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TEXAS ARCHITECTS' WEEK PLANS

MAP OF ALL TSA CHAPTERS

MARCH
1954



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INSIDE THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

Fort Brown Memorial Center Dedicated	5
Excellent Results of Design Competition	3
State Plans for Texas Architects' Week	9
New Certificate of Registration	7
Map of All Texas TSA Chapters	6

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 7-13—Third annual Texas Architects' Week, throughout the state.

November 3-5—15th annual convention, TSA at Fort Worth.

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Excellent Results of Design Competition

The \$800,000 Fort Brown Memorial Center, dedicated recently by Governor Allan Shivers at Brownsville, is an outstanding example of a civic structure which serves the entire community.

The Fort Brown center contains the 3000-seat Jacob Brown Auditorium, a swimming pool, youth center, town hall, women's center, library, and many other interior and exterior facilities. It is already adding significantly to civic life in Brownsville, and stands as a bulwark against juvenile delinquency and many another problem of the modern city today.

The Brownsville Memorial Center is also an excellent example of how cities and agencies may use a design competition to select an architect for such buildings. Used principally for public or civic works, design competitions afford a variety of entries while safeguarding the interests of both owner and competitors.

Civic authorities at Brownsville retained Ernest Langford, TSA-AIA, of College Station as advisor to the City Council in the first step of setting up the design competition. Architects over the state were then advised of the competition, and of the requirements to be fulfilled in the design.

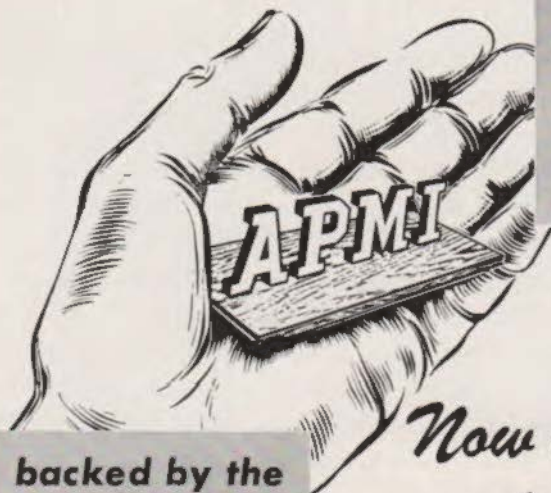
In the meantime, a Jury of Awards, made up of Herbert Tatum, TSA-AIA of Dallas; Stayton Nunn, TSA-AIA of Houston; Marvin Eickenroht, TSA-AIA of San Antonio; Mrs. George McGonigle, Jr., Brownsville; and Reynaldo Garza, Brownsville city council, was selected.

Many outstanding designs were submitted, showing a wide range of sound thought and talent. The final selection was an entry by the Dallas firm of Wiltshire & Fisher, TSA-AIA. The Wiltshire & Fisher design was reminiscent of the sound, solid masses and many details used by early Brownsville builders. It also showed ingenious solutions for many of the specific design problems encountered, such as having the Jacob Brown Auditorium capable of being used for many diverse purposes by community groups.

Brownsville citizens praise the Wiltshire & Fisher design, now that drawings have been transformed into an actual structure. The Memorial Center seems started on a long and useful life as a most attractive addition to the border city.

Civic groups or agencies are urged to contact the Texas Society of Architects for advice about the advantages of a design competition for civic or public works, and for information on how to set up such a competition.

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Fort Brown Memorial Center

The Fort Brown Memorial Center at Brownsville, from the winning design submitted by the Dallas architectural firm of Wiltshire & Fisher, TSA-AIA, is now open to the public. This view, taken before landscaping was complete, shows the principal aspects of the structure which was the subject of a design competition. Note the swimming pool and youth center in the left background. Photo by courtesy of the Brownsville HERALD.

Governor Shivers Dedicates Brownsville Center

Governor Allan Shivers recently dedicated the \$800,000 Fort Brown Memorial Center, a unique civic undertaking which combines a 3000-seat auditorium, library, youth center, women's center, swimming pool and many other facilities.

Texas and Mexican officials were present at ceremonies which officially put into use the Center, designed through a TSA-sponsored design competition won by Wiltshire & Fisher of Dallas.

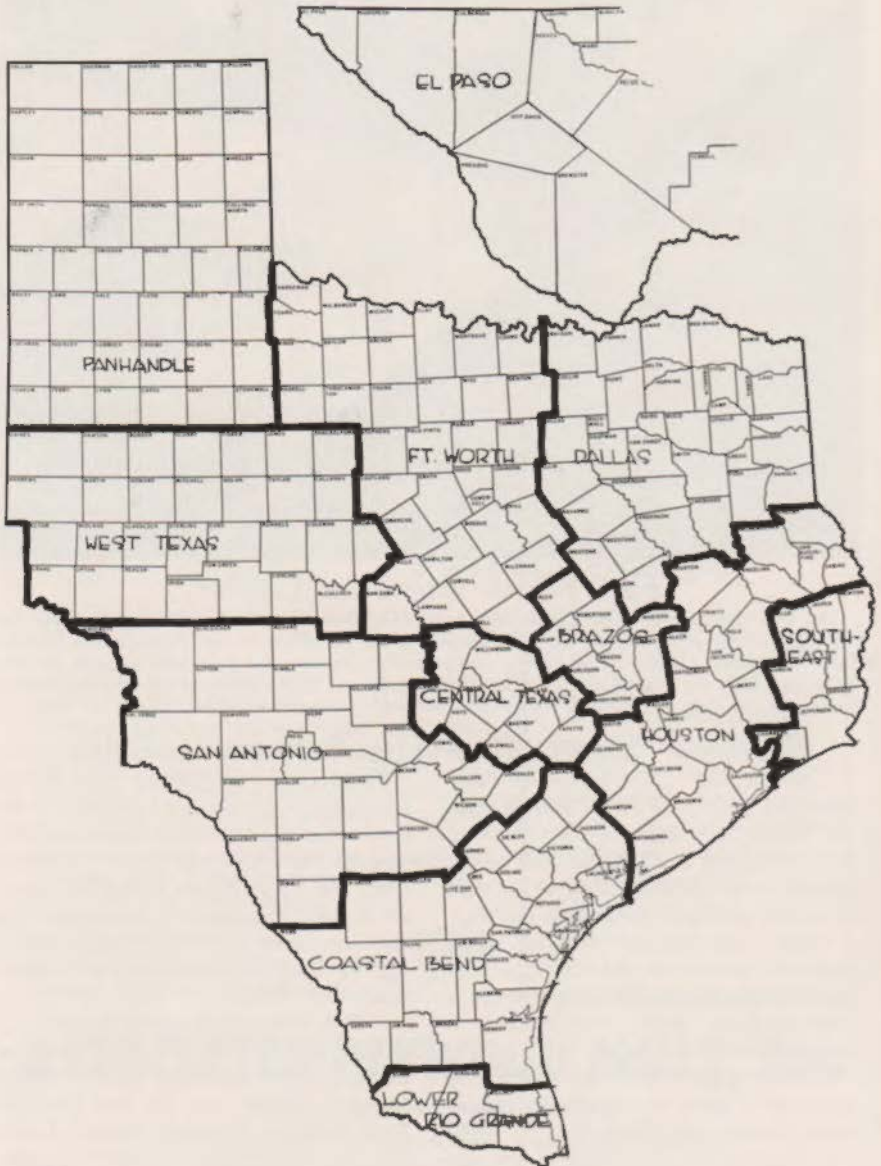
Built at historic old Fort Brown, the Memorial Center is named for Major Jacob Brown, who died May 9, 1846 after having been wounded in the defense of Brownsville against the Mexican army.

Features of the Center include the Jacob Brown Auditorium, designed to be used for a great number of civic affairs ranging from meetings to athletic contests, the youth center named for Robert E. Lee, the women's center and the Zachary Taylor Library, operated jointly by the City of Brownsville and Texas Southmost College.

Pink Bollworm Research Center

Also dedicated by Governor Shivers at the time of the opening of the Fort Brown Memorial Center was the new \$80,000 Pink Bollworm Research Center. Architect for the Bollworm Research Center was Alexander H. Woolridge, TSA-AIA, of Brownsville.

The 12 TSA Chapters With Boundaries of Each



TEXAS ARCHITECTS' WEEK:

As this is writing, TSA officials including Edwin W. Carroll, Louis Southerland, Harold Calhoun, Donald S. Nelson, Albert S. Golemon, John G. Flowers, Jr., Executive Director, and Pat Nicholson, public relations counsel, are just completing a swing around most of the Chapters to complete planning on Texas Architects' Week activities.

John Flowers and Pat. Nicholson met with Coastal Bend representatives on March 3, and then continued on to the Rio Grande Valley for a Harlingen meeting attended by almost 100% of the Chapter membership there. Earlier, both men had attended a series of meetings with the Houston Chapter.

In the meantime, Don Nelson, state TAW chairman, and others have been meeting with Dallas and Fort Worth Chapter representatives, and San Antonio has perfected the details of a very extensive program in planning since early January.

President Ed Carroll and John Flowers met with the Panhandle Chapter in Lubbock on March 8, and with the West Texas Chapter in San Angelo on March 9. Harold Golemon, state public relations chairman, and Albert S. Golemon are planning sessions with the Southeast Texas Chapter in Beaumont, and Mr. Calhoun and Mr. Nelson will arrange other meetings to complete a tour of the state.

At this point, it is apparent that tieing in TAW with the centennial of Texas public schools is arousing a great deal of interest, participation and cooperation. Most of the Chapters are planning principal events around some joint meeting

Cont'd

PRESIDENT'S LETTER:

Texas Architects' Week, April 7-13, is upon us and we hope that each of our twelve chapters will use this annual celebration of the week of Jefferson's birthday as the medium to publicize and strengthen the role of the architect in our communities. This year is especially significant in the opportunity given us by the centennial of public education in Texas, and its relation to TAW. Please include in your chapter TAW functions a place for recognition of the local leaders in education. Do not forget that the physical environments that we so proudly create is only the shelter for their program of teaching. Honor the teachers and administrators of our great educational system. Make them feel that we, as architects, are proud of our part in the program.

John Flowers, our nex Executive Director, is diligently maintaining and increasing advertisers in T. A. He is evaluating the entire scope of the magazine. This data is enlightening as it clearly indicates the tremendous possibilities for public relations made possible by the Texas Architect, when each one of us devotes just a few moments of our time for its betterment. Talk to factory representatives and salesmen about TA advertising when they visit your office, compliment present advertisers, and tell non-advertisers of the value of T. A., as a powerful medium for their sales program in Texas. You will be surprised at the interest you can arouse with very little effort.

EDWIN W. CARROLL

REPORT By AIA DIRECTOR, EDWARD L. WILSON:

The spring meeting of the Board of the Institute was held in Washington March 3-6. Reports indicated that conditions in the building industry are much the same the country over; somewhat less than last fall and probably 20-30% less than a year ago. There was a feeling of cautious optimism for the future.

Activity in the Institute is at a high level. The Vertical Committee organization is beginning to function, and is bringing increased participation in A. I. A. activities at all levels.

A group headed by Mr. Albert Cole, Administrator of Housing and Home Finance Agency came for lunch at Octagon with Board and Staff. Mr. Cole explained housing legislation, on which A. I. A. representatives will probably testify. The Board took favorable stand on the principle of "Federal Assistance" for programs which can not be carried out by local committees or private enterprise.

Harold Hauf, new Director of Public and Professional Relations, is getting into the swing of things. You will be hearing more of him, I am sure.

Again, Texas pride prompts me to say that our region rates high in Institute matters. The Austin Convention made a fine impression on Board members in attendance. Our A. I. A., Treasurer, Maurice Sullivan, is doing a splendid job. Texas committees are very active.

All things point to a fine convention in Boston June 15-19. I hope to see you there.

EDWARD L. WILSON

Director Texas Region AIA

TA-NL-5

PAMPA MAN NAHB PRESIDENT:

Richard G. (Dick) Hughes of Pampa is the new president of the National Association of Home Builders. Mr. Hughes is reported to have built more than 5,000 homes, most of them in the low-cost to medium-cost bracket.

SOCIAL SECURITY CHANGES:

The National Society of Professional Engineers is taking the following position on proposed changes in Social Security laws; Inclusion of professional groups including architects on a voluntary basis, by individual choice. Mandatory coverage would be acceptable to the engineers if the limitation denying retirement benefits between age 65-75 if the individual earns more than \$900 per year, is removed.

DRAFTSMAN FOR TEXAS QUARRIES:

Mr. W. D. Johnson, President, Texas Quarries, Inc., Austin, writes that he desires to employ a chief draftsman who must, of necessity, be familiar with detailing in stone.

HOUSTON CHAPTER NOTES:

Foy Martin and Baldwin Young have moved their joint offices from 3908 Main to 4000 Westheimer, Houston.

Houston Chapter is holding a competition for a new format for the Chapter Bulletin.

David C. Baer explained AIA Standardized Accounting for Architects with slides at the last chapter meeting.

TAW-cont' from Page 2.

many benefits which can accrue from this state-wide celebration. And NEXT year, let's start that planning about 60 days earlier in every Chapter.

Sen. Gilmer, continuing to challenge Sen. Wagonseller to produce something concrete to back up his accusation, said, "You make statements, but you don't substantiate them, Sen. Wagonseller."

Dr. James A. Bethea, executive director of the State Hospital Board, said that it was not true that bids had been given to other than the low bidder. Dr. Bethea said that the contracts go to the builder who is "lowest" on what is wanted and required".

Ed Wilson of Fort Worth, TSA-AIA and regional AIA director, made an offer to have representatives of TSA, the engineers, and AGC determine whether or not the State Hospital Board has handled contracts according to standard practice. This offer was accepted by the investigating committee. Mr. Wilson said that a preliminary study showed that everything done on the Big Spring job was in accordance with regular practice.

TSA officials have held a number of subsequent meetings on this subject, and are watching it closely while planning for the next development, a further hearing of the committee headed by Sen. Gilmer. The membership will be kept fully advised.

APRIL 3 BOARD MEETING:

The spring board meeting has been tentatively set for 10 a. m. Saturday, April 3 at Austin. Among the principal matters on the agenda will be a final pre-TAW report, the Sen. Wagonseller affair, a report on progress to date by the new TSA executive director, John G. Flowers; and special committee reports.

CHAPTER MEETINGS:

Some recent Chapter meetings, as reported:

WEST TEXAS: At Windsor Hotel in Abilene. A panel of five contractors and estimators presented a program on "The Estimator's View of Plans & Specifications". The May meeting will be held in Midland in appreciation of the active interest in TSA affairs being shown in that area. A special meeting was held at the St. Angelus Hotel in San Angelo March 9, with Edwin Carroll, and John G. Flowers.

FORT WORTH: At the Western Hills Hotel. A special program on "Professional Ethics", by Edward L. Wilson AIA director and chairman of the national grievance committee. Chapter members were invited to the Art Association lectures at Arlington State College by Willard Reavis.

DALLAS: At the Melrose Hotel. "A Symposium On Steel", with a domestic producer, an importer, and a representative of the U. S. Department of Commerce. Grayson Gill showed a short film on the new Republic National Bank, on which Gill & Harrell are associated with Harrison & Abramovitz of New York. The executive committee has voted to ask each Dallas office which has a secretary to make it standard practice to answer every ad in the TEXAS ARCHITECT. (A practice which John Flowers and the executive board highly approved of.

SAN ANTONIO: At the St. Anthony Hotel. Principal business was discussion and approval of an excellent program of wide scope for TAW. At March 4 meeting "Old Timers" were honored in ceremonies.

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Statewide Plans for Texas Architects' Week 1954 Observance From April 7-13 Honors Centennial of Texas Public School System

Plans for the 1954 observance of Texas Architects' Week, from April 7-13, are now being completed by the 12 TSA chapters over the state, with emphasis on honoring the centennial of Texas Public Schools.

During Texas Architects' Week, which ends April 13 on the 211th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, the great president-architect, TSA members will show their fellow Texans how architects and architecture serve the state and nation.

Houston Chapter Program

A typical chapter program is that at Houston, where the chapter has been planning and working since January 1 on Texas Architects' Week. The Houston Chapter observance will include special exhibitions of recent work in school architecture, a unique panel discussion of how the architect cooperates with school board members, administrators and officials; a tea honoring retired Houston teachers; a television show based on the professional training necessary for architectural practice; downtown window displays; other radio and television cov-

erage; and a dinner for more than 300 on Thomas Jefferson's birthday.

Over the state, similar programs varying in detail but based on the same overall themes will tell the story of how architecture serves the public. Details of many of these programs will be carried in the April TEXAS ARCHITECT.

Texas Architects' Week, now being observed for the third time on an ever-increasing scale, is being considered as a nationwide model for a similar week across the U. S.

F. S. Oldt of Dallas Elected President of Texas Construction Council

F. S. Oldt of Dallas has been elected 1954 president of the Texas Construction Council, which is composed of the League of Texas Municipalities, the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, the Municipal Contractors' Association, and the Texas Society of Architects.

Austin P. Hancock, city manager of Abilene, is vice-president, and W. H. Sindt of Fort Worth is the new secretary-treasurer.



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**Former TSA President
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Maj. Gen. Raymond Phelps, TSA-AIA of San Antonio, former president of TSA, has retired as commanding general of the Texas State Guard Reserve Corps. He was replaced by Maj. Gen. Lloyd M. Bentsen, Sr. of Mission, Texas, in a ceremony at Fort Worth.

Gen. Phelps' retirement ended a period of 37 years of service with national and state units of the Army. He helped in the original establishment of the State Guard, which takes over duties of the Texas National Guard in the event the latter is called out of the state.

The former TSA president was deputy to the State Guard's first commanding general, the late Lt. Gen. Claude V. Birkenhead.

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The air-conditioner and furnace combination will be available in either gas- or oil-fired models, and with either two- or three-ton cooling capacity. The new model will be manufactured for A. O. Smith by the Worthington Corporation.

A group of paint manufacturers have formed Spectro-Matic Associates, to sponsor a tinting system based on only three tube sizes of 12 different paints. Added to white paint, the tubes are said to develop more than 300 colors which are available in flat finish, semi-gloss, high gloss, floor enamel and exterior house paint.

The Dow Corning Corporation, Midland, Mich., has a new line of superdurable silicone water repellents for above-grade masonry. The repellents are invisible and do not change either the color or texture of masonry while protecting against moisture, staining, and efflorescence.

Bolta Products Sales, Inc., Lawrence, Mass. is introducing a new "Woodgrain" series of Bolta-Wall vinyl wall covering with a textured, three-dimensional effect.

The West Coast fir door industry is introducing a new line of re-styled panel doors based on the use of new decorator colors and "picture frame" molding.

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Donald Barthelme, TSA-AIA Wins International Award For West Columbia School

His design of a school at West Columbia has won first prize for Donald Barthelme of Houston, TSA-AIA in an international architectural competition sponsored by the Museum of Modern Arts of Sao Paulo, Brazil. Pictures of the school were shown in the TEXAS ARCHITECT for December, 1952, it had won highest award in "Texas Architecture—1952", a statewide competition jointly sponsored by TSA and the Dallas Chapter in cooperation with the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts.

The Houston architect was awarded 50,000 cruzeiros in the Sao Paulo contest, a sum worth from \$500 to \$900 in U. S. money, depending upon the rate of exchange.



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