

**In this issue:**

Guerrero: Gateway to Spanish Texas

The Company Drawing Board

The Woodlands

One Architect's Dwelling Place

Old Town in the Village

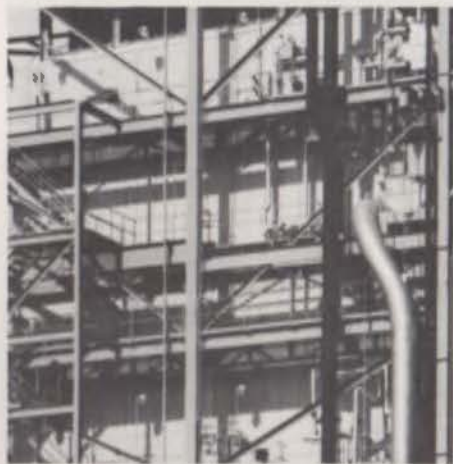
**Plus regular columns. See Contents.**

# Texas Architect

NUMBER 4 VOLUME 23 JULY/AUGUST 1973



# Contents



## On the Cover

An image from Guerrero: evening view of the old parish church at San Juan Bautista, with its picturesque belfry, its heavy copper bells. Photo by Tucker Bishop, architectural student at the University of Texas at Austin.

## Editorial ..... 3

### Guerrero: Gateway to Spanish Texas ..... 4

*Guerrero, Coahuila: Here, in the 1700s, was the mission settlement of San Juan Bautista, the mother of missions and villages in Coahuila and Texas, the starting point for explorations, military campaigns, and frontier expansion, the nerve center for development of the region spanning the Rio Grande. Realization of its historical significance has prompted recent interest in documenting and preserving the ruins.*

### The Company Drawing Board ..... 11

*Three Houston architects, all on the payroll of giant corporations, comment on their careers outside the world of private practice. They have been variously pitied as "captive" architects, envied for the security of their positions, and criticized for "copping out" or "packaging" design. But they claim a legitimate place within the profession.*

### The Woodlands ..... 18

*A Houston oil man begins changing 18,000 acres of thick forest into an environmentally sound new town north of Houston. After years of planning, surveying the ecological characteristics of the site, and negotiating with potential clients, The Woodlands is becoming a reality.*

### One Architect's Dwelling Place ..... 22

*Houston architect John Zemanek's house, a unique barn-like structure with a Japanese flavor, turns the heads of passersby in the central core of Houston. But to Zemanek, the structure is home, a place where he alone can thrive.*

### In the News ..... 26

### Old Town in the Village ... 28

*Shoppers come from miles around to avail themselves of this rustic setting for the shopping ritual — Old Town in the Village. The Dallas firm of Envirodynamics, Inc. explains why this neighborhood center at Lovers Lane and Greenville has become a "people place."*

### Letters ..... 32

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# Plus and Minus

The lawmakers are home now. But they still haven't made the law what it should be.

This is not to say there were no accomplishments in Texas' 63rd Legislative Session. Our Society, of necessity, was concerned with legislation affecting regulation of the profession, both in the interest of the architect who spends eight years earning his title, and of the public, which deserves a guarantee of professional standards the title implies. Hence we applaud passage of House Bill 1204, which strengthens the ability of the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners to enforce the Architectural Registration Act.

But our involvement in passage of this bill was secondary to our interest in an even greater, more far-reaching cause which didn't fare as well. It's an attempt to improve the environmental quality of life for all citizens of Texas, a state rich in natural and historic resources, including the most important resource of all, land itself. Introduced in this year's legislative session as House Bill 1431 and Senate Bill 645 was the Texas Land Resources Act, which paralleled TSA's recommendations to act now in protecting this valuable resource through intelligent land use planning. The measure called for consolidation of all land planning functions into one governmental agency, an inventory of all land according to its use, and resulting development of long-range plans for land use. The action of the Senate's Natural Resources Committee in voting 7-0 to let the bill die in committee underscores the need for TSA to commit its resources effectively in the public interest, to educate our legislators on the matter of land use planning.

Now is the time to lay the groundwork of our legislative program for the next legislative session. Our best hope is to first realize that not all of our elected representatives have an adequate understanding of the problems created by the unplanned growth of the state. Just as we have endeavored to create general environmental awareness through "Texas: Handle With Care," we must now attempt to relate to our legislators the urgency of taking positive, definitive action to preserve and enhance the physical environment of the state. The architect, as shaper of the man-built environment, should assume the role of communicator as well.

The lawmakers are home now. Find them there and tell them what you feel.



A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Des Taylor".

Des Taylor, Executive Director  
Texas Society of Architects

# Guerrero: Gateway to Spanish Texas

Compiled from a written account by Tom Moriarity



The heritage of two great nations, Mexico and the United States, has deep roots in historic Guerrero, Coahuila, 35 miles down the Rio Grande from Piedras Negras.

The historic and architectural significance of Guerrero is not at first apparent on a visit to the sleepy village. The town was originally founded in 1701 as *Presidio* (or military garrison) *de San Juan Bautista del Rio Grande del Norte* on what was then the northern frontier of New Spain. It was an important outpost for several reasons. Since it was located on the Camino Real, the presidio was the center of defense against the Indians for the inhabitants of the new settlement area, and a valuable protection for the commerce of the 'Royal Highway'. Three missionary churches were also founded nearby: Mission San Juan Bautista in January of 1700, Mission San Francisco Solano in April of 1700, and Mission San Bernardo in 1702. One of these missionary churches, San Francisco Solano, later moved further north on the frontier, and, renamed San Antonio de Valero, was the nucleus of another settlement that is today the city of San Antonio.

By encouraging settlements of this type, the Spanish hoped to secure and extend their boundaries to the north before the French could make further encroachments from eastern Texas. Thus

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*Tom Moriarity was a member of the "Guerrero Group" from its inception and is continuing his studies at the School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin.*

terest in Guerrero which resulted in documentation of the site in the form of color and black-and-white photos, aerial views, maps and a written history.

Then in the fall of last year, TSA member Roy Graham and seven advanced architecture students undertook an architectural survey of Guerrero as a project of Professor Graham's design studio at the University of Texas at Austin. The work was funded under a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and was done with the cooperation of the Texas Commission on the Arts and Humanities and two agencies of the Mexican Government:



after 1700, as a major frontier settlement on the Camino Real, the presidio (renamed Guerrero in 1826) played a part in almost every expedition that ventured into Spanish Texas, either as a supply post, a military installation, or as a religious center.

The present day Municipio de Guerrero has 950 inhabitants, only about 150 more than in 1777. Though relatively close to Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras, Guerrero remained unspoiled and isolated because of the difficulty in getting there. The road is so rough that it averages about three hours to make the thirty-five mile trip. Because of its isolation and the poverty of its inhabitants, many of the buildings dating from the colonial period remain as ruins, and several remain in almost original condition. The Mexican government, however, is improving the road from Piedras Negras, and some of the citizens want to "update" their houses, endangering several of the pre-1766 buildings.

Concern for the preservation of these structures has prompted involvement of individuals and organizations in efforts to document their historical significance. Robert Weddle, a former president of the Texas Old Missions and Forts Restoration Association (T.O.M.F.R.A.), in 1968 wrote *San Juan Bautista: Gateway to Spanish Texas*, published by the University of Texas Press. The Texas Historical Survey Committee, in its statewide inventory of historic sites, has been instrumental in documenting the early links between Guerrero and Spanish Texas. And in 1971-72, T.O.M.F.R.A. and TSA's Historic Resources Committee took a joint in-  
July/August 1973

0. Town square of Guerrero from the belfry of the parish church. The solid copper bells were cast in 1851 to commemorate the Mexican Revolution. 1. Cleofas de la Cruz, graveyard keeper, in front of two tombs dating from the colonial period. 2. The lifestyle in Guerrero still calls for drawing water from the well. 3. The Captain's House, built before 1766. 4. Stone foot bridge over an acequia. 5. Aerial view of the town plaza, showing El Camino Real intersecting the square.





Departamento de Monumentos Coloniales and Instituto de Arqueología y Historia. Their first priority was the preparation of a comprehensive architectural inventory, including a data sheet and a photograph of every structure in the village. They would then produce measured drawings of the most important colonial buildings.

The first Guerrero group, as they became known, was composed of Killis Almond, Bill Barker, David Ytturalde, Tucker Bishop, Carol Boerder, Tom Moriarity, and Lynn Osborne, the project historian and the only non-architecture major. Four of the students had worked on Historic American Buildings Survey teams in previous summers, and were familiar with HABS drawing format and methods. Because Guerrero is approximately 250 miles from Austin, the project became a seven-day-a-week class involving weekend trips to Guerrero, and during the week, analysis of the information gathered. The students also did research individually into the history of the area, the building techniques of the period, and any other applicable subjects. They would leave for Piedras Negras Friday afternoons after classes, drive to Guerrero Saturday morning for the weekend of work and make the six-hour return trip on Sunday nights. But trips during the fall were limited because of bad weather conditions that often closed the road from Piedras Negras to Guerrero.

In the Spring of 1973, Osborne, Bishop, Ytturalde and Moriarity were the core of a new Guerrero group and were joined by three other architecture students, Oscar Martinez-Garza, Roberto Fuentes, and Scott Spence. They also consulted with Dr. Miguel Celorio, a Mexican architect, art history professor and visiting lecturer at The University of Texas. The weather improved in the spring, allowing more trips into the interior. The group's transportation problem was solved when they acquired the use of a 1967 Chevy step van on loan to the School of Architecture. The truck, christened "Baby," became alternately a headache and a blessing as they coaxed it through five eventful trips across the border.

Research into the history of Guerrero was aided by several documents that survive from the middle 1700's. One existing map was drawn in 1766 by Joseph Urrutia, an ensign and cartographer in the Spanish Royal Engineers,



0. Southeast facade of the ruin of Mission San Bernardo. 1. A carved stone "gargola," or gutterspout. 2. Vaulted ceiling and arched stone portals of the sacristy. 3. Massive stone buttresses, with the domed baptistry in the background. 4. At lunch in Guerrero's only restaurant: Left to right are Prof. Roy E. Graham, Tucker Bishop, Lynn Osborne, Scott Spence and Tom Moriarity. 5. Foreground, left to right: Student Oscar Martinez-Garza, Guerrero Mayor Victoriano Garcia, friend Faustino, and project consultant Dr. Miguel Celorio.



during a tour of inspection of frontier defenses made in the years 1766-1768. By comparing this map with a present day aerial survey map, the students verified the location of several buildings and established their age as pre-1766. Another invaluable document was a wonderfully detailed description of the presidio by Father Juan Augustin Morfi, a Franciscan priest who accompanied the tour of the commandant-general of New Spain territories in 1777. His descriptions of the presidio and the life of the people who lived there added an extra dimension to the survey work.

In addition to the inventory map and the survey sheets, the students did measured drawings of six buildings in the town. Included were the Captain's house (built before 1766), the Casa Lopez (built before 1766), the ruin of Mision San Bernardo (begun in the 1760's and never finished), Casa Botello (the Paymaster's house of the presidio, built in the 1700's and re-roofed in 1810), the parish church of San Juan Bautista (circa 1800; previous location of a chapel noted on the 1766 map and mentioned in Morfi's

description), and a ruin of a large colonial residence (built before 1766). When the project is finished, all of the drawings will be placed in the Historic American Buildings Survey files in the Library of Congress in Washington.

The existing fabric of Guerrero is remarkably unchanged from the map of the 1700's. The present town square is on the site of the old Plaza de Armas or parade ground of the soldiers. The stone foundations of the soldiers' barracks are now the sidewalks around the modern elementary school, and the Camino Real is still the main street of the town. Two of the more interesting characteristics of the town were the *gargolas*, or gutterspouts on the colonial buildings, and the acequia system that flow through the village. The acequias are small canals fed by springs that are used for irrigation and washing. The acequia system in the town at present is the same one shown on Urrutia's map of 1766; many of the stone bridges which cross them date from that period.

The students who have studied Guerrero as a link to this early period also have an

appreciation of what Guerrero is today. One student, summing up the group's adventures, wrote, "The people of Guerrero responded warmly to us. We were accepted by them as friends and were invited to their weddings, their fiestas, and into their homes. One of our best memories is of a woman (a stranger to all of us) who invited all the people in our group to dinner in her home. In her dirt-floored dining room, she served us a feast of leg of lamb, *salchica*, and a side of veal cooked on her big open hearth oven as we talked together in her kitchen."

The students look upon their project as a valuable experience, both in terms of architectural knowledge and cultural understanding. Each year, more of the remaining artifacts in the missions are lost to "treasure hunters." More of the old historical landmarks are being defaced in the name of "modernization." But with the completion of the students' architectural survey, Guerrero's historical significance has been further documented. And it is their hope that the remains of once-proud Guerrero will be preserved in memory of its function as the gateway to Spanish Texas.

**Photos by  
Tucker Bishop  
and David Ytturalde**

1. Members of the group measuring San Bernardo Mission. 2. Stone portal leading into the transept of the mission ruin.







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# The Company Drawing Board

...an alternative to private practice

**Editor's note:** There seems to be some feeling, if not a general belief, among architects in private practice that their professional associates who have become employees of corporations have in a way deserted the profession or have "taken an easy way out." This article was spawned from the belief that these so-called "mavericks" deserve recognition for the legitimate functions they serve as architects, and as members of the profession.

**By Larry Paul Fuller**

Bob Biering always did like to draw. And he seemed to have a knack for it. So folks back home weren't too surprised when he came out of college an architect instead of a doctor, ready with a cure for the ills of poor design. But it was the national economy that needed curing back in 1933, and fledgling architects were in for hard times. So it was that, after a brief stint in private practice, Biering found himself on the payroll of a large, well-established organization — Houston Power and Light Company. And he's been there now for 37 years.

July/August 1973

Biering is one of a not-so-rare breed of architects who, for one reason or another, have chosen industry over private practice. They have been variously pitied as "captive" architects, envied for the security of their positions, or criticized for "copping out" or "packaging" design. But to these architects who have found a place in industry, theirs is also a legitimate place within the profession. For, wielding the resources of giant corporations, they have a powerful influence upon the man-built environment. Their goals as professionals are compatible with those of architects in private practice. And the challenges, they say, are just as exciting.

To Biering, who now heads a 14-man architectural division, the task for all these years has been to plan functional buildings which accommodate the special needs of the power company, and at the same time complement the architecture of the surrounding community. The challenge is to make the buildings attractive without a lot of "frills." "We practice a sound, conservative brand of architecture appropriate for the image of



a public utility," says Biering. "Yet we try to be a strong, vital part of the community. And you can't do that looking like you come in rags."

In planning buildings for HP&L — service centers, office buildings, warehouses, shops, special structures — Biering's role has changed somewhat over the years. He was a part of the Maps-Records Department until the company began decentralization of its service centers in 1938. Then, when an official remembered the company had an employee with an architectural degree, Biering was put to work designing what was to become Bellaire Service Center. In those early years, the job was more of a drawing board situation. Now, Biering's staff produces plans for buildings in conjunction with outside firms and Biering himself coordinates these activities, while serving as a link to management. "I feel as if I spend all my time planning for planning sessions," Biering quips.

But he emphasizes that his career as an architect — as a designer — has been a

fulfilling one. As his responsibilities were diverted away from the drawing board, he was able to nurture his creative spirit by doing some design work at home. And, although he works closely with management, he never has felt hampered in what he was trying to achieve architecturally. "I'm sure I've felt no more frustrations than has the average architect in his dealings with clients," Biering says. "What we design is based on pre-determined requirements. When we decide what is necessary, we simply go ahead with it."

Though Biering has had a special professional calling, he has maintained an active interest in the profession as a whole. He joined the Houston Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1953 and has served as Treasurer, Second Vice President and as a Director for three years. He headed the chapter's

Professional Practice Commission, which contained eight committees. And Biering has always taken an interest in promising young architects seeking a start.

Looking back over his career, Biering admits that at times he's had a yearning for the variety, perhaps the challenge, of private practice. But those times have been rare, for there was always a building to design, a staff to supervise, or a meeting to plan. "I've been able to grow with a progressive company," he says. "And it's been a very gratifying experience."

Bob Biering has indeed found his place. And other architects seem equally enchanted with positions in industry. Take Logan Knapp, for example, who heads the architectural department of Southwestern Bell Telephone Company. Or Albert Sheppard, chief architect for the mammoth Brown & Root Construction

and Engineering Company. Knapp hasn't had any real regrets since leaving private practice during the depression. After ten years as an architectural consultant for Dallas Power and Light Company, Knapp moved into more of a straight architectural position with Bell.

In Houston since 1959, he too has had the opportunity to build up a staff and to see his company grow. He coordinates design and construction of housing for some of the most sophisticated equipment in the world, and regards each project as a challenge. Though security of a steady income was a motivation for his leaving private practice, meeting the

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**Left:** Bob Biering, Houston Power and Light Company. **Top right:** Albert Sheppard, Brown and Root Construction and Engineering Company. **Lower right:** Logan Knapp, Southwestern Bell.



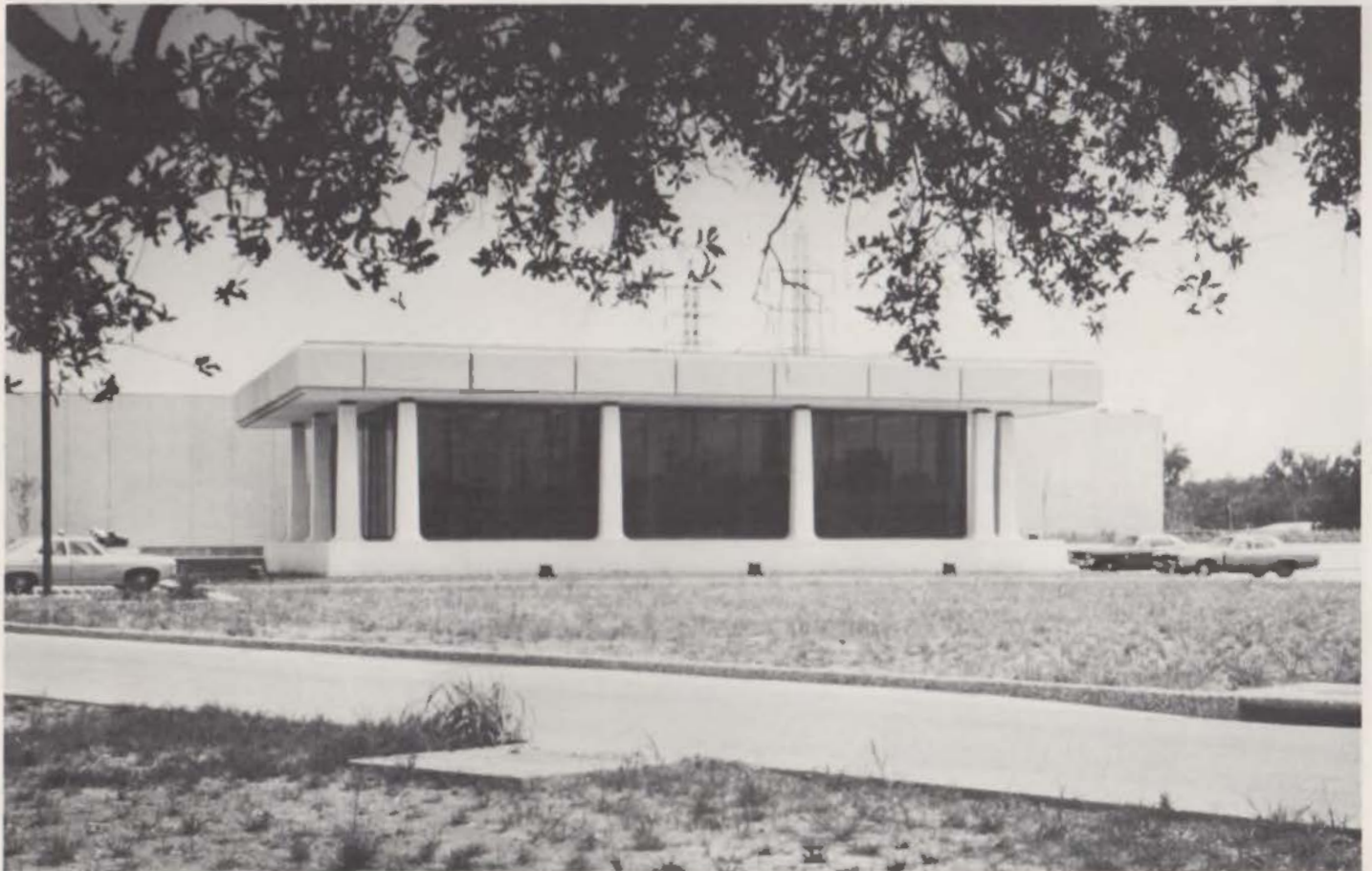
needs of a giant corporation operating in six states has been exciting.

Albert Sheppard, too, has found success and gratification at Brown & Root. In his 31 years with the company, he has been a part of the dramatic growth and development which has made Brown & Root the largest firm of its kind in the world. His staff of forty ("or more when we need them") is an in-house service group which meets the design needs of its own company and renders architectural service to all of the firm's engineering and construction jobs which require it.

In addition, Sheppard and his staff take on planning studies and projects unrelated to company construction contracts, functioning much like a firm within a firm. Sheppard retains private firms as consultants, to his own discretion. And he even finds time to spend at the drawing board. (Sometimes it is faster for me to draw something

---

*HP&L's Bellaire Service Center, completed this year. Biering associated in this project with Koetter, Tharp and Cowell, Architects. The design is functional, attractive but not lavish.*





myself than to explain what I want to someone else," he says.) All in all, it makes for a rewarding situation. And Sheppard maintains that, if given the chance to do it all over again, he would pursue his career in the very same way.

As does Biering, Knapp and Sheppard support the activities of AIA. They show an interest in the future of the profession. (Sheppard has worked with Explorer Scouts interested in architecture.) Yet they are aware of the differences which set them apart from other architects, and somehow exhibit a sort of pride in their own unique circumstances. Knapp, for example, points to the fact that he is involved with the full gamut of architecture. That is, working closely with plant extension engineers involved in long-term studies, he plans for new projects or extensions years in advance. He estimates cost, coordinates activities with outside firms, and keeps a close watch on construction. And after the building is erected, when a private architect could move on to other business, he remains closely connected with the structure. "We have to live with our

*In association with Greacen, Houston & Rogers, Architects, Knapp is looking far ahead in plans for the addition to Jackson 522 Dial Building. The initial annex, below, is now being constructed. But the structure was designed to accommodate an additional 18 stories, as seen in the ultimate plan at left.*

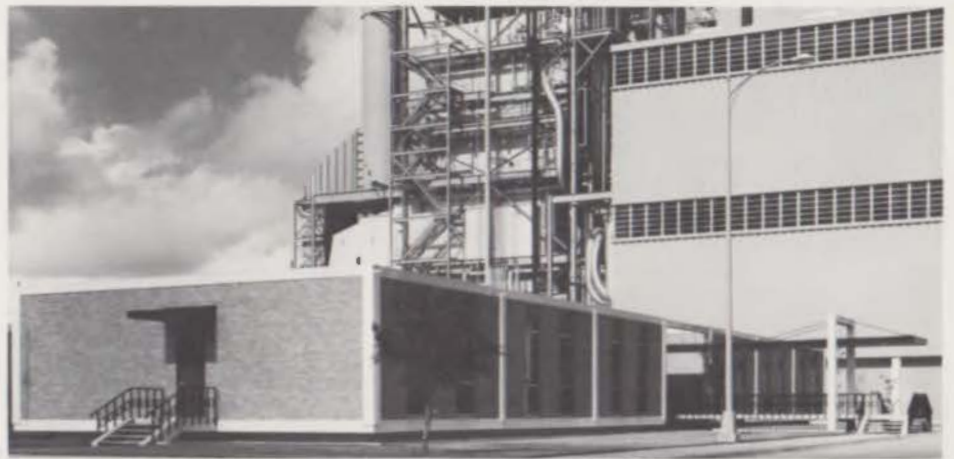


buildings from day to day," he said.

Both Knapp and Sheppard, like Biering, see their jobs as architectural specialization. Sheppard points to the fact that his staff, a part of the construction and engineering firm is tailored to meeting the special design problems of industry. "No regular architectural firm would expect a client to engage them for design of a refinery or a power plant," says Sheppard. "And the problems in design of related structures also require special considerations." Knapp gives the example of the special floor loading, cable slots, etc. required for buildings housing telephone equipment. "It's simply a specialized field," he says. "We know from experience all of these details, and it's worthwhile to management to keep us in house. A firm not familiar with these considerations would have to do too much research before getting the job done right."

Getting the job done right is, apparently, what Biering, Knapp and Sheppard have been doing for a long time. They have found their place. And though nestled beneath the wings of industry, they're flying high themselves.

*Sheppard and his staff designed this office building as a complement to the design of the Victor Braunig Power Plant in San Antonio. Top right: Turbine building and boiler structure with office in foreground. Lower right: Office entrance. Below: Power plant control room.*

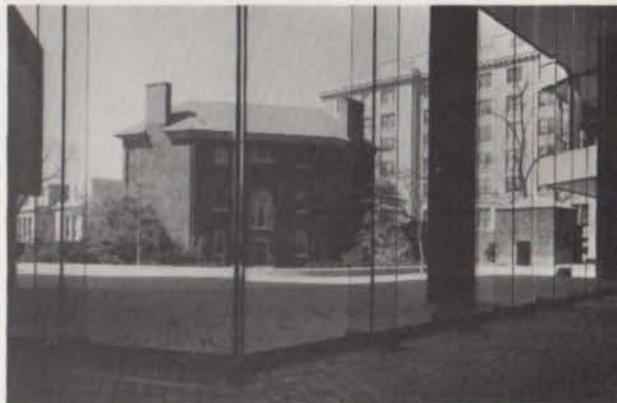








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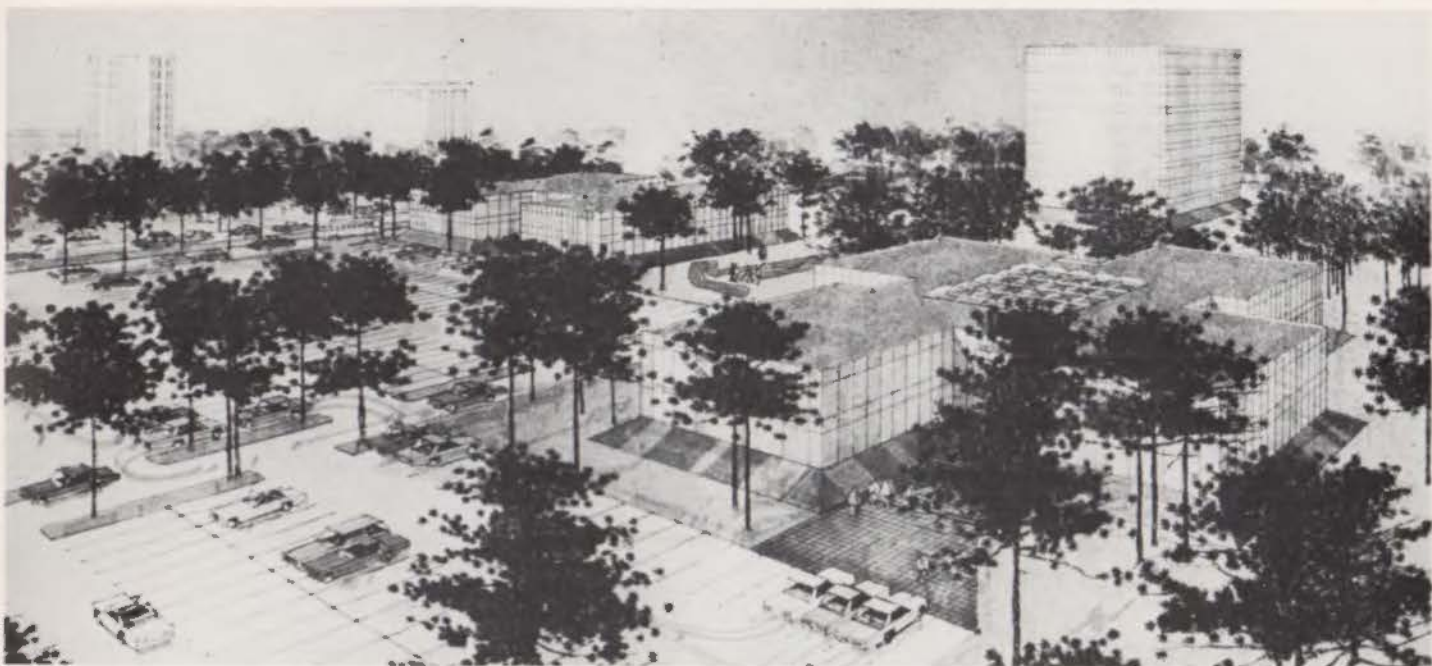
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Carving a  
Texas New Town  
in  
The Woodlands





It was Indian country back in the early 1800s. The Bidai, of the Atakapans, were at home in the woodlands north of present-day Houston. They raised maize in the rich soil, and shared the forest with an abundance of wildlife, another source of food. But they had moved on by the middle of the century, leaving the balance of nature intact. And, except for a few isolated lumbermen, cattlemen and hunters, the animals have had the land all to themselves for more than a hundred years.

But now the environmentalists, and no doubt the animals, have some cause for concern. This 18,000-acre chunk of forest, just off I-45 twenty-eight miles north of Houston, is destined, at last, for urbanization. Texas' largest city, indeed the whole state, is burgeoning. Land developers are expanding the suburbs, and selling lots to willing buyers from real estate maps on the wall. The "country" is going fast. But this particular venture, a project of Mitchell Energy & Development Corporation, is not just another fast-money scheme. More than 10 years and \$4 million have gone into planning and predevelopment. And it won't be another mass of urban sprawl. It's conceived as a whole new town, named appropriately enough, The Woodlands.

Actually, the new town concept is not really all that new. (See the August 1972 HUD publication *Challenge* for an interesting account of new towns.) There was the Garden City movement in

*Above: The Woodlands business park, as conceived by Neuhaus Taylor, Architects, Planning Consultants. Left: George P. Mitchell, president of Mitchell Energy and Development Corporation. "... creating at The Woodlands a rational approach (to urban development) concerned equally with man, nature and economics."*

England during the 1930's, followed in America by Radburn, N.J. and the government greenbelt towns of Greenhills, Ohio; Greendale, Wisc.; Greenbelt, Md.; and Greenbrook, N.J. It was all compatible with the American intellectual tradition of Jefferson, Emerson, Thoreau, Melville, Henry James and architect Frank Lloyd Wright, who praised nature and warned about the evils of urbanization. Then the war diverted the nation's interest during the 1940's, and the post-war period was one of unparalleled suburban growth.

But with the early 1960's came the successes of the new towns Reston, Va. and Columbia, Md., both financed through private capital. This revived interest in an alternative to suburban sprawl led to a plan for Federal assistance under New Community Development, Title IV of the Housing Act of 1968, and its expansion in 1970 under Title VII of the Urban Growth and New Community Development Act. This assistance is not in the form of outright grants, but the legislation authorizes HUD to guarantee the financial obligations of private new



community developers and state land development agencies to encourage new community projects.

Woodlands is one of a dozen or so other HUD-sponsored new towns, two of which are in Texas. There is San Antonio Ranch, 16 miles northwest of San Antonio, a 9,318-acre venture approved by HUD in February of last year for \$18 million in federally-guaranteed loans. And the Flower Mound New Town, on 6,200 acres 20 miles northwest of Dallas, had received the same financial guarantee in December of 1970. But the Woodlands project, in March 1972, received \$50 million in backing from HUD, an unprecedented vote of confidence. The reason, it seems, is that Woodlands developer George P. Mitchell, chairman and president of the Mitchell Corporation, is determined to do the job right at all costs.

In 1962, Mitchell started negotiations which ultimately led to acquisition of 67,000 acres, 18,000 of which comprise the Woodlands site. In the mid 1960's, he conceived the idea for the new town, and began assembling a distinguished staff of environmental specialists, ecologists, architects, engineers and social scientists. Complemented by foremost planners and urban designers such as William Pereira and Ian McHarg, the staff has been working on the master plan for more than three years. The vision, when The Woodlands phased development is com-

pleted in the early 1990's, is a self-sufficient urban entity of 150,000 people in nearly 50,000 dwelling units, making their living from 40,000 jobs. The plan is for a city consisting of 19 neighborhoods and seven villages, supported by neighborhood and village centers, regional shopping and business districts, and a major Metro Center. Also convenient to each neighborhood will be educational, medical, recreational, civic, cultural and religious service facilities. Appropriately located industrial parks will accommodate science, research, and light industries, as well as certain nonpolluting manufacturing operations. Eventually, The Woodlands is expected to constitute an investment of \$3 billion.

It all sounds like a dream, but it should be very believable by opening day sometime during the first half of 1974. Four hundred single and multi-family dwelling units will be offered for sale and rental on the first day. Construction already is underway on the initial two office buildings in the first business park — structures exteriored in dual pane silver reflective glass mirroring the forest environment — and on a commercial, leisure and conference center. The heart of the complex, Inn at The Woodlands, will be a 170,000 square-foot executive conference retreat containing innovative meeting facilities including 17 meeting rooms, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, exhibit space, double occupancy guest rooms, private golf, country club and health facilities.

**Above:** Even in the areas designated for construction, planners are careful not to spoil the woodlands setting. Many fine trees will be protected from the path of the bulldozer. **Facing page:** Images of The Woodlands of the future, already under construction north of Houston near Conroe.

Other elements of the complex will include The Wharf, a collection of specialty shops and boutiques spanning a lake and connecting The Inn with the first of seven Village Centers and an Information Center. The Village center will contain such commercial facilities as a supermarket, drugstore, restaurant, bank, day care center, and gasoline stations, as well as medical and dental facilities. And as a unique feature one-bedroom and studio apartments will be located above the commercial space. The Information Center, a 10,000 square-foot structure, will include a mini-theater in its exhibit and display facilities and will house consumer services and sales and administrative offices.

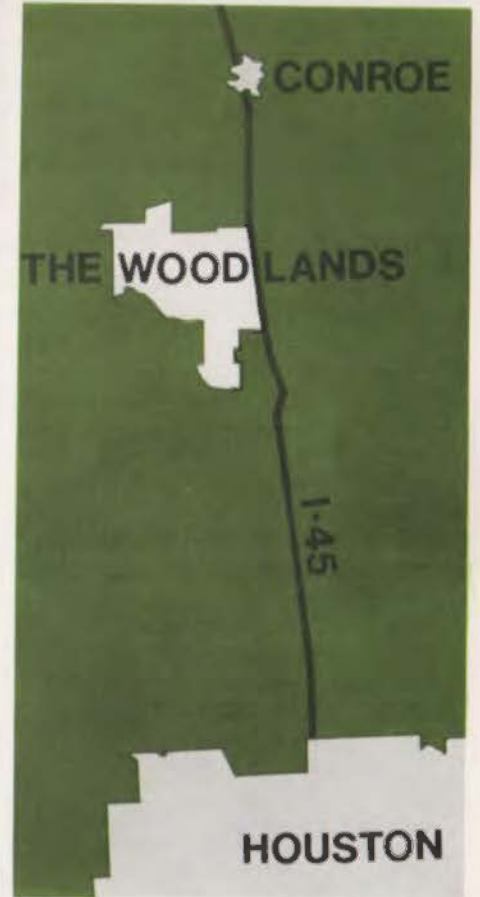
The Woodlands master plan calls for impressive physical structures — architectural accomplishments one might expect to find in a large, progressive city. But, starting from scratch, the planners have had the opportunity to avoid many of the mistakes other cities have made. Each building will be a logical part of a planned physical environment meant to complement The Woodlands life style.

Education at The Woodlands will center around a proposed branch of the University of Houston which, subject to legislative approval, will open in 1977 on 400 acres in Town Center. Public school facilities are being planned in coordination with the Conroe Independent School District. The new open concept Lamar elementary school is already located on the site.

A cooperative ministry and multi-use religious facilities will serve the spiritual needs of The Woodlands residents. To be located in neighborhood centers, the facilities will conserve both community and churches' resources, while preserving denominational integrity. Member of the Religious Institutions Planning Group, composed of prominent clergymen in the Houston area, evolved the plan for a cooperative ministry in which all participating denominations will share.

The Woodlands will have all the luxurious recreational facilities one might expect to find in a country club setting — golfing, tennis, swimming, boating, riding, and even ice skating. But the naturalist will also appreciate the hike and bike trails, and the nature centers and wildlife preserves, where the beauty of the surroundings may be quietly appreciated.

In fact, the beauty of the surroundings is perhaps the most valuable asset of The Woodlands, and George Mitchell doesn't want to spoil it. That's why his team of planners compiled an ecological inventory of The Woodlands site: its geology, soils, drainage, water cycles, weather, vegetation and wildlife. These phenomena were evaluated to determine both opportunities of and constraints to land use. The result is a plan which calls for development in areas least sensitive from an ecological standpoint. About one third of the site has been designated as open space. Some will be maintained as parklands for recreational use, or as pedestrian pathways. And, preserved as wildlife corridors, much of the open space will be left in its natural state, as verdant and productive as it was a hundred years ago. The Woodlands, planners admit, does constitute a form of infringement upon nature; things won't be quite the same. But, given the complexity of land use problems in this advanced civilization, it is likely that even the Indians would approve.





## One Architect's Dwelling Place

Houston architect John Zemanek says life is "great" in the huge, Japanese-flavored barn-like structure he's called home since 1969. And it's really no wonder, since he designed it for himself.

Beginning with a 50' x 125' flat lot and one giant live oak tree, Zemanek set about to develop the entire site as a dwelling place with the "timeless architectural quality of rural sheds and barns" and, at the same time, to do the best for ecology. The result is a structure which actually includes three buildings — connected only by an entry — which provide

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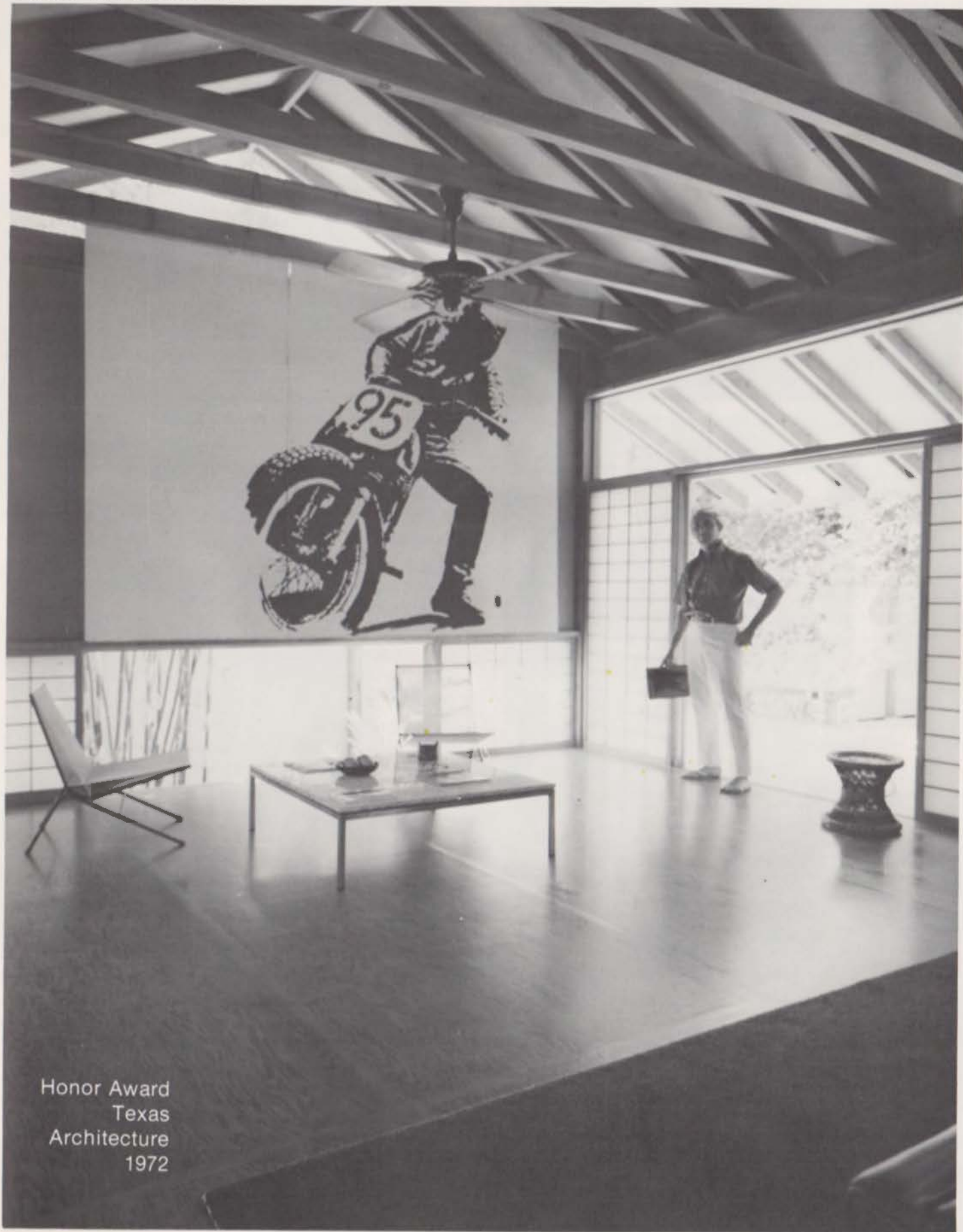
*Openness was built into Zemanek's dwelling place. Spacious rooms receive natural lighting. Decks and porches open into the landscape. Even the house itself, a composite of three structures, is elevated above the ground so as not to "smother" the earth.*

space for cooking, living and sleeping. Approaching the entry from the front, one finds the kitchen to the right and the two-story den and bedroom on the left. Straight ahead through the bridge-like hallway is the spacious living and dining area, illuminated by sun filtered through shoji screens.

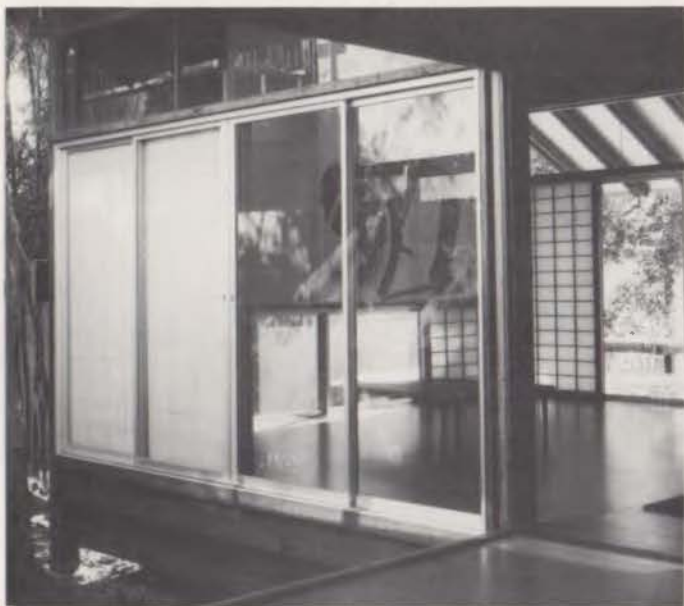
With no inner partitions except for the downstairs bath, each element is open to gardens and the prevailing breeze. Courts, decks and porches make the transition between interior and exterior. Around the site is a wall built of the same materials as the house.

The scale and form of each element echoes that of sheds and barns of old tenant farms, as does the manner of the building: exposed structure, unfinished materials, simple fixtures and neat car-





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penry. The structural system is wood post and lintel on concrete piers, with an exterior of sheet cement-asbestos. Interior walls are of particle board, the floors of varnished plywood, and the roof is corrugated iron.

The Japanese look stems, not only from the use of natural materials, but from the landscaping of the whole site. Decks and porches lead into a terraced yard of limestone, purple ajuga and green mossy sedum. Fruit trees and berries grow in front. And the whole house is raised three and a half feet above grade, well off the ground, as are authentic Japanese homes. "It's a matter," Zemanek says, "of maintaining the continuity of the earth through the site, of not smothering the ground."

Zemanek, who teaches architecture at the University of Houston, worked in Japan for Antonin Raymond, the famed disciple of Frank Lloyd Wright, and has been there several times for vacationing and independent research. He explained that the concept of the three buildings is his own, that the authentic Japanese house is a rectangle or simple L-shape.

Keeping in mind the ecological welfare of the site, the architect left the roof gutterless, allowing rain to pour onto the ground for collection in a depressed area under the sprawling oak. The air conditioning unit, resting atop the entry hall to eliminate mechanical space in the house or yard, is situated so that condensate trickles into cement canals and flows through miniature gardens at the rate of two or three gallons per hour on a summer day. And in the front, the ground is covered with roof tiles salvaged from the dilapidated house formerly occupying the site. These are layed against the slope to catch the water when it rains.

Zemanek, assisting two finish carpenters, did much of the original construction and is still occupied with "invisible details" such as shelves. He's put a lot of himself into his house — into his whole dwelling place — and he's happy to call it "home."

---

*Wood and drab, inexpensive materials were utilized to achieve a structure distinctly compatible with nature, yet functional for the man intended to live in it. Wooden dowels provide handles and hanging places. Kitchen furniture is built above the plywood floor. A wooden ladder stands as part of the house itself.*





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# In the News

## NCARB President

Dallas Architect **E. G. Hamilton** has been elected president of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards at the organization's 52nd annual convention in Atlanta, Georgia.



**E. G. Hamilton**

Hamilton, president of Omniplan Architects Harrell and Hamilton, has held many NCARB offices and succeeds **Thomas J. Sedgewick**, of Flint, Mich.

NCARB is an organization of representatives of professional architectural registration boards in all 50 states and five other U.S. jurisdictions with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Hamilton has been president of the Dallas chapter of the American Institute of Architects (A.I.A.), a member of the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners, director of the University of Texas Architecture Foundation and director of the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts.

Another TSA member serving in a national post (see TA, May-June, 1973) is **Albert S. Golemon**, of the Houston-based firm of Golemon and Rolfe, who was elected Chancellor of the College of Fellows of AIA in May. Golemon is the first Chancellor from Texas since the college's inception in 1952.

## PDP Plans

The steering committee of TSA's Commission on Professional Development assembled July 26 to finalize plans for the next PDP, slated for Sept. 28-29 at SMU in Dallas.

Moderated by Gene Rutherford, the session will deal with complement design

services — space planning, interior design, landscaping, lighting — as they relate to the everyday practice of architecture. A panel of architects and independent consultants will discuss 1) Firm practice, qualitative goals and procedures 2) Market aspects 3) Staff-level requirements 4) Economics and fee rate structures 5) Value analysis 6) Turnkey aspects and 7) Consultant/architect relationships, contract and legal aspects.

Accommodations are available at Hilton Inn on Central Expressway. Registration is \$100 per person for the seminar. As a post-seminar activity, arrangements have been made to obtain tickets for the SMU-Virginia Tech football game in Dallas Sept. 29.

Part of a continuing TSA program, the session will be the third PDP seminar this year.

## Orchestra Assn. Head

Architect **Robert W. Chambers**, was recently elected to serve his third consecutive term as President of the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Association.

During his tenure, the orchestra has made a complete turnaround from a very marginal operation to very substantial success. During the 1971-72 season, the symphony played before audiences totalling less than 6,500 people. By the end of the 1972-73 season, the orchestra will have performed before 47,000 people with a completely successful financial operation.

Chambers is allied with **Herbert M. Olson** and **Sam Fowler** in the Ft. Worth firm of Robert Walter Chambers and Associates, Inc.

## Guest Lecturer

**Fred J. MacKie**, of the Houston firm MacKie and Kamrath, was recently a visiting lecturer at the School of Architecture, University of Texas at Austin. One presentation was an illustrated resume of the firm's work during MacKie's 35-year career and another was a review of MacKie's largely unpublished personal collection of slides portraying the world-wide designs of Frank Lloyd Wright.

## New A&M Dean

**Prof. Raymond D. Reed** of Iowa State University has been named dean of Texas A&M University's College of Architecture and Environmental Design, effective June 1.

Reed will succeed **Edward J. Romieniec** who has requested to return to full-time teaching.

A member of the Iowa State faculty since 1964, Reed served as head of the Department of Architecture until 1970 when he assumed new responsibilities as coordinator of graduate research and design. He was previously chairman of architecture and interior design at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

The 42-year-old California native earned his undergraduate degree in architecture at Tulane University and master's at Harvard.



**Raymond D. Reed**

## Partnerships

**Emmit R. Tuggle** and **Kenneth M. Graves** have recently formed a partnership. Called Tuggle and Graves Architects, the firm is located at 404 Mulberry Street in San Antonio.

Architects **Brock Mabrey & Partners**, 1900 Driscoll Building in Corpus Christi, have announced that **William H. Holland** and **Robert C. Bochner** have become principals in the firm.

## Deaths

**T. George McHale**, Corporate Member-Emeritus, of Houston, July 8.

**Hamilton Brown**, FAIA, formerly of Houston, recently of Carmel, California, July 4.

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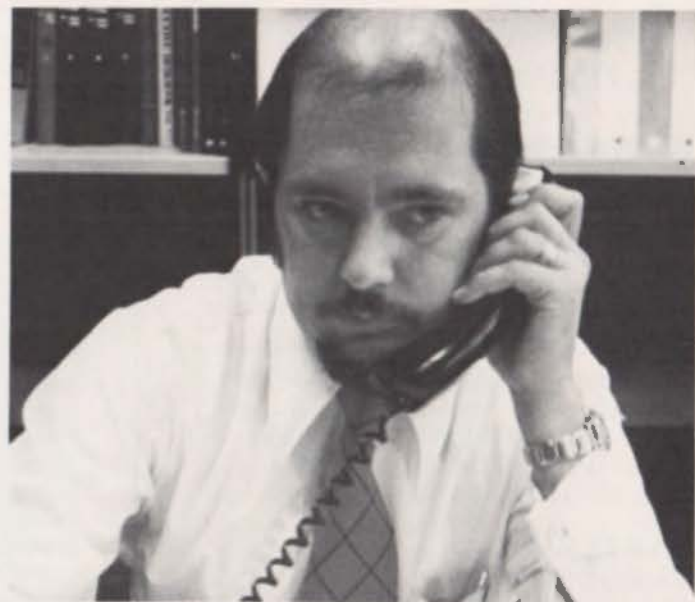


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**George W. Cape**



**Jerry L. Clement**



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# Old Town In the Village

... a "people" place to shop

The Dallas-based firm of Envirodynamics, Inc. has come a long way since its founders, Tom Woodward and George Cape, began working together in Tom's garage ten years ago. Now the firm has two large architectural groups, a planning/landscape division, supporting staff, a satellite firm in Denver, and several award plaques on the wall.

And shoppers come a long way, they say, to avail themselves of a recent TSA award-winning project, Old Town in the Village, located at Lovers Lane and Greenville in Dallas. The shopping center, a collection of "people spaces" connected by wooden walks and bridges, is billed as a rustic village in which the shopping ritual can be pleasant and relaxing.

Specifics of the Old Town design were handled by Cape and Jerry Clement, senior vice presidents of the firm. Clement designed the center, while Cape coordinated the balance between economic limitations and the architectural goal of a distinct, but liveable and natural environment. The resulting design utilizes the effect of rough-sawn wood, exposed beam ceilings, courtyard fountains and massive railroad ties combined with slabs of stone. Moving water complements the "woody" atmosphere and the open malls of vegetation.

---

*Rusticity is a prime ingredient in the flavor of Old Town in the Village. Water flows from fountains and bubbles around walkways, over old railroad ties. In the structures themselves, use of wood adds to the rustic image and resulted in a surprisingly low final construction cost.*

July/August 1973



The shops themselves have distinctive fronts. And there is a wide latitude of interior design in ceilings varying from 18 to 24 feet and in the use of alcoves and balconies. Clement stresses the ability of each shop to "do its own thing." But he emphasized the congruity of the total design framework which allows for variety within an orderly whole.

Harmony of the site is extended even to the parking arrangement. A special cluster design puts each parking space no more than 150 feet from a shopping entrance. "This arrangement," says Clement, "offers not only the convenience of a small shopping strip, but the variety and the landscaping aesthetics of a large regional center, brought down to individual scale." Concern for the pedestrian scale and experience, he explains, was a primary design factor which could be readily applied to the planning of a neighborhood center.

Clement says the effective use of natural materials made the cost of Old Town "less than its appearance would lead you to believe." And this, he says is consistent with Envirodynamics' basic philosophy of "adherence to quality design within a sound economic framework" — a policy under which they have come a long way.

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*The atmosphere of Old Town in the Village is, as its designers intended, a "pleasant" one. And the design scheme makes a variety of shops easily accessible from parking areas. It all makes for improvement of the shopping ritual, a "people place."*





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# Letters

**Dear Editor:**

Thank you for the copy of the May/June issue of your fine magazine. I found it both interesting and informative. I will look forward to receiving future issues.

Your discipline, of course, plays a most important and integral part in the planning of the future of our cities. For that reason, I wish to thank your members for their invaluable help to the Planning Commission of the City of Dallas.

We will look forward to a continued fine relationship.

Cordially,

**W. W. Wilson, Jr.**  
Vice Chairman  
City Planning Commission, Dallas

**Dear Editor:**

I just read the May-June issue of *Texas Architect*. I do not know who is respon-

sible for sending me the *Texas Architect*. I used to receive it several years ago before I moved to Houston, and I always enjoy scanning it and reading the articles.

I appreciate everything the Texas Society of Architects is doing to improve the total environment. I do not know of a group that is doing any more in this regard than your association. Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

**Linus Wright**  
Chief Financial Officer and Business Manager  
Houston Independent School District

**Dear Editor:**

I have received my copy of the current issue of *Texas Architect*. I think it is a handsome issue, and am much impressed with the new policy of the Editorial Committee as stated by **Harry Golemon**. I now understand what you were explaining to me concerning the proposed

new policy of the publication. Best Wishes.

Sincerely,

**Louis Daeuble**  
Carroll, Daeuble, Dusang and Rand

**Dear Editor:**

The new editorial philosophy and format of the *Texas Architect* is, I think, well received by the members of the profession. Congratulations!

I have one question regarding the article, *Appetites and Attitudes*, in the May-June, 1973 issue. **Tony Schirripa**, a fourth year design student at Texas A&M University, is described as an "atypical Aggie." What is an "atypical Aggie"?

Very truly yours,

**Douglas S. Ogilvie**  
Director, Health & Medical Division  
Bernard Johnson Incorporated

**Dear Editor:**

Congratulations on your May/June 1973 issue: your focus on timely issues shows progressive insight to the needs of the profession.

One criticism of the "Disaster Action in Action" should be noted. The article implied that RAC did not begin initial operation until the arrival of **Brawley King**. This is not so.

Had it not been for the efforts of several students from Del Mar College's Architectural Technology Curriculum RAC would not have opened its doors! These students were instrumental in organizing the initial operation of RAC under the guidance of **Mr. Vernon Williams** of National AIA and myself. RAC had been in operation for several days prior to Mr. King's arrival, and these students deserve recognition which has never been fully granted them.

Sincerely,

**J. Carter Howald, AIA, CSI.**  
Organizational Director Redevelopment Assistance Center and Past Chairman, Department of Architectural & Drafting Technology, Del Mar College

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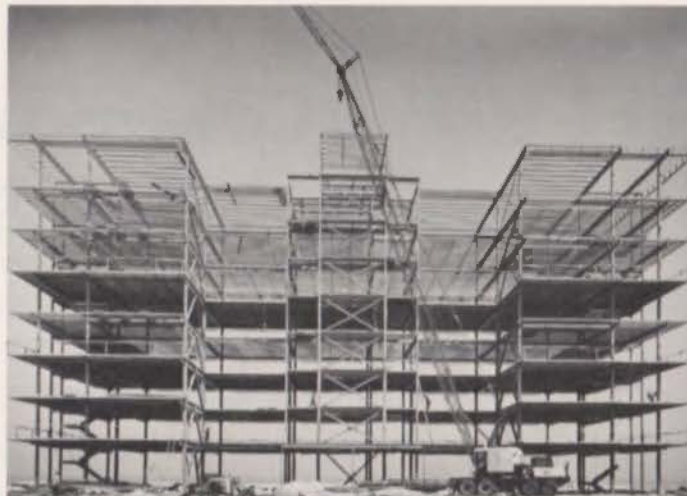
**Architect:**  
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Houston, Texas

**Structural Engineer:**  
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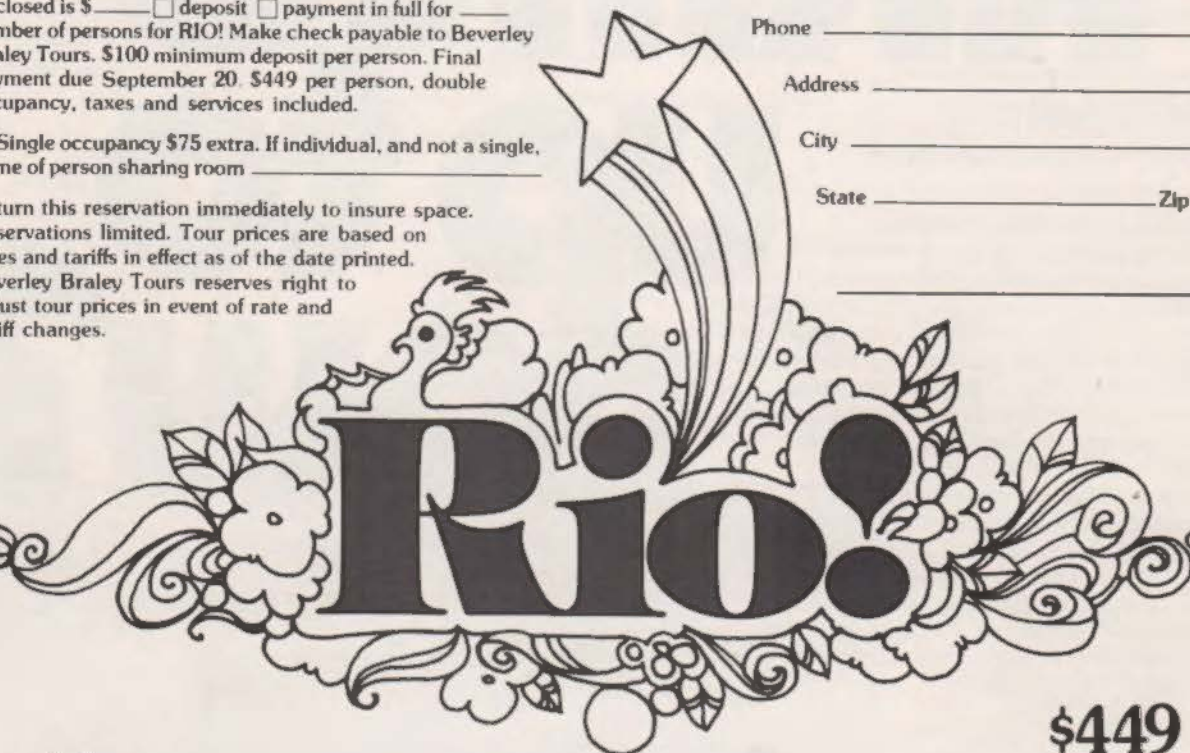
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