

1955

MARCH

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ A Texas Architect in Japan
- ◆ Local Control Over Schools Essential
- ◆ Texas Architects' Week
- ◆ How the Architect Saves You Money

TEXAS ARCHITECT
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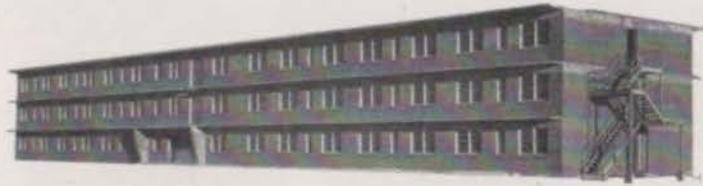
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The President's Letter

By
Grayson Gill,
TSA-AIA.

President,
Texas Society
of Architects



"MEMO," a newsletter published by the American Institute of Architects, has recently devoted a considerable amount of space to the activities of the AIA School Buildings Committee. This committee, and its vertical counterpart within the TSA, have always been very important groups. Today, for the obvious reason that the nationwide shortage of classrooms affects every child, every parent, every taxpayer and every citizen, these committees tend to emphasize even more the individual architect's responsibility in a critical area which concerns every community: securing more and better schools for less money.

The word "local" can hardly be over-emphasized in any consideration of school problems. Regardless of what is done at the national level, in terms of setting up standards of design and construction, providing a revolving fund for aid in financing, or guaranteeing the sale of bonds, you must always return to local participation, local control, and the resolution of specific problems in terms of local needs and conditions.

For this reason, the individual members of TSA, particularly those architects serving on the School Buildings Committee within their Chapter, have a great responsibility. Help and guidance will be forthcoming from the national AIA committee. The overall TSA Committee on School Buildings can and will provide a substantial amount of guidance and aid. The executive director of TSA, John G. Flowers, Jr., has initiated discussions with the Texas Education Agency and the Texas Association of School Administrators which promise some very effective cooperation and help.

But we must always come back to the local members of TSA, in particular those serving on the Chapter School Building Committees, for the experienced, objective, realistic thinking in terms of local needs and situations that will always be needed.



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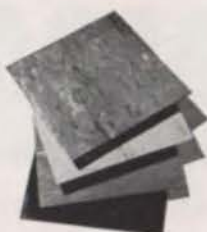
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2—Spring meeting, Executive Board, TSA, at Austin.

November 2-4—16th annual convention, TSA, Shamrock Hotel, Houston.

- Architecture As a Career
- Texas Architects' Week
- Houston Chapter, AIA
- Plans for "Texas Architecture—1955"

In This Issue

The front entrance of St. Austin's School in Austin, by the Austin architectural firm of Page, Southerland & Page, was selected by the Central Texas Chapter as representative of recent work in the Chapter area.

The lead editorial points out that in any assistance programs to help alleviate shortages of classrooms, control of our schools must remain primarily in the local community, with financing in the hands of the agency operating the schools.

The impressions of a young Texas architect in Japan are recorded in the first of a series of illustrated articles by Tom W. Shefelman.

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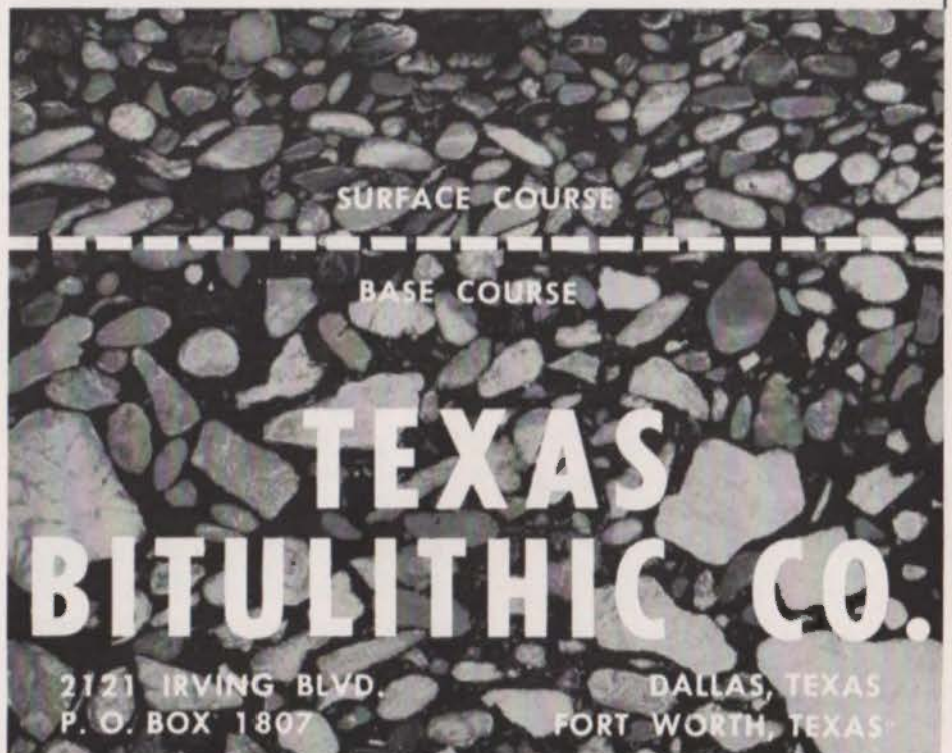
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Control Must Remain At Local Level

In recent weeks, there has been great emphasis on various federal or state assistance programs aimed at helping to alleviate the national shortage of schoolrooms, a problem which plagues virtually every community in every state.

With federal assistance in the Congressional limelight, the magazine ARCHITECTURAL FORUM has recently featured a most significant editorial pointing out serious pitfalls to be avoided in any program offering aid from Washington or at the state level. Following are some of the highlights from this editorial which should be of particular interest to the millions of Texans directly concerned, especially to school administrators; teachers; school board members; local, county and state officials; and the parents of school-age children:

As an alternative to direct federal grants, federal FHA-type insurance for local school board loans should be considered. Such insurance could make local funds the means of financing about twice as much building.

These two principles should be held "inviolable": "Whatever partnership the local community may enter into, the control of our schools must be exercised primarily by our local communities. Only in this way can we have the direct responsibility, the local interest, the democratic participation of the citizens, on which all that is good in our American school system depends.

"Any financing of schools must be in the hands of the agency that operates the schools. Otherwise, the initiative, the educational development, the progress that has been characteristic of schools in America, and that has been brought about by specific administrators working with specific intelligent school boards, will be dissipated through remote control and lost under mountains of rules."

California, where the Finance Department has "wrapped school construction into such a ball of wax . . . intricate regulations" is cited as an example of how remote control "hampers education . . . at every turn." The result is to put a premium on school design by "dopes and drudges."

Wise policy, the editorial declares, will oppose the creation of any more purely fiscal state "authorities" in connection with state or federal aid or new credit programs. Instead, existing educational agencies — the state education departments and the U. S., Office of Education, manned by

schoolmen interested in children primarily—should be used.

If a federal FHA-type loan insurance program is developed, and it could help most school boards cut their interest rate considerably while at least doubling their amortization period, the insured loans should be made directly to the school board and not to the builder as in the case of apartments.

How The Architect Saves You Money

Texans are increasingly aware that architecture is of great aesthetic value, resulting in structures that are more beautiful and more enjoyable. But they do not always realize that architecture is also of great value in terms of hard cash, often saving the owner more than the architect's fee.

Here are two case histories gathered recently from TSA-AIA members across Texas, of actual cash savings estimated by owners and attributed directly to architectural services:

Site orientation: Architect was shown two proposed lots which client was interested in. One lot cost \$6,000 but was deeply ravined to extent that client doubted if it would furnish building space he wanted. A slightly larger lot with all space available for use was priced at \$8200, and the client was preparing to purchase it but asked architect to determine if the \$6000 lot might somehow be used instead. Through carefully-planned site orientation, architect showed the client how to design a home for the ravined lot which was completely satisfactory. Saving: \$2200.

Overall design: Two friends in a West Texas city built new homes at approximately the same time in a suburban neighborhood. The homes were somewhat similar and contained approximately the same amount of floor space, like materials, etc. Owner "A" used an architect, and his total costs including architect's fee were about \$600 above that of owner "B," who did not use an architect. After three years, owner "B" received six months' notice from his company that he was to be transferred to another city. He had adequate time to sell the home, and received what he thought a fair price for it.

Less than six months later, owner "A" decided to take a better-paying job in another part of the state. He sold his home also, in a very similar market. But Owner "A" received \$2300 more for his architecturally-designed home. Subtracting the \$600 additional he had paid, he was ahead \$1700 by using an architect.

Architectural services don't cost, they pay.

TSA-AIA Committee On Preservation Of Historic Buildings Is Active Group

The work of the TSA-AIA Committee for Preservation of Historic Buildings is one in which all architects are or should be interested. The fact that re-activation of this AIA Committee coincides, in point of time, with the founding and organization of the Texas State Historical Foundation, appears to be a most fortunate occurrence here in Texas, and indicates a rising popular awareness of the accelerated rate of deterioration and demolition of our old landmarks.

Earl H. Reed, F.A.I.A., is chairman of the national committee, and the regional chairmen are directly responsible to him for maintaining a complete and active list of representatives, called preservation officers, on a Chapter basis. The TSA-AIA Committee is made up as follows: regional chairman, Marvin Eickenroht; TSA preservation committee members, Arch C. Baker, Brazos Chapter; R. Max Brooks, Central Texas Chapter; Arch Swank, Dallas Chapter; Charles Waterhouse, El Paso Chapter; Birch Easterwood, Fort Worth Chapter; Ed Maddox, Houston Chapter; Alex Woolridge, Rio Grande Valley Chapter; Harvey Smith, San Antonio Chapter; Fred Stone, Southeast Texas Chapter; Joe Hans, Coastal Bend Chapter; Macon Carder, Panhandle Chapter; Woodlief Brown, West Texas Chapter.

Significant Opportunity

A most significant opportunity for this committee to identify itself with a worthy project occurred in the summer of 1954, when the sub-committee on landmarks of the Texas Historical Foundation requested our assistance in the preparation of a Statewide Road Map, sponsored by the Humble Oil & Refining Company.

The work of screening some 900 landmarks, museums, and historic sites is still going on and it is hoped that it may be completed soon. Some very fine work in this field was done by Arch Swank, ably and enthusiastically supported by members of the Dallas Chapter.

It was most fortunate that the rich historical East Texas areas of Jefferson, Marshall, etc. lie within the geographical boundaries of the Dallas Chapter. Mr. Waterhouse was likewise successful in completing this work in

By MARVIN
EICKENROHT,
TSA-AIA,
San Antonio,
Chairman



Marvin Eickenroht

the El Paso Chapter area and we hope to be able to say the same for the Rio Grande Valley and Coastal Bend Chapter areas soon. Mr. Suter and Mr. Hans, respectively, assure us that we will.

It is easy to understand why more interest and/or activity has not been recorded in some areas. Most offices are flooded with work and it is naturally very difficult for members of this committee to find any spare time. Then, too, there appears to be a dearth of historical landmarks of the physical, architectural variety in some parts of the state.

It is my understanding that Central Texas Chapter members are assisting the Daughters of the Republic of Texas in rehabilitating the old French Legation in Austin. This is a very fine project, located in a community so rich in historical landmarks. The D.R.T. has also requested TSA help to obtain funds for rehabilitating the old Land Office Building in Austin; this building is still sound, but will be subject to the usual disintegration if a restoration job isn't done on it pretty soon.

Navarro House Restoration

Projects, such as the above, and the Navarro House in San Antonio which is seriously threatened with demolition, merit the active support of this committee, as well as members of the profession generally. Harvey Smith, O'Neil Ford, and Samuel Zisman, all TSA-AIA of San Antonio, have been active in behalf of the Navarro House. Good speakers are very useful on a preservation project of this kind.

It is to be hoped that committee work in cataloging and inventorying of historic sites and landmarks can be continued, as a steady pace, during the coming year. The matter of cataloging landmarks is really the first step

in the work of this committee on the Chapter level, and is most important.

The Committee can only act in a standby capacity, similar to that exercised by the National Trust, to "save" an old building, when one is threatened. A great deal of the cataloging work can be accomplished by correspondence, i.e., by writing local historians, in committees known to possess historic sites, for snapshots and information. Many of these people will be more than glad to help, and the material that is sent in by them then can be sifted as to merit by the Preservation Officer, who will conserve a great deal of energy by this procedure.

Yours for a bigger and better year for the TSA Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings.

Houston Chapter, TSA-AIA Will Take Part March 5-20 In Allied Arts Festival

Many phases of the arts will be spotlighted at the 1955 Allied Arts Festival in Houston March 5 to 20. Painting and sculpture exhibits, lectures, dramas, and concerts will all take their places in two weeks of concentration on culture.

Member organizations of the Allied Arts Association, to which the Houston Chapter, AIA, belongs, will plan particular events, with the Association acting as coordinator.

Industrial Design Exhibit

The first major industrial design exhibit ever held in the Southwest will be the topmost highlight of the Festival. To be set up at the Contemporary Art Museum, it will feature specially designed works by machine shop creators such as radios, telephones, typewriters, and refrigerators.

Paintings from the annual Houston Artist show will be exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts, while at the Museum of Natural History, carvings and artifacts of primitive art and superstitious lore will be shown.

Other Events Listed

Among other events will be a lecture by Lawrence Powell, rare book expert, and at the University of Houston, drama, band concerts, recitals, operetta, and a performance of Brohm's Requiem.

Impertinent Comments On Japanese Life And Architecture

By TOM W. SHEFELMAN

Editor's Note: World interest is again centered on Japan, a land with an intriguing architectural history which has been intensively studied by many world-famous practitioners. Beginning with this issue, the TEXAS ARCHITECT presents in installments the impressions of Tom W. Shefelman, a young Texas architect who went to Japan with his wife Janice for detailed study of this ancient civilization and its architecture which is significantly reflected in the work of many of our best-known U. S. practitioners. Illustrations by Mr. Shefelman.

"Young architects, forget Rome. Go to Japan!" So Walter Gropius is quoted after his return to Cambridge, Massachusetts, from his recent visit to the Far East.

My wife Janice and I have not had time to think about Rome. Japan is too rich an experience by itself far now. Nor is the experience purely of architectural significance. Temples and houses are but the beginning of this mystery around us. So much has yet to be seen and understood that we have postponed our departure, well beyond the original date.

Now we find that this still is not enough time. We will resign ourselves to a departure which leaves too many things unexplained. Already the application of Western logic has failed us so many times. For though there are many outward displays of Westernization, this is still but definitely the East.

Keeping Up With the West

This ancient nation is having her deep and troublesome problems in the process of keeping up with the West. Tokyo is faced with many of the same overwhelming social problems as the other great overcrowded metropolises of the world. This is a burden in itself. But, in addition, the Japanese must struggle with the serious social and spiritual conflicts in his double life as simultaneously an Eastern and a Western man.

The mystery here is not purely the stereotyped mystery of old Japan. Rather it is the mystery of a nation which doesn't yet understand what is happening to it. There is a new Japan in the making.

No Return to Old Japan

The attempts to go forward often appear childish and superficial to us Westerns; but a return to old Japan is impossible, no matter what its pecu-

liar charm may have been. Yet up from under the unsettled film of Western civilization we see constantly the seepage of old Japan. Often the dynamics of a civilization sometimes enthusiastically, sometimes resentfully, sometimes with total resignation undergoing such change and growth is painful to watch; and the foreign observer is defied to analyze or to make valid generalizations. Therefore, the descriptions and comments which follow should be taken as the product of our own spontaneous reactions to what we see and hear.

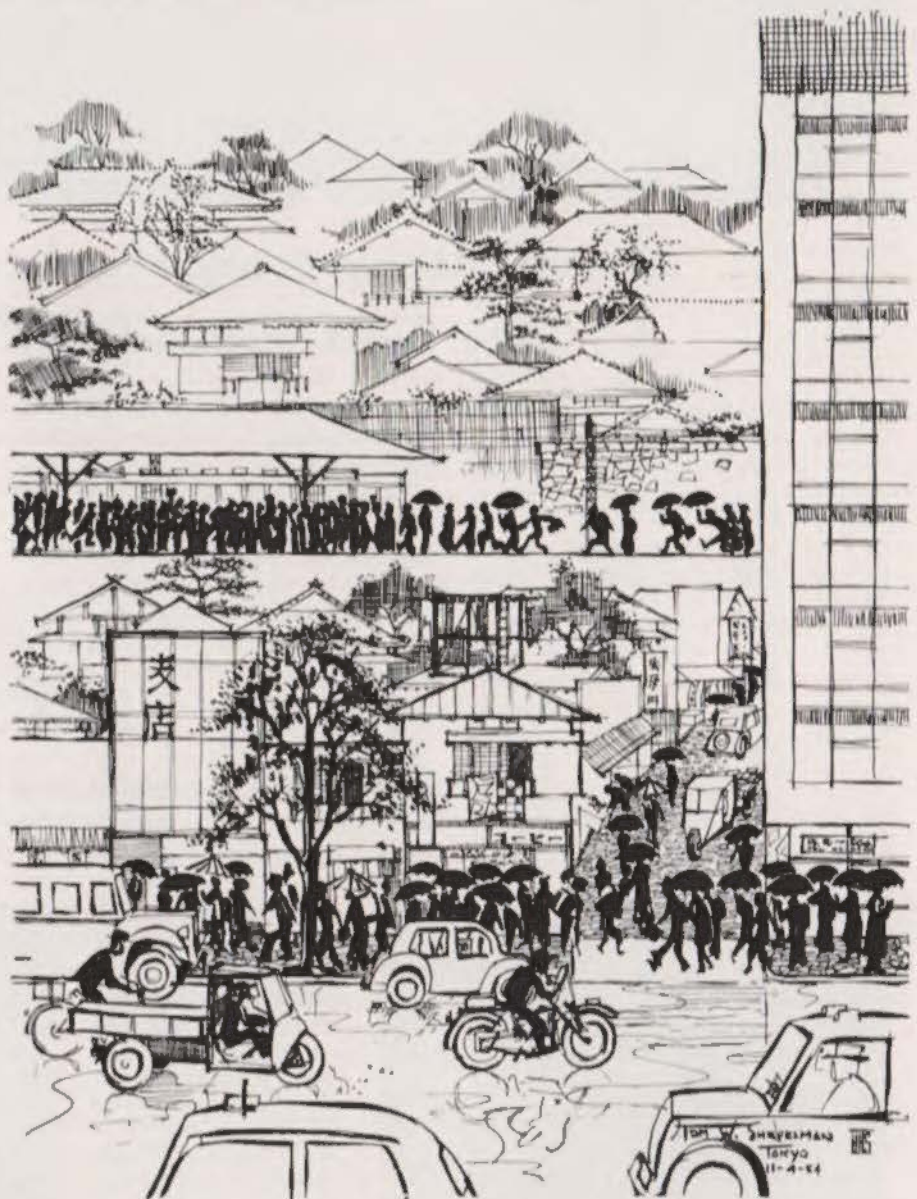
JAPAN AND NATURE

One day Janice and I were standing cold and wet but entranced on the ob-

servaion platform apposite the base of Kegon Falls, the only outlet of Lake Chuzenji high in the Nikko Mountains. Mystery was all around us. The 97-meter-high silvery ribbon disappeared, reappeared, then disappeared again through the dense mist of the mountain clouds which engulfed us. The relentless roar from the falls and echoing cliffs was amplified by the white cataracts which tumbled away underneath us in an urgent rush for the sea.

Like Undersea Mountains

Time stood still for us as we surveyed the misty walls around us. More like undersea mountains, so much was hidden. How such lush vegetation of so many species could cling with jungle-like density to those tumbling slopes is one of nature's secrets. The rich green was highly seasoned with
(Continued on Page 12)



TOKYO IN THE RAIN OF NOVEMBER



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Dallas Chapter Has History Going Back To Nineties

By RALPH BRYAN, TSA-AIA, Dallas

The Dallas Chapter, AIA, came into being, as such, in 1946 when the old North Texas Chapter was divided into the Ft. Worth and Dallas units. However, that was by no means the beginning of a professional organization for architects in this area.

While concrete, substantiating data is either non-existent or non-at-hand, we have it from the memories of such stalwarts as Clarence Bulger and Roy Lane, that the great-grandfather of the Dallas Chapter (and of all present Texas Chapters, if the truth be known) was the Texas State Association of Architects of the 1890's which came to very active life after 1907.

Until 1913 there was no regional organization of the American Institute of Architects in Texas, but there were enough individual members of the AIA in the state to bring about the formation of the Texas Chapter, AIA in that year—"A more honorary than active organization", according to Mr. Lane. But by 1920 or so, the Chapter had become active enough to justify the absorbing of the Texas State Association of Architects and then began the first real functioning of the AIA in Texas, forwarded by such grand old names of Dallas architecture as Lang, Witchell, Greene, Hill, Overbeck, Bulger, et al.

Three Chapters in 1924

In 1924 the State was divided into three chapters, the South, West and North Texas, the latter being the immediate parent of the present Dallas Chapter.

So much for chronology. Since those early days the Dallas Chapter has come a long way (as who hasn't?). We've been more active than some and lazier than others. We have had a Texas Centennial Exposition, when some of us had the privilege of exchanging our then ideas of the best in architectural design, for fees—a welcome exchange, considering the depression, which was still hanging around. We've started "Texas Architecture—195—" at the annual State Fair. We've had a couple of TSA conventions at which we all had a fine time. We've contributed handsomely—we think—to the quality of the community's architecture. We've had our

public relations programs and our meetings with the School Board and the city and county fathers, and the newspaper people, and we've talked regularly about fees and what to have on next month's program. We've had our share (but not really enough) of members active in the city's cultural and civic affairs.

And members of the Dallas Chapter have added to the prestige of the Chapter and of the city and state by work that has been consistently recognized and given architectural awards across the nation.

At this point, I had intended to note the dollar value of Dallas' 1954 building permits and the miles of paved streets since 1953—but fortunately the figures have escaped me.

DeWitt Is 1955 President

But to go from the active past to the more active present.

For the leader of the Chapter in this year of 1955, the members have chosen Roscoe P. DeWitt, and to judge from the number of the committees which he is needling into action, indications are that there will be little inactivity for the next twelve months. His associates are all well chosen—Harris Kemp, as vice-president La Vere Brooks as secretary; E. Carlyle Smith as treasurer. Grayson Gill, Herschel Fisher and Terrell Horper complete the Executive Board.

And as for committees, here are their chairmen—practice of architecture, Herschel Fisher; relations with construction industry, Fred Buford; education and registration, Robert Goodwin; public relations, Herbert Tatum; public information, Joseph Gordon; membership, Terrell Harper; program, Harris Kemp; civil defense, James Cheek; preservation of historic buildings, Arch Swank; rehabilitation, Robert White; Texas Architecture-1955, LaVere Brooks; speakers' bureau, William Hidell; FAIA nominating, Arthur Thomas; by-laws revision, Mallory Collins; chapter affairs, Ardery DeFonds; Producers' Council, Robert Perry; joint committee with Texas Society Professional Engineers, J. Murrell Bennett; special activities, Arch Swank; participation, Ralph Bryan; Texas Architects' Week, Enslie Oglesby.



NAMED HONORARY MEMBER—Jerry Bywaters, director of the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts since 1943 and associate professor of art at Southern Methodist University, has been named an honorary associate member of the Dallas Chapter.

Mr. Bywaters has worked closely with officials of the Dallas Chapter since the beginning of the annual series of exhibitions of Texas Architecture shown each fall at the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts during the State Fair of Texas. The exhibition has been a joint venture of TSA, the Dallas Chapter, and the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, attracting more than 100,000 persons annually.

The museum director is a graduate of Southern Methodist. He has also studied at the Dallas Art Institute, at the Art Students' League in New York, and in Europe and Mexico. His work has been exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art and Metropolitan Museum, New York; Museum of Art, San Francisco; Chicago Art Institute; and at many university and city museums and special exhibitions.

Mr. Bywaters is represented in the permanent collection of a number of museums and universities. As a muralist, he has done work at the Dallas City Hall and in postoffices at Houston, Quanah, Trinity, and Farmersville.

Mr. Bywaters has won many awards and purchase prizes. A former art critic for the Dallas Morning News, he has a number of published articles and books.

If it isn't evident from the above list that 1955 will be a busy year in Dallas—please read that list of Choirmen again. And it should be evident too that the emphasis will be on strong programs, greater contributions to the city's cultural and civic life, more recognition of the younger generation, and a furtherance of good will and fraternity between the members.

Texas Architects' Week To Feature Competitions

Local competitions will feature 1955 Texas Architects' Week, being staged by the 12 TSA Chapters across the state from April 13-20.

The annual observance, emphasizing the architect's functions and services, opens on the 213th anniversary of the

birth of Thomas Jefferson, great architect-president who designed Monticello, the University of Virginia, and other world-famed structures.

Detailed Programs in April

Many TSA Chapters are announcing

the details of Chapter competitions in local newspapers, and various Texas Architects' Week programs will also include awards to outstanding craftsmen, joint dinners with other professional groups, tours of new homes, downtown window exhibits, public discussions of problems involving the architectural field, speeches on architectural subjects, programs in the public schools, and similar activities.

The April TEXAS ARCHITECT will carry a detailed program of local Texas Architects' Week observances in various parts of the state.

"Good Design Doesn't Cost"

Chapters will distribute hundreds of window cards and small "tent" cards with a profile of Thomas Jefferson and the 1955 motto: "Good design doesn't cost; it pays." TSA members and various business firms over the state will be using a small Texas Architects' Week stamp, in vermilion red and black, on all correspondence beginning March 10.

General arrangements for Texas Architects' Week, which was held for the first time in 1952 and has been expanded in succeeding years, are in charge of John G. Flowers, Jr. of Austin, TSA executive director. Emphasis is on local competitions this year in order to furnish a greatly increased number of entries for "Texas Architecture—1955," the statewide competition slated for the Texas State Fair in October.

Watch for Local Program

Watch for the details of Texas Architects' Week events in your city, and take the opportunity to learn more about TSA and architecture in general.

San Antonio Chapter Requests TSA Study Need For Insurance Form Changes

The San Antonio Chapter, TSA-AIA, recently heard a discussion of new developments in fire insurance for the construction industry which affect the architect, by James Clutter of the Insurance Company of North America.

The Chapter, noting the possible need for revision of certain forms and regulations required by the State Insurance Commission, requested that this matter be studied by TSA.

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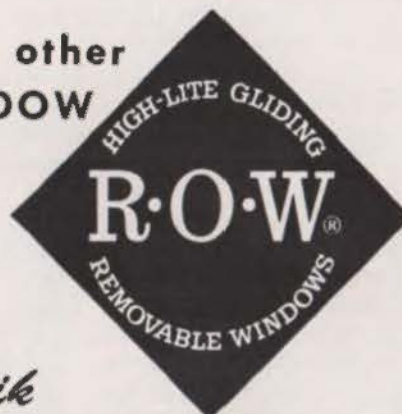
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New Mexico Architects Name Santa Fe Practitioner As 1955 Chapter President

Willard C. Kruger of Santa Fe has been named president of the New Mexico Chapter of the American Institute of Architects for 1955. He succeeds Gordon B. Ferguson of Albuquerque, N. M.

Other officers named were: W. Miles Britelle, Albuquerque, vice president; Donald P. Stevens, Albuquerque, treasurer; and Foster P. Hyatt, Santa Fe, secretary.

Small House Competition

Principal speaker for the annual meeting was Gordon W. Jamieson, Denver, national director for the Western Mountain District of the A.I.A.

Of interest to house designers over the Southwest was the announcement of awards in the small house design competition which has been sponsored jointly by the Chapter and the New Mexico Concrete Products Association.

A jury composed of Jason Moore, Albuquerque; Edwin Carroll, El Paso, immediate past president of TSA; and Edgar D. Otto, Albuquerque, announced the awards as follows:

First prize, \$1000 to Phillippe deM. Register, Albuquerque. Second prize of \$250 to a University of New Mexico student, William A. McConnell, Albuquerque.

Ten honorable mention awards of \$50 each were also given.

March 11 Is Deadline For Design Competition Within Houston Chapter

Members of the Houston Chapter, TSA-AIA, will compete this year in an Honor Awards Program. Ralph A. Anderson, Jr., is chairman of the awards committee.

Small residence with 2000 square feet or less in the basic house, large residences, institutional work, and commercial work will be the classes.

Projects eligible will be those completed since January 1, 1950.

Material required for submission includes site plan and floor plans, exterior and interior color pictures of the building, and brief comments about the problems and solutions of design.

Winning projects will be displayed during Texas Architect's Week.

Material for the competition must be delivered to the office of Wilson, Morris and Crain, 3330 Groustark, not later than Friday, March 11.

Austin Architects Participate In Conference On "Christian and Daily Life"

Several Austin architects under the chairmanship of Eugene George, TSA-AIA recently attended an all-day and evening conference on "The Christian and His Daily Work." The meeting was held in Austin.

The purpose of the conference, one of a series of national meetings, was to enable representatives of 14 professional and business groups to meet together for a discussion of Christian ethics in the business and professional world.

Among the groups represented were the following: accountants and bookkeepers, advertising, architects, engineers, insurance, labor, attorneys, manufacturers, physicians and sur-

geons, merchants, public life, printing and the graphic arts, salesmen, and teachers and professors.

During the conference, the various groups met separately for a discussion of the ethical problems in their own specific fields, and then reported back to the general conference. Overall discussions then followed.

Austin architects in attendance, in addition to Mr. George, were the following members of TSA: Arthur Fehr, Eugene Wukosch, James Pallard, and Robert Buffler. John G. Flowers, Jr., executive director of TSA, and students from the University of Texas School of Architecture also were in attendance.

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JAPANESE LIFE . . .

(Continued from Page 7)

the brilliant colors of autumnal leaves. This was not the weather for the color film in our camera. But how could any film have done such a scene real justice? We simply wished desperately to paint some sort of picture in our minds and take it with us.

Sensitivity for Beauty

At our elbow a slightly greying gen-

tleman, neatly dressed in Western style clothes awakened us with the comment, "Very beautiful!" and an enthusiastic nod. We acknowledged the nod, as was the only thing to do. We knew by then that any complicated reply we might be tempted to give in English usually would not be understood. His statement was quite simple, but it was enough to remind us of a characteristic common to so many Japanese.

This characteristic is the amazing sensitivity they seem to have for the wealth of natural beauty in their own compact nation. As a matter of fact, we find at least an outward display of sensitivity to anything large or small which can have the word beautiful attached to it. Sometimes this outward display achieves a formality which seems insincere.

Tea Ceremony

The extreme, perhaps, is the tea ceremony, in which the garden, the hanging scroll in the tokonoma, the tea bowls, etc., are each admired according to specifications. Yet this pleasure is often expressed in very unsophisticated ways.

(To be continued)

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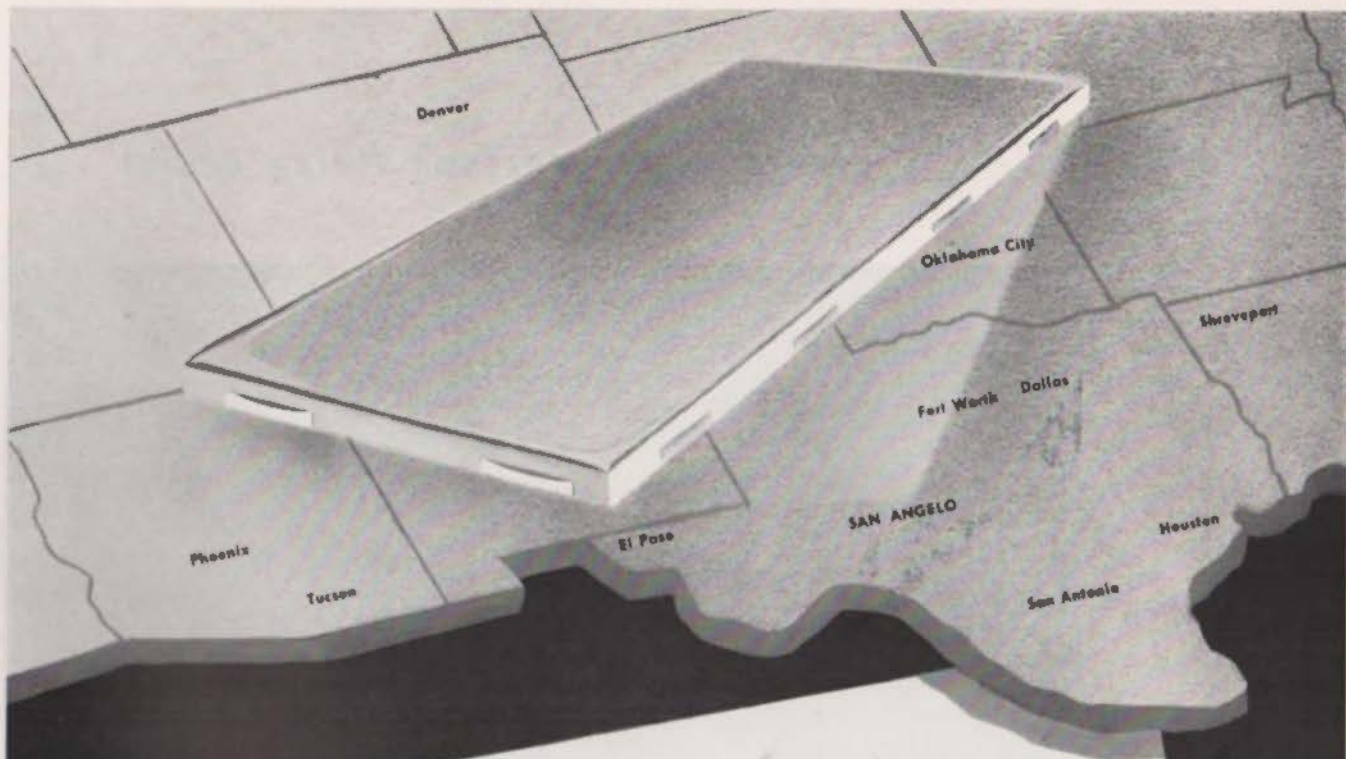
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