

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

DETAILS OF JANUARY 10 BOARD MEETING

HOUSTON COMMITTEE ANALYZES SCHOOL REPORT

WHY HIRE AN ARCHITECT?

SULLIVAN AND WISCHMEYER ENDORSED FOR AIA

NEW 1953 CHAPTER OFFICERS ARE LISTED

JANUARY
1953



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

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1200 Bissonnet Street Houston 5, Texas

David C. Baer, Houston Editor

George Kirksey & Associates Editorial Counselors
2244 W. Holcombe, Houston

Robert Miller & Associates Advertising Counselors

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 14-19, 1953—American Association of School Administrators, Atlantic City, N. J.

April 13-20, 1953—Texas Architects' Week.

June 15-19, 1953—84th annual convention, AIA, at Seattle, Wash.

November 4-6, 1953—14th annual convention, TSA, at Austin.

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BOARD IN FIRST 1953 SESSION

23 Present As 12 Committees Report;
Convention Set 4-6 November;
Budget of \$8515 Approved

The Executive Board, TSA, held its first 1953 meeting January 10 at Austin, with a total of 23 directors, chapter presidents, and others requested to attend present for required portions of a 6½-hour session.

Principal action at the all-day meeting, held at the Commodore Perry Hotel, included reports by 12 committees, setting the 1953 convention for 4-6 November at Austin, and the adoption of a budget of \$8515.

Five Chapter Heads Present

Albert S. Golemon, Ed Carroll, and George F. Pierce, Jr., newly-elected TSA officials, were on hand to preside over the board session, which opened promptly at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

The incoming presidents of five TSA chapters, Ernest Langford (Brazos), Charles L. Huie, Jr. (West Texas), Herschel Fischer (Dallas), Louis Southerland (Central Texas), Hubert Crane (Fort Worth), and John York (Rio Grande Valley) were present at the opening of business. They were introduced and then heard President Golemon stress the importance of chapter activity, particularly in staging Texas Architects' Week.

Other Board Action

The board also:

Agreed to share the cost of staging the State Fair exhibit, "Architecture—1953," with the Dallas Chapter and the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, up to the budgeted amount of \$700.

Noted that the AIA regional director is to be elected this year at the annual convention.

Heard a report from Carl Hardin, Jr., legal counsel, on the 1953 Legislature which opened January 13.

Learned that incorporation of TSA is

almost completed, with final papers to be submitted to the Secretary of State before January 31.

Appointed Lee Buttrill of Temple and Reginald Roberts of San Antonio to the Publication Board of the Texas Architect.

Committee Reports Made

Action reported by or recommended in committee reports:

Texas Construction Council: President Golemon reporting for Grayson Gill. Mr. Golemon discussed his attendance at a recent TCC meeting in Fort Worth, emphasizing the areas of interest which the TCC and TSA have in common.

Capitol Plan: Chairman Karl Kamrath reported on plans to reactivate program. The committee will work closely with Legislative Committee and Carl Hardin, Jr.

By-Laws: Chairman Herbert Tatum was authorized to spend \$300 for printing revised edition of by-laws.

School Plant Study: Chairman Lee Buttrill reported that a series of pamphlets on school plant planning is now being prepared under the sponsorship of the Texas Education Agency.

Fees: Chairman Reginald Roberts reported on efforts to get fee schedule adopted by Texas Construction Council. This committee will watch particularly for any breach of fee schedules by public bodies.

Legislative: Chairman Max Brooks outlined general legislative situation and plans for close liaison with Carl Hardin, Jr.

Architecture and Governmental Relations: Chairman Robert Woltz discussed plans for liaison at local level with Legislative Committee and legal counsel.

Professional Practice: Voted against

(Continued on Page 12)

Houston Committee Analyzes School Report

Dr. W. E. Moreland, superintendent of schools, Houston Independent School District, and H. L. Mills, business manager for the District, presented last December 8 a report regarding the use of architectural services. Because the Moreland-Mills report was of such interest to architects in Houston and over the state, a committee from the Houston Chapter prepared the following analysis of it.

Donald Barthelme, Alfred C. Finn, and Albert Golemon, all TSA-AIA, made up the Committee for the School Program which prepared the analysis:

The committee agrees with the report, paragraph 1, that the employment of a full time architect and staff is an undesirable method of handling new school construction. The argument against this has been well stated in the report and is borne out by the experience of many cities where our inquiries were made. Our prime objection to this method is the restriction imposed on the free flow of ideas due to the channeling of all school building design through a single person. We do not believe that the best talent in the profession is available to such a staff and this combined with the other bureaucratic aspects of the system would surely result in a waste of public funds.

Retards Free Flow of Ideas

The committee disagrees with the recommendation outlined in paragraph 3a of a coordinating architect who prepares schematic plans (in other words, "designs") since again we feel this retards the free flow of ideas. Our basic objective is the provision of properly designed space for children and for teaching. To accomplish this all the skill, talent and experience of the individual architect should be brought into play. It seems poor policy to divide this responsibility at the outset by having one architect prepare sketches and another the working drawings. Although perhaps convenient in centralizing control, the system results in stereotyped buildings, frozen at

a given level and kind of thinking, and submits to much abuse in the wrong hands.

Renovation of buildings, mentioned in paragraph 3a, is not primarily a field requiring a great deal of architectural talent. This is work for an administrator, properly staffed, and we endorse and strongly urge the adoption of the recommendations of Dr. Moreland and Mr. Mills for the establishment of a Department of Repair and Maintenance. Renovations and small routine additions fall in this department; where additions, repair or maintenance work are of such nature as to require architectural or engineering advice, qualified professional help may be retained by this department directly. A considerable portion of current costs of rehabilitation may have been caused by the omission of proper yearly inspection and maintenance in the past.

Adequate Number of Architects

In paragraph 3b this committee agrees that architects should be carefully selected, with full importance being placed on adequate staffs and financial responsibility, but does not concur in the restriction of architects to a limited number such as the three or six that has been suggested. We suggest that there is available an adequate number of architects, interested in the problem of designing space for teaching and with sufficient skill to develop new methods and solutions. The seriousness of the selection problem warrants thorough investigation of all applicants because here, finally, is the answer to a successful building.

Finally, reading paragraph 3c, this committee does not believe in the use of repetitive plans which appears to be merely a convenience and a necessary corollary of the argument for a minimum number of architects. No small monetary

(Continued on Page 10)

WHY HIRE AN ARCHITECT?

Kiplinger Magazine Tells the Facts;
Nationally-Circulated Article
Dispels Some "Dead-Wrong" Notions

(Editor's Note: One of the most significant articles ever written on the architectural profession appeared recently in CHANGING TIMES, The Kiplinger Magazine published in Washington, D. C. Entitled "Why Hire An Architect?", the article tells the truth about what an architect can and will do and why his services more than pay their way. In doing so, it dispels many an untruth and misunderstanding.)

We believe that this article should be widely read by the general public, and that it is of real value to architects everywhere. Because of space limitations, it will be printed in two installments, the second scheduled for the February issue. The TEXAS ARCHITECT will thereby carry the article to a specialized audience of 7900 in addition to the TSA membership. We urge that you recommend the article to other readers and place it where it can be read.

The editors wish to thank CHANGING TIMES for permission to reproduce the article.)

Some crises—marriage, lawsuits or fatherhood—you react to almost automatically. Just ring up a clergyman, a lawyer or an obstetrician and let the particular specialist handle the matter.

But building a house is different. Sure, there are specialists handy. The nation's architects are trained and ordained to preside over the creation of houses. And your first impulse may be to hire one.

Yet you hesitate. You know that many people build homes without an architect's help. So why not you? You ask friends for advice and get comments like this:

"Architect? What are you, crazy? They'll stick you a couple thousand bucks and give you a house full of their pet ideas and none of yours. All you get is fancy blueprints."

Or you get this advice:

"Look, friend, what do most home builders do, the boys who make real money at the game? Most of them wouldn't let an architect through the

gate. Why, no architect touches half of the houses built today. Just get a good builder and leave it to him. He'll have a draftsman to take care of the details."

Or perhaps you are told this:

"Forget architects. You can get ready-made plans for most any kind of house for as little as \$5. Get wise. Don't blow your money on an architect. Buy a stock plan and put the difference into the house."

There's truth in all that curbstone advice—but not the whole truth by a long shot. And it's mixed with notions about architects that are dead wrong.

Much More Than Blueprints

For instance, take that bit about how architects give you nothing but their own ideas. That happens, but not often. No good architect forces his own ideas on a client without sound reasons based on his client's needs. And he does far more to earn his fee than turn out blueprints, as we'll see in a moment.

Likewise, there is some truth—about 50%—in that point about how professional home builders get along without architects. Some do. And some of their houses aren't much to look at or live in. But the best home builders employ good architects.

It's true, too, that you can get ready-made plans for far less than you would pay an architect for made-to-order plans. And some mail-order plans are very good, the work of truly competent architects.

If that's so, you may ask, what's wrong with using a stock plan? Wouldn't it be smart?

A List of "Ifs"

Architects themselves will tell you there is nothing wrong with using a stock

(Continued on Page 12)

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Sullivan, Wischmeyer Endorsed for AIA Posts By Resolution of Society

The Texas Society of Architects membership has passed a resolution endorsing the candidacy of Maurice J. Sullivan of Houston, TSA-AIA, for re-election as national AIA treasurer, and of Kenneth Wischmeyer, St. Louis, Mo. for the presidency of the national group.

Mr. Wischmeyer is currently serving as first vice-president of the AIA.

Mr. Wischmeyer is a native of St. Louis, where he was born in 1910. He was graduated with the degree of B.S. in Architecture from Washington University in 1930, and took an Master in Architecture degree the following year at MIT.

He won the Steedman Foreign Travel Fellowship in 1931.

Mr. Wischmeyer is a registered architect in eight states, including Texas. A corporate member of the AIA, he is a member of the executive committee of the national body and a past second vice-president.

The St. Louis architect, well-known for his professional work and activity on many AIA committees, is also past regional director of the Central States District, AIA, and past president of the St. Louis Chapter.

Long Career of Service

Mr. Sullivan, now serving as AIA treasurer, has had a long career of service to the national organization and to the TSA. The Houston man, known for his work in the field of church architecture, was named three times to the presidency of the South Texas (now Houston) Chapter, and twice to the executive committee.

Widely known among U. S. architects, Mr. Sullivan was elected AIA treasurer in 1951 and chosen for a second term in 1952. He is currently on three AIA committees: finance, pensions, and public relations.



KENNETH WISCHMEYER

Kenneth Wischmeyer of St. Louis, Mo., now serving as first vice-president of the AIA, whose candidacy to succeed Glenn Stanton as president of the national group has been approved in a resolution passed by the Texas Society of Architects. The TSA membership also endorsed the candidacy of Maurice J. Sullivan of Houston, TSA-AIA, for re-election as AIA treasurer.

Ed Carroll Heads New 1953 Officers For Examiners Board

Ed Carroll of El Paso, TSA vice-president, has been named chairman of the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners. He replaces William C. Baxter of Weslaco, TSA-AIA, who will remain as a board member.

Mr. Carroll had been serving as vice-chairman of the TBAE.

Fred J. MacKie, Jr. of Houston, TSA-AIA, is the new vice-chairman of the Board. Bartlett Cocke of San Antonio, TSA-AIA, continues as secretary-treasurer.

Other TSA members who continue on the board are George L. Dahl, Dallas; and Harold E. Jessen, Austin.

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News of the Chapters

Principal chapter activity in final 1952 meetings was the election of new 1953 officers.

BRAZOS: Ernest Langford, president; Henry D. Mayfield, vice-president; William E. Nash, secretary; Arch C. Baker, treasurer. Mr. Langford was named TSA director.

COASTAL BEND: Joe G. Smyth, president; Otis F. Johnson, vice-president; Walter L. Wild, secretary-treasurer; C. P. Donnelly, TSA director.

WEST TEXAS: Charles L. Huie, Jr., president; Elmer I. Freeborn, first vice-president; Thomas B. Thompson, second vice-president; Clarence Rinard, secretary-treasurer; C. C. Simmons, member of executive committee.

HOUSTON: Harold E. Calhoun, president; Hiram A. Salisbury, first vice-president; T. H. McCleary, second vice-president; W. Paul Jones, secretary; Baldwin N. Young, treasurer.

FORT WORTH: Hubert H. Crane, president; George Sowden, vice-president; William R. Lane, secretary; Thaddeus E. Harden, Jr., treasurer; TSA director, Wm. M. Collier, Jr.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY: President, John G. York; vice-president, Warren Suter; secretary, John R. Ring.

CENTRAL TEXAS: Louis Southerland, president; Martin S. Kermacy, vice-president; Allwyn Gannaway, treasurer; and Emil Niggili, secretary.

DALLAS: Herschel Fisher, president; William Hidell, vice-president; Norman Crittenden, secretary; and treasurer, Raymond Feinberg.

EL PASO: Otto Thorman, president; William G. Wuerhrmann, vice-president; Robert Nelson, secretary-treasurer.

(Panhandle Chapter officers to be elected third week in January.)

What Others Are Doing

The BAY STATE ARCHITECT (Massachusetts) carries an interesting article by Josiah H. Child of Boston on "Hints On How To Choose An Architect For Your School." Child recommends either (1) a design competition or (2) competitive selection from among a panel of candidates who are given an equal and fair opportunity at interviews to present their qualifications. In either event, Childs points out, the Building Committee must hold interviews. He recommends limiting total interviewees to not more than 10 architects, reducing the list to six after interviews, to three after inspecting some of the candidates' work. Final selection, he says, should then devolve upon education, office experience, public work, clear and complete plans

and specifications, cost consciousness, supervisory ability, fees, and design quality. Childs emphasizes that "every reputable architect will charge approximately the same fee."

The Southern California BULLETIN contains an excellent discussion on "Conservation In Hospitals," wherein hospital planning is described as a field which requires maximum specialized professional knowledge. The article points out the necessity for conservation of space, personnel, and equipment, but not by undue skimping and inferior materials which overlook future needs. Other ideas: major and minor operating rooms, fracture and delivery rooms of same size for flexibility; elimination of separate laundry for each hospital.

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School Report—

(Continued From Page 4)

saving percentagewise is worth the cost of static thinking and of this device which blocks at the very beginning new and progressive design and which repeats errors without re-examination. Here indeed are the dregs of a school planning program.

THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS PROPOSE THE FOLLOWING PLAN:

1. That the School District employ an assistant superintendent and a deputy business manager to act as their combined agents in preparing directives outlining space requirements, in consulting with individual architects and accepting, modifying or rejecting the preliminary drawings, working drawings, specifications, etc., on behalf of the Board. The School District may make available to their agents and to the architects experienced members and specialists on their staff for such planning, consultation

Church Architectural Guild to Hold Annual Exhibit in Washington

The Church Architectural Guild of America will hold its fourth annual exhibit of church architecture and allied arts February 12-14 at the Hotel Statler in Washington, D. C.

Architects are being invited to submit photographs and plans of their work both for the Washington exhibition and for a traveling exhibit to tour the U. S. Details may be obtained from Walter H. Poole, 112 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

and advice as will further the successful design and functioning of the building.

2. That the School District employ architects on each building, who will discharge a full and normal service with full responsibility in each case, acting with the agents of the District and their staff.

3. That the selection of architects be undertaken with serious evaluation of the skill and integrity of the person or firm involved. Adequate staffing and responsibility as well as past experience and completed work deserves full investigation and careful consideration. For well qualified advice, we suggest that the members of the Board consult their own sources of information within the architectural profession, much as with a family doctor, for recommendations. A comparison of such recommendations would reveal through repetition able professional men.

4. That the School District set up a Department of Repair and Maintenance whose responsibilities include all renovations, remodeling, repair, etc., retaining professional architects and engineers only where their services are required.

Respectfully submitted,
COMMITTEE FOR THE SCHOOL PROGRAM,
December 31, 1952

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Walter T. Rolfe Named to UNESCO Post By State Department

Walter T. Rolfe of Golemon & Rolfe, Houston and Beaumont, has been officially named by the Department of State to the United States Commission for UNESCO.

Glenn Stanton of Portland, Oregon, American Institute of Architects, announced Rolfe's appointment to the 100-member Commission which is expected to advise the U. S. delegation to the UNESCO General Assembly on policy matters.

Only Architect Named

Stanton described the appointment as one of primary importance to U. S. architects. American Institute of Architects headquarters in Washington, D. C. said that Rolfe is the only American member of his profession on the Commission which represents "a broad cross-section of the cultural, scientific, and educational thinking and experience of the nation."

Rolfe was formerly professor of Architecture at the University of Texas, serving for 11 years as chairman of the School of Architecture at Austin. A native Kansan, the Houston architect holds professional degrees from Kansas State and M. I. T., and has served as a consultant in many capacities throughout the U. S.



WALTER T. ROLFE

Active in TSA

He is a fellow of the A.I.A. and was chairman of the Institute's committee on education. Rolfe has been active in the affairs of the Texas Society of Architects. He is a trustee of the American Architectural Foundation and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts of London.

Registration Law

The Texas architects' registration law was signed and made effective by Gov. James Allred in 1937, just two years before the organization of the Texas Society of Architects.

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Pictures of Designs From 1952 Featherlite Competition Delayed

Difficulties in getting photographic reproductions suitable for engraving from some entries have delayed a series on prize-winning designs in the 1952 Featherlite Competition.

Most of the winning designs will reproduce well from excellent photographs made available by the Featherlite Corporation. Because of a lack of the contrast needed for photoengraving, however, it has been necessary to recall the original delineations and engrave directly from them.

The series of winners, beginning with Thomas Conger's grand award reported in the November, 1952 TEXAS ARCHITECT, will begin next month.

Why Hire An Architect?—

(Continued From Page 5)

plan—IF. But what a list of ifs. Here they are:

A stock plan may be a good buy—

If you can tell a good one from a mediocrity, good specifications from poor.

If you select one that really fits your family's individual needs.

If the house can be built economically on your lot without substantial changes.

If the house can be built for what you have to spend.

If the house conforms to local building codes and zoning regulations.

If it permits you to use the best and cheapest materials and equipment now available.

If you can get a big enough mortgage loan without paying premium rates.

If the house will stay up-to-date long enough to protect the value of your investment.

If you can get builders to bid on the job yourself.

If you can select a responsible, competent builder from among those who bid.

If you are willing to take on the responsibility of entering into a building contract and seeing it through on your own hook.

Those ifs make you gulp? They should, for there is many a booby trap in building a house from stock plans. Every blunder can be costly. If you shy from these risks, better think about hiring an architect to steer you.

How to Pick an Architect

Picking an architect is like selecting any professional man. Start by finding out which architects in your town specialize in houses. You can do that by spotting outstanding houses and asking who designed them. Ask the owners how they liked working with their architects. If an owner isn't living in a house, ask the occupants whether they find it efficient, comfortable, convenient.

(To Be Concluded)

Board in Session

(Continued From Page 3)

preparation at this time of standard contract form for use by architects and municipalities. Lee Buttrill reported for Chairman Terrell Harper, absent because of illness.

Insurance: Chairman Harry Payne reported on present status of plan, which hopes for a 25% net increase during 1953. Board authorized Mr. Payne to continue as administrator.

Education: Recommended (1) study of 1953 seminar subject (2) accepting a special contribution for student competition fund, to be used for fourth-year students and administered through Architectural Foundation and (3) study of curricula in Texas architectural schools.

Public Relations: Chairman David C. Baer reported a TA net profit to date of \$1238.34, after payment of more than \$550 of TSA public relations fee for 1952. Board renewed contract of George Kirksey & Associates.

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