

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

DECEMBER
1957



- ▶ Reginald Roberts, TSA-AIA,
Named President
- ▶ Photographic Coverage of
Convention
- ▶ 3% Discount Rate Is Sound
New Move



SEE PAGE 6

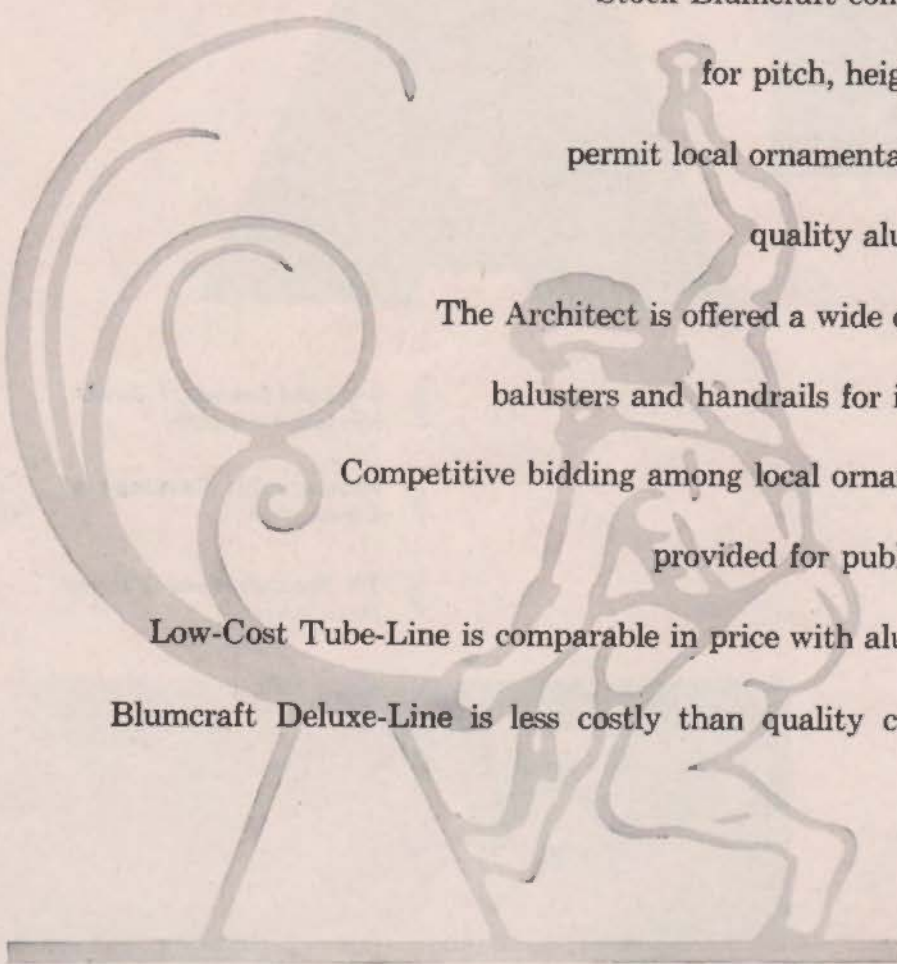
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Architect: Mr. James Hartley, Hollywood, Fla.

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NEW 3% DISCOUNT RATE OVERDUE

The lowering of the Federal Reserve discount rate from 3½ to 3% on November 14 is already having profound effects for good throughout the economy. The long-continued policy of tight money, which had increasingly throttled every area of business and industry, may now be on the way out—and just in time.

Certainly there is a need for sensible restraints to prevent inflation, but the built-in economic controls available to the administration have been applied far too rigidly during the past 18 months or so. As a result, many sound expansion plans, involving all types of construction, were simply placed on the shelf. Perhaps the architects are unusually sensitive to such a situation, for they begin to feel it quite early as preliminary work and the discussion of new projects with clients drops off. But every segment of the economy has felt the pinch, and more and more, throughout 1957.

The natural result of the lowering of the discount rate will be lowering of commercial loan rates, and a general "thow-out" all up and down the line. As a result, the economy should begin to break out of the increasingly narrow limits into which it was being forced by ultra-conservatism. Many economists are already revising their 1958 estimates upward. Instead of sidewise movement, or a growing tendency to sag, we may now look forward with some optimism to better business conditions.

This is good for architects, and good for everyone. It only points out again the tremendous power represented by the new "built-in" controls for the economy. These must at all times be administered with prudence, for they can most directly affect the well-being of everyone in the U.S. Hail to the new days of a 3% discount, and may this mark a sensible but continuing trend toward even lower discount and interest rates.

The President's Letter

By
Fred J. MacKie
TSA-AIA

President,
Texas Society
of Architects



1957 is almost over, and with it, my term as president of the Texas Society of Architects. It has been a pleasant and rewarding 12 months during which I was able to visit most of the affiliate Chapters over the state, and to talk with hundreds of TSA members.

Whatever was accomplished during this year, and I believe that there have been some significant forward moves for the organization, was done primarily through the hard work of my fellow officers, the TSA Executive Board and committee chairman, the local officers doing their key jobs at the Chapter level, and the headquarters staff in Austin.

Certainly one high spot of the year was the celebration of the centennial of the American Institute of Architects. Each of the TSA Chapters cooperated in a statewide program which drew real attention to the first century of the architectural profession in the service of the nation and its people.

Another high point was the recently-concluded TSA convention in Dallas, which featured a group of speakers and seminar participants with international reputations in the field of urban development and renewal. One measure of the success of a professional meeting such as this Dallas gathering is the after-effects which it may have. Our North Texas friends are already seeing evidence of really tangible progress in urban planning which can be traced directly to our annual meeting last month.

It will be with a real sense of sorrow that I turn over the TSA presidency to my good friend Reginald Roberts of San Antonio. Holding this office has given me a most rewarding year, but I know that TSA will be in good hands and that we can look forward to its continued growth and progress. Thanks and the best of luck to all who made my year in office such a pleasant one.

Reginald Roberts To Head TSA; Successful Convention At Dallas

One of the most successful conventions in the history of the Texas Society of Architects ended in Dallas November 1 after the election of Reginald H. Roberts, TSA-AIA of San Antonio, as president of the statewide organization succeeding Fred J. MacKie, Jr., TSA-FAIA of Houston.

Other new officers are Robert P. Waltz of Fort Worth, vice-president; and Jack Corgan of Dallas, second vice-president, both TSA-AIA. Renamed as secretary-treasurer was Arthur Fehr, TSA-FAIA of Austin.

The convention opened October 30 with a brunch and golf tourney at the Northwood Country Club, attended by almost 100 golfers and other guests. Host for the affair was Dave Johnson of Texas Quarries, Inc. In the evening, TSA members were guests of individual members of the Dallas Chapter at private home buffets.

Registration At 650

Business actually got underway the morning of October 31, with total registration at approximately 650, near a record figure for TSA. After a stirring welcome from Mayor R. L. Thornton of Dallas, a leading advocate of urban planning and renewal, Hugh Pomeroy of New York City delivered the keynote address. Mr. Pomeroy, director of the Westchester County Planning Commission in New York, traced the history of planning in the U.S. and urged architects to assume their heavy responsibilities in the overall task of shaping today's environment. The opening business session followed Mr. Pomeroy's address, with President MacKie presiding.

The October 31 program then continued with a seminar on "Shaping Our Environment." John Knox Shear of New York, editor-in-chief of the ARCHITECTURAL RECORD, was moderator. The participants included Charles Farris, executive director of the Saint Louis Land Clearance and Housing Authority; Vernon DeMars, professor of architecture at the University of California and noted architect-planner; and Oskar Stonorov, who has been instrumental in the rebuilding of downtown Philadelphia, and in such great redevelopment projects as the Grotiot Area in Detroit.

Mr. Farris recounted some of the difficulties and progress in redevelopment projects in the Saint Louis area, stressing the long-range importance of proper planning and redevelopment and its very tangible benefits to the community.

Need Urban Residences

Mr. DeMars, showing a striking series of slides, emphasized the need for developing attractive residential areas in the hearts of our cities. Urban dwellings must make use of outdoor space, as in patios and balconies, he said, and this is as necessary today as bathrooms. The urban residence must have individuality reflecting the personality of its owner. Groups of these dwellings, which have been too long neglected in the continuing emphasis upon suburban living, should represent "organized chaos" if they are to exhibit charm rather than conformity. Mr. DeMars showed developments in Western Europe and Scandinavia which emphasize how varying types of detached dwellings and apartments, as well as entire areas, may be pleasingly made to complement one another.

Mr. Shear, in introductory remarks of great interest and wit, had earlier developed a similar thesis, stating that not everyone either could or desired

to live in the suburbs. Therefore, he said, we must turn again to urban dwelling of real charm by getting the maximum utilization from limited space with walled patios and similar areas.

Mayor Thornton Praised

Mr. Stonorov praised Mayor Thornton in his remarks, comparing him to the mayor of Philadelphia in his outspoken support of and knowledge of urban redevelopment. Planning and redevelopment can best be accomplished, he said, through a partnership between "the master planner and the master politician." First, he said, there must be created a climate of community understanding and appreciation of the problems involved. The Philadelphia architect-planner told his audience that there should be no compunction against using Federal funds in planning and redevelopment, and that local groups have the right to and should seek outside help.

Mr. Stonorov showed impressive slides of the Grotiot Area which he and others are redeveloping near the heart of downtown Detroit.

The November 1 program opened with a traditional breakfast given by the Acme Brick Company. The subject of the day's seminar was "Urban Renewal," with Park Martin, executive director of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, Pittsburgh; Charles Luckman, Los Angeles architect-planner; and Harry Weese, Chicago architect-planner, as panel members.

TSA Officers For 1958



Left to right are the 1958 TSA officers named at the Dallas convention: Robert P. Waltz, Jr., Fort Worth, vice-president; Reginald H. Roberts, San Antonio, president; Arthur Fehr, Austin, secretary-treasurer; and Jack Corgan, Dallas, second vice-president.

Mr. Martin traced the development of the Allegheny Conference, and its steady growth into an increasingly potent force within the community. He emphasized how Pittsburgh has found redevelopment of its so-called Golden Triangle, and related projects, to be of enormous value not only in preserving the city and helping it to grow, but in creating tremendous tangible benefits of the widest effect.

Bunker Hill Project Described

Mr. Luckman showed slides of the Bunker Hill Project in Los Angeles to illustrate steps in a redevelopment project of great importance which has preserved the natural topography of a critical area near the downtown sector but transformed it into a new center for civic activities, big business, retail-

Mr. Weese told of key redevelopment projects in Chicago, some of them among the largest in the world, upon which he is now engaged.

An awards luncheon, attended by a capacity audience, was held at noon on October 31. Among the awards presented were nine honors in "Texas Architecture—'57", the annual statewide architectural competition sponsored by the Dallas Chapter and by AIA; and the Featherlite Competition winners.

Featherlite Competition

First place in the Featherlite Competition, for senior architectural students in the state's five schools, went to Texas A.&M., with second to Texas

University and third place to the Rice Institute.

The business portion of the convention closed Friday afternoon with a two-hour session climaxed by the election of new officers. Final events on the program were a cocktail party with the Producers' Council as host and the traditional President's Dinner-Dance.

The 1958 convention will be held in San Antonio. Dates are to be announced later.

General chairman for the Dallas meeting was Mr. Corgan, the new second vice-president. More detail on convention speeches and seminar sessions will be presented in later issues of the TEXAS ARCHITECT.

Time Extended For Entries In \$25,000 Reynolds Memorial Award

The American Institute of Architects has announced that because of worldwide interest, extra time would be given to make nominations for the 1958 R. S. Reynolds Memorial Award—the \$25,000 honorary payment to the architect making the "most significant contribution to the use of aluminum" in the building field.

Established a year ago by the Reynolds Metals Company in memory of its founder, R. S. Reynolds, Sr., the annual award is administered by the AIA.

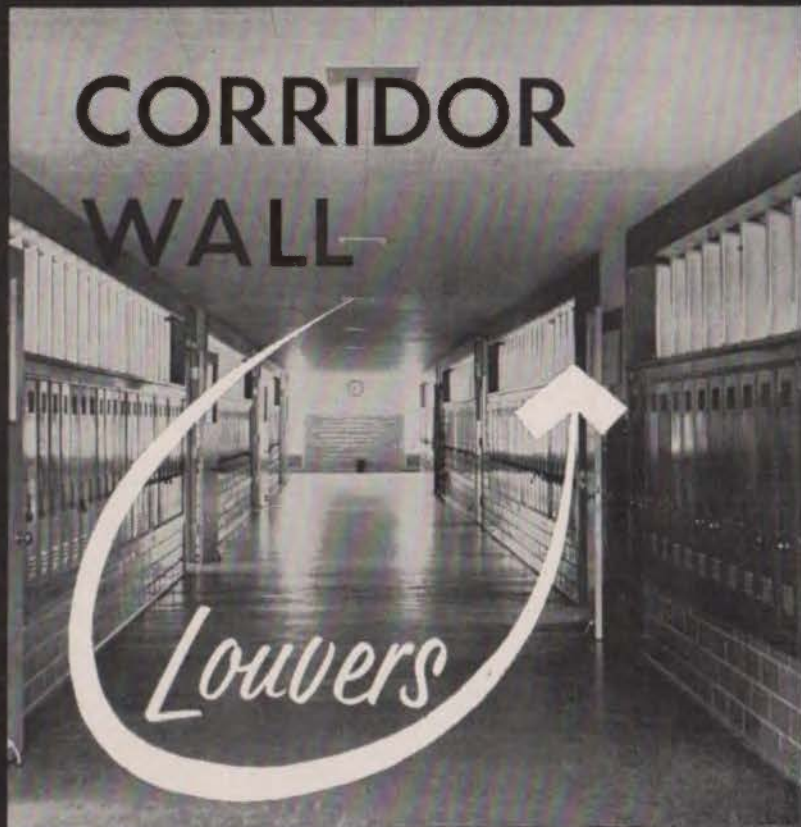
The first R. S. Reynolds Memorial Award attracted 86 nominations from 19 countries in 1957.

The AIA will accept nominations until January 15, 1958, in order to give architectural societies overseas extra time to name their nominees.

Three Spanish architects won the 1957 Reynolds Memorial Award for their design of a workers lounge at a Barcelona automobile factory. They are: Rafael de la Joya, César Ortiz-Echague, and Manuel Barbero Rebolledo, all of Madrid, Spain.

In addition to the \$25,000 honorarium, the architect picked by the Jury also receives an aluminum sculpture, especially created by a prominent artist. Theodore Roszak, the distinguished American sculptor, created the piece awarded to the Spaniards in 1957.

ing, and residential areas combined.



O'Henry Junior High School, Austin, / Fehr & Granger, Architects

by... **ALUMAR**

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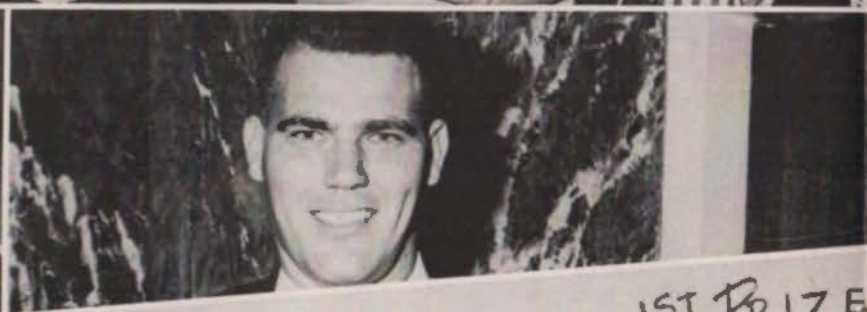
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CONVENTION



Representative Selection, Fort Worth Chapter, AIA

BUILDING: The Fort Worth Children's Museum

ARCHITECTS - ENGINEERS:

Wilson, Patterson and Associates, Fort Worth

GENERAL CONTRACTOR:

Rambo Construction Company, Fort Worth

The Fort Worth Chapter AIA has selected the Fort Worth Children's Museum as an outstanding example of recent work. It is municipally owned, is administered by a board of civic leaders and is operated by a trained professional staff under Director William G. Hossler. Its activities and the public school program are coordinated.

The function of the Museum is to interest children in natural history, sciences, arts and crafts astronomy, etc. It provides exciting exhibits and class instruction. Being the only children's museum in the Southwest, it is attracting wide interest among museum authorities everywhere. Last year, 140,117 persons from 47 states and 27 foreign countries visited it, while 28,000 children were included in its teaching program.

In Amon Carter Square

The Museum is located in the southwest corner of Amon Carter Square, facing west. A small wooded ravine to the north gives it a surprising sense of isolation. A lofty entrance lobby leads eastward to the heart of the building, a great rotunda. Projecting southward from this lobby is an L shaped wing extending first south and then east. From a subordinate entrance on the north side of the rotunda, an additional wing extends eastward, forming an open "U" plan.

The rotunda is used for large group activities. Under the huge windows in the northwest quadrant are beds of tropical plants and sunken pools for aquatic reptiles. Directly opposite, a lofty opening leads to the Live Room where birds and small animals are caged. Most of these are tame and are great pets of the children.

A spiral ramp from the rotunda leads to an exhibit-lined ambulatory enclosing the planetarium dome. Here concentric rows of upholstered seats provide comfort for viewers in the "Theater of the Stars". An astron-

omical observation deck is located on the roof of the north-south wing.

Exhibit-Lined Hall

From the north lobby, a wide, exhibit-lined hall extends the length of the main east-west wing to a parking lot entrance. On the south side of this hall is the auditorium and on the north are toilet facilities, kitchenette, dressing rooms and storage areas.

From the main lobby, a similar hall extends the length of the north-south wing, terminating in a ramp which leads to the side street entrance and thence to the basement. On the west side of this hall are the sales desk, the principal museum offices, the library and a beautifully appointed room for board meetings and receptions. On the east side is the Natural History Hall and in the subordinate east-west wing, opening from this gallery, is the Hall of Man, concerned with the migrations, development and life habits of American Indian tribes.

In the basement, part of which is completely above grade due to the slope of the site, are arts and craft workshops, classrooms, a nature workshop, shops for preparator and carpenter, a photography laboratory, staff offices, a pioneer Texas exhibit room, storage areas, toilet facilities and mechanical equipment rooms.

Lavish Use of Color

To make the Museum attractive to children, a lavish use of color prevails throughout the interior. The exterior materials are also colorful and inviting salmon pink Roman brick, ledge-stone and pale pinkish caststone with gray-green trim.

The preliminary studies provided for considerable expansion of exhibit area and classroom facilities. The popularity of the Museum and its program's rapid expansion make the consideration of these additions a matter of immediate concern.

Laughead Photographers Again Makes Pictures During TSA Convention

Jimmy Laughead, head of the well-known Dallas photographic firm bearing his name, was again on hand throughout the TSA convention in Dallas to take hundreds of pictures.

Mr. Laughead, assisted by his daughter Betty Laughead, was at the meeting representing the Texas Concrete Block Corporation, a subsidiary of The Featherlite Corporation.

INTERIOR OF CHILDREN'S MUSEUM



An interior view of the Fort Worth Children's Museum, which has attracted wide attention throughout the nation. The Fort Worth Chapter, AIA has selected the Museum as representative of recent architectural work in the Chapter area. Architects-engineers: Wilson, Patterson & Associates, TSA-AIA, Fort Worth.

Descriptions of Winners in "Texas Architecture, '57"

Editor's Note: Last month we presented nine winners in the annual statewide competition sponsored by TSA and the Dallas Chapter, AIA—"Texas Architecture—'57". We asked that the winning architects briefly describe the problem which they met and solved in conjunction with each winning project. Following are the descriptions of the three first honor awards. The six awards of merit will be presented in subsequent issues of the TEXAS ARCHITECT.

PROJECT: Medical Towers

LOCATION: Houston, Texas

OWNER: Center Land Company

ARCHITECTS: Goleman and Rolfe, TSA-AIA, Houston

CONSULTING ARCHITECTS: Skidmore, Owings and Merrill.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: Walter P. Maare

CONSULTING MECHANICAL ENGINEER: Bernard Johnson & Associates

CONTRACTOR: Tellepsen Construction Company

The Medical Towers of Houston is a medical professional building with the design intended to symbolize the high standards and public services that medicine renders the American people.

The building is 18 stories and basement and provides a three-story garage with a daily capacity of 1800 cars. Above the garage rises a tower shaft of 13 floors with a capacity of 125 suites. The first floor is leased commercially. The basement contains mechanical and service facilities; however, the main mechanical room housing the air handling units and cooling towers is on the top floor. This is screened from the outside by aluminum louvers, presenting a building whose exterior appearance is unmarred by these usually unsightly items. The air conditioning system is a high velocity double-duct system feeding downward from the top floor, the space between the floor and ceiling serving as a return plenum.

Medical Towers
Building
Houston, Texas

First Honor Award



The site is a city block located between Main and Fannin Streets adjacent to the Texas Medical Center. The integral relation of garage to lobby was developed to afford the patient direct all weather service with his doctor.

Design Sense of Lightness

The exterior mass consists of an architectural grill screening the garage and floating over the first floor area, giving the building a design sense of lightness. Rising from the strong horizontal element of the garage is a sheer

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Architects' Descriptions of Winners in "Texas Architecture, '57"

tower with brick end walls and an aluminum and aqua blue porcelain skin. The total composition is one of simplicity and understated geometry.

The tower houses many medical specialists, each suite tailored to specific requirements. Color was carefully

coordinated to provide complete unity. The entrance lobby contains two islands for elevators encased in Italian mosaic. The building is constructed of concrete frame in the lower areas; however, the tower is steel frame which carries through the building to its foundations. In the tower the floor is steel decking with light weight fill. The exterior skin is backed up by gunite and water-proofed.

PROJECT: Texas Instruments, Inc.

LOCATION: Houston, Texas

OWNER: Texas Instruments, Inc.

ARCHITECTS: O'Neil Ford, Colley and
Tammings, TSA-AIA, San Antonio

This building was planned for a company which develops and manufactures many types of electronic equipment, transistors, geophysical exploration devices and optical equipment and lenses for instruments.

Two principal factors shaped the study and planning and detailing of this building and each put a unique and exacting demand on the Architects and Engineers.

The Company employs a most unusual number of people with college degrees. There are administrative, research, and executive members of the staff who have doctorates in physics. It seemed significant that most of the men employed were very young and had been engaged after thorough and expert search by the company.

Meetings with the staff revealed that here was a group which was concerned with the well-being and pleasure of all persons in the plant and wanted good architecture for industrial buildings.

This company demanded of us that we understand all their operations and processes and that we have no fear of making fresh and radical suggestions.

The president of the company stated the following requirements:

- a. Fit into the flat level near tropical land.
- b. Clean, functional architecturally—not industrial.
- c. In keeping with and respecting good neighboring buildings.
- d. Emphasize technological nature of the business.

Structural details:

1. 60' Span post-stressed concrete roof girders (made and stressed on site).

2. Across girders were placed 5'-0" x 30'-0" post-stressed roof pans poured on fiberglass to provide additional insulation and sound absorption. These "pans" are very thin in order to allow easy cutting for new roof vents for hoods, etc.



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Laboratory & Plant for Texas Instruments, Inc.

Houston, Texas
First Honor Award

3. Pre-stressed—pre-cast wall panels of concrete with projecting vertical ribs to support and fix curtain wall of marble (fastened with aluminum "buttons").

4. 10" Concrete floor 30' x 30' column spacing to provide for 200 # sq. ft. live load.

5. Stable test blocks to absorb any

slight seismic disturbance of 6' deep laminations of varying density and thicknesses of concrete.

6. Basement walls pre-stressed and pre-fabricated—welded at fixing points at basement stub columns.

Materials:

1. Georgia Marble slabs on exterior

walls—rough sawn—mechanically fixed in place—entirely a curtain.

2. Steel sections at entrance lobby.

3. Flat concrete slab at drive in canopy.

4. Edge grain fir boards in ceiling and walls of lobby.

5. Floor of lobby of Mexican "Granite". Floor of manufacturing area of asphalt tile. Office floors carpet.

6. Garden lamps of steel seed sieve sheets (minute perforations).

7. Concrete columns between marble panels as well as big walls on two "bay windows" on street of smooth pre-cast concrete—painted.

Mechanical system:

1. Main air-conditioning plant centrifugal compressors, chilled and hot water to fan and coil units in manufacturing area—some "permanent" duct distribution in office section.

2. No other very unusual mechanical features except very heavy electrical load and careful design of distribution system to allow extensive and quick changes.

3. Unusual plumbing facilities are special traps and pumps in optical grinding area and the floor sleeves which since completion have been very useful in allowing many new installations in gas, water, drain and air-conditioning piping.

Open courts and planting areas



Thomas Andrew Woods Elementary School,

Tyler, Texas
First Honor Award

PROJECT: Thomas Andrew Woods Elementary School

LOCATION: Tyler, Texas

OWNER: Tyler Independent School District, Tyler, Texas

ARCHITECTS: E. Davis Wilcox Associates, TSA-AIA, Tyler, Texas

The ten-acre site falls approximately 30 feet from the northeast to the southwest and is bounded on all sides by streets. A split-level scheme was used.

The teaching and administrative areas are located on the upper level. The unloading area, cross corridors, and classroom corridors are covered and connected for all weather circulation. A covered ramp and walk leads to the Cafetorium-Kitchen on the lower level. This separated space is used as a community activity center and provides for such functions as Scout banquets, PTA meetings, games, and other social events.

**Architects' Descriptions of
Winners in "Texas
Architecture, '57"**

offer vistas between the classroom wings. A pool was installed this past summer, and the further development of this and other courts will be a school project for the school year.

"Open Classrooms" Used

First and second grades are located in the east wings in "open classrooms". The corridor area of these classrooms serves as a work space and is separated from the teaching space by a work counter with sink and low storage and teaching units. Twin toilets are located between classrooms in this area.

The typical classrooms for the upper grades are similar but have outside covered corridors. Toilet facilities are centrally located off the corridors. All teaching and activity spaces have bilateral lighting. A high light level is maintained on the corridor side of the classrooms by the use of top-lights in each area. South classrooms have an eight foot-six inch overhang for sun protection.

Economy Stressed

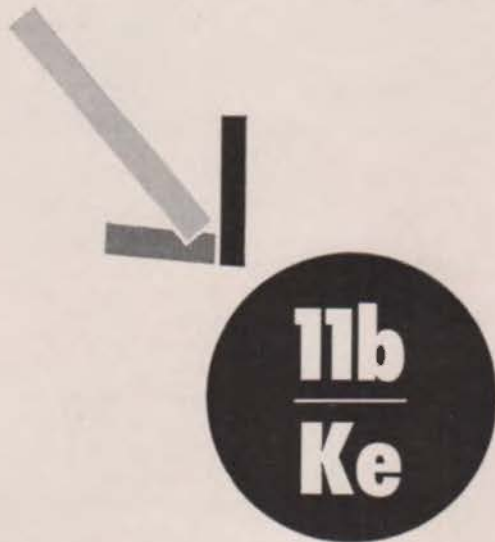
Initial cost and minimum mainten-

ance led to the use of a repetitive steel frame structural system: brick, stock-dimension projected steel frame windows and porcelain enamel panels for the exterior; exposed masonry, fabric-covered fiberboard, plaster partitions, and acoustical plaster ceilings for the interior. All partitions are non-load bearing, thereby affording flexibility of classroom space allotment to accommodate changes in teaching requirements.

The hot water central circulating system and air handlers are designed for the addition of cooling equipment.

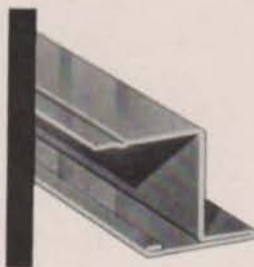
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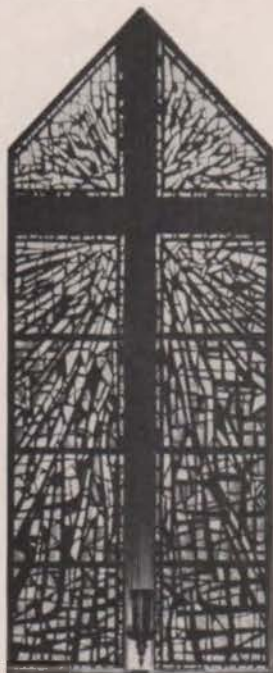


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