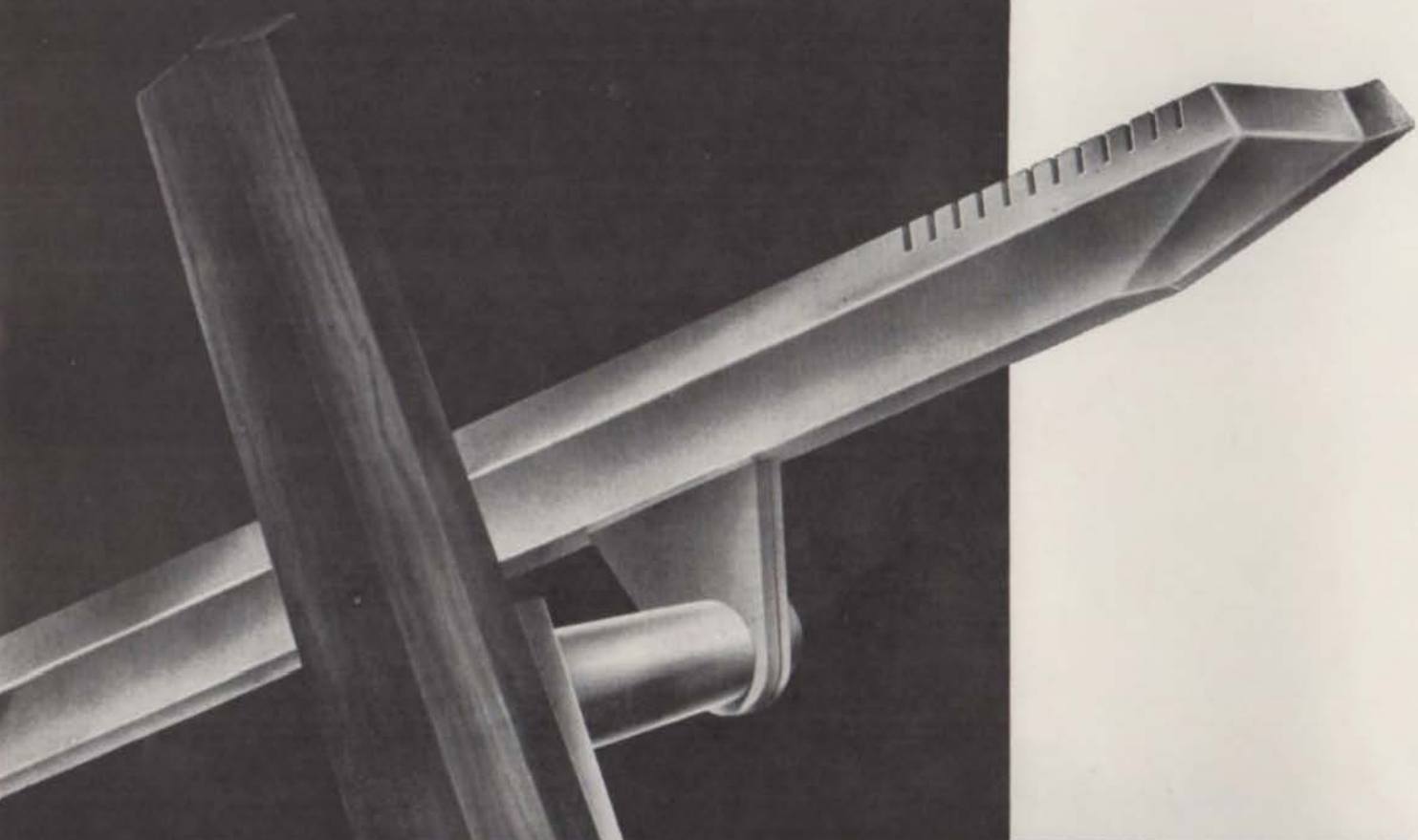
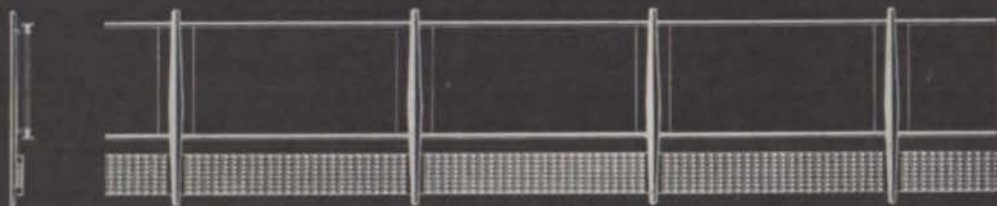


# Texas Architect

JUNE, 1961





# WOOD POST

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Official Publication of

**THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS**

The Texas Regional Organization of  
The American Institute of Architects

Don Edward Legge, A.I.A., Editor  
John G. Flowers, Jr., Managing Editor  
327 Perry-Brooks Building, Austin, Texas

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327 Perry-Brooks Building, Austin, Texas

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**COVER**

In addition to being an "Architecture of Merit in the Past Ten Years" selection, the John Ireland School in Odessa, designed by architects Peters and Fields, AIA, was a top award winner in the 1960 *Overview* "Competition for Better School Design." The fourteen classroom elementary school was built for a cost of \$9.86 per square foot.

## The President's Letter

By  
L. W. "SKEET" PITTS  
President  
Texas Society of Architects



Possibly the profession of Architecture has another public service challenge.

Traditionally our country has prospered by accumulation of private investment capital. In recent years, such opportunities have been reduced, and we see trends which will eliminate this stimulant. Compared with ten years ago, only half as much profit per dollar of sales is left for re-investment; stockholders' dividends are less too. Further, our great population increase is requiring more of everything, and therefore we need more investment capital or must resort to more government aid. Too many countries are devoid of private capital, and consequently their accomplishments result from projects that are sponsored, financed, and controlled by Government.

Some economists contend that opportunities exist for overcoming this dangerous trend, and say the solution lies in modification of income tax laws. They advocate encouragement of individuals and groups—through tax incentives—to set aside a portion of profits for reinvestment. They cite schedules of "depreciation" where 40 years must elapse before capital can be accumulated to replace average buildings. They contend that adequate revenue for our Government can best be assured by protecting the individual and corporate enterprise system.

The Architectural profession knows that complete depreciation of buildings does not occur for many years, but we are aware that "obsolescence" is the culprit that renders a building inadequate long before it is depleted. It seems logical that the Internal Revenue Department should turn to the profession of Architecture for comprehensive studies on obsolescence of buildings. Possibly such studies would result in this devastating circumstance having a more realistic influence on our tax considerations. Undoubtedly the "obsolescence" factor plus the "depreciation" factor would substantially reduce the years required for accumulation of sufficient capital to replace inadequate buildings.

It can be argued that such policy would encourage the fast write-off and the quick sale with tax payment only on capital gains—thereby producing loss of Government revenue. Obviously this could be overcome by requiring payment of ordinary income tax on the difference between depleted cost and sale price. For those individuals and corporations who are not primarily endeavoring to sell buildings, but to up-grade facilities and equipment, this obsolescence factor would assist in accumulating sufficient investment capital for such purposes. Further, such a tax philosophy would go far toward encouraging individual incentive and developing a steady prosperity in America.

*"Skeet" Pitts*

L. W. "Skeet" Pitts

# RESEARCH AND THE ARCHITECT

**RESEARCH DEFINED** The word "research" has come to mean many things to many people. The usual dictionary defines it as "careful investigation." However, in our own scientific age, the word has taken on a much more definitive meaning. The word now refers to *original thinking* and a *contribution to knowledge*. In the scientific and research institutions of America, this form of intellectual investigation falls into two categories:

- a. Pure research is that type of original study and investigation that is sought simply for the sake of intellectual exploration with no immediate practical use in view. For instance, the researcher might be studying the chemistry of certain unrelated materials and discover in the process the peculiar behavior of a by-product that later is identified as penicillin.
- b. The applied researcher, however, is usually more interested in expanding creative ideas into the fields of manufacture, building construction, or other practical everyday use.

Both forms of research are essential to each other and to us. Pure research is usually associated with scientific laboratories, foundations, and educational institutions that have reasonably adequate funds for carrying on this type of study without the element of time, budget, or immediate results being of major concern. In the field of applied research, time, budget, and results become very important. There is always the implied threat that if the research study is not done soon, someone else will do it and do it better. This urgency has its merits. For instance, the very great necessity for, and the possible tragedy of a super bomb has also helped to harness the atom for peace—a far greater contribution to civilization.

**THE NEED** for both forms of research in architecture becomes obvious to anyone who has been long associated with the profession and other research programs. Many kinds of research go on each day in the quiet confines of the laboratory or research center. Often little is known about it until the more dramatic announcement of unusual results becomes public information. What the public is not told is the often repeated trial and error, study and study again, careful weighing of facts and findings, and then possibly the accident and dramatics of sheer original discovery.

More of both research methods, pure and applied are particularly needed in practice today and in the future. America is noted for its research mindedness. Our profession has an equally great opportunity to contribute to a real need in a country already mentally prepared for it.

**RESEARCH IN ARCHITECTURE IS UNIQUE** Since architecture is a creative, imaginative art as well as a science well threaded with engineering and other co-professions, it enjoys a unique position in our age. It is used by practically everyone and therefore its research program would affect most of us.

All architects who have some design talent feel that each thing they do is at least to some extent an original. Many give serious time to study what has been done in the hope they may discover an original solution to their new problems. Often times, however, what is erroneously believed to be original research becomes merely a search through the archaeological cemeteries of the present and the past. One well known architect once told me, "I am not interested in the archaeology of the past. I am interested in creating an exciting archaeology of the future."

Therefore, research as defined herein is the imaginative creative contribution to freshness and originality in architectural and engineering thinking, particularly as it applies to the practice of architecture. It assumes the broad design concept that includes function, aesthetics, engineering, and all the arts allied to architecture.

Architectural research is, therefore, a kind of invention—a creation of something "original in the art," as patent attorneys refer to the essential claim

By

WALTER T. ROLFE, F.A.I.A.  
Partner, Golemon & Rolfe, AIA  
Architect-Engineers—Houston, Beaumont

## RESEARCH

that can be protected in a patent case. Architectural invention goes beyond the gathering of information and ideas and applying them in new situations. It is the creation of completely new ideas, concepts, or approaches to the solution of a part or all of architectural problems. It is architectural design in its finest form—and broadest concept.

**THE TWENTIETH CENTURY OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ARCHITECT** In this era of the profession, therefore, there is an unusual and entrancing opportunity for the profession to assume a new leadership in bringing the fruits of its imaginative minds to a much improved architectural environment. The architects' education is of such a nature as to make the problem approach a natural one. Their training and experience allow clear thinking from problem, program, and premise to conclusion. This does not mean that all architects can, will, or should be research minded. It does mean that in the architectural profession there is a vast treasure of intellectual talent not being properly used by the profession in the public welfare.

**THE LIMITS OF PRACTICE**, such as budgets, specific programs, and more specific clients often prevent the doing of the type of research we have in mind. Rarely does complete freedom come to the architect to do a completely original work. A part of the reason is his timidity. Another part is his conscience telling him he cannot experiment at the Owner's expense.

However, many architects would welcome the opportunity to explore new contributions without the usual limitations of practice. *This kind of research is that opportunity.* If architects make known their interests—their abilities—and their availability, they may be pleasantly surprised at the latent opportunities that can exist for them if this research opportunity is developed.

**THE COOPERATION OF THE ARCHITECT AND OTHERS** Research of the character we are describing is often a conjunctive effort fusing several professions at the same time. The original thinking of one professional group can well be the spark that sets off highly original and valuable thinking of another professional group. There is no more interesting human experience than bringing together groups of highly skilled people to execute conjunctive programs of research study.

**THE NEED FOR FUNDS** Such careful, and often long investigation requires funds in serious amounts. Several national foundations are interested in certain aspects of these potential studies. The American Architectural Foundation has been in existence for some two decades and the Texas Architectural Foundation somewhat less. Funds could be channeled through them in special cases where other clients are not available.

The problem of foundations is often one of in-built slowness due to their administrative structure and the very great number of requests they receive for funds. The advantage of the private company or corporation is generally one of greater speed in making decisions. They, of course, usually have a much more direct interest in applied research because they are aware of the good public relations value in making a contribution in their field and the fair and proper profit that results from such leadership.

## RESEARCH

**ADEQUATE FEES** are very essential. *Distinguished research requires distinguished minds.* Any project usually requires more time than anticipated. It also absorbs the intellectual interest of the alert minded. In fact it is hard to terminate original study. Therefore, architects must not be timid in negotiating for adequate fees, or they will find their research is absorbing valuable time they must spend to provide sufficient income for their practice to remain solvent.

**SOME OF OUR OWN RESEARCH EXPERIENCE** We have always felt, in our firm, that before beginning any project we should refresh our minds on the best answers to similar problems that have been done to date. Also in order to be imaginative and in some degree original, it is important

to know what you are trying to be original from. Often times the researcher will feel that he is doing independent and original research only to find later that somewhere someone else had done before him the thing he thought was original.

Our own routine research studies for projects of practice have taken us all over this country and abroad to find fundamentally what was good in the architectural solutions we were studying. We were interested in what could be improved itself in similar new projects. We often learn a great deal from our clients after our projects have been translated into physical environment and used by them for a time by asking them how we could better solve their specific problems in future projects. This approach is routine to sound practice and is probably rather common in this county.

## RESEARCH

However, as a reversal of these procedures, we were recently asked to do a research study in the educational field that presented almost completely the opposite approach. No owner existed and we could write our own program. We felt that such a study could be made and that it was the kind of research needed. Since it was somewhat new to us we defined our own ground rules for doing it as follows:

- a. We should be completely free to study the problem from the teaching and curriculum point of view rather than from what had been done in the past.
- b. We should have no preconceived ideas as to the outcome of the study. It might well be a very different kind of building or buildings.
- c. The results should be compared with existing facilities commonly used.
- d. The findings should be made public as a matter of common knowledge in the public welfare.
- e. This study would imply no endorsement of the policy or product of the client any more than would occur with any manufacturer or product on any routine project.
- f. That we should be commissioned as we would on any other architectural project, that the scope of the research study should be carefully defined, and that we should be paid an adequate fee for the research.

Throughout this research experience we were pleased to find a very cooperative attitude on the part of the client. Having now experienced the entire chronology of the study and the press release of the research findings we find little in the procedure that we would change if we were to start all over again.

**A REAL OPPORTUNITY AND CHALLENGE TO THE PROFESSION** It seems logical that all research minded architects should make their talents available for the various studies they can do and for which adequate funds can be made available. The profession should heed this challenge or the leadership in doing this kind of original research in the profession will pass to someone else who will accept the challenge and the opportunity to fill any vacuums that exist.

## RESEARCH

This research need was just as apparent over two decades ago when the Institute's Committee on Education recommended at the Cincinnati Convention that a division of Education and Research should become a part of the basic structure of the Institute. Later this idea and opportunity was studied and refined to become a vehicle for helping the profession make such research contributions.

The American Architectural Foundation was created to serve as a vehicle for coordinating and aiding such research when a sizeable grant was made by a well known American architect. Although it is still young, the Foundation can be made one of the most important professional features of our creative profession. The method described in part herein can be of practical use to the professional foundations and others in their efforts to advance architectural research both in Texas and in other regions.

## RESEARCH

**ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS AND AUTHORSHIP** Since this type of practice places the architect in a different role from the more traditional one, it is important that he develop a professional attitude of encouragement to those who are interested in making such research studies and findings.

Authorship for such creative thinking should certainly be allowed the architect and he should sign his work just as he does any other creative work he produces. There is no question of authorship when a publisher underwrites the printing of a book expecting to make a profit from it. Our professionals should be allowed the same freedom in architectural research.

**INCENTIVE AND AVAILABLE FUNDS** The profit motive in industry is an integral part of the capitalistic system. It is one of the forces that makes our country great and it is also the incentive that will make funds available for original study. When the need is obvious, these funds are forthcoming in a hurry. So long as the ground rules are clear and well defined by the profession within its own code of ethics, we have found the national leadership of the profession in full accord with the thought that such contributions by architects should be encouraged on a highly professional level.

**THE DISTRIBUTION OF FINDINGS** All well established research institutions are generally agreed in their thinking that the distribution of findings should be made public in the best interest of all. All of the research studies we have made have followed a natural pattern of public information just as soon as the findings were completed. This process will almost automatically take care of itself. If an idea has original flavor and has any apparent merit the client will immediately wish to make it known through appropriate public relations channels.

**THE A.I.A. AND RESEARCH** The Twentieth Century has opened a whole new vista to the free world. More scientific contributions have been made in the past century than have been made up to the beginning of that century. The scientific point of view has played a leading role in the last few decades in America toward significant discoveries and original research results.

During this period of time the architectural profession has had to attempt to emerge from its somewhat archaeological past into this highly competitive scientific age. Some architects, among other creative people, have properly taken the leadership. There remains a still greater opportunity for other architects to use their imaginative minds in a practical way for all of us. Architecture of the Twenty-First Century based on the scientific gains of the Twentieth Century can be unlike anything ever done before in the history of the world—and very pleasantly so. It is the responsibility of the profession as a whole to guide its talent toward this specific and fruitful goal.

The architect is qualified by education, experience, and creative intellect to bring it to pass. In a free society he is allowed to think as he pleases about whatever challenges him most.

## RESEARCH

The hazard is that without the pressures and forces of need and demand being acutely brought to his attention, he may tend to believe that others will do his thinking for him or to believe further that he cannot do it at all. The choice is in his hands. His temperament, his enthusiasm, his inner personal drive, and his creative ability alone will determine whether he is capable of meeting this challenge of his profession—*his country's greatest environment need*. Creative research will produce more original and inspiring architecture and fewer mediocre reproductions. Superior architecture can and should be the profession's unique contribution to Twentieth Century life. The architect and his profession alone can do it. It should be done by many and not just by a few for there is far more talent in most architects than they often dare to believe exists.

# architecture of merit



## FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH DENTON

A special sense of serenity and dignity has been created in this small brick church through the simple formal shape, the carefully studied symmetry, and the finesse of detailing.

ARCHITECTS:  
O'NEIL FORD AND ASSOCIATES, AIA  
San Antonio



# in the past ten years

## GORDON RESIDENCE HOUSTON

This home for a young couple is very much in the "grand manner" translated into a completely modern idiom to produce an impression of considerable luxury. Simple furnishings and landscaping add to this feeling.

ARCHITECTS:  
BOLTON AND BARNSTONE, AIA  
Houston



## ANGLETON BANK OF COMMERCE ANGLETON

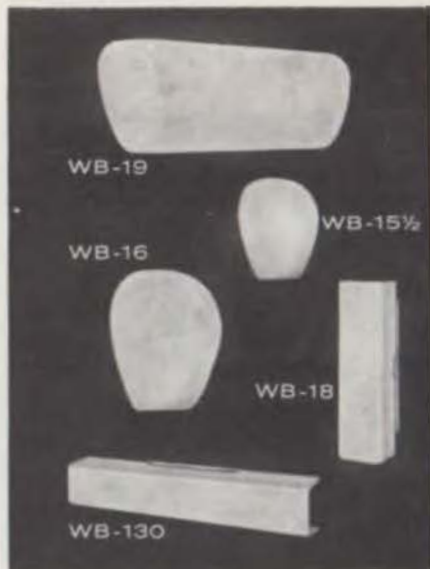
This small town bank achieves a sense of stability through the use of simple geometric shapes, rhythmic detailing, and traditionally permanent materials. Business is dramatized in the placement of the free-standing blue glass mosaic vault, white terrazzo floors, gold carpet and walnut fixtures.

ARCHITECTS:  
WIRTZ, CALHOUN, TUNGATE AND  
JACKSON, AIA, Ft. Worth



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## TEXAS CONFERENCE ON CHURCH BUILDING & ARCHITECTURE

The ministers, building committee members, and architects who met at the Texas Conference on Church Building and Architecture in San Antonio all shared a common goal: a valid approach to the problems of church building in this age of change.

Sponsored by the Texas Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. and the Texas Society of Architects, the conference provided those attending an opportunity to benefit from the experiences of a number of distinguished churchmen and architects, and to discuss, in workshop sessions, the problems of particular congregations. The Rt. Rev. R. Earl Dicus, San Antonio, presided.

The conference produced some sage advice for building committees: They were reminded that the church building has a spiritual impact on the community; its builders should seek to imbue the church with an enduring beauty; the congregation must know what it believes, and their architect must have a "spiritual understanding."

They were advised in selecting an architect to consider his community service; his dedication to architecture. They were admonished not to decide on their architect on the basis of fee nor to look for the architect that has all the answers, and to be a little wary of the "specialist," but to search for an attitude of vigor and a lack of prejudice; one that can be entrusted with the creation of a valid work of art for worship and to become the Church's symbol to the community.

The members were advised to avoid pre-conceived ideas as to the building's appearance or form; to look at other church buildings only to see their mistakes, remembering that their problems and ideas belonged only to them; not to put the architect in a design strait-jacket, for to do so can result only in a professional fee paid for an amateur design.

It was suggested that a good way to select an architect was to decide on three or four and interview them, giving sufficient time to fully understand their backgrounds, experience, attitudes, and philosophy, remembering that the architect will become a vital member of the church building team.

The workshops provided arenas for the interchange of ideas and problems in the areas of Building for Worship, Building for Christian Education, Building for Recreation and Fellowship, and Building the Small Church. Other discussions centered on site selection, financing, planning, the service of the architect, procedures for building committees, and the attitudes and tasks necessary for successful church building.

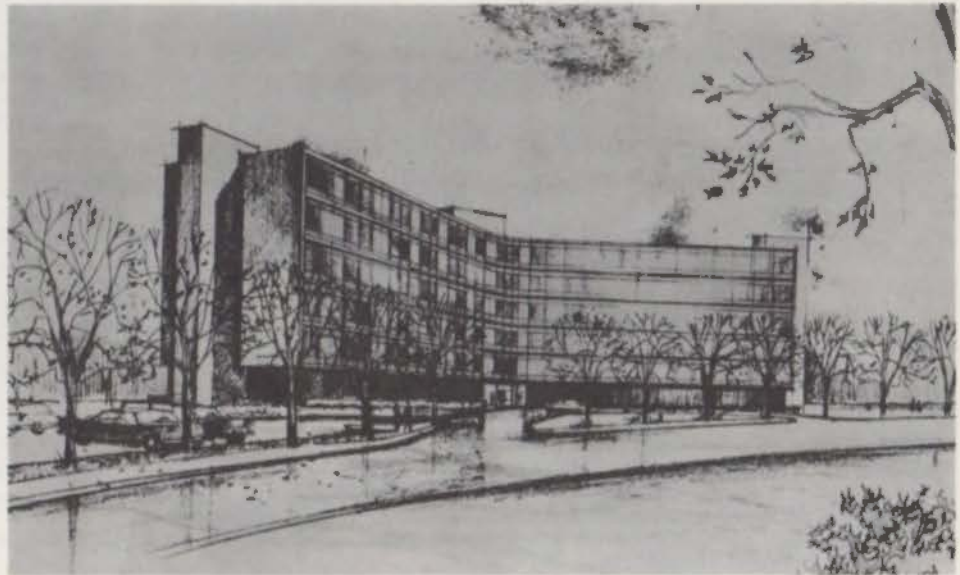
Throughout these investigations of the practical aspects of bringing a church building into physical being ran a continuous theme of the necessity of personal commitment and dedication on the part of the congregation to their faith, of the impossibility of separating "building" from "worship," and of recognition of the why for church building.

# BAYOU MANOR

HOUSING

THE

ELDERLY



Bayou Manor, now being built in Houston at a cost of \$2,750,000, is designed to provide gracious and private living for older persons. Sponsored by Brazos Presbyterian Homes, Inc., the center will be managed by a trained executive of the Presbyterian Church who will act as spiritual and social leader as well as an administrative official.

The seven floor building on a six acre site will house from 250 to 400 persons and provide varied living units, food service, basic room upkeep, recreation and medical care for life for its residents.

The health center will provide the services of a physician, major surgery, hospitalization, and a registered nurse on continuous duty. Living units are efficiencies, semi-suites, and full suites. Carpeting and draperies will be provided; residents will bring their own furniture. Guest rooms are included.

Community facilities include a restaurant style dining hall, gracious lounges and recreation rooms. Residents will have access to television, gardening facilities, a hobby shop, and large grounds and outdoor game areas.

The entrance fee for qualified persons ranges from \$6,900 to \$13,900. The life care fee is \$150 per month or a single fee based on actuarial tables.

Architects for Bayou Manor are Wilson, Morris, Crain and Anderson, AIA of Houston.

# MASTER PLAN

## FOR DALLAS COUNTY

Judge Lew Sterrett and the Commissioners' Court of Dallas County have undertaken to ensure the orderly and economic provision of space for the county government as it strives to meet the needs of its population.

The rapid growth of the Dallas area in the post-war years and some previous underestimation of its needs have left the county offices pitifully short of space in which to function. Faced with the problem of how best to house its expanding departments, the Court determined to equip itself with reliable facts and figures and sound advice upon which to base its planning. Their first step was to employ a group of competent Dallas architects to undertake a study of the actual space needs of the government now, and in the future, and to recommend to the Court how to provide for the long range needs of the county's operation.

These architects, working with their researchers and consultants, determined the existing problems, projected the space requirements in detail through the year 2000, providing reliable estimates of the needs for jail facilities, court rooms, tax administration and records, jury quarters, and the myriad of space types required for the efficient and economic function of county government, and the costs to be expected in providing for them.

With these forecasts as a basis, the architects' next job was to find the best way for these needs to be met. In their final report the architects made a series of recommendations for the provision of adequate space in the form of schematic designs based on different approaches to the acquisition of property for the expansion. Thus the county can adjust, to a degree, the ultimate cost of the project to the capabilities of its economic structure. All of these alternatives emphasize the importance of open space around the development as being "not merely a matter of aesthetics, although this is a valuable and essential consideration. A study of major developments in other cities has shown that when such a development gives proper consideration to open space, that the surrounding properties have greatly increased in development and value, thereby providing additional sources of revenue for government. This space takes on added significance when its surface is a well-landscaped park and the sub-surface is utilized for badly needed parking."

The report of the architects and their recommendations have provided the Commissioners' Court with a sound base upon which to plan for their county. Property can be acquired in advance, bonds sold at favorable times, revenues and costs forecast, buildings planned and built with intelligence, duplication and obsolescence avoided. This means appreciable savings to the taxpayers of Dallas County.

This Commissioners' Court has acted with foresight and wisdom. They have approached their problem without preconceived notions about what should be done, but rather, much as private industry would have: they sought out expert help, paid a reasonable fee for this help instead of asking for "free sketches" of dubious value, and are receiving enthusiastic support from all quarters, and praise for the intelligent and courageous manner in which they have discharged their responsibilities to the citizens of Dallas County. Their approach could well serve as a model for school boards, hospital districts, municipalities, state agencies, public bodies of every sort, in planning for their future needs.

*Texas Architect* commends Judge Sterrett and the Commissioners' Court of Dallas County for a job well done.

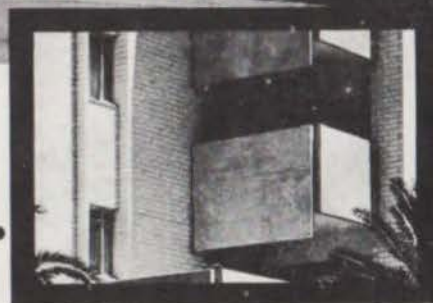
Architects for the Dallas County Courthouse Master Plan are Broad and Nelson; Jack Corgan and Associates; Smith and Warder; Thomas, Jameson and Merrill.



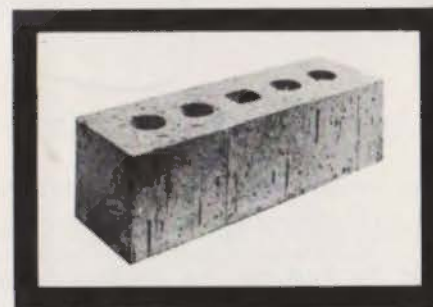
Floyd and James, Architects

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architect. "*... far superior ...*," says a superintendent in a Western state. Others endorsed Monarch Tile for savings in cleaning and maintenance costs, for beautiful, permanent colors and for long range durability. These reports can be helpful to others who seek the most value for the school construction dollar. Names of quoted school officials are available by writing the Monarch General Office.

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## Folded roof to glamour walls... concrete adds new attraction to drive-in banking



Over 600 cars daily use the drive-up windows. A half million transactions were handled at the Autobank the first year. Tom-Tom Room, to the right of two-story bank lobby, is provided for meetings of Tulsa civic groups. It's reached directly from upper parking deck.

Out of a need for drive-up tellers' windows, as well as parking facilities, came this handsome banking center. Tulsa's First National Autobank is a delightful example of the many ways concrete can combine structural practicality with good design.

Here, concrete plays a major decorative role in many different ways. You see everything from folded plate canopies over the parking arcade to walls and sunscreens in high-style masonry shapes. Drives are black concrete. Upper deck parking area is a hollow-core concrete deck.

Today's architects find there is no ceiling on imagination when they design with modern concrete.

### **PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION**

110 East Eighth Street, Austin 1, Texas

*A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete*



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General Engineering Building, University of Washington, Seattle, and reflection mirrored in Frosh Pond.

... where  
 Portland Cement Concrete  
 must be beautiful

USE

*Trinity White*

**Precast Concrete Curtain Walls and Column Covers**—The problem here was to design a building in harmony with the Tudor Gothic of the upper campus. ¶ Precast concrete curtain walls made with Trinity White portland cement were selected. ¶ The fins are white cement and quartz; the interior of the diamond is white cement and very coarse aggregate mixed with orange-colored crushed glass; the column covers and end walls are coarse aggregate with the matrix tinted slightly to a tan. ¶ Precast exposed aggregate concrete (Mo-Sai) by Olympian Stone Company. Wick Construction Company, General Contractors. Harmon, Pray & Detrich, Architects.

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