

# TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

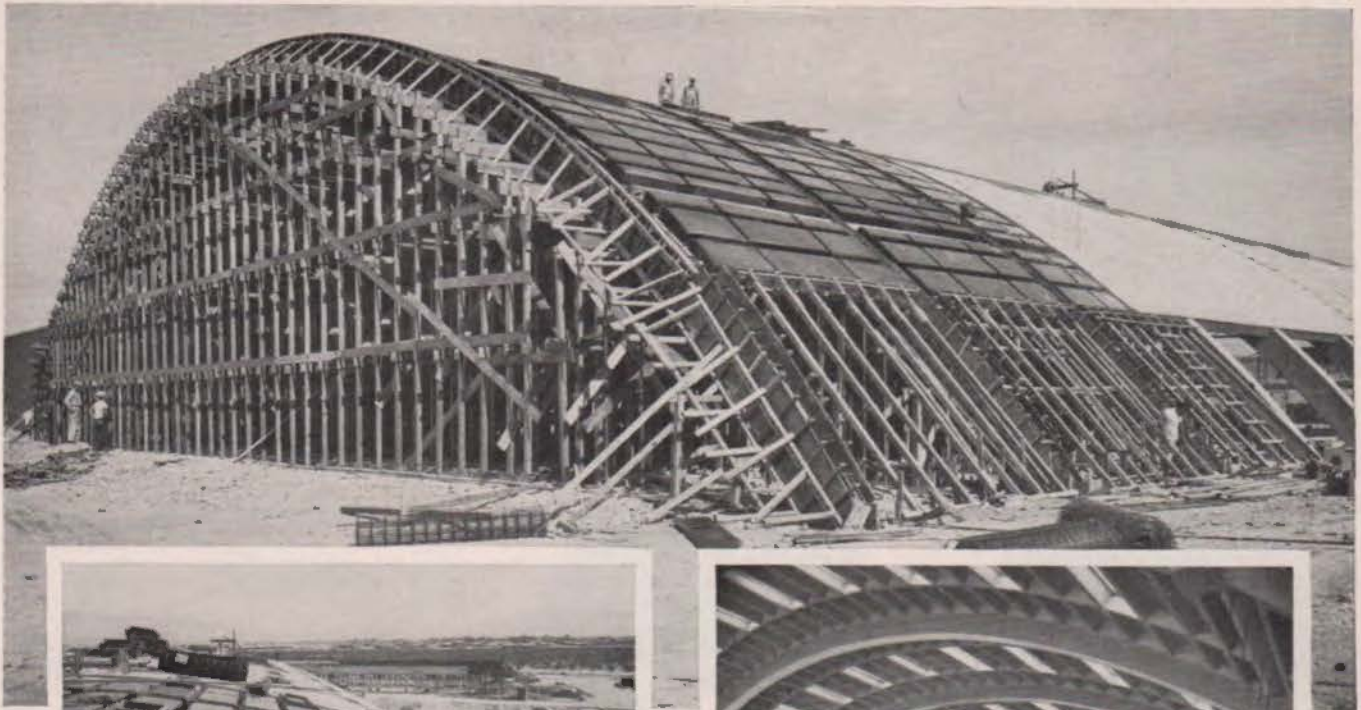
FEBRUARY  
1958



- ▶ El Paso Home Wins Chapter Award For Garland & Hilles
- ▶ Two TSA-AIA Members Nominated For National AIA Offices
- ▶ TSA To Honor 75th Anniversary Of Texas University



SEE PAGE 6



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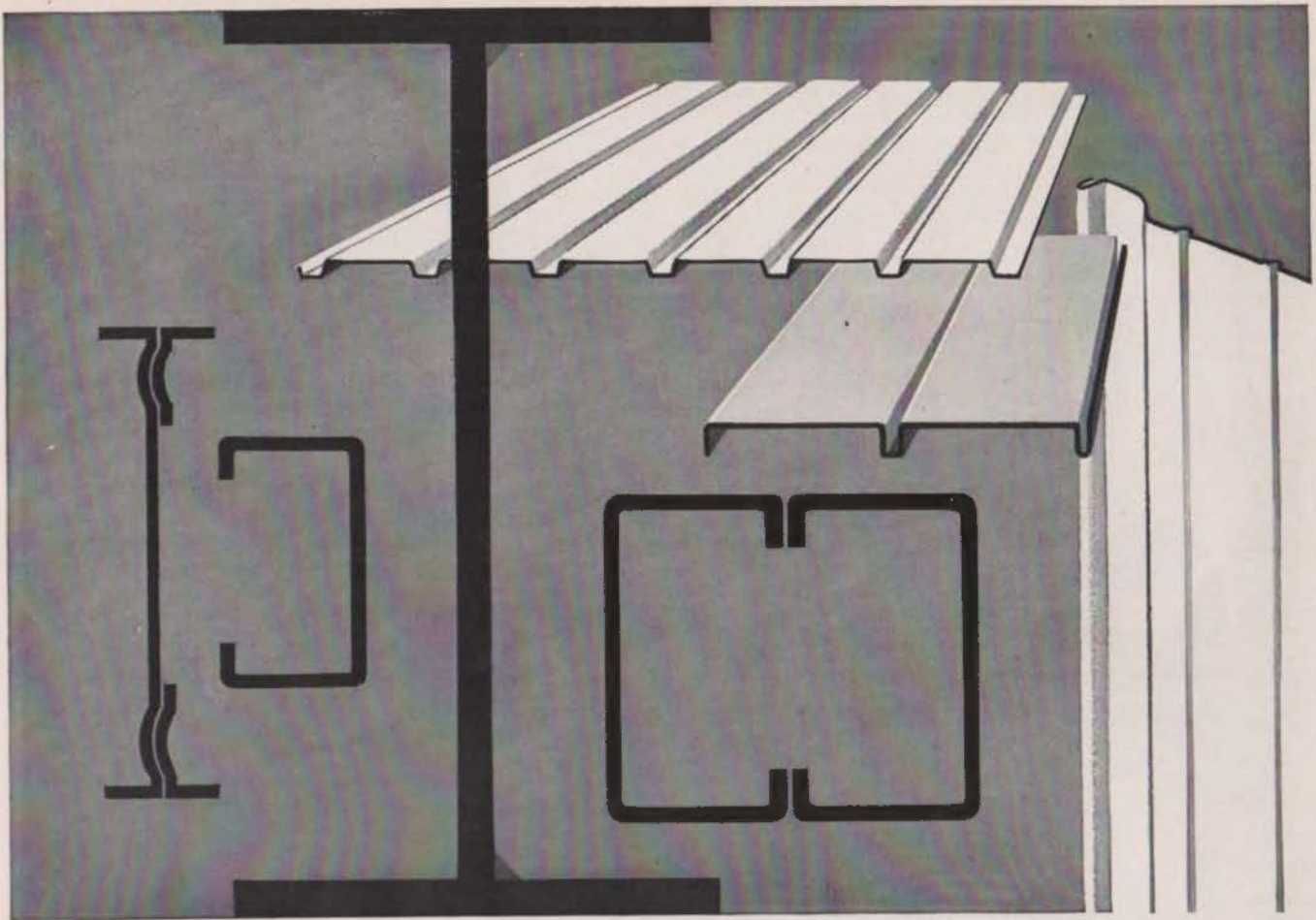
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## BOARD LAUNCHES VIGOROUS 1958 PROGRAM

Setting the theme by approving a record new budget of more than \$41,000, TSA embarked upon an ambitious 1958 program at Austin January 18 in a day-long session of the Executive Board. Thirteen of the 14 Chapter directors, plus twice as many other officials and committee chairmen, were present to hear proposals that would have seemed impossible of fulfillment to the founding members who formed the Society only 19 years ago.

It was significant that as the 1958 program was discussed in full the first president of TSA, Ralph Cameron, TSA-AIA of San Antonio, was present to give the report of the important Research Committee, which he heads. Mr. Cameron received a standing ovation when introduced.

The 1958 statewide program for TSA, covering a range of worthwhile activities which both benefit the public and broaden the individual member's experience and professional competence, is typical of the expanding work of professional organizations within the state. It seems certain to make this a memorable year as TSA rounds out a second decade of service to the architectural profession, and its public, and clients. The program of action approved by the Executive Board now moves out to the key Chapter level for implementation.

## The President's Letter

By

**Reginald H. Roberts**

President,  
Texas Society  
of Architects



TSA has in the Texas Architectural Foundation, an organization founded to encourage scholarship and research activities, what may well become the prototype for similar groups across the nation within the architectural profession.

Now in its fifth year, TAF has begun a significant new program for 1958 under the leadership of Edwin W. Carroll, TSA-AIA of El Paso, who succeeds Herbert M. Tatum, TSA-FAIA of Dallas, one of the hardest working officers and members within the Society. Officials of the Foundation met January 17 at Austin with heads of the five senior architectural schools in Texas, and embarked upon a complete evaluation of existing awards and scholarships programs. A preliminary report will be submitted in April.

Serving with Mr. Carroll as TAF officers will be another former TSA president, Grayson Gill, TSA-AIA of Dallas, and Philip D. Creer, TSA-AIA of Austin. Also on the TAF directorate are the three other five most recent presidents of TSA (R. Max Brooks, TSA-FAIA of Austin; Albert S. Golemon, TSA-AIA of Houston; and Fred J. MacKie, Jr., TSA-FAIA of Houston), plus Bartlett Cocke, TSA-AIA of San Antonio, chairman of the Awards & Scholarship Committee for the Society. Mr. Gill will be TAF vice-president; Mr. Creer, chairman of the Education Committee, is to serve as secretary-treasurer.

Another major 1958 project for TAF will be the issuance of a new brochure describing in detail the Foundation's history, objectives, and current program.



## Houston Firm Produces Metal-Inlay Architectural Murals

Murals in oils, mosaics and fresco paintings have been known in Europe for some 2000 years. The art of inlaying metals into wood panels has been known in the Orient for an equal period. By bringing this medium from the Orient into use in an American mural of monumental size, the Houston firm "ARCHITECTURAL MURALS" has introduced a new and interesting mural art-form to this country.

While in the diplomatic service in the Far East, A. Kelly Shelton, head of Architectural Murals, observed the Chinese skillfully practicing this art of metal inlay. After choosing Houston as his home, Mr. Shelton demonstrated this art to leading architects. Among those who showed immediate interest was Kenneth Franzheim, TSA-FAIA of Houston, whose firm was then designing the new twenty-story National Bank of Commerce, opened just last month, in San Antonio.

### THEME OF OLD SAN ANTONIO

The theme chosen for the mural was the pageant of San Antonio over the last 250 years. Houston artist George Shackelford presented an impressive design covering (1) the period from the time of the first Spanish conquerors and the establishment of the missions, through the Mexican War and the early frontier days; (2) down to modern San Antonio with its industry and military establishments; and (3) a scroll map depicting San Antonio in 1903 when the bank was founded. While it was originally planned that the mural would be executed in Hong Kong, it was felt

that the intricate design might suffer if the work was not done under close supervision.

Since everyone couldn't go to Hong Kong, a plant was established at 4320 Alief Road, Houston. Craftsmen under the direction of job foreman Charles A. Sautter improved some of the Oriental techniques. Some ancient hand processes were mechanized and new methods developed.

Finally, nine months later, 62 panels were taken to San Antonio and erected to cover the wall above the tellers'

cages in the main banking room of the new building. These walnut panels cover an area 80 feet wide by 16 feet high. The mural comprises the center 40 feet and is in soft tones of silver, copper and brass. To achieve the effect of a non-reflective silver-metal, an alloy of Alcoa Aluminum was found to produce the desired result and to serve as a highly useful material in abundant supply. The unveiling of the mural occurred during the bank's opening formalities in mid-January. It is considered the showpiece of the new \$8,000,000 building, and one of the leading art projects in America this year.

And we in the Lone Star State are proud that instead of "Made in Hong Kong," the mural was "Made in Texas by Texans."



# What to Look for In Your New Home

People were once cautioned — "don't spend more than a week's salary for your monthly rent." Today, with a million new homes bought each year, the saying goes, "A family earning \$5,000 a year can afford to pay at least \$15,000 for a new home, and a family earning \$7,500 can spend at least \$20,000."

Purchase of a house, for most of us, will be the greatest single investment we'll ever make. So let's sit right down and make up a checklist of the things we want in a home. No use buying a home and then sitting in it for 10 years dissatisfied—rueing the day we bought it. Most of the things that bother us are little annoyances. For example, if the building were falling down we'd move out of it fast enough — but if the garage door sticks, we'd just grumble, grunt and groan every time we had to use the car.

Before you shell out your hard-earned cash for that down payment, take a look at this checklist: *But beforehand, remember this: the surest way to get what you want, your full money's worth, is to retain an architect from the first day you and the wife start putting likes and dislikes, wants and needs, down on paper:*

1. *Attractive neighborhood.* Are you proud to have your friends see where you live? Or will you walk home with your hat pulled down and your collar turned up?
2. *Maintenance-free exterior.* Will you have to repaint your home every time it rains? Will you spend more time patching the roof than sitting in your easy chair, falling asleep watching TV?
3. *Outdoor living.* Do you have a backyard, or porch or terrace or patio to sit on when the weather's pleasant, or will you have to sit indoors or go to a public park?
4. *Basement and attic.* Do you have a basement or attic in which to set up your workshop, or store occasionally-used things? Or must you stuff everything under the bed or in already jammed clothes closets?
5. *Area of plot.* Do you have enough room to plant flowers, set up a barbecue pit, raise grass? Or must you be content with a narrow window box or just a green mailbox?

6. *Inside area of home.* Can you invite friends over and not break up the family, or must the kids go out and play in the traffic or hang by their fingertips from the windowsills, if guests come over?
7. *Garage.* Is the garage close to the house? And will you be sheltered if it's raining or must you splash your way through mudholes, hurdle wet hedges to get to your front

8. *Gutters on roof.* Are the gutters on your house designed realistically for the rainfall in your area or are they so shallow that they overflow regularly? And do they clog up with leaves every fall because the trees are so close? And when you clean the gutters, can you get to them easily or must you borrow an extension ladder from the fire department because they're so high? Or must you work from the
- (Continued on page 8)

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*The Donald Sharp Memorial Hospital, San Diego, Calif. Architects: Stone & Mulloy and S. P. Marraccini, San Francisco. Structural engineer: George Washington, San Francisco. Contractor: Trepte Construction Co., San Diego.*

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These two views of the Donald Sharp Memorial Hospital in San Diego, Calif. show the possibilities of architectural concrete in designing modern hospitals.

This nine-story, 122,500 sq. ft. structure has architectural concrete exterior surfaces, a reinforced concrete frame and flat slab and ribbed concrete floors.

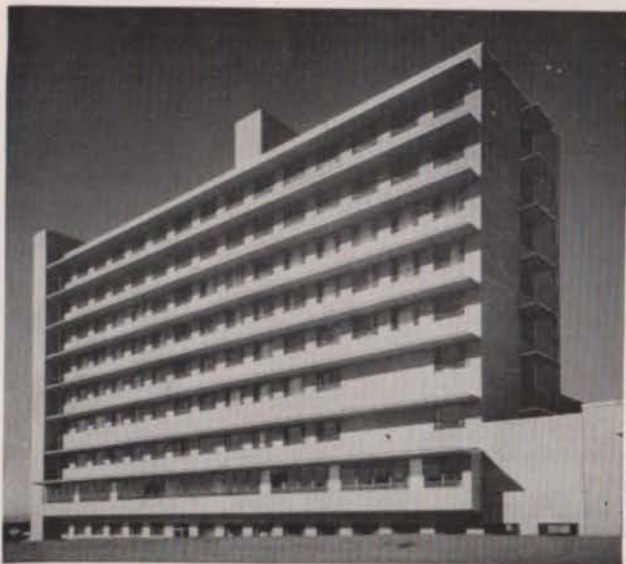
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## WHAT TO LOOK FOR . . .

(Continued from page 5)

roof and wear mountain climbers' spiked shoes and carry a pick because it's so steep?

9. **Weatherstripping.** Are drafts coming in around windows and doors giving you a pain in the neck? Are your fuel bills ridiculously high? Are you heating the neighborhood? Metal weatherstripping is the answer here. In fact, the Weatherstrip Research Institute says, metal weatherstripping will reduce 83 per cent of annoying drafts, keep out dirt, sand, smoke, and soot; stop window rattling; deaden street noises; and keep out rain and snow. By choking off air in leakage, metal weatherstripping cuts heat loss and can save about 25 per cent of the fuel bill in the average home.
10. **Bathrooms.** Do you have enough to meet the family's needs? Will there be chaos if father is shaving and two others are waiting to use the shower? Is there a heater? When you step out of the bathtub or shower, must you chip away ice formations or can you merely dry yourself with a towel? And does

the wash sink have a mixing faucet, or do you alternately scald and freeze your hands as you move them from under one faucet to the other?

11. **Closet space.** Do you have enough room to hang up all your clothes or must you roll them into a ball? Are you living out of suitcases? If you have big, roomy walk-in closets, do they have lights so you can find your way out?
12. **Kitchen.** Sure, you want lots of cabinet space in the kitchen too, but how is it laid out? Are your cabinets over the stove so that when you roast a turkey you simultaneously melt your plastic dishes and toast your bread? Your work triangle — refrigerator, sink, stove — should be free of obstacles. Must you run around the kitchen table or step out on the back porch every time you take celery out of the refrigerator and clean it at the sink?
13. **Light Switches and outlets.** Can you walk into any room and put the light on readily, or must you grope your way to the light switch? Are there enough convenience outlets? Must you have a half mile

of extension cord on hand?

14. **Fireplace.** Does it work efficiently, or does soot settle inside the house? Can it be cleaned easily without getting lung cancer from the smoke and soot?

Remember that architect! He will not only insure full value for every dollar spent but if you follow his advice you can expect pleasure and satisfaction every day of every year you live in your new home. You may easily save the architects fee and more in increased value, liveability, and resale value, as many a fortunate home owner can attest.

## Royal Tile Will Offer Architect Special Service

A design data and display room for special use of architects will be built into the new regional headquarters building of Royal Tile Mfg. Co. of Ft. Worth, at Phoenix, Ariz.

Horace H. Porter, president of Royal, one of leading U. S. producers of ceramic tile for domestic and commercial use, said specifications, design data, shapes and sizes, colors and other basic information needed by the architect will be included.



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# Representative Selection

## El Paso Chapter, AIA

The El Paso Chapter AIA has selected the Aaronson Residence as a representative example of recent work in the El Paso Chapter area.

Basically the house is built around an open, interior court, one end of which is a reflecting pool, visible as one enters.

For a family of seven and two maids, including five young girls, the house is zoned to provide the required space for service and food preparation, formal entertaining and dining, informal living and family gatherings. Zoning also provides privacy and quiet in the sleeping areas.

There are private terraces for each of the bedrooms and a larger terrace to the rear of the house, opening off the master bedroom, den and breakfast room.

### INTERIOR COURT PRINCIPLE

Although the interior court is an ancient principle, it works particularly well in this scheme, for inasmuch as the living room, entry, dining room, breakfast room and den have access to the court, the rear terrace may be utilized allowing the entire living area of the house to be completely opened for large gatherings. The court may serve as many or as few rooms as desired and is entirely visible from the protective shelter of the adjacent spaces.

The heating and air-conditioning system is zoned, one zone supplying the living, dining and service areas, and one zone handling the bedrooms and their specific night-time loads.

Floors in the den, breakfast room and entry are of polished flagstone, extending out into the patio. All other rooms are carpeted except the baths and service areas. The exterior walls are of rough-cut limestone, which is also used for the wall between the den and breakfast room and for the fireplaces. Walnut paneling is used freely throughout the house and walnut sliding doors provide privacy for the dining room.

Notable features are the deep overhangs and distinctive fascia of red-

**Building:** Abe Aaronson  
Residence

**Architect:** Garland and Hilles,  
TSA-AIA, El Paso

**General Contractor:**  
C. R. Bagwell, El Paso

wood, contrasting sharply with the light cream color of the stone. Openings in the overhang provide interesting interplay of light and shadow in the court. The general feeling is one of great spaciousness with an everchanging view of interior and exterior spaces, along with contrasting textures of fabrics, polished stone floors, soft carpeting, wood paneling and rough stone.

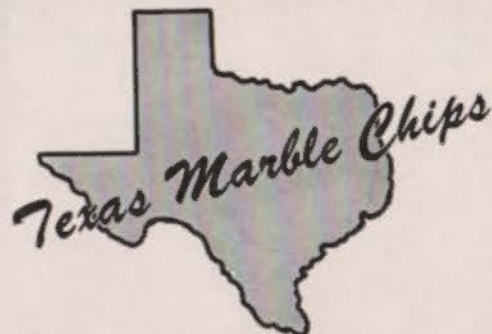


A front view of the Abe Aaronson residence in El Paso, which is shown also on this month's cover. The residence, featuring private terraces for the bedrooms, was selected by the El Paso Chapter, AIA, as typical of recent architecture in the area. Architect: Garland & Hilles, TSA-AIA, El Paso.

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## BRI Plastics Meeting Set for March 5-6 at University of Houston

The University of Houston will be host to the first public conference ever held in Texas by the Building Research Institute of the National Academy of Sciences - National Research Council, when that group meets March 5 and 6 to discuss "Plastics in Building Illumination." Fifteen of the nation's experts on building illumination with plastics materials through daylight and electric sources will present the newest information available in this field.

Previous meetings have been held at MIT and at Washington University in Saint Louis.

The program will be divided into three parts: the basic objectives of illumination, the use of plastics in illumination today, and a preview of new methods, techniques and materials being developed for the future.

Mason G. Lockwood, nationally known Houston engineer and immediate past-president of the American Society of Civil Engineers, will do a round-up of the meeting on the second day. Grayson Gill, TSA-AIA of Dallas, will moderate the discussion period on the future of plastics in building illumination.

Dr. James W. Griffith, director of the Daylight Research Laboratory at Southern Methodist University, will present a paper on "Daylight as a Means of Obtaining Objectives." Charles T. Granger, Jr., TSA-AIA of Austin, will analyze performance requirements in building illumination.

Of particular interest to builders, architects, lighting specialists, engineers and building owners, the meeting will be open to the public.

Complete program for the meeting and registration information may be obtained by writing to School of Architecture, University of Houston, Houston 4.

Roofs used for automobile parking, heliports, railroad bridges, and other overhead structures requiring membrane waterproofing under traffic surfaces are discussed in a new folder, "Carey Elastite Asphalt Plonk," available from The Philip Carey Mfg. Company, Lockland 15, Ohio.

The folder explains the function of Elastite Asphalt Planks in protecting the built-up waterproofing membrane from damage due to expansion, contraction and warping of the concrete traffic sur-

## Texas A&M Student Wins TCMA Award



At left above, Nolan Browne, president of the Texas Concrete Masonry Association, presents a check and award to architectural student Norman B. Ufer of Texas A. & M. College.

This marks the fifth straight year the Texas Concrete Masonry Association has made the award to an outstanding student of architecture. The student is judged on all-around ability, by a group of highly qualified judges from architectural schools in the state. There has been no qualification as to the type of structure designed, nor materials specified.

The award was made during the annual Texas Concrete Masonry Association convention at the Statler Hilton Hotel in Dallas.

face.

Also described in the folder is the use of Elastite Plonk for bridge flooring, viaduct surfacing, and cold storage room wainscoting.

## Texas Architectural Foundation Expresses Gratitude for Contributions

The Texas Architectural Foundation has issued a list of organizations and firms allied with the architectural profession which during 1957 contributed to the furtherance of architectural education in the State of Texas. As of January 16, 1958, the list included Clay Products Association; Dallas Chapter, American Institute of Architects; Joe P. Dillard and Associates; Featherlite Corporation; Monarch Tile Manufacturing, Inc.; Royal Tile Manufacturing Company; Southland Supply Company, Inc.; Texas Concrete Masonry Association; Texas Contract Millwork Manufacturer's Association; Valley Brick and Tile Company, and the Women's Auxiliary to the Houston Chapter, AIA.

TAF officials issued a statement ex-

## Total U. S. Construction Virtually Unchanged As Homes, Heavy Engineering Up

Contracts for future construction in the United States totalled \$2,370,699,000 in November, approximately the same as in November 1956, F. W. Dodge Corporation reported.

The latest figures compiled by the Dodge organization show that November contracts for housing and for heavy engineering rose, but that these gains were approximately offset by a drop in contracts for non-residential buildings. November marked the fifth consecutive month in which residential contracts showed a gain over the year ago month.

Contracts for new residential buildings totalled \$929,987,000 in November, up 3% from November of last year. The increase was primarily due to a large gain in contracts for apartment buildings, aided by a rise in contracts for two-family houses and hotels; single-family homes ran a little behind the year-earlier figures. Dwelling units covered by the November contracts numbered 72,147, an increase of five per cent over November of last year.

Contracts for non-residential buildings, at \$878,484,000, were down nine per cent from November 1956. Commercial buildings were up slightly.

Heavy engineering contracts were up a healthy 11%.

pressing gratitude to the above donors and "to the many members of our profession who likewise have contributed to the Foundation."

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# NEW PRODUCTS

An economy-size model electronic air cleaner has been added to their Model 6 line by Trion, Inc. of McKees Rocks, Pa.

Known as the 6-100 model, the new Trion has a capacity of 800 to 1000 cubic feet of air per minute and is sized to fit a furnace with a BTU rating of 80,000 to 100,000, or a central air cooling unit of two ton capacity.

☆ ☆ ☆

Armstrong Custom Minaboard, a new type of acoustical ceiling material claimed to have negligible air infiltration, has been introduced by Armstrong Cork Company.

The high density of the material (19 pounds per cubic foot) is said to prevent "breathing," a frequent problem with lower density boards of this type. Because virtually no air passes through Custom Minaboard, dirt and dust do not collect on its interior surface.

The perforated ceiling material has good sound absorption properties, with a NRC range of .70-.80. Because of its high density, it also offers excellent resistance to sound transmission.

Custom Minaboard is available in a  $\frac{5}{8}$ " thickness, in a  $23\frac{3}{4}$ " x  $47\frac{3}{4}$ " size. The interior face of the material is finished with white washable latex paint and is patterned with an attractive random arrangement of tiny perforations.

The mineral fiber used in the board is combined with special binders to produce a rigid panel with exceptional strength. It is designed for lay-in installation in exposed grids that support the panel on all four sides. Completely fire-safe, the material has an "Incombustible (Class A)" rating under federal specifications.

Armstrong Custom Minaboard can be cleaned with a vacuum cleaner or damp cloth.

☆ ☆ ☆

An ingenious construction technique that uses a lightweight steel beam as an expansion joint between concrete paving sections is used by R. G. LeTourneau, the noted industrial manufacturer.

As a manufacturer of earth moving equipment, Mr. LeTourneau keeps his eyes on all phases of construction. One of the things that Mr. LeTourneau noted was the inherent disadvantages of tar expansion joints.

As Mr. LeTourneau explains it:

"In the ordinary joint when the concrete gets hot, it squeezes the tar out of the joint. Then when it cools off, that space fills up with dirt and the next time it gets hot, it squeezes out more tar until there is a compacted mass of dirt in the joint. Consequently, the concrete buckles because there is nothing to absorb the expansion."

So Mr. LeTourneau devised an unusual joint method using a six-inch steel Junior Beam.

"It saves you time and money because you can use the Junior Beam as a screed to strike off the concrete and you don't have to wait for one section to set before you start pouring the next section."

The Junior Beam is held in position by a steel bar driven into the ground and tack-welded to the flange of the Junior Beam.

"Adjoining sections using the same Junior Beam gives a smoother slab, and also the separate sections are keyed together so that no matter what happens one cannot go up and the other down, leaving a step," he explained.

## New NSF Grant Will Permit Basic Research In Field of Architecture

Funds to conduct a conference to identify neglected areas of basic research in architecture have been granted to the American Institute of Architects by the National Science Foundation.

Plans for the workshop-conference, to be held in Washington next fall, are being carefully prepared by a steering committee composed of authorities in fields most directly related to architectural requirements. Members are: Dr. Robert King Merton, Columbia University sociologist; Dr. Albert H. Hastorf, Dartmouth College psychologist; Dr. C. P. Yaglou, Harvard University School of Public Health; Professor Myle Halley, MIT structural engineer; and Mr. Walter E. Campbell, AIA, Boston architect and chairman of the AIA Research Committee.

Steering Committee Chairman Campbell reports this important interdisciplinary conference to be the result of initial investigation by the AIA Department of Education and Research which will also coordinate the program with a forthcoming meeting on Building Science Research, to be conducted by the Building Research Institute.

Approximately 30 authorities from all parts of the U.S. will be invited to participate in the AIA workshop-conference, "to determine the relationships of the physical, biological and social sciences in the problems of optimum created environment for human activities."

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