

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

NEW CHAPTER OFFICIALS NAMED

SAVING MONEY IN CONSTRUCTION

HOUSTON GOLD MEDAL AWARD WINNER

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

ARCHITECTS ACTIVE IN PREVENTING SLUMS

**DECEMBER
1953**

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INSIDE THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

Saving Money in Construction	3
New Chapter Officials Are Named	5
Houston Gold Medal Award Winner	4
Committee Appointments Announced	3
Architects Active in Preventing Slums	6

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 16-19—Winter 1953 examinations for registration to practice architecture, at Department of Architecture, Texas University, Austin.

February 13-18—School Building Architectural Exhibit, sponsored jointly by AASA-AIA, at Atlantic City, N. J.



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SAVING MONEY IN CONSTRUCTION

With current and increasing emphasis on economy, particularly on getting full value for money expended in private and public construction, it is interesting to note two recent editorials by Harold Richardson, editor of "Construction Methods and Equipment".

Mr. Richardson believes that one single construction union, instead of the many such unions we now have, would (1) lower the cost of building and (2) stabilize conditions and operations in the construction industry. He cites a case, reportedly brought up by a long-time union member, in which a contractor wanted a single waterpipe run through a residence wall. In order to do the job, five crafts were called upon: a carpenter removed the baseboard, brick masons opened a hole in the wall, electricians came in to remove wires, sheet metal men removed a hot air duct, and a plumber installed the pipe. Before the job is finished, it may be necessary to call all of these crafts back, and then add plasterers and painters to the roll call.

In place of this procedure, which Mr. Richardson believes is typical of the out-moded idea of separate, highly specialized crafts, he would have a single construction union broken into three classifications: unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled.

The editor of "Construction Methods and Equipment" recognizes many of the union arguments against a single craft organization, but he still thinks it is necessary to develop all-round construction men. Otherwise, it is asserted, economic waste will inevitably lead to the extinction of craft unions.

Mr. Richardson points out many ways in which a single union could lead to substantial savings, and to stabilization within the construction industry. On the other side, he enumerates substantial benefits which could accrue to organized labor from a single construction union. Among these, for instance, might be (1) a continuous building program, instead of wild cyclical swings up and down the economic ladder (2) elimination of jurisdictional disputes (3) better trained, all-round workmen who could advance through ability and (4) more stable construction jobs in which workmen would not have to forfeit pension and welfare rights every time they moved to another jurisdiction.

The question is a controversial but an interesting one, which it might pay everyone connected with the construction industry to examine objectively, with an eye toward the future.



GOLD MEDAL WINNER—The Melrose Building, in downtown Houston, by Lloyd & Morgan, TSA-AIA.

The downtown skyscraper took top honors for the Houston architectural firm in the biennial honors competition of the Houston Chapter.

Melrose Building Took First Honors For Lloyd & Morgan

The Melrose Building, shown at left, won for Lloyd & Morgan the gold honor award in the biennial honors competition staged by the Houston Chapter, TSA. The downtown skyscraper, which has attracted nationwide attention, was entered in the commercial division of the competition.

Other awards were announced in the November issue of the TEXAS ARCHITECT. Photographs of the prize winners have been on exhibition at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts.

Frank Lloyd Wright At University of Houston January 4 in Lecture Series

The TSA student chapter at the University of Houston is bringing six well-known architects to the university during the fall, winter and spring in a lecture series.

Architect and author Philip Johnson, chairman of architecture at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and author of "The International Style", opened the series on October 20.

Other architects slated to lecture at the University of Houston during the series are Frank Lloyd Wright, a leading figure in U. S. and world architecture for more than six decades, January 4; engineer, author, and inventor Buckminster Fuller, who designed the Ford Motor Company rotunda, February 11; Alfred Roth, Swiss architect, author and editor, April 1; and Eero Saarinen, son and partner of the Swedish architect Eliel Saarinen who is known for his General Motors Technology Center in Detroit, May 6.

The entire lecture series is open to the public. Subscriptions are available at \$10.

1954 Officials Are Named By TSA Chapters

New Officers Take Over January 1
With Membership and Interest
At New High Within Society

New officers will take over direction of the 12 TSA chapters on January 1, with both membership, interest, and participation in Texas Society of Architects affairs at a new high over the state.

The incoming officials, elected by individual chapters, follow:

PANHANDLE: President, L. H. Kirby; vice-president, Guy A. Carlander; secretary, John C. Kerr; treasurer, Atmar L. Atkinson; TSA director, Robert I. Lockard.

DALLAS: President, Grayson Gill; vice-president, Robert J. Perry; secretary, Max Sandfield; treasurer, Joseph Gordon.

HOUSTON: President, Hiram A. Salisbury; first vice-president, Thompson McCleary; second vice-president, Vance D. Phenix; secretary, Woodrow W. Alexander; treasurer, William K. Duryea; director, Charles H. Keifner.

CENTRAL TEXAS: President, Martin Kermacy; vice-president, Winfred Gustafson; secretary, Al Greeven; treasurer, Claude Pendley, all of Austin.

BRAZOS: President, Henry D. Mayfield, Jr.; vice-president, William E. Nash; secretary, Arch C. Baker; treasurer, William W. Caudill, all of Bryan and College Station.

Other Officials To Be Announced

Names of officers of the remaining TSA Chapters, including the Sabine and West Texas affiliates recently organized, were not available at press time because elections were being held early in December. A roster of officials from these remaining Chapters will be published in the next issue.

Each TSA affiliate over the state now elects officers annually, either in November or December, under a change adopted to cause the term of Chapter officials to coincide with that of statewide TSA officials.

Formerly, some of the affiliates elected officers at varying times during the year, or for a term of more than 12 months. All officials of the Chapters except the TSA directors, who serve for three years, are now selected annually by the balloting of Chapter members.

TSA President Announces Committee Appointments

Edwin W. Carroll of El Paso, president-elect of the TSA, has named the following TSA members to head committees for the new year:

Capitol Plan, Karl Kamrath; Texas Construction Council, Preston Geren; insurance, Harry Payne; legislative, Louis Southerland; public relations, Harold Calhoun; institute fellowship, Arthur Thomas.

In addition, the following TSA members have been named by the board of

the AIA to head regional AIA-TSA committees:

Architectural practice, Murrell Bennett; awards and scholarships, Bartlett Cocke; design, Joseph J. Patterson; school buildings, Don Barthelme; hospitalization and public health, Arthur E. Thomas; chapter affairs, Albert S. Golemon; education, Ernest Langford; historic buildings, Marvin Eichenroht; home building industry, Hubert H. Crane; research, Ralph Cameron; urban design and housing, Herbert Tatum.

Architects Active In Program To Prevent Slum Areas

AIA Members Cooperating With Builders, Social Scientists In New Endeavor Based On Good Design

The nation's architects, builders and social scientists have teamed up in a major attempt to give Americans better homes and prevent the construction of "ready-made" slums.

The key to the problem is good design. The solution of the problem, they believe, will bring Americans a better way of life—an aid to all Americans "in their struggle against an unfriendly world."

For Better Homes

The American Institute of Architects and the National Association of Home Builders have set up a joint committee to help show their members how they can work together to produce better homes.

The Social Science Research Council has assigned its committee on housing research to study environmental factors on family life and how these can be improved through better and more beautiful homes. Exact knowledge on how this can be widely done is lacking but the committee proposes to find out.

Good Design Essential

"As a practical matter," a recent report on a committee conference stated, "a nation that expects to build houses at a rate of something more than a million units a year for the rest of this century ought to have a better idea of how they should be designed."

Walter A. Taylor, director of the AIA's department of education and research, put it this way:

"The job of our committee is to do two things. First, we have got to persuade more home builders to use more architects. Second, we have got to persuade more architects that community developments are proper and profitable work for them."

"Deadly Uniformity"

Taylor said slums of the future will come from community developments built in a "deadly uniformity" that will quickly make them "a drug on the market."

This year, for the first time, the AIA offered special honor awards for "outstanding American architecture" in the development housing field. The institute added development housing to its award category in a deliberate attempt to encourage architects and builders to collaborate in this type of construction.

Taylor said the collaboration between architects and builders in mass-market housing construction has been "unsatisfactory in the past."

Good Design Means Sales

"Builders have not learned that it's worth dollars and cents to them to hire architects," he said. "With the housing market tightening, good design is becoming a real sales need. Besides, it provides savings as well."

He said "junk" rushed to completion after World War II, has already started to "filter down the economic ladder" and will shortly become "underprivileged slums."

Texas Architects' Week Committee Already Active With Plans for 1954 Event

TSA members are expanding the state-wide program for Texas Architects' Week under the chairmanship of Donald Nelson, TSA-AIA, of Dallas. Plans are already under way for the third annual Texas Architects' Week, which will center around the 211th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, famed architect-President, next April 13.



TSA SALUTED—At the Texas-Baylor game, key contest in which Texas won a share of the Southwest Conference championship, the Longhorn cheering section used a card trick to salute the TSA convention.

Note the T-square and triangle below "TSA". Photo from Fehr & Granger.



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NEW SECRETARY—Louis F. Southerland, TSA-AIA of Austin, has been appointed TSA secretary to succeed George F. Pierce, Jr. of Houston. Mr. Southerland is immediate past president of the Central Texas Chapter.

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The Texas Panacalite Company is now known as the Texas Lightweight Products Company. Offices and plant remain at 117 North Britain Road, Irving, Texas, according to an announcement from S. W. Johnson, president. The firm's Dallas telephone is now RAndolph 5354.

The Dunne Company, 5526 Dyer Street, Dallas is now sales representative for many items used in plastering and lathing as well as other building products. Dale Lehr and Jess Weaver, formerly with Perlite Products, are new associates with the Dunne Company.

Minneapolis-Honeywell has opened its new Dallas regional office, a 13,000-sq. ft., one-story structure on the north section of the Central Expressway. The building has an electronically controlled, three-zone system for limited control by occupants of heating and air-conditioning. Latham White, TSA-AIA, of Dallas was the architect.

Jack Frost of Dallas, president of the new United States Lift Slab Corporation, has announced a change in ownership in the Youtz-Slick Lift Slab method of construction. The new firm, with headquarters at 915 Congress in Austin, is the domestic and foreign licensor of the lift slab method.

United States Lift Slab, according to Mr. Frost, has purchased the method from the Southwest Research Institute and the Institute of Inventive Research, both of San Antonio.

Officers of the new company, in addition to Mr. Frost, are John P. Hall, executive vice-president; William J. Lance, vice-president; and H. C. Doyle, assistant to the president, all of Austin. Mr. Frost is president of the Featherlite Corporation.



AT WASHINGTON LUNCHEON—Regional AIA Director Edward L. Wilson, TSA-AIA of Fort Worth, is shown with AIA and government officials at a recent luncheon in Washington. Left to right: Mr. Wilson, Cyrus E. Silling, AIA, of Charleston, W. Va.; Assistant Secretary of Interior Orme Lewis; and Norman J. Schlossman of Chicago, first vice-president of the AIA.

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List of Delegates to Austin Convention

Following is a list of delegates and wives, by Chapter, to the 14th annual convention of the Texas Society of Architects at Austin:

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(Continued on Page 12)



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New Products

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Robbins Floor Products, Inc. of Tusculumbia, Ala. is now manufacturing Terra-Tile, a product with a honeycomb construction which is said to eliminate the need of an adhesive.

Mexican tile in many colors is now made to specifications by the Ameri-Mex Building Materials Company, 5117 Oak, Bellaire, Texas. Ameri-Mex will also provide installation of the tile they manufacture.

Zonatile, a pre-cast vermiculite concrete, is being used to replace wood decking on roof installations.

The Douglas Fir Plywood Association of Tacoma, Wash., has announced Texture One Eleven, a $\frac{3}{8}$ " fir plywood panel with parallel grooves and natural texture surface veneers. Panels are shipped on long edges for ease in application. The product is designed for use as paneling, siding, gable-ends, patio enclosures, or porch and carport ceilings.

The Baldwin Hill Company, Temple, is producing mineral wool insulation by a new process. Minerals are spun at high temperature into lightweight fibers.

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