

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

IN THIS ISSUE

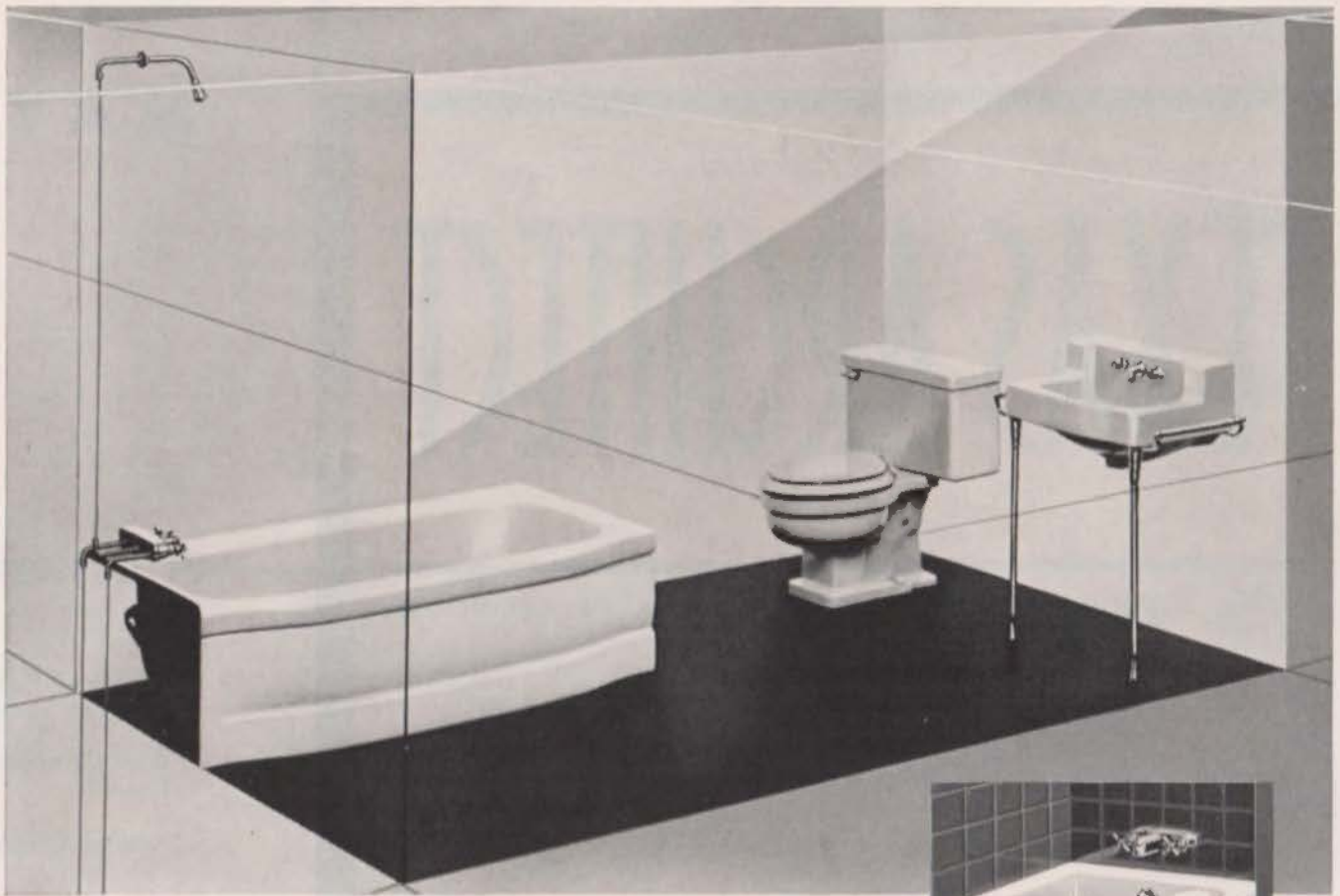
- ◆ Duplicated Plans Are False Economy
- ◆ Texas Construction Council
- ◆ Houston Chapter, AIA

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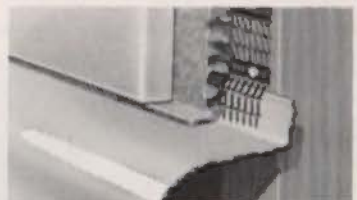
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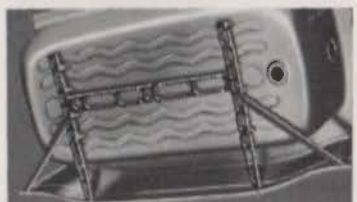
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INSIDE THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

President's Letter	8
Duplicated Plans Are False Economy	6
The Architect & The Merchant Builder	5
Houston Chapter, AIA	4
Texas Construction Council	11

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 21-25—87th annual convention, AIA,
Radisson Hotel, Minneapolis, Minn.

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



The Texas Children's Hospital, in the Texas Medical Center in Houston, has won for Milton Foy Martin, TSA-AIA, of Houston, an AIA award of merit in a national AIA competition. The award will be presented to Mr. Martin at the AIA convention in Minneapolis on June 23.

- **TSA Members At AIA National Convention**
- **Pictures of Chapter Competition Winners**
- **State Board Of Architectural Examiners**
- **More Case Histories Of How Architects Save You Money**

In This Issue

The problem of duplicated plans, a false economy move of a few well-meaning but technically uninformed school boards, is examined in an editorial.

Another editorial explores the new relationship between the architect and the merchant builder.

The President's Letter comments on the statewide success of Texas Architects' Week.

INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Advertiser	Page
Binswanger	9
Briggs Mfg. Co.	Cover II
Wm. Cameron	11
Chupik	11
Dezendorf	10
Finger Furniture	12
R. H. Folmar	6
Great Southern	1
Layne-Texas	10
Monarch Tile	4
Portland Cement	2
Southern Inspection Service	12
Texas Bitulithic	7
Texas Bureau for L & P	8
Texas Quarries	Cover III
Uvalde Rock	Cover IV

History of Houston Chapter, AIA

By HIRAM A. SALISBURY, TSA-AIA, Houston

The history of the Houston Chapter of The American Institute of Architects parallels to a large extent that of the Dallas Chapter.

Some form of an architectural society existed in Houston as early as 1913—not quite so early as was claimed for Dallas, but culture was slower coming to Houston. No records exist of this early organization but there are men still living in Houston who remember it as a statewide group.

The first architects in Houston to join the AIA did so in 1920-1921. The records indicate that seven or eight men were made members of the national institute at that time. Then in 1923, evidently to prepare for application for a charter as a separate Chapter, another seven or eight architects became members. Pursuant to this action a charter was applied for and granted to the South Texas Chapter, AIA in 1924.

Fifteen architects were charter members of the South Texas Chapter. Of

this number nine are still active and six are deceased.

NO RECORD OF EARLY YEARS

Among these charter members now deceased were Ollie J. Lorehn, the father of the Registration Law in Texas, and William Ward Watkin, long identified with Rice Institute as Architect and Professor of Architecture.

There is no record of the activities of this early group. The fact is, no records of the Houston Chapter or of its predecessor, the South Texas Chapter, are available until 1940. Evidently this is the year the "Rice" boys took over the running of the Chapter affairs.

In 1940 the secretary reported 47 AIA members. No Fellows were included in this number, two members were suspended and one was "diseased." The secretary mercifully did not divulge the "diseased" member's name or the malady from which he suffered and there is no further record on this unhappy member.

However, in 1940 the Honor Awards were instituted and in the year 1941 a full group of awards were made. By 1943 the chapter had grown to 62 members. In 1945 the Houston Section of the TSA and the South Texas Chapter of the AIA became one organization.

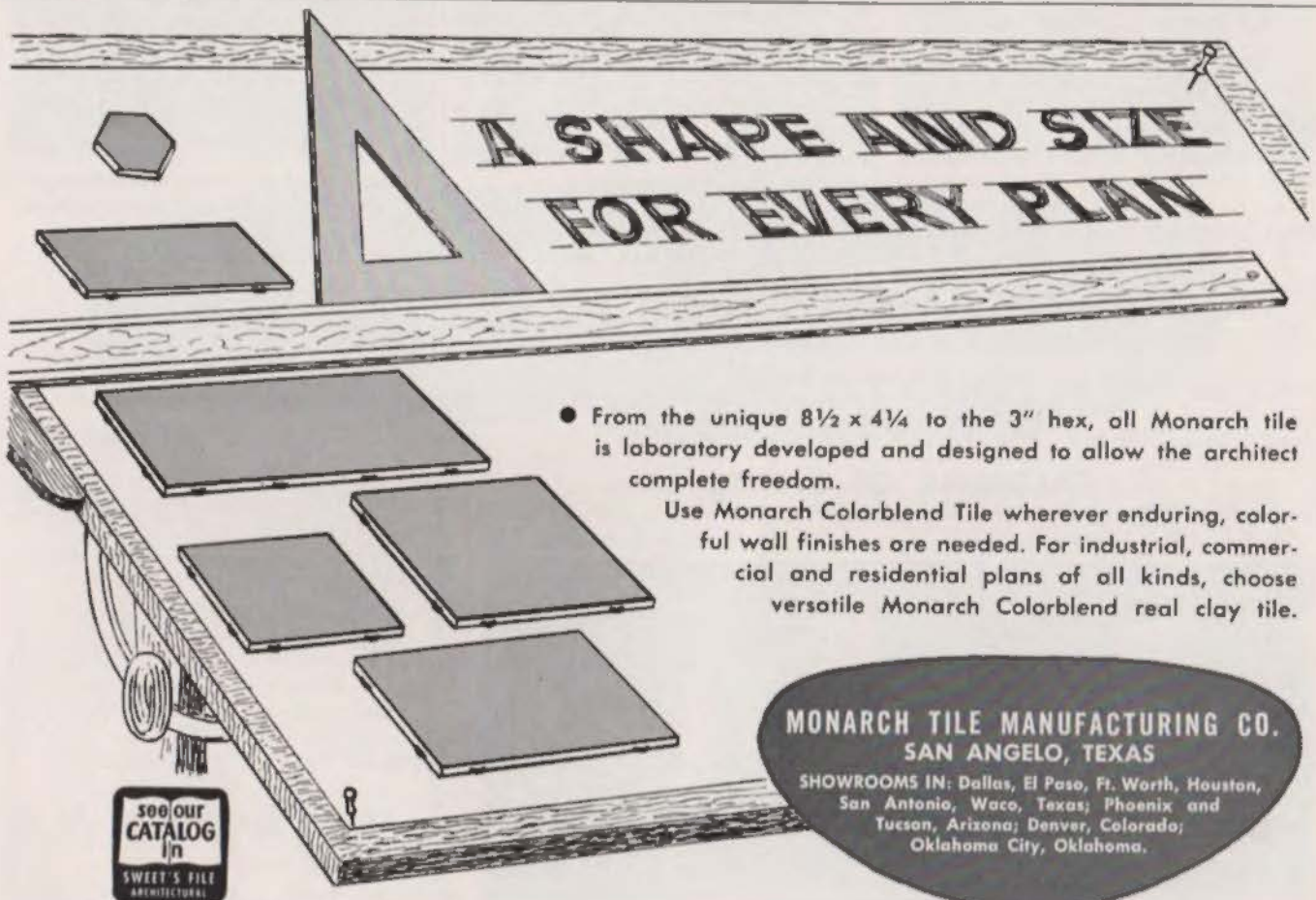
TSA CONVENTION IN 1946

In 1946 the South Texas Chapter was host to the annual convention of the TSA. At this convention unification of the Texas Society of Architects and The American Institute of Architects was accomplished, with TSA becoming a regional organization of the AIA and the South Texas Chapter becoming the Houston Chapter, AIA. By 1946, the Houston Chapter had grown to 135 corporate members.

In 1947 Harry D. Payne of the Houston Chapter instituted the group insurance plan which has developed into such an important part of TSA activities.

AIA CONVENTION IN 1949

In 1949 Houston was the site of the 81st annual convention of the AIA. Under the leadership of Kenneth Franzheim, then president of the Houston (Continued on Page 12)



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False Economy

Grayson Gill, TSA-AIA of Dallas, president of the Texas Society of Architects, points out in an important article in this issue the false economy involved in the duplication or re-use of plans.

Well-meaning, but technically uninformed, boards and groups of citizens, Mr. Gill points out, have from time to time seized upon the idea that savings can be achieved by the duplication or re-use of plans and specifications from which satisfactory buildings have been constructed in the past. As a general rule, however, there are no savings in such a procedure. Instead, serious losses often materialize.

Among the reason for these losses are the following: Duplicated plans neglect improvements in planning; special problems of orientation, site, and foundation; and better and more effective use of building materials and techniques which are constantly being developed. Instead of savings, and no one can blame a school board for searching out possible economies, duplicated plans result in buildings which do not suit the site on which they are located, or the uses to which they are to be put. By neglecting these important points, as well as newer and better planning, materials, and techniques, duplicated plans lead to false economy and to serious losses.

Mr. Gill cites a resolution by the Wichita Section of the Kansas Chapter, American Institute of Architects, which summarizes the entire problem in clear and meaningful language. He points out the powerful example of public utilities, operated on the most economical and business-like basis, which almost without fail use entirely new designs and specifications for even simple service structures. In summary, he shows that duplication or re-use of plans is not economy, but false economy and waste which neglects progress and the lessons learned from experience.

We recommend Mr. Gill's thoughtful article to everyone interested in building, and in these days, that includes every citizen and taxpayer.

The Architect and the Merchant Builder

The Bulletin of the Chicago Chapter, AIA, is devoted this month to the subject of the new relationship between the architect and the merchant builder.

The home builder has always been a most important factor in the nation's economy. Recently, the volume of home building, especially by the larger merchant builders, has been one of the prime indicators of U.S. economic health.

The merchant builder has always needed the skill of the architect, and architects have long recognized the size of the possible field for the use of their talent and experience in builders' homes. There have always been builders, of course, in every price range, who have retained architects for many years. But architects have not been used at all to the extent they should be, in the tremendous home-building activity since World War II.

In 1952 the United States Gypsum Company decided to do something about this problem. They set up a Research Village project, which would (1) seek out new design and construction ideas, particularly for the merchant builder (2) create new uses for building materials and (3) create more livability, comfort, safety, and value for the homeowner.

The National Association of Home Builders, and distinguished members of the American Institute of Architects, including L. Morgan Yost, Kenilworth, Ill.; John W. Root, Chicago; and Richard Bennett, also of Chicago; all Fellows of the AIA, cooperated in important phases of this project.

One of the results was the selection of six architects by the members of the AIA advisory panel named above. Each of these architects came from different climatic areas of the U.S., and the NAHB assigned a merchant builder "team mate" to work with each designing architect in an advisory capacity. Among the architects selected was O'Neil Ford, TSA-AIA of San Antonio, with Frank Robertson of San Antonio as his "team mate" builder.

Mr. Ford and Mr. Robertson, and the other five teams, have produced homes which are a great credit to both the architectural profession, the NAHB, AIA, and merchant builders everywhere. In so doing, they have pointed the way for closer cooperation between the architect and the merchant builder, for the benefit of the prospective homeowners and John Q. Citizen in general.

The U.S. Gypsum Company is to be congratulated on an excellent project which should help everyone concerned in the tremendous industry of home-building, including architects, builders, manufacturers, and home buyers.

Duplication Or Re-Use Of Plans Is False Economy Leading To Waste

Virtually every community in Texas, and across the entire nation, faces the problem of classroom shortages and the need for heavy additional investments in its school plant. It is natural, therefore, for school board members and other citizens to explore every feasible means of reducing the cost of new classrooms and related facilities.

Well-meaning, but technically-uninformed, boards and groups of citizens have seized from time to time upon the idea that savings can be achieved by the duplication or re-use of plans and specifications from which satisfactory buildings have been constructed previously. Experience, that hard teacher, has demonstrated that as a general rule the anticipated economies do not materialize. Furthermore, the end result of using duplicated plans is often a considerable loss, both in actual dollars and in many other respects.

REASONS FOR LOSSES

There are exceptions to every general rule, including this one, and in isolated instances the re-use of duplication of plans has resulted in good

By
Grayson Gill
TSA-AIA
Dallas

buildings which serve the purpose they were intended for. These instances are rare, however, and it is natural for you to hear about them rather than the vastly more numerous cases in which duplicated plans have caused financial and other losses of a serious magnitude.

CAUSE EXCESSIVE COSTS

The reason is that duplicated plans neglect improvements in planning, special problems of orientation, site, and foundation; and better and more effective use of building materials and techniques, in addition to other important factors.

They thereby often cause excessive costs and result in buildings which simply do not serve the purposes for which they were intended or the environment in which they are located.

The Wichita Section of the Kansas

Chapter of the American Institute of Architects has presented to the Board of Education of Wichita the following statement:

"Certainly in the public interest every effort shall be toward the best possible school facilities with the most economical construction and operating costs.

EDUCATION NOT STATIC

"Education is not a static thing, but dynamic. It is a challenge to the school administrators to keep the curriculum current and progressive. It is also a challenge, and a duty of the Architect and the school officials, to provide facilities that are advanced in all respects.

We believe the following points to be important in the development of well designed schools.

(1) "Duplication of buildings generally prevents proper improvements and progress.

(2) "Each new project no matter how identical in basic needs provides the opportunity to: Do a better job of planning; simplify and improve construction methods; incorporate more economical methods of construction; make better use of space; and profit from previous experience.

(3) "A new project leaves the Arch-

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itect free to take advantage of: Utility locations, community requirements, topography, orientation, location, traffic requirements, present and future requirements, and available space.

(4) "Money and time saved in duplication of planning may often be lost in attempting to make the building fit a site, in losing an opportunity for improved and more economical planning and construction details, etc. It is felt that advanced planning as used by the board in certain instances does much to solve the time problem and obtain better results.

"We believe that as Architects we can better serve you and the community by designing each building required as a separate project."

This important statement speaks for itself.

EXAMPLE FROM BUSINESS

Public utilities companies have made an outstanding record of holding down the cost of their services, and in the case of the electric power industry have made amazing reductions in the cost of their services as a result of exhaustive studies of every element of their operation. The duplication of any construction work, of which these utili-

ties do a large volume, is the very rare exception. Simple service structures of identical function, built at intervals of only a year or two, are executed from entirely new documents incorporating improvements resulting from a careful analysis by operating personnel and the architect of operations in the facility last built.

Unfortunately public buildings do not have the benefit of the close and critical scrutiny given to their facilities by the continuing management of public utility companies.

PROFESSIONAL SKILL EMPHASIZED

An architect of professional stature will be critical of his own work and that of others in connection with existing buildings which are the prototypes of projected buildings under new building programs. It is his responsibility to present to those public officials responsible for new building programs the possibilities of improved design and the effective application of new materials and techniques to the end that more useful buildings may be provided at lower cost.

Too much emphasis has been placed upon the drawings and specifications for building construction. They are in-

struments of service only, and are comparable to the surgeon's instruments and the hospital staff and facilities. It is the skill of the surgeon that results in a successful operation and likewise it is the skill of the professional architect with the aid of these instruments of service, the drawings and specifications, which produces the best buildings at the lowest cost.

CHANGES IN TECHNIQUE

The surgeon performs successive operations in the same operating room, but his procedure for identical operations must be adapted to the individual characteristics of his patient, and from week to week and year to year his technique changes as a result of his own experience and that of his fellow practitioners.

I hope that the analogy is clear, and that I have demonstrated here and elsewhere in this article some convincing argument for what private corporations have found long ago: The professional skill of the architect, studying each individual school in the terms of the problems and requirements involved, will give you a satisfactory and economical building. Duplicated plans give you only the risk of static thinking, dissatisfaction, and waste.

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The President's Letter

By
Grayson Gill
TSA-AIA
President,
Texas Society
of Architects



The planning of activities during Texas Architects' Week, staged by the twelve chapters of the Texas Society of Architects during the week of April 13 through 20, was organized under the leadership of Harold Colhoun, chairman of the public relations committee, TSA, to insure participation by the 12 Chapters in the state.

Chapter functions arranged for TAW bring to the attention of increasing numbers of the general public a better understanding of the functions and services of the architect. Public interest and attention, we found, was stimulated by cards, posters and TSA stamps, and fostered at the local level by the chapter affairs during TAW.

An example of effective activity at the local level was the dinner arranged by Amarillo members of the Panhandle Chapter for Wednesday night, April 13, at the Amarillo Country Club. This was an illustration of the possibility of bringing the celebration of Texas Architects' Week to various cities within a Chapter area which covers a relatively large territory, giving the widest possible diffusion to this public relations activity of the Society.

Special TAW chapter meetings featured craftsmanship award dinners honoring outstanding craftsmen in the building trades, recognition of awards to members of our profession, exhibits of the work of the architectural schools, chapter competitions and exhibition of architectural work by TSA members, activities of the architects' wives' auxiliaries, civic activities of chapters and individuals in connection with urban redevelopment and similar projects, sponsoring of art museum exhibits and nationally recognized speakers on timely subjects of interest to our profession and the public, and many other events.

The planning of Texas Architects' Week was undertaken as soon as the

public relations committee was appointed last November. The public relations committee chairmen of the Chapters comprising the TSA committee, directing this work kept their local arrangements moving at a creditable rate and the results of TAW reflect not only the energetic management of this most effective public relations medium but the

interest and hard work of the individual Chapter members.

Texas Architects' Week for 1955 has established a mark to shoot at in the future. It proved to be an effective contribution of the architects of Texas to a better understanding of their responsibilities by the public, to whose service they are dedicated.

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Impertinent Comments On Japanese Life And Architecture

By TOM W. SHEFELMAN

Editor's Note: Mr. Shefelman is a young Texas architect who has been traveling and studying in Japan with his wife Janice.

This room has been our temporary Tokyo quarters for a month. It is cheap, 7000 yen or about 20 American dollars per month. It is refreshing in its simplicity and so clean we can eat off the floor. No shoes in here, please. Any time we clutter it up with our misplaced belongings or fail to dust and wipe the polished woodwork in the morning, we feel our own lives cluttered and unclean. Indeed, Shinto taught one ethic well — be clean! This teaching meant not only elimination of dirt and filth but of clutter. Even if one must possess objects, each is to be either isolated for its usefulness and beauty, or is to be put away out of sight. In the private life of many Japanese, this well-engrained teaching is still clearly evident. Sometimes, perhaps, it is carried to painful extremes.

KEEPING WARM IN JAPAN

This little room of ours is also cold. Central heating is far from common in even the more expensive houses. Neith-

er are we blessed with a "kutatsu" or foot warming pit in the middle of the floor. We have seen these in some houses usually located in the principal

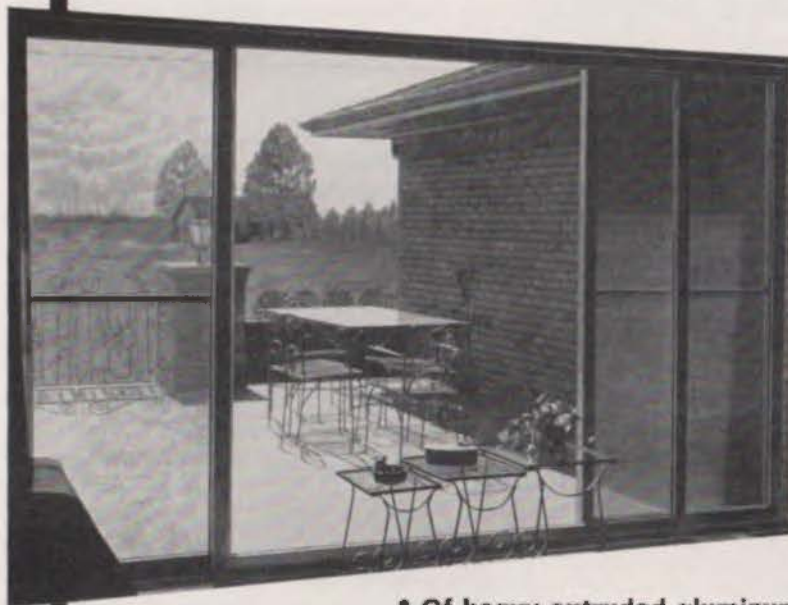
family gathering room next to the kitchen. Even the latest houses are not good examples of insulation. Insulation is not one of the advantages of the two-inch plaster wall panel, the 1/2-inch exterior cedar siding, nor of the generous use of sliding paper and glass

(Continued on next page)



The public bath or "Sento", men's side.

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doors. The "hibachi" or charcoal urn is still the usual means for keeping warm in these cold little houses during the winter. Around this we huddle to warm our hands while the rest of our body must depend principally upon warm clothing. It seemed fantastic to us at first to discover that even a small gas stove is considered quite an investment by most Japanese. It seems

not so fantastic now. The average salary in an architectural firm we are well acquainted with here amounts to roughly 40 American dollars per month. And in view of the present economic situation in Japan, these boys are lucky to have jobs.

THE PUBLIC BATH

As for bathing, it would have been quite inconvenient to use the household

bath in our landlady's residence. Whenever we could not confirm to the family's bathing hours we would have to buy our own charcoal and fire up the hot water heater ourselves. Automatic central hot water heaters are a luxury in most homes. The deep wooden tub is still the most commonplace among families which can afford a private bath. Sometime before bathing time it is filled with cold water, and the wood or charcoal fire is started in the adjacent hot water heater. A single pipe circulates the cold water through the fire and out again into the tub. This process continues until the several bathers using the bath on any given day have been accommodated. In both the private family bath and the public bath all soaping and rinsing is done outside of the tub, and the water is near boiling. So the last in line is not supposed to concern himself with thoughts of sanitation just because the same water had simmered several bodies before him.

We have chosen to use the public bath or "sinto" where someone else does the firing up and we just do the bathing. These establishments are well distributed throughout Tokyo. They are generally clean, spacious though often crowded and, contrary to some misunderstandings in Western countries, quite respectable to this very day. The sexes are segregated.

Yet, should one of the sexes be within viewing range of the other when either is undressed there appears to be no embarrassment except, perhaps, to the foreigner. The arrangement on each side of the "partition" consists, generally, of a large dressing room with matted floor and the bathing room with a huge tile tub, rows of hot and cold water faucets, tile floor, wooden buckets and a steamy atmosphere.

After removing our shoes, Janice and I enter our respective sides, pay 15 yen each, undress, throw our clothes in baskets and pass through glass sliding doors to soap, rub, rinse and tub along with the curious Japanese bathers. We still feel a bit awkward as the children stare at these rare, pale bodies, which turn violently pink after a simmering in the tub. But any such embarrassment is more than offset by the wonderful warm glow we feel for an hour or two after leaving the sento. During a Winter of living Japanese style such warmth is a luxury we could hardly do without.

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Texas Construction Council Works In Public Interest

The Texas Construction Council is an association sponsored by the League of Texas Municipalities, The Texas Society of Professional Engineers, Municipal Contractors Association and Texas Society of Architects. It was organized in 1945, but at that time did not include the Texas Society of Architects. The Texas Society of Architects became affiliated with the Council in 1949 and has been represented continuously since.

At present, the T.S.A. representatives to the Council are Preston M. Geren, Sr., Chairman, J. Earl Neff, C. O. Chromaster and Leo M. J. Dielmann.

The purpose of the Council can best be expressed by quoting the preamble to its Constitution:

"Realizing the responsibility placed upon public officials, practicing engineers, architects and constructors in expending public funds for improvements which directly affect the health and welfare of the citizenship of a community, we dedicate the Texas Construction Council to a closer cooperation between these organizations which must cooperate and collaborate if the best interest of the public is served."

The Council is required to have an annual meeting during the month of December each year. Special meetings may be called from time to time by the President and must be called upon written request of five members. The Council and the Board of Directors shall also meet on the second Saturday of March and June at places designated by the President.

NEW MANUAL PREPARED

At the meetings of the Council matters of interest to the various members and matters of public interest are brought up for discussion. Notable among the Council's achievements have been preparation of documents of interest to its membership and to the public officials of municipalities of Texas. Chief among these documents is one entitled "Municipal Officials Manual." This manual was prepared by a committee of the membership and was published through the courtesy of the Municipal Contractors Association. It deals primarily with municipal construction and the problems which municipal officials face in connection therewith. It is a useful document for

By Preston Geren, Sr.
TSA-AIA
Fort Worth



officials of small municipalities which do not have full time staffs of legal and engineering advisors. It has had wide circulation, not only in Texas, but has been requested by municipal officials of many municipalities in other states.

Another document of interest and
(Continued on next page)

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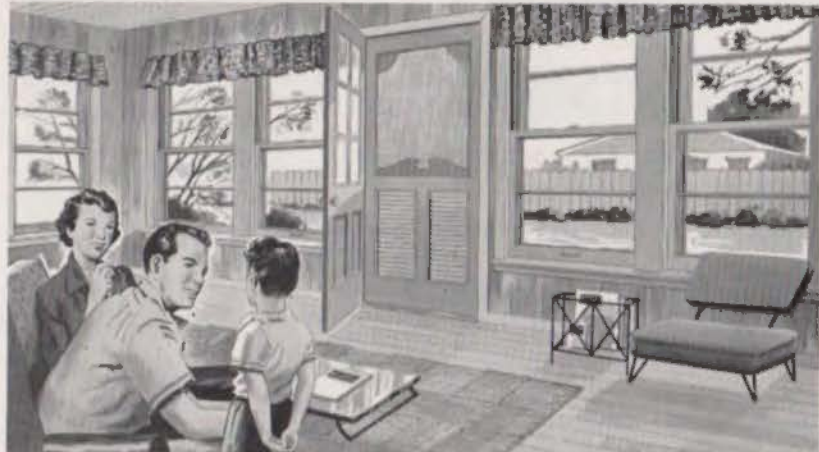
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Lilliott Named Head Of Newly-Formed UH School of Architecture

Richard W. Lilliott, TSA-AIA of Houston, has been named director of the newly-formed School of Architecture at the University of Houston.

An architecture program was initiated at the University of Houston in 1945, under the School of Engineering, with about seven students. Since that time the department had grown to 191 students, with a five-year curriculum which was fully accredited.

The department had opened a new \$160,000 architecture building in 1953. Mr. Lilliott has been with the University of Houston since 1940, and has been professor of architecture since 1945 when a department of architecture was first organized at the university.

Houston Chapter . . .

Chapter, a highly successful convention was held from March 11 to March 18. At this convention Frank Lloyd Wright was given the Institute's Medal. By this time the Houston Chapter had over 150 members, of which members six were Fellows of the AIA.

The Houston Chapter will again be hosts to the Texas Society of Architects in 1955, from November 2-4 at the Shamrock Hotel, and in preparation for the convention the Chapter elected an unusually strong slate of officers. The officers are: Thompson McCleary, president; Baldwin N. Young, first vice-president; Mace Tungate, Jr., second vice-president; Gunter W. Koetter, secretary, and Charles F. Sullivan, treasurer.

Auxiliary Organized in 1954

All committees are ably staffed, with the public relations committee under the chairmanship of Robert W. Maurice and the honor awards committee under the chairmanship of Ralph A. Anderson, Jr. being unusually active at this time.

In 1954 wives of the architects in the Houston Chapter organized a Women's Auxiliary. The Auxiliary was an immense help in the observance of Texas Architects' Week in 1954 and again in 1955.

The Houston Chapter is now made up of 183 corporate members of the AIA of which 10 are Fellows, 32 associates, 27 junior associates and five TSA associates.

Fehr & Granger Win Medal of Honor In Chapter Competition

The medal of honor in the Chapter competition of the Central Texas Chapter, TSA, has been presented to Fehr & Granger for their design of the new high school at Victoria.

Two awards of merit were given in the same competition. One went to Poge, Southerland & Poge, Austin, for a new Austin elementary school. The other award was to Niggli & Gustafson, Austin, for the Terrace Motel in Austin.

Pictures of the winning designs will be shown in subsequent issues of the TEXAS ARCHITECT.

W. H. Fulkerson, Jr. Heads Dallas Chapter of A.I.D.

W. H. Fulkerson, Jr., Dallas decorator, has been elected president of the Dallas Chapter of the American Institute of Decorators.

Texas Construction Council . . .

importance is a form of contract for engineering services between municipalities and engineering firms. This has just recently been approved by the Council and also has been approved by the Texas Society of Professional Engineers, which organization had a committee of its own working on this project. At the meeting of the Council held in Houston, March 5th, a Publication Committee was appointed to seek ways and means of publishing this particular document.

T.S.A. is well represented on the Council as its representatives are faithful in attendance. The annual meeting in Fort Worth, December 1954, was attended by Preston M. Geren, J. Earl Neff and C. O. Chromoster. The Spring meeting in Houston was attended by Preston M. Geren and Earl Neff. Meetings in Austin have been attended by Preston M. Geren, J. Earl Neff, and Leo M. J. Dielmann.

At the present time, the Officers of the Council are as follows:

Austin P. Hancock, City Manager of Abilene, representing League of Texas Municipalities, President

Preston M. Geren, Architect of Fort Worth, representing Texas Society of Architects, Vice-President

C. M. Thelin, Director of Public Works, Fort Worth, representing League of Texas Municipalities, Secretary-Treasurer.

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