

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

HARMONY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

PLANS FOR TEXAS ARCHITECTS' WEEK

PRESIDENT VISITS CHAPTERS

BOARD TO MEET APRIL 11

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MARCH
1953

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THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 11—Meeting of TSA Executive Board, 10 a.m., Commodore Perry Hotel, Austin.
April 13-20—Texas Architects' Week.

June 15-19—84th annual convention, AIA, at Seattle, Wash.
November 4-6—14th annual convention, TSA, at Austin.

REPORT ON



We are happy — and regretful. Happy because the acceptance and demand for this decorative fir plywood has been so spontaneous. Regretful because we can't seem to catch up with orders. It may seem odd that in a market of plywood plenty, there is, by comparison, so little *Sea Swirl* available. Yet this is understandable when you realize that only the most select panels qualify for this three dimensional product that captures the romance of soft ocean beaches and of tideprints in the sand.

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HARMONY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

A recent publication of the Associated General Contractors of America is entitled "Just And Harmonious Relationships In The Construction Industry."

Many of the key points stressed in this booklet are very well taken, and should be noted by the contractor, the architect, and the general public alike. With the total volume of new construction, maintenance, and repairs running at approximately \$40,000,000,000 per year, construction is the nation's first industry and one that has a direct effect upon every citizen.

The booklet states that "Fair and bonafide competition is a fundamental service of the construction industry to which clients and owners are entitled."

You will find that The Texas Society of Architects and all architects certainly subscribe to this principle, which is clearly spelled out in the standards set up by the American Institute of Architects governing professional practice. Furthermore, there are instances in which AGC officials and representatives of the AIA have cooperated directly in maintaining the principle of fair competition, thereby protecting the interests of clients and the general public alike.

The AGC pamphlet in question stresses the need for centralizing undivided responsibility for a project in one man—the general contractor. Architects will subscribe to this principle so long as it protects the best interests of the client. They usually will agree also that bids which may be taken separately for certain phases of the work should be combined under one general contract.

The efforts which AGC officials are taking to improve relationships between general and specialty contractors are emphasized in the booklet, which indicates that AGC chapters and branches have been authorized to "initiate cooperative actions . . . in their areas."

This AGC publication also stresses the importance of the joint cooperative committees which are maintained with the architectural and other organizations in the industry. Among these joint committees is the one maintained with the AIA, which has in turn become a pattern for local groups oriented toward more harmony and more economy in construction.

The booklet fails to mention specifically, however, one major point which we believe is harming construction industry relationships and the interests of clients and the general public. We refer to the so-called "package deals" under which some large firms offer every service from beginning surveys through actual construction including planning and even management of the property after it has been built.

We do not believe that the "package deal" is fair either to contractors, engineers, architects, specialty contractors, or the client. It does not lead to the harmony and efficient economy which every segment of the building industry seeks. It is instead an open invitation to inefficiency and waste and to poor planning. It will defeat the principle of giving maximum value for every dollar invested in construction which is the creed of the architect and contractor alike.

We approve in general this statement in which AGC stresses the need for harmony in the construction industry, but we respectfully suggest another section: One on "The dangers inherent in the 'package deal' plan."

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Telling The Story Of Architecture In Texas

Second Texas Architects' Week Finds All TSA Chapters Busy With Projects

Members of the Texas Society of Architects pick one week per year in which to tell their fellow citizens the story of architecture. The week of April 13-20, beginning with Thomas Jefferson's 210th birthday, has been chosen for the 1953 observance, which will be statewide.

Success of the 1952 Texas Architects' Week has encouraged the 10 TSA chapters (Panhandle, Central Texas, Brazos, Dallas, Fort Worth, West Texas, Coastal Bend, Houston, Lower Rio Grande Valley, and El Paso) to extend their activities this spring in a series of projects about the profession of architecture.

Function Of The Architect

The central idea in each case is to explain the function of the architect and his place in modern life. This is done in many ways, through projects such as exhibitions or tours of architectural work, a special Chapter competition, special luncheon club programs, or showings of architectural models, materials or literature.

Some chapters will aim their project at the younger generation, either through a program based on Thomas Jefferson, the great architect-president, or a special student competition. Others are scheduling special joint meetings with some allied professional group, such as the engineers.

Regardless of the exact means used, the 10 TSA chapters are telling the story of their profession in terms of something with local interest, and they are generating good, positive reaction over the state.

The Fort Worth Plan

The Fort Worth chapter, headed by Hubert H. Crane, was among the first to

complete its plans for the second annual observance of Texas Architects' Week. Here is the Fort Worth plan, which is a good example of how TSA members are taking the opportunity to explain just what architecture is and what it means to their fellow Texans.

Early in February, President Crane completed the first stage in plans for Texas Architects' Week by placing details in the hands of an overall committee directly responsible to him. As plans progressed, TSA President Albert S. Golemon was invited to attend the February meeting and discuss developments to date.

While President Golemon was in town, the mayor of Fort Worth, Hon. J. R. Edwards, signed a proclamation setting aside 13-20 April as Texas Architects' Week in his city. The TSA head then discussed with Mayor Edwards some of the chapter plans for observing the event, and spent several hours going over detailed plans with officials of the Fort Worth affiliate.

Will Honor Craftsman

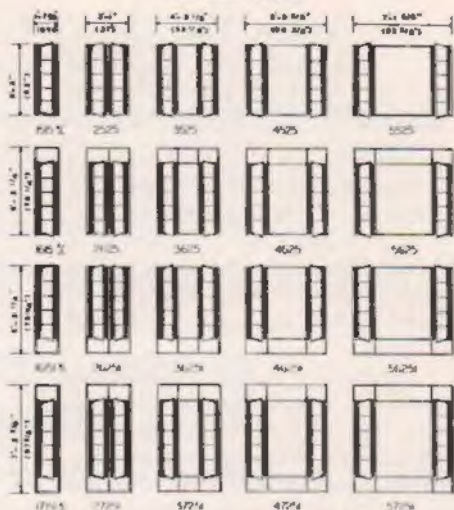
Fort Worth will feature during TAW the selection of an outstanding building craftsman who is to be honored for his skill at a chapter dinner. Other allied projects will be special exhibits of work by chapter members, and the showing of a moving picture on Thomas Jefferson as an architect. Last year a similar craftsman award won editorial acclaim and did much to explain to the public the functions of the architect and how they are related to other skills in building.

(Continued on Page 12)

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TA NEWSLETTER

March 1953

MEMBERS IN DEFAULT

TSA members who have not yet paid their dues are reminded that under Article 8, Section 3 of the Society by-laws, they are in default three months after dues first become payable and are not allowed to vote until they have removed this disqualification.

FONDE CASE IN TENNESSEE LOST

Architects have lost, subject to a possible appeal to the Tennessee Supreme Court, the celebrated Fonde case which raised the question of a proper line of demarcation between engineering and architectural practice.

Chancellor Thomas A. Shriver has ruled as follows in the case:

The celebrated Fonde Case in Tennessee (June, 1952, AMERICAN ENGINEER), raising the question of the proper line of demarcation between engineering and architectural practice has been decided in favor of the position of the engineers. As stated by Chancellor Thomas A. Shriver, "... it is the judgment of this Court that it cannot define and delineate the functions of architects and engineers in such way as to draw a line of demarcation between them which could be successfully applied in practice. This is emphasized in the record since it appears that the architects and engineers themselves could not agree on such a definition and division of functions."

The background of the case is that Fonde, a registered professional engineer in Tennessee, had engaged for a number of years in the design of structures, including residential buildings. He was challenged for this

practice on the ground that he was engaging in architectural practice and not registered as an architect. A series of conferences between the members of the joint board and the state professional societies in the two fields failed to produce a settlement and Fonde filed the suit for a declaratory judgment to establish his right to continue his practice. The Tennessee Society of Professional Engineers and the Tennessee Chapter of the American Institute of Architects intervened in the case.

After reviewing the history and background of the Tennessee registration law, particularly noting that the Tennessee law covers both professions and is administered by a joint board composed of three professional engineers and three architects, he said, "it is likewise significant that as far as the statutory law in Tennessee is concerned architecture and engineering are not separated into two different fields, but are regulated by and under the same Board, and wherever they are referred to in the statute it is as 'architects or engineers' or 'architects and engineers'."

The Chancellor considered the definitions of the two professions found in standard dictionaries, the deposition of N. W. Dougherty, dean of engineering at the University of Tennessee, as well as Chairman of the Tennessee registration board and who was active in connection with the enactment of the law in 1921, the testimony of the chief design engineer of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the deposition of the head of the TVA Division of Design, as well as a report of a joint committee representing the Tennessee Chapter, AIA and TSPE which had been formed "in an effort to iron out the division of opinion between the professional members of the Board." Upon the basis on this review the Chancellor concluded, "... it appears as a fact that cannot be seriously questioned that the functions of these two professions, viz., architecture and engineering, so overlap that there is no practical

way to draw a clear line of demarcation between the two

The court concluded that it must, therefore, deny the request for a declaratory judgment defining and delineating the practice of architects and engineers and directed the entry of a decree in favor of Fonde eliminating the threat of prosecution against him for his practice. The decision is subject to appeal to the State Supreme Court.

OCULUS of the New York Chapter notes a speech by Martin Pilch, graduate of the Dundee School of Architecture, on "Architectural Education in Scotland". Architectural schools in Great Britain are smaller and there is a close relationship between the students and the head of the school. Other characteristics of these schools, which are said to emphasize "community service rather than soaring into the heights of high finance": small classes, long criticisms, few examinations, low marks; many compulsory competitions, great interest in measured drawings and good detailing.

CHAPTER CHATTER of West Virginia reports that the West Virginia group is working in cooperation with the Allied Artists there toward building a West Virginia Art Center.

The BULLETIN of the Arizona Chapter says that 76% of the 2000 residents of Phoenix, Ariz. have voted in favor of a chapter proposal to move the Arizona Chapter placed a relief map of the proposed new site on exhibition at the Phoenix Home Show and drew heavy and favorable response.

Spanish-born Jose Luis Sert has been named to head the Harvard Graduate School of Design. President-Emeritus, James B. Conant, in his final report before becoming High Commissioner to Germany, noted how Harvard had substituted "Design" for "Architecture" in renaming the school which Sert now heads.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

(President Golemon is on a trip which will take him before many of the TSA chapters to discuss the legislative situation in regard to the fee schedule, and Texas Architects' Week. Before leaving, he asked Pat Nicholson of George Kirksey & Associates, TSA public relations counsel, to write a current situation report on Texas Architects' Week. The report follows:)

With less than a month before Texas Architects' Week, the project seems much better set up on a statewide basis than in 1952, with prospects for some real benefit to TSA and the profession of architecture.

At last report (5 p.m. Monday, March 9), projects were definitely underway at Fort Worth, in Houston, in Corpus Christi, in Austin, in Dallas, and in the Rio Grande Valley. We assume that the Panhandle, Brazos, El Paso, and West Texas chapters are organized for TEXAS ARCHITECTS' WEEK but have not sent in their reports as yet. All of the announced projects are well conceived and in two instances have been announced and should meet with positive public reaction.

Fort Worth will again base their observance of TAW around a dinner honoring an outstanding craftsman, a project which met with much success in 1952. TAW has already been announced through a proclamation by Mayor J. R. Edwards.

The Central Texas Chapter will sponsor an exhibit of the work of Austin architects, at the School of Architecture of the University of Texas, and in the business district.

Dallas will hold a symposium on school design, now set for April 18, plus a house tour to obtain funds for architectural scholarships.

Houston architects plan to offer their services to the city, on a consulting basis, for a civic project of considerable public interest. The Houston project is in the final planning stage, and should be announced before April 1. Mayor Roy Hofheinz has set aside April 13-20 as TAW, after meeting with TSA President Golemon and Harold Calhoun, Houston Chapter head.

In the Lower Rio Grande Valley, where there is a total population of more than 250,000 concentrated into cities and towns which are sometimes only a mile apart, TAW observances will center around special programs at civic clubs. There will also be a joint meeting with the Valley AGC organization.

Corpus Christi has a major project underway which should bring well-deserved public attention to the Chapter there. It is in connection with Boy's City, a major civic undertaking which has attracted great interest.

All Chapter public relations committee chairmen are requested to keep copies of TAW publicity, and to forward it as soon as possible to David C. Baer, 1200 Bissomet, Houston 5. Please do not neglect to do this, as we are preparing special displays of TAW publicity and do not want to leave anyone out.

There is in preparation a complete press kit which will be mailed to all chapters about March 15. The kit will be mailed to all chapters about March 15. The kit will also go to some 75 newspapers over the state, and you will be informed as to how we are asking individual chapter committees to work with our statewide publicity program for Texas Architects' Week. In the meantime, we urgently need first or additional details of just what you are setting up for Texas Architects' Week, with enough details to get out a statewide release telling what all 10 chapters are doing. Please send these details, if you have not done so already, to David C. Baer, 1200 Bissonnet, Houston 5, Texas, with a copy to Pat Nicholson, P.O. Box 20014, Houston 25, Texas.

The KANSAS CITY CHAPTER has given a "Top Banana" award to a member for being the architect who "contributed most to better relations between architects and members of the Producers' Council."

The EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT (New York) carries a full story on the 1952 Building Awards of the Queens Chamber of Commerce. This Chamber of Commerce gave eight bronze plaques and five honorable mentions for "excellence in design and construction" of new buildings which went up in Queens during 1952. This annual award has been made for the past 27 years, and it is a good idea for TSA chapters looking around for an unusual Texas Architects' Week project which gets support from the Chamber of Commerce, always a potent force in the community.

The PASADENA, CALIF. CHAPTER reports on an important bill before the California Assembly. The bill would bring the Architects' Act "up to the strength of the Engineers' Act, under which only licensed civil and structural engineers and architects may design structures other than farm dwellings and single and multiple dwellings not over two stories high except those of steel or concrete." The exact scope of this bill is not clear from the article quoted, but it seems to be an interesting one.

The CHICAGO CHAPTER has sent a delegation to the city of Elgin, Ill. to discuss what are described as "rather flagrant violations" of the Illinois Architectural act. The chapter Bulletin states that Chicago architects compiled a 21-page report complete with photostats and photographs to prove that permits were issued in Elgin for buildings designed without benefit of licensed professional responsibility". The Chicago Chapter reports that members were not at all satisfied with the result of the meeting in Elgin, but that as a result "the State Department of Registration caused a number of unlicensed individuals and companies to cease offering architectural and engineering services."

NEW ADVERTIZERS

We call attention that Metal Window Products Company and Stran-Steel are two new full-page advertisers, effective this month. Let them know through letters and their salesmen that the ads are noticed. With a little more assistance, too, we can have Truscon back on their usual 12-pages a year schedule. Write these people:

The NEW JERSEY CHAPTER has made arrangements to list members all together in a special section of the classified section of the telephone directory, identified as members of the New Jersey Chapter, AIA

The NEW JERSEY BULLETIN also reports that their membership "protested violently" against the employment of out-of-state projects, "with the result that Governor Driscoll assures us such a practice will be discontinued."

TEXAS ARCHITECTS' WEEK FILM

A film of the life of Thomas Jefferson has been ordered from Chicago and, if it arrives, will be shown around the state during TAW. This ties the week in with Thomas Jefferson the architect and is reported to be both documentary and interesting. If you are interested in this film, let us hear from you.

OFFICE PRACTICE QUESTIONNAIRE

Returns on the questionnaire included with the February Texas Architect News Letter have been coming in at a surprising rate. Many, however, have not yet sent in the important information requested. WILL YOU PLEASE DO THIS so this committee of the Institute will have a complete record from the Architects in Texas.

FEE SCHEDULE

It is now apparent that the fee schedule situation is

going to involve much more work, time, and expense than had been anticipated. The legislative committee, TSA officials, and many Chapters are hard at work on keeping the sliding scale out of future appropriations bills. This is an uphill battle, but one that we must all watch with care. It will take more work and more funds to succeed. We will keep you all closely informed as to progress, both through the newsletter and through your officers and committees.

AIA POLITICAL SITUATION

TSA Chapters are solidly behind the candidacies of Kenneth Wieshmeyer, for president, and our own Maurice Sullivan, for treasurer of the AIA. We ask that all Chapters send instructed delegations for Wischmeyer and Sullivan to the June AIA convention at Seattle, and keep working for these well-qualified and popular candidates.

POLIO BENEFITS ADDED TO TSA INSURANCE

The insurance committee, advises that on April 1, 1953 polio benefits are being added to TSA group insurance. Under the polio benefit, insured participants and/or dependents are covered up to \$2500 for actual expenses incurred within 3 years of the contraction of illness to the extent that such expenses are in excess of the benefits paid under the Group Hospital Expense Insurance Policy. Proceeds are paid regardless of duplicating coverages of other insurers. From March 15 premiums are:

Income Bracket	Insured Only	One Dependent	Two or More Dependents
Up to \$150	\$4.20	\$7.55	\$9.51
\$150-\$250	4.60	7.95	9.91
\$250-\$400	5.39	8.74	10.70
\$400 & over	6.18	9.53	11.49



Now It's TSA, Incorporated

At Austin, Secretary of State Howard Carney signs incorporation papers for the TSA as his first official act of office. Left to right, in the usual order, are R. Max Brooks, chairman of the legislative committee, and Arthur Fehr, TSA-AIA, both of Austin.

Incorporation of the Society was handled by Carl C. Hardin, Jr., legal counsel, on instructions of the executive board.

President Golemon On Statewide Tour Of Many Chapters

TSA President Albert S. Golemon is continuing a tour of TSA chapters which has taken him over the state for discussions of Texas Architect Week plans and other matters.

The president's itinerary follows: 23 February, Fort Worth; 11 March, Har-

lingen; 12 March, Corpus Christi; 16 March, Austin; 20 March, Dallas; 2 April, San Antonio.

Mr. Golemon intends to visit other chapters later during the spring and summer, to discuss TSA and architect's problems at the local level.

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News of the Chapters

FORT WORTH — President Albert S. Golemon was at the February meeting to discuss plans for Texas Architects' Week and the year's program and objectives. The office of Wilson & Patterson, with Edward L. Wilson in charge, showed slides of the Lamesa Elementary School job, and outlined problems from first preliminary sketches through final construction.

DALLAS — S. B. (Sam) Zisman spoke on "The Architect And City Building" at the February dinner meeting. Mr. Zisman, now planning consultant for Corpus Christi, Paducah, Ky., and Little Rock, Ark., discussed the relationship between architecture and the planning of cities and such developments as the building program on Guam.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY — Warren Suter of Mission is TAW chairman. The chapter will hold special TAW programs in conjunction with service clubs and is to meet in April with the Associated General Contractors' group.

HOUSTON — E. M. Schiwetz, artist and illustrator of the firm of Wilkinson, Schiwetz, and Tips, spoke on recent architecture in Mexico, including University City. Mr. Schiwetz illustrated his remarks with slides. Talbott Wilson has been elected TSA director for the Houston Chapter.

COASTAL BEND — Otis F. Johnson has been named chairman of the committee on Texas Architects' Week.

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**Executive Board
To Meet April 11
In Session At Austin**

The executive board of the TSA will convene at 10 a. m. Saturday, April 11, at the Commodore Perry Hotel in Austin. The April meeting, originally set for one week earlier, was moved back in order to avoid a conflict with the Easter weekend.

Principal matters up for consideration will be final plans for Texas Architects' Week, various committee reports, and a special report by Carl Hardin, Jr., of Austin, legal counsel.

The meeting will adjourn for lunch at approximately 12 noon and then be resumed after 1 p. m. It is estimated that final adjournment will come at approximately 4 p. m.

**William Ward Watkin
Memorial Library
Planned At Rice**

The architectural alumni of Rice Institute have begun an architectural collection at the Fondren Library on the Institute campus to be dedicated to the memory of William Ward Watkin, TSA-AIA.

Mr. Watkin, head of the department of architecture at Rice from 1912 until his death last summer, had long worked toward setting up an outstanding collection of architectural volumes. His project will be carried on and centered in a special area at the Fondren Library, with a suitable plaque identifying the collection named for the widely-known practitioner, teacher, and author.

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Convention Coverage Termed Best Yet In Press And Magazines

TSA officials have termed the coverage of the El Paso convention the best yet for all media. The El Paso newspapers ran 18 separate stories on the meeting, many of them on the front pages, and carried eight news pictures including five on the front page of principal editions.

The wire services had four separate statewide stories which were widely distributed, and special releases went to many state newspapers direct. The wire services carried advance accounts of the convention, excerpts from the keynote speech by Glenn Stanton, the election of new officials, and the winners of the Featherlite Competition. Follow-up stories are still being released.

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Publication Board Hears Good Report On TEXAS ARCHITECT

The Publication Board met in El Paso during the convention, with David C. Baer presiding and members Walter T. Rolfe, Ernest Langford, and Herbert Tatum present.

The board heard a report from the chairman showing a net profit for January through October, 1952, of \$1,-521.50, and approved the extension of printing, advertising, and public relations contracts for 1953.

Mr. Baer told the board that emphasis was being placed on increasing the average number of pages per issue from 22 to 24, and on carrying more news and pictures of outstanding work by TSA members and chapter activities. Board members indicated satisfaction with the progress being made by the magazine, which published a record-breaking 44-page convention issue.

Texas Architects' Week

(Continued from Page 5)

In your own locality, TSA members will soon be announcing their plans for Texas Architects' Week, the annual observance during which Lone Star architects tell the story of their profession to friends and neighbors. The result will be a better opportunity in every part of the state for Texans to understand architecture and the part it plays in their lives.

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Humphrey To Serve On National Council For School Construction

Joe R. Humphrey, specialist in school plant planning for the Texas Education Agency, has been appointed to serve on the Committee of State Services of the National Council on Schoolhouse Construction.

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