



**THE TEXAS
ARCHITECT**

AUGUST

1969



COVER PHOTO:

Post and beam construction, using laminated beams and columns and wood decking, is used to create a refined and dignified fellowship hall space at Clear Lake Presbyterian Church. The Clear Lake City project, designed by McKittrick, Drennan & Richardson, A.I.A., Architects, is a TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1968 selection.

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James D. Pfluger, AIA Editor

Don Edward Legge, AIA
Managing Editor

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CLEAR LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

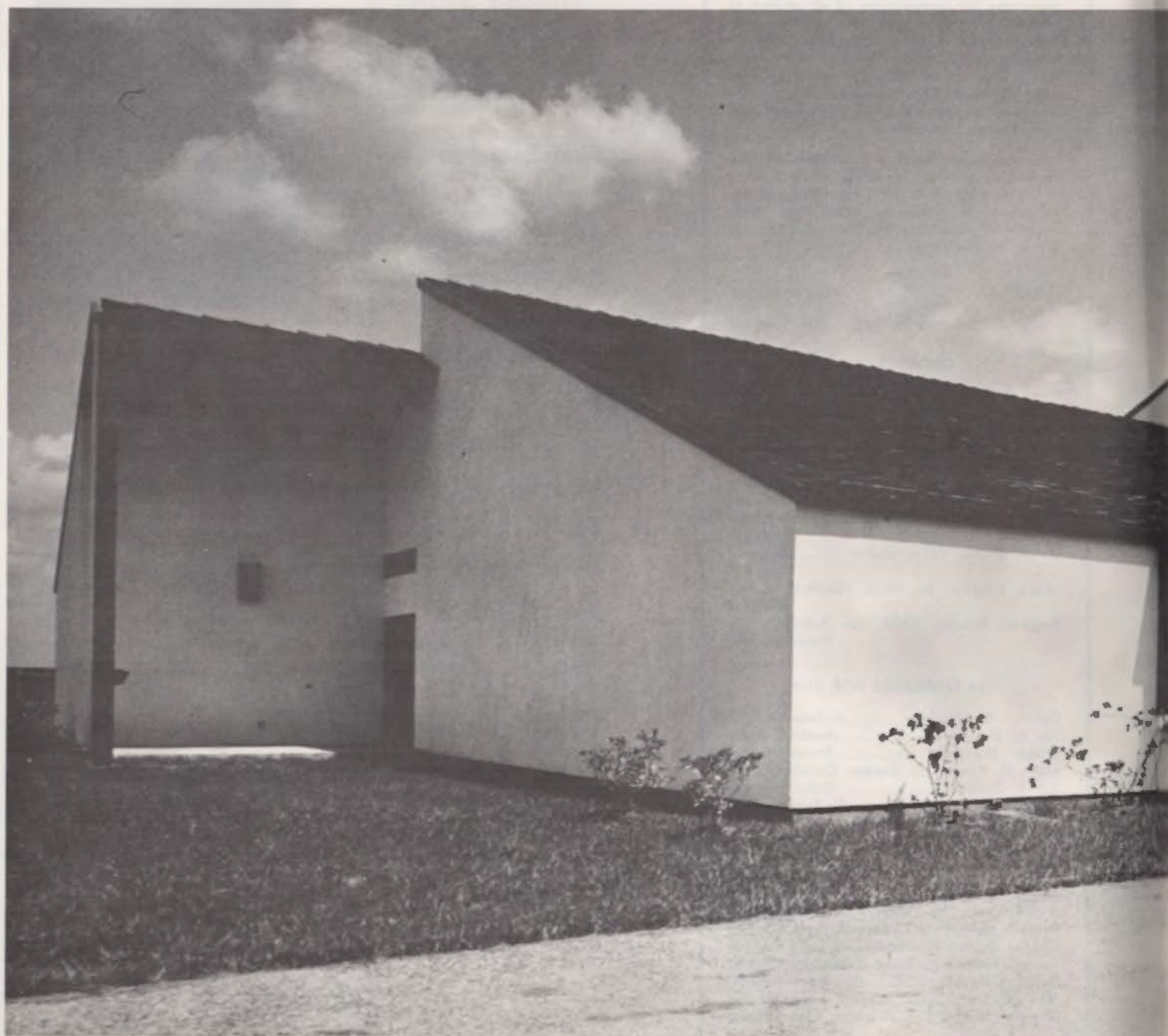
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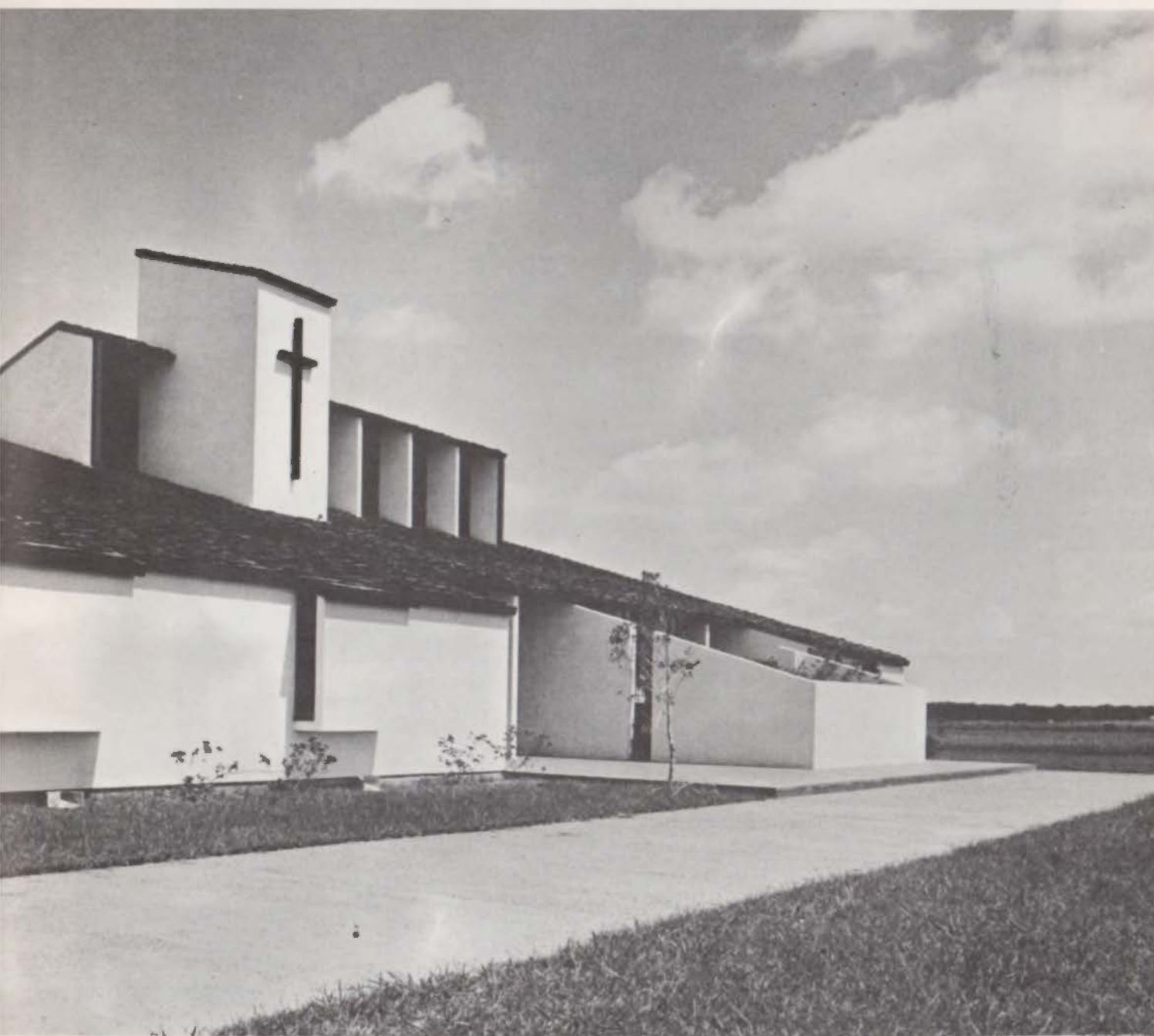
Rife Construction Company, General Contractor

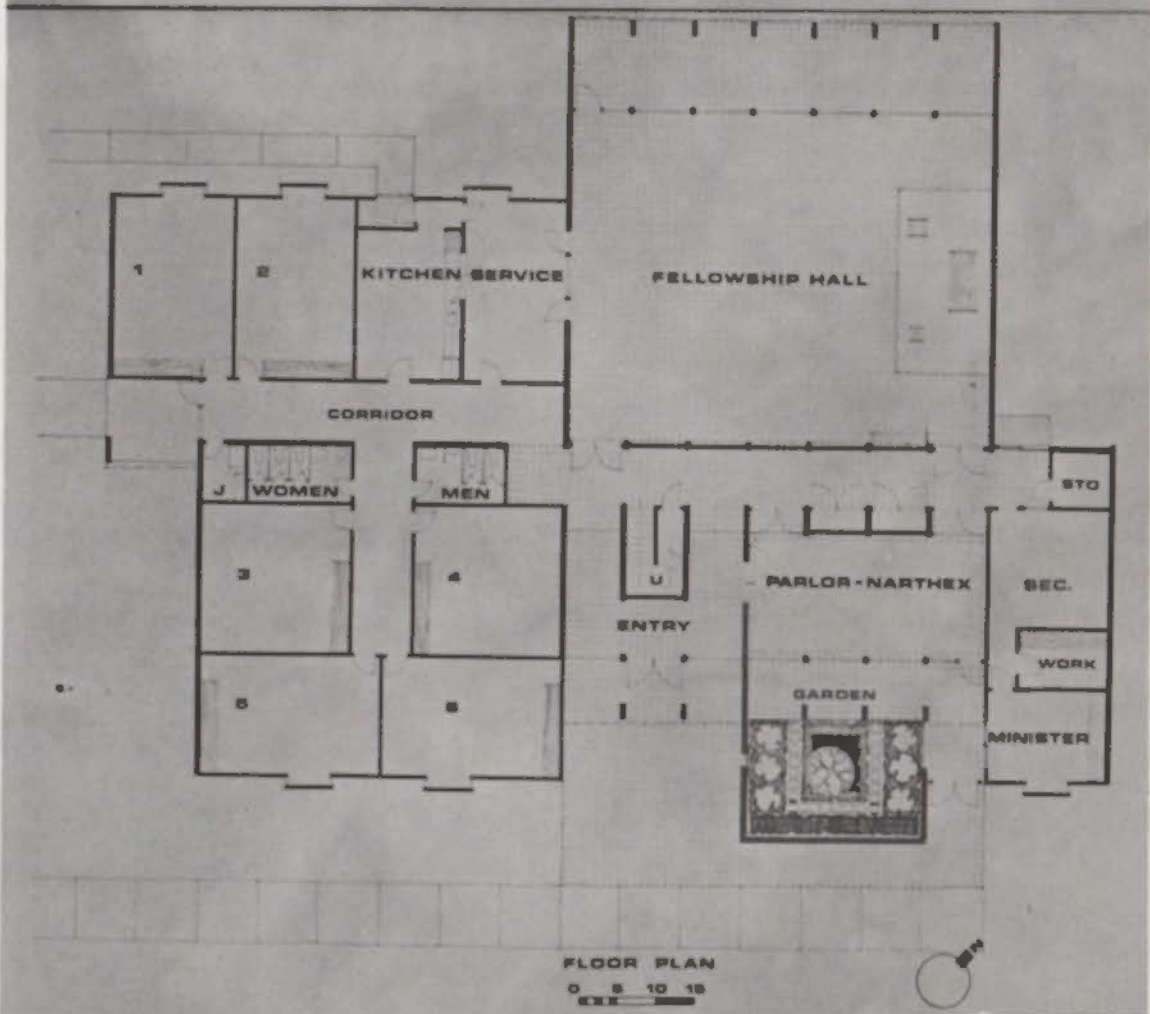
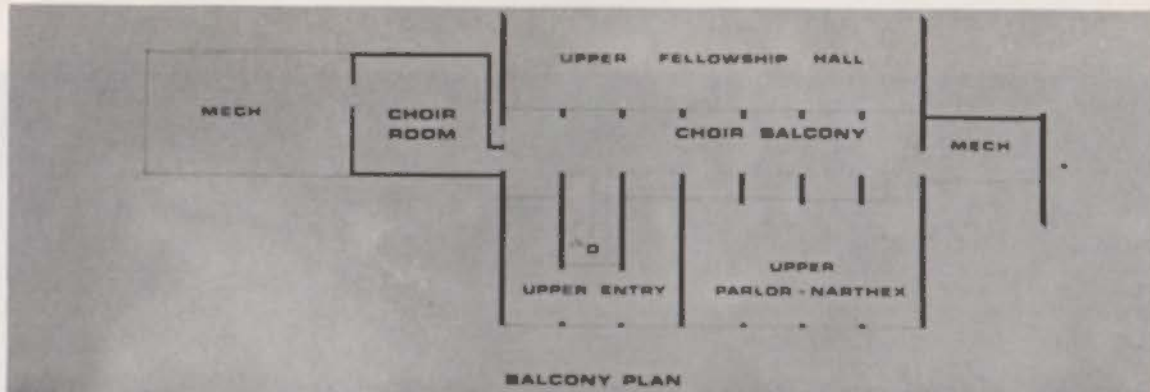
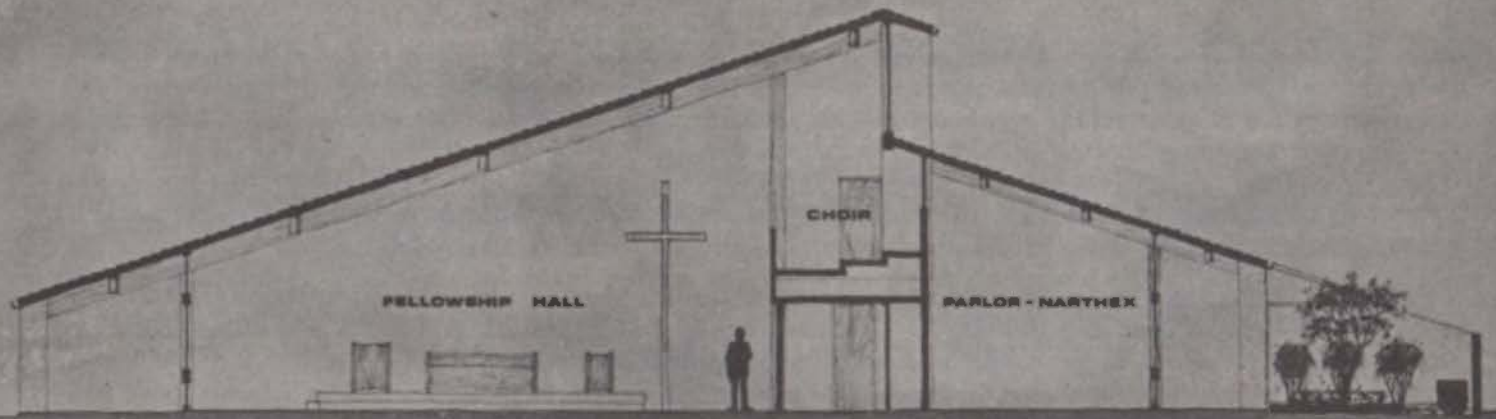
TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1968



THE PROBLEM: Design facilities for a suburban Presbyterian Church which expects to grow from a present membership of 175 to a maximum of 800 in five to ten years. Facilities for the immediate needs of the congregation should include a sanctuary with a choir loft, administrative offices, six classrooms, a kitchen with adjoining serving area, a parlor, a narthex, and appropriate circulation and service facilities. These first phase facilities should be convertible and adaptable to other functions as the Church grows and as various elements of the master plan are added. The future elements include a sanctuary, a chapel, a library, a fellowship hall (first phase sanctuary), a campanile, and 24 classrooms.

THE SOLUTION: The basic objective of the solution was to provide a spiritually satisfying facility for worship and study within the limitations of convertibility and a modest budget. A secondary objective was to create a structure which would be compatible but prominent within the context of a typical residential subdivision. The solution illustrated here uses the interrelation of simple geometric forms, strong value contrasts, and the angular thrusts of the structural system to develop the feelings of prominence and dynamic character which is thought to be appropriate in a facility of this type.







Photos by John Bintliff

CLEAR LAKE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CLEAR LAKE CITY





**THE STUDENTS & THE PROFESSION: THE FUTURE
1969 ASC / AIA TEXAS REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

Presentation by **RAYMOND REED**, Dean: Iowa State University

REFORMATION or REVOLUTION

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received for good or evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

Thus begins Charles Dickens novel of the French Revolution, *A Tale of Two Cities*, and my talk

to you entitled Reformation or Revolution . . .

There is much in common between our time and theirs. There is an awareness of social evils, a similar toleration of abuses that have long ceased to be tolerable, the same conviction on the part of the establishment that the system which they formed is destined to outlast the pyramids! Quoting Lord Chesterfield writing to his son in December 1753, "All the symptoms which I have ever met with in history, previous to great changes and revolutions in government, now exist, and daily increase . . ." We are bitterly aware of the contradiction between what we are and what we want to be. Some say that as a nation and as a profession that we are without purpose. That we

have encouraged license rather than permitted freedom.

Architects always rebel against their clients, up to the point of losing the job, and then acquiesce saying, "you can't produce a building without a client."

Educators and administrators have always fought for change up to the point of being fired and then retreat and regroup their forces to fight again another day. All of us want change as long as it does not threaten our status.

There is little that separates the student of architecture and the practitioner, we have common reasons for discontent.

I have recently been appointed as chairman of the A.I.A. Committee on Architectural Education. I joined the A.I.A. eight years ago after bitterly opposing as a student, educator, and practitioner what I called the Association of Inept Architects. I was challenged to join by a friend who said, "If you don't like it, help change it, and this can only be done if you are a member." And so I climbed into the barrel with the other fish, and I have not regretted my action. It is the only effective medium for effecting change within the profession.

But, I do regret that the changes are too small and too slow in coming. Immediately, after my appointment as education chairman, I requested ideas as to what the Education Committee should do from the student chapters, from practitioners, and from educators throughout the country. Within five days, I received some eighty-two (82) separate letters containing particular suggestions. It became immediately apparent, that in reacting to particular problems we would dissipate our strength and effectiveness.

We must establish a priority of tasks that will group the strengths of students, practitioners and educators of the design professions into a common purpose.

What are our commonalities?

What should be our priorities?

What do students, practitioners and educators have in common?

Discontent and the hope for a better world. Additionally it is my personal belief that all of us

are sincere in wanting to build a better environment.

That we enjoy T.V. illusions and not the reality of individual adventures. That we wish to be entertained. That we are more interested in making a living, than living life. That we want authority without accountability. That our rewards must be immediate. That committees are better than individuals, not because they group strengths but because they balance weaknesses. That we feel incapable as individuals of building the world we want within the established system. And that as idealists we feel cheated, bitter, cynical, negative and critical.

There must be a reformation of our countries systems or there will be revolution.

Should the United States do little to provide a designed humane environment, the demands of increased millions will lower the quality of life below the standards of human dignity. Life sentences in the slums will discourage patriotism. Environmental discontent will force the frustrated, and the slum dwellers to join the revolutionaries. Blood has already been shed. Our cities have already begun to burn. There must be a revolutionary increase in our abilities to build a better world or there will be revolution. Any attempt by ultra conservatives to rigidly legislate a return to "the good old days" will only fan the flames to greater intensity. The winds of change are upon us . . .

But these can be the *Best Of Times*, and not the worst, if we as architects accept the tasks before us.

We must first recognize that civil rights are environmental rights. Housing, education, clean, safe and enjoyable cities, work and recreational opportunities describe our environment, not our politics.

We cannot legislate an environment, we can only build one. If we have failed as a nation and as a profession to build a world that expresses our ideals, we must change our nation and our profession.

The most important fact I can express to you is that builders are more important than lawyers.

If we can build a country that reflects our values, fewer laws will be needed. Laws are written to correct failures.

Those who design and build our cities are more important than the legislatures. If we design and build well, fewer laws are needed to regulate the frustrated . . . fewer artificial restraints need be placed upon the individual . . . If on the the other hand we permit the rape of our natural and human resources by those insensitive to or disdainful to human wants and needs, laws proliferate, political domination of the individual increases, and the voice of humanity and justice is hushed across the land.

Ideally, architects are more important than lawyers. Environment more important than law . . . but not architects as we now know them, nor the environment we now experience.

Students in general and architectural students in particular believe that their elders have failed. There is the possibility that the generation gap within our profession may destroy architecture. If this happens, it will be because we will have spent more time arguing over differences than directing our common purposes and strengths into positive and significant action.

We must recognize that student unrest is not a unique product of the sixties.

As a student, I made good grades and rebelled (within an inch of the limits permitted by the university administration), and so did most architects now practicing. As a practitioner, I received awards in design excellence, for buildings that have little to do with the central problems of our society, other practitioners have, and I'm sure that you will too.

As an educator and administrator, I am continually in hot water for constantly rebelling (within an inch of acceptable limits) against archaic academic protocol and with wellmeaning, personable, tenured and often ineffectual professors teaching obsolete irrelevancies. And, perhaps you will too . . . (within an inch of acceptable limits) . . .

This phrase "within an inch of acceptable limits" is an important phrase. Students have always rebelled, up to the point, or within an inch of loosing student status and then conform saying, "what do we gain if we lose our diploma?"

If this is true, we have enough to reform our society and justify our profession . . .

REFORMATION or REVOLUTION

Now, what should we do . . . What should be our order of priorities . . .

I believe that this can be answered by giving you a design problem.

The problem statement reads as follows:
Design Problem:

Title And Problem: *What is the function of the United States?*

Discussion: To design anything or any of its component parts you must first understand what that thing must do, what function it must perform. If this is true, what is the function of the United States? If a building is to function within a city we must know the cities function within the nation. If the function of the United States is to feed the world we should not plant people in cities on land where we should plant corn; or if the function of our country is to "save the world for democracy" we should use less nitrates to fertilize our fields and pollute our rivers and make more nitroglycerine to bomb other countries into democratic salvation. As individuals and as a profession we must reach agreement on this design problem, and then effectively express our solution to gather the allies and strength, and command of our talents to build a better world.

Our education has made slaves of us. Our minds are our best prisons. For example, in our design classes we were first given little problems, like the design of a chair, or a dormitory room, and told to accept as legitimate the concept of dormitories, (we were forced to accept the environment in which we were to design), later we were given office buildings, and banks or museums, provided with surrounding site information and again were forced to accept the environment within which we were to design. Later at the graduate level, we even were asked to design small cities and again forced to accept the fact that the city had a legitimate function within the county, state and nation . . .

As a result, the majority of us will work all of our lives, designing individual buildings for our individual satisfaction, buildings, and we will die knowing that all of our fine work probably had nothing to do with the central issues of our time . . . It has been said that "Architects are brilliantly designing exactly the wrong thing." Unless individually and collectively we answer the questions:

What is the function of the United States?

What cities are essential to that function? How can these cities become more efficient?

What cities should be eliminated or allowed to die?

How many people-of what capabilities-should be placed where-to develop what human and natural resources-when to optimize the development of human and natural resources?

Only when questions are answered can we as architects work with common and relevant purpose . . .

I believe that there are several concepts that we should explore to determine our common purpose. We must first be prepared as individuals and as a profession for extreme changes in our environment. The marble bones of Greece and Rome, the pyramids of Egypt and Yucatan, the shrinking empires of England and France testify that nations and civilizations can die.

It is possible that we may overextend our resources and be plunged into a depression easily as severe as 1929. If this happens, many of our glutted cities will be depopulated. Many nonessential services will fail. Urban unemployment will force those capable of leaving the cities to new small towns to work the fields. Chickens might replace sports cars in our garages. Education will be more practical of shorter duration and available to fewer people. Higher education and the arts will suffer. Politically, we will become more conservative. The need for efficient inexpensive mass transportation will force the return of superior rail services.

There will be need for logical sites for new towns to be built along the rights of way of efficient mass transit systems to accommodate a decentralized population of small towns. These systems will use the navigable waterways, the railroads, and the rights of way of our super highways.

The architecture for either a depressed or affluent massive population will require design concepts based upon the minimal use of the lowest acceptable materials.

The architectural concept of "less is more" will be essential to a depressed population unable to afford anything more than basic requirements. This same concept will be essential to meet the

expanded needs of the affluent society.

Architectural concepts founded on the conservation of human and natural resources will be the architects concepts of our future.

If on the other hand someone invents a black box, that provides unlimited amounts of inexpensive energy to all citizens, certain changes will result.

There will be a depopulation of cities by people who no longer need to live close to their work, and by people displaced by more efficient machines. Less people will be needed to support the needs of society. New cities will be built for the primary purpose of consuming the good life. Efficient mass transit systems will be necessary to handle the increased mobility made possible with more leisure. Higher education will flourish and may continue for the life of many individuals. Specialization will flourish. Philosophy, social sciences and the arts will flourish as the primary challenge shifts from making a living to the meaning of life. There are commonalities of these two extremes that suggest that as architects we should as a united group of design professionals actively pursue the following actions and policies.

- 1) We should initiate a survey of the existing resources available to the United States. We should form intelligent plans to logically distribute human and natural resources to meet either of the two extremes of environments mentioned, and significant increments between these extremes. If this information is available to the joint chiefs of staff to defend our country, it should be available to us to build a nation that justifies their defense efforts.

We should immediately survey the capabilities of our design professions and schools to develop these resources and formulate logical plans to support existing centers of excellence and to establish new schools in logical areas to meet future needs.

- 2) Knowing that population increases will demand future cities, a policy should be established to permit government reservations of townsites spaced to optimally develop local resources without overloading the mass transit systems. This would permit optimal relocation of the population, logical development

REFORMATION or REVOLUTION

of human and natural resources, eliminate land speculation and the chaos of conflicting local zoning ordinances, school and sewer districts that currently prohibit logical urban design. If we can reserve national parks for public recreation we can reserve land for public urban construction.

- 3) Efficient mass transit systems are essential to whatever future we may experience. The automobile and truck cannot survive a depression, nor can our cities support the automobile in a period of unlimited affluence. The airplane cannot economically transport raw materials needed for industry, the majority of its finished products, a depressed population, nor the unlimited travel demands of an affluent society. Foul weather at O'Hara airport in Chicago or Kennedy airport in New York literally closes down the United States. We have put all of our transportation eggs in one basket that can easily be dropped. Rail transportation is an absolute necessity.

The students and practitioners of the environmental design professions should actively campaign for the rapid development of superior and widespread rail travel. The current inequitable subsidies given to airlines, and to states to build more super highways should be reversed in favor of a workable national mass transit rail system.

- 4) If we have a depression, we will have to depopulate low density suburbs, (people will not be able to maintain cars), densities in the urban cores and in small towns will increase as people are forced to rediscover the function of their feet. If we have affluence, increased education will reduce the fears that currently force many to the isolated comfort of trees, birds and bees. The increased desire for "the full life" will encourage increased densities of heterogeneous people that permit the delightful variety of urban life. Increased recognition that humanity is the relationships of man to his fellow man, and not to trees and lawns will encourage increased densities.

If the status quo is maintained, increased densities will permit us to increase the population tax base, and reduce the costs of those services such as street maintenance, water, electric and sewer services, street lighting, police and fire protection, etc. that are geo-

metrically proportional to the perimeter served . . . To me, it is clear that concepts encouraging increased densities of people to live in comfort are essential to any architecture of the future. I believe increased density is a concept that we should commonly campaign to achieve.

- 5) I believe we must reconsider professional involvement in current programs of government sponsored housing and urban renewal projects. It is obvious to me that urban renewal and legalistically organized urban planning education as now organized is a failure. In the best year of urban renewal we were able as a nation to convert three thousand acres of urban lands to better uses. During that same year and every year since we have built over a millions acres of slums.

Our slums are increasing three hundred times more rapidly than our attempts at urban renewal . . . The housing and urban renewal programs are so stuffed with bureaucratic procedures as to discourage all but the most patient architects and often untalented architects. We must determine and renew those cities essential to the national function and wellbeing of our citizens. We must simultaneously deny financial and professional assistance to those who irresponsibly subdivide land. The perimeters of all cities must be restricted to increase their efficiency and opportunity for urbane life and to permit the urban dweller ready access to the delights of rural countrysides.

Every small town contractor in the country is competing for low or no interest federal subsidies to build unneeded houses or nursing homes for the elderly. Most are shoddily constructed and many lie vacant. This is a depletion of natural resources, and a misuse of badly needed construction technology.

I believe we should immediately campaign as a united profession to prohibit the willy nilly construction of subsidized projects in communities of uncertain futures.

Lastly, I seriously question the abilities of the university to provide an adequate and complete education in the design professions.

In architectural education we must prepare our-

selves to intelligently use whatever materials and technology that may be available. As the possibilities are extreme, less emphasis should be placed upon a mastery of conventional materials and methods of architectural practice. Increased emphasis should be placed upon the ability to synthesize a broad range of human and natural resources. Increased emphasis must be placed on the development of individual aptitudes, less on traditional professional conformities. We should strive to encourage resilient minds rather than better memories.

Quoting Louis Sullivan: "It is disquieting to note that the system of education on which we lavish funds with such generous, even prodigal hand, falls short of fulfilling its true democratic function, and that particularly in the so-called higher branches its tendency daily appears to be more reactionary, more feudal. It is not an agreeable reflection that so many of our university graduates lack the trained ability to see clearly, and to think simply, concisely, constructively; that perhaps there is more showing of cynicism than good faith, seemingly more destructful of men than confidence in them, and withal, no consummate ability to interpret things." I believe his words ring true today.

There is much that a university can teach. The science of linking materials together into compatible symbiotic systems that stand up. The ability to express values in words, the ability to understand and communicate with others who possess differing values. But I seriously question the ability of university sociologists to show us how to build a better society, and the ability of our design instructors to simulate superior and workable solutions to the building problems that are immediately upon us. The contrast between the beautifully rendered beautiful buildings produced during thousands of hours of student labor in isolated studios, dominated by inspired master teachers of design, many of whom have not built a building in years, and the immediate and depressing reality of our crumbling cities is, in my eyes, criminal.

Equally criminal is the requirement for three years of unspecified professional internship, that sometimes enforces irrelevant slave labor and subservience to systems of questionable value or performance.

I personally believe that the practitioner and the

design professor should organize and direct the fourth and fifth year students of five year programs or the fifth and sixth year students of a six year program, into direct community action programs. I realize that this presents problems.

We could not knock off for summer vacation until we had completed our work. We would produce fewer beautiful renderings, and perhaps miss some of the joys of campus life. But more of our buildings would be built, and we could gain the confidence and understanding of our communities. We could gain their much needed strength and support. We could gain the ability to work with real people on relevant problems. We could immediately attack the central problems of our society. We could gain the continuing education the practitioner wants and we could unite and strengthen the design professions, the students, and the faculty into a common and socially relevant profession.

We must commit our lives to these tasks, or by default assist in the suicide of a profession, a country, and a civilization that failed to express its values. If we fail, the spark of civilization will jump from a burned out country to others more willing to burn with brilliant purpose.

Quoting Chardin: "Let me beg you to rise for a moment above the dust and smoke obscuring the horizon and gaze with me at the course of the world."

There must be a revolutionary increase in our capabilities to build a humane environment or there will be revolution.

And, returning to Sidney Carton at the scaffold in the last pages of "A Tale of Two Cities". . . "I see a beautiful city and a brilliant people rising from this abyss, and, in their struggles to be truly free, in their triumphs and defeats, through long years to come, I see the evil of this time and of the previous time of which this is the natural birth, gradually making expiation for itself and wearing out. I see the lives for which I lay down my life, peaceful, prosperous, and happy . . . It is a far, far better thing that I do, than I have ever done: It is a far, far better rest that I go to than I have ever known."

I pray that our last words may be as great. Thank you. ■

APPA AWARDS PROGRAM FOR UTILITY DESIGN 1968-1969

GROWING PUBLIC INTEREST IN A PLEASANT ENVIRONMENT HAS INDICATED THE IMPORTANCE OF AESTHETIC CONSIDERATIONS IN MANY AREAS, INCLUDING UTILITY DESIGN. RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF EXCELLENCE IN UTILITY DESIGN, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN PUBLIC POWER ASSOCIATION IN 1967 AUTHORIZED A BIENNIAL AWARDS PROGRAM FOR UTILITY DESIGN WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF STIMULATING AESTHETIC CONSIDERATION BY LOCAL, PUBLICLY-OWNED ELECTRIC UTILITIES AND FOCUSING ATTENTION ON PROJECTS OF APPA MEMBERS WHICH HAVE ACHIEVED EXCELLENCE OF UTILITY DESIGN.

Acknowledgement of APPA Awards Program by Dr. Robert C. Weaver,
Past Secretary of Housing and Urban Development

I congratulate the American Public Power Association on the inauguration of its biennial Awards Program for Utility Design. Programs such as this can contribute significantly to public awareness of the importance of design in all efforts to improve the quality of the environment.

We at HUD have a deep concern with design and its human impact. In my message inviting entries in our last Design Awards Program, I said:

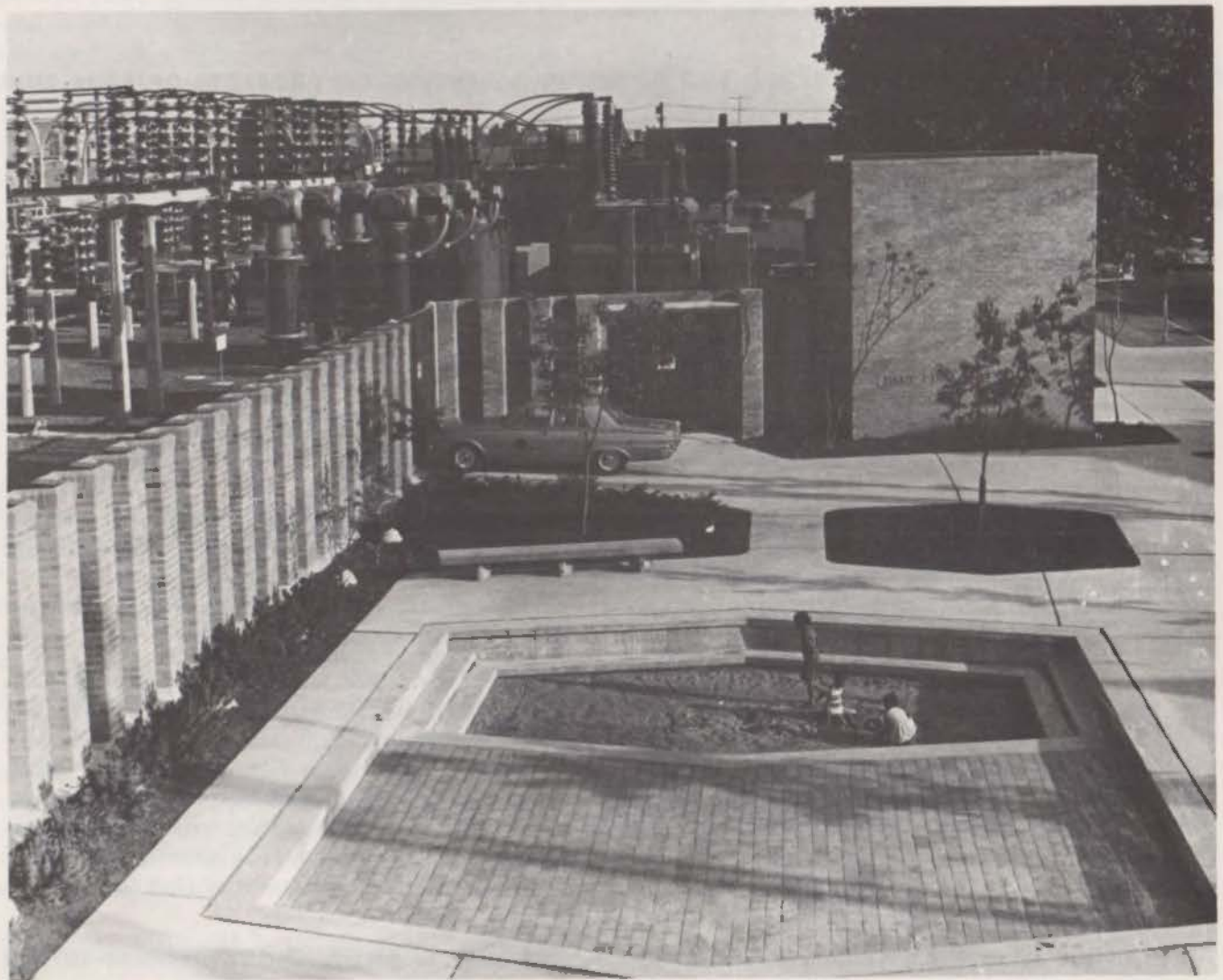
Our concern with design is not with appearance only, important as this is. We are concerned with how well and with what degree of harmony a project serves all segments of the community. We are concerned with whether it encourages the social growth and economic advancement of people. We are concerned with whether it contributes to a general pattern of the city that is diverse, yet comfortable, identifiable, and efficient for the activities of all its citizens. We are concerned not only with the design of the project, but with the planning of neighborhoods and whole communities with urban design. In essence, urban design is the recognition and inclusion of human values in the physical structure of our cities, and is therefore fundamental to the quality of urban life. It is essential that the concern for good design and planning permeate all of our efforts and programs.

As President Johnson has pointed out, "Unless we begin now to restore the environment in and

around our cities, we will be condemning a large part of our population to an ugly, drab, and mechanical fate." This restoration can best begin with a clear image for all citizens of how their city can be. Every city should have a clear and unequivocal comprehensive physical design for its future—a statement of how it should be to improve the life of all of its residents. This should include a physical design for every part of the metropolis that preserves unique terrain and views, beloved landmarks, and historic open spaces—and maintains sensitive guidelines for new construction of all kinds.

HUD programs are helping communities to plan better, provide better housing and neighborhoods, improve business areas, increase recreational opportunities, eliminate slums and blight, create parks

As well as providing open space and a recreation area, East Pine substation was given an architectural treatment which dramatizes electricity. It includes a 16-foot high platform from which the substation can be viewed by visitors, and several ornamental bronze gates through which passers-by may see the equipment. A descriptive plaque explaining the various devices in the substation is being installed at the top of the viewing tower. The substation contributes to the community and is an excellent example of the blending of the various disciplines involved: The manipulation of engineering, architectural, landscape and recreational assets into one comprehensive piece of design.

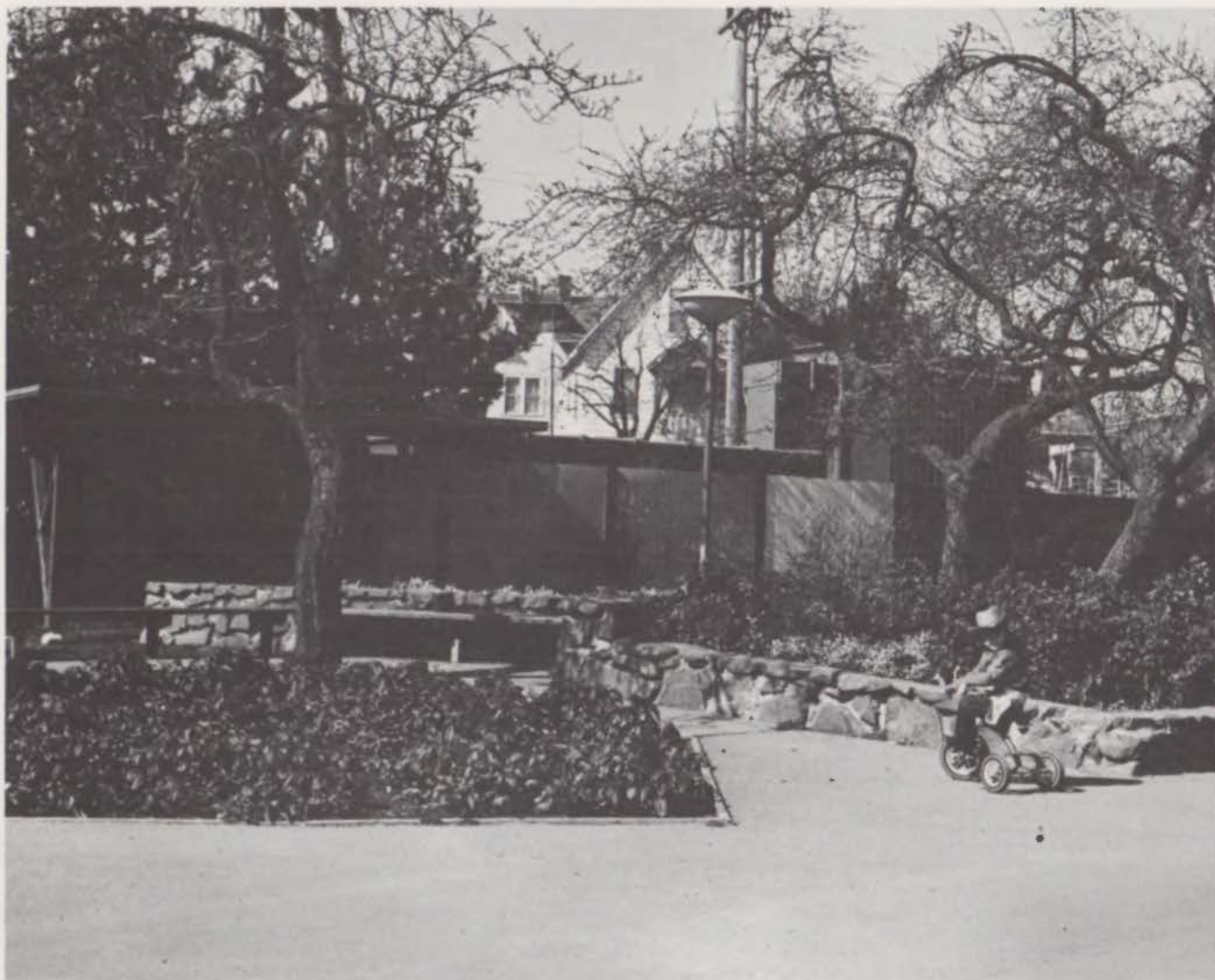


and open space, restore areas, sites, and structures of historic or architectural value, and provide the community facilities necessary for healthy and satisfying urban living.

Through our various demonstration grant programs we are supporting the investigation and practical testing of innovative ideas in key urban development fields—urban renewal, low-income housing, planning, urban mass transportation, open space, urban beautification, and historic preservation. In

The Seward Substation is an example of a unit substation, with factory packaged units combining the functions of transformation, voltage regulation and switching. These units were designed so that they offer the public small park-like spaces with play courts and seating areas. Seward Substation added over 8,000 square feet of landscaped park-like area and less than one-ninth of the 9,019 square feet of the station is occupied by substation equipment.

Three Italian prune trees which were originally on the property have been retained. On a smaller scale than the East Pine Substation, Seward Substation represents the same clear thinking and approach to community values that can be achieved in the design of a necessary public facility.



addition, under the Model Cities program, 75 first-round cities are undertaking urban design on a more intensive basis than ever before to find out how to rebuild their most neglected neighborhoods—not just the real estate, but the life of the community.

We have been striving to endow all our programs with the quality of humanism which is a fundamental of design and to encourage grace and beauty in all the different kinds of physical development which we assist.

We have encouraged the use of works of art in urban renewal projects and in other assisted construction. We have held design conferences, such as the one last year on Design in Urban Transportation, which emphasized the national need for a stronger concern with the esthetic, social, and urban design aspects of mass transportation development.

I have established an urban design staff in my office with the objective of raising the quality of design in all HUD programs. I have also appointed Regional Advisory Committees on Design and Plann-

Underground distribution project in the Hillcrest Division of West Seattle. This photograph depicts the area before the undergrounding. In its entry, Seattle City Light noted that its service area "abounds in hills and water areas and is surrounded by snow-covered mountains resulting in spectacular views, most of them marred by utility wires and poles."

APPA AWARDS PROGRAM



ing to advise the Regional Administrators in our seven regions on ways and means of encouraging good design and planning on a continuing basis.

These are only the highlights of the emphasis which HUD is giving to quality of design. The problems and the needs, of course, extend far beyond one Federal department. They concern all levels of government, private business, and all citizens—individually and as members of communities and associations. ■

Underground distribution project in the Hillcrest Division of West Seattle. This photograph depicts the area after the undergrounding was completed.

This project involved an eight block area of approximately 103 lots and 77 homes. A total of 43 poles, 12 transformers and 23,000 feet of wire were removed.

In 1960, City Light embarked on an accelerated undergrounding program and has converted eleven projects involving 474 units, from overhead to underground distribution. Many more units are nearing completion.

FOR UTILITY DESIGN



Are you building high operating costs into someone else's new home?

**An all-gas Blue Star home
means low energy bills and
a lot less maintenance!**

That's a powerful sales point to make! The combination of modern gas heating, air conditioning, cooking, water heating and yard lighting saves the homeowner thousands of dollars over the period of his mortgage. Hotels, motels, schools and office buildings also benefit when gas energy is included in the plans. Gas economy and reliability... two big sales appeal features that can work for you!





Credits: Third National Bank Bldg., Nashville, Tenn.; Architect: Brush, Hutchison & Gwinn; Gen. Contractor: Henry C. Beck Co.; Terrazzo Contractor: Art Mosaic & Tile Co.

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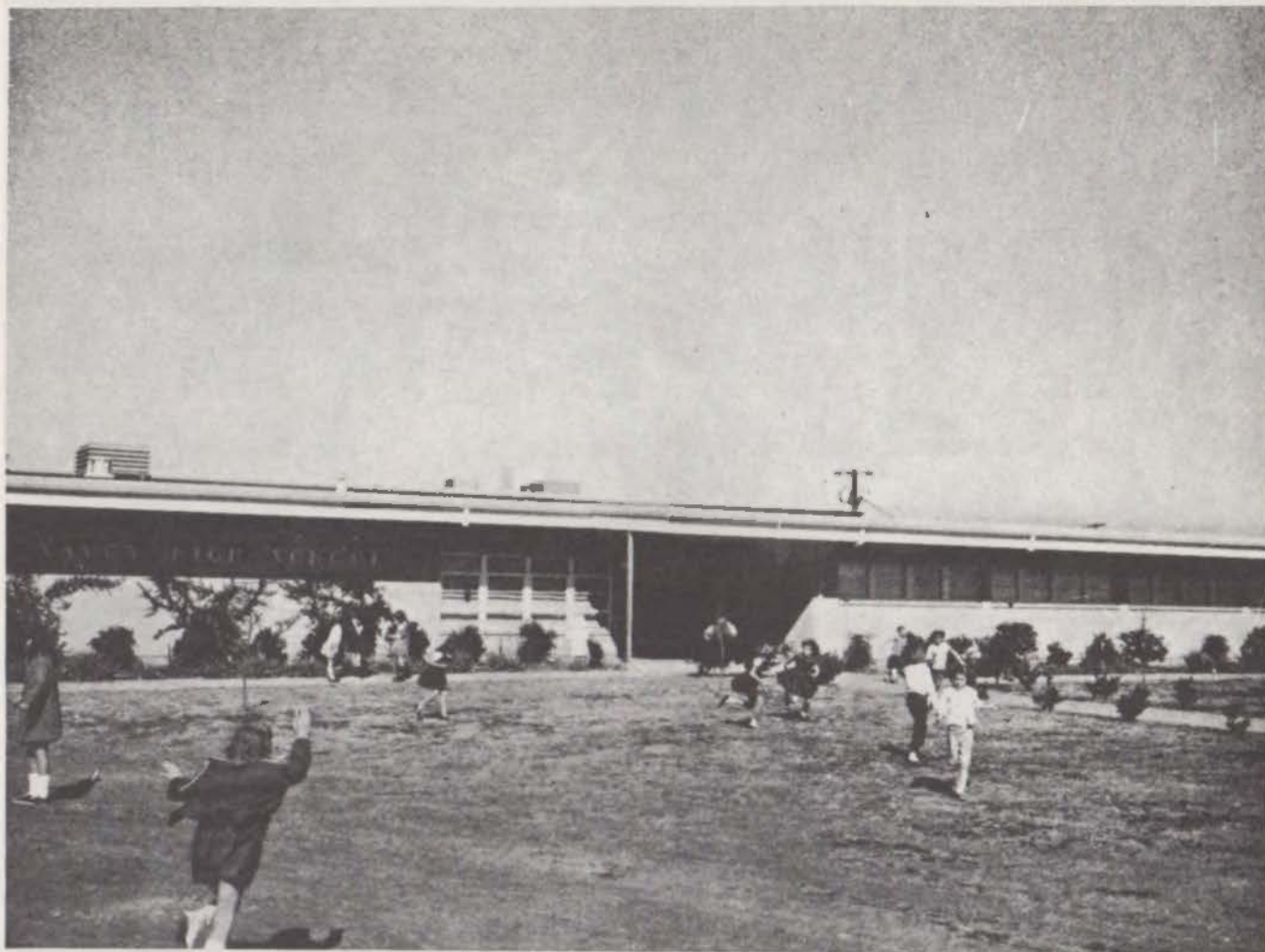
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element that improves behavior and learning patterns. Savoy High School has seen such obvious benefits from their all electric systems that similar service is being added to their most recent expansion program.

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THE PRESBYTERIAN MANSE

TEXAS HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURE

excerpts from a graphical essay by

Larry Johnson, Texas Technological College

To relate The Presbyterian Manse in Jefferson, Texas to the Greek Revival Style, one must examine the regional influences near the area of Jefferson in 1840. As the Greek Revival style spread throughout the United States its influence spread along the Gulf Coast and largely into New Orleans. Latrobe, Strickland, and Mills had all done works in New Orleans, so the style had been accurately spread to this area by the three most influential Architects of the time. From New Orleans the influence spread up the

Mississippi River, along the Coast, and south and west into Texas. The Jefferson area was comprised of a variety of influences and sources, definite and difficult climate conditions, and characteristic living ways derived from a hodge-podge of French, Spanish, and American influences. The Greek Revival style proved its vitality and adaptability by overcoming various obstacles and by furnishing congenial forms into which this combined inheritance could flow.

Photo by Todd Webb from "TEXAS HOMES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY"





view of main entry as seen in 1936

Another possible reason that this influential and popular Classical style swept through the country was because its principle idea was not to create Greek temples, but to find the best answers for the pressing building problems of the growing communities in terms of the styles and taste then current.

The Presbyterian Manse in Jefferson, Texas is the oldest house now standing there. The building was built in 1840 as the home of William Ochiltree, a well known judge active in the affairs of the State of Texas. The house, now called "The Manse", was built by General James Harrison Rogers and is a fine example of the Greek Revival in Texas. The Architect, if any, is unknown. This possibly illustrates a practice of erecting buildings in the Greek Revival style designed from pattern books brought from Europe or from different parts of the United States. The house served as the Presbyterian Manse from 1880 for about fifty years, before acquisition by the Jesse Allen Wise Garden Club in 1954. Between 1930 and 1954 the house was evidently overlooked and became run down. After the Garden Club renewed an interest in the Historical significance of the building, it was restored with the liberal use of wall paper reproductions reflecting the era,

and is furnished with blending antique furniture. At present, the building is in excellent condition both inside and outside and is open to the public for visitation.

The house is a one story wood framed structure. Carved woodwork is outstanding for the architecture of this period in Texas and reflects the wealth of the Jefferson area. The hip roof pitch is typical of the style at a ratio of 5 1/2:12, and was originally of wood shakes or shingles. Even the wide plank oak flooring is in excellent condition. The plan is typical of the Greek Revival style in both size and design. The building is 40'x50' with the reception hall extending halfway down the length of the house at a height of 13'2". The original plan was rigidly symmetrical, with the main rooms opening onto the hallway. Two fireplaces were placed symmetrically opposite each other allowing the heat to be more equally distributed to all of the rooms. Not typical of the Greek Revival plan and possibly derived from French or Spanish influence, is an entrance on one side. The house is located on a corner lot, which is a logical reason for having two entries. The front or main entry has more elaborate details to emphasize its importance over the other. As typical in most Greek Revival houses, a rear doorway is symmetrically



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opposite the main doorway on the rear wall. Untypical, again are two rear doors leading from two rear rooms, which are unsymmetrical and which tend to suggest that they were introduced after initial construction. A later addition was added to the rear of the building and is of no architectural value, and detracts from the overall appearance of the house. ■

Article layout by Donald W. Roberts

interior photo taken in 1936 showing corner boards, chair railing wainscoting and wide oak flooring

TYPICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE GREEK REVIVAL STYLE

CLASSICAL DETAIL AND PROPORTIONS

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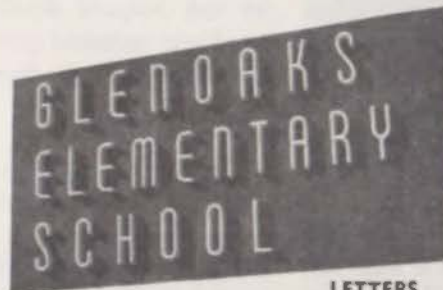
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George Pierce-Abel B. Pierce

The office of George Pierce—Abel B. Pierce, Architects, Engineers and Planners, A.I.A., Houston announced appointment of new associates: O. C. Bartholomew, Jr., Tom K. Rodgers and Logic Tabola, II. Bartholomew has been with the firm 5 years and is a graduate of Louisiana State University. Rodgers has been with the firm 11 years and is a graduate of University of Cincinnati. Tobola has been with the firm 4 years and is a graduate of University of Texas.

Wheeler & Stefoniak

L. M. Gernsbacher has joined the office of Wheeler & Stefoniak, A.I.A., Architects and Planners, Dallas, as Associate Architect.

TEXAS SOCIETY of ARCHITECTS



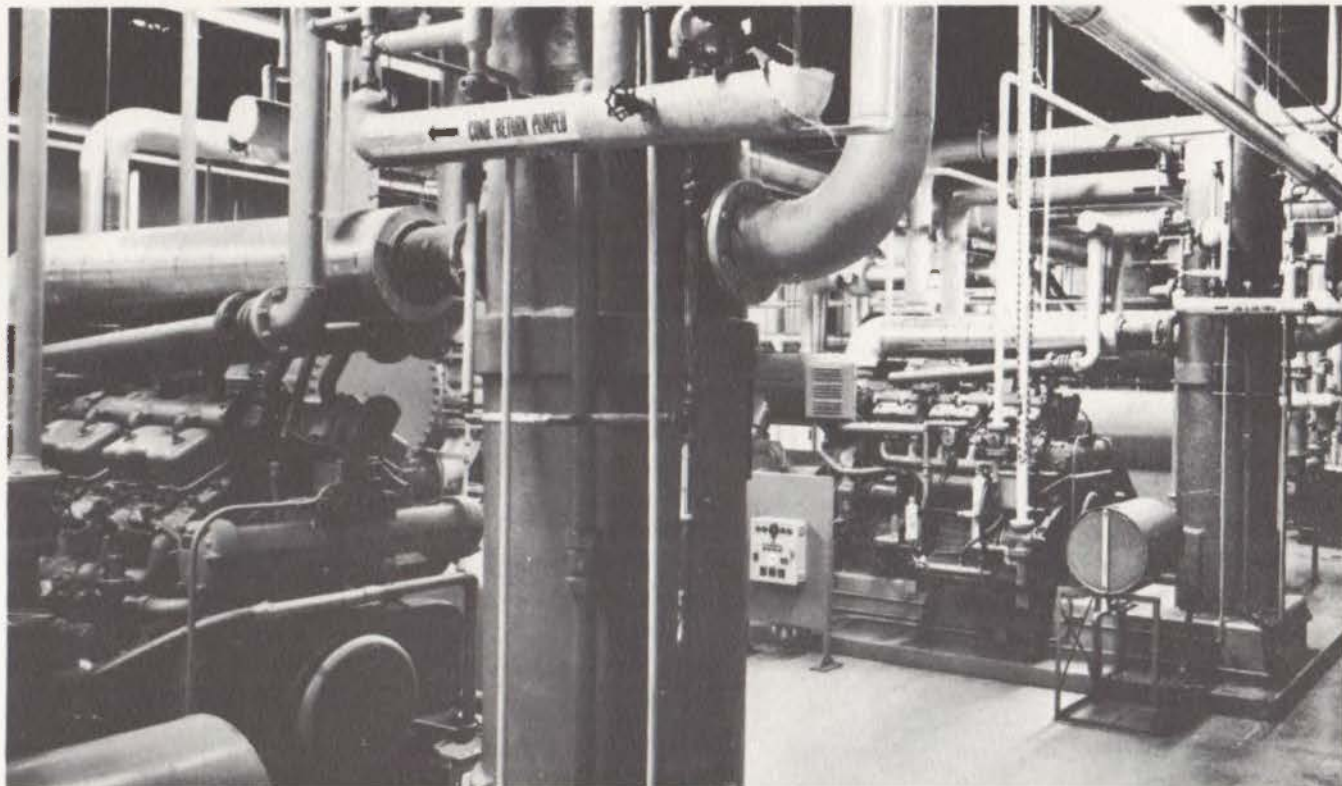
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