

**THE TEXAS
ARCHITECT**

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1973



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3 The Texas Architect congratulates Columbus on the occasion of its 150th anniversary in a pictorial preview of the town's annual Magnolia Homes Tour.

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17 Houston Fire Station #21, a "no-nonsense structure," is an example of innate simplicity and strength of form, both as a functional expression and as a civilized symbol.

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23 A Houston Diagnostic Clinic occupies an awkward site shape efficiently, becoming an admirable composition cleanly expressing its essential verticality.

25 Bank of the Southwest emerges as a mod mini-bank on 500 square feet in downtown Houston. A vinyl pop art wall serves as a backdrop to this, the smallest of four lobbies in the huge bank.

29 The Sidney Stahl residence in Dallas demonstrates how basic good design can be applied to make the most usual program into an extraordinary product with no tricks, no pretentiousness, no cuteness.

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**There's Still
A Lot of Life
In Those**

Old Columbus Homes



It was August, 1823. Stephen F. Austin and the Baron de Bastrop, carrying out Moses Austin's plans to colonize Mexican territory north of the Rio Grande, surveyed 170 acres on the Colorado River 8 miles above Atoscosito Crossing. This beautiful site, on the high west bank of the river, has appeared in historical references as the Indian village Montezuma, the colonists' settlement Beason's Ferry and, finally, the town—Columbus, Texas.

From its early years and through the Victorian Age, the town developed as a transportation point and center of an agricultural community. The Moccasin Belle and the Flying Jenny would be seen steaming down the river loaded with cotton from the Washington and Tait plantations. The railroad came to three miles east of Columbus in 1860 and later was extended to San Antonio. Cattlemen grew wealthy and farmers made a good living from the land. Settlers kept moving to the little Texas town, making that long-time commitment—the building of a home.

More than 3500 people now live in Columbus, sit-

uated just 75 miles west of the Houston metropolis on Interstate 10. The town has its share of super markets, dairy marts and gas stations—symbols of the seventies. But its people still honor their town's rich heritage. And many of the grand old homes which marked the prosperity of an earlier age remain as links with that significant period of Texas history.

In 1961, four of these century-old homes were opened to the public in conjunction with the Live Oak Art Club's annual spring show. Since that modest inception of Magnolia Homes Tour, Inc., the tour has grown to accommodate thousands of visitors each third week-end in May, providing a glimpse of the past which seems to charm a new generation. This year's tour has been expanded into a raft of activities set for May 11-20 in observance of a special occasion for Columbus—its 150th anniversary. The **Texas Architect** congratulates the citizens of Columbus and commends them for their interest in the preservation of historical architecture. Following is a pictorial preview of the Columbus Sesquicentennial tour of homes.



Built in 1887 by Henry Ilse, a farmer, rancher and saloon owner, the structure was patterned from a symmetrical Victorian style. It is constructed of cypress, with pine floors and jigsaw patterns, and contains three fireplaces with marble mantels. The roof is made of stamped metal rectangles. The house was the Isle family home until 1954. In 1965, it was purchased and restored by Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Rau and has since been known as "Raumonda."



photos by Larry Paul Fuller





This modest house, one of the oldest in Columbus, was erected by Ira A. Harris about 1860 on the lot for which he paid \$450. The walls of such houses were made of gravel and lime and then plastered over. Originally there were four large rooms, a hall and a basement which, partitioned off, was used for kitchen, dining room and storage. Dilue Rose Harris, acquainted with leaders of the Texas Republic, had her reminiscences published in the Quarterly of the Texas Historical Association. The home is now owned by Mrs. J. J. Everett and family.

The front portion of this structure was built in the mid-1800s and owned until 1845 by Stephen Townsend, member of a prominent local family and veteran of the battle of San Jacinto. In 1837, as first county sheriff, he took part in the court held under the famous old oak tree 60 yards west. In 1902, owner Edward Metzke attached a second structure to the first and added the porch. Former State Representative Homer Koliba and his wife, Bernice, a descendant of Townsend, have owned the house since 1951.



This typical post-Civil War, L-shaped empire cottage was built in 1867 by A. J. Galilee, a land agent. It has native oak sills, pine floors and a brick foundation. Siding, doors and window shutters are of cypress. The structure was bought in 1967 and restored by Arthur J. Wilrodt.



Simple columns of great dignity support the roof over the porch of this mansion, begun in 1856 by slaves of Dr. Charles Tait, military surgeon, surveyor, legislator and planter. The home, built of cottonwood siding and hand-molded bricks, was completed after the Civil War. Four chimneys, two at each end of the house, originally heated four large rooms on each floor. Now six fireplaces are open for wood fires. The attic, resembling a museum, contains mementos of former days and the basement, now a recreation area, houses the original cistern that stored rain water. The home is still occupied by Tait's, who continue the hospitality of their ancestors.

Built in the 1860s, this frontier cottage was constructed of cypress and pine. It has 14-foot ceilings and light fixtures using electricity or gas by turns. Since 1915, the home has been in the family of Dr. Willis G. and Mrs. Fay Burford Youens, whose two sons and a grandson have been practicing physicians in Colorado City.



Originally a modest one-story cottage built about 1867 by Phocian Tate, this home was sold in 1887 to A. Sentenberg, a merchant who added the second story and porches with Victorian ornamentation. In 1900, Kenneth Brandon bought the home and extended the northeast section. Most of the early features still remain. Of special interest is the basement, built of Columbus-made brick. In 1968, Magnolia Homes Tour purchased the house and restored it as a museum with furnishings of the period.

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HONOR AWARD

CITY NATIONAL BANK

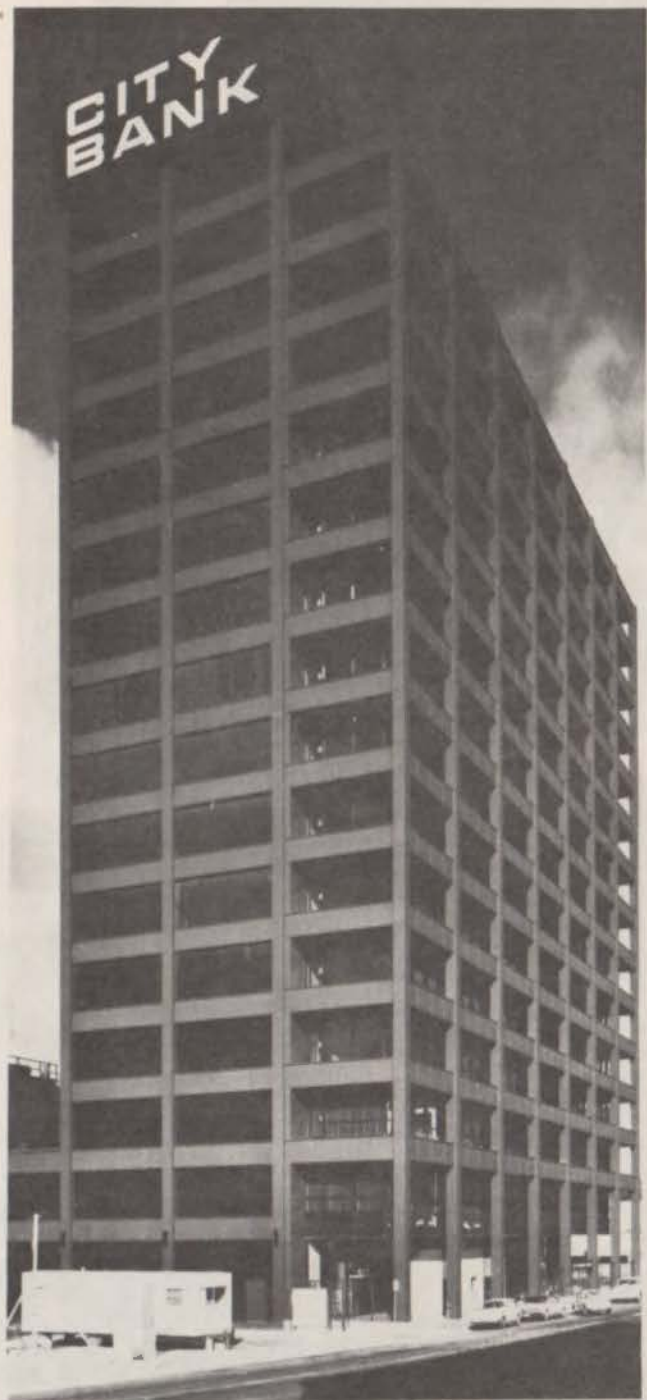
AUSTIN

PAGE, SOUTHERLAND, PAGE
ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS



Towering above Austin's Congress Avenue, in full view of the Capitol dome, is the City National Bank building—16 stories of steel and glass.

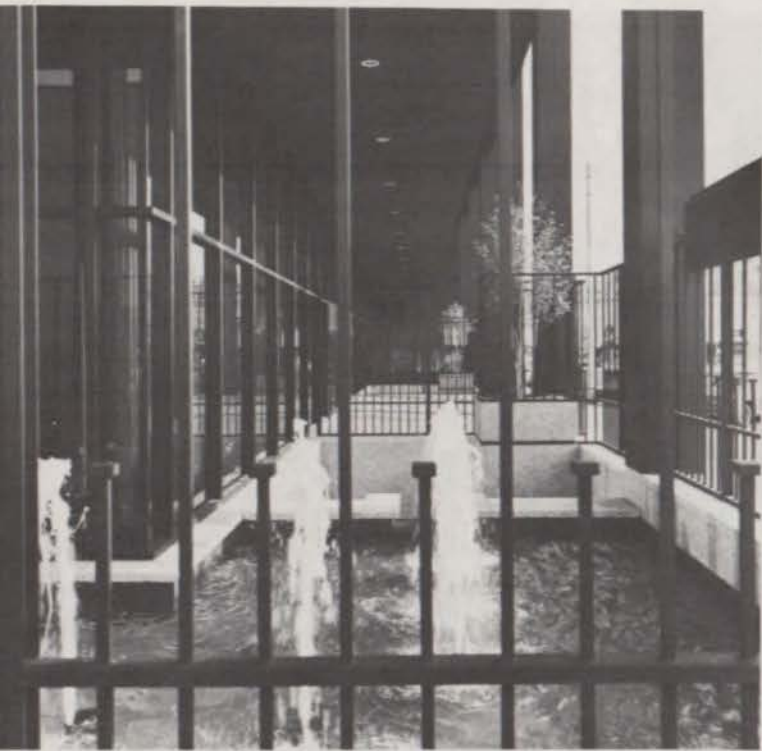
When design work began in the fall of 1969, several factors influenced the development of the final concept. Distinctiveness was sought, yet the new building needed dignity and restraint compatible with the banking profession. The design had to be functional, yet conducive to a feeling of warmth or cheeriness. Fast completion was imperative, but not at the expense of sound, lasting construction. And the downtown location called for vertical design and efficient utilization of space.



The design solution resulted in a "dark silhouette" exterior effect from the use of graphite-covered steel beams supporting tinted glass windows set in black aluminum frames. The appearance is one of cool elegance, distinct from surrounding buildings on the avenue. Interior design, however, is less restrained, brighter, in both finish and furniture. Landscaping includes liberal use of plants and fountains. Brick paving over the whole site was seen as an additional "homey" touch.

The bank board's desire for fast completion, the necessity for unusually long spans and columns, and the high cost of concrete framing led to the

(Continued on next page)



The plan called for liberal use of fountains.

use of structural steel. In the interest of architectural honesty and as a design feature, it was decided to expose the structural system. The steel construction turned out to be as fast as predicted, beginning in late March and ending in mid June, 1970.

The first five floors of the building are devoted to banking; the other eleven were left semi-finished so that partitions could be filled in to suit tenant specifications. The lowest floor, called the plaza level, is one floor below street level. Sunken courtyard areas extend around the building's base to the curbline on Congress Avenue and Ninth Street.

All floors have the attraction of large expanses of glass, offices on the plaza level having views of the courtyard. Summertime heat loads in Austin ordinarily prevent such a feature. But architects overcame the problem by setting window walls back six feet within the building frame, forming overhangs which shade all glass during most of



Spatial definition is achieved with area rugs and furnishings.

photos by Ezra Stoller

the business day. These platforms have a dark finish, controlling glare as well as direct rays of sun. Accessible from either end, the platforms will support planter boxes and also facilitate window cleaning. They are not constructed, however, for general use as balconies.

As the focal point of the building, the main banking lobby was designed with an emphasis on spaciousness. It covers most of the first floor and its ceiling is 17 feet high. A circular tellers' island, with accommodations for 16 service windows, occupies the center of the lobby. The 46-foot diameter structure has within it an elevator which drops to the huge vault one floor below. The elevator shaft enclosure is topped by a 17-foot circular planter which is illuminated by a skylight.

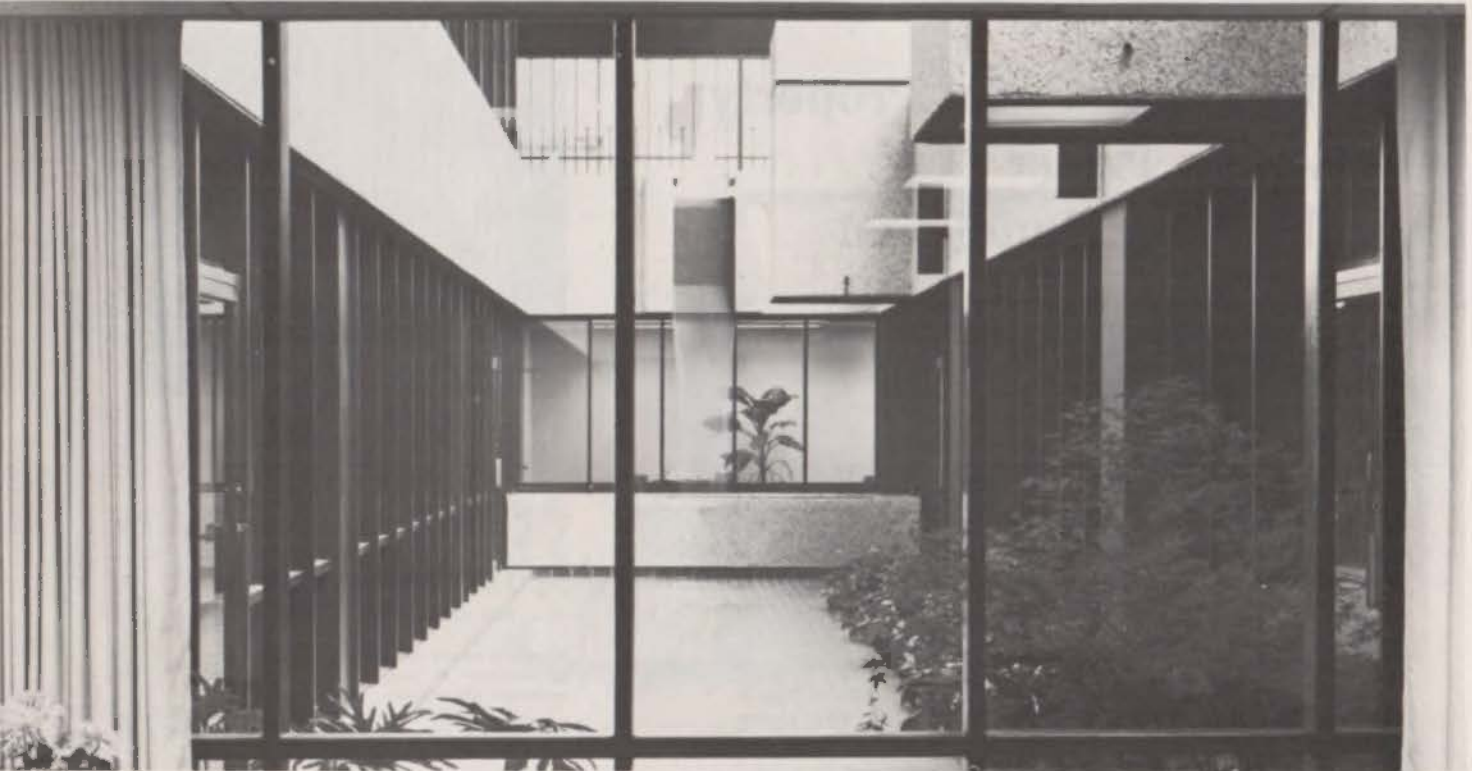
STRUCTURAL DATA

Final amount of structural steel used was 1,703 tons. Longest columns are 53 feet, weighing nine and three-quarter tons each, or 370 pounds per linear foot. Largest beams, which span the lobby, are 45 feet long, three feet deep and weigh about five tons each, or 230 pounds per foot. Floor system is corrugated metal decking on steel joists, topped by poured lightweight aggregate concrete. Footings and basement walls are reinforced concrete. High tensile strength foundation anchor bolts range up to 2.5 inches in diameter. Three gas-fired boilers with a combined output of 30 mil-

lion BTUs serve heating needs, while two steam absorption chilling units rated at 877 tons combined cooling capacity produce cold water. Separate lines deliver hot and cold water to airhandling units located on the lowest, second, seventh, eleventh and top floors.



A circular tellers' window highlights the lobby.



Lower level offices open into the sunken courtyard.



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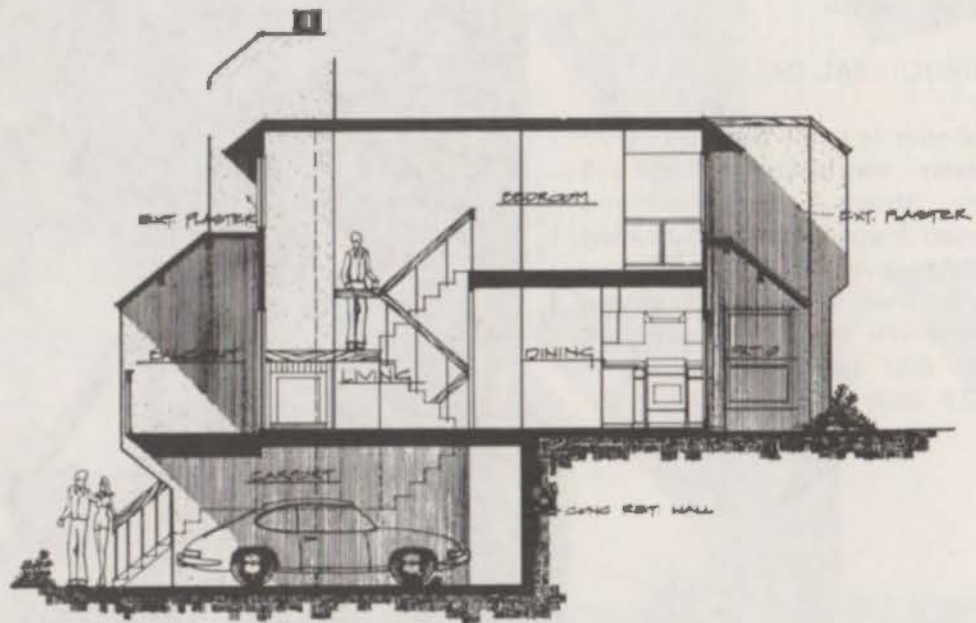
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TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1972
HONOR AWARD

TRES VIDAS

EULESS
CRAYCROFT LACY & PARTNERS



AA SECTION THRU AIS UNIT
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

20 10 0

Tres Vidas, part of the flourishing Sotogrande apartment community in Euless, emerged as the architectural answer to several design considerations. The overall concept required a structure affording apartment living with the openness and spaciousness of family dwellings. In competing for the young professional adult market, sophistication of design was considered to be a necessity. And there was an inherent problem in the greatly sloping site, complicated by the need to feature views of the already-existing golf course and lake.

Spaciousness was achieved in multi-level construction. Each floor plan provided for three levels—upper for bedroom, middle for living and entry, lower for bedroom and carport. The tri-level design also constituted the most efficient and harmonious blending of structure and site and facilitated incorporation of views to the lake and golf course. The resulting truncated massing of buildings, contemporary, yet unique, and simple, though in a sense ornate, presents the image of sophistication desired.

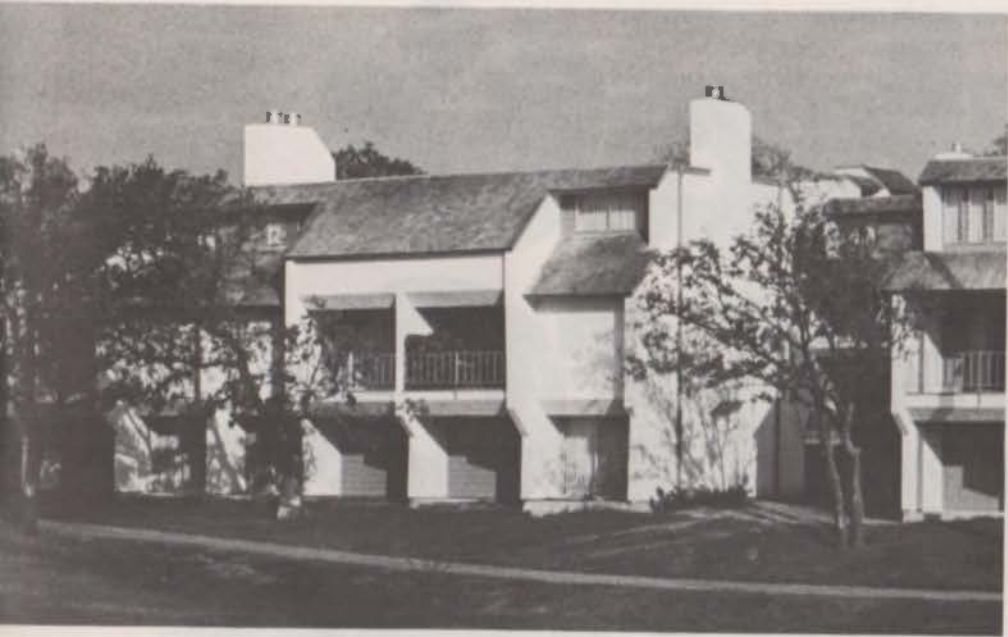
STRUCTURAL DATA

Exterior is beige textured gunite plaster and horizontal wood siding. Structure is conventional wood frame on slab foundation. Eighty-seven units, ranging in price from \$230 to \$375, occupy from 969 to 1617 square feet. On 6.03 acres, the density is 12.6 units per acre.



The plan incorporated views to the lake and golf course.
The bedroom loft is open, yet private.





Wing walls serve to individualize the design.



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Rosa Verde Medical Office Tower in San Antonio, Texas, is an excellent example of how an unusual architectural design is achieved through use of a "backbone" of structural steel framing. Maximum floor space was provided by establishing a system of irregular bay sizes and column spacings. The inherent flexibility of designing with steel was an important factor in reaching a solution which resulted in a savings of 11 tons of steel per floor over a conventional framing solution.

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ARMCO STEEL



Following a successful bond election, the city of Houston allocated funds for construction of a number of new fire stations to be located in the rapidly developing peripheral land areas. Fire Station 21 was constructed to

serve the major Plaza Del Oro complex adjacent to the Astrodome.

The building site was surrounded by a generally open field and fronted on a major interstate

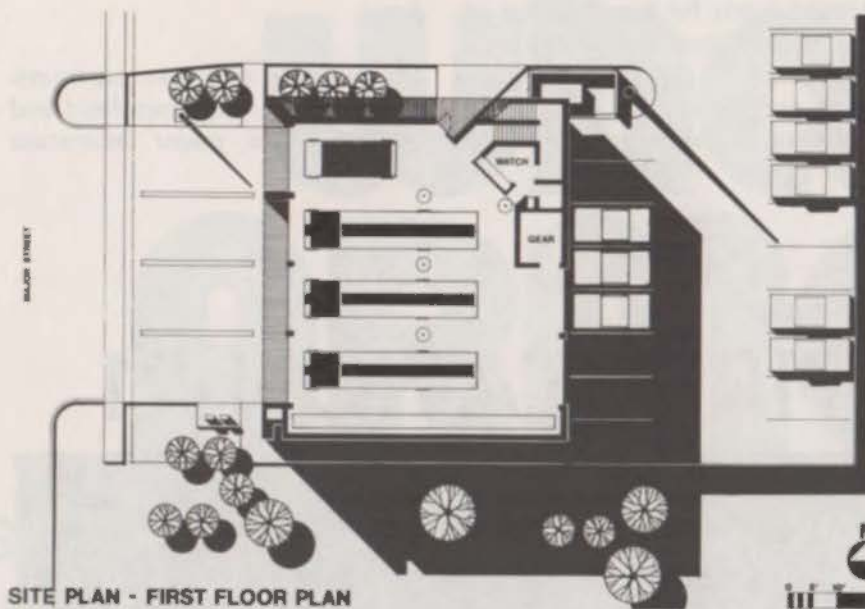
TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1972 HONOR AWARD

HOUSTON FIRE STATION 21



photo by Rob Muir Associates

KENNETH BENTSEN ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS



highway. After reviewing the design requirements of the Fire Department and visiting numerous station facilities, it was the architects' and clients' decision to design a direct, "no-nonsense" structure which would be identifiable both individually and functionally... a structure which would clearly advertise its purpose to the motorist as well as to the growing community.

The first floor of the structure accommodates three large fire trucks and a city ambulance. The second floor is designed as a dormitory complex with living facilities to house a 16-man unit of fire fighters during one shift. Materials are basic and designed for easy maintenance and longevity. The first floor is steel-troweled cement, sealed to resist oil and chemical stains. The second floor is terrazzo, and all walls are covered with heavy-duty vinyl. The four fire poles on the second floor are visually apparent, featured in clear plastic and steel cubicles.



photos by Richard Payne and Rob Muir Associates

TEXAS ARCHITECT



TSA Suggests A Plan For Land Use

TSA President Jay Barnes addressed nearly 200 legislators, architects and government officials at Austin's Driskill Hotel March 13, outlining the Society's proposal for a state land use planning agency. The recommendations, forwarded by letter to Governor Dolph Briscoe, were based on a year-long study summarized in the joint report to the TSA Board by its Committees on Urban Planning and Design and on Environmental Resources.

Commenting on professional concern, Barnes told the lawmakers, "Architects, perhaps more than any other professional group, have a responsibility to insist that our land is used in the proper way to insure the orderly growth of our communities so that the quality of life is constantly bettered." He emphasized that the proposals do not constitute an "ivory tower" approach, but take into account the real problems lawmakers face in weighing economic, political and social implications of land use planning.

Basically, the TSA plan calls for: 1) a state agency to establish and coordinate planning guidelines, 2) a continuing, independent research and information agency to develop an inventory of natural and historic resources and provide basic research, and, 3) a Governor-appointed committee composed of varied segments of the citizenry—architects, land planners, industrialists, farmers, ranchers, energy producers, engineers, economists, social scientists, lawyers, government officials—to provide input from these sources for land use policies. Also, Barnes made a "standing offer from the members of the Texas Society of Architects

and its staff to serve as resource persons to any or all committees or agencies as they set about planning for the best use of our state's resources."

The committee reports on which the proposals were based emphasized the need to place planning responsibility within a single agency of the state government to assure overall coordination of land use as developed by local entities. Priorities in development of plans were given as follows: coastal areas; then rivers, lakes and mountains; and finally the rural fringe areas surrounding cities.

In keeping with recommendations of the Texas Urban Development Commission, which was assisted by TSA, Barnes said the reports favor extension of authority of Texas municipalities to their extra-territorial jurisdictions, if the city chooses to enact such regulations, with time limits imposed upon the municipality for approval of plats. Also favored is legislation to establish development standards in all unincorporated areas.

The whole thrust of TSA's involvement, Barnes said, anticipates "the long run." "Much of the legislation currently under consideration, of necessity, addresses itself to specific problems and not to the overall planning problems. As land use becomes critical to all segments of society, as more and more government agencies, districts, and jurisdictions continue zoning, authorizing, subdividing and extending boundaries, we must take a good look at where we've come from and where we're going."

1.

CASE HISTORY

Client: Richard Baker
Real Estate Manager
North Carolina National Bank
Building: Beatties Ford Branch
Charlotte, North Carolina

Note: This is a continuation of a series of commentaries on the value of architectural services from the client's point of view reprinted from the AIA publication "10 Businessmen Talk About Their Architects."

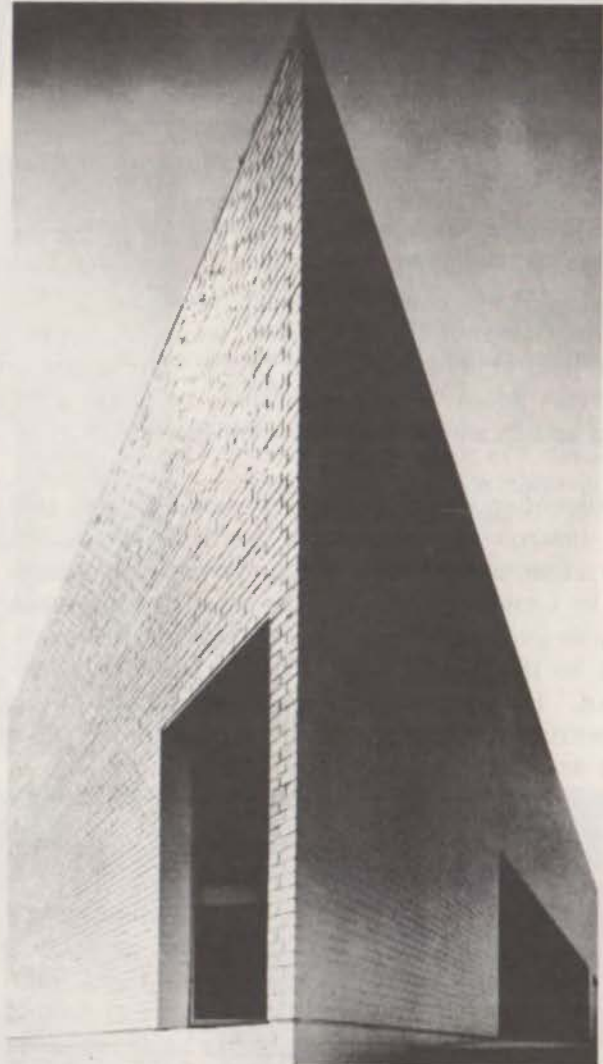
"I asked him, why the devil did you come up with a triangle? And he said

first of all he wanted to take advantage of a very prominent footpath that was there. You see, there's a high school to the rear of the site, and people who attended the school had made a route through the site going to and from school. And rather than create a barrier that would upset their routine, he designed the bank so they could continue to walk the same way, only now they'd have a little mini-park to go through. Rather a nice gesture, I thought.

Another reason for the triangular shape was to focus attention in the direction he anticipated people coming to the site. There's a shopping center and a residential area to the rear of the site, so the architect designed the bank as a triangle with all the entrances on what you'd normally think of as the rear of the bank — the hypotenuse. The two short sides of the triangle face the street, and there are no entrances on that side at all. So all the entrances face the shopping center and the residential area, and that's the way he figured most people would approach the bank. If the entrances were on the front, you see, they'd have to go around the building to get into it.

Well it all made sense to me. I'd never have thought of a triangle, that's why I'm not an architect. But it all seems to have worked out the way he figured. Business is excellent. Of course, I can't say whether any other design would have worked out just as well. But the manager tells me the customers love it. Not only the way it's laid out, but the way it looks. The triangular shape. The little mini-park. We've gotten a lot of compliments on

what we at NCNB and the architect have done to match this branch functionally to its neighborhood.



Of course, the architect has to be interested in appearance. But to get his second job with a client, he has to be just as interested in function."

6.

CASE HISTORY

Client: Gerald C. Smith
Vice President and Manager
Lexington Water Company
Building: Office Operations Building
Lexington, Kentucky

"We always had our administration and engineering staff in one building and our service and construction facilities in another. We service and recondition all our meters periodically. It's dirty, greasy work, and there are always a lot of trucks and tractor trailers pulling up. We always felt this was unsightly for the customers, so we always had a separate building for it.

So when we hired the architect, we wanted two buildings as usual. **One building was supposed to be built here, and the other was a quarter of a mile away.** He was supposed to put up an office building on this site, and renovate an old building for the service operation. But after he studied this site and we discussed the situation, the idea emerged of using this site for a building to consolidate all our activities. I can't say that the idea was definitely the architect's. But without him we certainly wouldn't have thought of it. And the final design he worked out was just perfect.

You see, the building is built into a hillside. The lower level, which is at road level, is for customer access. The third floor is for service and construction work. We receive all shipments on the third floor, where we have a dock arrangement on top of the hill for trucks and trailers. This is behind the building, and not visible to the public at all.

So the front of the building, where the customers come in, is very attractive, and public reaction has been very good. As a utility, we are rather conscious of any display of "gold-plating." Our rate payers feel as though they own the building. We are very sensitive to complaints or negative publicity.

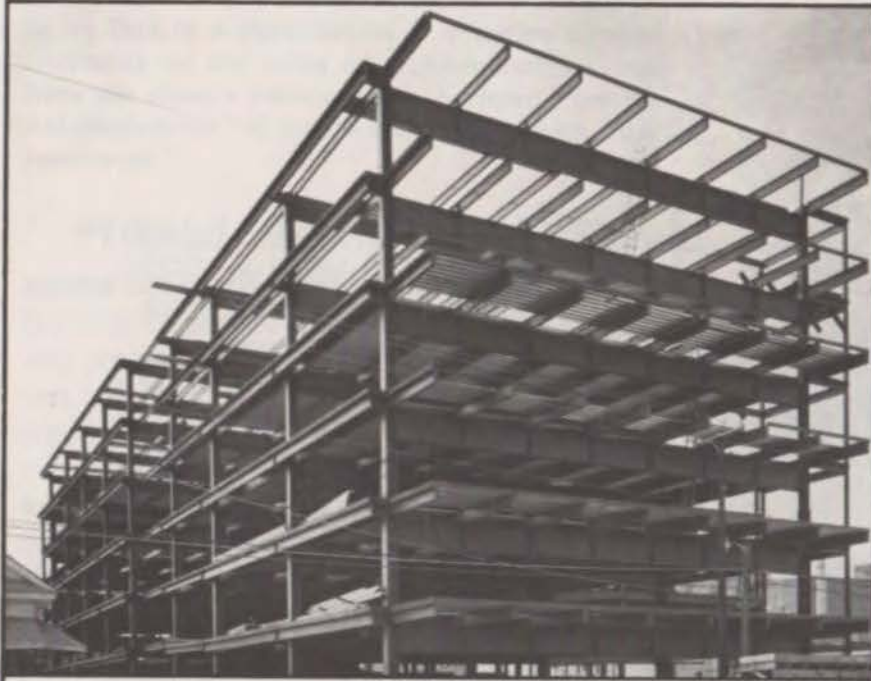
We've had experiences like that. But with this building we never had a word of criticism.

If we hadn't used an architect, the building wouldn't have been nearly as functional. We would have built a box or a rectangle, and then tried to fit what we had to do into it, instead of designing the functions and wrapping the building around them. We, ourselves, simply could not have thought of all the necessary functions on our own. These folks made a complete study of how we operate and found out about little things we take for granted — that I'm sure we would have omitted.

Another thing. This whole area is expanding very rapidly. We get about 2,000 new customers a year. And the way the building is designed, we feel we can double our staff and not be crowded. This will take us well into the future."



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Dr. Charles Burnette

UT NAMES DEAN

Dr. Charles H. Burnette, who heads an innovative environmental planning center in Philadelphia, has been named dean of the School of Architecture at The University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Burnette will assume the deanship vacated when Alan Taniguchi left the post last year to become director of the architecture program at Rice University. Since last June 1, Associate Professor J. Sinclair Black has been serving as acting dean.

At Philadelphia, Burnette has been serving as executive director of two organizations—the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Center for Planning, Design and Construction. He describes the Philadelphia center as an interdisciplinary regional organization which brings together such groups as planners, architects, contractors and other professionals who are involved in shaping the environment. It is the first center of its kind and has served as a model for similar programs being established around the country.

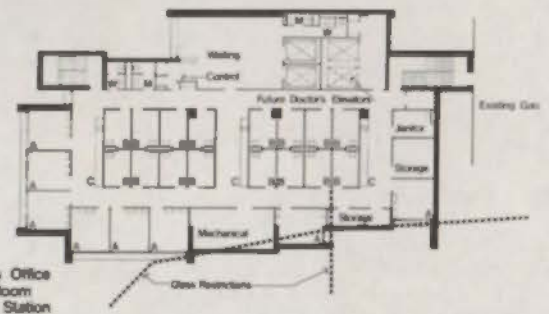
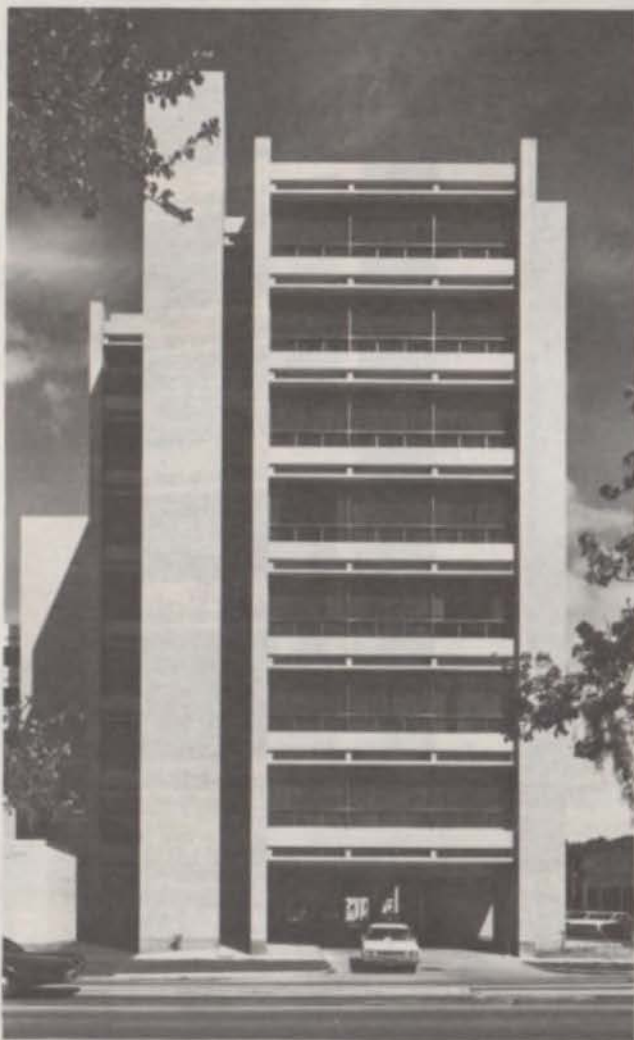
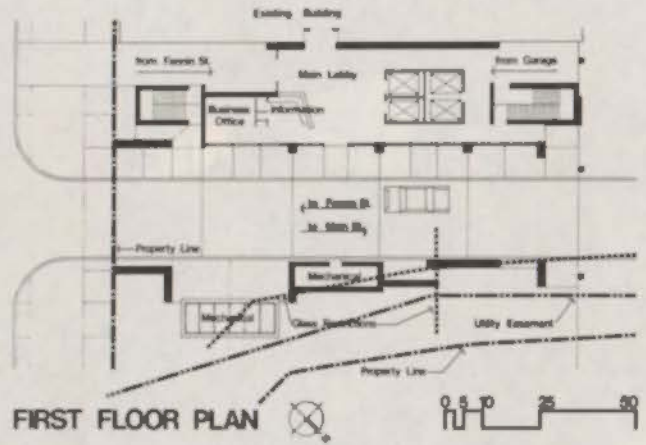
TEXAS ARCHITECT

DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC

TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1972
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GOLEMON & ROLFE ARCHITECTS



The site for this doctors' professional building was an extremely small, irregular piece of property hemmed in by a street and existing buildings and encumbered by various code and utility restrictions. The owners specifically requested that access be provided to the parking garage from Fannin Street and that all doctor's offices and waiting rooms have windows.

The design solution clusters exam rooms as the hub of a simple circulation pattern. The irregular form of the exterior shell is a direct expression of the site limitations and the owners' requirements for windows. Mechanical equipment and vertical circulation were placed where needed and expressed frankly. A simple loop duct system serves the air conditioning for each floor.

photos by Richard Payne

BANK OF THE SOUTHWEST



Honor Award Texas Architecture 1972

Kenneth Bentsen Associates
Architects Houston

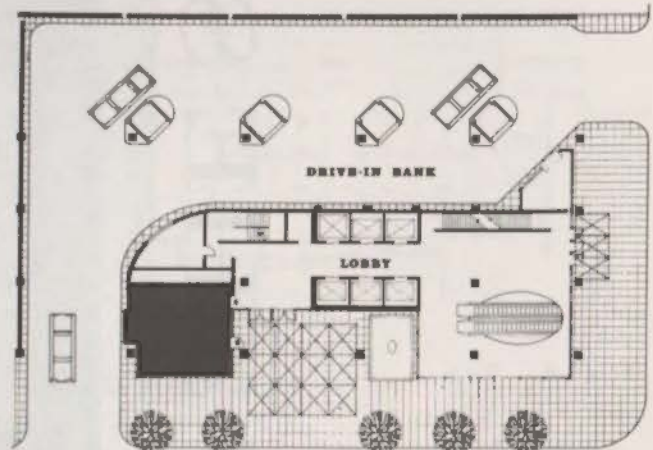


photos by Richard Payne

Architects were commissioned to design a visually dramatic banking lobby in a 500 square-foot space in an existing downtown Houston skyscraper. The lobby would be the smallest of the Bank of the Southwest's four banking lobbies. Due to smallness of the area and the street level locations, one of the major design concerns was security.

The officer and secretary are located in the open lobby area. The three tellers are behind a 1 1/4" thick highly polished stainless steel screen. The silver screen intersects a large vinyl pop art wall which also serves as the visual backdrop for the entire lobby. The floor is brown brick, and illumination is provided from a grid of suspended crystal spheres. Communication to the parent facility is provided by pneumatic tube, television and telephone computer.

Architects came up with a three-dimensional graphic of silver and pop art. It turned out to be a good art gallery, a good lighting fixture, a good cabinet, an elegant shop and a beautiful piece of walk-in sculpture.



SITE PLAN



FLOOR PLAN



OUR 'SLIPS' SHOWING

In the December 1972 issue of *The Texas Architect*, two important omissions were made inadvertently in cutlines of photos illustrating Leland A. Guinn's article, "Art in Architecture." Artist Wiltz Harrison, of the art faculty at The University of Texas at El Paso, should be credited with producing the metal wall sculpture and the fountain at Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Building shown on pages 13 and 14 (architects Carroll, Daeuble, Du Sang and Rand).

Also, it was not stated that artist Richard Rogers of San Antonio created "Star Gate Vector," page 14, a sculpture in the courtyard of Lamar Fleming High School in Houston (architects Wilson, Morris, Crane and Anderson). *The Texas Architect* regrets the oversight.

PATTERSON RETIRES

Joseph J. Patterson, FAIA, prominent Fort Worth architect and civic leader, has announced his retirement from the firm of Patterson, Sowden, Dunlap, and Epperly, Architects, Engineers

and Planners.

He is recognized throughout the Southwest as the foremost au-



thority on Gothic and other traditional styles of ecclesiastical architecture. His best examples of this style are St. John's Episcopal Church in Fort Worth, Second Church of Christ Scientist in Dallas, College Church of Christ in Abilene, First Baptist Church in Odessa and Johnson Street Church of Christ in San Angelo.

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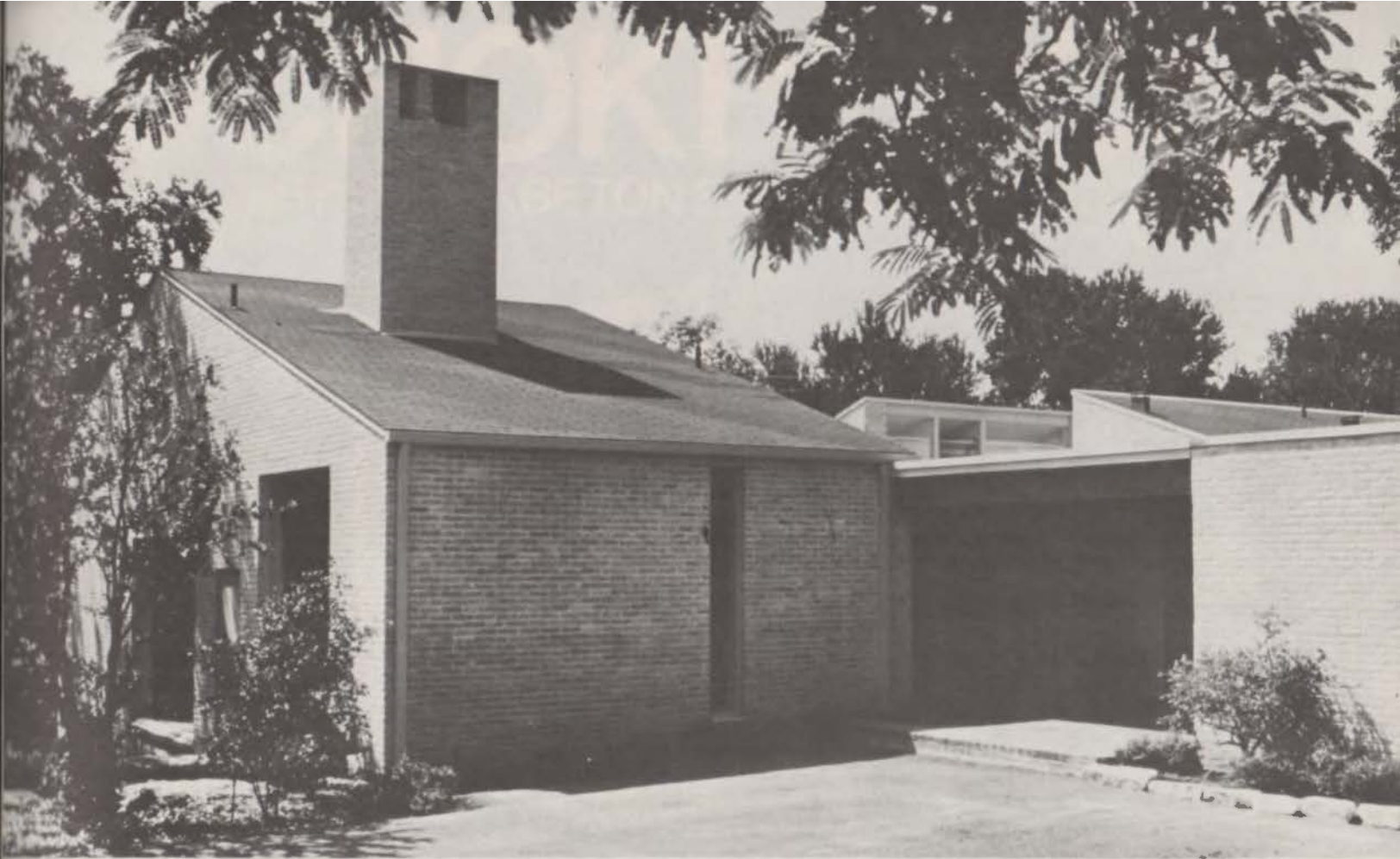
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SIDNEY STAHL RESIDENCE



The one-acre site for this residence is located in a heavily-wooded, established residential area. A creek, with exposed limestone banks, flows nearby. To obtain a better view of the creek, the structure is oriented approximately 30 degrees off north, and changes of level with the natural slope tie the house to its site.

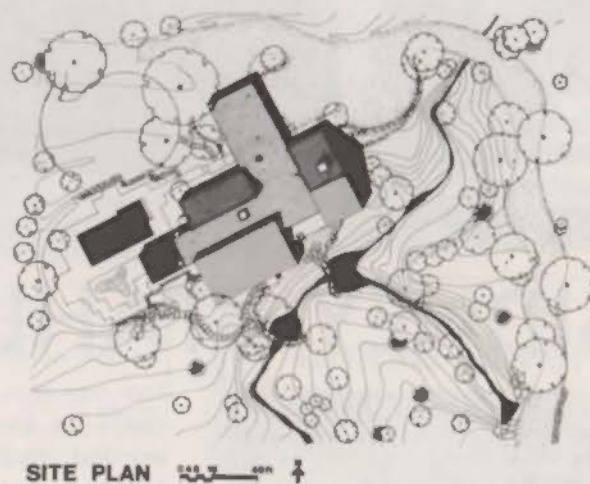
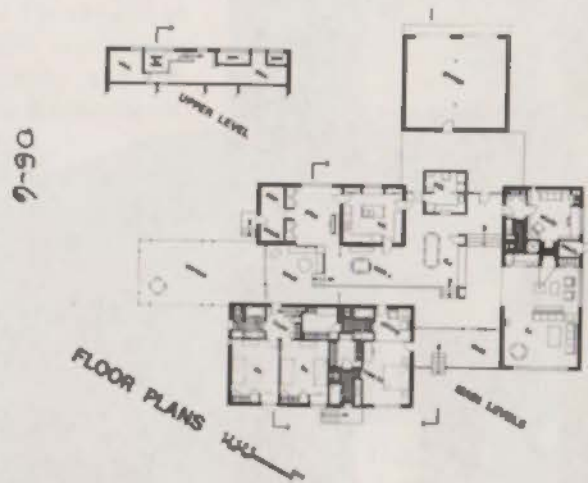
The residence consists of three distinct masses (dining, kitchen, bedrooms) connected by a lower element containing social function areas and circulation. Careful attention is given to introducing natural sunlight throughout. The house is organized internally to accommodate daily living and frequent entertaining.

The large social areas are linked by a flow of space which extends beyond the house into the site.

Interest is created by means of level changes and free-standing vertical interruptions of this space. By closing the sliding doors between the lanai and breakfast room, a visually and acoustically separate children's area can be created.

STRUCTURAL DATA

Exterior is off-white adobe brick. Gypsum board construction was used for interior partitions and ceilings of the solid elements. Exposed rough sawn beams and wood decking make up the ceiling of the linear connecting element and extend out over the entry, creek deck and pool seating areas. Floors are carpeted in the living and bedroom areas, polished oak strip covers the kitchen and dining areas and brick pavers cover circulation areas of the entry and pool terraces.



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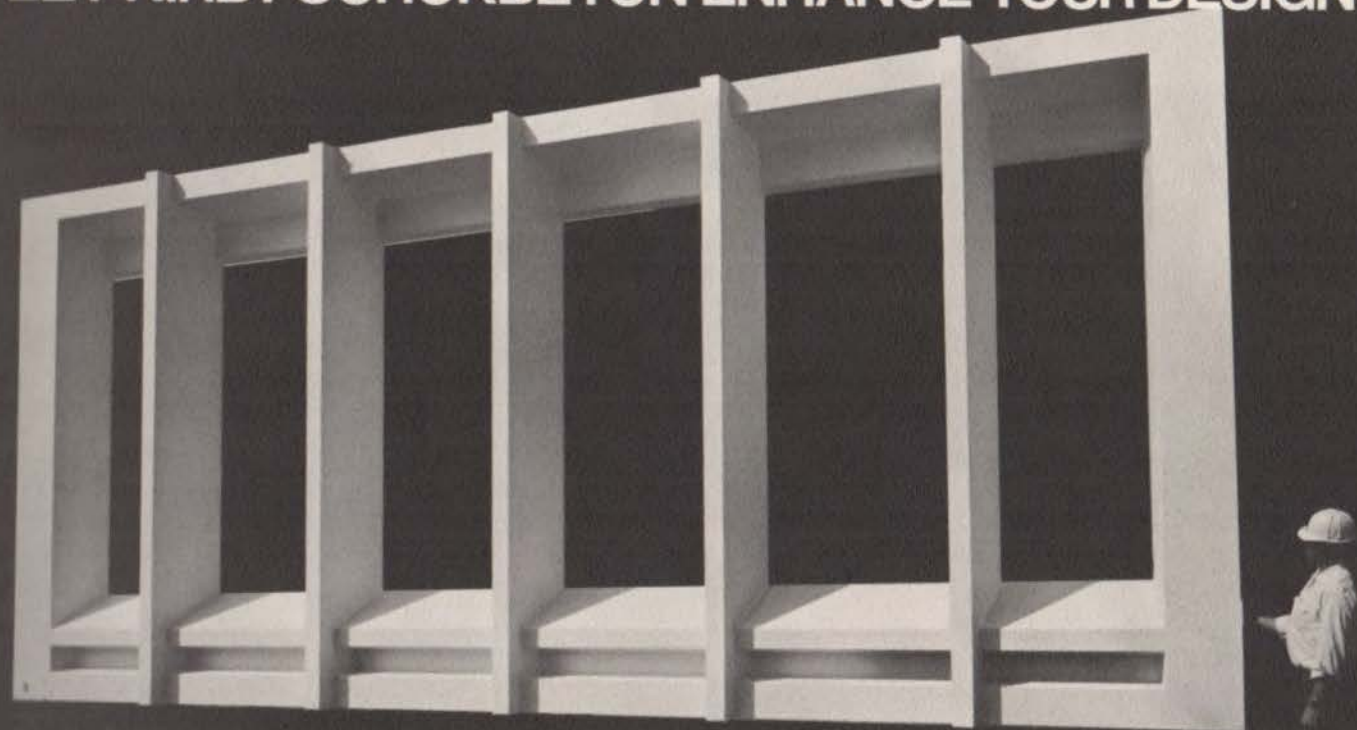
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