

# TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

TSA DELEGATES AT SEATTLE CONVENTION

SULLIVAN RE-ELECTED AIA TREASURER

TOWARD A WELL-PLANNED CAPITOL

TRENDS IN AIR-CONDITIONING

JULY  
1953

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## THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**July 18**—Quarterly meeting, board of directors, TSA; 10 a.m., Commodore Perry Hotel, Austin.

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



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## TOWARD A WELL-PLANNED CAPITOL

A significant resolution, calling for a 15-man State Planning Board to study "the orderly development of the physical property of the State of Texas located at Austin, Texas," was passed in the waning hours of the 53rd Legislature.

This resolution is in agreement with a principal objective of the Texas Society of Architects—to seek a well-planned Capitol wherein the increasingly complex business of state government can be carried out efficiently and economically with maximum convenience to the general public, to officials and employees of the state, and to the inhabitants of Austin.

For several years, the TSA has emphasized the need for careful planning of any expansion or development of state buildings in Austin, with an eye to economy, beauty, and convenience. Certainly an overall plan, with the experience and judgment of qualified persons behind it, is needed for such problems as the location of projected buildings, liaison with county and city governments, and the regulation of vehicular traffic.

The resolution setting up the Planning Board, Senate Concurrent Resolution 48, provides that five members be appointed by the governor, who is ex-officio chairman of the body; five by the lieutenant-governor, and five by the speaker of the House. The board is authorized to make studies of the orderly development of state properties in Austin, and to report the result of its investigations to the appointing officials named above. It is further authorized to ask for the cooperation and assistance of the various state departments, Travis County, and city of Austin.

We applaud the passing of SCR 48, and the launching of this long-needed study, which was suggested in Governor Shivers' address to the Legislature last January 14.

The Capitol area itself, and the entire city which is closely related to it, are of great importance to this state and to its citizens. It is well that the necessity for orderly planning of any expansion of state properties in Austin has been officially recognized, and that action toward an orderly development based upon considerations of economy, beauty, service, and convenience can be expected.

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# TSA Members Return From National AIA Convention

Maurice J. Sullivan Re-Elected Treasurer;  
Members of 30-Man Texas Delegation  
Named to Important Committees

Members of a 30-man TSA delegation to the 85th annual convention of the American Institute of Architects have returned home after winning a key national office and many important committee assignments at the June 15-19 gathering in Seattle, Wash.

Maurice J. Sullivan of Houston, TSA-AIA, was re-elected national treasurer of the organization of 9000 architects, as delegates named Clair D. Ditchy, Detroit, Mich. president.

The theme of the convention, "A New Country—A New Architecture" was stressed throughout the five-day meeting, with addresses and field trips on the products and regional architecture of the Pacific Northwest.

Of particular interest was the opening address by William M. Allen of Seattle, president of the Boeing Aircraft Company. Mr. Allen likened the aviation industry to the architectural profession by stressing the need for constant progress in both fields.

## Progressive Thinking Essential

"Progressive thinking is essential both to the aircraft industry and to the practitioner of architecture", Mr. Allen said. "Architects, just as those who build airplanes, are experiencing rapid and important changes. And like the airplane, your buildings have beauty that is also functional."

The aircraft executive stressed the importance of the search for new materials that will be "more durable, more economical, and more easily fabricated." "Where would we be", said Mr. Allen, "if we limited our thinking to materials of the past?"

At the convention, David C. Baer of Houston, TSA-AIA, was named by the board of directors to head a newly-created

national committee on architectural practice. This group will take over areas formerly covered by four committees, on contract documents, fees, ethics, and standardized accounting and office practice.

## Important Committee Assignments

Other TSA members appointed to AIA committees included jury of fellows; Thomas D. Broad, Dallas; public relations, Karl Kamrath, Houston; board of examiners, Herschel Fisher, Dallas; chapter affairs, Albert S. Golemon, Houston, TSA president; awards and scholarships, Bartlett Cocke, San Antonio; collaboration of design professions, J. J. Patterson, Fort Worth; preservation of historic buildings, Marvin Eichenroht, San Antonio; school buildings, Donald Bartheleme, Houston; house building industry, Hubert Crane, Fort Worth; hospitals and public health, Arthur Thomas, Dallas; research, Ralph Cameron, San Antonio; and urban design and housing, Herbert Tatum, Dallas.

Other TSA members attending the convention, in addition to those named above, included Martin S. Kermacy, Austin; Eugene Werlein, Houston; Murrell Bennett, Dallas; Goldwin Goldsmith, Austin; Terrell Harper, Dallas; Edwin W. Carroll, El Paso; F. A. Kleinschmidt, Lubbock; Richard Tracy, Lubbock; A. B. Swank, Jr., Dallas; Charles Huie, Jr., San Antonio; Wylie W. Vale, Houston; Louis Sutherland, Austin; Harold Calhoun, Houston; Ernest Langford, College Station; Edward L. Wilson, Fort Worth; William M. Collier, Jr., Abilene; Preston Geren, Fort Worth; Arthur E. Nutter, Houston; Milton Ryan, San Antonio; Harwell Harris, Austin; Gordon Smith, San Antonio; Grayson Gill, Dallas; and Roy Leibslie, Houston.

# Air-Conditioning Shifting from Luxury to Necessity

New Products, Production-Engineering Savings,  
Rising Public Demand and Competition  
All Factors in Developing Trend

Average worker "John Smith" will sleep, eat, work, commute and play in an air-conditioned atmosphere within the next decade, according to spokesmen for the air-conditioning industry.

Air-conditioning is shifting rapidly from a luxury to a necessity in new residential and industrial construction in addition to commercial and amusement building, paced by latest air-conditioning and refrigeration engineering developments.

## Four Important Factors

New products introduced since January, 1950 will account for more than one-third of one company's sales during 1953. These products include a wide range of refrigeration machines, water chillers and self-contained water-saving air conditioners and new types of home hot water baseboard heating, gas-fired industrial unit heaters, and schoolroom ventilating units.

This company, widely known in the industry, has doubled its product development staff in three years and virtually completed construction of a new laboratory that will represent a million dollar investment when fully equipped in 1954.

## Price Reductions Foreseen

Economies in product design and production engineering will enable the company to reduce prices in two important product categories at a time that materials costs are rising, according to officials. These are the basic cooling and heating coils for air conditioning systems, and air conditioners for apartments, hotels, motels, offices and hospital patient rooms. Air conditioning has already penetrated these fields to a far greater degree than it has in the single family residence market.

Complete year-round air conditioning of new office buildings, shopping centers and precision manufacturing plants is resulting in competitive pressures on the owners of older structures. Employers are finding that production efficiency is up and labor turnover down in air-conditioned offices and factories. As a result, the industry is receiving a higher proportion of inquiries and requests for quotations on equipment for air-conditioning existing buildings.

New refrigeration product developments include the railway passenger car air-conditioning market as well as an entire new field of mechanical refrigeration for the shipment of frozen and fresh foods.

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## TSA Board of Directors To Meet July 18 In Austin

The TSA board of directors will hold a regular quarterly session beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 18, at the Commodore Perry Hotel in Austin, with President Albert S. Golemon of Houston presiding.

Among matters expected to come before the board's summer meeting are advancing plans for the TSA convention in Austin next November 4-6, a report on the national convention of the American Institute of Architects just concluded at Seattle, Wash., various committee reports in preparation since the group's last meeting in April, and the results of a statewide public relations workshop held May 16 in Houston.

The Austin board meeting will adjourn temporarily for a luncheon meeting at noon, and then continue until about 3:30 p.m.





## Part of TSA Delegation at Seattle Convention

Seven members of the TSA delegation which attended the annual convention of the American Institute of Architects June 15-19 at Seattle, Wash. are shown at a logging camp near the Pacific Northwest city, where they saw lumbering operations on an all-day outing.

Part of the group is standing on a log used later in a demonstration by national champion log-rolling teams. Left to right, front row, Albert Golemon of Houston, president, TSA; Arthur Nutter, Houston; Maurice J. Sullivan, Houston, who was re-elected as national AIA treasurer at the convention; and Edward L. Wilson of

Fort Worth, AIA regional director; back row, David C. Baer, Houston; Harold Calhoun, president of the Houston Chapter; and Harold Fisher, president of the Dallas Chapter.

Most of the other 23 TSA delegates to the AIA convention attended the all-day trip to the logging camp, which was a feature of the five-day program of business and entertainment for an estimated 1000 architects at the Seattle meeting.

Many of the TSA members at the AIA convention combined business with pleasure by making the trip to the Pacific Northwest part of their vacation.

## Lightweight Aggregate Finds Increasing Use

Haydite, the lightweight aggregate used in place of sand and gravel in structural concrete where weight is a factor, has come into wide use in the Southwest since World War II.

Concrete made with Haydite is roughly 40 per cent lighter than sand-and-gravel concrete. Its exceptional properties make it an ideal material for concrete masonry products and many other structural uses. Structural engineers in general are now considering this type of concrete equally with heavy concrete in all conventional design methods, including beam and column, rigid frame, flat plate and others.

### Expanded Clay or Shale

Haydite is made by expanding certain types of clay or shale in kilns heated to temperatures of more than 2000°F.,

which causes the raw material to expand. The result is a "clinker" containing millions of non-connecting cells which are retained after cooling. It is extremely light in weight, and yet has great structural strength.

Concrete made with Haydite aggregate has consistently shown strengths comparable with heavy concrete at approximately the same cement factor. In addition, it is more fire-resistant and has exceptional qualities for sound and thermal insulation.

The manufacture of this lightweight aggregate has become an industry of increasing importance in Texas, and many of the uses for it have been developed first in this area, where the basic raw materials are readily available.

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## Two TSA Members on National Board

At Seattle, as the new board of the American Institute of Architects met for the first time after elections at the June 15-19 convention, two TSA members were on hand to sit with the national group. Maurice J. Sullivan of Houston, re-elected AIA treasurer, is at right in the front row, along with Clair W. Ditchy of Detroit, new AIA president, at left, and Howard Eichenbaum, Little Rock, Ark., second vice-president. Standing at the rear, at the extreme left, with other regional AIA directors, is Edward L. Wilson, Fort Worth.

## John L. Haynes Is New Managing Director for Producers' Council

John L. Haynes, formerly with the National Production Authority, has been appointed managing director of the Producers' Council, national organization of building products manufacturers. Haynes, who has 27 years of experience in the building industry, replaces Charles M. Mortensen, now with the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

As managing director, the new appointee will direct Producers' Council promotional and educational campaigns, many of which are undertaken in cooperation with the American Institute of Architects, the Associated General Contractors, the National Association of Home Builders, and other construction industry groups.

## New Products

The Wright Manufacturing Company of Houston, makers of Wright Rubber Tile, have announced a new line of reinforced plastic building materials. These new materials include Sturdalite, a shatterproof translucent structural panel; Versatex, a siding and roofing material said never to require painting; and Versarite, a green plastic chalkboard.

Sturdalite comes corrugated or plain, flat or curved, from 26 to 40 inches in width and six to 12 feet long. It works like wood and can be installed without special weatherproofing. Versatex withstands chemical action, and the hard, smooth, opaque material is said to be well suited to industrial plants. Versarite is made of tough fibre glass, and can also be used as an interior wall material.

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## Barton Springs Attracts Visitors to Austin

Delegates and visitors at the 14th annual convention of the Texas Society of Architects, to be held at Austin November 4-6, will find Barton Springs, a spring-fed swimming resort, one of the chief attractions in Texas' capital city.

In a beautiful setting of grassy slopes and pecan trees near the city, Barton Springs remains open into Texas' mild fall season, with accommodations for thousands of bathers in modern club house facilities. An estimated 27,300,000 gallons of water flow each day from the springs which give Barton Springs its name.

### *With Our Advertisers*

A new 16-page booklet containing photographs of Sea-Swirl, the three-dimensional plywood has been issued by Associated Plywood Mills, Inc., Eugene, Ore. Free copies will be sent upon request.

Uvalde Rock Asphalt Company is now making vinylized Azphlex, a greaseproof tile with new resistance to all kinds of greases, fats, and oils. Azphlex, suitable for installation over both wood and concrete subfloors, has added vinyl to this product without increasing the cost.

## Octagon Served as White House in 1814-15

The Octagon, national headquarters of the American Institute of Architects in Washington, D. C., is a historically important residence which served as the White House for more than a year in 1814-15, after the British had burned the national capital.

Originally, The Octagon was the home of Colonel John Tayloe, Virginian and friend of George Washington. Tayloe chose as his architect Dr. William Thornton, designer of the Capitol. Completed in 1800 shortly before the White House, Tayloe's home was a center of social life and one of the finest residences in Washington.

### Treaty of Ghent Signed There

Soon after the British burned the White House in 1814, Colonel Tayloe offered President Madison the use of The Octagon. Madison accepted, and the Treaty of Ghent ending the War of 1812 was signed in the residence, where the President and his wife Dolly Madison, a legendary hostess, further enhanced its reputation for fine hospitality.

No one knows why the Tayloe residence came to be called The Octagon. It is not octagonal, but consists of two rectangular wings connected with a graceful tower. Two other mysteries about the historical residence concern a tunnel opening off the rear, the purpose of which was never disclosed, and the oft-repeated tale that it is haunted by the daughter of Colonel Tayloe.

### Ghost by Candlelight

The daughter, overcome by grief over a thwarted love affair with a young Englishman, reportedly threw herself to her death from The Octagon's staircase. There are those who say that she is seen, carrying a spectral candle, whenever storms sweep Washington in the night.

During the latter part of the nineteenth century, after the Tayloes had disposed of the residence, it became increasingly dilapidated. Officials of the American Institute of Architects, learning of The Octagon's history, purchased it after it had become a tenement in 1900. Under AIA supervision, it has been restored to its original beauty, and now serves both as the national headquarters for the architectural organization and as an example of a famous American home saved from destruction by timely renovation.

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### Karl Kamrath Delivers Commencement Address To UT Architects

Karl Kamrath, TSA-AIA, member of the Houston architectural firm of MacKie & Kamrath, delivered the principal address at 1953 commencement exercises for graduates of the School of Architecture of the University of Texas, at Austin.

Mr. Kamrath is a 1934 architectural graduate of the University of Texas.

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