

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

SELECTION OF THE ARCHITECT — AN EDITORIAL

THE INSTITUTE — A CONTINUING FORCE FOR THE
GOOD OF THE PROFESSION

PEOPLE — AND THE NATION'S FUTURE

HOUSTON CHAPTER'S HONOR AWARDS — 1951

FEBRUARY
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INSIDE THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

Houston Chapter's Honor Awards, 1951	10
Seminar Sessions Styled for Teachers	16
Selection of the Architect — An Editorial	3
The Institute — A Continuing Force for the Good of the Profession	4
People — and the Nation's Future	7

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

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 24-27—83rd Convention of the American Institute of Architects, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City.

October—13th Annual Convention of the Texas Society of Architects, El Paso . . . dates to be set.

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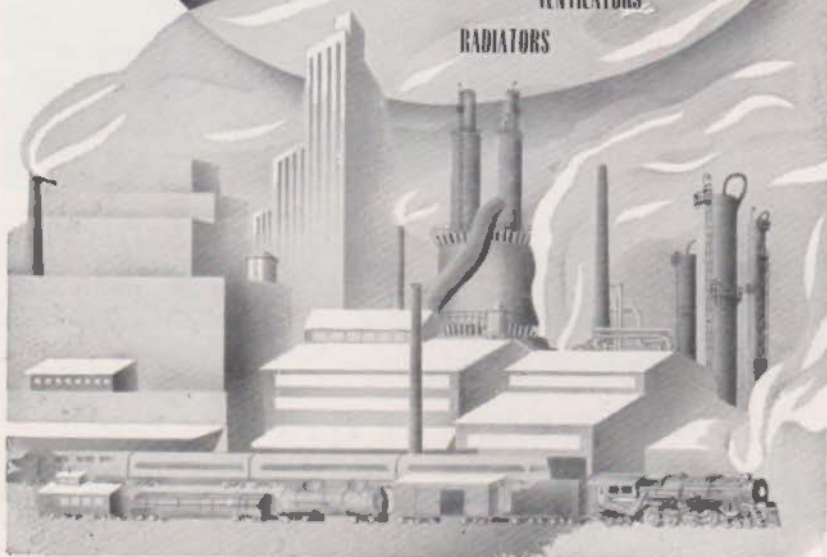
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SELECTION OF THE ARCHITECT

All business is competitive. All members of a profession are competitors, yet professional men must keep their competition on a very high plane.

Architects, like other professional people, are individuals prepared to handle certain work that takes specialized training and experience. They act as the agent of the client, and are responsible for the conduct of the work.

Selecting the proper Architect for each project often is more difficult than selecting a member of other professions. The Architect is responsible for spending large sums of money for his client. He must be known for his high integrity, his ability as a designer, and for being a good business man.

A City Council, School Board, Commissioners Court or other public or private body will from time to time develop a need for the services of an Architect. As this need becomes known many architectural firms will request that their services be considered for the project. This poses a problem.

The presentation of brochures by all firms should be encouraged. A study of the people, the facilities, the experience, and the list of completed works handled by the firm should all be evaluated. Often all but three or four firms may be eliminated by a study of the brochures. Those remaining can be called in for a personal interview by a special committee or by the entire body.

Whatever the method used for the selection of the Architect, it should be designed to secure the most able man or firm available for a particular situation.

The Texas Society of Architects is preparing a pamphlet dealing with this all important subject of selecting the Architect. It should be ready for distribution during the early summer. Those interested may be put on the list to secure free copies by writing this magazine.

THE INSTITUTE — A CONTINUING FORCE FOR THE GOOD OF THE PROFESSION

By Edward L. Wilson, A.I.A.
Regional Director, Texas District

It is interesting to note that the American Institute of Architects as a professional society was officially founded in 1857 and is only ten years younger than the venerable American Medical Association. It has enjoyed continuous and effective growth since that date. It seems reasonable to suppose that had it not been for the ideals and aims fostered by the Institute, the profession of architecture might not today so fully merit the esteem of the public, and the practitioners of this profession might not find themselves in the position of being able to practice their profession as such, free from entangling alliances with the sales of materials, building specialties, etc.

We owe much to the early founders of the Institute and it is interesting to remember that it was founded by a comparatively small group of men, the original number being twelve. These twelve found difficulty in getting eighteen others of sufficient competence to assist in organizing the new society. No doubt the Institute grew out of a dire need to lend a semblance of orderliness to the practice of architecture. Its first organization was incorporated under the laws of the State of New York and it remains today in that form. By 1887 chapters in San Francisco, Washington, D. C., Michigan and Central New York State had been organized. Today there are many chapters, a recent count showing ninety-seven together with nine state organizations serving the whole of the United States and its possessions.

A list of the accomplishments of the Institute during the nearly one hundred years of its existence would require a great deal of space and be filled with statistics. Broadly speaking it has stood

for all that is good and noble in architecture. It has accomplished in great measure its early aims and continues to serve the public and the profession.

The present day value of the Institute to the general public, to the country and to its membership is considerable. We find it fostering effective architectural registration laws in the states to protect the public against incompetent practitioners. It assumes a position of leadership in matters of architectural education, working constantly to foster a higher standard in the colleges and universities, encouraging them to turn out graduates who are able to practice the profession with skill and integrity. The Institute affords able representation in the legislative halls of the States and the Nation to obtain laws relating to building which will be in the public interest. The Institute has provided standards by which the public may wisely judge an architect and his services. The Institute has prepared and issues contract forms, General Conditions and other standards which are widely accepted and which help to prevent many disagreements and law suits. The Institute polices its own membership through mandatory rules of ethics and discourages the few architects who might be tempted to engage in practices which would be detrimental to the profession and the public interest. By rewarding outstanding performance on the part of its members through bestowal of Fellowships, the Institute fosters incentives for constantly improved practice. Through active public relations programs, the public is informed of the proper function of the architect. There are many more detailed services which the Insti-

tute renders which make it indispensable in the field of professional architectural practice.

The Institute is a national body incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. Its divisions are in the form of chapters chartered by the national body and located throughout the various states and districts, the number depending upon the density of population and geographical distances. A recent account shows some ninety-seven such chapters and whereas Texas has nine, many other states have only one. Each chapter of the American Institute of Architects is autonomous, subject only to compliance with certain national by-laws and rules.

The country is divided into twelve regional districts. The national body is governed by the Board of Directors, consisting of one director from each regional district, a total of twelve. National officers are the President, first and second Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer.

The National Headquarters are located at the Octagon in Washington, D. C., a beautiful early American residential estate of considerable historical importance. There are many other interesting historical facts concerning the Octagon which it is not feasible to mention here. The central organization of the Institute occupies the Octagon and adjacent buildings and is under the direction of the Executive Director and his staff. Here the public activities are directed and the many other functions of the organization having to do with Research and Education, Institute Finance, Public Relations, collaboration with allied professions, technical services and many others. The Board of Directors meets several times during the year and the Institute as a whole holds an annual convention to which delegates from the various chapters are sent. This is an event of outstanding importance to the profession and is the focal point for all of its organizational activities.

As the national organization is most active in matters pertaining to the nation as a whole, so the chapters are active in dealing in matters of state and local significance. In a number of cases, the chapters are banded together into state and regional organizations which find an active purpose in dealing with affairs on a state or regional level. The Texas Society of Architects serves as both a regional and state organization of the Institute since the State of Texas now comprises a separate regional district. The objectives of the national body are carried out in detail in chapter affairs. However, aside from the organized activities of the chapters a most useful purpose is served in providing the type of fellowship and mutual benefits which can come only from local and frequent association among the members. The exchange of information, the discussion of mutual problems and a spirit of co-operation are the results of this close association and they are of great value in fostering a professional attitude among architects.

The period in which the profession finds itself at this time is one of great stress and emergency. The Institute is endeavoring with all the forces at its command to cope with these special problems which affect the architect and his client. The building industry chafes under the burden of controls coming out of the defense mobilization program. While these are in force the Institute is making every effort to see that they are fair as well as effective. To this end the Institute is laboring constantly through its various committees and staff members. Without the well organized efforts in these directions, the confusion which seems to exist in the construction industry at the moment would indeed be chaotic. In the face of the need for conserving materials and for providing essential construction under restricted programs, architects must exert their best efforts to design build-

(Continued on Page 16)

School Architect Exhibit

For the third consecutive year the American Association of School Administrators is inviting architects to enter exhibits of school buildings at the association's three regional conventions.

These conventions will be held this year in St. Louis, February 23-27; Los Angeles, March 8-12, and Boston, April 5-9.

A jury will award Seals of Merit to not more than 24 of the exhibits.

Further information can be obtained by writing the association's headquarters at 1201 16th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

A Separate Region

Texas comprises a separate region of the American Institute of Architects. The Texas Society of Architects is the regional A.I.A. organization.

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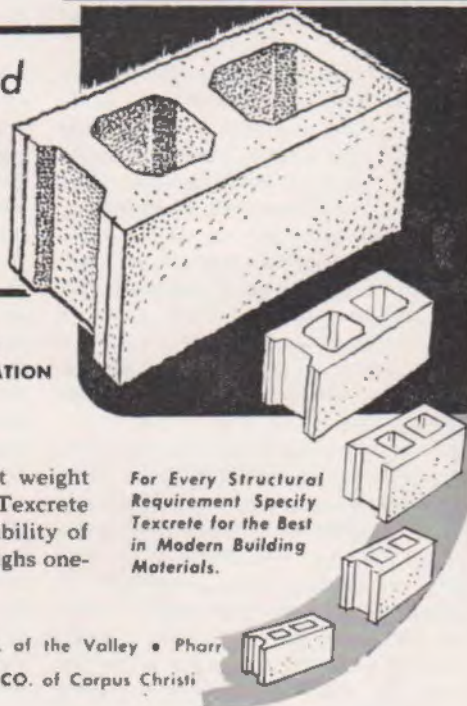
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PEOPLE — AND THE NATION'S FUTURE

Educational theories hold that the best elementary school teacher-pupil ratio is 27 children per room, per teacher. If this goal is to be reached by 1960, the nation will need at least 600,000 more classrooms and more than 700,000 new teachers.

The need for more high school classrooms, while not so pressing at this time, will likely come within the next few years due to the birth boom that began in the early 40's.

These and other facts that will face almost every community in Texas and in the nation were reported in a recent well-known Washington news-letter.

Nearly four million babies were born in 1950, setting an all-time record, with the trend pointing to larger families. Statistics now show 3.1 children per mother. However, marriages will be on decline during the early 1950's due to the low birth rate in the 1930's.

Home Building Boom

A large new home building boom appears certain for the early 60's to take care of the above average number of young couples who will be married by then. When the present building boom has slowed down, the experts believe the lull will last less than nine years.

Surveys of equipment inside the nation's homes show that more than 90 percent have electricity, 95 percent have radios, about 80 percent have mechanical refrigeration, and nearly 60 percent have gas-fed cooking equipment. These same surveys reveal that more than half of all homes are owned and being lived in by the owners. Of all homes, 21 percent are new or were built within the last 10 years.

Today a large number of American homes are over 30 years old, indicating that home modernization should be on the upgrade in the near future.

In job lines, statistics point out that the number of skilled workers has risen

rapidly while unskilled and common laborers have increased but eight percent since 1940. Reason for this rise in the number of skilled workers is the increased school facilities available.

Again, due to the low birth rate during the depression, new workers will be scarcer during the mid-50's since fewer will reach working age. This same fact also makes it appear that draft rules will be tightened since fewer men of draft age will be available.

In job opportunities for children now in school the need for service line employees is greatest. These lines include clerks, store salespeople, salesmen, barbers, waiters and insurance men. Professions such as architecture, medicine and law also need more members as do the sciences such as physics and biology. Due to the future housing boom, men in the bricklaying, painting, plastering and other construction trades will be in demand.

Growth Rate

The Pacific Coast was the fastest growing region in the nation during the past 10 years. Florida was next, having increased in population about 45 percent. The Southwest comes third with Texas' population being up about 20 percent. Cities in Texas show growths of 59 percent for Fort Worth, 53 percent for Dallas, 52 percent for Houston and 78 percent for Corpus Christi. Due to big government, Washington D. C. is up 50 percent in population.

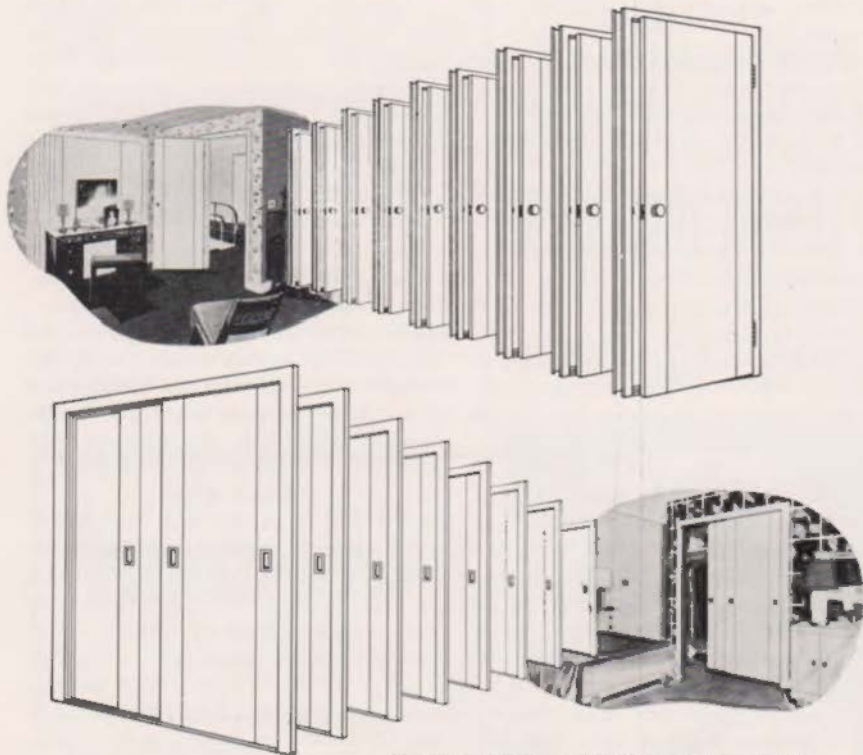
Nearly 65 percent of all Americans live in cities above 2500 in population, with suburban areas growing without let-up.

Life expectancy for a baby girl born now is 71 years while a baby boy has life expectancy of 66 years.

The nation's wealth is based on its people. All indications now point to a constantly growing and expanding America with the long-range future appearing healthy.

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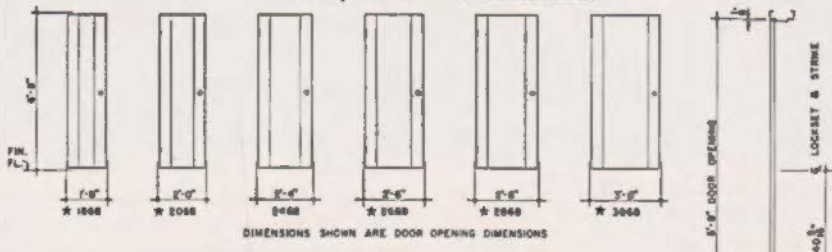
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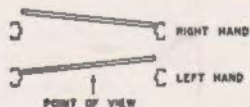
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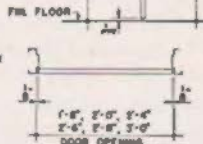


HAND OF DOOR MAY BE DETERMINED BY REFERRING TO SKETCHES BELOW. NOTE THAT DOOR MUST ALWAYS SWING AWAY FROM POINT VIEWED.

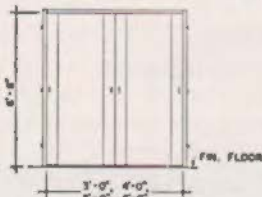


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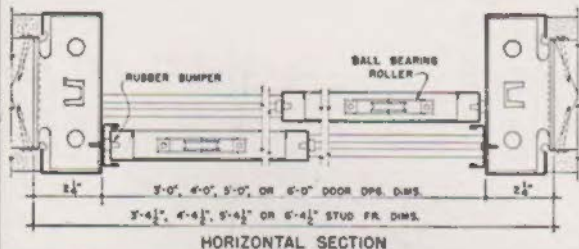
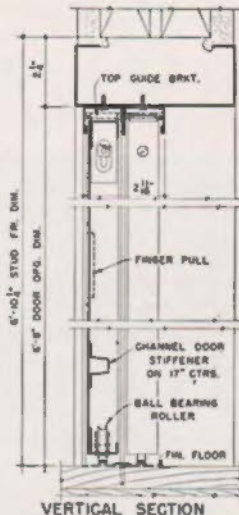


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HOUSTON CHAPTER'S HONOR AWARDS, 1951

The Houston Chapter AIA-TSA made two honor awards for architectural achievement in 1951. This is the highest recognition given its members by the Chapter and is made annually.

Commercial Honor Award

The Rice Stadium in Houston received the Chapter's 1951 honor award for commercial work. It was designed by Chapter members Herman Lloyd & Wm. B. Morgan and Milton McGinty. The time element played a major roll in its design. The architectural contract was awarded in November of 1949. The stadium itself had to be finished and ready for the first football game of the 1950 season.

The level of the playing field is twenty-five feet below the ground surface. This creates a complete lower bowl seating 40,000. The concourse surrounding this bowl provides access to the lower and upper stands and is approximately twelve feet above finish grade.

The East and West upper stands seating 15,000 each are raised above the lower concourse and overlap the backrows of the lower stands. This provides a means of natural ventilation for the lower

bowl and brings the upper stand seats closer to the playing field. In the future the stadium capacity can be increased from 70,000 to 110,000 by completing the upper bowl at the North and South ends.

Adequate space for the press, radio and television are provided in a two-story press box at the rear and above the West stands. Public facilities, concession stands, offices, team dressing rooms and other essential facilities also are provided. About seventy acres are devoted to the stadium and its parking areas.

Interesting and at the same time difficult problems which were solved included the unusual construction procedure employed in the interest of economy and time; the engineering problems involved in the flood lighting of the field; the means used to solve the ground and sub-surface water conditions; and even the problem of growing a turf within the short time of three months.

Residential Award

The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Hugo V. Neuhaus, Jr., in Houston, received





the Chapter's 1951 honor award for residential work. It was designed by the architect, a member of the firm of Cowell & Neuhaus, for his family of three.

The plan is devised to give seclusion to the various functions of the house and yet maintain an easy flow of circulation and space throughout. Entrance is through the entrance patio to the living area which forms the core of the house. At the extremities of the house are separate wings for a master suite, a group of bedrooms for child, nursemaid and guest, and a third wing for service and servants quarters. A separate playhouse contains a child's recreation room with facilities for conversion later into a guest house.

Partially enclosed by the wings is the spacious rear patio. This has tropical planting and a reflection pool which extends along under and separates the glass walls of the living room and dining room.

Ventilation is by sliding panels in floor-to-ceiling glass walls and by glass jalousies in the bedroom and service wings. The house is heated and cooled by separated air-conditioning units which permit localized cooling or heating of the different areas.

Exterior walls are of salmon-pink textured brick. Interior walls are of plaster, Honduras mahogany plywood and the same brick as used on the exterior. The floors, both indoors and in the patio, are of terrazzo, with the exception of the bedroom wing where wood parquet flooring was used.

General lighting in the house is by recessed "muralites" which throw an even wash of light on entire wall surfaces. Pin-hole down-lights accent books and paintings. Outdoor lighting is by mercury vapor floodlights sunk in copper cylinders in the ground.



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Job Sign Competition

Zeb Rike of McAllen was named winner of the "Architect's Job Sign Contest" staged by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter, AIA-TSA.

Judge in the competition was Architect Warren C. Suter of Mission who did not sponsor an entry.

Chapter President A. H. Woolridge made the announcement.

Change of Election Date

The Texas Coastal Bend Chapter, AIA-TSA, reported in January that it may change its election date to coincide with the state election.

Chapter Secretary E. Dexter Hamon of Corpus Christi said action will be taken on the matter at a forthcoming chapter meeting.

Present officers of the chapter are Needham B. Smyth, president, and William C. Wood, vice-president.

Dallas Elects Officers

Terrell R. Harper has been elected president of the Dallas Chapter, AIA-TSA, for 1952 to serve with the following other new officers:

Clifford J. Lane, vice-president; William H. Hidell, Jr., treasurer; J. Herschel Fisher, secretary, and Arch B. Swank, TSA director.

West Texas Chairmen

Committee chairmen of the West Texas Chapter, AIA-TSA, have been appointed as follows:

Reginald Roberts, membership; Charles Huie, Jr., attendance, arrangements and programs; Raymond Phelps, practice of architecture; Robert M. Ayres, relations with construction industry; Richard Vander Straten, public relations; Marvin Eickenroht, education and registration; Clarence Rinard, public information; Thomas B. Thompson, allied arts, and Dahl Dewees, civic design.

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Central Texas Officers

New officers of the Central Texas Chapter, AIA-TSA, were elected in January at the Chapter's monthly meeting.

They are Lee R. Buttrill of Temple, president; Winfred Gustafson, vice-president; Martin Kermacy, secretary; J. Roy White, treasurer, and Arthur Fehr, TSA director, all of Austin.

Dallas Committee Chairmen

The Dallas Chapter, AIA-TSA, will have the following committee chairmen for 1952:

George Harrell, practice of architecture; Arthur Thomas, relations with construction industry; Harris Kemp, education and registration; Jack Corgan, public relations; Clifford Lane, public information; Herschel Fisher, institute membership; George Dahl, program; Stanley Brown, auditing; Grayson Gill, urban planning; Arch Swank, architecture—1952; Wade Klamberg, AGM medal; Robert White, plan bureau; Ralph Bryan,

speakers panel; John Carsey, social or entertainment; Everett Welch, by-laws; Irving Porter, civil defense, and Thomas Broad, advertising and resources.

Panhandle Chapter Elects

Officers to head the Panhandle Chapter, AIA-TSA, were elected in January as follows:

O. L. Puckett of Big Spring, president; Robert E. Hucker of Amarillo, vice-president; Robert Lockard of Lubbock, secretary; F. A. Kleinschmidt of Lubbock, treasurer, and Macon O. Carder of Amarillo, TSA director.

Valley Chapter Elects

At the annual meeting of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Chapter, AIA-TSA, held last month, the following officers were elected for 1952.

President, A. H. Woolridge of Brownsville; Vice-President, Hadley Smith of San Benito; Secretary-Treasurer, Warren C. Suter of Mission.

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Houston Names Chairmen

Stayton Nunn, president of the Hous-
ton Chapter, AIA-TSA, has announced
the following committee chairmen to serve
the Chapter during 1952.

Milton Foy Martin, Budget; Williams
Paul Jones, Program; Harry D. Payne,
Insurance; C. A. Johnson, Civil Defense;
Josh Tillinghast, By-Laws; Vance D.
Phenix, Engineers Council Representa-
tives; John T. Rather, Jr., Fellowship
Nominations; Karl Kamrath, Allied Arts;
Thompson McCleary, Honor Awards;
Jack W. Knostman, Memberships; Wil-
liam C. Caldwell, Practice of Architecture;
Lewis J. Woodruff, Relations with the
Construction Industry; James C. More-
head, Jr., Public Relations and Informa-
tion; James K. Dunaway, Education and
Registration, and George W. Rustay, Civic
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SEMINAR SESSIONS STAGED FOR TEACHERS BY DALLAS CHAPTER

Designed to serve as an architectural refresher course, to develop ideas of local architects on specific subjects and to increase the liaison between practicing architects and those who teach it, an eight-session series of architectural seminars is being staged by the Dallas Chapter, AIA-TSA, at the request of the Dallas Independent School District's Board of Education.

These 2 hour long seminars are being held on Tuesdays and Thursdays between January 17 and February 12 in the Administration Building.

The sessions are attended primarily by district high school teachers of architectural drawing and other related subjects. A committee of these teachers pointed out the need for the seminars.

Some of the subjects included are urban and area planning, design, presentation drawings, models for presentation purposes, working drawings, materials and methods, foundations and structural systems, mechanical design, illumination, acoustics, color, landscaping, estimating, supervision and architectural history.

A speaker is provided by the Dallas Chapter for each subject and a panel is arranged to aid in discussions following each talk.

At the conclusion of the seminars, the Chapter will mimeograph all prepared talks and bind them so the attending teachers can study them in greater detail.

In charge of arrangements are Arthur E. Thomas and Donald S. Nelson of the Dallas Chapter.

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(Continued from Page 5)

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