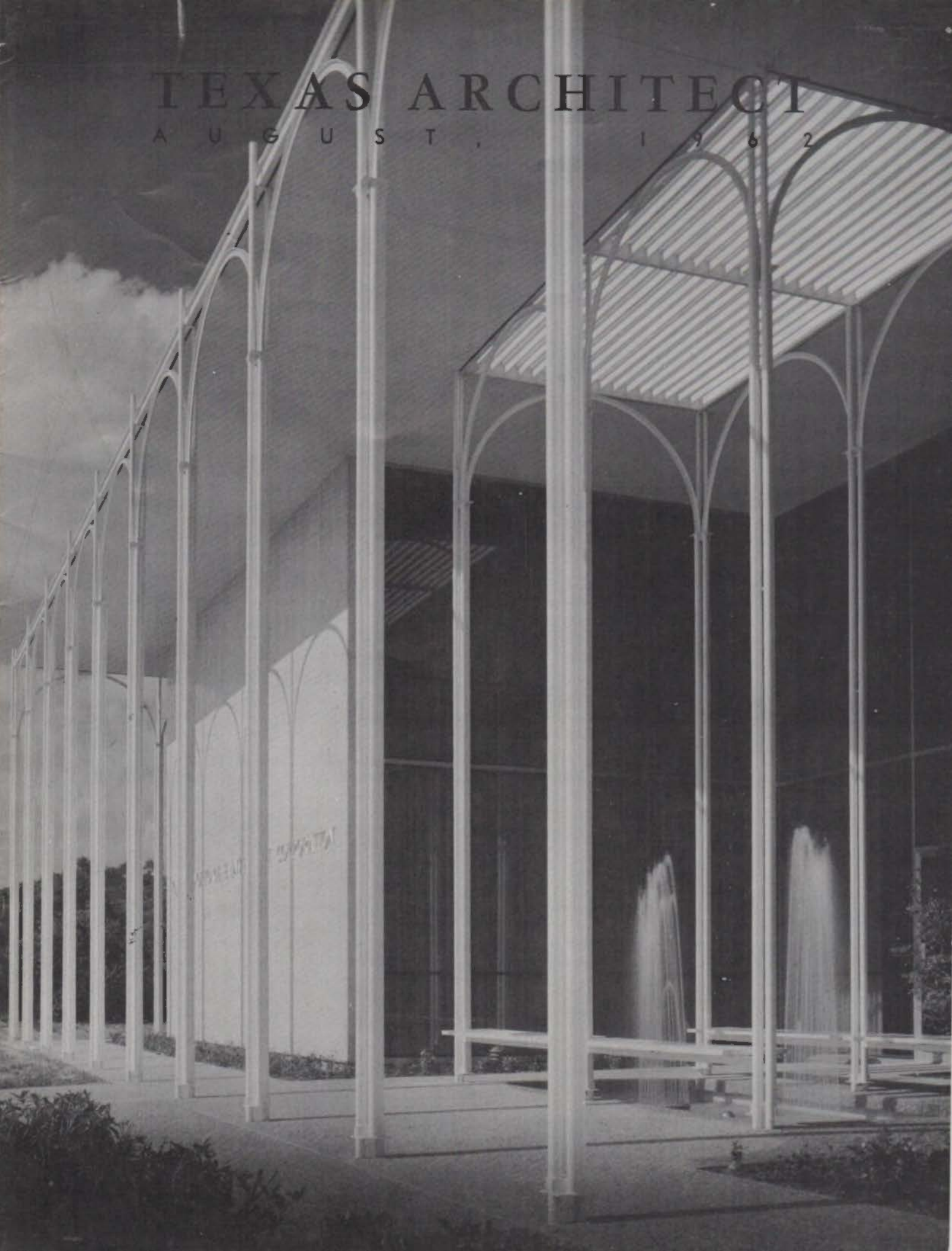


# TEXAS ARCHITECT

AUGUST, 1962





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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

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### COVER

*Texas Architect's cover this month shows the delicate grace of the Holland Mortgage Company Building, one of four Texas Architecture 1961 award winning designs of Neuhaus & Taylor. Cover photograph by F. Wilbur Seiders.*

## The President's Letter

HAROLD CALHOUN, FAIA

President  
Texas Society of Architects



Our president Harold Calhoun has asked that I pen a few lines regarding the progress of our TSA Convention. Your Convention program for this year will be entitled "Arts And The Man". It is designed to present a full exposition of the performing arts and to give us an opportunity to expose our sensory capacity to vibrant stimulation. Just as the very fine professional seminars of previous years have served to further Architectural competence this program is designed to inspire deepened cultural awareness and thereby help develop the "whole architect."

We are very fortunate to have one of the outstanding men of stage and screen to serve as our Convention narrator, Basil Rathbone. He will make a presentation on the interrelationship of Architects and Architecture with the performing arts. He will also give a sole performance of selections from great moments in theatre from Shakespeare to the contemporary era.

Sir John Barbarolli will conduct the Houston Symphony in a specially selected program for Architects. This is the first time that the Houston Symphony has ever performed for a private audience. The concluding performance of the lively Arts will be by a carefully selected representative of the modern dance. The formal Convention program will end with a professional seminar of highest quality on Expanded practice of the Architect, a theme which has been of paramount importance to the A.I.A. in this period of burgeoning development. A panel of nationally known Architects selected by the A.I.A. will develop this significant theme.

There are many other interesting surprises in store, such as the Carnival of Educational exhibits, Architectural tours of growing Houston, Rice Texas football game and for those who wish to see a professional football game, the Houston Oilers will play the Dallas Texans on Sunday afternoon.

This program is dynamic, imaginative, and challenging. The Houston chapter is sparing no effort to make this convention one of the most rewarding in TSA Convention history.

Gunter Koetter  
Chairman

Architecture is your business.

If this sounds presumptuous, consider this: You are born in architecture and you die in it. You live and work, play and worship in it throughout your life; there are few times in your life when you neither see it nor feel it. It affects your movements, your senses, your comfort, and your pocketbook.

You should know more about it

Historians have said that architecture reveals the true nature of the people of any age. But it does more than reflect the nature of a civilization. We know today that it plays a part in determining the nature of civilization.

A well-designed, efficient, and beautiful home provides a better life for the people who live in it. An intelligently-planned commercial building improves the business conducted in it. A well-designed church enhances worship. The planning of schools, banks, hospitals, factories, airports, and supermarkets can help or hinder the activities for which they are intended. But architecture in mid-twentieth century America is more than any single building. Today, it embraces the planning and redevelopment of whole communities throughout our nation.

Within the next 10 years, conservative economists say, we will spend the staggering total of 600 billion dollars on construction; a figure which exceeds the total value of all buildings in the United States today. By the year 2,000, which is only a forty-year mortgage away, we must, to meet population needs, double all present facilities. That is, we must build a second United States.

Public and private building on this scale has never before taken place in any civilization. In a democracy such as ours, this will place an unprecedented burden of action and decision upon the average citizen. Thus, as a homeowner, a parent interested in schools, a potential investor in both stocks, bonds, and real estate, a taxpayer and a voter, you will be affected by what and how we build even more directly than you are today.

It is, then, very much your business.

One good starting point for a better understanding of architecture is to consider it as the design of space,

# ARCHITECTURE

inner space as well as outer space—the non-orbital kind. For example, the arrangement of spaces inside a well-designed house keeps children from running across the feet of adults. Noisy living spaces are separated from sleeping spaces which require quiet.

In a school, well-related spaces provide the best education for the public tax dollar. The spaces inside a good business building aid production efficiency by keeping the product or key document moving in a straight work-flow line. In a store or airport, interior space relationships can either keep traffic moving or hopelessly snarl it.

The design of exterior spaces is equally important; the way a house is situated on a lot, for example, to let in light without unwanted heat and glare, and provide privacy from neighbors. It also involves the way lot spaces are related to each other to form a neighbor-



hood, and the way neighborhoods are related to form a community.

A good deal also depends upon the space *between* spaces. Good planning enhances property values by providing an easy link between the house and retail store without jamming them together to the detriment of both. Pulling them too far apart, of course, is just as bad, as many American communities are beginning to find out.

The planning of spaces and their relationships to each other is the real meaning of *function* in architecture. It is one of the three classic requirements of architecture. The way these spaces are arranged and the form which envelops them can produce *beauty*, another requirement. The third is *engineering*, the way the enclosure is supported.

These principles of architecture have remained unchanged since antiquity. They were first enunciated by a first-century Roman named Vitruvius. His definition, as paraphrased by Sir Henry Wotton in about 1600, is still widely-quoted by architects. It is: "Well-building hath three conditions; commodity, firmness, and delight." The word substitutions are obvious—function (commodity), engineering (firmness), and beauty (delight).

Function, the arrangement of space, is really the social purpose of a building. In order to determine it, the architect must ask: What is to happen in your building? How many people will do it and in what manner? What equipment will be needed to help them? What is the hoped-for result? These are some of the key questions to which answers are needed before any building can be designed intelligently.

The ancient Roman's "firmness" involves engineer-

## U. S. A.

ing, the building system of any age. Four thousand years ago, the people of western Asia used the post to support the beam. The same system was used by the Egyptians and refined by the Greeks. The Romans borrowed it, invented concrete, and improved upon the vault and dome construction of ancient Mesopotamia. This form of building was brought to its highest skill in western Europe in the thirteenth century in Gothic architecture. After that came Renaissance architecture and the Baroque, Gregorian, and Colonial forms which, however interesting, held nothing new in structural development.

The nineteenth century was unique in architectural history. It was a period of virtually unbroken imitation of the past, both in building systems and the appearance of bygone eras. A great deal of this architecture of imitation is still with us today.

A new method of building, however, was developed at the beginning of the twentieth century. Modern steel made possible the structural frame on which walls could hang like curtains without supporting the weight of the structure. This new engineering made the skyscraper possible and changed the form of the building. It also freed the designer from dependence upon any given material for building. Today, his palette in "curtain-wall" materials include brick, tile, stone, glass, wood, steel, concrete, aluminum, and plastics, to name some of our modern walling materials. The architect's search for new forms has led to complex curved surfaces with thin concrete shells (try sometime to break an egg by squeezing it length-wise in your hand), geodesic domes, and other methods of getting the most out of the tensional and compressive properties of shapes and materials.

This does not mean that we search for new forms simply to be different. It is worth nothing that all of the building systems mentioned here are still in use, though in modern form. The importance of new forms lies in the freedom they give to the architect to satisfy human needs with as few compromises as possible.

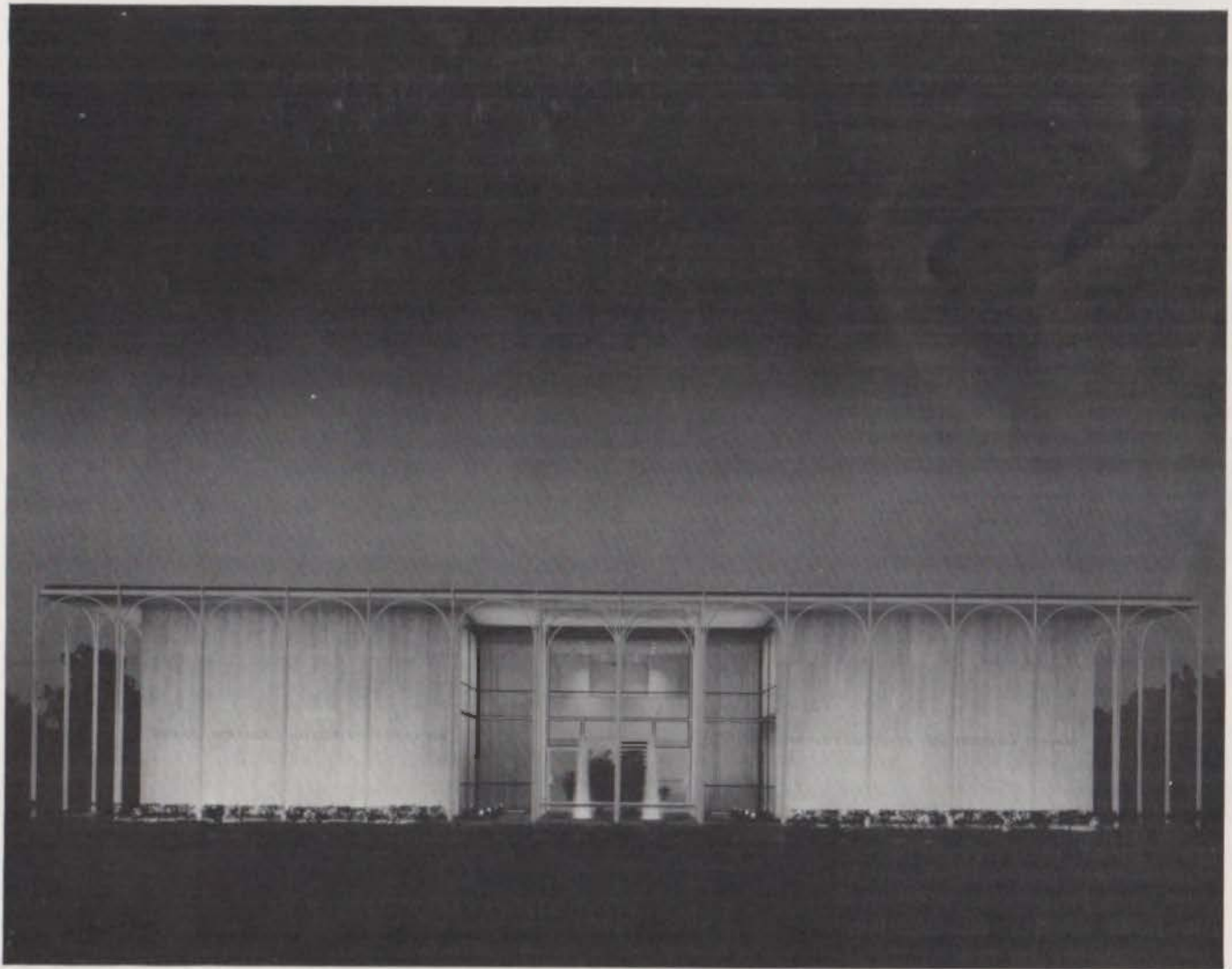
The third requirement of architecture, beauty, is a timeless quality. Although an abstract word usually associated with art, beauty is a perpetual need of man. Man has sought beauty since he first crawled into a cave. On the walls, he traced primitive paintings. He scratched decorations on the head of his stone axe.

Architecture is an art form, as are music, painting, and sculpture. Like the latter two, it is a visual art, but unlike all three, it shelters people and is a primary aid to living. Architectural beauty exists for itself alone, as does the art of any age. It enriches human life. It also has many specific purposes in contemporary life.

It sells goods by drawing people into a store. It rents space in an office building, makes a factory fit comfortably into its community, and enhances the spirit of worship in the church and synagogue. In the school, it encourages the educational process rather than hindering it, as did many of the grim prison-like buildings of the past. In the home, beauty creates enjoyment and gives life a deeper meaning.

This expression of beauty through structure differs through the ages. The best architecture of any age is that which best typifies the lives of its people. In its day, for example, Gothic was modern. It should be noted that many people at that time considered it offensive; it wasn't "traditional" enough to satisfy people accustomed to older styles.

Today, architectural beauty seeks to express today's life, growing out of the forms and spaces which modern living needs and habits require. This is the real meaning of modern architecture; it is simply the freedom to solve a problem of design without forcing the building—and the people inside it—into a certain "look" or style.



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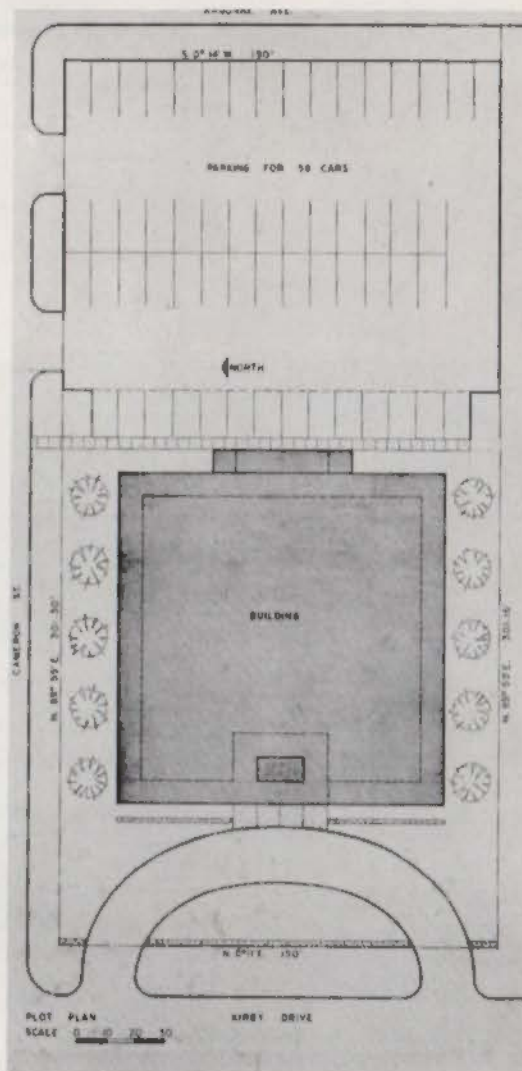
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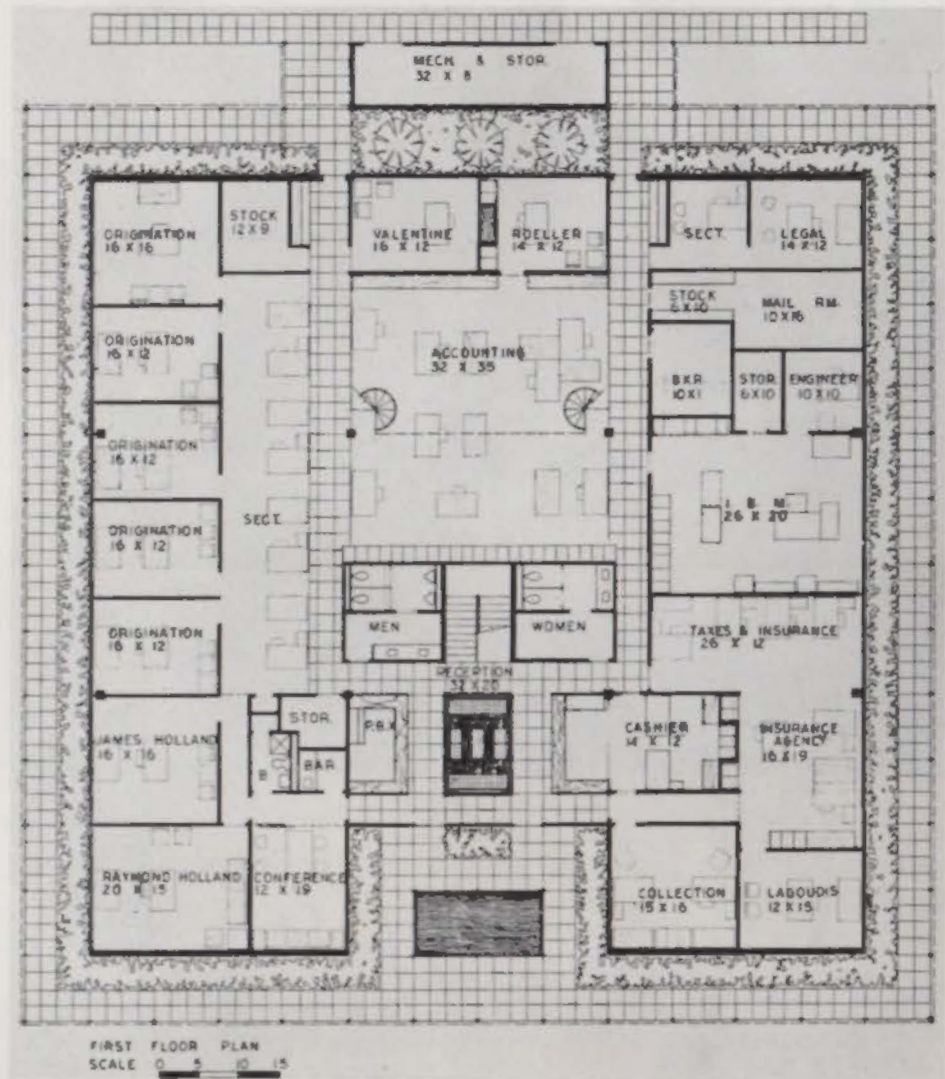
# TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1961

honored for distinguished design



*The level site, on a major suburban street, is adjacent to a fine residential area. The two story square building is sited near the street; a horseshoe drive, with customer parking, provides access for visitors. Employee parking is in the rear.*

The problem presented to the architects was the design of space to accommodate the operation of a mortgage and insurance company in a manner which would transmit a sense of stability and dignity.

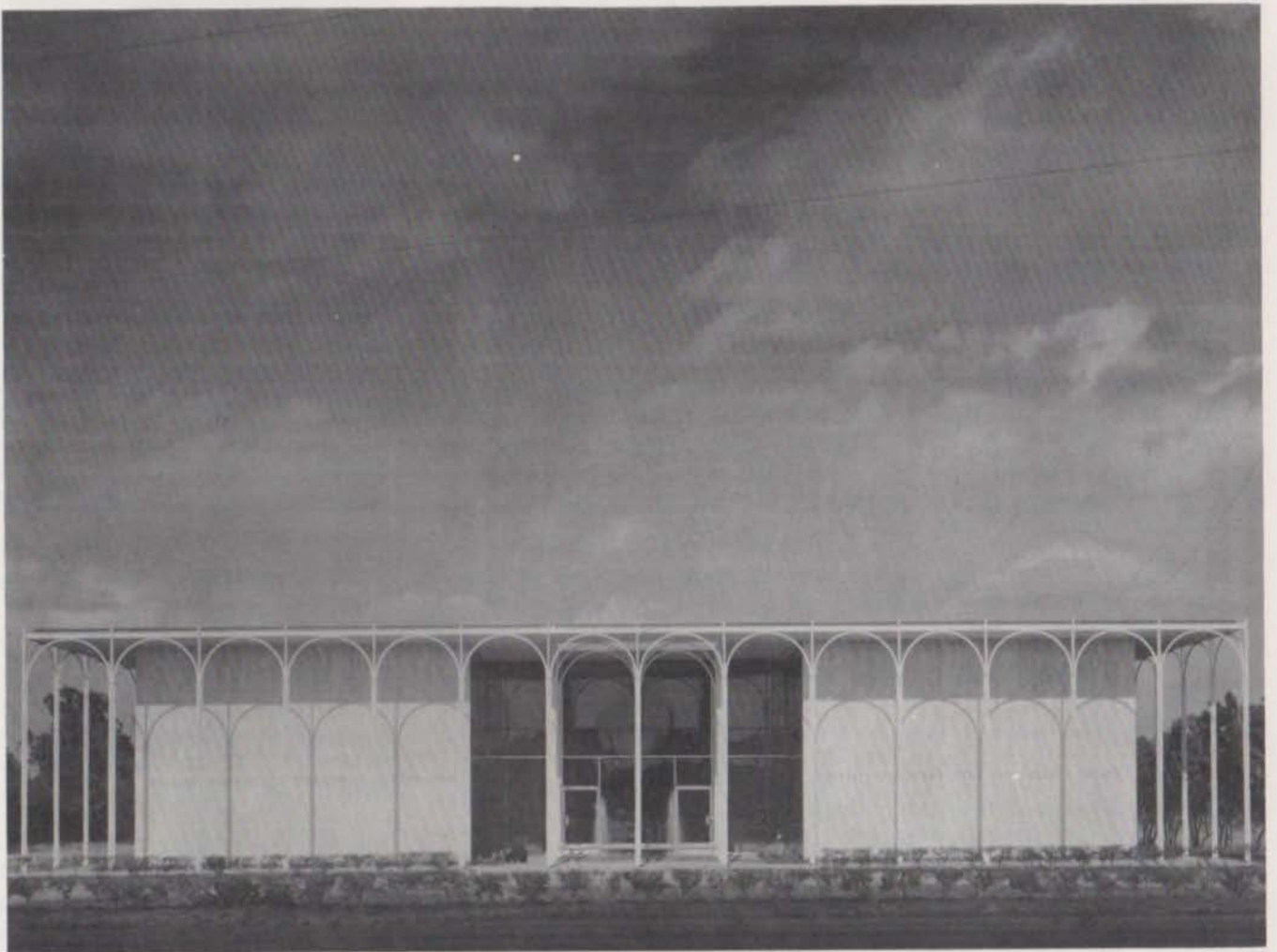


The square plan, in itself a static symbol, is accentuated with a wide covered walk around the perimeter. At its edge is a decorative arcade of graceful steel columns, which perhaps recall Classic Mediterranean architecture, and serves to shield the building walls from the sun.



*Entry, then, is made first by passing under the tall semi-enclosed arcade, into a landscaped courtyard and then into the reception foyer, itself a two-story, vertical space duplicating the proportions of the arcade and court.*

*Photographs: F. Wilbur Seiders*



# UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS CITY PLANNING

The University of Texas offers an interdepartmental graduate program in community and regional planning. The two-year program, which includes an internship in an approved Texas city or regional planning agency, leads to a Master of Science in Community and Regional Planning degree.

There are more than 30 University graduates now engaged in successful planning and related practice, and the University's efforts have served planning needs of both large and small Texas cities.

Among University-born planning projects have been the design of a pilot model (of Burnet, Texas) for the American Legion's national project in urban redevelopment for small cities, development of a long-range plan for the "Golden Triangle" of the Texas Gulf Coast, design of recreation areas for the Monahans Sandhills state park, and production of a guide for future land uses in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Recently University student planners have offered potential solutions for long-range area development of Austin's new Town Lake and have designed models for the proposed multi-acre community arts and sciences center along Corpus Christi's shoreline.

Heading the list of current research projects of the University planning program is a proposal to develop the 350-mile Trinity River watershed area between Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston. A study by the University Bureau of Business Research for the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation reported that the area had employment potential for a population of 16,000,000. The region is rich in the raw materials of iron ore, lignite and tim-

ber, and the Trinity River Authority has proposed creation of a 20-lock intercoastal waterway—something like a Texas version of the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Prof. Hugo Leipziger points out that the University's participation in the watershed project is strictly exploratory, since the Trinity proposal faces a long series of discussions by governmental officials and representatives of commerce and industry. But the exciting future which University planners envision for the river—creation of four new large cities along its banks and tremendous growth in four small towns (Waxahachie, Kaufman, Madisonville and Cleveland), as well as in Houston, Dallas and Fort Worth—may be well worth the wait.

Prof. Leipziger, whose international career has involved architectural assignments in Germany, France, Belgium, Sweden and Australia, has been devoting his talents to urban and regional planning in Texas since 1939.

He has set forth some of his philosophies in an article, "*The Roots and Directions of Organic Architecture*," in the new issue of the University's *Texas Quarterly*.

And he has turned theory into practice in a number of projects, the most recent being the completion of a master plan for architectural development of the North Texas city of Irving. In addition, his role as supervising consultant to the State Health Department's planning assistance program involves aid to some 100 Texas cities.

In his *Quarterly* article Prof. Leipziger urges that Architecture serve as a "visual language" for communication of ideas.



## RICE STUDENTS

George E. Fowler, III, a fifth year architectural student at Rice University, was announced as the winner of the William Ward Watkin Traveling Fellowship at the annual Architectural Awards Banquet. This fellowship carries a stipend of \$2,000 for a year's study in Europe.

Mr. Fowler submitted the winning solution in the design competition of a community church. The program for this problem was written by Pietro Belluschi, a noted church architect and Dean of the School of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Mr. Fowler will receive his Bachelor of Architecture degree this spring from Rice. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Fowler, Jr., of Dallas, and an honor graduate of Highland Park High School in Dallas. He is president of the Rice Architectural Society, an honor architectural fraternity, a member of the Rally Club, and in the Navy R.O.T.C. He was appointed a preceptee in the newly instigated Preceptorship Program at Rice University for honor architectural students.

Philip T. Y. Chang received Honorable Mention for the William Ward Watkin Traveling Fellowship, and was awarded the Mary Alice Elliott Loan Fund for Travel and Study in Architecture. This year Mr. Chang is one of the Black-Brollier Scholars in the fifth year architectural class and a preceptee under the Preceptorship Program. He will receive his Bachelor of Architecture degree from Rice this spring, and he already holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Chu Hai College, Hong Kong, China.

John H. Kell, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John H. Kell of San Antonio was the third place winner of the traveling fellowship and winner of the Blumcraft of Pittsburgh Scholarship in Architecture.

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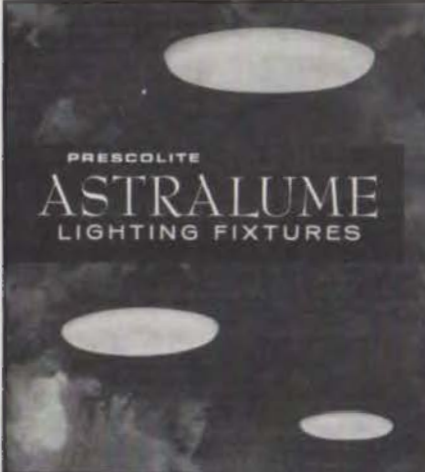
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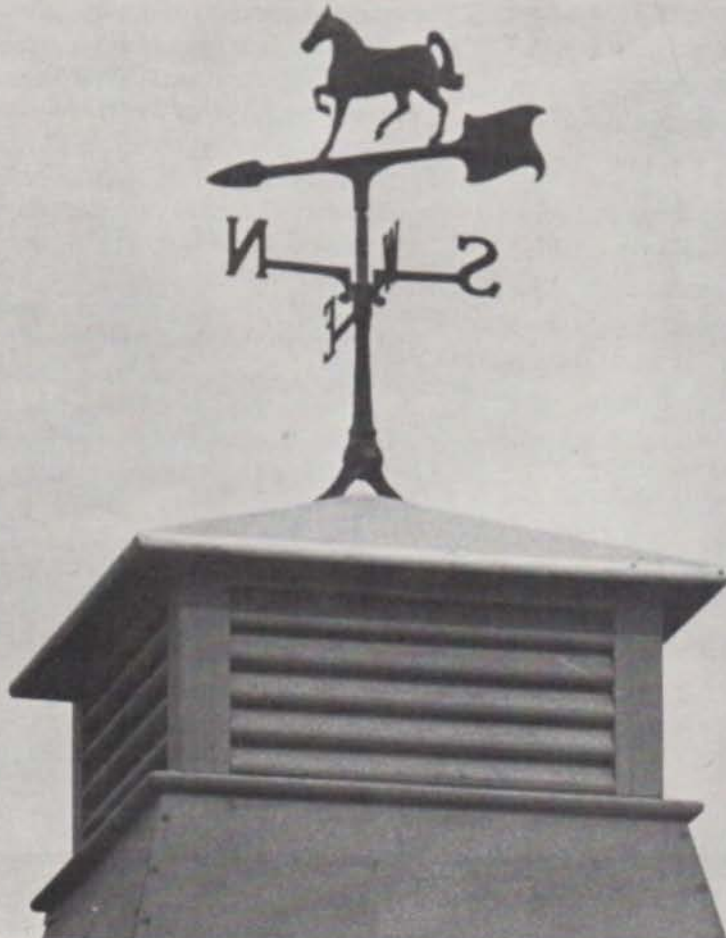


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