

# Texas Architect

APRIL, 1961



# PRE-CAST CONCRETE CURTAIN WALLS OF

## Trinity White

PORTLAND CEMENT

This is the recently completed Skelly Oil Building, Tulsa. The upper 15 stories are pre-cast concrete curtain wall panels made with grey, green and white aggregates and Trinity White portland cement. They are generally 4'6" x 5' and 4'6" x 8' in size.

The pierced grill surrounding the second floor is 20' high. Panels are 4' x 4' x 8". White aggregate was used with the Trinity White.

The pre-cast exposed aggregate panels (Mo-Sai) and grilles were made by Harter Marblecrete Stone Co., Oklahoma City. Black & West, Tulsa, were the architects.

Ask for full color book, "Curtain Wall Panels and Facings." Address—  
111 West Monroe St., Chicago.



A Product of GENERAL PORTLAND CEMENT CO.

Chicago • Chattanooga • Dallas • Fort Worth • Houston • Fredonia, Kansas • Jackson, Michigan • Tampa • Miami • Los Angeles

Official Publication of  
**THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS**  
 The Texas Regional Organization of  
 The American Institute of Architects

Don Edward Legge, A.I.A., Editor  
 John G. Flowers, Jr., Managing Editor  
 327 Perry-Brooks Building, Austin, Texas

Published monthly by the Texas Society of Architects in Austin. Subscription price, 50¢ per year, in advance. Copyrighted 1951 by the T.S.A., and title registration applied for with the U. S. Patent Office.

Editorial contributions, correspondence, and advertising invited by the Editor. Due to the nature of the publication, editorial contributions cannot be purchased. Publisher gives permission for reproduction of all or part of editorial material herein, and requests publication credit be given THE TEXAS ARCHITECT, and author of material when indicated. Publications which normally pay for editorial material are requested to give consideration to the author of reproduced by-lined feature material.

Appearance of names and pictures of products and services in either editorial copy or advertising does not constitute an endorsement of same by either the Texas Society of Architects or the American Institute of Architects.

TEXAS ARCHITECTURAL FOUNDATION  
 327 Perry-Brooks Building, Austin, Texas

#### TSA OFFICERS FOR 1961

Reginald Roberts	Regional Director
L. W. Pitts, F.A.I.A.	President
Harold E. Calhoun, F.A.I.A.	President-Elect
Arthur Fahr, F.A.I.A.	Vice President
Robert D. Garland, Jr.	Vice President
Horace B. McCord	Vice President
Victor G. Probst	Secretary-Treasurer
Jack Corgan	Past President
Fred J. MacKie, Jr., F.A.I.A.	President, Texas Architectural Foundation
John G. Flowers, Jr.	Executive Director

#### TSA DIRECTORS FOR 1961

Abilene Chapter	Woodlief Brown
Brazos Chapter	Ernest Langford, F.A.I.A.
Central Texas Chapter	George M. Page
Coastal Bend Chapter	Robert J. Beasley
Dallas Chapter	George F. Harrell
El Paso Chapter	Louis Daeuble, Jr.
Fort Worth Chapter	Joseph J. Patterson
Houston Chapter	C. Herbert Cowell
L.R.G.V. Chapter	Walter C. Bowman
Lubbock Chapter	Talmage DeWitt
North Texas Chapter	Paul J. Pond, Jr.
North East Chapter	O. L. Hazelwood
Panhandle Chapter	John S. Ward, Jr.
San Antonio Chapter	Harvey V. Marmon, Jr.
Southeast Texas Chapter	Douglas E. Steinman, Jr.
West Texas Chapter	Robert L. Peters

#### COVER

The handsome building pictured on *Texas Architect's* cover is the La Villita Assembly Building in San Antonio which has become an important stop on visitors' tours of the city. The auditorium utilizes a unique roof framing system of suspended cables and pre-cast concrete panels. Architect for this *Architecture of Merit Of The Past Ten Years* award winner is O'Neil Ford and Associates.

## The President's Letter

L. W. "Skeet" PITTS

President, Texas Society of Architects



What are the additional opportunities and responsibilities of the Texas Society of Architects? This is a question I have asked myself with all sincerity. Great progress has been made since we were founded. Many architects who were charter members and others who have joined us later have made, and are making, notable contributions to our advancement. A glance at a list of accomplishments or attendance at one of our Board Meetings clearly indicates the important work done by competent and busy Texas Architects through many years to improve our professional climate. I am sure you join me in expressing appreciation to those men. Because of the fine work done in the many Texas Chapters and in the Institute itself, our own Society has matured and is contributing to the admiration and respect paid our profession by contemporaries in many walks of life.

But then this background and respect places the Architect in a position of great responsibility and opportunity. It is therefore a challenge to the Texas Society of Architects to assist the profession in facing these conditions. It is obvious that we should steer a course of mutual assistance to improve the quality of practice, broaden our services, advance the techniques of the construction industry, contribute community service, and increase our stature as a profession. Always the time for such effort is limited, but with perseverance and dedication, advances are being made. Your Board of Directors has recognized these opportunities and adopted a policy of three-year planning with review and modification each year. We will continue our work in all worthwhile activities and propose to broaden our interests. It appears that we have opportunities for additional service in four areas: Investigation and Reporting; Assistance to Fact-Finding Groups; Cooperation with Research Activities; and Discussion Groups. During the January Board Meeting Herbert Cowell of Houston agreed to analyze our potential activities in "Investigation and Reporting";—Robert L. Peters of Odessa assumed the responsibility for study of "Assistance to Fact Finding Groups";—Louis Daeuble of El Paso accepted the responsibility of checking possible "Cooperation with Research Activities";—and George Harrell of Dallas agreed to study ways and means of increasing our capability through "Discussion Groups." These men were asked to assume their duties for one year and devote their efforts to investigation of how we can operate effectively in these areas. They have been requested to present reports to the Board and, if possible, to conduct one specific act of accomplishment during the year. It is hoped that we can inspire those who follow us to expand TSA's service in any of these areas that prove worthwhile. I shall take every opportunity to discuss them with our chapters, to receive suggestions and to pass them on to our chairmen.

Under the heading of "Investigation and Reporting," we may find many possibilities. Obviously, there is available to our profession a wealth of information and probably a medium for reporting our findings. When has there been such concentration of design and technical advances, such knowledge of engineering, such an array of manufacturing know-how, and so many talented architects and embryo architects ready to make brilliant use of this knowledge? By

means of careful investigation and reporting we could be of great assistance not only to ourselves but to our clients and to the construction industry. After all we are in direct contact with many new methods and materials. We should find a means of conducting thorough investigations of the successes and failures of these new ideas and we should also develop a professional reporting system of the highest order. The combined knowledge of our experiences, with both the good and the bad, could be a powerful influence on future decisions. This is a difficult thing to accomplish and it must be eminently fair, free of slander and libel; however, it can never be adequately accomplished under any system which is obligated to anyone. Possibly we can make a start through our close knit Society. We should carefully investigate the possibilities.

By providing **"Assistance to Fact Finding Groups,"** we would join a distinguished group of Texans who have given time and money to such efforts as the privately financed "Texas Research League." At the Governor's request, a three man TSA Committee conducted a study and presented a written recommendation that the entire matter of programming and planning buildings, which are to be constructed with funds appropriated by the Legislature, should be investigated by an impartial group to avoid inadequate study and improper budgeting. This report was approved by you at our El Paso Convention. Such a study could logically be made by The Texas Research League—maybe they would welcome our assistance. At the National level there is the "Committee for Economic Development," also privately financed, to which we could possibly lend a hand. Their efforts have been contributing to the economic stability and growth of our nation for many years — attracting to its Board of Directors a great array of American leaders. Of real importance are their reports on such subjects as "Trends in Public Expenditures in the Next Decade," "The Soviet Economy," "Can a Free Economy Survive its Own Ignorance?", and especially in our field, "The Metropolis Against Itself" and "The Changing Economic Function of the Central City." Can we be of more assistance to them financially and professionally, and can we also aid our State by proposing a joint study of Area Development in Texas between CED and TSA? This we intend to find out.

Through our **"Cooperation with Research Activities"** we will find many closely related to our profession. The Texas Society of Architects has had overtures from the Texas Experiment Station offering to conduct seminars on subjects of real importance to our practice. So far we have not taken advantage of these offers. I am sure all architectural schools of Texas are willing to conduct, or are conducting, research which should be assisted and assimilated by the entire profession. The National Construction Council and our own Texas Construction Council offer opportunities for additional TSA support. We are well represented on the Texas Construction Council with one of our members currently serving as President. We have Texas Architects on the

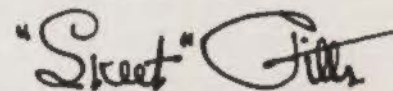
National Construction Council, but we must support and expand the methods of reporting their findings so that our members are well informed. And then there is the important AIA Research Committee to which we should lend our best assistance. We read and we talk of basic and applied research. We know of the large sums channeled into research, and we see the positive accomplishments of research in many Sciences and Professions. Some of us play a part in basic research for building construction; all of us play a role in its applied research. Because of this, your Society has opportunities for such accomplishment. With your cooperation we intend to make a start.

**"Discussion Groups"** — Surely all professions gain from such experiences. There are none of us who have not profited by them. Within the framework of TSA we should have a great opportunity for organizing and developing such seminars. Numerous architects have expressed enthusiasm and a willingness to participate. We do not need to invite people from great distances, since we have, within our own family, an abundance of talent — available at the asking. Fortunately, these exchanges can be conducted at the chapter level and at the State level. Subject matters are unlimited. It seems logical that our meetings and conventions should be directed toward forums of discussion about our professional affairs. No stretch of the imagination is required to see the results that could be accomplished and the upgrading that would result with more mutual assistance. We do need a practical and orderly scheme for such seminars and your Board has authorized a study of these possibilities. It is our hope that specific recommendations can be made and one seminar conducted at the State level this year.

It is obvious that the Architect of today is in the front line, is the director of applied research, is the responsible person, and is facing unlimited horizons of creativeness and opportunities for leadership. We must strive to find the highest common denominator of professional service. Surely our clients, consultants, contractors and the manufacturers of our products have a right to expect that we will challenge them with new thoughts and new values. These are great responsibilities; they can be adequately met only if we approach them in an intelligent manner through mutual professional assistance.

Yes, the opportunities and responsibilities of the Texas Society of Architects and the profession are many. With your suggestions and support your Board of Directors will endeavor to assist in developing them.

Faithfully yours,



L. W. "Skeet" Pitts

# VICTORIA PLAZA

by

Marie C. McGuire

Director

San Antonio Housing Authority

*Since authoring this article for Texas Architect, Marie C. McGuire has been appointed by President Kennedy as Director of the Public Housing Administration.*

*As Director of the San Antonio Housing Authority Mrs. McGuire was one of the few women directors in the country. Prior to assuming that post in 1949, she was assistant director to the Houston PHA. Mrs. McGuire has been active for a number of years in the field of housing the elderly and has served on the Governor's Advisory Committee on the Aging, in addition to a number of other study groups dealing with this problem.*

*She is on the Board of Directors of the Texas Society on Aging; the Visiting Nurse Association; and is on the Board of Governors of St. Mary's University and the National Association of Housing and Re-development Officials.*



The development of Victoria Plaza, a nine-story downtown apartment building for low income elderly, is an outstanding example of architect-client coordination in approaching a new field of work.

For years, research has been underway in the fields of geriatrics and social gerontology, developing basic data on every aspect of the aging process. The expression of these data in physical design was the work of the San Antonio Housing Authority and its architects.

The Federal agency which lends local Housing Authorities the construction funds felt that there was little or no difference in the shelter problem of the elderly from that of any other family. The San Antonio Housing Authority and its architects differed and undertook three years of research to validate their views. The findings embodied in the study entitled, "Housing for the Elderly," has exhausted three printings and will shortly be issued again.

Physical planning began only after the completion of this research and visits by the architects to the homes of elderly residents in public housing to get their views and to observe the kinds and amount of furnishings used.

Basically, the Housing Authority and the architects recognized that the design must take into account diminishing energy, sight, hearing, and the necessity to reduce accident hazards and emphasis on features that increased comfort. Such considerations led to the use of levers instead of door knobs, the refrigerator on a 14" platform, thresholds were deleted, electrical outlets at mid-wall height, and other features to reduce stooping, reaching, climbing, the discomfort or hazards of these activities; showers with seats and tempered glass doors replaced tubs and made it possible for even the healthy wheel chair person to bathe himself.

The next area of emphasis was making it possible for the residents easily to remain a part of general community activities. Research indicated that if older people were to remain active in community life, they should be as close as possible to the center of the city with access to doctors, hospitals, shopping centers and recreation. Victoria Plaza Apartments therefore is only seven-tenths of a mile from the city's center. A covered bus shelter at the building and "8 minutes to town" service bring activities within easy reach.

The wisdom of putting all older people together was resolved by surveys that strongly indicated their desire to be insulated from younger people but not isolated. The building for the over-60's therefore is across the street from a 796-unit family project where over 4,000 children live.

Of concern to management was the need for a flexible apartment plan that could be changed, opened up, or rooms easily closed for quiet when needed. Also, since only the first floor of the building is air conditioned, orientation was of utmost importance. Apartments extend from front to back of the "T" shaped 38' building, including the 7' covered gallery running the length of each wing. Free standing portable closets 2 feet from the ceiling separate living and sleeping quarters in all apartments—efficiencies, one and two-bedrooms. Thus the apartments can be divided or made into one large room, or moved to create a larger bedroom in time of illness, or a smaller one as the situation requires. It also permits accommodation of a variety of furnishings and when necessary, a nurse can have sleeping quarters outside the patient's room. This also is a happy arrangement for visitors.

The planning of Victoria Plaza encompassed the creation of a total living environment within the housing setting. Not only were safe modern apartments needed, but something to do, an easy way to make friends, a sense of belonging and being a useful part of life. All this in addition to security and a rent under the public housing formula within the limits of a thin pocketbook. One example of design to promote friendships is the laundry on each floor which has become the morning coffee gathering spot. Here a washer and dryer, ironing board and hanging racks promote a natural atmosphere and the residents have responded. This has led to a resident organization by floor





and not only has this eased management and maintenance problems, but a committee to care for the ill or convalescent neighbor is rendering fine service. The Housing Authority's broad plan included a 5600 square foot Center on the first floor of the building. However, a Center large enough to serve the elderly of the neighborhood and some throughout the city could not be operated or furnished and equipped out of housing funds. The Community Welfare Council and The Hogg Foundation of the University of Texas were approached and methods were worked out for the Senior Center. At once, citizen committees and the health, educational and welfare agency directors who would operate the Center worked with the architects to plan it. Since completion, a Committee of Management of the Community Welfare Council is responsible for its total operation. Generous use of glass walls permits a view from the lobby to the front and side streets, to the walled garden and to other activity areas. The entrance lobby was designed to be an active area, thus the billiard table, tables for dominoes and cards, the TV set and comfortable visiting areas are part of the entry. The two wings contain craft rooms and beauty shop, recreation room with large adjoining kitchen for community meals, library and clinic. Outside recreation is provided in the walled paved patio, a commodious veranda and horseshoe and roque court at the rear of the building.

Research indicated that a sense of status was of great importance to older people. The adjustment to loss of friends and spouse, reduced income, and the social deprivations of a generally lower standard of living coupled with fear of illness and loneliness create a psychological situation that mere shelter generally cannot alleviate. However, if the new housing offered an environment of beauty, the physical evidences of style as well as comfort, the excitement and sense of a new future, have a pronounced therapeutic effect.

Therefore, Victoria Plaza is replete with color and glass, emphasizes views, the ability easily to associate one's self with the activities of the neighborhood, all of which combine to create the important status value. In addition, the artists and craftsmen of San Antonio embraced this development, creating and donating to it handsome murals, ceramics, sculpture, paintings, a fountain, and other works that cause beauty and glow from the front door through the community center and into the walled garden. This satisfaction to the spirit of man is shown with pride to the residents' friends and visitors and represents a plus value in the home setting that few, if any, have had before. Here again the architects collaborated, studied sketches and models and decided on the appropriateness of the work for the area of placement. This unique collaboration of architect and client and large segments of the community brought results that could not otherwise have been possible.

In summary, the long research into the nature of the problem, the thoughtful design both for safety and zest of living has been proved valid. The total atmosphere is pride, happiness, friendship and activity. The beautiful and colorful furniture and the equipment in the activity center were made possible by gifts from many clubs and individuals, thus promoting the involvement of a broad segment of the total community. The Community Welfare Council and the Authority architects worked together on colors and types of furniture. A smart yet comfortable and inviting atmosphere is the result.

The national recognition afforded this apartment building for independent living caused it to be selected as the major exhibit at the recent White House Conference on Aging; led to a National Institute of Mental Health grant to make a comparative study; led to participation in a seminar of the National Committee on Aging in New York this past year; to participation in a Brookings Institution research study and has brought thousands of inquiries and visitors from across the country to San Antonio.

The general construction contract for this 185 unit apartment building and its large Center and outdoor recreation areas was \$1,927,000. The general contractor was Farnsworth and Chambers of Houston.

#### ARCHITECTS:

NOONAN, THOMPSON  
AND KROCKER AND  
MARMON AND MOK

ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS

#### OWNER:

HOUSING AUTHORITY  
OF SAN ANTONIO

Marie C. McGuire, Director

# architecture of merit



## FIRST NATIONAL BANK, MARLIN

This small bank, in a park-like setting, features a gold, island vault as the focus of its banking area. Its glass walls are gray with gold and gray mullions; the interior repeats this color scheme against natural wood. Private offices are provided for officers.

### ARCHITECT:

ROBERT W. MAURICE, Houston

## DISTRICT FIRE STATION ODESSA

This fire station located in the fringe of an existing shopping center is a two company control and storage station for sub-stations in the area. It provides living accommodations for twenty four men. The 9,000 sq. ft. building was built at a cost of \$8.93 per sq. ft.

### ARCHITECTS:

PETERS AND FIELDS, Odessa





# in the past ten years



## MEMORIAL PROFESSIONAL BUILDING HOUSTON

The first six floors of this building provide lobby, shops, and concourse for a 400 car parking garage; the office tower is ten floors high. A pedestrian tunnel connects to the hospital across the street. The exterior is gold aluminum and blue-gray panels.

ARCHITECTS:  
WIRTZ, CALHOUN, TUNGATE,  
AND JACKSON, Houston

## DALLAS MEMORIAL AUDITORIUM

This gigantic circular arena, 300 feet in diameter and roofed with an arch rib concrete dome, provides all spectators with an unobstructed view. In addition is a theater unit so that the auditorium may serve any size or type of gathering.

ARCHITECT:  
GEORGE L. DAHL, Dallas



## NEWS AND NOTES ABOUT ARCHITECTS AND THEIR WORK

---

### YOUTH COUNCIL SCHOOL

The Mountain View School for Boys at Gatesville will enable the Texas Youth Council to provide a more adequate rehabilitation program for delinquent boys as well as a State Home for dependent orphaned children. Buildings included in the new school are dormitories, a gymnasium, academic building, clinic, chapel, shop, and service facilities. A laminated wood framing system is employed. GEORGE L. DAHL, Dallas, is the architect.

### BELLAIRE CHAPEL

*Nearing completion is a new Chapel for the Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Bellaire at a cost of \$400,000. The Sisters Chapel will seat 400 nuns; the students' chapel seats 300. The building is of fireproof construction and air conditioned; floors are terrazzo tile and resilient tile; walls are plaster. The interior of the Sisters Chapel is oak, with imported altar fittings. Architects are SULLIVAN AND SULLIVAN, Houston.*

### NEW TYPE SCHOOL

The Austin school board has approved preliminary plans for an elementary school especially designed to take advantage of team teaching and television. Classrooms will be flexible so as to allow two rooms to be joined for these teaching innovations. Architects are O'CONNELL AND PROBST, Austin.

### EDUCATIONAL BUILDING

*INGRAM AND HARRIS, ARCHITECTS, have designed an unusual educational building for the First Baptist Church of Beaumont. The air conditioned three story building has no windows, thus shutting out the noise and distractions surrounding its mid-town site, and significantly reducing the cooling requirements. Imaginative lighting overcomes the lack of windows. The exterior walls of black and white brick and blue ceramic tile are systematically pierced with inserts of blue glass block, which at night sparkle like tiny jewels on the facade. The building is now under construction and nearing completion.*

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Construction recently began on Walnut Creek Elementary School in Austin. The ten classroom building is a finger plan wrapped about a central court. It includes facilities for future expansion to twenty six classrooms in its area of 30,000 sq. ft. Total cost for the project is \$270,000. Architects are ALLEN, COATES AND LEGGE.

### HOME FOR AGED

*Wesleyan Home for the Aged in Georgetown is currently under construction. Living units include single and double rooms, and suites. Community areas provide library, lounges, parlors, therapy areas, and infirmary. The Home will provide accommodations for 150 persons. Total cost for the project, designed by Austin architects PAGE, SOUTHERLAND, PAGE, will be \$1,218,000.*

\*\*\*

The Editors welcome news items from all architects for publication in this special feature which will appear as often as sufficient material is available. Send news items to Texas Architect, 327 Perry-Brooks Building, Austin, Texas.

## NAMES MAKE NEWS

Just returned from a course on fall-out shelter design and civil defense orientation are UT assistant professors EUGENE GEORGE, JON A. BOWMAN and THOMAS W. SHEFFELMAN. The three will conduct seminars on shelter design for architects and engineers in at least three Southwestern cities during April and May.

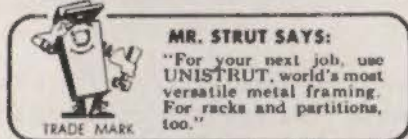
*Two Texans will be advanced to the distinguished rank of Fellow of the American Institute of Architects at the annual national convention in April. The two are BARTLETT COCKE of San Antonio, and GEORGE FOSTER PIERCE, JR., of Houston, both honored for distinguished service to the Institute.*



**You're never stuck for the right fitting with UNISTRUT®**

MECHANICAL & ELECTRICAL SUPPORTS

Every problem in supporting heating, piping, air conditioning, conduit or electrical fixtures has been anticipated in UNISTRUT metal framing. Over 1400 fittings, concrete inserts, plus dozens of channels—all standard items. Complete local stocks—fast delivery.



**MR. STRUT SAYS:**

"For your next job, use UNISTRUT, world's most versatile metal framing. For racks and partitions, too."

TRADE MARK

**UNISTRUT®**

pioneer in  
ADJUSTABLE METAL FRAMING

Call or Write for Catalogs:

**L. R. WARD STEEL PRODUCTS, INC.**

HOUSTON  
3605 Polk  
CA 5-0356

FT. WORTH  
dial ED 6-2913

DALLAS  
3009 Canton  
RI 0-9004

## JESSE H. JONES

### SCHOLARSHIPS IN ARCHITECTURE

Houston Endowment, a philanthropy endowed by Mr. and Mrs. Jesse H. Jones, has announced the grant of a \$15,000 scholarship fund to be administered through the Texas Architectural Foundation, Incorporated.

The scholarships, amounting to \$3,000 per year for five consecutive years, will be called "The Jesse H. Jones Scholarships in Architecture."

Fred J. MacKie, Jr., F.A.I.A., partner in the Houston architectural firm of MacKie and Kamrath, is president of the Texas Architectural Foundation.

The Foundation is dedicated to the furtherance of architectural education in Texas by providing scholarships and fellowships for students of architecture, making contributions to students and teachers so they might attend important professional seminars, holding architectural competitions, subsidizing architectural writings, and providing and developing teaching aids and materials for schools of architecture.

Funds for the Foundation are raised through contributions from architects and those interested in assisting architecture in the state.

The Jones scholarships will be made to architectural majors who have already completed their first two or three years of college work, have demonstrated definite potential in the field of architecture, and who otherwise because of economic need might be unable to complete their education.

Scholarships will be awarded only to those students attending a fully accredited school of architecture, preferably in the state of Texas.

In accepting the scholarships from John T. Jones, Jr., president of Houston Endowment, Mr. MacKie said "We are deeply grateful to Houston Endowment for this cooperation in providing a sound education for promising architectural students in the state. Through such assistance we can be assured that architecture in the state will continue to meet the challenges of the future."

### REYNOLDS WINNER

Edward Kemp of Winchester, Ky. and Donal McMasters of Bryan, Texas, winners of Reynolds Aluminum Prize for Architectural Students competition at Texas A & M College, received \$100 awards from John Lott of Reynolds Metals Company. Attending the presentation was Ben Evans, President of Brazos Chapter, American Institute of Architects, T. R. Holleman, head, Division of Architecture, Texas A & M College and James Walden, faculty member and third year design critic at Texas A & M.

The Division of Architecture at Texas A & M is one of 45 architectural schools enrolled in the first annual Reynolds Aluminum Prize program administered by the American Institute of Architects and sponsored by Reynolds Metals Company. Mr. Kemp and Mr. McMasters won the Texas A & M competition by submitting "the best original design for a building component in aluminum"—a basic shelter. Their entry will now be judged in the AIA's national Reynolds Prize competition.

## TEXAS HOTEL REMODELED

Recently completed and ready for the forthcoming Texas Society of Architects' convention is the huge new Grand Ballroom and Convention Center of the Hotel Texas in downtown Fort Worth.

Included was the remodeling of the present mezzanine floor to tie it in with the new convention facility and thereby create a full city-block-square floor devoted exclusively to public meeting space. Encompassing some 20,000 square feet, the addition provides Fort Worth with the largest hotel meeting room in the entire Southwest. Meetings of up to 3,000 persons seated auditorium style or 2,000 for dining can be accommodated.

There are no columns or visual obstructions in the Ballroom. Thus, all space is fully usable. Further, the room is built with travelling sound-proof dividing walls so that it can easily be partitioned into two or three separate smaller meeting rooms.

A new Texas Hotel Junior Ballroom, encompassing approximately 3,600 square feet, has been created by remodeling of the old mezzanine. It, too, is divisible into smaller areas. The food preparation areas have likewise been modernized and enlarged to accommodate the greater capacity of the balance of the hotel.

A complete new look has been given to the hotel's main lobby—a grand circular stairway from the lobby to the mezzanine and a double escalator directly to the lobby of the Grand Ballroom and Convention Center.

Combined with the present Crystal Ballroom and Gold Room on the top and fourteenth floor and its Hall of Exhibits across the street, this gives the hotel complete facilities for conventions, shows and meetings.

## AIA CONVENTION

An all-time record turnout of more than 3,000 architects and their wives is predicted for the 1961 national convention of The American Institute of Architects in Philadelphia April 23-28.

The six-day Host Chapter program beginning April 23 includes a total of 19 separate events ranging from a full-dress command performance of the Philadelphia Orchestra to dinner parties at the private homes of Host Chapter members.

These are all in addition to the professional discussions, awards presentations and business sessions. The program leads off Sunday, April 23, with an inter-denominational rededication service at historic Christ Church in the shadow of Independence Hall.

## INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

The Royal Institute of British Architects has extended a special invitation to American architects to attend the Sixth Congress of the International Union of Architects to be held in London July 3rd through 7th. The theme of the Congress is "New Techniques and Materials—Their Impact on Architecture." Three main papers will be delivered by Henry Russel Hitchcock, Pier Luigi Nervi, and Jerzy Hryniewiecki.

It is expected that some 2,000 architects will attend from 50 different countries. Programs may be obtained from Mr. D. C. Taylor, RIBA, 66 Portland Place, London, WI.

## CHURCH DISPLAYS

Texas architects are invited to exhibit recently completed church buildings to be displayed at the Texas Conference on church Building and Architecture to be held at the Granada Hotel in San Antonio, May 4th and 5th. Their projects will join exhibit of the Church Architectural Guild of America which will be a major feature of the Conference. Interested architects may contact the Architectural Exhibits Committee, 8118 Broadway, San Antonio.

\*\*\*

A number of Texas architects will display examples of their religious buildings in the architectural exhibit at the 1961 Conference of Church Architecture to be held April 18th through 20th in Pittsburgh under the auspices of the Department of Church Building of the National Council of The Churches of Christ. Honor Awards will be made to outstanding designs for church buildings in several classifications. Premiated projects will become part of traveling exhibit.

## PARKING MANUAL

Western Industries, Inc. has announced a new planning aid for city officials, architects, hospital, school and industrial management concerned with the parking problem.

The manual provides information about a variety of parking lot arrangements, with recommended individual stall dimensions, aisle widths, and entrance and exit sizes. Parking lot patterns are described in detail, minimum space requirements are provided for specialized parking lots.

For copies of "How to Lay Out a Parking Lot," write to Western Industries, Inc., Parking Gate Division, 2742 West 36th Place, Chicago 32, Illinois.

# AIA GOLD MEDALS

Le Corbusier, the world famous, Swiss-born architect, has won the 1961 Gold Medal of The American Institute of Architects.

Le Corbusier, whose real name is Charles-Edouard Jeanneret, began his career as architect, painter, sculptor and writer before World War I in the studio of August Perret in Paris and Peter Behrens in Berlin, both pioneers in modern architecture.

His first book, "Towards a New Architecture," published in 1923, firmly established him as a controversial but leading prophet of modern architecture and city planning. His work continues to have a profound influence on world architecture.

The originality and uncompromising nature of his designs, kept him from doing much building during the early part of his career. His plans for buildings that were never realized, such as the League of Nations Palace in Geneva achieved as much fame as those that were built.

His largest project is the complete planning and design of Chandigarh, the capital of Punjab, a state of India. He received the commission to create a city for 150,000 people on a windswept plain at the foot of the Himalayas in 1951. Of Chandigarh's first completed public buildings, the Palace of Justice, one critic has written that Le Corbusier "achieved the timelessness that will make his architecture a permanent treasure of man's history."

Previous winners of the AIA Gold Medal, in addition to Mies van der Rohe and Walter Gropius, include such distinguished architects as Frank Lloyd Wright (1949), Clarence S. Stein (1956), Louis Skidmore (1957) and John Wellborn Root (1958).

Other gold medals for excellence in allied professions were awarded sculptor Alexander Calder, textile weaver Anni Albers, industrial designer Florence Knoll, and architectural photographer Ezra Stoller.

A special citation to the Columbia Broadcasting System was made for "the excellence, penetrative power and drama of its television report 'Big City-1980'."

The awards will be made at a special Awards Luncheon during the annual AIA convention at Philadelphia, April 24 to 28.

# SPECIFIC SPECS

*The following is excerpted from a talk made to the Houston Construction Specifications Institute by Karl F. Doerner, Jr.*

Until World War I the pall of the ancients still hung over the plastering trade. The tools, equipment, and methods of plastering were the same as the Egyptians used to mortar up their kings in oversized rock coffins along the Nile. Since the pyramids have been here several thousand years, the workmanship and materials were certainly not second rate like the shoddy work in Babylon. The plastering industry announced that plastering was going to surpass the overt and miraculous substitute materials. Plaster machinery came to every one-horse tank town in America. Happy days were here again! But somebody at the end of the bar asked, "Are these new developments in plastering secretly capable of a panacea in the construction business?"

The salient problem of the modern plastering industry now became manifest; viz., to define the capabilities of the old and new plastering products, and to tell the users the limits of the methods and materials.

Some thinkers have argued that all human misunderstandings stem from semantic misalignments. In simpler words, "I don't understand you." This theory sometimes applies to the plastering industry in its relation with builders, architects, and owners. A plethora of plaster ills can be corrected by an adequate statement of the requirements of each job—not necessarily in prodigious volumes; but in exacting, patent terms.

"But if you wanted it this way, why did you went to so much pains to write it the other way. I'm no mind reader you know. My boss said for me to mud-up this place like I always does it, now you say it ain't good enough for you. We don't do no second rate work, and there's plenty of uglier jobs in town. After all, I can't turn this architectural paralytic into a Taj Mahal."

The conclusion of this essay can be stated in a sentence that somebody said around 400 B. C.: "Define your terms." And a plasterer's coda to this statement is, "in short, understandable form, please!"

# SENATOR WILLIAM A. (Bill) BLAKLEY

## *The Winner!*

### The Texas Poll

The official Texas Poll directed by Joe Belden and subscribed to by 21 leading Texas papers left no doubt at all that Senator Bill Blakley is the choice of Texas and the top candidate to win the run-off in the special Senate election April 4.

The state-wide poll published March 15 in newspapers throughout the state found Senator Blakley the top runner among all Democrats with Republican John Tower his likely run-off opponent.

On the strong likelihood that Tower and Blakley will go into a run-off, the poll said that "from all indications now, Senator Blakley would defeat the GOP Challenger." Blakley was still in Washington when the survey was made; his strength would be expected to increase during the final 4,500 mile campaign swing he is making across the state.

In a run-off between Blakley and Tower, the Texas Poll results were:

For or lean to Blakley	49 per cent
For or lean to Tower	34 per cent
Undecided	17 per cent

An earlier poll showed that Bill Blakley is the strongest Democrat. The new check of voter sentiment now confirmed the Senator is steadily increasing his standing among the people of Texas.

How the name will appear on the ballot

**FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR**  
(Unexpired Term)

**WILLIAM A. (Bill) BLAKLEY**  
Dallas County



Senator Blakley has vital seniority in the U. S. Senate over all other candidates. His background as successful farmer, rancher, lawyer, business man and executive fully qualifies him to represent all Texas.

He is doing things now in Washington. His experience and ability make him a respected force on the powerful Judiciary and the Banking Committees.

### Senator Blakley's Action Program for Texas

**\$100 MILLION MORE ANNUALLY FOR SCHOOLS:** A home-rule aid-to-education plan that would return to each state 5 per cent of federal income taxes for support of locally administered public schools. In Texas this would mean over \$100 million more annually for our schools—without federal interference!

**INCOME TAX RELIEF FOR PRESSED PARENTS:** Also, for families putting their children through school, additional income tax exemptions of \$1,200 for college or university student, \$400 for son or daughter in high school. Parents deserve a tax break!

**A HELPING HAND FOR OUR SENIOR CITIZENS:** A bill to raise ceiling on what Social Security recipients may earn without being penalized. Senator Blakley would raise ceiling from \$1,200 to \$1,800 a year to help many retired persons.

**SHARP REDUCTION IN FOREIGN OIL IMPORTS:** Reduce by one half the amount of foreign oil being brought into U. S. Texas economy, schools, state government, all suffer when foreign oil floods market, causes Texas production to shut down.

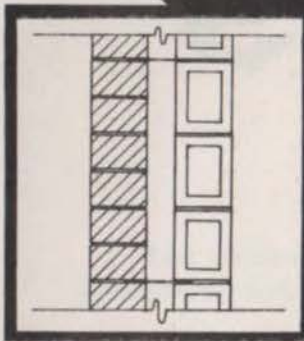
**INDEPENDENCE!! WE MUST KEEP IT ALWAYS:** Retain Connally Amendment to World Court. United States should maintain its sovereignty without question. Senator Blakley is fighting against repeal of this vital guarantee.

## TEXAS WILL KEEP BILL BLAKLEY ON THE JOB!

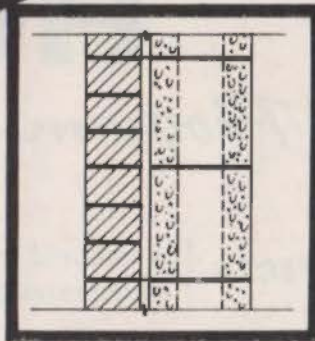
This Ad Paid For by STATEWIDE BLAKLEY COMMITTEE - Maurice Bullock, Chairman

# SAVE 25¢ Per Square Foot!

## and GET A BETTER WALL!



10" or 12" Brick  
& Tile  
CAVITY WALL  
Cost \$1.80\*



12" Brick &  
Block  
SOLID WALL  
Cost \$2.05\*

### BRICK and TILE CAVITY WALLS HAVE...

**STRUCTURAL STABILITY** — Meets Building Code Requirements for LOAD-BEARING, NON-LOAD-BEARING and CURTAIN WALLS.

**WATERPROOF** — Brick & Tile cavity walls are COMPLETELY WATERPROOF.

**MORE INSULATION** — Lower "U" values coupled with "Capacity Insulation".

**DIMENSIONAL STABILITY** — No joint reinforcing necessary.

**COLOR, FORM, TEXTURE and COST** — Infinite design possibilities.

**MAINTENANCE** — Maintenance free.

*\* Typical for multi-story construction. Variations in local conditions and/or types of construction may result in lower costs.*

## Clay Products Association of the Southwest

• Perry-Brooks Building • Austin, Texas • Greenwood 6-2647

• DALLAS • FT. WORTH • HOUSTON • SAN ANTONIO • OKLAHOMA CITY • TULSA

NATIONAL CONCRETE MASONRY ASSOCIATION, NATIONAL READY-MIXED CONCRETE ASSOCIATION  
AND PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION, ANNOUNCE THE...

TEXAS ARCHITECT  
P. O. Box 152  
AUSTIN, TEXAS  
Form 3547 Requested

*Concrete  
Industries*



# HORIZON HOMES

*Program*

## FOR ARCHITECTS

a national program to provide more livability and encourage better design in merchant-builder houses!

## FOR BUILDERS

a fresh, sales-oriented merchandising program featuring FREE concrete!

**FABULOUS NATIONAL AWARDS! IMPORTANT REGIONAL AWARDS!**

### KEY FACTS ABOUT PROGRAM...

**Gives architects** unique opportunity to express originality and creativity, and gain national recognition as leading designers in this important industry.

**Gives builders** the chance to tie in current promotions with a major nationwide program developed expressly to help sell more homes.

Program is keyed to National Association of Home Builders' national promotion . . . the 1961 National Home Week activities and "Parade of Homes" showings.

Every element carefully planned to give maximum support at the LOCAL LEVEL to LOCAL PARTICIPATION by LOCAL ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS.

### HOW ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS WILL BENEFIT...

**Architects** will have opportunity to contribute important design direction and project elements and concepts

they believe should be incorporated into home design. They will work with the many new, exciting forms of concrete . . . a unique chance to achieve fresh, versatile approaches with the newest textures, patterns and shapes in concrete. They'll work with a progressive builder, benefit from strong local and national publicity, and have the opportunity to enter the Horizon Homes Competition offering major regional awards for design — plus a fabulous national design award.

**Builders** will receive free concrete masonry and ready-mixed concrete required for the construction of their model Horizon Homes. They will get complete sales and promotional materials, and be able to select and work closely with the most creative architectural talent in their areas. They'll qualify for entry in the Horizon Homes National Competition with a chance to win major regional awards plus a fabulous national award.

For eligibility requirements, timetable and complete details — contact the PCA office below

**PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION** 110 East Eighth Street, Austin 1, Texas

*A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete*

Section 34.66 P. L. & R.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
AUSTIN, TEXAS  
PERMIT NO. 1301