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JULY

# TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

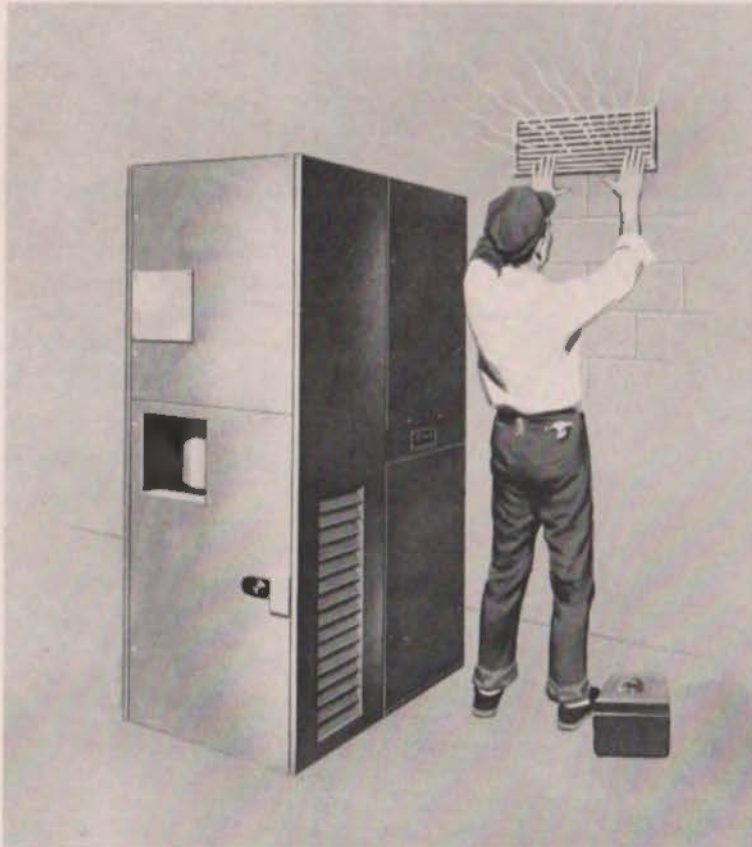
## IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Four Texans Named Fellows Of AIA
- ◆ Master Plans For Redevelopment
- ◆ Plastering And Lathing



The United Services Automobile Association Building, in San Antonio, has been selected by members of the San Antonio Chapter as representative of recent work in the Chapter area. Associated Architects: Phelps & Dewees & Simmons and Atlee B. & Robert M. Ayres, all TSA-AIA.

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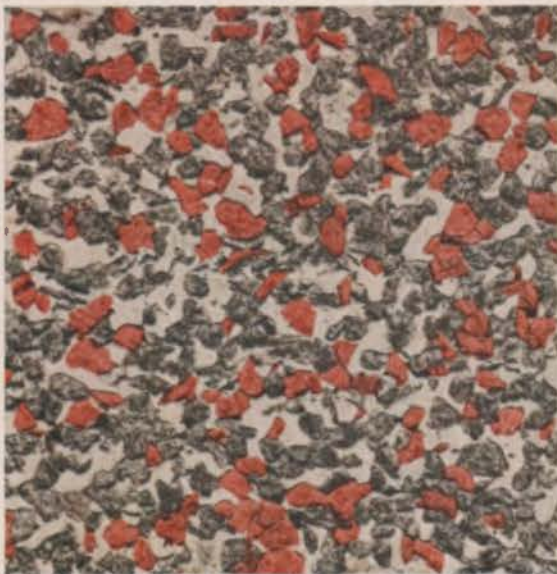
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# Aggregate Transfer

**ADDS BEAUTY AND COLOR TO ARCHITECTURAL CONCRETE**



Photograph (approximately 1/4 size) of an aggregate transfer area of the Cuming County Courthouse in West Point, Neb. Backlund & Jackson is the architect-engineer. Parsons Construction Co. is the contractor. Both firms are located in Omaha, Neb.

The Cuming County Courthouse in West Point, Neb. is an example of the warmth and color that can be imparted to architectural concrete structures by using the aggregate transfer method.

The red bands around the courthouse constitute the aggregate transfer area—a total of 1720 sq. ft. The color was achieved by a mixture of 65% dark cedar gray marble aggregate and 35% alpine red marble chips. The resulting blend contrasts pleasantly with the surrounding area of exposed, grout-cleaned concrete walls.

Aggregate transfer is an economical method developed to obtain color in architectural concrete walls. It is economical because the special aggregate needed is limited to a thin layer at the surface.

You attach colored aggregate to a thin form liner of plywood or other material by means of a special adhesive. Erect the reinforcing and back form in usual way and fill with concrete. Strip forms and treat the colored surface to expose the special facing aggregate.

Architects are invited to write for free, illustrated literature, distributed only in the U.S. and Canada, on the aggregate transfer method.

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## ARCHITECTS AND AIR-CONDITIONING

With Texas rapidly becoming almost completely air-conditioned, it is important to note the results of some recent experimentation by researchers from the National Warm Air Heating & Air-Conditioning Association. The tests were concerned with how orientation of a structure affects heat load, and thereby air-conditioning operations and costs.

Results indicate that air-conditioning costs are almost doubled for some structures when they are improperly oriented. Tests on a home, based on maintaining a 75-degree indoor temperature when the outdoor temperature was at 95, indicated the following:

If the structure was faced west, the heat load was 41,800 BTU's. Properly oriented toward the north, the load was 22,000; toward the south, 22,300 BTU's. The increased heat load facing west was found to be due chiefly to greater sun load on exposed glass and wall areas, rather than to the roof. Variables including awnings, shading during the day, relative window areas, etc. were considered in calculations.

These tests indicate clearly where professional architectural services can prove an advantage at every stage in planning and construction. It is entirely possible that proper orientation alone could save a substantial portion of the cost of such services in lowered air-conditioning costs.

## The President's Letter

By  
R. Max Brooks  
TSA-AIA  
President,  
Texas Society  
of Architects



One of the most significant developments in the years since World War II has been the greatly increased emphasis on city planning and urban redevelopment. National attention has been drawn to the tremendous projects in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and other Eastern cities, where huge areas have been completely rebuilt.

Many Texans fail to realize that plans of very large scope, involving either redevelopment of existing areas, completely new planning, or a combination of both, are underway in their own state and elsewhere in the Southwest. Austin, Fort Worth and Tulsa are typical of cities now studying important such plans, and other metropolitan areas are moving in the same direction.

The redevelopment program at Tulsa is particularly interesting because architects in the Oklahoma city—as is proper—have taken a prominent role in every stage of the plan. Architects in other cities, including many members of TSA, are working with city planning. But Tulsans have seen their architects move with great energy to assume their traditional roles as master builders and master planners.

As one architectural publication commented: "(The Tulsa plan) . . . is a dramatic example of what can happen when men trained in planning and design actually take the lead in urban redevelopment. It is one of those . . . instances when a city's private architects step forward as a group, assume the roles of coordinators and promoters on a team of civic and business leaders, and help their city visualize broad solutions to future problems."

# The History of Tile

By Research Department, Betteger Corporation, Waltham, Mass.  
Manufacturer of Ceramic on Steel Wall Tile

Tile and enameling date back thousands of years, almost to the dawn of history, and much of the tile used in modern day construction is the same in design and composition as tiles used hundreds of years ago. Their evolution has been highlighted by contributions from many peoples in many ages.

Usage of tile and enamel coatings date back to ancient Egyptian, Greek and Byzantine peoples. Earthenware tiles were used for wall decoration by the Egyptians in the Abusir pyramid of Neterkhet in the Third Dynasty. The Cretians used wall tiles for decoration in their homes from the eighteenth century B.C. and onward. Clay tile, as we know it today, reached its maturity of design and form during the medieval period, and the principal improvements that have been made since deal largely with methods of manufacture.

#### Made First in Syria

Wall tiles are thought to have been made first in Syria, in the Tigris-Euphrates valley and in Persia. Similarly, the art of enameling is thought to have developed in western Asia or Asia Minor. Gold, silver, copper and earthenware, covered with vitreous enamels, have been discovered which are evidence of use of enamel coating in Egypt and Assyria before the birth of Christ. Enamelled golden ornamental robes on a statue of the god Zeus, made either in Rome or Greece, date back to 400 or 500 B.C.

Lustre wall tiles for the mosque of Side Okba at Karrouan were brought from Baghdad in 894, and by the thirteenth century, manufacture of wall tiles was well established in Persia, notably around Rhages and Veramine.

#### Spread From Ireland

The Celts and Saxons were developing the art of enameling for use on gold and bronze ornaments, house trappings and shields during the period from 600 to 900 A.D. The Irish had been making enamel pieces before the rise of civilization in the British Isles. From Ireland and Britain, enameling spread to Byzantium between the years of 400 and 1400 A.D.

In the fourteenth century, Mohammedan potters in North Africa and Spain developed new designs for tile which led to the famous Spanish Azule-

jos tile, a richly decorated piece. An example of this tile was in the Alhambra at Granada.

The Italian majolica type tile was introduced in the sixteenth century and was used in such famous spots as the Convent of St. Paula at Seville and in the altar in the Alcazar at Seville in 1503.

#### German Stove Tile

Meanwhile, a tile for use on stoves

was being developed in Germany. At the same time, enameling had become popularized in Europe and by 1750 there were six general types of enameling, almost all centered in Europe. These were: claisonne, champleve, basi-taille, plique-ajour, Limoges (painted enamels) and "miniature" style.

During the 1700's, the most important of the North European tiles were developed in Delft. These were used for fireplace and stove facings and in wall wainscatings.

(Continued on Page 9)

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## Four TSA Members Elevated to Fellowship

Four well-known members of TSA were advanced to membership in the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects during the recent AIA convention in Los Angeles.

The new fellows are:

R. Max Brooks, Austin  
 Louis F. Southerland, Austin  
 Ralph Bryan, Dallas  
 Gen. Raymond Phelps, San Antonio.

### ACTIVE IN PROFESSION

All four have been particularly active in their profession and in TSA affairs.

Mr. Brooks, currently TSA president, has held many key posts within the Society including the chairmanship of TSA committees. He is a partner in Kuehne, Brooks & Barr and is well known as a civic and business leader in the state capital in addition to his professional accomplishments.

Mr. Southerland, a member of the Austin firm of Page, Southerland & Page, has also been very active in TSA and in the professional practice of architecture. He is currently serving his

### Re-Elected AIA Secretary, Edward L. Wilson Addresses UT Architectural Graduates

Edward L. Wilson, TSA-AIA of Fort Worth, AIA secretary who has just been re-elected to this important national post, was the commencement speaker for 1956 graduates of the University of Texas architectural school in Austin recently.

Mr. Wilson in his address, emphasized the importance of a meaningful professional career as a responsible practitioner. Architecture, he stated, ". . . is a way of life, a way of thinking. Every waking moment, one must think as an architect."

The AIA secretary reminded the 1956 graduates that the beginning of professional practice as an architect . . . "must be the natural and normal expression of the attainment to a position of thought and comprehension which looks out on the current scene as an architect, a responsible practitioner, one in whom the public may repose confidence. . . ."

An abridged text of the Wilson address will be printed in August.



BROOKS



BRYAN



PHELPS



SOUTHERLAND

third consecutive term as TSA secretary-treasurer after a long record of accomplishments in the Central Texas Chapter and on various TSA committees.

Mr. Bryon, a Dallas architect, is regional architect in charge of hospital construction for the U. S. Public Health Service. Long prominent in his profession and in TSA, he is widely known in Texas and in the Southwest. He has served on a number of TSA

committees since the Society was first organized.

### FORMER TSA PRESIDENT

Mr. Phelps is a former president of TSA. A member of the architectural firm of Phelps, Dewees & Simmons of San Antonio, he is a general officer in the reserve forces, one of the many professional and extra-professional fields in which he has been active. He is a charter member of TSA and has served since 1939 on key committees.



### Prize-Winning Church

An interior view of the Concordia Lutheran Church in San Antonio, which won a second prize in the small church category of the Church Architectural Guild competition for architect Henry Steinbomer, TSA-AIA, of San Antonio.

The church has exterior walls of Norman size hand-made brick with exposed brick on interior. Other features include the acoustical plaster ceiling and brick panels back of the pulpit and lectern. These panels serve as reflecting surfaces for the speaker and also provide an interesting transition from the low side walls to the large wall areas back of the altar.

The Church Guild competition is conducted according to AIA regulations.

# New Techniques and Methods Increase Use of Plaster

By

Karl F. Doerner, President

Texas Bureau for Lathing and Plastering

Only to some extent may the increased use of plaster as a finishing material in both new and remodeled construction be attributed to the "building boom" of the past few years.

The increasing popularity is related more directly to the development of acoustical plaster, new techniques of application, and growing acceptance of fire-safe plaster by architects and builders throughout the state.

After World War II, when experimentation with a variety of new materials became fashionable, it looked as if the ancient craft of wet-wall construction might be forgotten completely.

The lathing and plastering industry—contractors, journeymen, manufacturers—pulled an "operation bootstrap" of its own, however, and by last year architects were specifying hundreds of thousands of square yards in Texas alone.

#### FIRE RATING EMPHASIZED

In addition to the new developments within the industry, the importance of fire-safety in construction was re-emphasized. Few materials earn as high a fire rating as lath and plaster.



KARL F. DOERNER

Today, a growing percentage of plaster is "acoustical." Because most acoustical plasters remain in a somewhat soft state, they permit considerable flexibility of design in laying out light fixtures, coves and air conditioning outlets. In addition to its sound absorbency, acoustical plaster—like any other variety of plaster—earns a low fire insurance rate.

Until recently acoustical plaster sometimes presented the problems of lap marks in large areas and of matching existing texture when damaged. These problems now have been solved with machine application. In initial

installations the work can be stopped and started as the job demands, and the entire wall or ceiling will be uniform. In the event of indentations, gouges, or other damage, they can be filled in, sprayed with a small texturing machine, and the result will be uniform.

#### MACHINE AGE ARRIVES

There are numerous plastering machines in Texas and the Southwest at present, and those architects, contractors and plasterers who have had experience with machine application have reported satisfaction. Machines are being used now in all types of applications, with a resulting increase in volume and acceptance.

The machine age came to the plaster industry in 1949 when a Chicago corporation successfully field-tested the first plaster pump in 1200 housing units. A number of the machines now on the market are for specialized uses such as for confined areas, and there are powerful units for large-volume work.

These larger machines consist of an electric or gasoline-driven pump and air compressor, a hopper, an air hose, and a material hose with spray nozzle. Except for models which do their own mixing, the lightweight plaster is pre-mixed in a power-driven paddle-type mixer and is dumped into the hopper mounted on the plaster machine. The pump conveys the wet mix through the material hose to the nozzle, where air is introduced to atomize or diffuse the wet material into a spray, which is directed by the operator to the wall or the ceiling. In machine application, hose lengths of up to 100' are used successfully to pump plaster in any direction.

#### LOW AIR PRESSURE

Because of the low air pressure with which the plaster is applied, there is little rebound, and the scratch coat can be sprayed evenly on materials as open as metal lath.

The portable texturing machines, designed primarily for acoustical and textured finishes, have smaller motors and compressors. A small air hose connects the compressor with nozzle and a material hopper held by the operator. The premixed material is dumped into the hopper, enters the air channel by suction, and is blown out on the wall or ceiling.

It now is possible to apply plaster using half sand as the aggregate, and the machines pump up to 3½ cubic

(Continued on Page 9)

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At Dallas Seminar

At Dallas church seminar sponsored by Baptist General Convention of Texas, J. W. Caldwell (left) and Ralph Buffington, TSA-AIA of Houston, examine church equipment on display.

### Eighty-Two Architects Attend Dallas Seminar On Church Building

Eighty-two Texas architects and 12 Baptist leaders gathered in Dallas June 7 and 8 to discuss a \$35,000,000 question: What are the best methods for designing and erecting the multitude of new church and school buildings planned by the Baptist General Convention of Texas in 1956?

Theme of the group's seminar was "Building for the Future." Most of the topics dealt with technical aspects of planning for specific church groups such as the Baptist Sunday School and Training Union classes. Presiding at the meetings were Adam A. Bliss, TSA-AIA of Dallas; Herbert Brasher, TSA-AIA, Lubbock, and Hooper Dilday, associate director of the BGCT Sunday School Department.

#### 3,000 CHURCHES PLANNED

J. W. Caldwell, consultant for the convention, said that the seminar was the first of its kind held in Texas. Texas Baptists plan to start 3,000 new churches within the next 20 years, more than 100 of them during 1956, he said.

The denomination is growing at the rate of two new churches per week in congregations by 1975. Total gifts this year will exceed \$71,000,000, of which 13 per cent will be spent on church building payments, 27 per cent on new buildings and equipment and 5 per cent on maintenance and building insurance.

### Warns Against Inferior Varieties of Mexican Brick

The brick industry has issued a warning to the public and the construction industry in Texas to beware of inferior Mexican brick, that are poorly burned or otherwise fail to meet accepted standards.

Clayton T. Grimm, executive secretary of the Clay Products Association of the Southwest, says: "A considerable quantity of low-grade brick is presently being imported from Mexico. It has come to the attention of the Association's engineering department that Mexican brick on numerous homes is disintegrating. Laboratory tests indicate that many Mexican bricks do not

conform to the applicable specification of the American Society for Testing Materials and should not be used where masonry is exposed to weathering."

Grimm suggested that the best protection the prospective home buyer can have is to be sure that he selects a brick for his architect to specify that is backed by a reputable domestic company who will back up the product.

All member manufacturers of the Clay Products Association of the Southwest certify that their own products conform to the applicable ASTM specifications.

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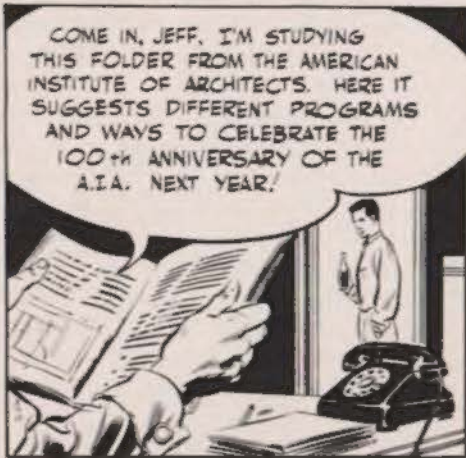
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MAYBE ANOTHER VIEWPOINT CAN HELP! WHAT ARE OTHER AREAS PLANNING?

THE STAFF AT A.I.A. HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS FOR A LONG TIME. NOW IT'S OUR TURN ON THE LOCAL LEVEL.

NEW YORK IS WHERE THE A.I.A. WAS ORGANIZED BACK IN 1857. THEY ARE GOING TO ERECT A PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE THE FOUNDING.

ALL ACROSS THE UNITED STATES, WHEREVER THERE IS AN A.I.A. CHAPTER OR A CIVIC MINDED PERSON, PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO CELEBRATE THIS CENTENNIAL.



DAD, I THINK WE SHOULD BUILD OUR PROGRAM AROUND WHAT ARCHITECTURE IS DOING FOR INDUSTRY!



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HOW ABOUT A TOUR OF FACTORIES -- INVITE DIGNITARIES!



INDUSTRY! ALL SORTS OF POSSIBILITIES THERE!

LET'S SUBMIT IT TO THE COMMITTEE



LATER THAT WEEK AT THE LOCAL A.I.A. COMMITTEE MEETING----

SO THERE YOU HAVE IT, GENTLEMEN!

IT'S A GOOD THEME! 1857 CONTRASTED WITH TODAY!

THANKS, PAUL, BUT JEFF IS THE MAN WHO CAME UP WITH THE IDEA!

(Continued from Page 6)

feet per minute. The result is a more uniform mortar and texture than is possible by hand, and of course the work is done faster with less fatigue for the plasterer.

Of all the general advantages of plaster, including flexibility of design and acoustic control, insulating qualities and sanitation factors, economical maintenance, permanence and ease of redecoration, perhaps the most important is the fire-safety inherent in plaster finishes.

On fire-safe gypsum or metal lath, plastered walls have saved buildings from total ruin by fire.

Now, through the use of firesafe materials, residential and small commercial construction can be just as fire-proof as monumental construction. Last year lightweight steel frame construction for homes and other small buildings entered the Texas scene for the first time.

#### FIREPROOF HOMES ERECTED

A dozen or more homes (in Corpus Christ, Austin, Fort Worth) have been erected with lightweight steel framing, metal lath and plaster, making a fire-proof and vermin-proof a structure as any in the nation. All-steel kitchens,

cabinets, doors and windows remove the need for any combustible material whatsoever.

The use of steel for studs, joists, rafters, sills, plates, and so forth in residences has a slightly higher initial cost than conventional materials. This initial cost is more than justified, however, by the lower maintenance and fire insurance rate. The potential for steel-constructed, plaster-finished homes and other small buildings appears to be unlimited.

Thus has been the progress of the plastering industry over the past few years. Along with the new techniques and materials, craftsmanship is improving continually. Clean jobs, close compliance with specifications, and high quality workmanship now can be expected in every job in Texas where plaster is specified.

With an accelerated apprenticeship training program there is every assurance that the lathing and plastering industry will continue to supply the labor needed to meet the increasingly greater amount of work.

Lathing and plastering contractors of Texas, in cooperation with TSA chapters, are preparing a new publica-

(Continued from Page 4)

Enameling on iron was started on a commercial basis by the Bartelmes family in Bohemia in about 1830. In 1859, the same family began to put enamel on sheet iron.

#### Dates To 1867 in U. S.

In the United States, the enameling of cooking utensils started in 1867 and in 1890, a Joliet, Illinois, company put the first line of enameled stoves on the market. Refrigerators and washers followed in the early 1900's, and in 1929 the first plant for exclusive manufacture of porcelain enamel wall tile was opened in this country. By 1932, the first all-metal home, enameled inside-and-out, was put on exhibition. Today ceramic on steel wall tiles are made as a new application of this ancient process.

tion on standard specifications as an integral part of a vigorous service program by industry members.

At a recent convention of lathing and plastering contractors in Dallas, TSA President R. Max Brooks said he looks for an increasing appreciation of the place of architects and of the lathing and plastering industry in this era.



Aspermont Elementary School, Aspermont, Texas - T. C. Clark, Superintendent  
Architects & Engineers: M. C. Butler and Herbert Brasher, Lubbock, Texas

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Atlee B. & Robert M. Ayres

The owner, an insurance company serving the Armed Forces all over the world, requested a monumental home office building fitted into a well landscaped site development containing parking for 450 employees' cars and (since the nature of the usage does not require customer parking) a limited parking area for 25 cars.

The building site, bounded on two sides of principal city traffic arteries was slightly unusual in that the major portion of the site was in a swale, the street intersection of these two main arteries being eleven feet higher than the middle of the property. An emphatic requirement of the owner directed that the building be so arranged on the site that the entrance would be higher than the street level of the principal artery.

### 99% WOMEN EMPLOYEES

The owners requested an office building with work, recreational and training facilities for some 1,000 em-

ployees, 99% of whom are women. Some of the special program requirements requested are as follows:

1. The typical office working floor to have a feeling of open-ness, using adequate glassed areas to eliminate any feeling of claustrophobia. Also the elimination of venetian blinds or curtains in all working areas.

2. Arrangements on all floors so that employees might, from time to time, be able to walk out onto an open loggia or balconies.

3. Special emphasis regarding a fast method of serving food to all employees in a central cafeteria at the same time.

4. Adequate areas for morning and afternoon coffee on those floors too far removed from the cafeteria.

5. Transportation system consisting of 14 escalators with a travel speed of 120 feet per minute serve the 8-story portion of the building, also a passenger and freight elevator. Balconies at either end of building contain four smoke-proof stairways that are isolated from interior allowing for maximum safety or egress.

Due to enormous amounts of incoming and outgoing mail, a distribution or message center is located on

ground floor with vertical conveyor to distribute correspondence and papers throughout upper floors.

6. Flexible use of some recreational areas, such as coffee rooms, to permit lecture group training.

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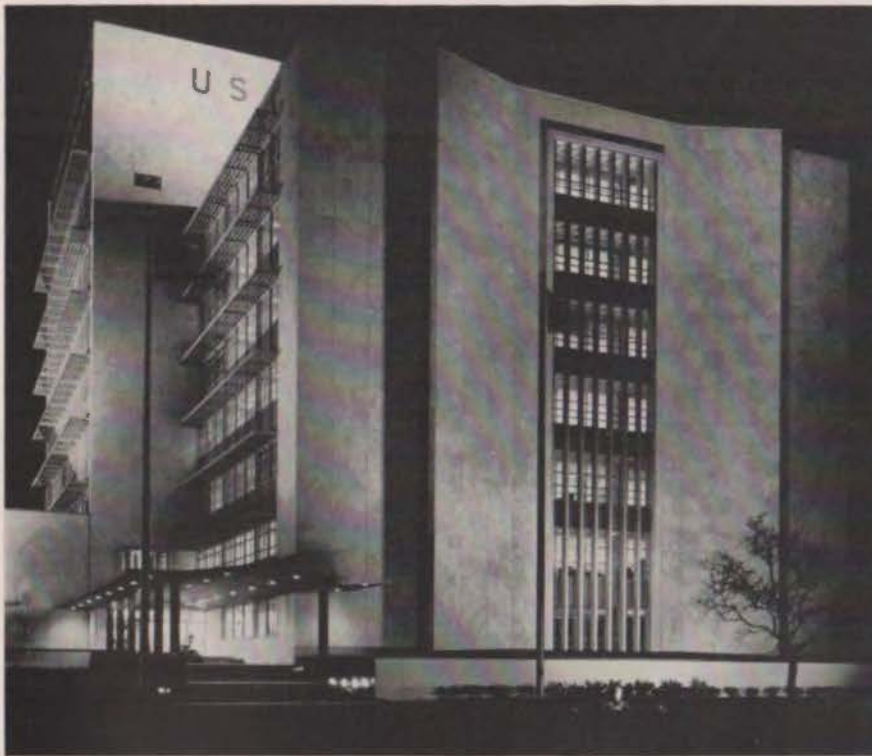
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