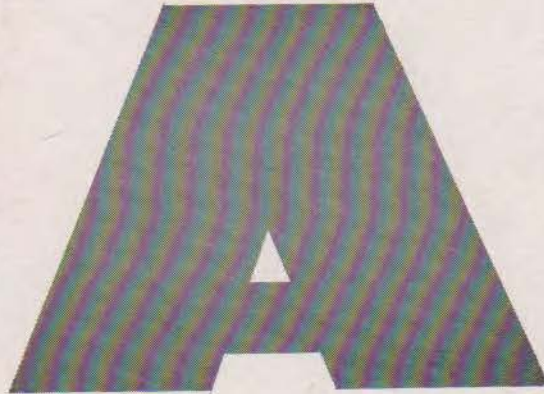


# TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

MAY  
1958



- ▶ School Building  
Overall Prize  
Example Of Economy
- ▶ Representative Selection,  
Brazos Chapter, AIA
- ▶ Texas Education  
Agency Explores  
Standard Dimensions



See Page 5



## THE baffled BLAST

This is a picture of a home building material that successfully withstood the devastating tests conducted by the Atomic Energy Commission at Yucca Flat, Nevada. Yes, it's rugged, fire-resistant concrete masonry.

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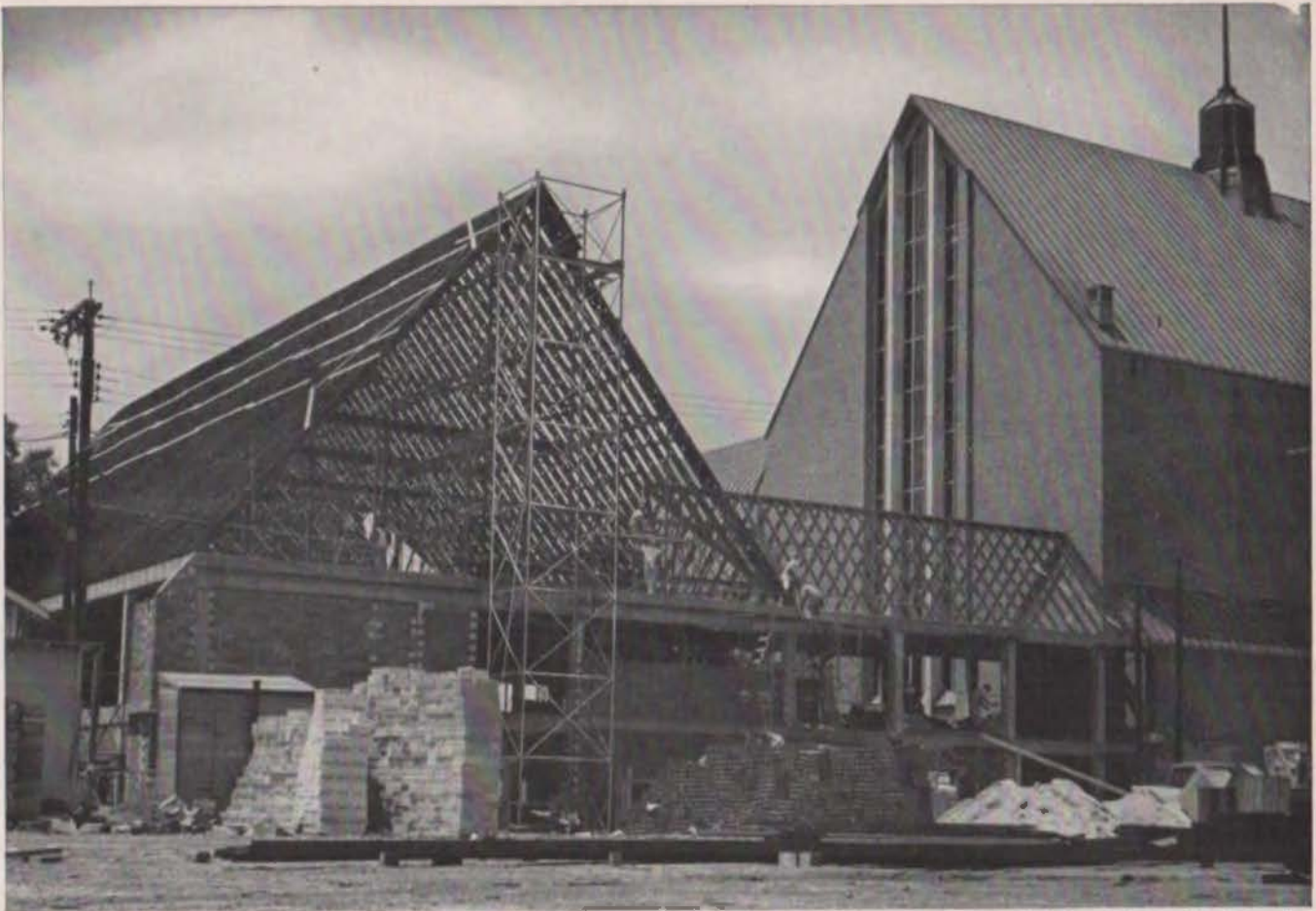
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Longview: Stran-Steel joists frame this two-story gable for the new children's building of the First Methodist Church\*

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## School Building Good Example Of Economy

It is regrettable that the editors of Reader's Digest, which of course has a tremendous circulation, saw fit to publish a recent article alleging widespread extravagance in school construction. The facts are demonstrably quite different, and as the magazine ARCHITECTURAL FORUM points out: "... school building as a rule is a prize U. S. example of low cost construction. Compared with 1925-1926, also a period of long-continued prosperity, heavy school building, and rising population, school construction costs on a square-foot basis have only doubled. During the same period home building costs have tripled, and industrial-commercial costs have risen 175%."

The Reader's Digest article rests upon the thin and misleading comparison of cost per square foot. This dangerous concept, although it reads glibly and smoothly, omits such tremendously important matters as quality of educational design, function, and maintenance. Aside from such tangible matters as high-maintenance materials, FORUM points out some other highly significant matters: "Quality also has its intangibles", says this magazine. "Is a school library which is oppressive, rather than inviting to young readers, a bargain at any cost?"

The case against the Reader's Digest is summarized then as follows by FORUM editors: "... comparative cost figures are useful only if they compare comparable things. Such comparisons, if they are to mean anything, are extremely complex. If used without understanding of first costs, long-term costs, space efficiencies and educational values bought, they can make school "A" look like more of a value than School "B" when in reality it is less."

Reader's Digest would do well to reexamine its nine examples, which on close examination turn out to have feet of clay, and to be based upon false economy rather than claimed "extravagances."

## The President's Letter

By

**Reginald H. Roberts**

President,  
Texas Society  
of Architects



What will John Q. Public see a few years hence as he drives along the beautiful new roads which are to be made available through the huge Federal-state highway program? Nature's own vistas, or the substitute provided by the billboard industry, which is energetically preparing to blanket the countryside traversed by our great new highway systems?

If the American Institute of Architects has its way (and the AIA is being backed by many influential Congressmen, key organizations across the land, and millions of thinking taxpayers), the view will be Nature's own, including some of the world's truly awe-inspiring scenery. We hope that the readers of the TEXAS ARCHITECT, and citizens everywhere, will come to the support of the AIA in this important battle to preserve the beauty of Nature across the country.

While the billboard industry is in many ways an asset to the nation, and part of the great advertising industry that is central to the U.S. economic well-being, we believe that its leaders are wrong in attempting to capture the areas bordering our new super-highways. They are particularly wrong in providing a hyperactive and highly vocal Washington lobby, which is attempting to force the industry's views upon Congress.

Let's leave the new highways uncluttered, and see the beautiful scenery of America again without a forest of intervening billboards!



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# REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION BRAZOS CHAPTER, AIA

PROJECT: The Chapel, A&M College of Texas

ARCHITECT: Richard Vrooman, TSA-AIA, Bryan, Texas

## GENERAL

CONTRACTOR: R. B. Butler, Inc., Bryan, Texas

Editor's Note: The Chapel at Texas A&M College has been selected by the Brazos Chapter, AIA, as representative of recent architectural work in the area. The architect was Richard Vrooman, TSA-AIA of Bryan, who won a design competition for the Chapel staged under AIA standards. This type of competition allows an interesting and valuable means of selecting an architect. Details regarding such competitions are available through John G. Flowers, Jr., executive director, TSA, at 327 Perry-Brooks Building, Austin.

### Design

The Chapel is located near the center of the campus of College Station. As a chapel for meditation and prayer, the building was designed much as a shelter in a garden, fitting among existing trees and open to an inner court. The focal points are elements of nature: a tree beyond the glass of the auditorium; potted plants within the auditorium, seen against the organ screen.

Seats in the auditorium are 45" back to back to allow easy movement of individuals. The platform area is flexible, and may be arranged for special services. No regular services take place in the Chapel, as its intent is not to compete with churches but rather to support them.

An exit from either end of the building leads to the covered walk, around the garden, back into the building.

The zig-zag wall in the auditorium derives its shape from consideration of focus of seats, acoustics, supply ducts, structure, and interest in the corridor, where religious quotations in bronze have been located on the walls.

Because this is an all-faith chapel, fixed symbolism is not emphasized. The colored glass window design over the main entry emanates from an interlocking Cross and Star of David, with the whole design made deliberately abstract. Colors in the glass were selected to reflect and harmonize with other materials—copper, wood, stone, terrazzo.

### Construction and Materials

Structural slab on drilled footings. Steel frame; wood secondary members. Major frames: box section: two channels and two plates welded together, with weld covered by small aluminum channel which bonds entire frame.

Roof 20-oz. copper wrapped over battens and fascia. Floor: terrazzo and carpet. Exterior walls: glass, shell limestone; interior walls: same stone, redwood. Ceilings: auditorium—luan plywood; wing-acoustic plaster. Mullions: aluminum, painted for color control.

Organ screen: redwood, pandanus cloth, minnow seine. Main entry doors: walnut veneer; door pulls special—30" solid bronze. Brick wall and steel canopy around garden designed for rich light and shadow pattern.

Chapel completely air-conditioned. Large lighting fixtures special design.

### Personnel

As noted, this commission was awarded as the result of an AIA-approved competition to Richard Vrooman, TSA-AIA. Mr. Vrooman, who teaches design at A&M College of Texas, entered the competition among 23 competitors. (In 1951, in the competition for Fort Brown Memorial Center, Brownsville, Mr. Vrooman placed second.)

After the commission was awarded, the design was further studied and developed with the aid of several architectural consultants: William G. Wagner, AIA; Howard R. Meyer, FAIA; A. M. Martin (structural); J. W. Hall, Jr. (mechanical and electrical); R. N. Lane (acoustics); Robert F. White (landscape).

The Chapel was a gift to Texas A&M from the Association of Former Students, who gave the money and sponsored the competition. Architectural Advisor to the Association was Ernest Langford, TSA-FAIA.

Mr. Vrooman is a past president of the Brazos Chapter, TSA-AIA, and is currently a partner in the firm of MERRELL & VROOMAN, Bryan, Texas.

## Interior View of Chapel



An interior view of the Chapel, at Texas A & M College, shows the interesting use of glass, copper, wood, stone, and terrazzo in the auditorium, with potted plants within and a tree beyond to accent elements of nature. Other features of the auditorium include an organ screen of redwood, zig-zag wall, and ceiling of Luan plywood.

## General Whipple To Be Division Engineer For Army At Dallas

Brig. Gen. William Whipple will become division engineer for the Army Engineers' Southwestern Division at Dallas, Texas.

He will succeed Brig. Gen. Lyle E. Seeman, who has served in that position since September 1954.

Gen. Seeman will be assigned to the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, Washington, D. C.

Born in Cinclare, Louisiana, in 1909, the newly named Division Engineer graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1930.

From 1930 through 1933 he studied economics, politics, and philosophy as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, England. During 1935-36 he did graduate work in civil engineering at Princeton University.

During World War II, Gen. Whipple served with Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force. Following the war he remained in Germany.

Returning to the States, he served for three and a half years in the Pacific Northwest, first as Executive to the North Pacific Division Engineer, Portland, Oregon, and then as District Engineer at Walla Walla, Washington.

During 1950-51 he attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and from 1951-52 he was Army Engineer, Third Army, Fort McPherson, Georgia.

From 1952-55 he was Executive, Civil Works, in the Office of the Chief of Engineers, Washington, D. C.

He went to U. S. Army, Europe, in August 1955.

## Overall 5% Gain In Construction Totals Foreseen For 1958

Gains in construction contracts for housing and for government-owned facilities will more than offset prospective declines in contracts for industrial and commercial building in 1958, according to estimates released May 1 by the F. W. Dodge Corporation, construction news and marketing specialists. This marks the first time that such estimates are available on a 48-state basis.

In the annual outlook for the construction industry, the Dodge organization estimates that construction contracts in 1958 will total \$33,830,000,000, a gain of 5% over the expected 1957 level. The outlook statement points out however that a portion of next year's anticipated increase in dollar volume will be accounted for by higher construction costs rather than additional physical volume.

### Physical Volume Down 2%

Contracts for non-residential buildings in 1958 are estimated at \$11,570,000,000, only slightly above the 1957 level. Physical volume, however, as measured by floor area is likely to be down two percent in 1958. The spread between the floor area estimate and the expected volume is based on increased costs.

Residential building contracts next year are expected to total \$13,760,000,000, up 8% from 1957. The number of non-farm dwelling unit starts in 1958 is estimated at 1,075,000, a gain of 6% over this year's anticipated starts.

Contracts for heavy engineering construction (public works and utilities) in 1958 are likely to total \$8,500,000,000. This would represent an increase of 7% over the record level of 1957.

The outlook statement says that "the signs and omens for next year seem to point to mild improvement in the construction picture as a whole, with some variations in detail. The accompanying tables tell the story of the 1958 outlook as we see it on November 1, 1957.

"For total building and engineering contracts in the 48 states, we estimate \$33,830,000,000 for 1958; this would be an increase of 5%. Dollar volume of non-residential building contracts is estimated to increase 1%; residential building contracts, to increase 8%;



Albert S. Golemon

## Houston Architect Nominated As First Vice President, AIA

Albert S. Golemon, TSA-AIA, former president of the Texas Society of Architects, has been nominated by the members of many Chapters of the American Institute of Architects for the post of first vice president of the AIA. Election for the office will be held at Cleveland in July, during the annual AIA convention.

A native of Alabama, Mr. Golemon holds architectural degrees from Auburn, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Fontainebleau, France. After serving as an instructor in architecture at Auburn from 1926-1927, he came to Texas as chief draftsman for the Beaumont architectural firm of F. W. and D. E. Steinman, which became Steinman & Golemon in 1931.

Mr. Golemon left Steinman & Golemon in 1942 to serve in the Corps of Engineers, and was separated in 1946 as a lieutenant colonel. He then formed the firm of Golemon & Rolfe in Houston, and has remained in practice there, increasingly active in professional and civic affairs.

A member of the Houston Chapter, AIA, since 1946, Mr. Golemon has served on many TSA and AIA committees, and has been very active in Houston Chapter affairs. He was president of TSA in 1953, and began a three-year term as regional director of the AIA the following year. He is now serving as a director of the Texas Architectural Foundation.

The nominee for the AIA post is a member of Rotary International, Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, Pine Forest and Brae Burn Country Clubs, the National Architectural Accrediting Board, the President's Advisory Committee for the University of Houston School of Architecture, and other professional, church, and civic groups.

The firm of Golemon & Rolfe has won many awards for architectural work in AIA; TSA; Houston Chapter, AIA; and other competitions. Their design for the Medical Towers in Houston recently won a national AIA award.

Mr. Golemon is married, and he and Mrs. Golemon have one daughter, Anabeth.

total building contracts, 5%; public works and utilities 7%. Public and private ownership projects are expected to share proportionately in such increases as take place.

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## Court Upholds City Ordinance On Use of Architects

A Denver, Colorado, city ordinance, which provides that only architects licensed by the State of Colorado could prepare and submit plans and specifications for public and semi-public structures and buildings, was recently upheld as valid by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit. The ordinance in question declares that "Only an architect licensed by the State of Colorado may prepare and submit plans and specifications for a building or structure of a public or semi-public nature or for any other building or structure exceeding one story or 20 feet in height. . . ."

### Constitutionality Challenged

The constitutionality of this ordinance was first challenged in the Colorado State District Court in 1953 by a registered professional engineer on the ground that the provision was arbitrary and constituted an unlawful interference with his practice of professional engineering. The State District Court concluded that the ordinance was passed by the Denver City Council in the exercise of its police power to protect the city's inhabitants of public and semi-public buildings, and that the engineer's claim that he had a right to submit plans and specifications for public and semi-public buildings by virtue of his registration as a professional engineer was "without reason." This ruling was affirmed by the Supreme Court of Colorado.

### CANNOT BE TRIED AGAIN

Following this development the engineer brought suit in the Federal District Court on the same facts, and again challenged the validity of the city ordinance. The complaint was dismissed by the Federal District Court on the ground that the identical issues had previously been considered and decided by the State Courts of Colorado. From this dismissal, an appeal was taken to the Tenth Circuit Court, resulting in the present decision which agreed with the Federal District Court that the issue could not be tried again after once being litigated in the State courts.

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for Sanctuary

Architects:  
Howard R. Meyer &  
Max N. Sandfield, TSA-AIA  
Dallas, Texas

Consulting Architect:  
William R. Wurster, AIA

*Editor's Note:* We continue a series of nine winners in the annual statewide competition sponsored by TSA and the Dallas Chapter, AIA—"Texas Architecture—'57." We asked that the winning architects briefly describe the problem which they met and solved in conjunction with each winning project.

PROJECT: Temple Emanu-El  
LOCATION: Dallas, Texas  
OWNERS: Temple Emanu-El Congregation  
ARCHITECTS: Howard R. Meyer, TSA-FAIA and Max M. Sandfield, TSA-AIA, Associated Architects  
CONSULTING ARCHITECT: William W. Wurster, FAIA

Temple Emanu-El is located on an 18-acre tract at the corner of Hillcrest Avenue and Northwest Highway, adjacent to a growing residential area. The size of the property made it possible to keep the building well away from both streets (600 feet from Northwest Highway and about 250 feet from Hillcrest). Using a grove of trees to screen off both sight and sound of the traffic was fundamental to the initial concept.

Temple Emanu-El is a congregation of 1500 families with Sunday School requirements for about 1000 children. Seating requirements for religious services vary greatly between those for Friday nights and Saturday mornings, those for about half a dozen holy days during the year, and those for the peak loads of the Jewish New Year and the Day of Atonement. The sanctuary is comprised of an inner 83-foot diameter circular center under a high dome, encompassed by a 110-foot square perimeter area. The circular center has 750 permanent seats and the perimeter seats an additional 250. Behind the sanctuary is a rectangular

auditorium seating 1000, separated from the sanctuary by sliding sound-proof doors. When these doors are opened, the two areas are used as one with total seating for 2000. Sunday School requirements are taken care of by 47 classrooms designed for classes of 25 to 30 children.

#### Chapel For 250 Included

The building also has a chapel for 250, social hall, library, administrative offices, choir rehearsal room, youth recreation rooms and one large and two small kitchens. An atrium, flanked on three sides by a covered colonnade and the fourth by a high wall, serves as claister and as forecourt to the sanctuary.

With minor exceptions, the entire structure is of reinforced concrete. Mexican adobe brick and exposed concrete comprise the exterior materials. These brick, combined with Roman travertine and natural teakwood are used extensively inside the building. The dome, with its spring line 55 feet above the floor and its apex 15 feet higher, is a 4-inch concrete

*(Continued on page 10)*

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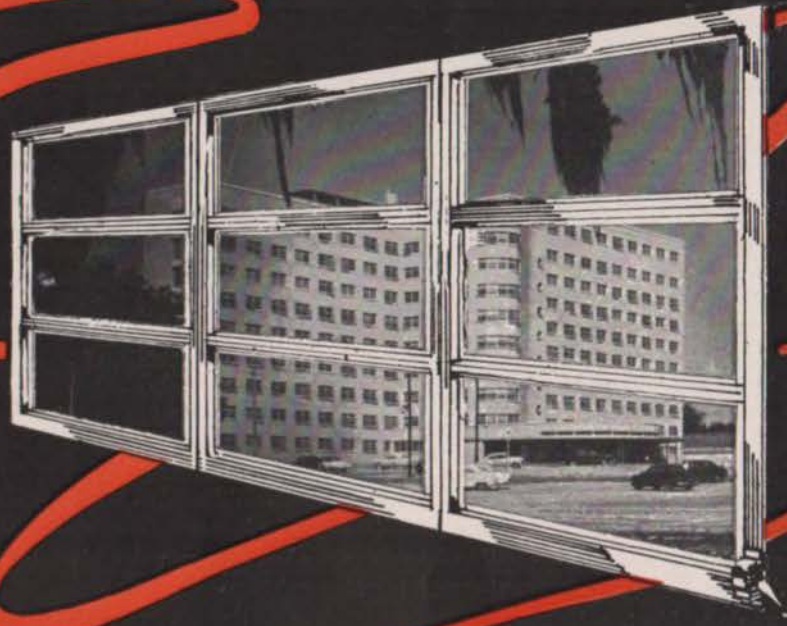
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## New Book Explores Work Of Spanish Architect-Engineer

THE STRUCTURES OF EDUARDO TORROJA: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF ENGINEERING ACCOMPLISHMENT has just been published by F. W. Dodge Corporation, New York. In his first published summation, the great Spanish architect-engineer, Eduardo Torroja, presents in text and illustration 30 of his most significant structures and, in doing so, reveals with candor his unusual building philosophy. As Torroja explains it, "My final aim has always been for the functional, structural, and aesthetic aspects of a project to present an integrated whole, both in essence and appearance. I feel these (structures) best exemplify what I was searching for, and what I finally achieved."

Despite the fact that little has been published about him, Torroja's works have aroused tremendous interest among architects, engineers, and builders throughout the world. One of these is Frank Lloyd Wright who says of Torroja, "He has expressed the principles of organic construction better than any engineer I know."

#### Many Types Included

The 30 structures analyzed in this book include many types. Among them are bridges, churches, viaducts, stadia, water-towers, factories, dams, hangars, a hospital and a restaurant. Many are of reinforced concrete, for Torroja's most unusual engineering feats are in prestressed and post-tensioned concrete; however, wood, brick, and

steel are used as well. Each structure, regardless of its function or material, bears witness to Torroja's genius for endowing strong, economical edifices with delicate beauty and gracefulness.

Because of the Civil War and ensuing poverty in Spain, use of expensive construction methods and materials was impossible. This factor Torroja turned to his advantage by completely dispensing with decorative trimmings, thus accenting the fundamental purity and beauty of his designs. In his foreword to the book, Mario Salvadori, noted engineer and professor of Civil Engineering at Columbia University, says of this aspect of Torroja's work, "As has so often been true in the history of creative achievement, the limitations themselves — the very factors interfering with the solution of a problem — enhance the intrinsic value of the final product."

THE STRUCTURES OF EDUARDO TORROJA follows the author's reasoning during the design of each of the 30 structures. The whole progress of each design is candidly discussed, from the initial conception through modifications and improvements to completion. Over 275 illustrations amplify the text and show construction details, models, and projects under construction, as well as finished structures.

In addition to his engineering activity throughout Europe, Torroja directs the Technical Institute of Construction and Cement at Costillares, which he founded in 1934. It has been called one of the world's three outstanding model testing laboratories.

## TEMPLE EMANU-EL

(Continued from page 8)

shell covered with copper. The dome is supported on 12 piers which in turn rest on a ring beam supported by 6 columns.

#### Circular Wall Is Screen

The circular wall enveloping the central portion of the sanctuary is really a vertically slatted wood screen of five-sixths of its circumference. Behind this screen is a series of hidden acoustical baffles of various shapes, standing at various angles (and achieving resonance with no reverberations); the organ lofts are also behind this screen. The wall of the other sixth of the cylinder is the wall behind the pulpit and is of brick, into the raked joints of which are set gold glass mosaics. Exterior walls of the sanctuary perimeter area are leaded cathedral glass set in steel frames.

Lighting of the central portion of the sanctuary was accomplished with 47 cylindrical fixtures hung from the dome in a random pattern and at varying heights from the floor. These give an even distribution of direct downlight and enough upright to highlight the chains which support them. Forty-three of these fixtures are eight inches in diameter and two feet long; the other four, located close to the pulpit, are 20 feet long, and are slotted to throw light on the mosaic studded wall behind the pulpit.

The chapel interior is of common brick painted white. The Ark of the Covenant behind its pulpit is of Roman travertine set in a background of gold mosaic. Light enters the chapel thru a spattering of glass blocks set in the rear wall and thru a cathedral glass window in the chapel alcove.

Responsibility for the art work for the project was given to Professor Gyorgy Kepes of MIT. He conceived the idea of the mosaic treatment of the pulpit wall and designed it. He designed the cathedral glass work, the oil-burning Eternal Lights and the pulpit furniture for the sanctuary and chapel. He initiated the designs for the sanctuary lighting fixtures and engaged several other sculptors and weavers to complete his assignment.

Professor Wayne Rudmose of SMU was acoustical consultant and designer of all sound systems throughout the building.

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#### ADVERTISERS' INDEX

Apco-Rubin .....	15
Atlas Enamel Company .....	16
Baldwin Hill .....	17
A. C. Horn .....	11
Kaiser Fir-Tex .....	4
Macatee, Inc. ....& B.	10
Miami Window Corp. ....	9
National Electrical Contractors Assoc. ....	12
Studios of George L. Payne .....	13
Portland Cement Assoc. ....	Cover II
Prescolite .....	13
Southern Gas Association .....	1
Stran Steel Corporation .....	2
Texas Bitulithic Co. ....	19
Texas Bureau for Lathing & Plastering .....	7
Texas Quarries, Inc. ....	Cover III
Unit Structures .....	20
Uvalde Rock Asphalt Co. ....	Cover IV
William Cameron Co. ....	19

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An architect can insure that you get the best possible home for your money. And, remember, that buying a home is likely to be the largest single investment of your lifetime.

When should an architect be consulted? What service does he give? What does it cost to employ an architect?

First, remember that an architect does much more than provide you with a pretty sketch of your home. Ideally, he should be consulted even before you choose the site.

An architect is trained to see the hidden liabilities of some lots and to detect the assets of other lots which in some cases may possibly be available for less money.

Giorgia Cavaglieri, chairman of the house consulting committee of the New York chapter of the American Institute of Architects, says an architect should be chosen with care.

You should like an architect personally as well as his work, Cavaglieri says, "because mutual respect is essential between an architect and his client."

Outlining the role of the architect, Cavaglieri's committee makes these points:

The architect should know what you can afford to spend. In this way he can help you to get the best home for your money.

Because no two families are alike, the architect must study your way of living, your hobbies and special needs. This helps him in preliminary drawings showing the size and arrangement of rooms and the general characteristics of your home.

Once these plans are approved, he starts final working drawings. He suggests and selects building materials, plumbing fixtures, the heating plant and all the myriad of items that go into a home. His specifications include not only all these items but exact instructions as well on their installation.

The architect assists in getting bids from contractors and supervising the work of the contractor selected for the

job. The architect visits the site during construction to make sure the house is built according to specifications.

What does an architect charge? His fee is a percentage of the cost of the house. In metropolitan areas, the fee ranges from 10 to 12 per cent of the cost of the house. The fee may be lower in other areas.

All of his services, from selecting the site to designing the house, from helping choose a builder to supervising the actual construction, are included in the fee.

An architect gives you a house with no waste space because it's tailored to your special needs. The house is built of the best materials, used in the right way. A house planned by an architect usually is appraised at a higher value by lending agencies and it usually has a higher resale value.

Most important of all, Cavaglieri says, is the "preventive medicine" built into a home by an architect. The basement of an architect-designed house doesn't flood. The building is properly insulated. Maintenance costs are low because the architect has selected quality materials that give long service.

Architects would like to design and plan individually all homes built in America. Low-cost development houses, however, cannot be built on an individual basis. But if you buy in a development, many architects offer their services on an hourly fee basis to look over the plans and make certain that you get the best house for your money.

### Brown, Burnham & Underwood Open Dallas, Texarkana Offices

Stanley Brown, Dallas architect, has announced the formation of a new partnership to be known as Brown, Burnham and Underwood, Architects and Engineers. Offices are at 4012 Cedar Springs Road in Dallas, and 222 West Fifth in Texarkana, Texas.

Gilbert Stanley Underwood, II is in charge of the firm's Dallas office. He is a graduate architect, and attended Yale University, the University of Virginia, and the Beaux Arts, Paris. Mr. Brown and Mr. Underwood are members of AIA and of TSA.

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# Texas Education Agency Studies Standard Dimensions

The Texas Education Agency is beginning a study to explore the possibility of using standard and correlated dimensions for material components used in school construction. The study does not imply the use of pre-fabricated or standard buildings but contemplates the development of standard dimensions that will permit present flexibility of design and construction.

The study is made possible by a research agreement with the United States Office of Education whereby the United States office furnishes \$166,265 and the Texas Education Agency contributes staff personnel time and services.

#### SRI Will Assist

The Texas Education Agency will be assisted in the research study by architects and engineers from Southwest Research Institute, a not-for-profit scientific organization with headquarters in San Antonio. In addition, assistance will be rendered by a state-wide advisory committee appointed by the State Board of Education. The committee is composed of school superintendents, architects, engineers, contractors, school board members, and representatives from other groups concerned with the manufacture and distribution of school building components.

School construction costs have become of increasing concern to taxpayers. The problem will increase in the next few years. The National Citizens Committee for the public schools estimates that in 1965 there will be 48 million children of school age. This figure represents an increase of 12 million over 1954. The greatest percentage of increase (58 percent) will be in the high schools which represent the most expensive plant construction.

At the present time, there is no nationally accepted flexible set of dimensions used in school construction. For example: The usual standard in ceiling tile is one set of dimensions while the usual standard for floor tile is another set of dimensions. In most cases, one or both must be fitted at the site and the surplus discarded.

#### Modular Concept Sought

Through an examination of different schools and in consultation with the many interested groups, the researchers hope to assist in evaluating a concept of modular shapes and sizes for school building parts which will effect savings in design and construction and still will insure the all important element of flexibility in design.

They will attempt to set up standard "modules" which will be the basic three dimensional "frame of reference" for the design and construction of schools. This does not mean that all components would necessarily come in those dimensions. A component might be either a fractional part or a multiple of the basic unit.

Such a system would permit the use of various materials—wood, aluminum, masonry and clay products, plastics, concrete, steel, etc. For each of the components thus giving the widest variety of possible choices for the architect.

In announcing the study, Martin Goland, director of Southwest Research Institute said: "We see this research project as an important contribution to our economy and to our educational system. We hope that it will result in the development of a module system which will permit manufacturers to mass produce walls, floors, roofs, framing, windows, doors and other components in a variety of materials, but in sizes and shapes which are compatible with site assemblages as well as other components.

#### To Study Research

"This has been done for several years in England and we plan to make use of the pertinent findings they have made. We will also take advantage of the material developed in studies by the European productivity agency of the organization for European Economic Cooperation which has already published information on the use of modular components in the free countries of Europe. In addition we will utilize to the fullest the research results accomplished by those groups in the United States who have had a



Edward L. Wilson

## Fort Worth Architect Nominated For Re-Election As Secretary Of Institute

Edward L. Wilson, TSA-FAIA of Fort Worth, has been nominated by many AIA Chapters to serve again as secretary of the AIA, a post he has filled since 1955. This is a national office voted upon by members of the 132 AIA Chapters across the United States.

Born in Chicago, Mr. Wilson is an architectural graduate of the Armour Institute of Technology. He began his career as chief draftsman for the H. H. Mahler Company in Tulsa, Okla., in 1920. After five years, he went to Fort Worth as chief draftsman for Wyatt C. Hedrick, Inc., and was with the Hedrick organization until 1939, when he formed the firm of Wilson & Patterson, now Wilson, Patterson & Associates, in Fort Worth.

Mr. Wilson has been active throughout in the growth and development of the Texas Society of Architects, and has served on many TSA committees. He was president of TSA in 1950, and was regional director on the board of the AIA from 1951-1954. In 1955 he served as president of the Texas Architectural Foundation. He has also been active in affairs of the Fort Worth Chapter, AIA, which he headed as president in 1954. Mr. Wilson has been active from the very beginning in the production of the TEXAS ARCHITECT, which began publication during his tenure as TSA president, in 1950.

Mr. Wilson, a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, is a member of Kiwanis International, the Church of Christ Scientist, and many professional and civic organizations. He and Mrs. Wilson have five children.

Architectural work by Mr. Wilson's firm has won honors in a number of competitions. The firm's Children's Museum of Fort Worth, which appeared on the December, 1957 cover of the TEXAS ARCHITECT, has attracted wide attention.

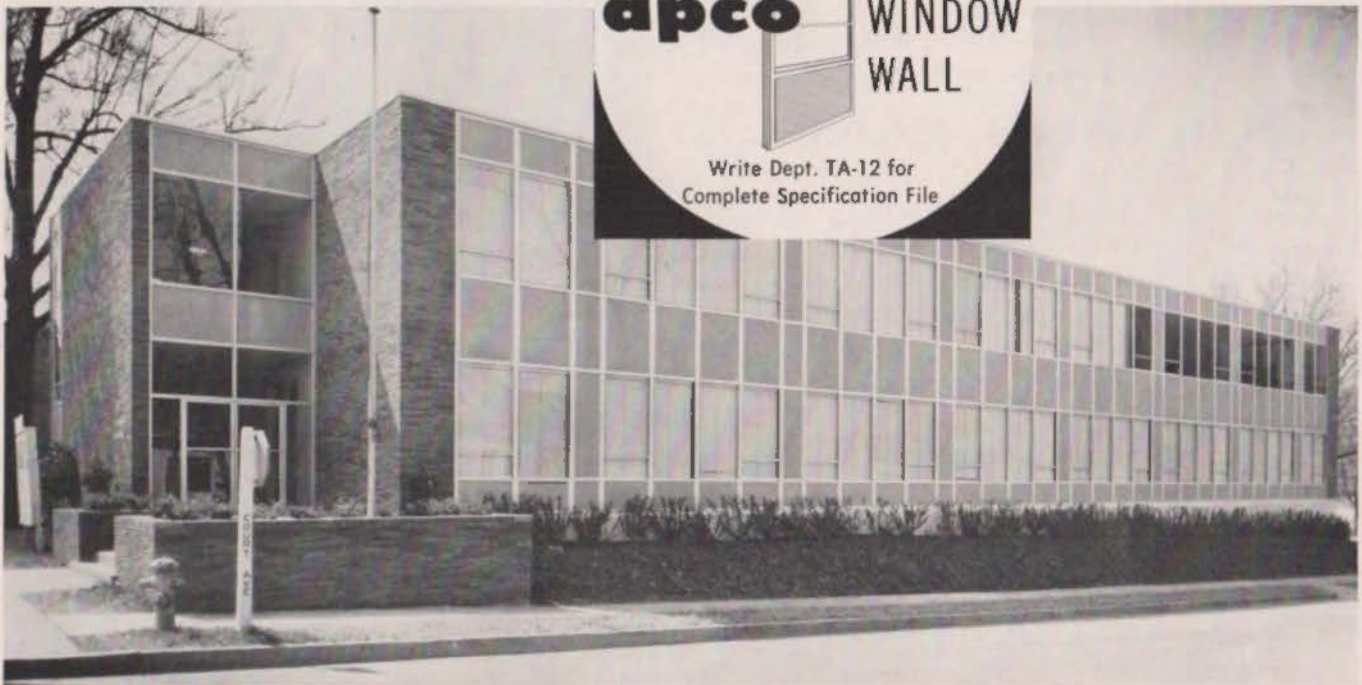
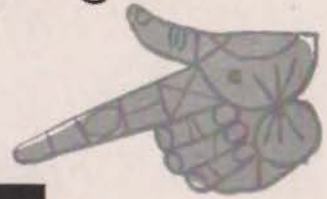
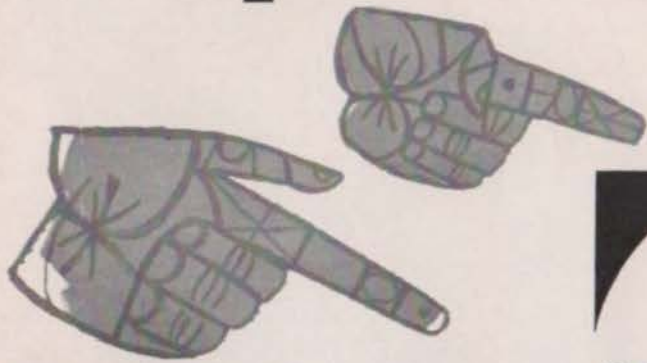
AIA members will ballot on the post of secretary, to which the Fort Worth nominee seeks re-election, during the annual convention of the Institute at Cleveland in July.

great interest in the subject of modular coordination.

The over-all study director will be Leon R. Graham, assistant commissioner for administration, of the TEA. The research coordinator will be Stewart D. Barrsdale, architect and manager, Building Research Section of the Department of Engineering Mechanics, Southwest Research Institute.



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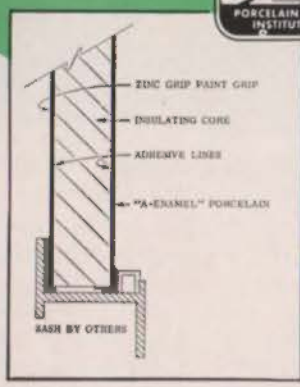
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## IATA Issues New Reference Book As Airport Guide To Jet Needs

What the world's airport planners should know about the construction of airport aprons for handling turbine-powered aircraft is contained in a new 57-page reference document just published by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

This new IATA volume — officially entitled "Apron Requirements for Turbine-Powered Aircraft" — contains a wealth of current airline information and experience on planning the construction of the important part of an airport adjacent to the terminal building. It contains seven charts and presents the coordinated opinions of the association's 82 member airlines as the major users of the world's international airports.

Information in the document is supplementary to the "Airport Buildings and Aprons" reference book just published by IATA in July 1956 and based largely on an experience with piston-engined aircraft. The new volume, however, as its foreword states, presents "information relevant particularly to turbine-powered aircraft and therefore it should not normally be necessary to refer back to the earlier work."

### Continuous Planning Necessary

The document stresses the importance of early and continuous consultation on the spot between authorities responsible for planning individual airports and airline who will be using their facilities. The material in the document is designed to assist in such consultations.

"The introduction of turbine-powered aircraft into service will be accomplished gradually, in phase with continuing piston-engined aircraft operation," the Foreword states. "Nevertheless, the requirements of these turbine-powered aircraft must be taken into account at all airports where they will eventually be operating, even though the proportion of turbine-powered traffic to piston-engined traffic at a particular airport may remain small for some time to come."

The IATA reference results directly from a recent airlines study of current and future requirements of apron construction for turbine-powered aircraft. Among the matters it contains are the following sections:

### General Considerations

Factors affecting blast from jet engines (blast levels; effects of blast; means for countering blast effect); the effects of heat; fumes; factors affecting noise; noise level tests; the need for keeping the apron clean; the effect of fuel spillage on apron pavement and markings.

### Apron Systems and Requirements

Passenger convenience and comfort; parking in relation to blast; heat and noise; terminal configuration and apron system layout; aircraft loading and servicing points; turning circles; clearance between aircraft and buildings; guide lines; docks and mechanical conveyance systems; mobile servicing equipment apron occupancy time; assignment of stands.

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### Apron Load Handling Facilities

Principles governing the flow of passengers, baggage, freight and mail; consideration of conveyance systems for moving aircraft, passengers, baggage and freight on the apron.

"Apron requirements for Turbine-Powered Aircraft" was compiled by a group of specialists representative of a variety of airline interests — technical, operations, cargo and passenger traffic and facilitation — working under the IATA Technical Committee. Bulk orders are available at 75 cents per copy on order to the IATA Technical Secretariat, Terminal Centre Building, 1060 University Street, Montreal 3, Canada.



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## CHRONICLE Article, Reprinted In TEXAS ARCHITECT, Wins Award

"How Often Is Architecture Art?," by Ann Holmes of the Houston CHRONICLE, won honorable mention in the fifth annual Journalism Award Competition of the American Institute of Architects, according to an AIA announcement from Washington, D. C.

Originally published December 29, 1957, the article was reprinted in the March, 1958 issue of TEXAS ARCHITECT as an example of the increasing number of excellent articles about architecture which are appearing in Texas newspapers.

Lilian Jackson Braun of the Detroit FREE PRESS and Philip Seikman of FORTUNE Magazine won twin first prizes of \$500 in the competition.

## New Cartoon Films Available To Chapters For Local Showings

The first two in a series of semi-animated movie shorts on architectural subjects have been completed by The American Institute of Architects as public relations aids for local chapters and state societies.

"What's a House?," the first of these 15-minute cartoon films, traces the evolution of the American house from the "carpenter classic" to the residence of the future. By acquainting the audience with some of the problems of site planning, orientation and building technology, the film indirectly points up the essential role of the architect in residential design.

"A School for Johnny" addresses itself to the problem of filling the increasing needs for schools without overstraining community resources. The film relates some of the primary factors the school architect must consider in designing for today's education and attempts to clarify some misconceptions about comparative costs and economy in school design.

Both films are done in simple Disney-like cartoons and charts on a minimum budget. Both include color photographs by outstanding architectural photographers. The films may be either purchased or rented from AIA. The purchase price is \$65 per film.

Future films in the series will deal with churches and business buildings. Intended primarily as discussion aids for adult and youth groups, the films are also suitable for television use.

## New Brochure Stresses Importance Of Corporate Surety Bonds

The importance of corporate surety bonds on private construction contracts is the subject of a new brochure which is being distributed to architects, engineers, owners, banks, and suppliers of labor and material by members of the National Association of Surety Bond Producers.

Dallas Smith, of Ellis, Smith & Campy, Dallas, is national president of the Association. The brochure was prepared by Mr. Smith with the assistance of members of a special Association committee, and is available from a number of bonding agencies throughout the country which are members of the National Association of Surety Bond Producers.

Corporate surety bonds and bond forms, for private work, as described in the Association's presentation, are patterned after the bond protection provided for public works, under the Miller Act of 1935. This act requires contractors to furnish two bonds; one a Performance Bond for the protection of the public body, and the second a Payment Bond conditioned for the prompt payment of materials furnished and labor supplied and performed in the construction of public work. The enactment of the Miller Act has resulted in the speedy adjustment of most all claims, without the necessity

of litigation or irritation to the owner, the brochure points out.

### AIA Forms Described

The brochure also discusses Indemnity Bond Forms, and AIA Bond forms number B-1 and 107, and enumerates 15 advantages of Corporate Surety Bonds. Three of these advantages are stated as follows:

"In effect, the bond is a prequalification service through the medium of the surety industry's nationwide experience, organization and understanding.

"(The Corporate Surety Bond)—Assures prompt payment to sub-contractors and to furnishers of labor and materials, and aids in the elimination of loading charge for credit hazard, resulting in lower overall cost.

"The assumption of the risk by the surety company assures completion of the contract, thus permitting a definite fixation of the Owner's cost at the contract price."

The Association, in its brochure, also advocates the awarding of private contracts through competitive bidding by a reasonable number of invited and recommended bidders, as is required for public works, with bond requirements also the same as those for public works.

## Underfloor Electrical Systems Described In New Bulletin

Underfloor electrical feeder distribution systems for cellular steel floors are discussed in a new, illustrated 32-page catalog type bulletin just published by National Electric Products Corporation, Pittsburgh.

Prepared for architects, electrical engineers and contractors, the new book provides complete information about National Electric's Headerduct wiring systems.

Cut-away illustrations demonstrate the adaptability of National Electric Headerduct to all types of cellular steel floor design, while construction views show the duct in various stages of installation.

Contained in the book are drawings of suggested procedures for installing ducts and fittings. Diagrams provide dimensional data and junction box spacing of each available duct type. Catalog numbers, description and approximate shipping weight are given in table listings.

Components of the system are displayed in individual photographs, with each item accompanied by appropriate specifying data.

Included in separate sections of the book are National Electric's uniform streamlined and standard type fittings, specifications, tools for installation and a numerical index for quick reference.

Headerduct Catalog 673 can be obtained by writing to the Advertising Department, National Electric Products Corporation, Gateway Center, Pittsburgh 22, Pa.

## GARDEN APARTMENTS TAKE ON 'HOME-LIKE' APPEARANCE

Garden apartments have undergone a transformation in design. No longer are they impersonal nondescript buildings such as characterized those built under the FHA Section 608 program in the late 1940's and early '50's. Instead, they are generally well-planned, architecturally well-designed, attractive and comfortable structures. Says HOUSE & HOME, professional magazine of the home building industry: "Today's apartments are planned for good living."

Taking a close look at the latest garden apartments across the nation, the magazine found that on five key points apartment design is following the lead of good architectural house design. Specifically:

1. In land planning, the trend is toward lower density but with open spaces kept to an intimate scale. Trees

are saved, part of a greater effort to preserve the site in its natural state.

More garden apartments are designed to integrate indoors and outdoors by using larger windows and by opening apartments to patios, terraces or balconies. All contribute to giving such buildings the look of a well-designed home instead of an institution.

3. There is a notable trend toward design aimed at more privacy. Fences, walls and plantings are used to screen patios from each other and the street. More apartments have separate entrances. Interior public corridors are being eliminated in favor of outside balcony-corridors. More attention is being given to separation of apartments and noise control.

4. To bring the inside design up to date, more architects are providing

for or actually including air conditioning, using heavier wiring (at least 100 amps), using separate heating units—especially in small buildings, and they are including kitchen extras—disposals, dishwashers, built-in oven and range and vent hoods. There is more storage and inside boths where local codes permit.

5. More garden apartments are equipped with the same kind of extras that help sell houses. Most now have play yards. Many have swimming pools with adjoining patios and terraces. Smaller developments which cannot afford such luxuries attract prospective tenants with dramatic entrances, decorative stairways, kitchen pass-throughs, fireplaces, carpeting and special wall and ceiling finishes.



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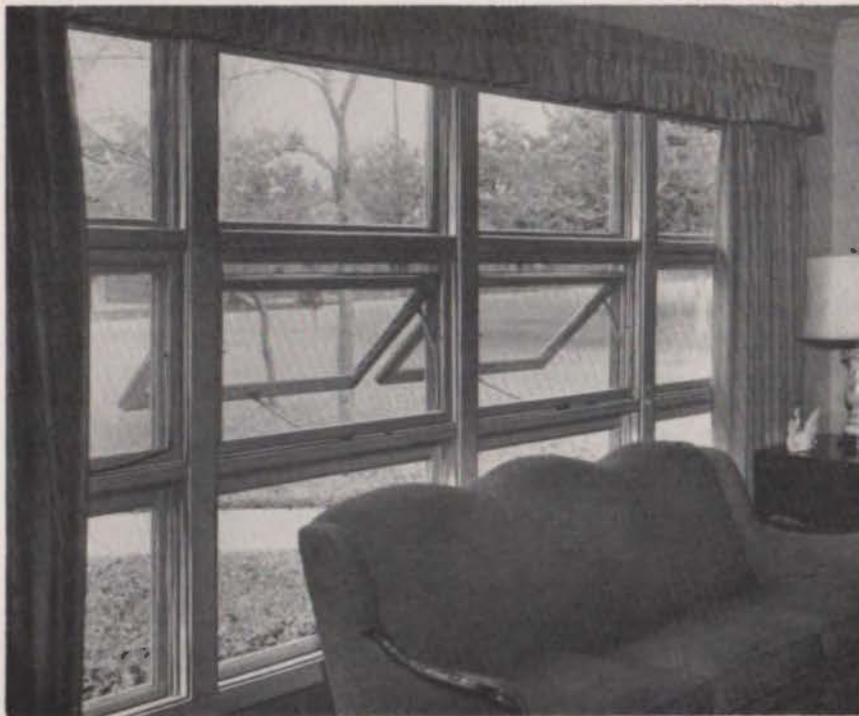
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## STACK WINDOWS

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# NEW PRODUCTS

A new cleaning compound for the trays and paper guides of office photo-copy machines—in dry powder form which is easier to store and less expensive to ship than liquid cleaners—has been introduced by Peerless Photo Products, Inc., Shoreham, New York.

By using the new cleaner to keep the tray and paper guides clean and free of all traces of precipitated silver and other residues of the developing solution, Peerless claims users of photo-copy machines will be assured of getting consistently good, sharp, stain-free photocopies and trouble-free machine performance.

The new DRI-STAT tray cleaner is non-toxic and can be readily dissolved in tap water.

A new fastening that stiffens panel edges in a plywood roof deck at a claimed fraction of the cost of conventional 2x4 blocking has been de-

veloped by the Plywood Research Foundation of Tacoma, Washington, the product development agency for Douglas Fir Plywood Association.

The device is an "H" shaped aluminum alloy clip designed to slip over plywood panel edges at midspan between rafters or purlins. It looks like a section out of an "I" beam with exaggerated flanges. The clip stiffens the joint between two adjacent panels by transferring a concentrated load from one panel edge to the next.

The clips are marketed nationally under the name PlyClips (patent pending). They will be sold through wholesale distributors and retailers in the building materials field.

The clips are said to be a fully adequate substitute for 2x4 blocking at panel edges whenever it is required—with one exception. This occurs in a plywood roof deck engineered as a horizontal diaphragm to transmit maximum allowable shear.

## F. B. Byrne Named Vice President of Construction by Macatee

P. B. Byrne has been elected vice president in charge of the Construction Department of Macatee, Inc. This position was formerly held by C. O. Johnson, who retired in November 1957. Mr. Johnson is continuing as a member of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Byrne has been with Macatee, Inc. for thirteen years. Previous to his association with Macatee, Inc., Mr. Byrne was one of the division sales managers of the Industrial Division of United States Gypsum Company in the gypsum deck and acoustical fields.

Mr. Byrne has been department manager and engineer for the Gypsum Deck Department and Acoustical Tile Department of Macatee, Inc. since 1945. His new position will put under his direction the Roofing and Waterproofing Departments, Corrugated Asbestos, Lightsteel Framing Department, Flooring Department and the Paired Gypsum Roof Decks and Acoustical Tile Departments.

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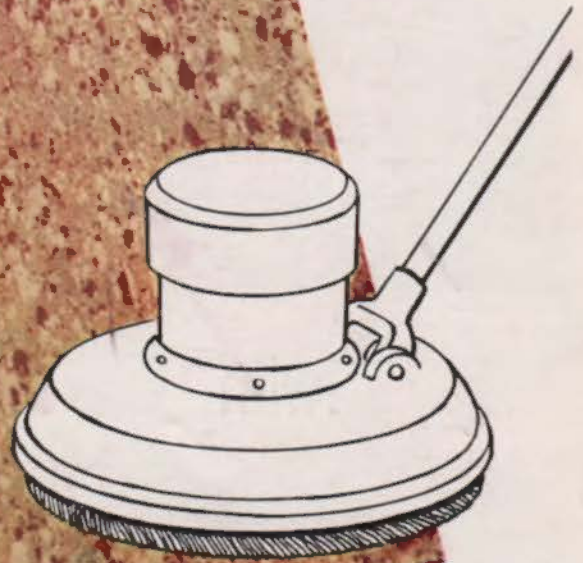
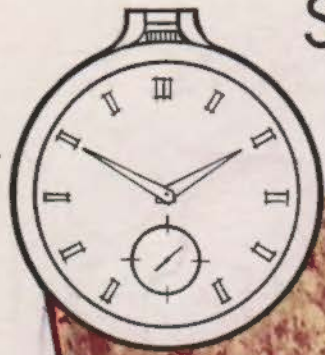
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