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THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

VOLUME 14

MAY, 1963

NUMBER 4

Official Publication of

THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The Texas Regional Organization of
The American Institute of Architects

Don Edward Legge, A.I.A., Editor
John G. Flowers, Jr., Managing Editor

327 Perry-Brooks Building, Austin, Texas

Published monthly by the Texas Society of Architects
in Austin. Subscription price, 50¢ per year, in
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Cover

This beautifully sculptured space is an
entry court of the J. M. Winterbotham
residence in Houston. Designed by
P. M. Bolton Associates AIA, the house
was honored with an Award of Merit
in *Texas Architecture 1962*. Photo-
graphed by Frank Lotz Miller.

MAY, 1963

Round Table Talk

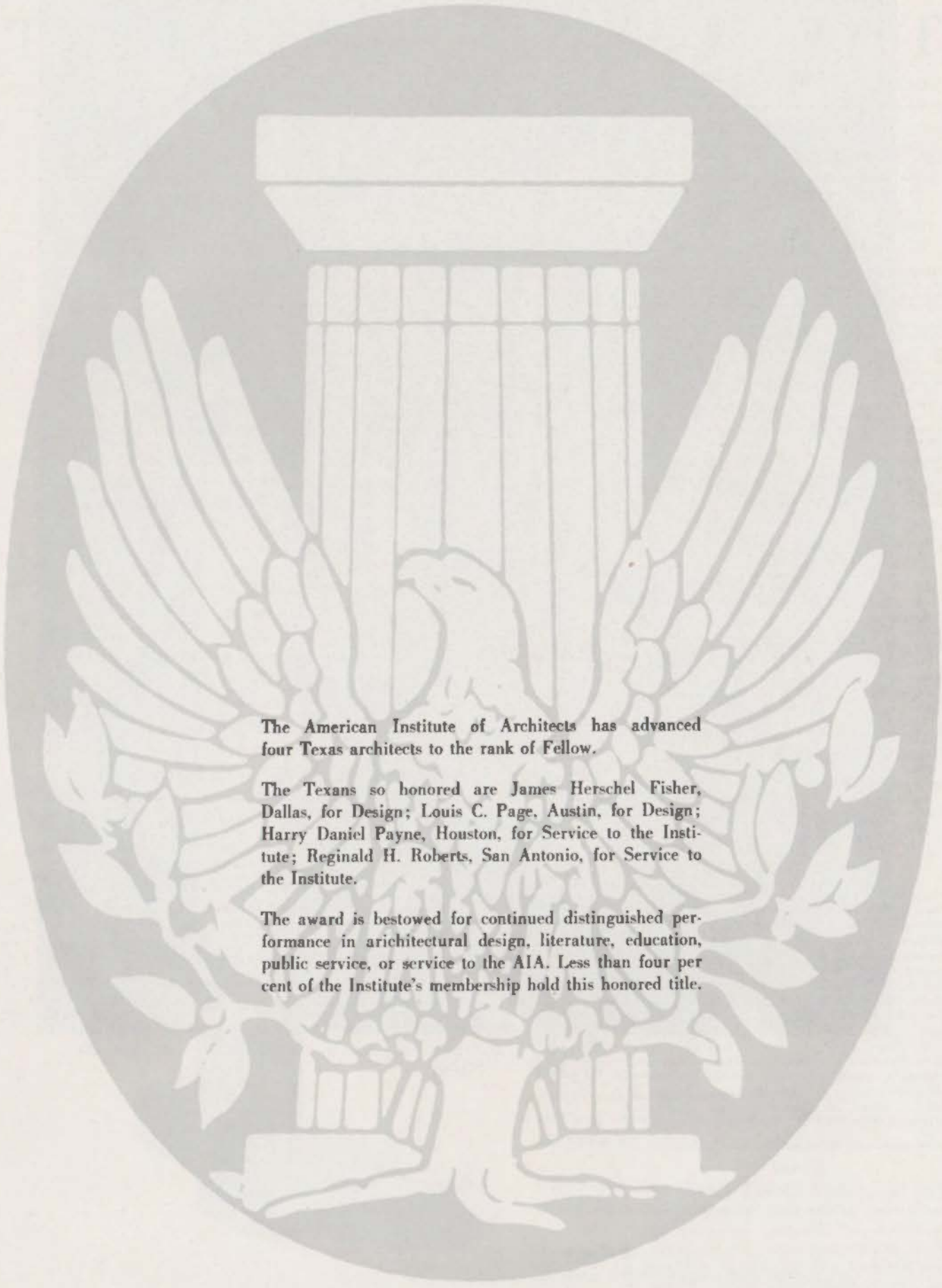
George Pierce, president-elect says:

"The first responsibility of the architect is to im-
prove the environment of his fellow man.

"Most of us spend the greatest part of our time on
the myriad details involved in individual buildings.
And we regularly convene to congratulate our fel-
low practitioners upon their success in making pos-
sible truly distinctive architecture in individual
buildings—or, at the most, a residential, college or
commercial complex. The real pity is that these dis-
tinguished "pieces" are totally engulfed in question-
able neighborhood structures of dubious quality.
From the broad outlook, the result is a rather dis-
mal picture and sometimes we feel the odds are all
against us and our fine ideals of a better environ-
ment.

"Perhaps the situation is not hopeless. There are
signs that some people outside the profession are
becoming aware of the general ugliness that sur-
rounds us and are willing to give more responsibility
to the trained designer-planner. Community leader-
ship seems more conscious of what architects can
really do than ever before. We must take advantage
of this opportunity.

"The books say that architects enjoy top prestige of
professional *status*. Let's use this prestige to en-
courage our community leadership to be more
aware of the condition of our total physical en-
vironment, and to accept nothing less than the
BEST."



The American Institute of Architects has advanced four Texas architects to the rank of Fellow.

The Texans so honored are James Herschel Fisher, Dallas, for Design; Louis C. Page, Austin, for Design; Harry Daniel Payne, Houston, for Service to the Institute; Reginald H. Roberts, San Antonio, for Service to the Institute.

The award is bestowed for continued distinguished performance in architectural design, literature, education, public service, or service to the AIA. Less than four per cent of the Institute's membership hold this honored title.

JAMES HERSCHEL FISHER FAIA



LOUIS C. PAGE FAIA



HARRY DANIEL PAYNE FAIA



REGINALD H. ROBERTS FAIA

TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1962

honored for distinguished design



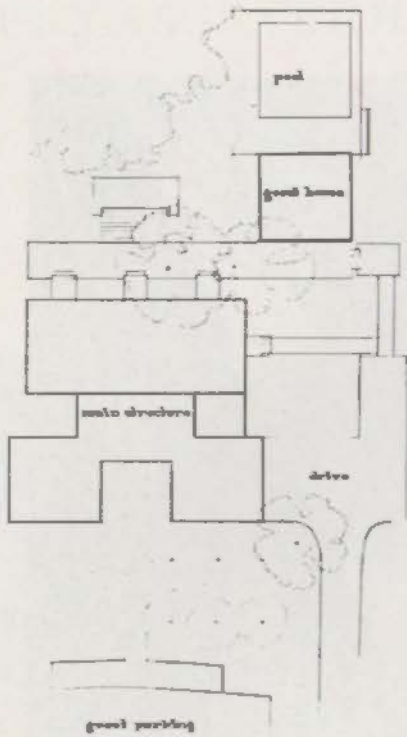
WINTERBOTHAM
RESIDENCE

H O U S T O N

ARCHITECTS

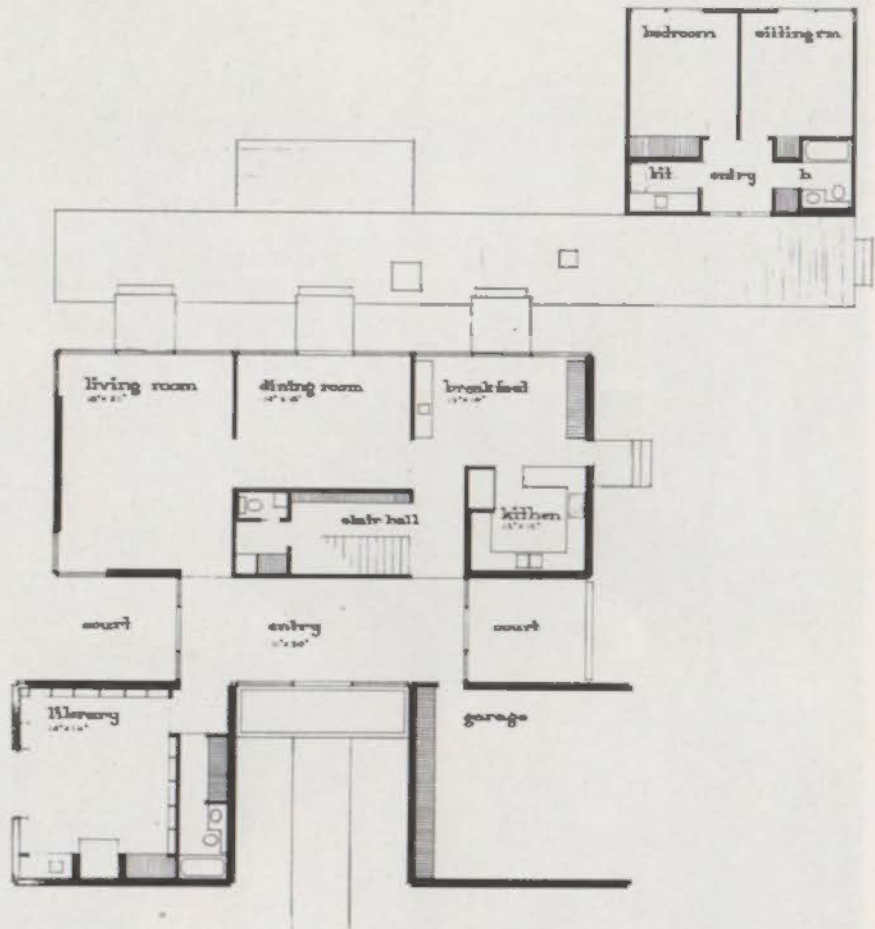
P. M. BOLTON
ASSOCIATES





The problem presented to the architect was the design of a formal residence, for adult living, that reflected the client's way of life. The client's children are grown and space was needed only for occasional visits. The site, which slopes at the rear into dense natural bayou foliage, offered view possibilities that had to be considered.

The house presents an enclosed formal appearance on the street side but, by use of floor to ceiling glass, is completely open to the bayou view. The library and garage, adjacent to each end of the entry hall, form symmetrical one story wings to emphasize the entry.



floor plan
 1" = 8'



The bedrooms are on the second floor and, through the use of floor to ceiling glass, have a direct visual unity with the natural backdrop of trees. The main house is elevated to preserve the natural appearance of the sloping site.

By means of small bridging redwood decks, the living room, dining room and kitchen, are joined to the large redwood deck in the rear. This deck extends to the guest house, which is adjacent to the swimming pool. The guest house, provided for the children's visits, contains a living room, bedroom, bath and small kitchen. When unoccupied it doubles as a dressing area for

FACING TOMORROW'S CHALLENGE WITH YESTERDAY'S EXPERIENCE



the pool. The formal appearance desired by the client, was achieved by the use of an exposed steel frame. The exterior walls are primarily brick insert panels. Floor to ceiling glass was used at the filigree screened entry and across the entire bayou side of the house. The floors of the entry, library and garage, are on slab foundations at grade level, and the remainder of the house is held above the sloping site by steel columns.

Magnolia paneling is used extensively throughout the house, and the living room walls are yellow silk panels. Mechanical equipment is housed in a sub-basement below the house, and is routed through chases into the house. A similar system is used for the guest house. A ceiling height of 9'-6" for the first floor, and 10'-0" for the second floor was used to compensate for the visual distortion which would have occurred had both been the same.



Yesterday: The all-welded steel Dallas Power & Light Co. building erected in 1930 (inset) was the nation's tallest—and it was fabricated by Mosher.

Today: Houston's all-welded steel framed Tennessee Building at 480 ft. 2" high, weighing 17,700 tons is the country's tallest—also a Mosher project.

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TEXAS ARCHITECT

NEW QUARTERS FOR A&M SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

The Division of Architecture of Texas A&M College will move into permanent quarters next May after several years in the "crow's nest" of the Academic Building.

The lofty spot the architects now occupy on the fourth floor of the 50-year-old Academic Building, once the main building on the campus, will be vacated to another academic department.

Theo R. Holleman, head of architecture, said the additional classroom and research facilities are a symbol of progress in architectural education.

One of the happiest fellows on the campus nowadays is the architect—but not simply because the \$900,000 structure is nearing completion.

Dallas architect Harwood K. Smith is one of the more than 2,000 Aggies who have daily climbed eight flights of stairs during a five-year study of architecture since the program was first established 58 years ago.

"In designing the building," Smith said earlier, "I was determined every aspect of the structure would be completely functional. For the first time in the history of A&M, the Architecture Division will be housed in a building that serves all its needs."

In many respects, the three-story building of marble, glass, steel and brick introduces new ideas in construction to the Texas A&M campus.

One of the outstanding interior features, Holleman pointed out, is the maximum flexibility of floor space. By use of specially designed movable partitions, the floor space can be varied to accommodate larger or smaller classes.

The building contains 47,000 square feet of enclosed space. A 200-seat auditorium for lecture and special programs is located on the first floor, across the hall from a 12,000 volume library.

Another unique feature is the use of "gray glass" that stretches almost the entire length of the building. The tinted glass, separate from the windows, allows natural lighting and the same time, prevents glare.

Two large landscaped courtyards will be used for display purposes. Students preparing drawings may use the areas as well.

An adjoining facility, a silo-shaped structure capped with a dome, will be the research center. Second and third level walkways connect the two buildings.

Holleman said the research facility will be one of the best in the United States. An airflow chamber now housed in the engineering building will be dismantled and placed in the new structure.

Holleman calls the dome a "simulated sky." Around the inside of the dome are 68 lights, all calibrated into different intensities. Turned on, the lights are equal to a "hazy day."

Along with the skylights in the research center is an airflow chamber, another technique for studying the effects of nature upon proposed structures. A sun lamp is also available.

By observing the effects of wind, sun and sound on building materials, the researchers will be able to determine the weaknesses of proposed structures, Holleman mentioned.

Enrollment in the Division of Architecture totals 370. An additional floor may be added to the new building if the figure continues to climb.

With these new facilities, Holleman believes the undergraduate and graduate students count will increase.



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The Dallas architectural firm of Harrell & Hamilton has been awarded an Honorable Mention in the first Design in Steel Award Program for the firm's design of the Republic National Motor Bank in Dallas.

The nation-wide competition was sponsored by the American Iron and Steel Institute to give increased recognition to the professionals who design the nation's products and structures. Ten award-winning designs and fifteen honorable mentions were selected by the jury from more than 500 entries.

The Republic National Motor Bank is located one block from the main bank and serves while the existing motor bank in the main building is expanded. It was selected for the Honorable Mention for the architect's use of galvanized steel sheet in the structure.

Harrell & Hamilton were among eleven architectural firms honored by the program.

Some twenty-five Dallas-based manufacturers of building materials journeyed through West Texas to exhibit their respective company's products to architects and contractors in Wichita Falls, Amarillo, Lubbock, and Midland.

W. P. Dickson, president of the North Texas Chapter—Producer's Council and Sam A. Ellsberry, Jr., chairman of the West Texas Caravan, led the group to Wichita Falls for the first meeting and display. The 1000 mile, four day tour then took them to Amarillo, Lubbock, and Midland.

The Producer's Council group, an organization of leading manufacturers of quality building materials and equipment, is affiliated nationally with the American Institute of Architects. The West Texas Caravan cooperated with the local chapter of AIA in each city visited, to bring the exhibits of building materials before their groups and other interested parties of the building industry.

The Texas Architectural Foundation offers scholarships in architectural education and sponsors research in the profession.

Contributions may be made as memorials: a remembrance with purpose and dignity.

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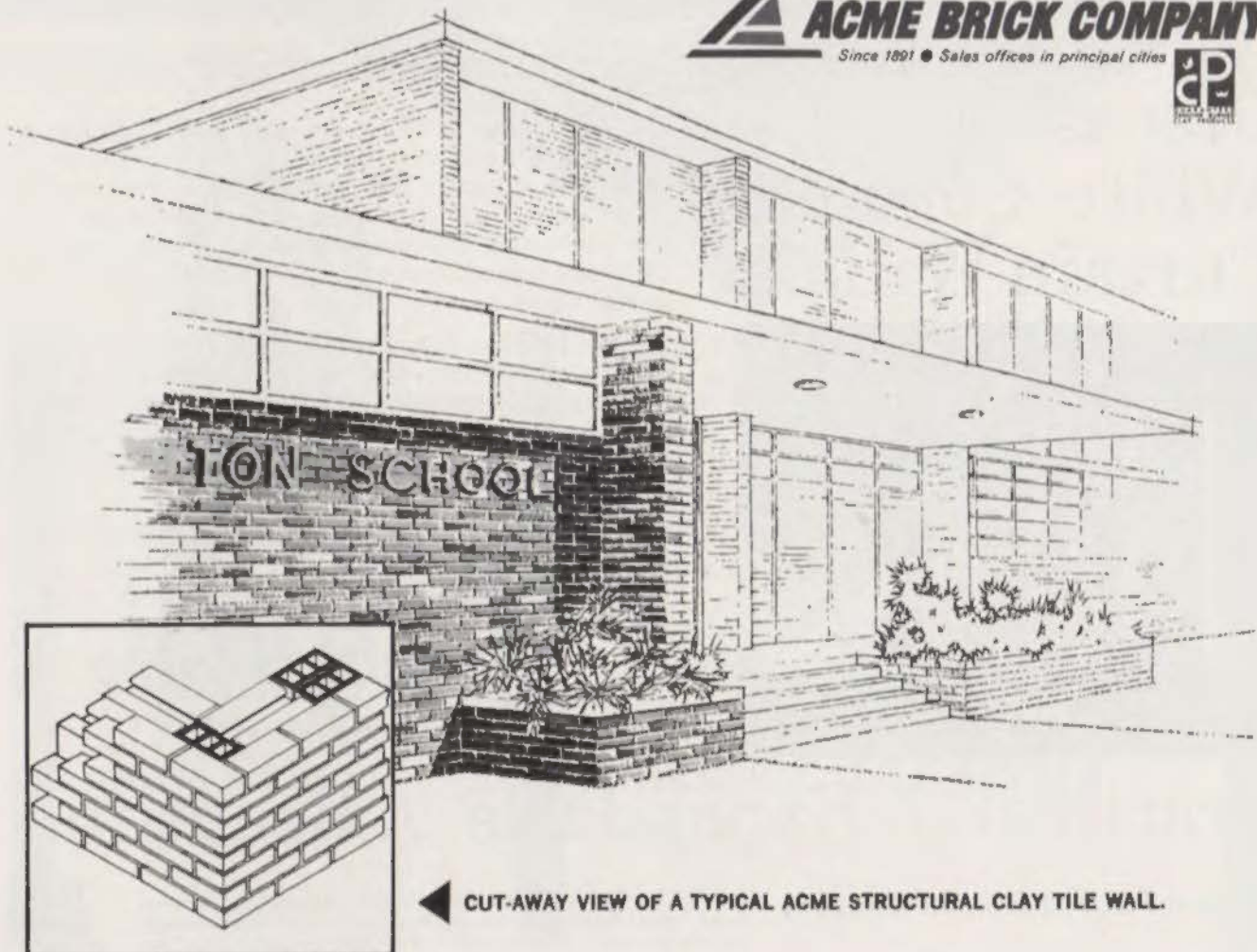
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During construction of a new Collins Radio manufacturing plant in Richardson, Texas, the builders put up 162 square feet of exterior and interior walls with every swing of the crane. How? By using pre-cast, contoured white concrete curtain wall panels. Each panel was 6 feet wide by 27 feet high and was made of Trinity White and white marble aggregate.

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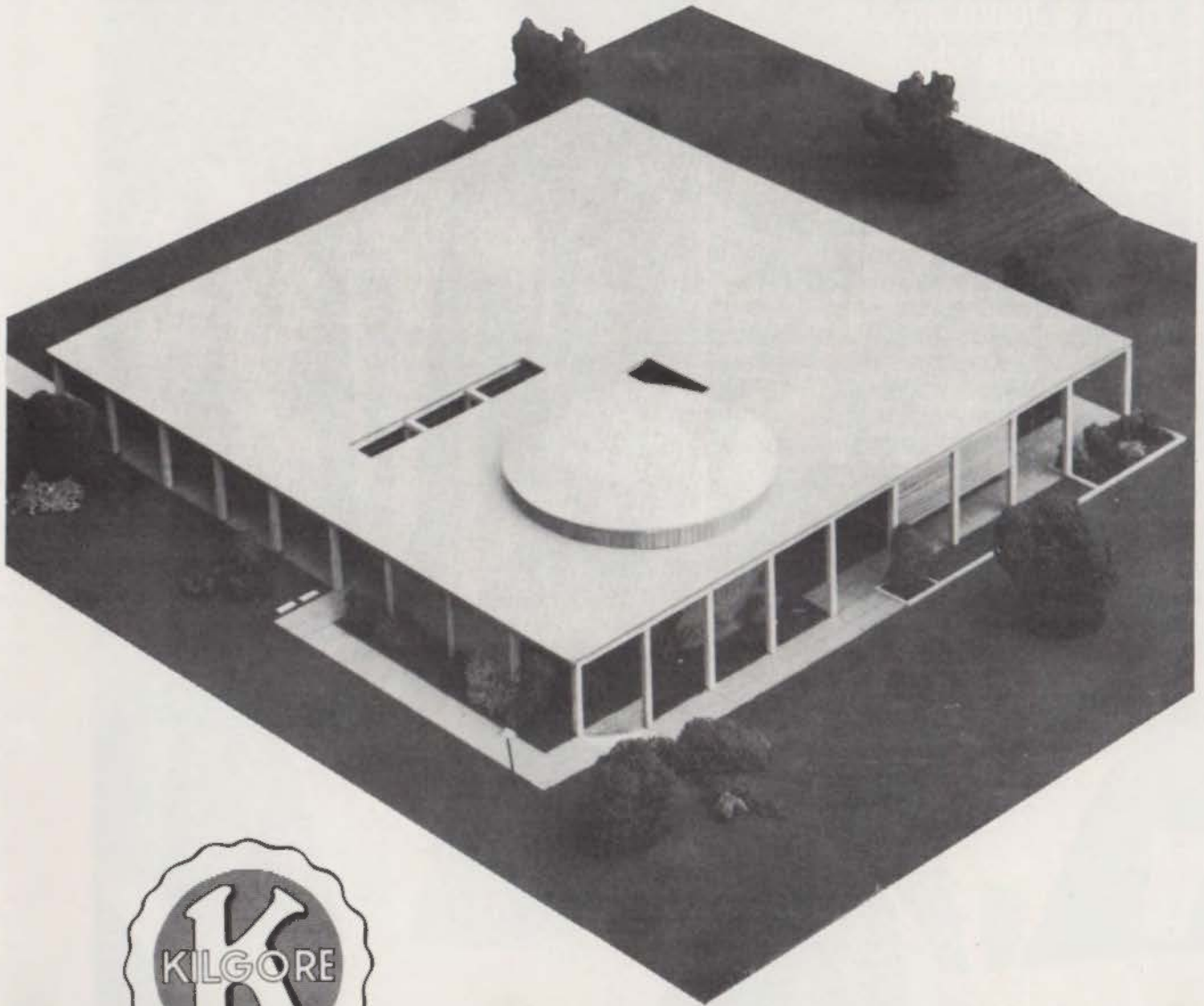
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From a fountain of concrete shells ...inspiring church design

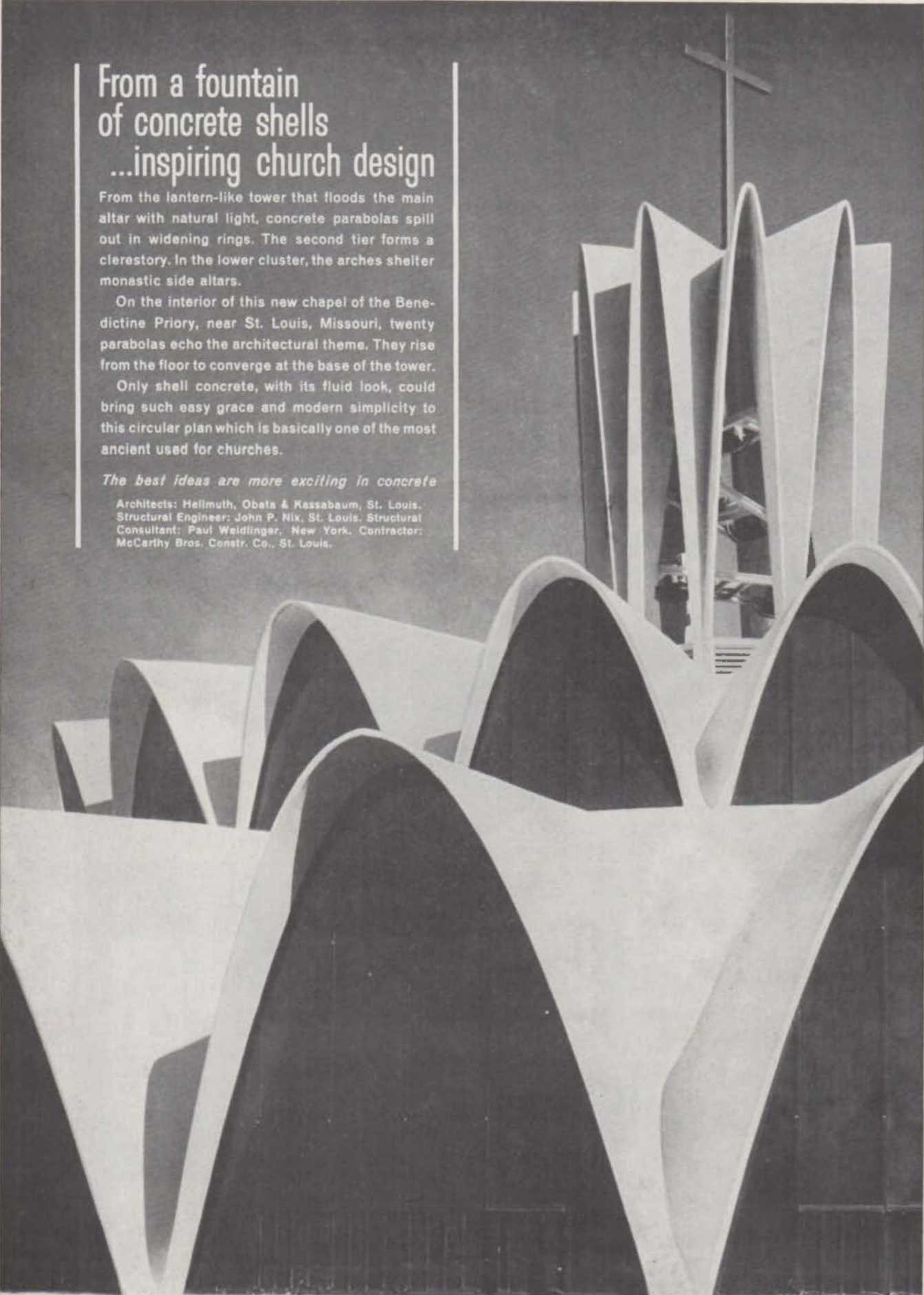
From the lantern-like tower that floods the main altar with natural light, concrete parabolas spill out in widening rings. The second tier forms a clerestory. In the lower cluster, the arches shelter monastic side altars.

On the interior of this new chapel of the Benedictine Priory, near St. Louis, Missouri, twenty parabolas echo the architectural theme. They rise from the floor to converge at the base of the tower.

Only shell concrete, with its fluid look, could bring such easy grace and modern simplicity to this circular plan which is basically one of the most ancient used for churches.

The best ideas are more exciting in concrete

Architects: Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, St. Louis.
Structural Engineer: John P. Nix, St. Louis. Structural
Consultant: Paul Weidinger, New York. Contractor:
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