



 THE TEXAS  
ARCHITECT

COVER:  
HARMONIOUS  
WITH ITS  
NEIGHBORS  
AND  
APPEALING  
TO THE MASS  
MARKET  
THIS  
SPECULATIVE  
OFFICE  
BUILDING  
BY  
ARCHITECTS  
NEUHAS  
AND  
TAYLOR  
IS A  
TEXAS  
ARCHITECTURE  
1965  
SELECTION.

# THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

VOLUME 16 / FEBRUARY 1966 / NUMBER 2

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Don Edward Legge, A.I.A., Editor  
James D. Pfluger, Associate Editor  
John G. Flowers, Jr., Managing Editor

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Beyond all plans and programs, true conservation is ultimately something of the mind—an ideal of men who cherish their past and believe in their future.

We cannot afford an America where experience tramples upon esthetics and development decisions are made with an eye only on the present.

We must act decisively—and soon—if we are to assert the people's right to clean air and water, to open space, to well-designed urban areas, to mental and physical health. In every part of the nation we need men and women who will fight for man-made masterpieces and against senseless squalor and urban decay.

STEWART L. UDALL





# 3336 RICHMOND BUILDING, HOUSTON

NEUHAUS AND TAYLOR

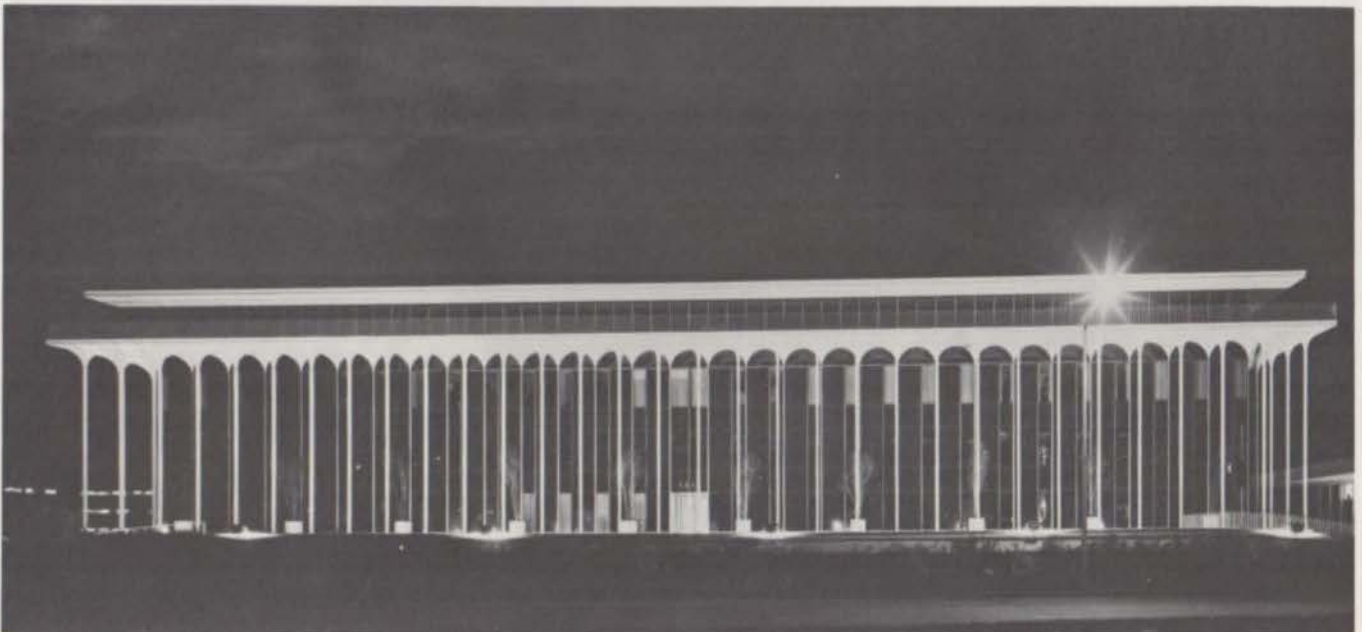
ARCHITECTS AND PLANNING CONSULTANTS

The building was commissioned by an investment builder for speculative office rental. Because the site is an expensive corner lot in a rapidly developing area of suburban office buildings, the most intensive use of land was required. A four-story building of large floors, each in excess of 20,000 square feet, was decided upon to achieve maximum efficiency with resultant competitive rental rates. Such a configuration was also more economical because of fewer air conditioning zones, lower elevator costs, and lower costs for toilet facilities. In addition, large floors have more planning flexibility, especially for the larger tenant. However, in the Houston suburban market, it is difficult to lease the interior space resulting from large floors, so two interior courtyards were created to give natural light and landscaped views to the interior offices. All spaces have windows no more than thirty feet from a typical circulation corridor. An aluminum grid sunscreen at the top of each courtyard encloses the space and creates an impressive volume, shields the glass walls from direct sun and thus reduces the number of air conditioning zones otherwise required for the courtyard glass from eight to two, per floor. Corridors and elevator lobbies also open out upon the courtyards, an amenity not possible in a typical double-loaded corridor scheme. In order to provide for on-site parking, the building was placed upon a hollow podium that covers the entire lot and contains a parking basement one-half level below grade. Eighty-nine cars are parked on top of the podium and 193 in a basement naturally ventilated by openings at the above-grade wall.

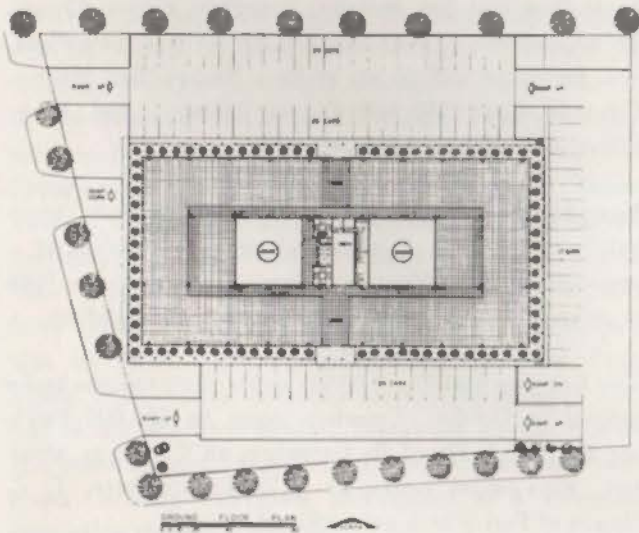
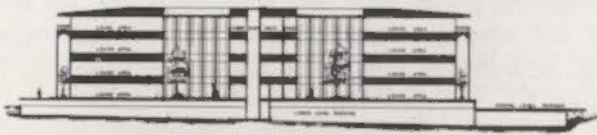




*In deference to the Texas sun, fenestration is grey plate window glass and insulated black opaque glass panels in alternating panes. The penthouse floor is set back under a broad overhang to create a decorative veranda, to allow greater glass areas, and consequently to achieve rental rates higher than the other floors.*







Photos by Frank Lotz Miller, New Orleans

# LIBRARIES

FIRST TEXAS GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE



*H. Kenneth Jackson, director of Field Services Division, Texas State Library, examines plans for a new building under the Library Services and Construction Act federal funds. The bulletin board behind him shows trends in library buildings with illustrations of new buildings planned in Texas.*

Appointment by Governor John Connally of George S. Sowden, A.I.A., president of the Texas Society of Architects, to the Advisory Committee for the First Texas Governor's Conference on Libraries underscored the importance of the participation of Texas architects in a "new look" for Texas libraries.

The one-day Conference, March 23, in Austin's Municipal Auditorium will bring together leading state and local officials to discuss the low status of Texas libraries—37th ranking in the nation in annual per capita expenditure for public libraries—and to seek ways to improve that status. Attendance will be by invitation of the Governor.

Suffering many years from low priority rating with city councils and county commissioners who budget their funds, Texas libraries spend 84 cents per year, per person, on public libraries while the rest of the nation spends \$1.05 and professional standards recommend \$3.50.

Majority of the libraries are housed in an old building that was bequeathed for library use by a citizen and the transformation from home to adequate library was not successful. But new faces for public libraries began to take shape under the hand of Texas architects after activation of the Library Services and Construction Act in September, 1964.

Fourteen new buildings and four remodeling projects were authorized in 1964 under the \$1,438,499 building allocation for Texas. Four new libraries and one remodeling project have been approved already for 1965-66 and others are pending final approval. All projects require matching funds from the locality requesting the grant.

New building fund allocations in 1964 were: main buildings at Brownwood, Cameron, Killeen, LaPorte, Eagle Pass and San Antonio; branches: Corpus Christi, 1; San Antonio, 1; Fort Worth, 5. Under 1965 allocations, new buildings will go up at Port Neches, San Marcos, Colorado City (Mitchell County Library) and Pharr (Pharr County Library).

Remodeling was approved in 1964 for Denison, main building; Houston, 3 branches; and construction of a resource center at Houston. Approval was given in 1965 to remodeling Austin Public Library main building.

The first two building projects under the program broke ground in October. Cameron began its \$80,000 building for which David R. Carnahan of Waco was architect. Brownwood began its \$175,000 structure. T. Z. Hamm of Fort Worth was architect.



Funds for Texas under the LSCA Act are administered by the Field Services Division of the Texas State Library and are underwriting expenses of the Governor's Conference.

Although the federal money has provided the first bright spot in many years in Texas library construction, it is obviously a drop in the bucket—18 new buildings approved in two years—when there are 342 public libraries in the state.

Far from being able to provide funds for a new building, most Texas libraries are holding salad suppers and auctions in efforts to raise funds to provide operating expenses. Many of them are open as little as one day a week.

And that is the reason for the Governor's Conference on Libraries. Governor Connally has emphasized in his education program the importance of excellence and has characterized libraries as the "touchstone" of that excellence. He has expressed the conviction that Texans will be willing to improve their libraries if they are informed of the extreme need for improvement.

Twenty-eight Texas counties have no public libraries, and 85 per cent of the citizens of Texas have to use public libraries with inadequate books and staff. More than half a million public school students do not have a central library in their school.

Public libraries will not be the only topic of discussion for the Conference. All type libraries—elementary and secondary school libraries, college and university libraries, and special libraries will be evaluated.

Governor Connally will keynote the Conference program with an address on the Conference theme, "Library Excellence: Today's Necessity." Chancellor Harry Ransom of The University of Texas will discuss library development in Texas. The president of the nation's professional library group, the American Library Association, Robert Vosper, who is also UCLA librarian, will discuss the responsibility which must be shared in library support. Mrs. Weldon Lynch, nationally known library lecturer from Oakdale, Louisiana, will address a luncheon session on citizen support, and Former Governor Price Daniel will pinpoint financial sources for libraries in a talk to the afternoon session. Discussion groups will invite questions and ideas from the participants and Governor Connally will greet participants at a reception concluding the day's activities.

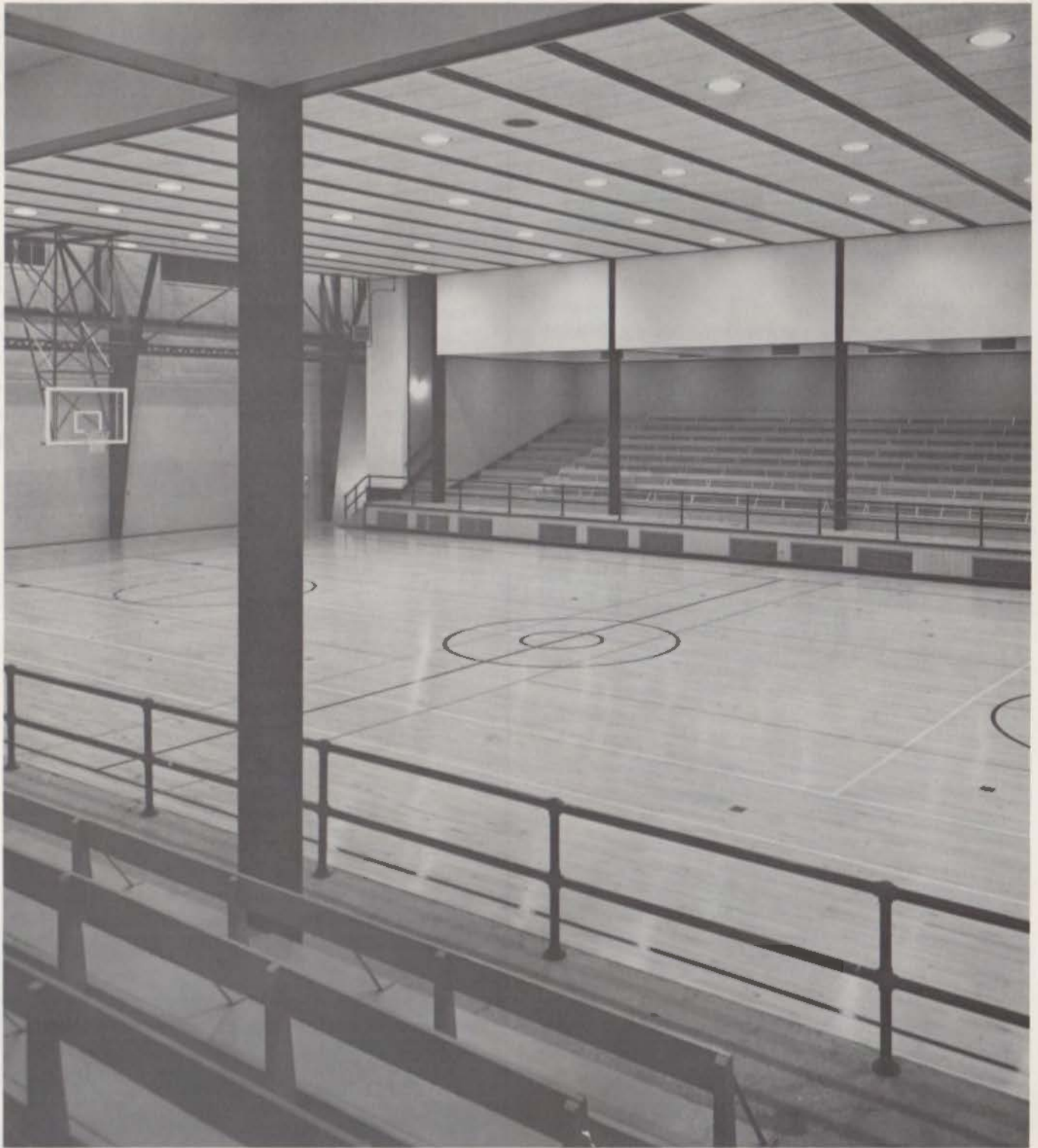
A Steering Committee composed primarily of the state's professional and lay library leaders is guiding policy for the Conference. Support and ideas for this committee are being given by the Advisory Committee composed of the presidents of the state's civic, education, business and professional organizations with a relation to library development.

Dorman H. Winfrey, State Library director, is coordinator for the Conference and heads the Steering Committee as co-chairman with Heartsill Young, president of the Texas Library Association and assistant director of The University of Texas library.

It is the first Conference on libraries in Texas and the first in the United States in 1966. Seventeen other states have held such conferences. ■



*Texas librarians confer at Texas State Library periodically with Field Services Division directors, Mrs. Marie Shultz, left of the map, assistant director, and Kenneth Jackson, right, director. They project plans for new construction and for sharing of resources to improve library services to Texans.*



# DE WARE FIELD HOUSE, COLLEGE STATION

MATTHEWS AND ASSOCIATES  
ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS



## TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1964

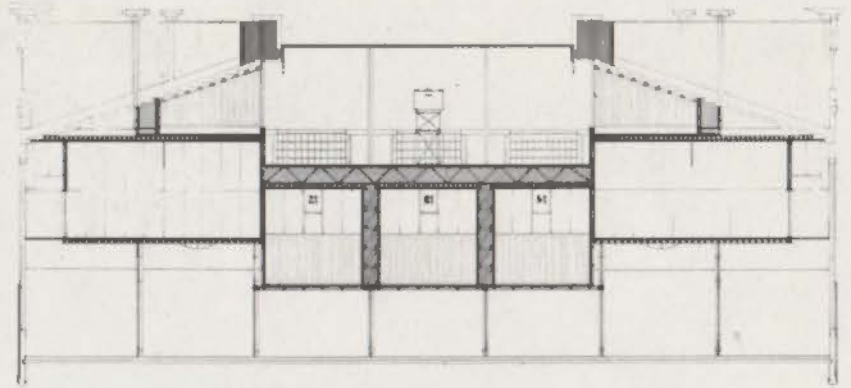
The small wood framed building enclosing the Handball courts at Texas A&M University was to be demolished, in its place the University planned to build a new olympic size swimming pool.

This decision rippled a hundred yards to another old building, the 36 year old DeWare fieldhouse, used only sparingly for basketball practice. DeWare contained some 20,000 square feet of area and had an interior peak height of 63 feet interrupted by trussed arches every 20 feet.

Initial analysis by the Architect, Matthews & Associates of Bryan, indicated that the fieldhouse volume above the basketball court could house the five Handball courts lost by construction of the new pool, plus 7 or 9 additional courts.

Design data on the existing structure was not available. On site inspection revealed that it would not be feasible to use the existing structure or walls. A completely new structural system was designed to fit within, and be free of, the existing structure.

The existing basketball court was retained, together with one half of the spectator seats. Fourteen regulation Handball courts were sandwiched into the volume between the basketball practice space and the existing structure.



Photos by Ronald Chatham Bryan



# TEXAS PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Open land is vanishing and old landmarks are violated. Worst of all, expansion is eroding the precious and time-honored values of community with neighbors and communion with nature. The loss of these values breeds loneliness and boredom and indifference. Our society will never be great until our cities are great.

President Lyndon B. Johnson

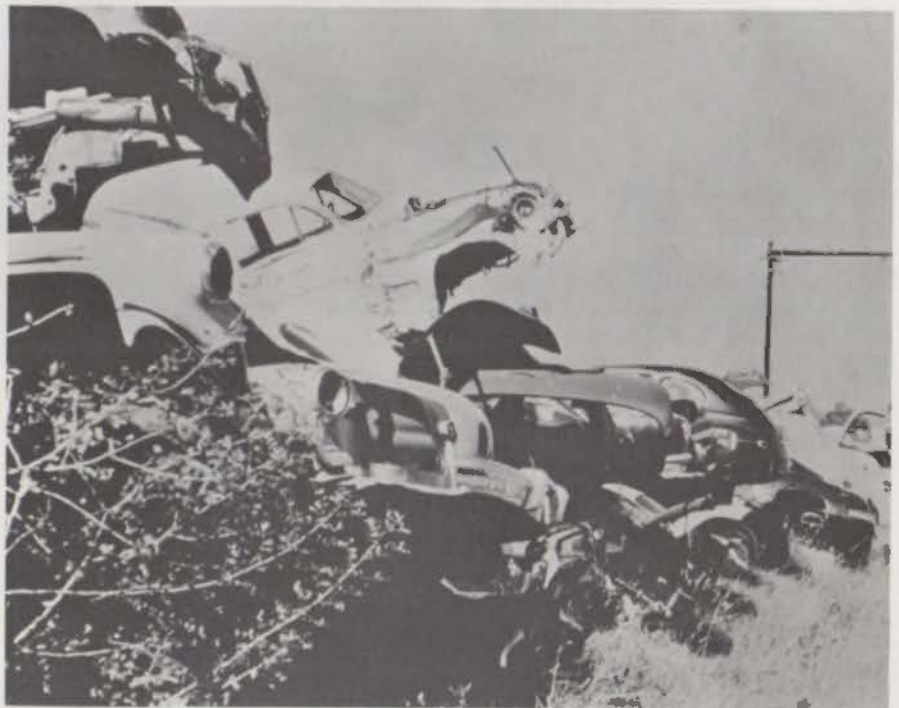
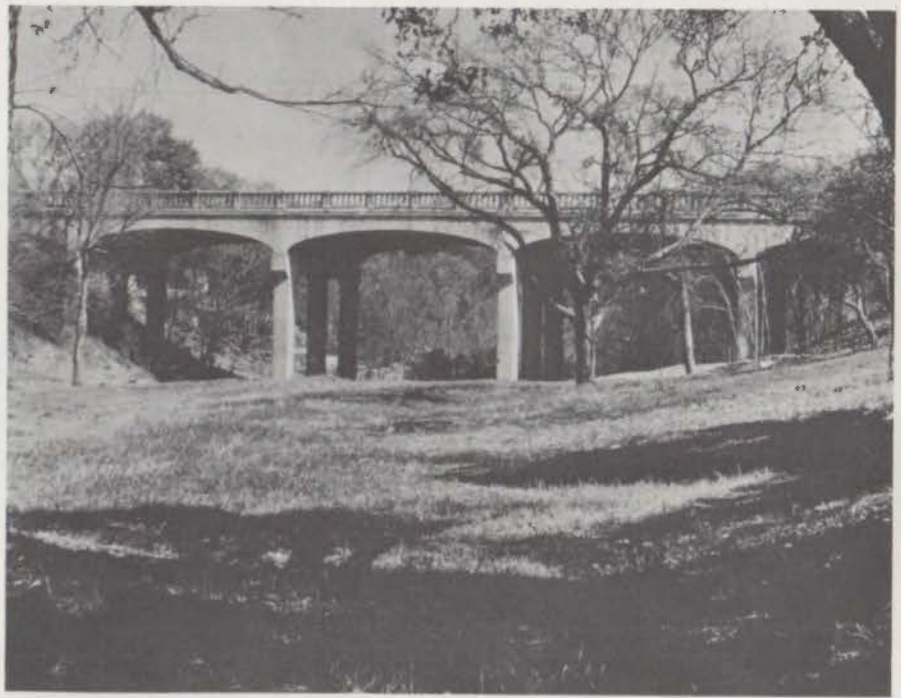
Preservation deals with more than historic structures and landmarks—as important as these are to our culture. The wider view requires our involvement to preserve the heritage of our land, forest, water and resources.

Preservation serves not to remind us alone where we have been and where we are bound, but to remind us that our children soon to inhabit this land will by our hand live in beauty or chaos.



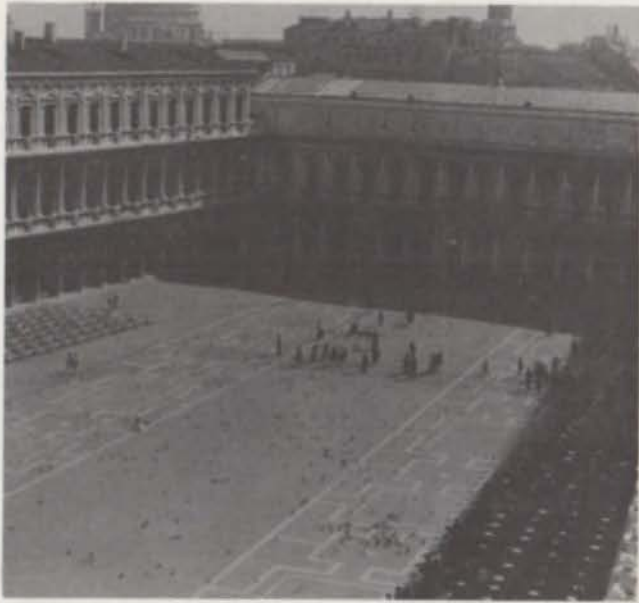
Our story has been peculiarly the story of man and the land, man and the forests, man and the plains, man and water, man and resources. It has been the story of a rich and varied natural heritage.

President John F. Kennedy













Most American cities and their suburbs are ugly or dreary.  
Each city has some areas of charm or gaiety or grandeur.  
But each could have more. Each could achieve a unique character  
by developing a satisfying visual form.

Such achievement, however, can result only from the actions  
of the people who live and work in the city and who govern it.  
They give the city its form; they make its character and spirit.

Having made cities that for the most part are ugly, they are capable  
also of making ones that are pleasureable and beautiful.

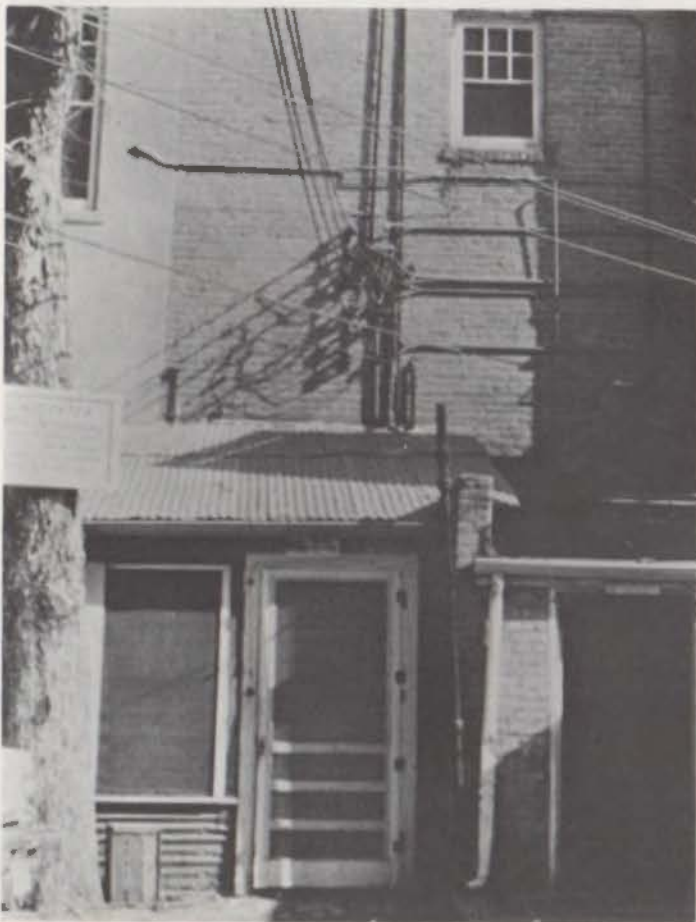
Martin Meyerson  
FACE OF THE METROPOLIS



Americans must become aware of  
the need to preserve and enhance  
the landscape of the country.

Jan Nairn





We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a commodity to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

ALDO LEOPOLD—

*'A Sand Country Almanac'*

# I M A G E

IMAGE, the student magazine of the School of Architecture at The University of Texas, is now in its fourth year of publication. Its purpose is to reflect the many facets of architecture, as seen from both a Professional and student viewpoint. This year our emphasis is on the relation of the architect to other similar professions—such as the City planner, the Landscape Architect, the Developer, and those in related sciences. Other articles of a varied nature include emphasis by Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson on the need for improving our visual environment, and some poignant remarks on the "Social Responsibility of the Architect" by J. B. Jackson, Editor of "Landscape" Magazine. On the lighter side, Ogden Nash, noted for his limericks has some whimsical comments about architecture. Following is a list of our article contributors for the 1966 edition, published in April:

- Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, Washington, D. C.
- Ogden Nash, Poet
- J. B. Jackson, Editor of "LANDSCAPE" Magazine
- Robert Simon, Jr.; Developer of the Satellite City of "Reston", Va.
- Philip Johnson, Architect; a student interview
- Sam B. Zisman, City Planner from San Antonio
- Ken Steffa, Tom Daly, Royce LaNier, Bob Mabry, Jim Smith; all studying, or working overseas in Peace Corps.
- Robert Mather, U. T. Arch. Faculty, writing on Arch. Education
- Anatole Senkevitch, U. T. Arch. Student, writing of experiences in Russia with State Department tour on American Architecture
- Hugo Leipziger-Pearce, U. T. Arch. Faculty
- Charles Moore, Chairman, Yale School of Architecture
- Jan Rowan, Editor of "Progressive Architecture"
- Juan Cotera, U. T. Arch. Student writing on "the aesthetic value of Pago"
- Joseph Esherick, Architect, San Francisco
- Sibyl Moholy Nagy, Professor, Pratt Institute
- Charles Thomsen, Associate with Caudill, Rowlett & Scott, writing on the "Computer myth in Architecture"
- Paul Baker, dramatist from Trinity University in San Antonio

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## BRICK MASONRY STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS INSTITUTE

An Architectural and Engineering Institute on Brick Masonry Structural Systems for practicing architects and engineers will be conducted under the sponsorship of the University of Houston at the Baker Hotel in Dallas on March 25, at the Americana Hotel in Houston on April 1, and at the St. Anthony Hotel in San Antonio on March 18, 1966. A consortium of faculties from the Architectural Engineering Department of The University of Texas, the Civil Engineering Department of Rice University, and the College of Architecture of the University of Houston will staff the institutes. In addition, illustrated lectures will be given and design laboratories will be conducted by practicing architects, consulting engineers, and industry research engineers.

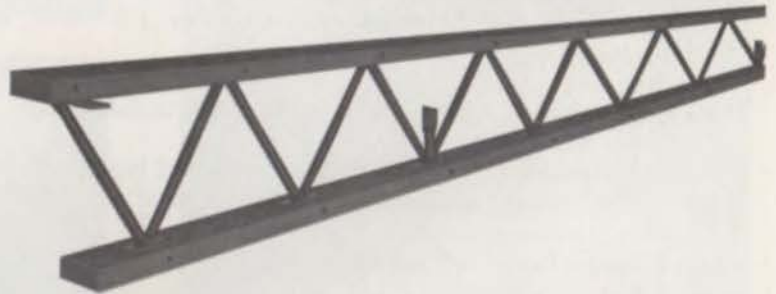
During the one-day institutes emphasis will be given to high rise, load-bearing, brick masonry, structural systems for buildings. Sessions will be devoted to structural orientation, materials science, research, quality control, design theory, and the solution of typical design problems. Architects and engineers may preregister by writing Professor Edmund Furley, Jr., College of Architecture, University of Houston, 3801 Cullen Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77023. The \$10.00 institute registration fee includes lunch and all text materials. The registration fee for collegiate students of architecture and engineering is \$5.00. Checks should be made payable to the University of Houston. ■





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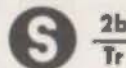
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Associated Architects: Moore and Stansbury, Port Arthur, Texas, and  
George L. Ingram & Associates, Beaumont, Texas  
Armco Dealer: Norstok Steel Building Co., Orange, Texas



## Construction time—60 days



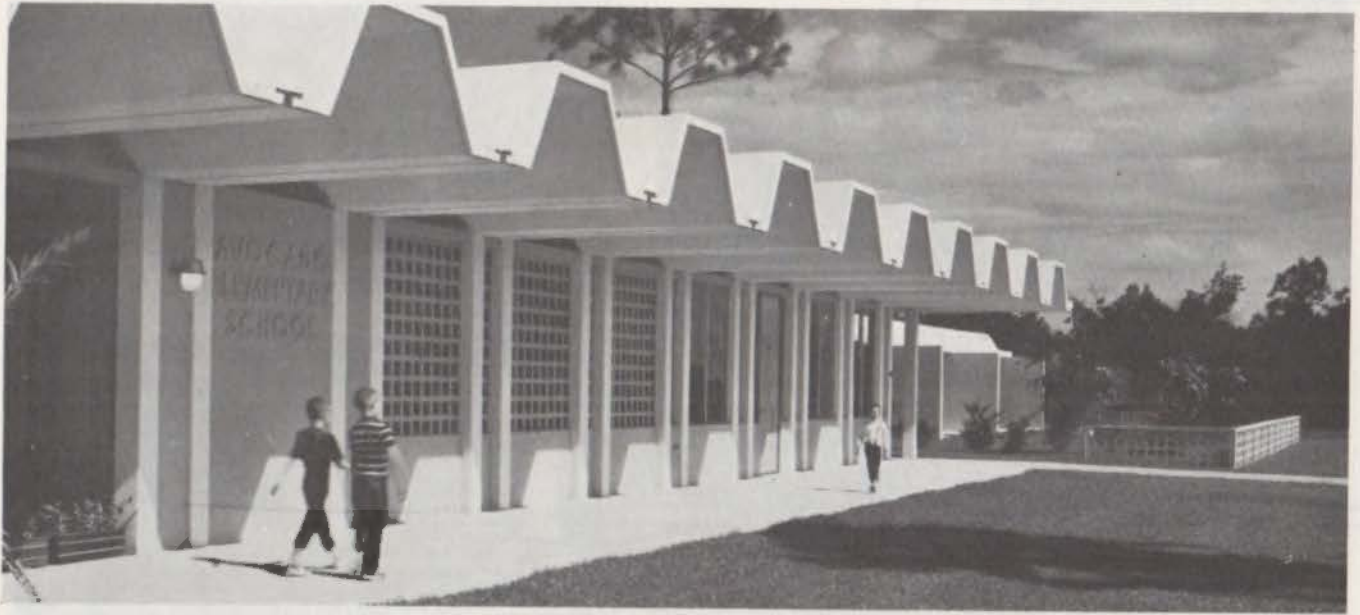
Impossible? Not at all, with the Armco Building System. Tellers moved in 60 days after construction began on this branch bank.

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## Beauty and the budget get together in this all-concrete school

The Avocado Elementary School in Homestead, Florida, demonstrates again the advantages of concrete in even a small size plant.

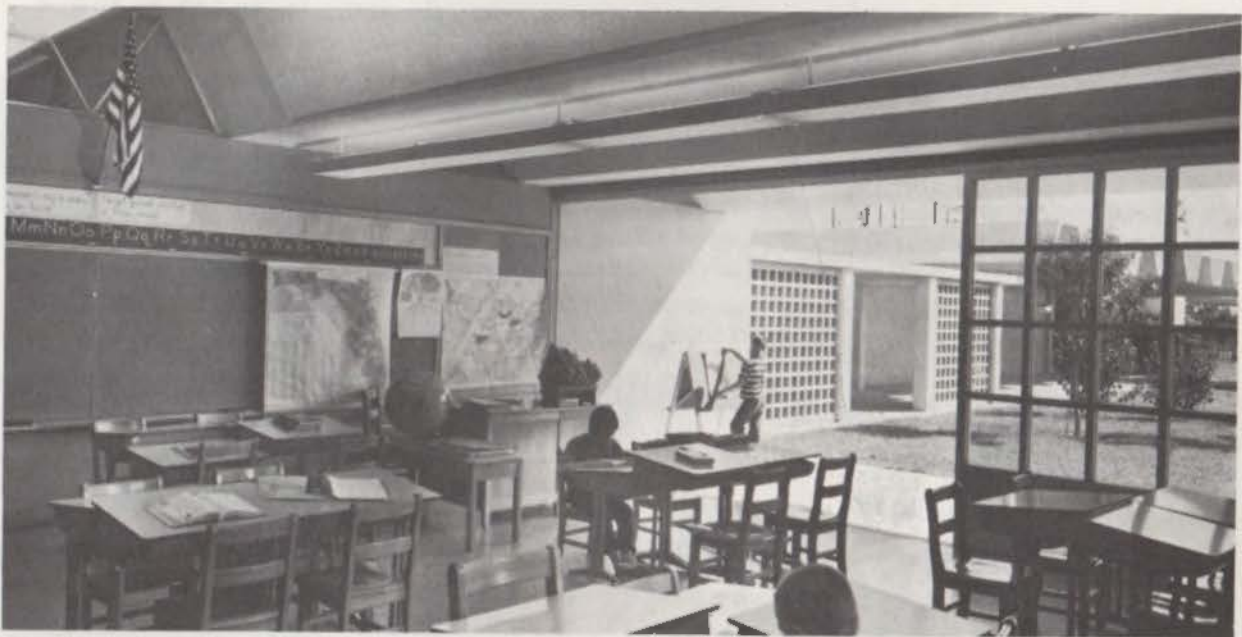
The structure is striking, yet tastefully modern . . . with 22 classrooms, cafetorium, library and administrative spaces. For 35,210 square feet, the bid price was \$398,390, or \$11.32 per square foot.

The precast concrete folded plate roof, supported on prestressed columns of concrete, provided not only an outstanding design feature, but brought important economy. Walls are concrete masonry, stuccoed on the exterior, plastered inside for decorative effect. And included in the modest cost is the elegance of terrazzo floors in the cafetorium.

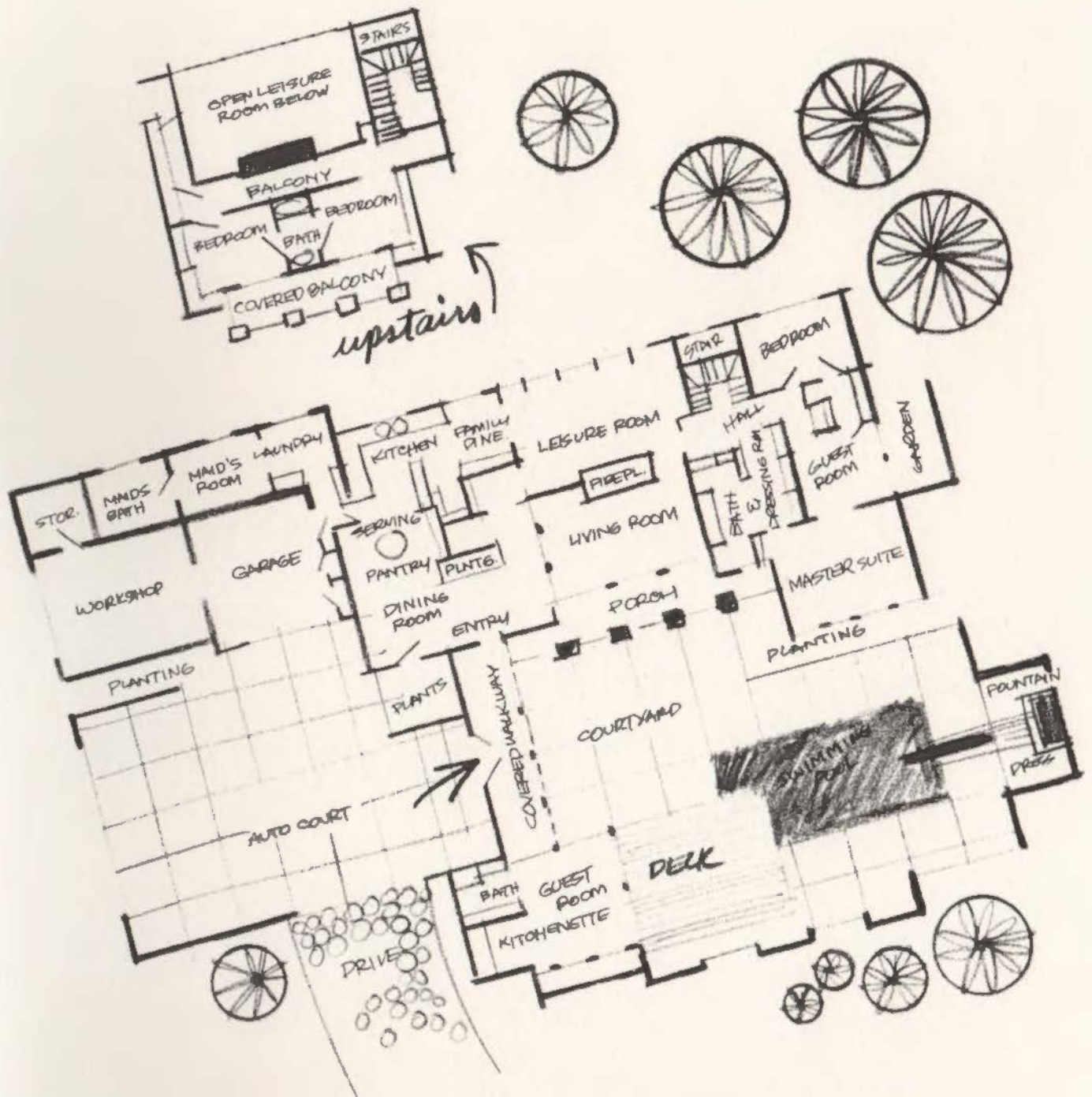
For school boards seeking, at realistic cost, esthetically pleasing facilities that are also durable, firesafe and easy to maintain, concrete offers the ideal solution. **Portland Cement Association**

110 East Eighth St., Austin, Texas 78701

*An organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete, made possible by the financial support of most competing cement manufacturers in the United States and Canada*



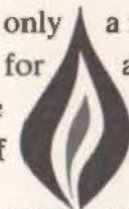
Typical classroom, Avocado Elementary School with adjacent "patio" class space, Architect: Robert B. Browne, Miami; George F. Reed, Associate, Miami. Structural Engineer: Walter C. Harry & Associates, Fort Lauderdale. Contractor: Stobbs Brothers Construction Company, Miami. Owner: Dade County Board of Public Instruction.



## does this give you an idea?



This Texas Gulf Coast home was designed as the world's first "total energy" house. Natural gas is its one source of energy for heating, cooling, cooking, water heating and electric power. □ The natural gas "total energy package" has already proved itself in commercial, industrial and school construction. Its adaptability to home and apartment use is only a matter of time. The simplicity and low cost of this single on-site source for all energy needs is particularly appropriate in Texas where gas is the natural fuel. □ If this gives you ideas, call the builder department of your local gas utility for details.



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