

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

REPORT ON SUMMER BOARD MEETING

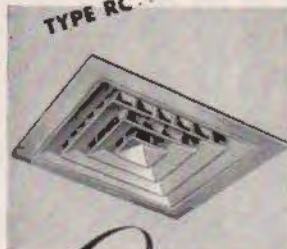
ABSTRACTS FROM AIA CONVENTION

BRAZOS CHAPTER IS AUTHORIZED

STUDENT COMPETITION DETAILS

AUGUST
1952

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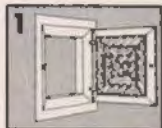
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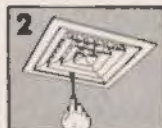
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T H E T E X A S A R C H I T E C T

VOLUME 3

AUGUST, 1952

NUMBER 4

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THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The Texas Regional District Organization of
The American Institute of Architects

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 15-18—54th Annual Convention of the American Hospital Association, Philadelphia, Pa.

October 29-31—13th Annual Convention of the Texas Society of Architects, El Paso.

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WE'RE WRITING FOR 8500 READERS

The full reports on the 84th annual convention of the AIA are now being made available. They show that the New York convention was replete with information of great interest to the architect, and also to the general public.

Trends in building and design, new methods of saving construction dollars, the latest developments for the prospective home builder, valuable commentary on the outlook for the nation—all of these fields were discussed at New York by men who are recognized experts.

The editors of the TEXAS ARCHITECT have reviewed carefully most of the convention proceedings, and have abstracted these proceedings in the current issue for two reasons:

First, we believe that many TSA members may have missed valuable information from the New York meeting, or may not find it in convenient, abbreviated form elsewhere.

Second, in conforming to one of the principal objectives of this magazine, we want to tell our non-professional readers what the architects of Texas and the nation are doing to improve building and the public welfare in general. The New York convention contributed many examples of how architecture is helping substantially to maintain and improve U. S. standards of living.

The authoritative Brookings Institute, incidentally, reported through a speaker at the New York convention that the U. S. standard of living can be eight times better, for twice as many Americans, in the future. And the Brookings Institute is known for its conservative, well-documented research.

We hope that you will call the attention of your non-architectural friends to this condensation of convention happenings. We must remember always that the TEXAS ARCHITECT circulates not only to our 600-plus TSA membership, but to an additional 7900 selected readers.

We want to carry material, therefore, which appeals to the TSA members, and which strengthens our statewide organization. But we also want to secure and maintain the interest of this specialized extra 7900 readers, who represent segments of the general public.

The abstracted proceedings of the annual AIA convention, the highlight of the architectural year, is an excellent example of material which appeals both to our TSA members and to this larger audience we want to tell about architecture.

Board Of Directors In Session At Austin

Organization Of Architectural Foundation Completed;
Professional Practice Committee Activated;
New Insurance Program Well Underway

The Board of Directors completed the organization of the Texas Architectural Foundation, activated the new Professional Practice Committee, and declared the new TSA Insurance Program well underway at a summer session at the Driskill Hotel in Austin July 19. Good progress was reported on plans for the TSA convention at El Paso October 29-31.

Charles Granger of Austin, TSA-AIA and chairman of the Seminar Committee, said that the choice for principal seminar speaker at the El Paso convention will be announced before August 15.

Summary of President's Report

In the president's report, President Herbert M. Tatum said that the highlights of the year to date were the setting up of the Architectural Foundation, activation of the Professional Practice group under the chairmanship of Stayton Nunn, TSA-FAIA, and progress made in widening coverage under the TSA insurance program. President Tatum reported on a number of trips over the state in the interest of the Society, including visits to Houston for honor awards, to El Paso for convention planning, to College Station for a meeting of the Publication Board, and to Fort Worth for presentation of the Craftsmanship Award, in addition to meetings of the Executive Committee and the Architectural Foundation held at Dallas. He termed the affairs of TSA "in good shape."

Tax-Exempt Foundation

Carl C. Hardin, Jr., legal counsel to TSA, reported approval of the charter for the Texas Architectural Foundation, a tax-exempt corporation created for the purpose of "the support of an educational undertaking by aiding and furthering the study of architecture and by

providing financial aid, grants or scholarships to selected individuals to do so." The Foundation will "receive, manage, expend, and sell property or funds" for the purposes above stated.

First year directors of the Foundation are President Tatum, and Arthur E. Thomas and Donald S. Nelson, Dallas; Edward L. Wilson, Fort Worth; and Raymond S. Phelps, San Antonio, all TSA-AIA.

Help School for the Deaf

Board members heard a report from the special subcommittee named to meet with the state Department of Education on a survey of architectural rehabilitation of the State School for the Deaf. The subcommittee has named Bartlett Cocke as chairman and Arthur Fehr, vice-chairman to serve with Thomas Broad and R. P. DeWitt. In a meeting with members of the Department of Education, the sub-committee looked over the property and recommended that a topographical survey be made. After completion of this survey the subcommittee will meet with a School for the Deaf draftsman and direct him in the development of a master plan for rehabilitation.

TEXAS ARCHITECT Praised

Mr. Nunn reported that the Professional Practice Committee was activated and had begun work on recommendations to be submitted later to the board.

David C. Baer reported that the usual summer drop in advertising had caused a temporary reduction in the size of the July and August issues of the TEXAS ARCHITECT, but predicted a resumption of steady growth in September. He said that other state groups had praised the TA at the New York AIA convention and asked for information on its publication.



Just 100 miles north of El Paso is the White Sands National Monument, one of the most unique tourist attractions in the U. S. White Sands can be reached easily from El Paso, site of the TSA convention October 29-31.

Contracts Being Let On Fort Brown Memorial Center

Contracts are to be let in August on the Fort Brown Memorial Center at Brownsville, according to Wiltshire & Fisher of Dallas, architects, and Mayor H. L. Stokely of Brownsville.

The architects for the Memorial Center were selected by means of a competition in which 25 Texas architects participated.

Officials "Very Well Pleased"

Ernest Langford, AIA-TSA, head of

the Department of Architecture at Texas A. and M., was professional advisor for the competition, one of the first of its type ever held in the Southwest. Mayor Stokely and other Brownsville city officials said in the border city that they are "very well pleased" with competition results and with continuing progress toward construction of the \$800,000 Memorial Center.

(Continued on Page 15)

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Interstate Bus Station Is Student Competition Subject

The problem for the 1952 TSA student competition, sponsored by the Featherlite Corporation, is a bus station for an interstate bus line.

The design and structure must conform to the building code of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, latest edition.

General Details Listed

General details of the problem are as follows:

An interstate bus line has purchased the property described in the accompanying diagram for the purpose of building a station to accommodate six long-distance and four suburban busses. The site is located on the fringe of the central business district of a small Texas city of approximately 15,000 population. The company officials are very conscious of the importance of good public relations, and have therefore purposely acquired a site which is more than adequate to handle the mere physical space requirements of their operations, to the end that the new building may be provided with a handsome setting which will enhance both civic pride and company business.

The site is flat, and has no significant distinguishing features. There are no trees of consequence, and it is the stated intention of the owner that the landscape and site development be evolved as an integral conception with the design of the building. The sub-surface soil is a thick and extensive bed of compacted gravel, and there is no existing drainage problem.

Traffic Flow Described

Seventy percent of all bus traffic to the site will approach from either direction along the north-south divided highway. The remainder will approach the site along the one-way streets bordering the north and south boundaries. Passenger car and taxi traffic to the site will be assumed to converge about equally from all directions.

All public services and facilities not specifically enumerated below are available in the commercial buildings which surround the site.

Details of Facilities

Required facilities include loading docks for six long-distance and four suburban buses, dispatchers' booth at docks, waiting room, toilets, information desk and ticket counter, vault adjacent; administrative suite, 1000 sq. ft. for four offices; 80 coin baggage lockers, baggage room, 500 sq. ft. with 15-foot minimum baggage counter, newsstand with counter, cigar and soft drink stand, telegraph counter, six public telephones, desk for Travelers' Aid, restaurant with lunch counter for 25 stools, tables for 50 (customers to be 60% station traffic and 40% passing pedestrian traffic); kitchen, storage, lockers and toilets for kitchen help, and public parking.

Required Drawings Listed

Required drawings are limited to one sheet 30 inches by 40 inches and include plot plan at 1/32 inch, floor plans at 1/16 inch, section at 1/16 inch, perspective at one inch equals 50 feet, two elevations at 1/16 inch, and a typical wall section at 1/2 inch.



Highlights From 84th Annual AIA Convention

New York Meeting Surveys Trends in Building;
Speakers Outline Newest Designs, Economies;
Information Of Value To Architect & Public

Editors of the TA have abstracted many convention speeches and proceedings to present this digest of thought from the New York AIA convention:

The greatest advancement in the building industry in the U. S. in the past 50 years has been the development of pre-cast concrete, reducing construction cost and eliminating the antiquated manual hand labor of placing brick upon brick and applying plaster by trowels. That is the belief of Roger H. Corbetta, general contractor and pioneer in pre-cast concrete construction. "Six or seven men can erect as much wall area in one day with pre-cast concrete as 50 bricklayers and their helpers," Mr. Corbetta said, emphasizing that the pre-cast technique may be used for units as small as an ordinary brick house or as large as a 350-foot pier.

Dramatic Savings Effected

Dramatic cost savings and increases in building output which are speeding the reconstruction of Europe's war-damaged cities were described by Jan van Ettinger, top Dutch building authority. Europe, short on funds for reconstruction, has been forced to the utmost in efficiency and productivity. Savings have been made primarily through rigid analysis of building requirements before designing begins. This has been achieved by standardizing building procedures, and by applying the principles of scientific management. The most important advances of all, according to Mr. van Ettinger, have been made through complete cooperation with architects. The Dutch authority directs the Bouwcentrum, a Rotterdam center for information and specialized help on building problems all over Europe.

Top executives from four major auto-

mobile manufacturers told the convention that the length and width of autos are at a maximum for at least a decade, and that the tendency is toward "shorter, narrower, and lower" cars.

Improved School Architecture

Henry L. Wright, Los Angeles architect, believes that current trends in school architecture will save on critical materials, on the taxpayer's school-building dollar; on the time and energy of teachers and administrative staff, and on the health and vigor of the average student. This will be accomplished by using constantly improving designs and materials which conserve space and money.

W. H. Scheick, executive director of the Building Research Advisory Board, charged that building specifications prepared by Federal agencies are complex, ambiguous, too lengthy, inconsistent, and full of old, meaningless clauses. Federal specifications, he says, cause unnecessary costs and waste of technical manpower.

Double Population, More Prosperity

Ernest T. Weir, chairman of the board of National Steel, made a stirring appeal for upholding the threat to basic principles of our constitutional form of government exemplified in President Truman's attempt to seize the steel industry. Mr. Weir said that a recent survey by the authoritative Brookings Institute shows that within the next century U. S. resources and producing capacity might well make it possible to support twice our present population at eight times the present plane of living.

The AIA has awarded its Langley Scholarship for 1952 to John F. Larkin of the University of Pennsylvania. Mr.

(Continued on Page 15)

Standard Agreement Form Wins Praise Of Municipal Contractors At Meeting

The Standard Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor, last revised in 1945, was soundly praised at a summer meeting of the Municipal Contractors' Association held in San Antonio. Speakers from over the state analyzed the form and found it equitable except for what were termed minor suggested changes.

Assumption of Liability

Among these suggestions were clarification of the assumption of liability clause and changing the contract so that engineer and owner take responsibility for adequacy of design.

J. L. Williams of the J. L. Williams Construction Company, Houston, said that contractors should make a wider use of this form. Harvey Hardy, city attorney at San Antonio, termed the contract "very sound and comprehensive" and urged its use by municipalities.

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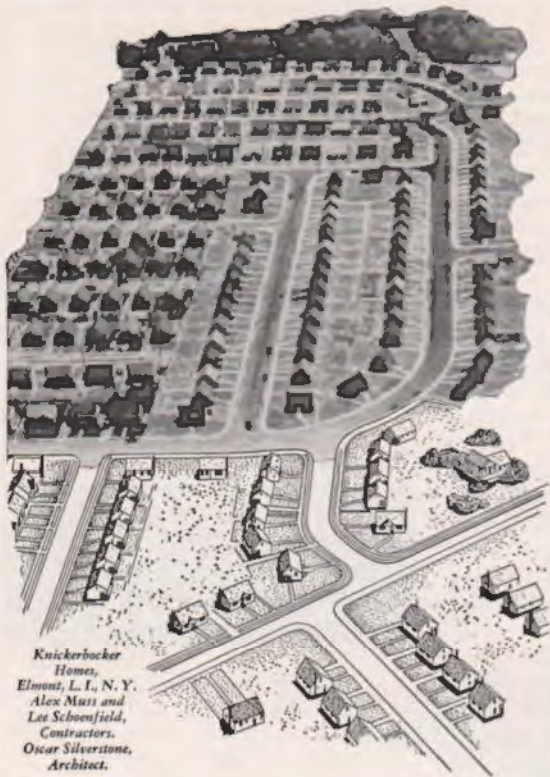
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J	87 1/2" X 60 3/8"
K	50 1/2" X 47 1/2"
L	86 1/2" X 47 1/2"
M	50 1/2" X 60 1/2"
N	86 1/2" X 60 1/2"



LOCKING HANDLES

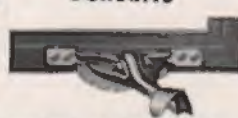
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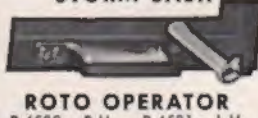


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What Others Are Doing

The BRONX ARCHITECT, calling for voluntary coverage of self-employed professionals under Social Security, reports as follows: "A 35-year-old architect would have to pay eventually almost \$14,000 for a private annuity in order to receive retirement benefits that under Federal Social Security would cost him only \$4410.06. A 50-year-old practitioner who wished to purchase a retirement policy (effective at age 65) would have to pay more than \$17,000 for the benefits that under Social Security would cost him only \$1,809."

The May issue of THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT has the verbatim account of an extemporaneous talk by Wilbur H. Tusler, AIA, Minneapolis, Minn. on many down-to-earth problems in connection with running an architectural office. It also reports on a Milwaukee speech by Philip Will, Jr., FAIA, president of the Chicago Chapter, and winner of the 1951 AIA Honor Award For School Design, attacking "streamlined school design." Contending that excessive illumination can over-stimulate children, Mr. Will is critical of the school architect who follows the formula of "glass block, streamlined desks and fluorescent lighting."

MEMO comments recently on TSA action in appointing Arthur Fehr, Thomas Broad, Bartlett Cocke, and R. P. DeWitt, all TSA-AIA, as a four-man committee for public service to Texas, in advising the state on the rehabilitation of buildings used by State School for the Deaf.

Brazos Chapter Granted AIA Charter Effective As Of July 1

The annual report of the AIA Board congratulates the new Brazos Chapter, chartered effective July 1. Brazos members will be drawn from the Central Texas area centering on College Station.

Charter members of the newest AIA and TSA affiliate are Ernest Langford, Arch C. Baker, Wm. W. Caudill, Henry D. Mayfield, and William E. Nash. Appropriate installation ceremonies are being planned subsequent to actual receipt of the national charter.

Student Affiliate Planned

Mr. Langford, long active in TSA affairs, was instrumental in working with other charter members to organize the new chapter.

Head of the Department of Architecture at Texas A & M, Mr. Langford plans to sponsor and organize immediately a strong student chapter which will "develop a better understanding between students and practitioners and in some measure assist in bridging the gap between school and office."

Bartlett Cocke Vice-President Of Registration Boards

Bartlett Cocke of San Antonio, TSA-AIA, has been named second vice-president of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards for the year 1952-53.

Mr. Cocke was elected during an annual session at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.

Every state in the union now has registration laws relative to the practice of architecture. Forty-seven state registration boards are members of the National Council, which meets next year in Seattle, Wash.

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FORT BROWN—

(Continued from Page 5)

The winning plan submitted by Wiltshire & Fisher, described in an earlier issue of the TA, recognizes Brownsville's semi-tropical climate and strong influence by Spanish environment. It places the auditorium of the Memorial Center in a central position surrounded by buildings housing other civic activities.

Outdoor courts similar to Spanish patios have been designed for the various areas formed by the Brownsville Memorial Center, which includes a city auditorium, public library, women's club building, town hall, youth recreation center, and municipal swimming pool.

NEW YORK CONVENTION—

(Continued from Page 8)

Larkin will study a problem of increasing concern to densely populated areas: how to decentralize urban homes and disperse industry so as to reduce the threat of damage from atomic attack.

Valuable Survey Planned

The AIA will work closely with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Bureau of the Census, and the NPA on a project expected to foretell from six to eight months ahead the level of building activity. The new survey will go directly to the primary source of information, the drafting boards in the architectural offices of the U. S., for a correct advance prediction of what's a-building for the future. This type of information is considered extremely valuable for businessmen, prospective home owners, and others interested in the future level of building activity.

Famed Architect Frank Lloyd Wright deplores the fact that less than 3% of U. S. buildings were designed by architects, primarily because the role of the architect in shaping the environment within which we live is not yet understood.

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Hospital Architecture To Be On Exhibit At AHA Convention

The American Hospital Association will hold an architectural exhibit for hospitals placed under contract since January 1, 1947 as part of the 54th annual AHA convention at Philadelphia September 15-18.

Hospital buildings, outpatient facilities or medical laboratories will be eligible for entry as an exhibit.

This show of hospital architecture will be the third annual exhibit of its kind held in cooperation with the AIA at AHA

conventions. A screening jury consisting of three AIA members experienced in hospital design, and two non-architect hospital administrators representing the AHA, will screen entries for eligibility and direct the hanging of the exhibit. Entries may be submitted only by registered architects.

Inquiries should be submitted to Roy Hudenburg, 18 East Division Street, Chicago 10, Illinois.

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