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JANUARY

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

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The W. H. Grove Rest Home in Fort Worth has been selected by members of the Fort Worth Chapter, AIA as representative of recent work in the Chapter area. Architect: John W. Flores, AIA, Fort Worth.

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The Texas Regional Organization of The American Institute of Architects

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1957 May Be Record Year

1957 may well be the best business year in U. S. history, although mild inflation could account for some of the predicted continued rise in activity.

That is the opinion of 221 leading economists, polled by the F. W. Dodge Corporation as the New Year dawns. It is an important prediction for all Americans, particularly those who are concerned with any aspect of the vital construction industry. For this opinion was reached by experts representing a wide range of political and economic thinking, even a considerable range of the technical procedures by which endless tabulations and masses of figures are molded into an overall opinion.

The cautiously optimistic findings of these economists is already being reflected in Texas, where planning of construction projects going on into 1958, and even the year beyond, goes on apace. Architects, who often began their schematic studies of projects two or even three years ahead, and thereby constitute themselves a sensitive barometer for the economic climate, have begun to sense a small but definite upturn in the past 60 days. Clients, assured of a stable political climate and of generally optimistic indications, are wanting to go ahead with projects which were either sidetracked temporarily or actually put into cold storage during 1956.

Even the minor storm warnings concerning possible mild inflation may stimulate construction, for how many economists are predicting lower costs for either labor or materials? The trend, at least for the foreseeable future, seems upward—we hope at a reasonable rate. And the conclusion is more and more that sound expansion and needed construction should not be delayed. If the present soft mortgage money market can be firmed up much such construction should go ahead.

As 1957 begins, therefore, the architectural profession and the construction industry are apparently launching another 12 months of growth and continued prosperity, along with the economy in general. Our hope is that neither war nor economic upset will develop to mar these prospects, which are based upon fundamentally sound conditions far different from those of 1929.

The President's Letter

By
Fred J. MacKie
TSA-AIA

President,
Texas Society
of Architects



This is my first opportunity to address our readers through the columns of the TEXAS ARCHITECT, and I understand that the magazine's circulation is now in excess of 8,500, reaching almost 7,500 in the state and over the U. S. in addition to our TSA membership of about 1,100.

1957 promises to be a very active year for the Texas Society of Architects. Very soon, our chapters over the state will be celebrating the centennial of the American Institute of Architects. February 23, 1857 was the founding date of the AIA, and communities all over the nation will be staging special events in connection with this one hundredth anniversary of the architectural profession in America as an organized society.

This issue of the TEXAS ARCHITECT carries first details of the centennial observance in Texas, which is being incorporated into our traditional Texas Architects' Week, held this year from February 23-March 2. Other events will be held during the coming 12 months, culminating with what promises to be a most impressive exhibition of "Texas Architecture—'57" at the State Fair of Dallas, our eighteenth annual convention, also in the North Texas metropolis this year; and a statewide tour for the magnificent centennial exhibition now being assembled in New York and Washington by AIA.

We therefore look for a very busy session of the TSA board of directors at the Commodore Perry Hotel in Austin January 12, at which committee organization will be perfected and a work plan for the entire year is to be presented for approval.

An exploded view of various acoustical fastening members, including I-beams, channels, and clips, arranged diagonally across the page. A thick black horizontal bar is positioned behind the main title.

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Organization of Committees, Centennial Top Items January 12

Completing the organization of all TSA committees, and detailed planning for the special observance of Texas Architects' Week February 23-March 2, in conjunction with the centennial of the American Institute of Architects, will be top items on the agenda of a January 12 meeting of the Executive Board of TSA at the Commodore Perry Hotel in Austin January 12.

Fred J. MacKie, TSA-AIA of Houston, new TSA president, will preside as the Austin sessions begin at 10 a.m. Preliminary planning of TSA committee organization and committee programs for 1957 has been underway since the Corpus Christi convention of November 1-2, and all details are expected to be approved at the January 12 meeting.

SPECIAL REPORT DUE

A special report jointly prepared by Harold E. Colhoun, TSA-AIA Houston, Edwin W. Carroll, TSA-AIA of El Paso, and Karl Kamrath, TSA-AIA of Houston, will be presented in connection with the rapidly-approaching celebration of

Chapters To Present Details of Centennial Planning at Austin

A wide variety of Centennial programs, ranging from historical exhibitions through imaginary showings of the architecture of 2057, will be planned in detail at special sessions in conjunction with the January 12 meeting of the TSA Executive Board in Austin.

Each of the 13 TSA Chapters is expected to have at least one representative on hand for the planning sessions, which come only six weeks before the actual date of the AIA centennial observance on February 23.

Public relations and centennial planning groups, working in each Chapter, have already worked out the framework of the statewide observances. Among the more elaborate events scheduled to date are special commemorative dinners in Houston and Dallas.

Among late details to be discussed in Austin are tie-ins with nationwide events including the issuance of an AIA commemorative postage stamp, a centennial medal and memorial tablet, and the Centennial Exhibition of American Architecture.

the AIA centennial, which has been tied in with the traditional observance of Texas Architects' Week.

Representatives from the 13 TSA Chapters, who have been planning for the centennial for months, will be asked to indicate their choice of various suggested programs and tie-ins with national activity centering in New York City and Washington, D.C.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP DUE

The laying of a memorial cornerstone, issuance of a special U. S. postage stamp, and preparation of centennial histories, sculpture, china, and other materials will give TSA mem-

bers the opportunity for an unusual celebration, dovetailing with the national AIA program. Many Chapters are already far along with final plans for their own local programs during the period from February 23-March 2 which marks both Texas Architects' Week and the launching of the nationwide AIA observance of the founding of the national group on February 23, 1957.

Other important action to be taken at the January 12 meeting includes study and expected adoption of the 1957 budget, and a discussion of developing plans for "Texas Architecture — '57", the statewide competition to be seen next fall at the State Fair of Texas in Dallas.



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Descriptions of Winners In "Texas Architecture — '56"

Following are brief descriptions of seven of the nine winning entries in "Texas Architecture—'56", annual competition sponsored by TSA and the Dallas Chapter, AIA. Pictures of these structures were shown in the November, 1956 issue.

Pictures and a description of the ninth winner, by O'Neil Ford, TSA-AIA of San Antonio, are not available.

A complete story was carried in the December, 1956 issue on the Parish Hall for Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Houston, because this design, by Paul H. Elliott, TSA-AIA of Houston won the cover picture competition in the Houston Chapter in addition to honors in "Texas Architecture—'56".

William L. Jones Elementary School:
Client: Tyler Independent School District, Tyler, Texas
Architect: E. Davis Wilcox Associates, TSA-AIA, Tyler.
General Contractor: R. L. Clonahan Construction Company, Tyler.

Requirements: The owner requested a master plan design for a twelve-classroom elementary school to be located on a wooded, sloping site with the building situated to allow the maximum play area. The original construction program required eight classrooms, an administrative suite, and a multi-purpose area to be used as a temporary kitchen-cafeterium.

The site presented many difficulties due to extreme irregularities, numerous trees, a low marshy area with undesirable foundation qualities, and a gradient over most of the site of approximately a ten foot fall in every sixty feet.

The solution was to place the teaching and administrative areas on a mean level with the access road; and on a lower level, the play area and future kitchen-cafeterium. This change in level follows the natural slope of the site. The teaching units of four classroom clusters are offset and follow the natural contours of the topography which are, generally, northeast to southwest. By locating the buildings at the upper level of the site, the drainage and foundation problems were eliminated, thereby leaving the lower areas for open play activities. Approximately 12,000 feet of covered play area under the classrooms were

obtained by locating retaining walls at the North and West sides of each classroom cluster. Classroom clusters are suspended concrete pan joists supported by concrete columns. The multi-purpose room is concrete slab on fill. Light weight structural steel framing, steel deck, and a built-up room are included in the framing system. Exterior walls of masonry and floor to ceiling steel sash. Interior partitions of wood, studs, and paneling. Acoustical plaster ceilings; open corridor ceilings are exposed steel deck.

★ ★ ★

Gerald S. Gordon Residence, Houston.
Architects: Balton & Barnstone, Houston.

General Contractors: Van Cleve Construction Company and D. S. Rodgers Construction Company.

This is a two-story home at 2307 Bluebonnet. Among the features are the use of glass and steel in combination, brick panels, a two-story living-dining area with glass walls from floors to ceiling, white terrazo floors, side walls of glass, with sliding doors which open to little balconies front and back of the house, and a plastic sky dome in the stairway ceiling.

★ ★ ★

Project: Plant Office Building for Pine Lumber Mill, Silsbee, Texas.

Owner: Kirby Lumber Corporation.
Architects: George F. Pierce, Jr. and Abel B. Pierce, TSA-AIA, Houston.
Associates: Edwin J. Goodwin (Architect-in-charge of above project), Robert V. Flanagan.

Engineers: H. E. Bovay, Jr., Consulting Engineers.

General Contractor: W. S. Bellows Construction Corporation.

Program Requirements: An office building to house management, accounting, engineering and personnel departments in a newly completed large all-electric lumber mill in southeast Texas. Insurance requirements dictated fire-resistive construction. Accounting department arranged to disburse cash payrolls to employees queued up on outside of building after shift changes at the mill. Secretarial pool centrally located to serve all personnel in the building. Personnel department near building entrance to interview new applicants for employ-

ment. An efficient building was desired for operating efficiency and public and employee relations, but economy of planning and construction was a real factor in the design problem.

Design Solution: Compact rectangular plan with inner court for more natural light, spaciousness and visual enjoyment. Accounting section has pay windows facing the plant and employee parking lots. Pay lines are protected from Gulf Coast weather by covered canopy which also shields windows from late afternoon sun. Secretarial pool located approximately equidistant from accounting, engineering and personnel department areas. Management offices placed at far east end of building with small reception area and adjacent to meeting room.

Lift slab method of construction utilized for economy and visual simplicity. Metal curtain walls, oriented chiefly to north and south and composed of porcelain panels glazed directly into aluminum sash, saved floor space, cost and construction time.

★ ★ ★

Benjamin Franklin Savings & Loan Association, Houston:

Architects: Wilson Morris & Crain, TSA-AIA Houston.

Partner-in-Charge: Ralph A. Anderson.
Mechanical Engineers: Dole S. Cooper & Associates.

Structural Engineer: Robert J. Cummins.
General Contractors for Basic Structure: Manhattan Construction Company of Texas.

General Contractors for Interior Finish: Robert W. Kurtz & Company Incorporated.

The problems was to design headquarters in downtown Houston for the Benjamin Franklin Savings & Loan Association in leased ground-floor space of a multi-storeyed office building. Public access to the space is from a busy street at one end and from the lobby of the building on the opposite end. This fact made necessary a path of public circulation all the way through the space, leaving clerical and teller areas to be stretched along one side, and the executive desks along the other, in a readily accessible location to the clientele. Opening the activities of the Association to full view within the main room and also from the street was considered to be desirable by the management.

School Of Medicine

The general atmosphere requested by the client was a quiet dignity which was also warm and inviting. Flooring in the most trafficked area near the street entrance is random Pennsylvania ledge stone, unground and unsealed. The remainder of the main room is carpeted. Walls, other than the mahogany storage wall for office supplies, are covered with Japanese grass cloth and black Kalistron.

The architect selected all furnishings as a part of the over-all design.

★ ★ ★

Clifton Hall Texas Lutheran College:
Architects: Fehr & Granger, TSA-AIA,
Austin.

Associate-in-charge: George H. Zapalac.

Structural Engineers: Wilson & Cottingham, Austin.

Mechanical Engineers: Blum & Querrera, Austin.

Texas Lutheran College, founded in 1891, since World War II, has had an influx of students which has resulted in a continued increase in enrollment, and existing facilities were soon outgrown.

The first building completed under a program of expansion is Clifton Hall, a dormitory for women which features the latest concepts for dormitory living. A separate suite of rooms and bath is provided for each group of four girls. Two L-shaped study-sleeping rooms, each housing two girls, are connected by a bath room.

Color schemes vary from room to room. Other features are luxury baths with counter-type, tilted-in lavatories and tub-showers with glass enclosures, and an intercom to each room from the office.

The building, oriented east and west, features wide overhangs to intercept sun rays. Cross ventilation for every room is provided by large windows and obscure glass louvers on both walls of the corridors.

Each floor has a "community" study lounge, kitchenette, and a complete home-type laundry. A large sun deck on the second floor is popular with all the girls. The house director's suite is adjacent to the control office in the entrance foyer. A formal living room, separated from the entrance foyer by a large fireplace, opens onto patio.

★ ★ ★

Project: J. R. Moore Junior High School,
Tyler, Texas.

Client: Tyler Independent School District.



An unusual view of the School of Medicine at University City in Mexico, a feature of the post-convention tour by members of TSA.

(Photograph courtesy of Mexican Society of Architects)

Architects: Caudill-Rowlett-Scott, Bruce and Russell, Associated Architects-Engineers, Bryon and Tyler, Texas.

Mechanical Engineer: J. W. Hall, Jr.

Structural Engineer: A. M. Martin.

General Contractor: Clanahan Construction Company, Tyler, Texas.

Features: A decentralized school plant for a decentralized educational program; all glass gymnasium; outdoor gymnasium; step down classroom wings; three dining areas; outdoor social and teaching terraces.

Construction Outline: Concrete slab in fill, concrete beams and drilled piers.

Classroom wings: Steel bar joists and beams on pipe columns; brick cavity walls; poured gypsum deck; aluminum arch, projected windows; aluminum door and window frames; acoustical tile and wood ceilings; plywood-glass partitions; asphalt tile floors; radiant floors and forced air hot water heating systems.

Gymnasium: Rigid steel frame and beams; precast roof deck; aluminum awning windows; asphalt tile floor; rubberized asphalt an outdoor gym; unit heaters.

Owner's Special Requirements:

1. Approach: The advanced educational program for this school represented a departure from the mass approach to secondary education. The

architects were asked to emphasize a decentralized architecture.

2. Problems: (a.) To design a decentralized junior high school with self-contained classroom units for 7th grade, partially self-contained for 8th and departmentalized for 9th—each grade level to function as a unit; and to accommodate program changes and permit economical expansion. (b.) To design a school plant that gives special consideration to the characteristics of early teenagers, recognizing the importance of the student as an individual. (c.) To consider the best effective use of a sloping site.

★ ★ ★

Residence for Mr. and Mrs. William F. Micchelli, Dallas.

Address, 10638 Royal Springs Dr.

Architect: E. G. Hamilton, TSA-AIA, Dallas.

Design: A medium sized-medium priced house featuring open planning for emphasis on spacious living areas. Designed three dimensionally to present as complete a feeling of space as possible. Arranged to cut out west sun and make an inviting entry in spite of orientation. To open to the south with private living areas inside and out, and to allow use of carport as a covered play area opening to south garden. Movable panels for screening or dividing carport.

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cellent flow characteristics, with the odor level at a minimum.

A graphically illustrated 36-page technical data book for architects, entitled "Facts and Data on Resilient Floors," has been produced by the Gold Seal Division of Congoleum-Nairn Inc. The booklet facilitates the specification of the correct resilient floor for any type of residential, commercial or institutional building.

Copies of the booklet can be obtained free of charge by writing to the Architect Service Department, Congoleum-Nairn Inc., 195 Belgrave Drive, Kearny, N. J.

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Fort Worth Chapter Selection

McKinney Manufacturing Company, Pittsburgh, Pa., is now marketing a new Anchor Hinge. It has been designed for hanging exterior doors of wood or metal in all public or commercial buildings where a door holder or door closer—in conjunction with other conditions—causes severe strain on hinges, particularly the top one.

Templete punching of screw holes permits its use on metal as well as on wood doors and jambs. Wood or machine screws are supplied.

The new hinges recognize the increasing use of door holders and door closers on heavy exterior doors. These holders and closers, under various conditions, impose an unusual load on door hinges. Fulcrums are established with varying leverages which pull a door at the top and push it from the bottom. As a result, says McKinney, the top hinge carries a heavy load and frequently screws pull out of the jamb, the door, or both.

This situation is said to occur in installations where doors open back to back, are in batteries, in reveals, open over steps, are subjected to sudden stopping, or are exposed to strong wind.



An interior view of the W. H. Grove Rest Home, the project selected by members of the Fort Worth Chapter, AIA, as representative of recent work in the Chapter area. Architect: John W. Floore, AIA.

To provide strength to resist potential hinge failure, plus damage to door or jamb, McKinney designed the Anchor Hinge in two models. One has an anchor plate or reinforcing angle ex-

tended out from both jamb and door leaf. This model is used as the top hinge when a door holder or closer is mounted on the door surface.



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AN ARCHITECT IN HIS COMMUNITY

By Henry L. Wright, F.A.I.A.

Abstract of an address delivered at the 17th Annual Convention of the Texas Society of Architects, Friday, November 2, 1956, at Corpus Christi, Texas

The subject of the "architect in his community" has been batted around for a good many years. Undoubtedly,



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the builders of the Parthenon kicked it around a bit. We, certainly, are not going to pronounce the final word during this generation.

Although I am not going to offer any "how to do it" advice, I would like to plant a few seeds in this Texas garden. Perhaps, with your indulgence, some ruminating might be in order.

Who among us hasn't been called an "orch-itect"? Arch as in fallen arches, rather than in archaic or archives. There may be a reason for this mispronunciation, and perhaps a lesson for the profession.

Unlike the doctor or lawyer, the architect is not called upon for professional service by the greater majority of the people individually. He serves them, yes, but collectively—his personal and direct contact is with but a comparative few; so, more people read about architects than have any direct connection with them, and as happens with other words that people only read or write, the pronunciation may be awry.

I am not suggesting that architects enter a popularity contest, or seek to divide like amoebas and appear everywhere. But I do believe that the architect has an obligation to his profession and to himself to take part in the life of his community. Isolation carries

a penalty for all of us. Participation in community life allows our neighbors to see us as fellow citizens and makes the service we render both more understandable and of value.

Community activity is not easy. We are trained to frame our work in the broad sweep of history, to fashion for the future out of the past, to build with materials that will endure after our span is done.

We are, I believe, on the threshold of a new era, in which the architect will play a significant role. We can, as individuals and as a professional society, take some pride in the part that architects have already played in the development of our communities, and in aiding the passage of city, state and national legislation which has benefitted the public in terms of education, recreation, health and social welfare. Our tenacity of purpose, with regard to safety in planning and construction, through codes and regulations, has forestalled untold disasters from accident, fire, flood and earthquake. Our recommendations, joined with those of educators and others, have advanced school and hospital design and thereby, education and health. Through our training and experience as architects, we have contributed much to industry and commerce. We have helped to free the housewife from much drudgery and have made the home a healthier, happier place in which to live.

This is a time, therefore, when we should re-assess our value as architects, as a profession, and as a social integral of our society; a time to survey past accomplishments, present efforts and future possibilities.

In primitive times, there was no community. The individual did as he pleased. Selfish interest predominated, and man gave no attention to the welfare of others. Man had to learn, through much hardship and suffering, that he could survive best, that his situation could improve, *only through cooperation*. Our democracy is based on this foundation of *community cooperation*, and what we may do individually, as architects, must adhere to this principle.

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The form of community participation to be entered into is a matter for the individual architect. We find architects helping in the development of community projects for youth, and aiding in other organization projects for the community.

Many other architects serve on public boards and commissions. If more would do so, other barriers would be broken down between the profession and the rest of the community.

An associate in our office is a member of the Los Angeles Board of Health Commissioners. He also is active in boys work and other civic activity. This enriches his own life, aids his community, and reflects the leadership our profession historically provides.

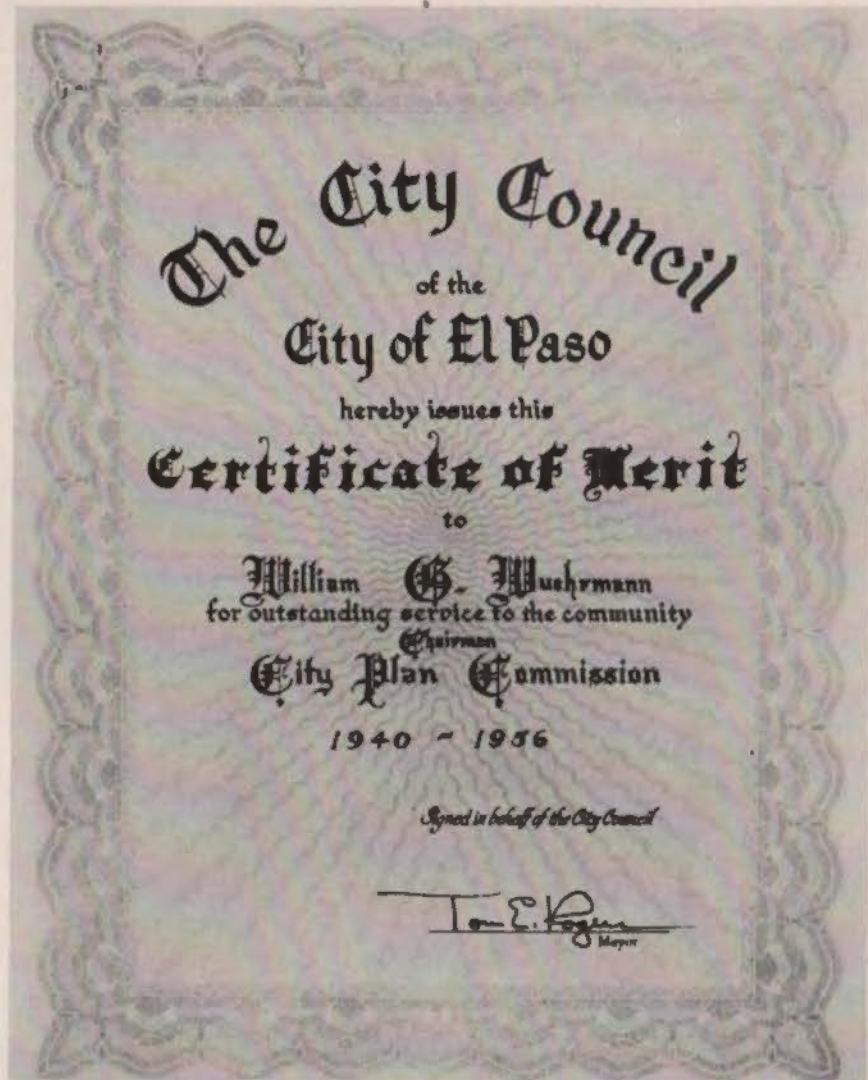
Some architects take part effectively in political affairs, and find that their counsel often helps to shape sound and beneficial policy and action in government.

There are encouraging signs. The willingness of city governments in several sections of the nation, to call upon architectural counsel is evidence of a coming era in which architects will play a great role.

These isolated cases do not represent a major trend. Too many communities, which oddly enough, maintain commissions, have never called upon an architect to join such a commission. This is not necessarily the fault of the townspeople, but may signify the architect's lack of integration in community affairs? The architect should offer his services.

Our clients today, in the main, are practical, realistic businessmen. They want to know, in dollars and cents, just what we, as architects, can do for them, and they are justifiably correct in their demands. This is especially true if we are contemplating, with a group of clients, the re-designing of a community or a section of a city. It must be shown that such replanning is profitable, if not in immediate dollars, in anticipated increases in property values, in more efficient operation and in other terms the businessman understands.

The great majority of architects today are more keenly aware of the social responsibility of our profession, and its unique value, than ever before in the history of the profession. We must communicate this fact to the pub-



Architect Honored For Civic Service

William G. Wuehrmann, TSA-AIA, a member of the Executive Board of the Texas Society of Architects, has long been known as a prominent civic worker in his home city of El Paso. The City Council recently honored him with this certificate of merit, citing 16 years of outstanding service as chairman of the City Plan Commission.

lic! The public must learn of our accomplishments. Provided we are given the opportunity to express them.

A strong and respected Chapter of the American Institute of Architects becomes a natural source of help to the community in many ways. Once it becomes known as a continuing influence within the community, it will be called upon for counsel and leadership in many community problems and activities. The views of the architects should be sought and respected, and inevitably, individual members of the Chapter should find themselves in positions of public leadership and influence.

The TSA must maintain a tradition of public service and leadership in community affairs, so it will be a channel of encouragement and preparation

through which the younger architect will be encouraged to assume his rightful place of service and leadership in his community.

The younger members should not forget the small town and the smaller community. There is a ripe field there and economic gain awaits the young architect who will take the time to find a community, perhaps an entire region, that may require architectural services and does not yet possess them.

These men must remember that America is built of thousands of small communities, as is our present day city. Each of these communities need you. You have much to offer, and the community has much to gain. Grow roots—for the sake of our future in Texas and America.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF LIGHT

(Editor's Note: We continue with a series on lighting, by H. L. Logan, Vice-President for Research, Halophane Company, New York, N.Y.)

Although the presence of light is essential to permit us to receive visual information from a field of view; and the quantity of light, all other things being equal, will determine the rate at which we can see, light alone is not enough. There is plenty of light in a fog on a snowfield in the daytime, but the only information the eyes can get about the field of view is the presence of light. In order to get more information from the field of view there must be contrasts. There must be differences in quantity of light in various parts of the field, or differences in color, or both.

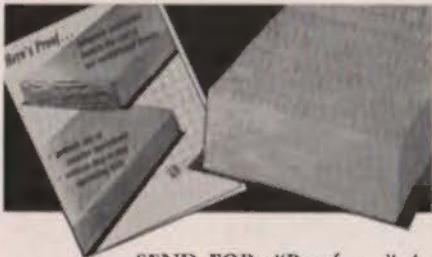
DISTRIBUTION OF LIGHT

This means that given a quantity of light, the precise distribution of that light will determine the amount of information that can be received from the field; and the maximum information only occurs when the least probable information is received.

So the receipt of the maximum information depends upon the distribution of the light. From these considerations it is obvious that "bland" fields of view with low contrasts will convey less information than "sculptured" fields with wider contrasts, but there is also a top limit to the desirable contrasts which will be discussed under "GLARE".

As we are natural creatures the logical assumption is that the distributions of light in "model" natural fields of view are those that will give us the most useful information, as they are the distributions that have been tied up with our survival.

These "model" natural fields are



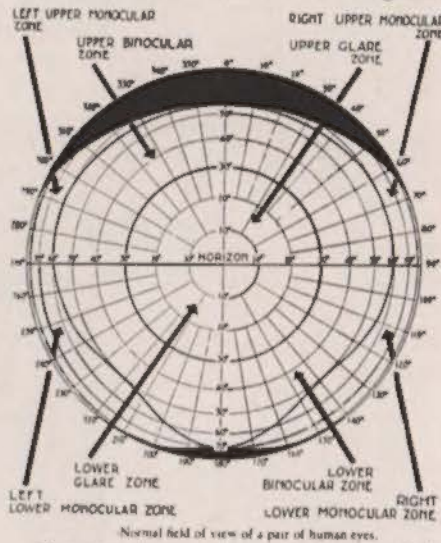
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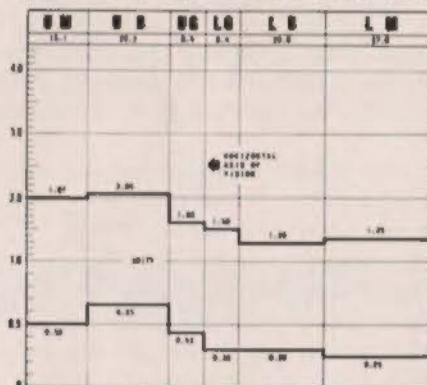
ones characteristic of the natural conditions to which man has optimum adaptation. These natural conditions are those found at some isolated areas on the 70° F. annual isotherm, or along the spring and summer 70° F. isotherms.

Measurements made under such conditions have led to the diagram:



The two heavy lines that cross this diagram are used as guide lines in the design of the distribution of light in artificial fields of view.

The heavy initials at the head of each column on the diagram identify the different zones in the hemispherical field of view of a human being; which zones are transferred onto the chart



in columns that have an area proportional to the size of the zones in space. The hemispherical projection of a human field of view onto a flat plane, and showing the various visual zones, is given in the illustration below.

The method of designing a lighting system to produce a field of view distribution that falls between the guide lines, is simple in principle, and will be described in the following article.

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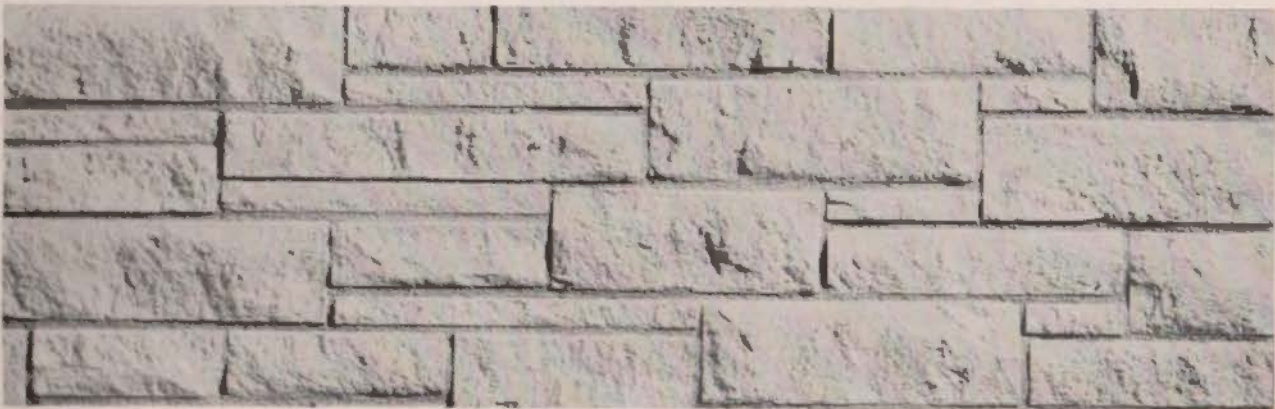
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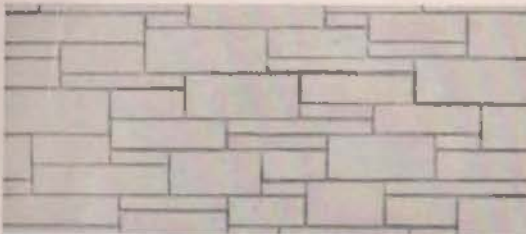
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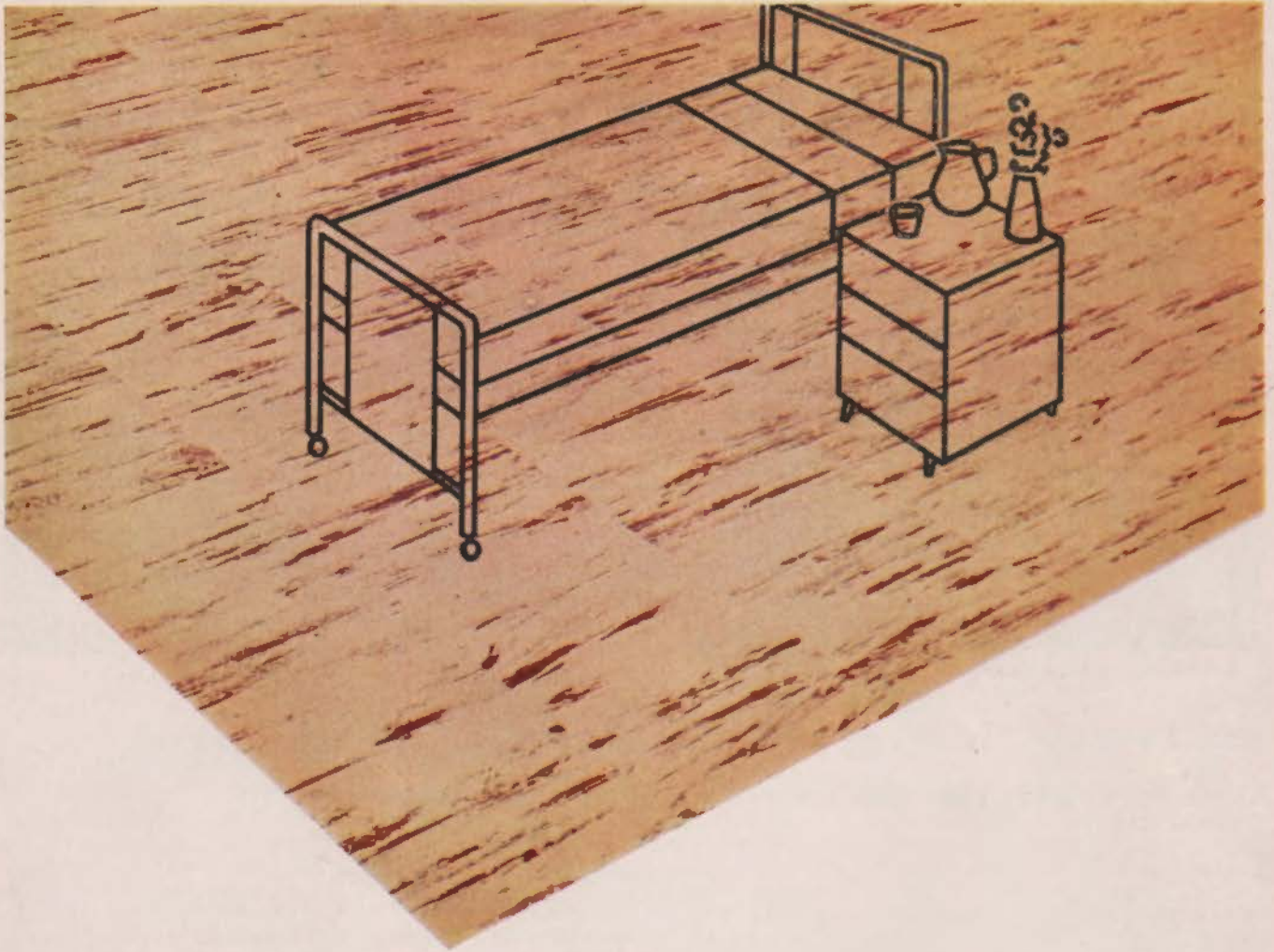
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