

TEXAS ARCHITECT

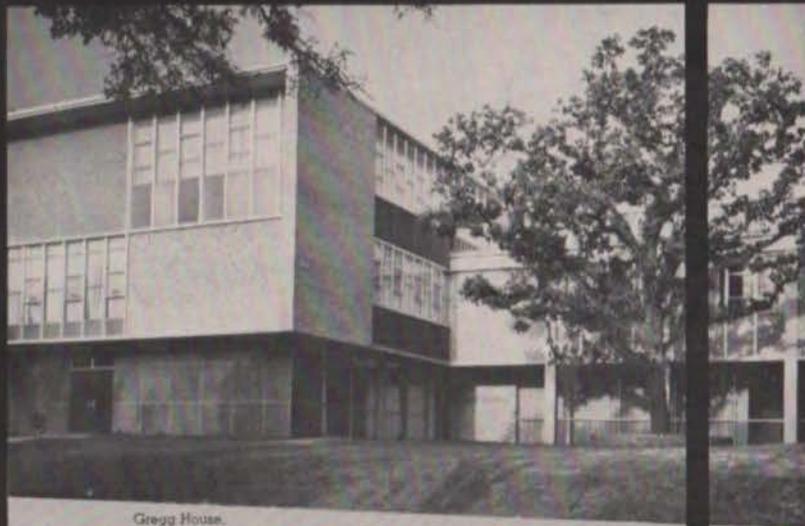
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

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- Committee Chairmen Named, 1957 Budget Adopted
- El Paso Natural Gas Office Building Selected



The Home Office Building of the El Paso Natural Gas Building, at El Paso, has been selected by members of the El Paso Chapter, AIA as typical of recent work in the Chapter area.



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A PROUD ANNIVERSARY: AIA CENTENNIAL

One hundred years ago this month, 13 architects met in New York City to found the American Institute of Architects. A century later, all America honors the AIA, one of our pioneer national professional organizations, during its centennial.

It is easy to overlook the importance of nationwide groups such as the AIA, and the tremendous influence they have upon the past, the present, and the onrushing future. Certainly few organizations with a sizable and yet comparatively small membership of 11,500 have so affected the lives of millions of citizens in a great nation. For structures designed by AIA members influence almost every American not once but many times a day across the land.

The founders of the AIA will be honored in New York City February 23, and in many ceremonies over the U.S. TSA members are staging a nationwide celebration extending through March 2. A year-long observance would really be necessary to touch upon all the major aspects of architecture and its development since 1857.

Certainly AIA's founders, and its first president, Richard Upjohn, would be amazed to see the many accomplishments of the organization those 13 members started a century ago. AIA's 124 Chapters would be a great source of pride to them as these affiliates look toward a second 100 years. We have the idea that two things however, would delight Mr. Upjohn's pioneer group in particular. These are the manner in which architecture and the architect has become an accepted, integral part of every phase of U.S. life, and the degree to which the average practitioner of architecture, little known as a professional man even a generation ago, has entered into community life and into mutually beneficial relationships with those in related professions which have in turn greatly benefitted the general public.

The President's Letter



By
Fred J. MacKie
TSA-AIA

President,
Texas Society
of Architects

The TSA year has begun with two important events: the January board meeting of last month in Austin and the launching of our statewide observance of the centennial of the American Institute of Architects, on February 23.

At the January 12 board meeting, directors approved the overall 1957 budget and a series of key appointments through which TSA members across the state will continue the vital work of our organization through our committees. An important development within TSA in the past several years has been the increasing recognition given to the function of these committees, with appointments now made weeks and even months earlier than in the past to allow for continuous and adequate planning.

Each committee member should consider his work to be of extreme importance to the functioning of the TSA.

Work for 1957 is off to a good start, and we all look forward to another year of very real accomplishments which can very probably be traced back again to conscientious and able work at the committee level.

A survey of our 13 Chapters shows many varied and interesting plans for the centennial week of February 23-March 2, which is being combined in this state with the traditional Texas Architects' Week. We invite Texans across the state to join with TSA members in this observance of the first century of the American Institute of Architects.

Houston Architect Receives Coveted AIA Award

WASHINGTON, D. C.—David C. Baer, TSA-AIA, of Houston, will receive the Edward C. Kemper Award from The American Institute of Architects. This award is given annually for outstanding contributions to the architectural profession or to the Institute and will be presented during the centennial celebration of the national professional architectural society, to be held in Washington, D. C. in May.

Mr. Baer will receive this award in recognition of long and valuable service rendered in developing improved methods of office practice for the architect. As chairman of the Institute's Committee on Office Practice and its consultant on cost accounting, he has been largely responsible for the development of up-to-date contract documents and a cost accounting system.

Through utilizing these improved tools and techniques, the architect is enabled to operate his office more efficiently and can thus better his services to clients and the public.

UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS GRADUATE

Born in Holt County, Missouri, in 1904, Baer attended the University of Colorado's Art College, and the architectural schools of the Universities of Minnesota and Texas. He became registered as an architect in Texas in 1937 and as an engineer in 1941.

He is a lecturer at Houston University on specifications and contracts and on estimating and construction methods.

Mr. Baer has been a corporate member of the AIA since 1941 and is a past officer of the Houston Chapter. He has been active in the affairs of the Texas Society of Architects and since 1951 has been editor of that organization's publication, *Texas Architect*. He also is a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Mr. Baer has been engaged in the practice of architecture for the past 25 years, mostly in Texas. Recent works include office buildings for Houston Urban Expressways in Hous-



David C. Baer

ton, for the Texas Highway Department in Houston, Atlanta and Yoakum; the Pasadena Savings Bank and office building; and the I.B.M. building in Houston. Since 1953 he has conducted his practice under the firm name of David C. Baer, Architect & Engineer, at 1200 Bissonnet, Houston.

THE CLOSET DOORS FOR MODERN HOMES

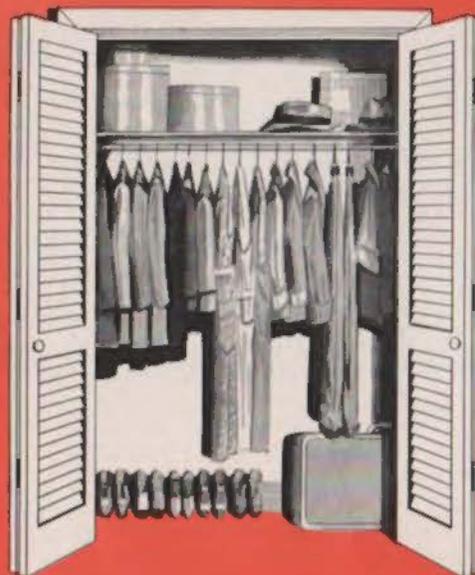
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TSA Statewide Program Ties In With National AIA Centennial

The 13 TSA Chapters across Texas, tying-in with the centennial observance of the American Institute of Architects, will present an unusually interesting group of programs across the state from mid-February through March 2. Following are some of the highlights of separate celebrations by TSA Chapters, which are combining their traditional Texas Architects' Week with the AIA hundredth anniversary:

BRAZOS: Special Chapter dinner and exhibits at Texas A. & M. College.

CENTRAL TEXAS: Craftsmanship Dinner with prominent civic and state officials as guests. Downtown exhibit consisting of one panel from each office. One section of the master plan for the City of Austin, developed by University of Texas students, will be included. Series of monthly exhibits during the year at Fine Arts Association Museum, "Laguna Gloria". Special section in newspaper. Centennial programs on radio and television, including stations within 50-mile area. Speakers for downtown clubs. Ceremony at post office for first purchase of Centennial stamp on February 23.

COASTAL BEND: Chapter Centennial dinner and special newspaper, radio, and television coverage. Exhibits. Distribution of Centennial stamps for use by public service groups.

DALLAS: Banquet in Century Room honoring 100 outstanding citizens, with nationally-known speaker due to address about 600 guests the evening of March 1. Centennial exhibit. Special distribution of centennial materials including presentation of commemorative stamps, books, china, etc.

EL PASO: Craftsmanship award to master mason at special luncheon. Exhibition of 100 years of architectural development in El Paso, showing various types of structures at 25-year intervals with old photographs, actual plans. Awards banquet on Friday, February 22, honoring local artist for mosaic mural at Texas Western College. Exhibition of history of banking at State National Bank. Later in the centennial year, the El Paso Chapter will continue with an address and tour by Frank Lloyd Wright, who will come over from Phoenix, Arizona for the occasion. The Chapter is also collaborating with the Chamber of Com-



Special Commemorative Stamp

Above is a reproduction, for philatelic purposes only, of the special three-cent stamp being issued February 23 in honor of the AIA centennial. Thousands of the stamps are being purchased, many for public service uses, by TSA-AIA Chapters and by individual TSA-AIA members.

merce on a city planning meeting later in 1957 as part of the observance.

FORT WORTH: Special ceremony in connection with centennial stamp. Traditional Craftsmanship Award dinner. Exhibition of the Louis Sullivan Memorial Exhibition in conjunction with the Fort Worth Art Museum.

HOUSTON: Formal dinner February 20 with Keen Johnson, former governor of Kentucky and vice-president of Reynolds Metals Company, as principal speaker before estimated 250 guests at new Houston Country Club. Three principal television programs: Tolbott Wilson, TSA-FAIA, on "Press Conference", the widely-discussed program over KPRC-TV on 2:30 p.m. Sunday, February 17; Robert Tolley, TSA-AIA, lecturing with slides on the economic and climatic effects on architecture, over KTRK-TV; and Karl Komrath, TSA-AIA, state TSA public relations chairman, over KUHT-TV. A total of 52 Houston billboards will carry a strip: "AIA . . . 100 Years". The Chapter will purchase special commemorative stamps of the AIA centennial on February 23, and present them to Mayor Oscar Holcombe for use of the Houston School for Deaf Children. Exhibit of Chapter honor awards at downtown Music Hall and at the Alley Theatre. Various appearances by members of Speakers' Bureau of the Chapter.

Showing of the film "Architecture—USA" before five civic clubs.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY: Craftsmanship Award at Centennial Dinner in Harlingen. Special ceremony in connection with issuance of centennial stamp.

NORTH TEXAS: "Texas Architects' Week — AIA Centennial Week" proclaimed by mayor. Special exhibit in local banks will show historic old Wichita Falls buildings with the modern structures which have replaced many of them on same sites. Exhibit of honor award winners in downtown department stores. Speeches before local civic clubs. Special coverage in newspapers and on radio and television.

PANHANDLE: In both Amarillo and Lubbock, TAW-AIA Centennial Week will be proclaimed, with special ceremonies February 23 as centennial stamp is issued by post offices. The AIA centennial china will be presented to city officials. Honor Award exhibits are also planned for both Amarillo and Lubbock. Special newspaper, radio and television coverage. The Student Chapter of the AIA at Texas Tech has a separate observance, to be coordinated with the overall program, underway. As part of this, it is hoped that the great AIA Centennial Exhibit

(Continued on Page 6)

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BITULITHIC COMPANY

Representative Selection Of El Paso Chapter, AIA

Project: El Paso Natural Gas Company.
Home Office Building, El Paso, Texas.

Architects: Carroll & Daeuble, TSA-AIA, El Paso.

Structural Engineers: W. E. Simpson Company, San Antonio.

Mechanical Engineers: Landauer, Guerrero & Shafer, Dallas.

The building is the home office of one of the large natural gas transmission and distribution companies in the United States. The program required specially planned space on a downtown corner lot 100' x 120' for all the departments of the corporation and its approximately one thousand employees in one single building. Large storage areas for company active and inactive files were required of the basement levels, which in turn dictated that most of the mechanical equipment be placed at the top of the building.

The South exposure is very severe for glass areas so the mechanical core is located against this wall to reduce window opening. Office arrangements are placed along the North wall, which is a more favorable natural lighting source.

WEATHER BEACON VISIBLE 15 MILES

The weather beacon on top of the building is a plastic flame that changes color with the weather forecasts. It is 9 feet in diameter and 21 feet high above its structural steel tower, and can be read from fifteen miles away.

Construction was started in April of 1953 and the owner began moving into the offices in December, 1954. The structure encloses 2,700,000 cubic feet and 220,000 square feet within the outside walls.

The building is 100 per cent air-conditioned for summer and winter with high-pressure conduit system providing individual room control. The four elevators operate at a speed of about 700 feet per minute with automatic electronic control.

FLEXIBLE FLOOR ARRANGEMENTS

The typical floor arrangements have a maximum of flexibility with hollow-core metal floor decks for under-floor electrical distribution at intervals of 18 inches, metal pan acoustical ceilings that can be rearranged on a two-foot module for almost any required lighting and air-conditioning pattern, and movable metal office partitions which make possible an unlimited flexibility

El Paso Award Winner



An interior view of the Home Office Building of the El Paso Natural Gas Company in El Paso, showing entrance lobby exhibition area. This structure, designed by Carroll & Daeuble, TSA-AIA, was selected by members of the El Paso Chapter, AIA, as representative of recent work in the Chapter area.

in the use of space. Typical floors have rubber tile. Lobbies have terrazzo floors. All windows in the building have light-diffusing and heat-absorbing colored plate glass. The sash are kept locked except for cleaning, which is done from inside the building by a vertical flue-type operation of the sash.

This is the first and only major office building constructed in El Paso since 1930.

Size of building: 100' x 120' on typical floors; sub-basement and basement; 18 floors above grade including elevator penthouse.

Type of construction: Conventional concrete foundation with no piling; structural steel frame with Q-floor decks; structural steel fire-proofed with lightweight plaster.

Interior finishes: Office areas — acoustical metal pan ceilings; rubber tile floors; movable metal partitions; plastered walls.

Lobbies—plaster ceilings; terrazzo floors; marble walls.

Toilets—plaster ceilings; ceramic tile floors and walls.

Vertical traffic: 4 elevators and 2 stairs.

Facing materials: Face brick walls and pilasters; aluminum spandrels; folding flue type windows.

The entrance lobby exhibition scheme tells the story of natural gas with 20" x 30" colored transparencies on the east wall, a scale model of the Midkiff Plant, a colored transparency of the United States map showing company operations, and a large 10' x 20' colored transparency at the end of the elevator lobby. All of the colored photographs can be changed periodically for public interest.

Texas Architectural Foundation Launches Broad 1957 Program

The Texas Architectural Foundation, sponsored by TSA, continues in 1957 a vigorous statewide program aimed at stimulating scholarship and research in the architectural field.

Projects already launched by TAF include a series of guest lectures to be delivered at the five senior architectural schools in the state, and the financing of a collection of architectural slides.

Officers for 1957 are Herbert Tatum, TSA-FAIA of Dallas, president; Edwin W. Carroll, TSA-AIA of El Paso, vice-president; and Philip D. Creer, TSA-AIA of Austin, director of the University of Texas School of Architecture, secretary-treasurer.

Two NASA Officers From Texas



New officers of the National Association of Students of Architecture who were elected during the Second Annual Student Forum conducted by the American Institute of Architects in Washington, D. C.

Left to right: Vice-president, Robert Harris, Rice Institute; president, Thymia Papayannis, M.I.T.; secretary-treasurer, Edward Burkhead, Texas A & M College.

TSA STATEWIDE PROGRAM

(Continued from Page 3)

will be brought to Texas Tech and to Lubbock in 1958.

SAN ANTONIO: Centennial stamp proclamation on February 23. Panel discussion on the Paul Thompson WOAI-TV program of February 24. Special centennial books to be presented. Speakers' Bureau representatives to appear before local civic clubs. Panel TV program over KONO-TV. Architectural section in newspapers of February 24. Awards dinner on March 1 honoring a craftsman chosen by the Chapter and the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, for its long and successful part in the city's growth and development.

SOUTHEAST TEXAS: Centennial dinner. Awards exhibits. Stamp ceremony emphasizing AIA centennial stamp. Gifts of centennial materials to local libraries and schools.

WEST TEXAS: (Abilene, San Angelo, Midland, and Odessa) Exhibits. Centennial dinner in each major city. Showings of Chapter copy of "Architecture—USA". Craftsmanship awards. Speakers' Bureau projects, appearing before civic clubs. Vocational guidance projects for high school seniors interested in architecture as a career. Centennial stamp ceremonies.

The theme of the national program is "A New Century Beckons." The Presi-

dent has been invited to address the architects and their guests, as did President Theodore Roosevelt at the 50th anniversary convention of the AIA in 1907.

Another major event in the celebration will be an architectural exhibition in the National Gallery of Art. As planned by Frederick Gutheim, Washington architectural writer and historian, under the guidance of the AIA Centennial committee, the exhibit will provide a survey of the past hundred years of American architecture, and point toward the future of building design in a new age of technology. A number of buildings will be presented in huge color transparencies especially made by the Eastman Kodak Company. This will be the first photographic exhibition ever shown at the National Gallery and one of the most ambitious to be presented in any field.

In addition to the TSA program in Texas most of the AIA's 124 chapters located throughout the United States will celebrate the centennial with local observances throughout the year. In New York City, AIA president Leon Chatelain, Jr., will unveil a plaque February 23 on the site of the AIA's original headquarters at 111 Broadway. Mayor Robert F. Wagner, Jr., has proclaimed the week of February 17 to 23 as "Architect's Week" in New York City.

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Architecture Became A Profession 100 Years Ago, on February 23, 1857

Architecture, which earlier had been the province of the builder, the carpenter, and the talented amateur, and of the individual practitioner became a profession on February 23, 1857, when 13 idealistic architects met in New York to found the American Institute of Architects. The service they performed to the benefit of the profession and the public will be acknowledged on the founding site on the centennial date of February 23, 1957, by representatives of five co-sponsoring New York City chapters. The original AIA meeting house has been replaced by a building at 111 Broadway which overlooks the famous Trinity Church, designed by the national organization's first president, Richard Upjohn. During the ceremony, AIA President Leon Chatelain, Jr., will unveil a plaque which will be affixed to the building on the original headquarters site.

The birth of the AIA followed establishment of the American Medical Association by ten years. It preceded the formal organization of the nation's lawyers by 21 years. Like the other two great professional bodies, the AIA has maintained throughout its history a high code of professional standards and ethics which govern the practice of the profession and the relationship of the architect to his client. Today, at the urging of the AIA, state registration laws in each of our 48 states require the architect to demonstrate his competence.

FIRST ARCHITECTURAL SCHOOLS

The AIA was instrumental in the establishment of the nation's first architectural schools at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Columbia University, and the University of Illinois. It continues to guide and support accredited schools of architecture.

Following the Civil War, AIA chapters began springing up throughout the nation. The organization's scope was further broadened by the merger, in 1889, of the AIA and the Western Association of Architects. Now there are AIA chapters in every state of the Union.

In the 1890's, one of the AIA's earliest public contributions was its fight to restore to the nation the original concept of the national capital in Washington, D. C. as laid down by Thomas Jefferson and L'Enfant. Few this national shrine had been desecrated to the point that a railroad sta-

tion squatted at the foot of the Capitol building and railroad tracks ran across will remember, or even believe, that the Mall. Led by its president, Daniel H. Burnham, a renowned architect of his day, the AIA waged a determined fight and ultimately succeeded in having the original plan restored and the eyesores removed. In the twentieth century, both the national organization and local chapters of AIA work perpetually to safeguard and restore the esthetic, functional, and economic values of the community and nation.

The headquarters for the national organization is housed at the famous Octagon House in Washington, D. C. which was occupied by President Madison after the White House had been burned in 1814. The AIA has restored the historic building to its former grace as one of the most beautiful structures in Washington.

MAJOR CULTURAL CONTRIBUTION

Today, the national organization is planning a major cultural contribution to the nation to mark the national Centennial Celebration. In this program, to be held May 14-17 in Washington, D.C., distinguished representatives of government, science, business, labor, and the arts have been invited to participate in a grand forum. This forum will define the forces which will shape the environment of the future and guide the planning of man's shelter of tomorrow. The theme for the national program is "A New Century Beckons." The prospectus for the Centennial Cele-

bration states, in part:

"It is recognized that the forces which shape human environment are infinitely more complex today than at any time in the past century. One hundred years ago, the architect was concerned principally with the problem of providing shelter for a pioneer society which was expanding its boundaries and bridging its frontiers.

"Today, the architect must consider, simultaneously, man's physical environment in relation to his new social aspirations and spiritual needs; to a host of new contrivances which afford him new comfort and leisure time; to new problems of traffic flow, land use, and urban congestion; even to the problem of shielding him, not from the elements alone, but from the hazards of a world whose skill at making weapons has outstripped its ability to live without them.

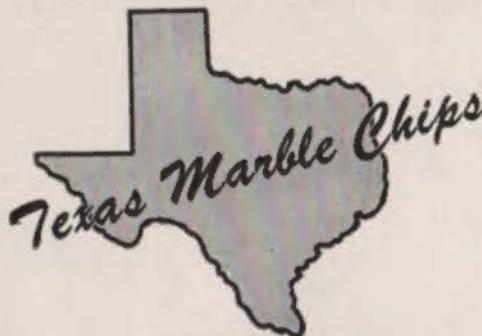
"In the contrast provided by these two eras, we may see, if only dimly, the enormity of the task we face. Our vast new knowledge of the nature of matter must be matched by an equivalent understanding of the nature of man. The architect can and must contribute to a closure of this gap in knowledge. This, then, is the aim of the centennial program of the American Institute of Architects."

The AIA is dedicated to the betterment of the profession of architecture as a vital social force concerned with the planning of human environment in the United States. It is a national professional organization whose membership today includes 11,500 registered architects throughout the nation. There are 124 chapters of the AIA located throughout the United States.

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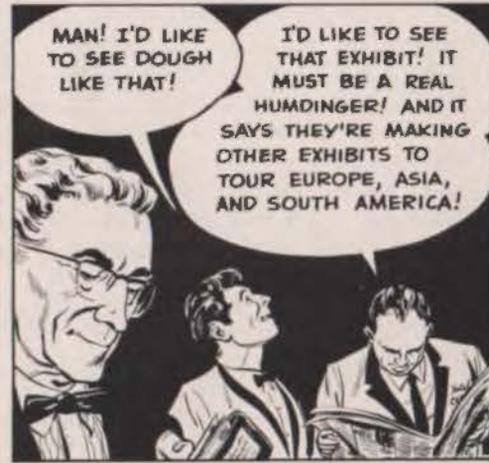
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