building committee. A school—when the job is planned properly—is dependent upon the entire community for the conceptual process which guides the design. There is no segment of the public to which we can point and say—it has no connection with architecture and building. The Girl Scout leader and housewife of today are among the people who will decide upon a new civic center, a



## AIA President Now Honorary Texan

At Austin, Leon Chatelain, Jr. of Washington, D.C., president of the American Institute of Architects, receives from Governor Price Daniel the certificate making him and Mrs. Chatelain honorary citizens of the Lone Star State. Left to right: R. Max Brooks of Austin, TSA-FAIA; Mrs. Brooks; Governor Daniel; Mrs. Chatelain; and President Chatelain.

church, a school, or even a bank tomorrow. They will participate in planning a new kind of architecture—building in the mass.

### ADJUSTING TO NEW IDEAS

If the client is seldom an individual today, the building may not be an individual tomorrow. Architecture is no longer a single house, a church, a school. It is a plaza, a community redevelopment, a vast clearance of worn-out buildings and congested land. We are finding that we must adjust our minds and imagination to new ideas—tearing down and rebuilding to fit rapidly-changing needs—re-building on a scale which, a few years ago, seemed more fancy than fact.

We also will find, in the near future, a demand for the new types of buildings. The suburb, as a word and idea, is disappearing as metropolitan

belts overlap. Middle-aged people are moving back to the nerve centers of the population areas. This has given rise to new architectural thinking about a new type of city house, designed and built to provide utility, economy, and privacy in the busy life of the metropolis.

In the not-too-distant future, we may find ourselves designing and building new types of reinforced structures for blast protection—at the very least we will have to provide shelters against nuclear fall-out. A more pleasant thought is that the conjunction of nuclear energy with automation and new development in water purification promise almost certainly that we will soon break the chains that now hold us to the transportation lines. This is an exciting thought. When man first emerged from the cave and began to do business with

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his neighbor, his commerce grew up along the footpaths. Later, business expanded along the waterways, and still later, acquired new room by stringing itself along the railroad lines and more lately our highways. Man has always needed facilities at hand to renew his source of power. Today we face real change.

**PREDICTS NEW MIGRATION**

Now we are told that, within the next ten years it almost certainly will be commercially feasible to pipe sea water into the great southwestern desert and turn it into fresh water. This could make the frontier-era migration to the western United States look like a Sunday outing by a bird-watcher's club. At the same time, progress is being made with the reclamation of used water—so that a given quantity of water may be used over and over again for a variety of purposes. Entire industrial communities—powered by nuclear packages and supplied by inexhaustible supplies of water—will spring up and transform that great western desert which for thousands of miles today looks like the face of the moon without benefit of telescope. This is the future—in our country—on earth, and one could

wish that outer space were not so near, because we have so much to do here.

However, some doubts about our future are being raised today because we seemed to have lagged behind Russia in some areas. To overcome this lag, there's a good deal of talk going on about how to catch up. Some of this talk involves us—the architect and the builder—and we had better pay heed. We had better pay heed because there's confusion and misunderstanding about public education. A good deal of this confusion involves schools—what they are, what they're worth, and what education should cost. The confusion comes from ignorance, and this is a sad commentary on American life.

I believe that today we face a fundamental problem of reassessing our thinking about education. We cannot turn back the clock and say that everything will be much better if we just re-concentrate on the three R's. There are no longer sharply divergent schools of progressive and conservative education. Experimentation is always necessary to progress.

**MORE & BETTER EDUCATION**

I do think that we need to place a

good deal more emphasis on scholastic excellence, on competition among students within the schoolroom. I also firmly believe that we all have a big job to do outside the schoolroom. We blame youth for lack of interest in science and explain it on the ground that our youth considers scientists to be "egg-heads" and therefore social oddities. Yet in the face of this statement, youthful experimentation in rocketry has become so widespread that there is serious concern over the likelihood of personal injuries. I am not at all sure that the education our children are getting today is any worse than it was twenty years ago. However, I am sure that today's children need far more and better education than has ever been necessary in the past.

Perhaps it is we who really need re-education. Certainly we need re-education which will make us want to put our spare dollars into better schools rather than into more personal gadgets. It is for us to set the examples, else youth, as it always has, will reflect our attitudes and lose sight of those things in life which are worthy of its time.



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# Variety of Programs Across State For Annual Texas Architects' Week

TSA members across Texas will celebrate the eighth annual Texas Architects' Week, from April 13-20, with a variety of programs and events aimed at stimulating interest in the architectural profession and how its members serve the public.

Each of the 14 affiliates of TSA, from the Lower Rio Grande Valley to the Panhandle, and from El Paso to Texarkana, have planned observances beginning on the 215th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, famed president-architect. Many of the programs involve tie-ins with the 75th anniversary of the University of Texas, which is being marked in every part of the state throughout the year.

Some typical observances are the following:

**CENTRAL TEXAS (Austin):** R. Max Brooks, TSA-FAIA, will be featured in a special television show emphasizing outstanding examples of architectural design by Texas practitioners. Earl Reed, AIA, of Saint Louis will speak at an awards banquet. Mr. Reed is national chairman of the AIA committee on the preservation of historic buildings.

**SOUTHEAST TEXAS (Beaumont-Port Arthur-Orange):** An award to an outstanding craftsman will be made during a TAW dinner. Special exhibit of architecture is being staged at the Beaumont Art Museum. Several television shows are scheduled. TSA speakers will appear before area luncheon clubs. Showing of new AIA films.

**SAN ANTONIO:** The City Public Service Board is to be honored at a TAW dinner, at which a specially-designed medal for civic service will be awarded. Also to be honored are a notable craftsman and an outstanding draftsman from San Antonio. City planning is the theme of the awards banquet. A special series of newspaper articles will interpret the architectural profession. Chapter President Henry R. Walter will discuss the professional training of architects, and the role of the architect in the community, during a featured television program.

**HOUSTON:** Special exhibit on city planning in Bank of the Southwest Auditorium. Honor awards showing in National Bank of Commerce. Exhibition of national AIA competition winners in lobby of Alley Theatre. Collaboration

with Contemporary Art Association on special home tour. Two television programs. Special billboards emphasizing the individual's stake in proper city planning.

**EL PASO:** Television program built around recent work by area architects. Craftsmanship award made at luncheon. Showings of new AIA films. Dance and buffet dinner.

Similar programs are being staged in the nine other Chapter areas across the state, with emphasis upon special exhibitions of architectural work; newspaper, radio, and television coverage; craftsmanship awards; film showings; and joint meetings with civic and other professional groups.

Houston Architect  
Will Serve as Member  
Of AIA Honor Awards Jury

Fred J. MacKie, Jr., TSA-FAIA of Houston, will serve as a member of the 1958 AIA Honor Awards Jury.

Mr. MacKie, immediate past president of the TSA, will assist in judging hundreds of entries from architects across the nation who are competing for the coveted AIA awards.

Also on the award jury will be Jean Labatut of Princeton University; Igor B. Plevitzky, Miami, Fla.; John Gaw Meem, Santa Fe, New Mex.; and Welton Becket, Los Angeles, all FAIA.

Mr. MacKie will be at the Octagon, national AIA headquarters in Washington, D. C., from April 28-30 during award judging.

## 10TH ANNUAL BUILDING PRODUCTS LITERATURE COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

Entries are now being received in the 1958 Building Products Literature Competition, sponsored annually by the American Institute of Architects and the Producers' Council, Inc.

The competition was established ten years ago to give recognition to those manufacturers and associations of building materials and equipment with superior architectural product literature, and to encourage and assist other manufacturers in the preparation of more effective and useful literature. The greatly improved quality of most building products literature today is a

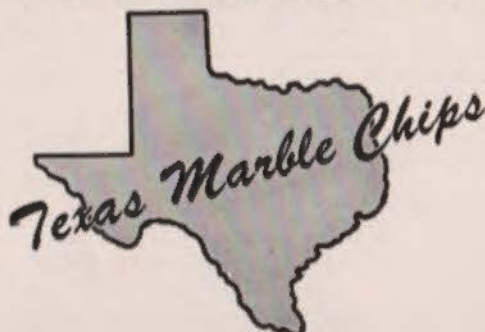
reflection of the competition's success.

Entries are accepted in four classes—technical manuals and handbooks related to a type of product (generally association publications); technical publications by a single manufacturer; promotional material; and space advertising directed to architects.

Judging will be done by a panel of outstanding architects and awards will be presented to winning companies and associations and their advertising agencies at the annual convention of the American Institute of Architects next July in Cleveland, Ohio.

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# THE ROLE OF THE ARCHITECTURAL SCHOOL IN THE EYES OF THE PROFESSION



By Philip D. Creer, TSA-FAIA, Director,  
School of Architecture, University of Texas

The eyes of Texas architects, as well as those of the rest of the profession, often turn these days toward the architectural schools and their recent graduates. What the architects see and what they think of the schools and their efforts to meet the needs of students who must soon face a professional life in a rapidly-evolving world is of considerable moment.

The practitioners themselves are moving toward a larger responsibility in architectural education. They are in accord with the thought that the schools must train the future architects to be more fully aware of the nature of man and his environment, before they can cope with the problems of shaping that environment.

The profession's opinion of the role of the architectural school is quite clearly stated in "The Architect at Mid-Century." That extensive and penetrating self-analysis of the profession, produced by the American Institute of Architects' Commission for the Survey of Education and Registration, has this to say:

"The objective of professional education is the transformation of raw recruits into mature practitioners. The process by which this is accomplished depends on many factors, such as, content to be taught, skills to be cultivated, students' capacity for growth, the capabilities of teachers, methods employed, and the length of time available. It is the nature of a profession, which by definition requires the continuing enhancement of competence, that education for its practice is for each member a life-long obligation."

The Report also states that:

"Within these reasonable limits, - - the schools have plenty of scope to pursue their necessary and legitimate objectives. They will do well to maintain the closest liaison with the profession in order to adjust content and method to the changing needs of practice. And, by the same token, the profession, too, must apply its highest wisdom, most sympathetic understanding, and most penetrating vision to the problems of education. The very term 'professional education' reveals by its compound form the necessity of enlightened and harmonious cooperation."

Despite so clear a statement of fundamentals, the path from education to practice is not always a smooth, well-coordinated journey. The criticisms heard repeatedly from both the professional and educational segments of the "enlightened and harmonious cooperation" would indicate that there

is room for considerable improvement. There are, of course, dedicated practitioners and teachers whose lives have been spent nurturing that cooperation. But, by and large, both the profession and the schools fail to achieve their fullest potential in advancing the profession through education.

## ROLE OF THE PROFESSION

In this instance we are concerned primarily with the role of the schools, but much could also be said of The Role of the Profession in Architectural Education.

Practicing architects generally have strong opinions on what the schools should teach and how well, (or badly) they are doing it. Most of these opinions have to do with the practical aspects of the graduates' introduction to practice.

Take the architects' opinion of what the schools should teach:

A glance at the questionnaire returns from the practitioners (Table 42, "Architect at Mid-Century") reveals a surprising agreement with the schools' opinions as to the relative importance, desirability and unimportance of the subject matter for curricula. Understandably, small variations, percentage-wise, show the practitioner somewhat favoring the practical courses and the schools favoring the humanities. Therefore, the criticisms, which exist, are directed not so much at what is taught, as how it is taught.

Since the practicing architect rarely visits the classroom (of which, more later) his evaluation of teaching effectiveness must be through observation of the end product of the schools, the graduates who apply for jobs.

## MOST FREQUENT CRITICISM

The most frequently repeated criticism of the product of course, is that architectural school graduates cannot draw. Instead of belligerently asking the professional critic "How well could you draw when you got out of school?", the schools would do well to admit the charge and consider that immediate correction of the fault (to whatever degree it exists) would represent the greatest single boon to

"harmonious cooperation" with the profession imaginable—and the easiest to achieve. This is not to suggest that architectural schools be turned into the trade school category. By demanding a higher standard of draftsmanship in every level of every course involving drawing, however, much could be accomplished.

The second most frequently heard criticism is leveled at the lack of humility and the exalted self-esteem exhibited by many graduates. To the ears of the prospective employer, the king's ransom in starting salary airily requested,—nay—demanded by the bright-eyed applicant seems seriously out of place. Particularly when the practitioner remembers that when he and his classmates sought their first employment, they were frequently happy to slave for nothing, and even paid for the privilege at times. Alas for the good old days; they are gone forever—and a good thing they are—probably.

In fairness to today's graduates, it must be pointed out that many of them are veterans with wives and children, and the plain economics of the situation requires that they seek a living wage. Recognition of this factor is important. However, the students and the schools must bend every effort to raise standards of practical competence in order to more nearly earn that living wage. The profession must lend every assistance to the beginner to enable him to increase his knowledge of, and efficiency in, the office routine. This he cannot get in school.

## ETHICS OF THE PROFESSION

A third and less frequently heard criticism of the architectural schools is that the graduates are not sufficiently well grounded in the ethics of the profession. Much of the required knowledge, understanding and acceptance of sound ethical standards can come only through years of experience. And yet the beginner has great need of an appreciation of the importance of proper and harmonious relationships

between the architect and his colleagues, clients, other specialists, contractors and suppliers, and of his obligations in community service.

Other shortcomings crop up in the practitioner's mind from time to time and in varying degrees of importance. To name a few: The student's slavish addiction to the latest clichés as illustrated in the most recent issues of the trade journals, the hero worship of a half dozen controversial figures in the architectural scene, the tendency to disregard structural and mechanical requirements of buildings as well as proper site development and the relationship of the building to its environment, etc.

#### BETTER PREPARED TODAY?

Altogether this gives the impression that the architectural schools are failing miserably at their job. There are, however, many practitioners who frankly confess that the students being turned out today are better prepared to meet today's needs than were those of a generation ago. Further, the bulk of the comment today regarding the schools of architecture, indicates an intense and growing concern on the part of the entire profession for

the welfare of the schools, and a belief in the importance of the task they are trying to perform.

The schools should meet the profession's concern with immediate action to eliminate the causes of criticism described above and to develop a closer liaison with practice. This can be accomplished without either lengthening the period of undergraduate study or material increase in already tight budgets.

It was pointed out earlier that the practitioner rarely visits the classroom and is therefore not fully aware of the scope of current offerings, nor of the difficulties of expanding and improving them. But he cannot, or does not wish to, invite himself to participate in the school program.

#### GREAT UNTAPPED RESERVOIR

Yet here is a great reservoir of untapped professional knowledge and experience which could and should be utilized in education. Instead the schools struggle to finance visiting lecture programs of big names. Every chapter of the AIA must boast many talented men who, if not called on more than once or twice a year, would be willing and eager to share with the

students some portion of their knowledge and experience without recompense.

Such service might take any of several forms: informal seminars with upper classmen, lectures on aspects of professional practice, jury duty on student problems, committee work with school staffs, and coordination of the Architect in Training Program. Bringing the profession into personal contact with both faculties and students would work a three-way gain of unlimited possibilities. Perhaps it is not so starry-eyed or impracticable as at first appears. From such contacts might also come, programs for adult education, non-architectural student participation in architectural and cultural courses, refresher courses for the profession by the profession at the architectural schools, lecture programs on new technologies, and the like. Some of these services are already in effect in some areas. If the schools will undertake to intensify their efforts to "maintain the closest liaison with the profession," the resulting gains in architectural education could be phenomenal.

It might be worth a try.



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Dezendorf Marble Company	11
Flour City Ornamental Iron Company	2
Edward Lurie	14
Macatee, Inc.	8, 15, 16
National Electrical Contractors Association	Cover II
Studios of George L. Payne	16
Portland Cement Association	10
Soule' Steel Company	Cover IV
Southern Gas Association	1
Stran-Steel Corporation	7
Texas Bitulitic Company	13
Trinity White	Cover III
William Cameron Company	9

# Architectural Vandals Have Designs on Nation's Capitol

(Editor's Note: The American Institute of Architects has been leading a nationwide campaign for many months against persistent attempts to make ill-advised additions and alterations to the Capitol of the United States. In the article which follows, one of the South's best-read columnists, Marguerite Johnston of the Houston POST, joins the many distinguished writers and editorialists who support the AIA position.)

When the House of Commons was smashed by the bombs of World War II, Britain had to decide whether to rebuild it along historic lines, or to build a new, big, convenient, modern building.

Under Winston Churchill's persuasive leadership, the country decided that heritage was more important, than the MP's convenience. And though governments and membership of Parliament have changed since, there have been no notes of regret over the decision.

The Capitol of the United States was not bombed. But some members of Congress are now determined to revamp its historic east front.

The only gain will be 32 feet of depth for additional offices, restaurant and parking space.

This is not enough to make much difference in conditions.

But it will cost a fortune. And for the slight inadequate gain, the nation will have lost the historic and architectural character of the Capitol.

To move the east central facade out 32 feet would wipe out the forecourt used for the inauguration of every President since Andrew Jackson.

As Wilbur H. Hunter of Philadelphia's Peale Museum called it, "this messing up the nation's superb and unique capitol" would throw out of kilter the architecture of Benjamin Latrobe and Charles Bulfinch, approved by George Washington.

The American Institute of Architects, always a leading influence in worthwhile modernization and improvement of the nation's buildings, has three times gone on record opposing the changes and additions to the Capitol.

The ARCHITECTURAL FORUM has estimated that if the present plans are carried out, only a few hearing rooms and additional restaurant space will

be provided—but it will cost \$200 a square foot to build it.

This would be, the Forum estimates, "close to four times the costliest working space ever erected."

And this is, the Forum points out, "a high price to pay for a project which will ruin the beauty of a national shrine."

Actually there are many other ways of providing more working and eating and parking space for the congressmen.

No mere 32 feet could hope to expand the Capitol enough to cover the needs of congressmen for more space. We now have two huge Senate office buildings, two huge House office buildings, and an additional—even larger—House office building is now being built.

Why can't the addition be tacked on to one of those? They have no historical significance whatever.

Strangely, this whole expensive project just grew like Topsy—without proper hearings, debate or vote in Congress.

It began as a small item of \$5 Million in an appropriation bill of 1955. As new legislation in an appropriation bill, it was subject to a point of order—but nobody noticed, and nobody raised the point of order.

Now at a granted cost of \$200 a square foot, the addition could cost anything from \$10 Million to \$22 Million.

And for \$10 Million, a good-sized building could be built somewhere else—more cheaply, more efficiently, and providing more room than in the space before the east front of the Capitol.

As the New York Times editorialized: "Every generation and every country has its architectural vandals, but the present period in the United States seems to have brought forward more than its share."

" . . . It is planned to put a new facade on the central section of the Capitol, thus pushing forward and hopelessly altering the one part of the historic building whose simple beauty has served as backdrop for the presidential inaugurations for more than a century and a quarter."



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## Family Activity Center Is New Concept Of Home Planning

The development of family activity centers where individual members may pursue home work or leisure-hour projects may cause some changes in the house of the future.

Women delegates to the Congress on Better Living held recently in Washington, D.C., pointed out that the changing pattern of family life is promoting the growth of all-purpose rooms in many homes.

They're called all-purpose or family rooms for lack of a better term. They may be a complete room, or a work or play area separated by half wall, blind, counter, sliding wall or other room divider.

The women point out that no fixed pattern for the center can be worked out—extent and arrangement of the room depends entirely on the family that uses it. In some cases housewives permit eating in the family room, but frequently this is ruled out because hobbies, toys, and television tend to take children's minds off their food.

The Congress, sponsored each year by McCall's Magazine as a continuing public service, is made up of 100 women acting as spokesmen for America's 49,000,000 families. They agreed that the informal family rooms as they are now developing may eventually result in planning future homes to take care of the many activities of family members.

### MODERN FAMILY CLOSER

They pointed out that the rooms came into being because the modern family tends to stick more closely together, although play and work interests of members may vary widely. The all-purpose rooms enable members to rub elbows, yet still carry on their separate interests.

The women at the Congress indicated that there are only two hard-and-fast requirements for a successful family room. It must be adaptable by means of room dividers and other devices to changing family requirements. It must be easy to maintain and clean because it's bound to get the roughest treatment of any part of the home.

Generally, the family center is used also for informal entertainment, the living room being reserved for more formal functions. Women frequently described the center as a place for the children to play, for television, hi-fi, reading, games and hobbies, as well as a space where sewing, ironing and other household chores can be carried on in the bosom of the family.

They admit that creation of such a center, where several things can be going on at the same time, is a big job. But it will help to bring the family together as a unit without impairing activities of its members.

### New 12-Page Booklet On Structural Glue-Laminated Timbers Now Available

A new booklet, issued by the Chemical Division of Koppers Company, Inc., gives the full story about permanently bonded built-up timbers for all types of construction. The booklet consists of reprints of articles of interest to architects, engineers and builders. One article gives a brief background of the history and development of laminated timbers. Another is a picture story of how laminated beams are designed and built to specifications and takes the reader into an actual fabricating plant with step-by-step photos of laminated timber fabrication.

Among other subjects covered are the building of schools and wooden ships with laminated timbers; the uses of laminated posts and beams in residential construction; and the evaluation of glued beams versus conventional I-beams in resistance to fire and the maintenance of structural strength under high temperatures. Also included are the names and addresses of the members of the American Institute of Timber Construction, who help engineer and complete fabrication of beams and posts to individual specifications. For a copy of this booklet, write Koppers Company, Inc., Chemical Division, 801 Koppers Building, Pittsburgh 19, Pennsylvania, requesting "Structural Glued Laminated Construction."

## NEW PRODUCTS

Refrigerated drinking water can now be furnished plant workers by a new cooling unit that supplies water to dispensing outlets from an overhead, out-of-way position. The new Sunroc RP-16C (Recessed Panel) Cooler meets even largest industrial requirements, yet is small enough to be bolted directly to a plant column in an overhead location.

Specifically designed to overcome the objections to standard floor coolers in industrial areas, this new Sunroc RP Cooler is ideal for plants of all types and sizes. Installed in an out-of-way location, the cooler is not subject to damage from materials handling equipment and other heavy-duty machinery.

An improved "Bright-Light" No. 1 negative paper for DRI-STAT silver-transfer process photocopying, which can be handled with greater safety under adverse lighting conditions such as strong fluorescent light or intense daylight has been introduced by Peerless Photo Products, Inc., Shoreham, New York.

The emulsion of the new "Bright-Light" No. 1 paper has been modified so that the fogging factor is substantially reduced. The new paper is said to not only give excellent results even when handled in brighter room light than was previously recommended, but also to provide prints with greater contrast and therefore sharper black-and-white copies under the user's existing lighting conditions.

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Editor's Note: We continue a series of nine winners in the annual statewide competition sponsored by TSA and the Dallas Chapter, AIA—"Texas Architecture—'57." We asked that the winning architects briefly describe the problem which they met and solved in conjunction with each winning project.

## Description of Winners in "Texas Architecture, '57"

PROJECT: A. J. Farfel Home  
LOCATION: Houston  
OWNERS: A. J. Farfel & Family  
ARCHITECTS: Bolton and Barnstone,  
TSA-AIA, Houston

A home on a fairly large site (1 1/2 acres), within an existing urban residential area, for a family consisting of mother, father, two young girls, grandfather and aunt.

The clients required the following considerations:

A. A close relationship between all the bedrooms as specifically for

parental control of the children's room, and help in the case of the grandfather and the aunt.

B. A close relationship between the library, which is used by the parents as a sitting room, and the master bedroom.

C. A close relationship between the children's den and the children's bedroom.

D. The clients, while cognizant of the predominant use of glass in modern architecture, stood firm to a solution which would give the feeling of great enclosure in each room. They appreciated the "indoor-outdoor" possibilities inherent in modern architecture, but preferred the feeling of security, warmth and enclosure.

E. The clients wished a finished structure which would reflect a certain sense of elegance and dignity.

### "COURT-TYPE" HOUSE

The first scheme presented the clients was a court-type house in which the various rooms spread around a large interior court—this was rejected as, within the confines of the scheme, there was no way to achieve the close physical relationships as clarified by the clients.

The "binuclear type" plan evolved from a schematic traffic plan, and was approved by the clients as the most

economic basic scheme possible in a house of this size from the point-of-view of walking distances.



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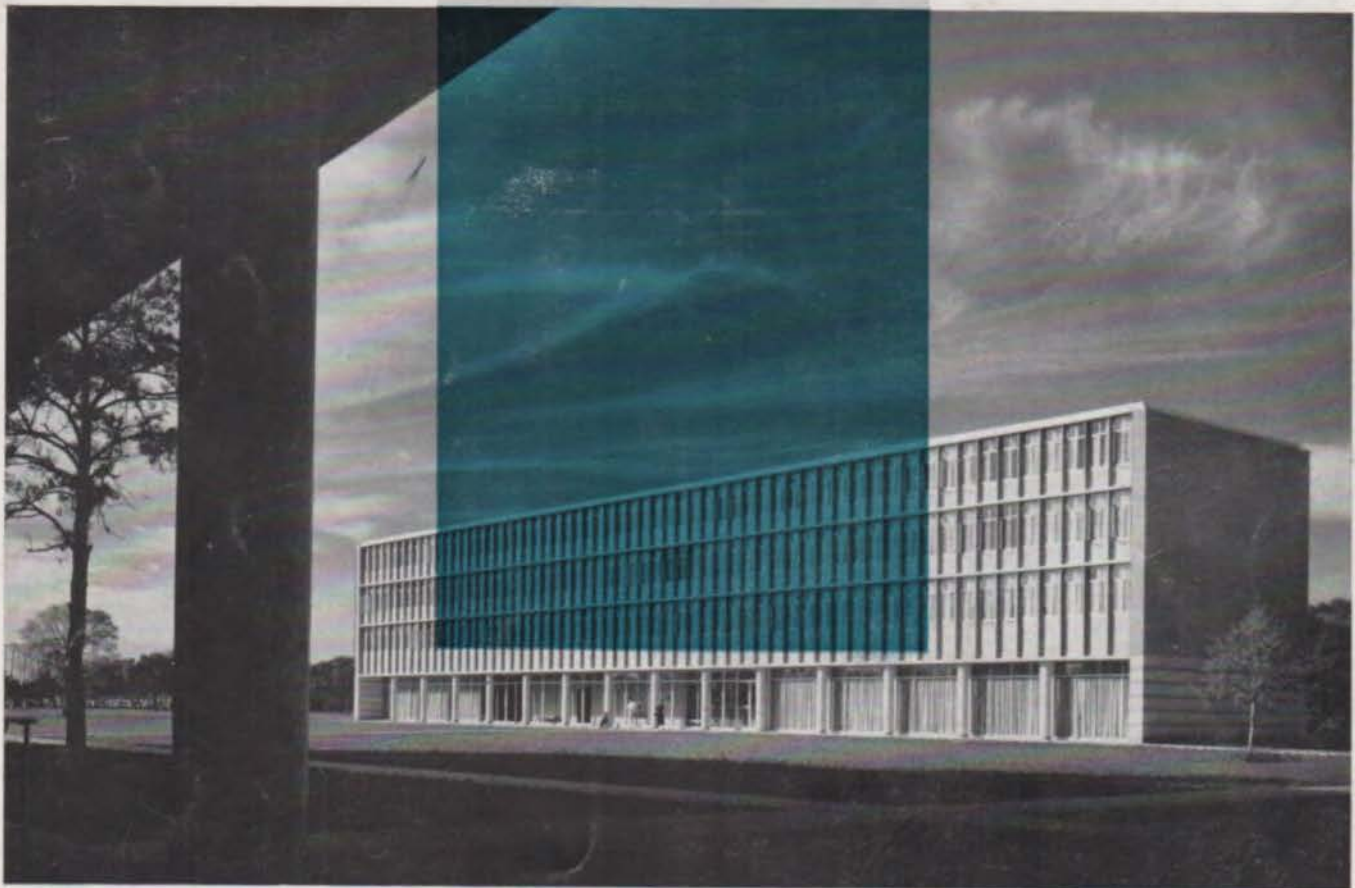
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