



THE TEXAS  
ARCHITECT

NOVEMBER

1967







The lake house of Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Hambleton reflects the design separation of living and sleeping functions. The weekend house featuring post and beam construction, resawn cedar paneling and Mexican floor tile was designed by Dallas Architect Dale E. Selzer and is a 1966 "Texas Architecture" selection.

# THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

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James D. Pfluger, Editor

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## The Press and the Elusive Issues of Beauty

The trouble with trying to come to grips with Beauty is that we simultaneously have to grapple with those famous fighting words, that beauty is in the eye of the beholder. If there is less and less beauty in the eyes of more and more beholders, we can credit this rationalization with having contributed significantly to non-beauty by offering an easy detour around the issues. The owner of a hundred shares of stock in a steel company may see the smoke belching from its chimneys as sublimely beautiful in its signification of action and dividends. The automobile graveyards that appear so prominently in our highway scenery betoken the productivity that has displaced the still shiny cars, and the whole cycle of frenetic consumption and instant obsolescence upon which, we feel, so much depends.

The gradual headway that is being made by the Federal beautification program confronts us with what should be a humiliating realization of how far we are from a conviction that beauty is a worth while end in itself. We were taught as children that virtue is its own reward, yet when we practice virtue we are rather disappointed if we fail to get some sort of sugar plum as a bonus.

We respond to beauty with lively eagerness when we encounter it in our travel, but we are rather slow to realize that this kind of experience means that beauty is being its own reward. When it is a matter of taking steps to instigate something at home that is just downright beautiful, and has no particular use except being beautiful, then comes the hemming and hawing. Our conviction seems to be that beauty can wait until the chores are done and we have cashed in on what we consider to be the more immediate advantages. Beauty is a luxury item, an optional extra, a kind of Sundays-and-holidays indulgence, and an extravagance. We are in a favor of beauty, but we have a hard time in trying to decide where it fits in our priority system, and we want to make sure that it will "pay" in the same way as other investments.

If we really love our country even more than we love the products of its bounty, the physical features of the country will show it.

GEORGE McCUE  
Editorial Staff,  
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

(excerpt from Proceedings of Texas Conference on  
Our Environmental Crisis available from  
School of Architecture, University of Texas)



# HAMBLETON LAKE HOUSE—LAKE TAWAKONI

ARCHITECT

DALE E. SELTZER, AIA

DALLAS

DAN HERNDON

ELECTRICAL & MECHANICAL CONSULTANT

KRETSINGER CONSTRUCTION CO.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR

*The exposed beams, rafters and decking emphasize the openness of the living room space. Living activity centers around the magnificent fire place.*

*The lake views and surrounding oak trees extend indoors through use of large glass areas and wood decks.*

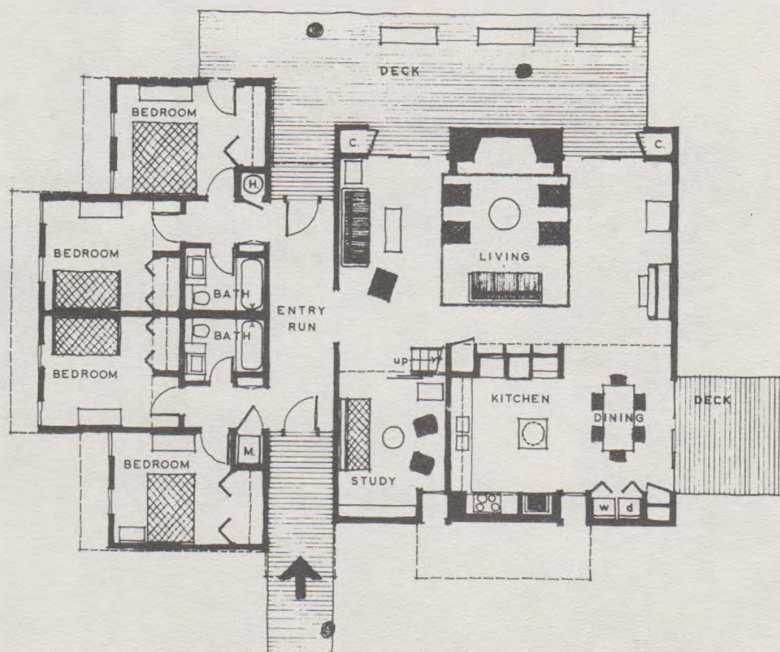
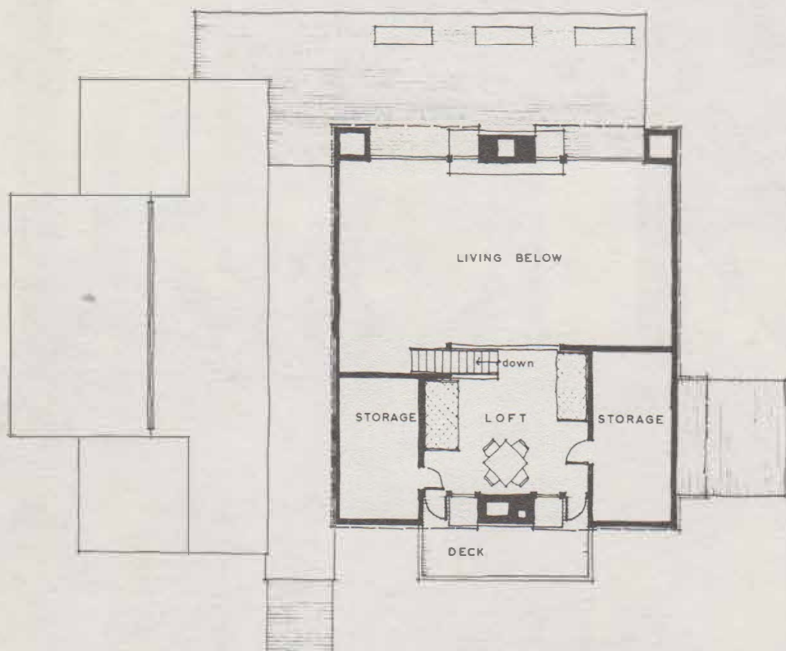




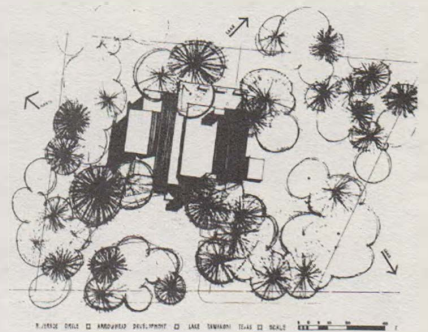




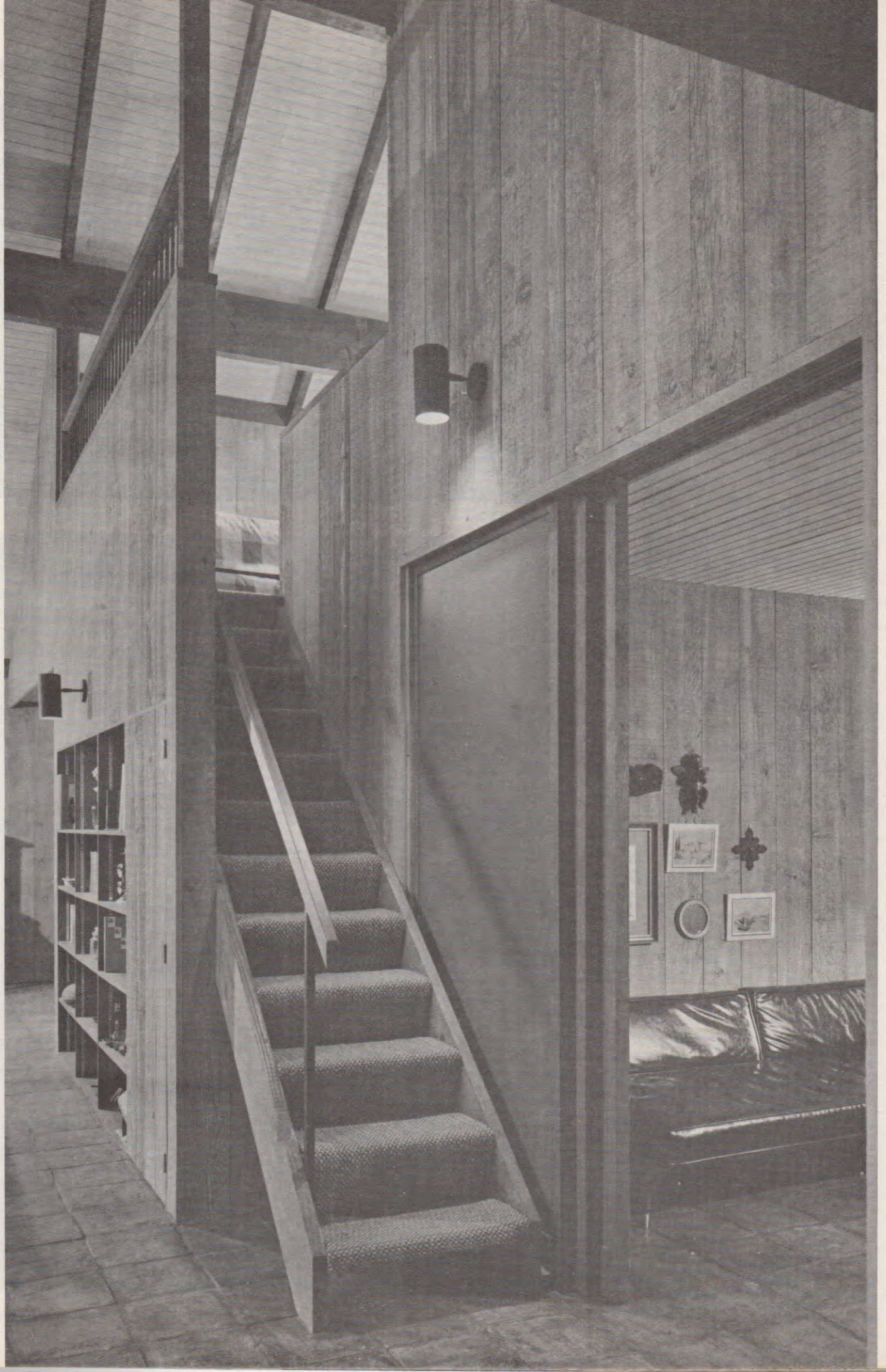
## LAKE TAWAKONI LAKE HOUSE



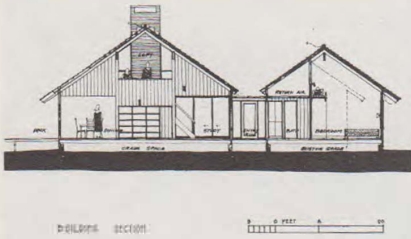
Minimum maintenance was the client's basic requirement for a house to be built at their lake lot to informally accommodate their large family. The clients business is a travel agency and the lake house would be used to entertain clients as well as friends. Since the client's family includes seven children, they wanted space for entertaining varied age groups with some separation. The site is on a cove at the lake and it was desirable to have a raised point for viewing across the trees to the lake. The solution was to separate the living and sleeping functions, and it took the form of two separated buildings joined by an entry run. A loft overlooks and shares the main living space and extends outside making a balcony. The study and the loft also serve as sleeping spaces. The kitchen was planned to be included in the activities of the living-dining space. The plan expands to the outside by use of wood decks to avoid the need of site grading. This solution permitted easy construction and allows for minimum site maintenance.



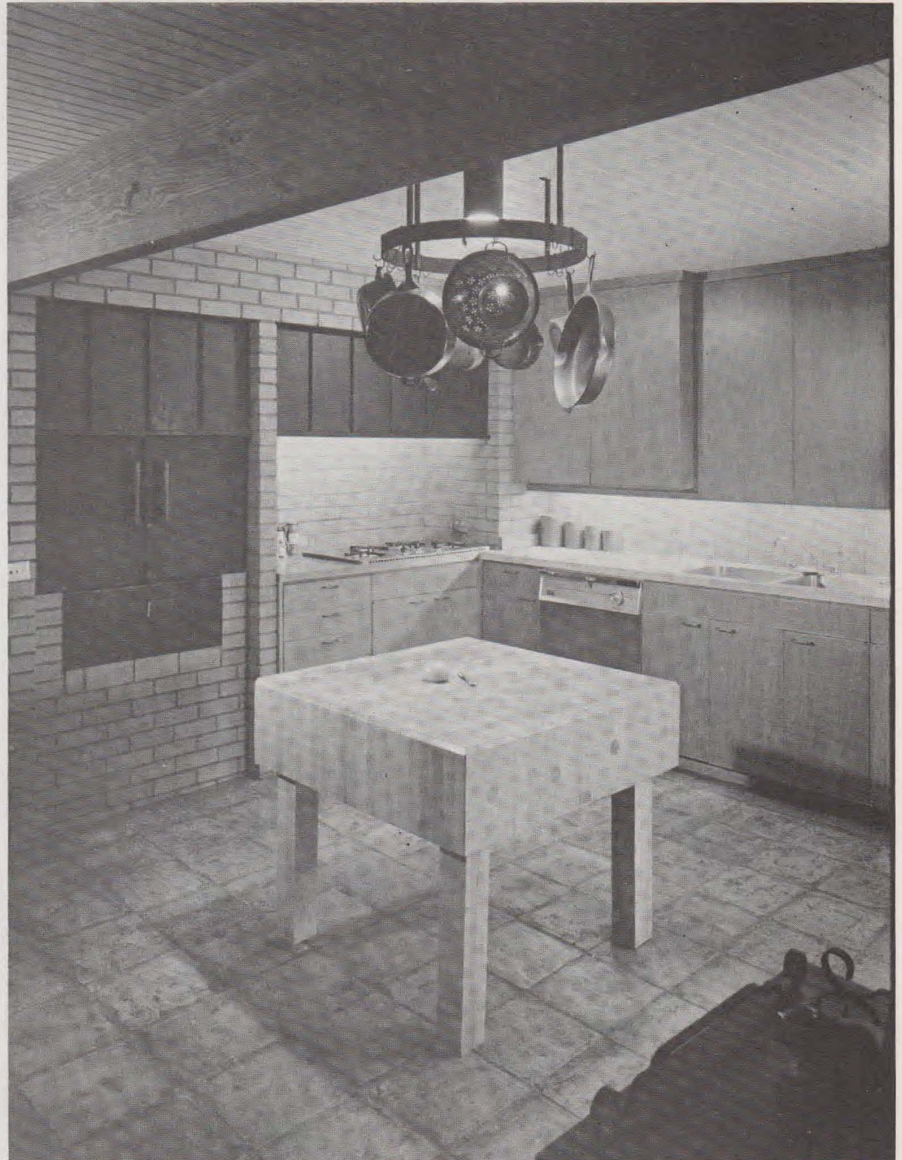








Construction is a combination of post-beam and platform framing on spread concrete footings. The ceiling is exposed to express the rhythm of the fir beams and pine roof deck. All vertical surfaces are stained resawn cedar except gypsum board used in bedrooms. Chimneys are of common brick. The flooring in the living space and baths is stained mexican tile; in the loft sisal carpet was used; and in the bedrooms vinyl cork was used. The exterior decks are natural redwood. ■





# RIVERS: BEAUTY OR BLIGHT?

Address by Robert L. Durham, FAIA,  
president, The American Institute of  
Architects.

## TEXAS RIVERS

RIO GRANDE  
NUECES  
SAN ANTONIO  
GUADALUPE  
LAVACA  
COLORADO  
BRAZOS  
SAN JACINTO  
TRINITY  
NECHES  
SABINE  
RED RIVER  
CANADIAN  
ANGELINA  
YELLOW HOUSE  
PEASE  
JAMES  
COMAL  
ATASCOSA  
WICHITA  
PECOS  
LAMPASAS  
CONCHO  
BLANCO  
WASHITA  
PEDERNALES  
LEON  
DEVILS  
BOSQUE  
SULPHUR  
SABANNA  
LEONA  
FRIO  
SAN SABA  
SABINAL  
LITTLE  
LLANO  
SAN BERNARD  
MEDINA  
NAVASOTA  
SAN GABRIEL  
NAVIDAD  
SAN MARCOS

The American Institute of Architects calls upon its members, the leaders of their communities and their representatives in government to act now to save our nation's rivers. We can no longer afford to delay in securing for this nation a livable future environment.

The American Institute of Architects has for a century recorded its aims "to insure the advancement of the living standards of our people through their improved environment; and to make the profession of ever-increasing service to society." Thus the Institute was honored by Secretary Udall's request to form the Potomac Planning Task Force and is proud of the results of two years devoted and penetrating work by our distinguished past-president and Task Force Chairman Gould Odell, the other architects and colleagues from related disciplines who served on this task force.

The guiding principles of their report entitled *The Potomac*, are set forth brilliantly. Now these principles must be adapted to the urgent needs of all our great rivers. The alternative course of inaction will find us before long with no hope of restoring these national treasures. American civilization has come to life out of its rivers. From Henry Hudson to Abraham Lincoln and Mark Twain, our rivers have inspired, taught, and nourished us. With industrial progress, however, has come the brutal abuse of our rivers, many of which have become little more than open sewers. We must declare a halt to their blind destruction, and we must do it now. In *The Potomac*, we have been given the sound ecological planning principles needed for guiding our rivers back to health.

The report states clearly what must be done to save the Potomac, our nation's one truly national river. The Potomac can be saved if Congress and the President wholeheartedly and promptly carry out the recommended measures of the President's Potomac Planning Task Force. Foremost among these are the establishment of a Potomac Development Foundation and a \$50 million per year fund for land banks, research and development studies. If this is done, it will have a significant effect far beyond its own shores for its precepts are applicable to all rivers.

There are at least 20 major river basins in America. Our governors, mayors and Congressmen must be brought to



understand and support the conceptual framework proposed in *The Potomac*. It is, in short, a new way of looking at a river and a new method of planning for its recovery. The report should be given wide circulation to officials of government at every level, to community leaders and to our universities and libraries. It should properly become a basic text in our high schools and colleges.

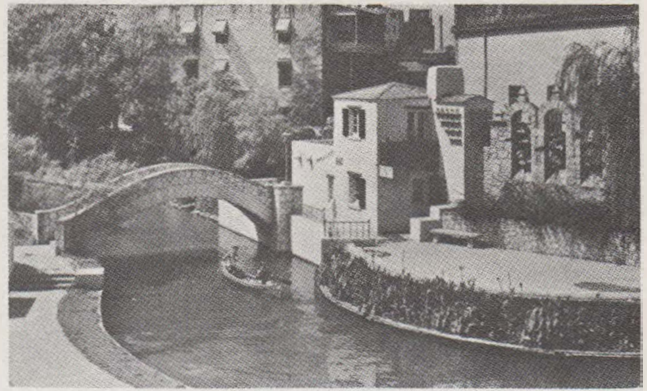
The report clearly spells out how to proceed with the rehabilitation of a river, using ecological principles that range from the control of water pollution and visual pollution to recommendations for recreation and highly urbanized waterfront development. The authors of the report have largely succeeded in their aims of producing a report that "takes account of the basin's rapidly growing urban populations and their inter-related needs . . . relates the complex uses of land in the basin to the people's need for an unpolluted and enjoyable river and recognizes that the river is a product of the land it drains and the practices of the people who inhabit its basin."

Above all the report sets forth specific remedies tailored to the Potomac, but provides for that which is most lacking throughout the country, an "integrated plan for developing effective basinwide remedies." *The Potomac* provides a conceptual framework for all river basin planning. Other concepts may be readily applied to the report such as the outstanding "Statewide Landscape Analysis for Wisconsin" of 1964 or the "Metropolitan Open Space from Natural Process Report" recently prepared for The Department of Housing and Urban Development at the University of Pennsylvania.

Also, the report corroborates the AIA proposal for the solution of other equally complex environmental problems such as the social, economic, and physical impact of urban highways. We recently recommended to Congress, The Department of Housing and Urban Development, and The Department of Transportation, the formation of multidisciplinary Design Concept Teams. The team concept, composed of architects, engineers, economists, sociologists, and planners, is being proven in Baltimore in the planning and design of its 20-mile network of the Interstate Highway System, and in Brooklyn's soon-to-be-announced development of a linear city.

In the work of the task force, many other well-polished concepts have been incorporated. These have been well related to original contributions. Here, for the first time, separated into the component parts of the river is "river landscape"—the "river", the "riverside" and the "setting".

In *The Potomac*, three distinct geological settings are treated in depth to illustrate fundamental erosion, pollution, and water conservation principles. The case is even



developed that some settings should *not* be built upon—land where slopes exceed 25% of flood plains, for example. The concept is set forth in *The Potomac* for a "regional ecological inventory". This need applies to all of our land as a prerequisite of any further urbanization of natural landscapes. Enormous benefits would come from this, both through savings and through unforeseen design opportunities. This means that social and ecological cost benefit analysis should now help to guide our nation's future development.

It is here that a great virtue of *The Potomac* stands out. As a broad, yet detailed conceptual framework, the document is fully adaptable to new technology in land-use planning. As President of the American Institute of Architects, I offer the thanks of America's architects to the task force, which includes several of our most distinguished members: to President Johnson, who launched this effort to make the Potomac a model for the entire country; and to Secretary Udall, whose energetic efforts in behalf of environmental health and conservation are a continuing inspiration to us all.

*Editor's Note: R. Max Brooks, FAIA, Austin, was a member of the Potomac Planning Task Force preparing the report. The Potomac report is published and available through the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402 at \$5 per copy.*



KNOX CITY, TEXAS

# FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

JAMES WILEY & ENSLIE OGLESBY

ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS  
DALLAS

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS  
CHAPPELL-TAYLOR

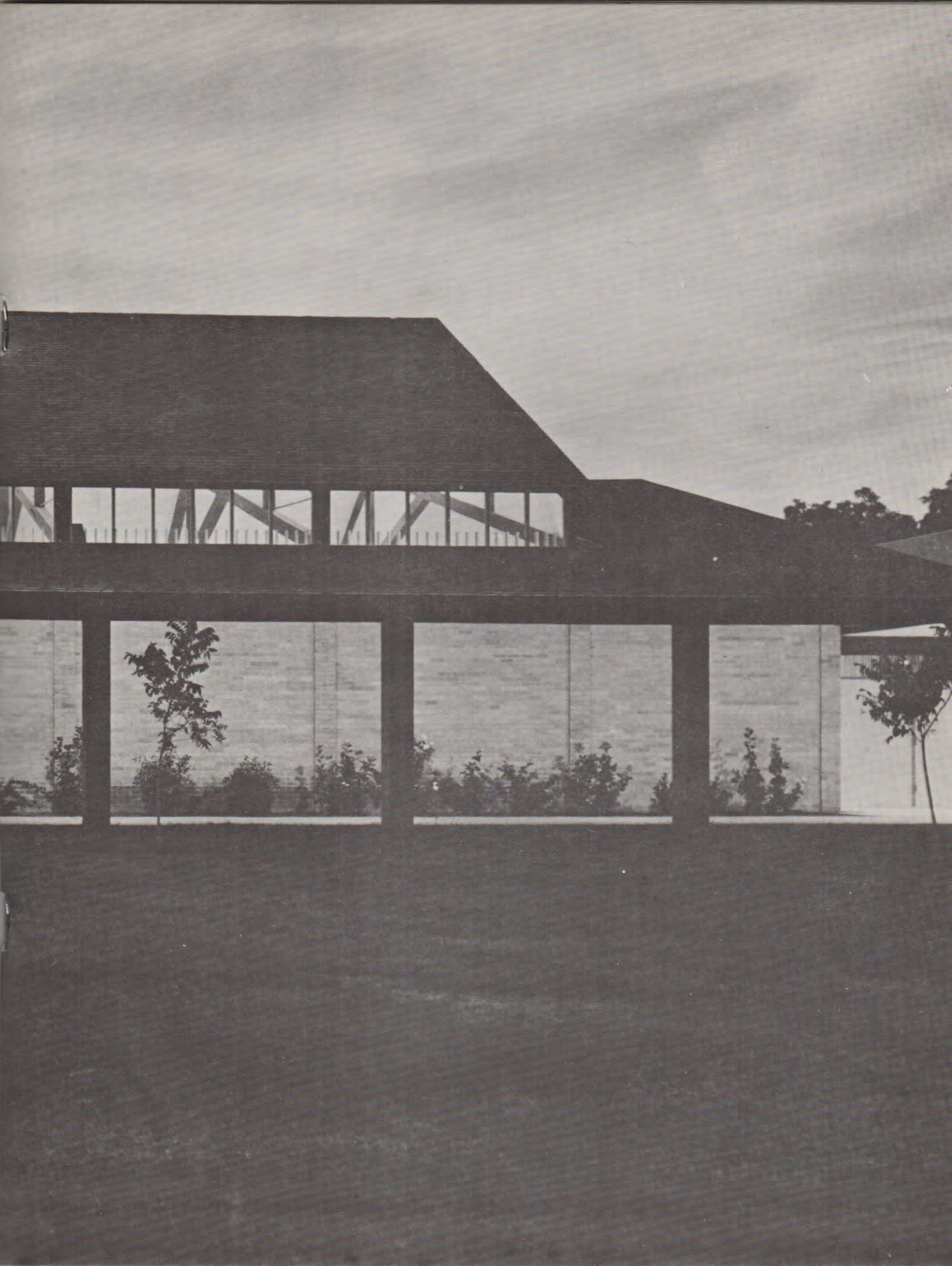
MECHANICAL ENGINEER  
DAN HERNDON





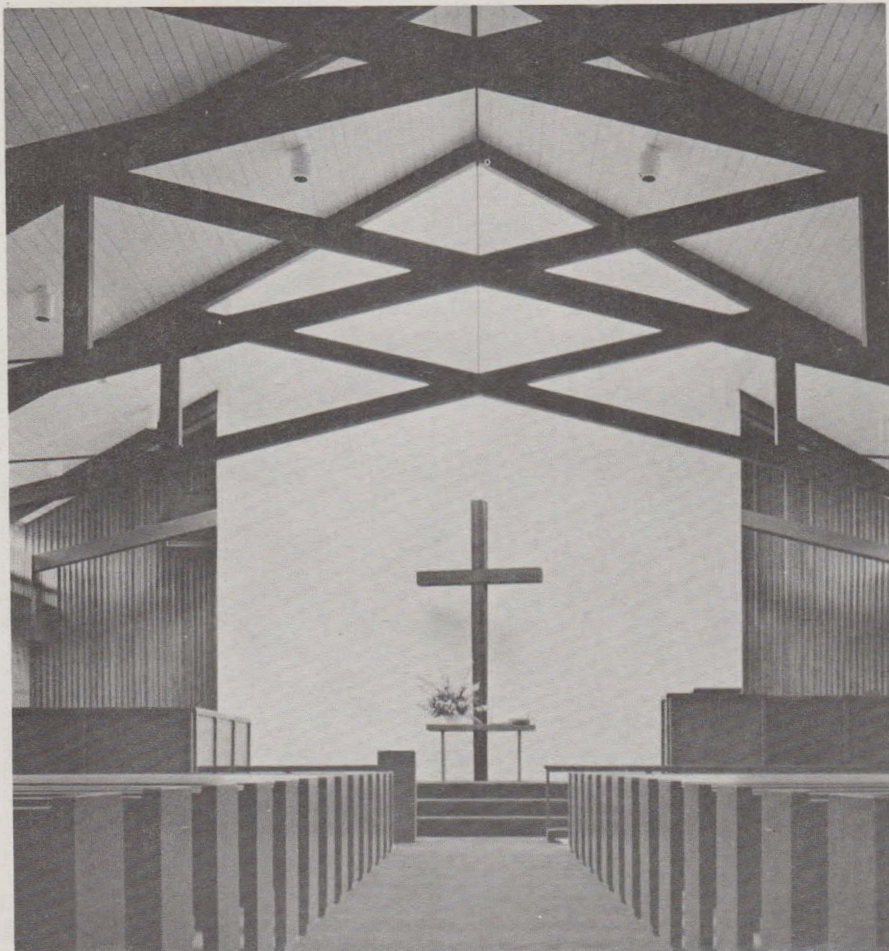
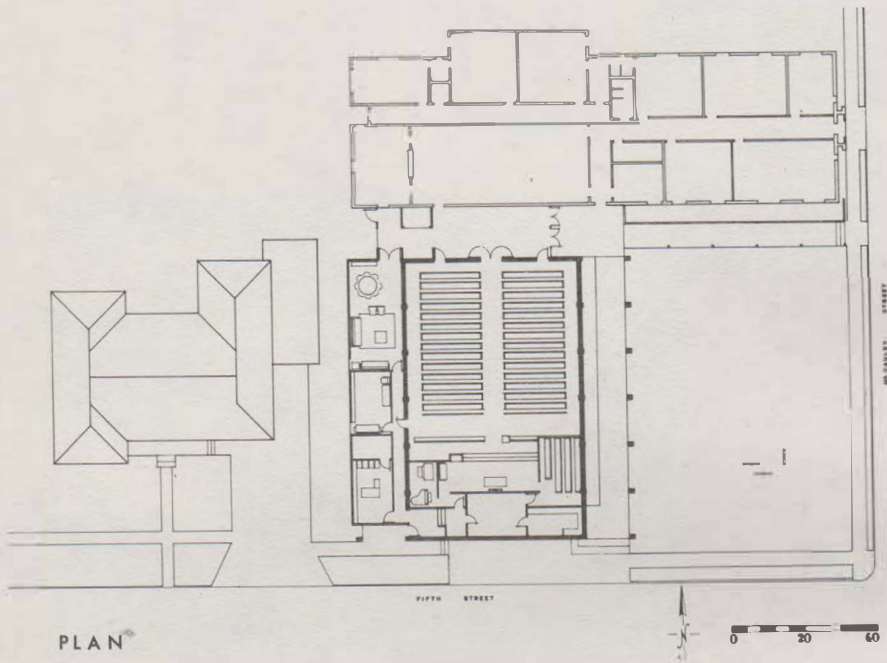








# KNOX CITY



Knox City is a farm town of approximately 2300 people in the flat, cattle range/cotton area of north-central Texas halfway between Wichita Falls and Abilene.

The problem was to replace the sanctuary, built in 1910, with one which would more comfortably accommodate the stable congregation and would connect to an unimaginative Educational Building which was built from stock plans three years ago. The new sanctuary, to seat 250, was to be built within a minimal budget of \$10.00 per square foot.

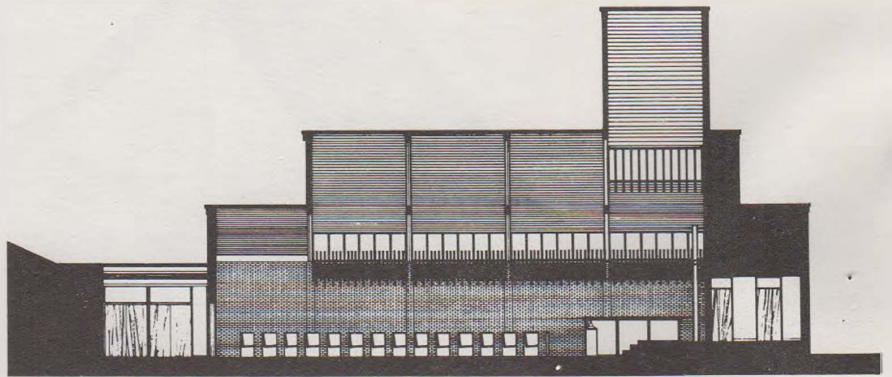
Our aim was to design a building which would be an expression of the simplicity of the community's life with forms and materials compatible with those found in the city, rather than a cathedral scaled down in size and budget. A spacial progression is created when the visitor passes from the limitlessness of the West Texas Plains through a covered passageway—semienclosed—to the low horizontal space of the vestibule. The progression continues from horizontal to vertical which, together with the use of natural light, heightens the drama of the central and most important symbol.



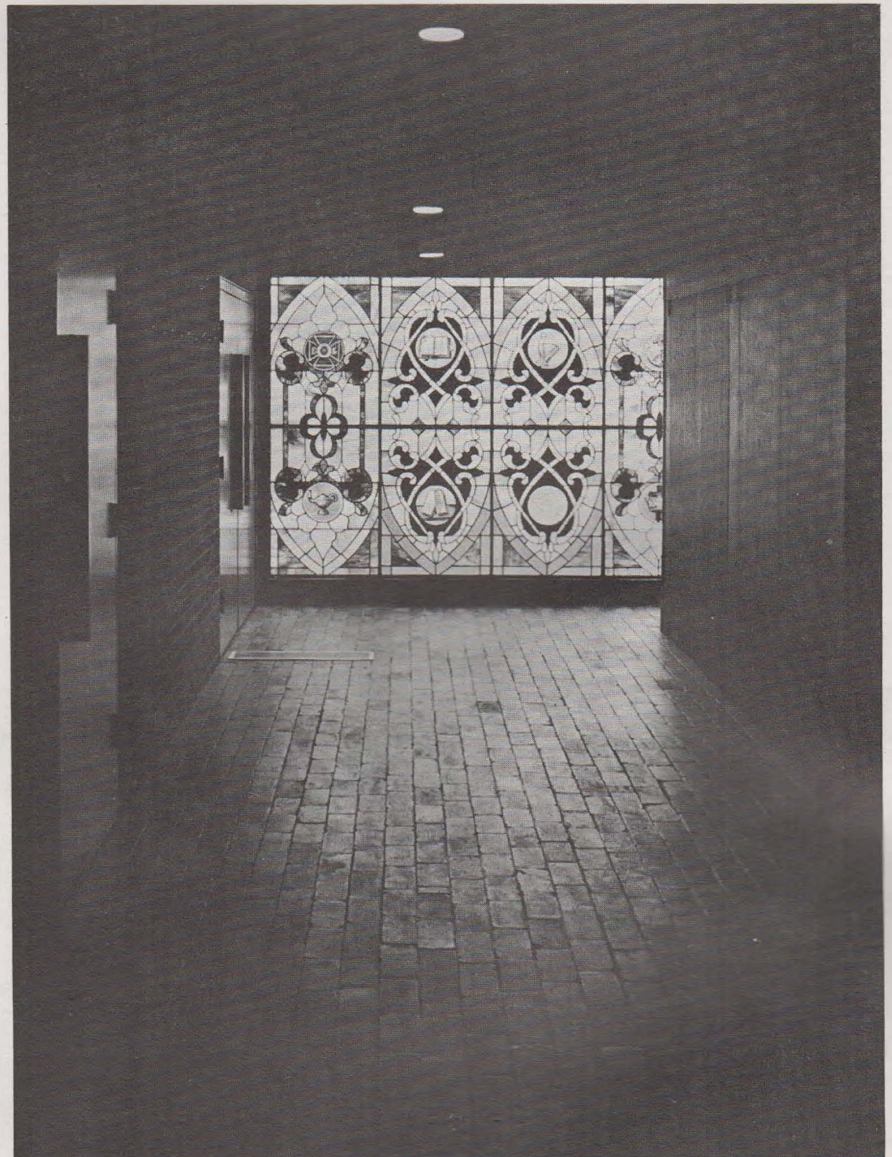




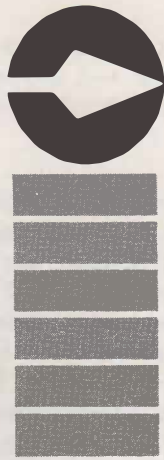
Sand-finished brick is used in cavity walls and columns. Partitions are wood frame with gypsum board. Timber roof trusses with solid wood roof deck constitute the principle structure. Cedar shingles and redwood siding have a natural, weathered finish. Stained glass memorials were taken from the old sanctuary and re-assembled for the vestibule window. The brick flooring in the vestibule is also from the old building.



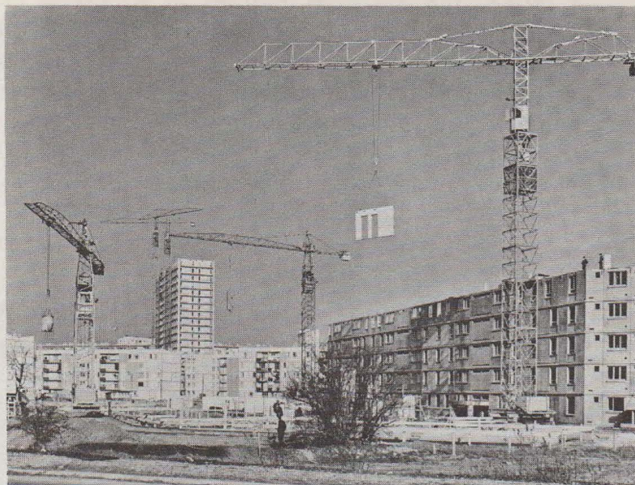
**SECTION**







## the international conference on masonry structural systems



*Prestressed load-bearing, clay masonry, wall panels with doors, windows, and plastered wall finish are prefabricated and craned into place.*

There is in fact a major revolution now underway in structural systems for buildings, the importance of which can only be compared to the invention of tall, skeleton frame buildings 83 years ago. Frames have dominated structural thinking for buildings since the 1880's. However, a new idiom has been added to the structural vocabulary for buildings—one which has significant aesthetic and economic potential as well as basic structural integrity. The new idiom is the load-bearing masonry structural system. Discarded at the turn of the century, it has lain fallow; but now, through major research efforts here and abroad exciting, novel structural uses for masonry are not only possible but economically feasible.

The cursory treatment given masonry in architectural and engineering education in the United States has created a professional knowledge gap, which is a deterrent to the full exploitation of the inherent advantages of new masonry structural systems. Few practitioners in the U.S. have demonstrated intuitive understanding or creative design in structural masonry. As a result, the U.S.A. is a full 10 to 15 years behind Europe in exciting new uses for this structural material.

In 1958 the Swiss built an 18-story load-bearing building with 15-inch brick walls to the ground. U.S. still has not matched that performance, but in 1966 a 17-story building with 11-inch reinforced brick masonry walls was built for earthquake resistance in Denver, Colorado. The prefabrication of prestressed, brick panels is another area in which the Europeans are away ahead of practice in the U.S.A.

In 1964 one French manufacturer supplied pre-fabricated brick panels for 28,000 dwelling units, and another manufacturer supplied panels for 15,000 more dwelling units. There are 10 manufacturers of such panels in Europe, where panels 8 feet high, 20 feet long with doors





*In Europe prefabricated prestressed clay masonry structural elements are plant made and inventoried.*



*Prefabricated, load-bearing panels of prestressed clay masonry are used for this high rise, frameless building in Southern France.*

and windows already in place, already plastered, are manufactured in the plant and shipped to the job for application in high-rise, load-bearing, frameless buildings.

At the University of Edinburgh giant girders with flanges of concrete floor sections 6 ft. wide and a web of reinforced brick masonry 8 ft. deep, are being tested full scale. In New Zealand structural model studies are underway of story deep sandwiches, consisting of post-stressed brick walls between concrete slabs forming very stiff diaphragms, to support load bearing buildings above a ground floor free of undesirable space dividing walls. Nothing of the sort is seriously being considered currently by U.S. designers untrained in masonry fundamentals.

In order to close the knowledge gap and explore the present state of the art, The University of Texas at Austin sought and obtained a grant from the National Science Foundation in support of an International Conference on Masonry Structural Systems to be held November 30-December 2, 1967 at the Terrace Convention Center in Austin, Texas. To this conference 70 authors from 14 nations in Europe, Asia and the Americas have contributed 63 papers on aesthetic creativity, material science, structural performance, design methodology, case studies, and construction techniques. Cooperating organizations include the American Institute of Architects and the American Society of Civil Engineers, American Society for Testing and Materials, and the Building Research Advisory Board of the National Academy of Science. Advisory organizations include the Mason Contractors Association of America and several industrial organizations in Europe and North America. Sponsors of the Conference are the National Science Foundation, The Clay Products Association of the Southwest, and the Structural Clay Products Institute.

None of the 63 papers at the conference will be orally presented by authors. Subsequent to the general session, which opens the conference, papers will be reviewed briefly by an international, interdisciplinary panel. After comments by panel members have been presented, questions from the floor may be directed to the Session Chairman. Many foreign countries are sending large delegations of practicing architects, engineers, academicians and researchers to Austin to attend the conference. The conference secretariat says that large delegations from Australia, England and the European continent are expected to swell registration well beyond the 500 mark. U.S. architects and engineers have a golden opportunity to take full advantage of this international gathering by attending the conference in Austin this month.

The Conference registration fee of \$30.00 includes a copy of the conference proceedings, two luncheons, a banquet and four coffee breaks. ■



# HOUSING

Address By ROBERT L. DURHAM, FAIA  
PRESIDENT, THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



There is evidence that the United States stands near, or at, a road junction in housing. The major events which have conspired to bring us here might be described as urban revolution and suburban evolution. A large segment of the population of our cities has violently demonstrated its antipathy and contempt for its surroundings. A growing segment of our suburban population is exhibiting "a deepening dissatisfaction with the quality of its environment. The public housing programs of the nation which date from the great depression no longer seem pertinent to an entirely new problem. The private housing industry, supported by government programs designed to provide minimum standards and maximum quantity, is being forced to adjust to public demands for quality.

The nation will not be able to continue for much longer down the road it has been traveling—it must soon choose a new route. The evidence of imminent change is mounting. The private housing industry is obviously restive, and both the Federal and local governments are exploring new approaches to public housing. The staff at national AIA headquarters has noted a significant fact: the first session of the 90th Congress has initiated a quantity of housing legislation unmatched except in the period immediately following World War II when American soldiers returned home to find a critical housing shortage. Under those earlier conditions, the Congress and the Federal government embarked this country on a housing *quantity* course. That course, I believe, has just about been run, but a new course has not yet been plotted. In this situation, the architectural profession has both opportunity and responsibility. We have the chance to influence the new course—to see that it does not represent an unhappy choice between quantity and quality, but provides both—to see that it incorporates those good environmental solutions we have learned so painfully—to see to it that the new course fully involves architects and other design professionals. We have the responsibility of fitting ourselves to the housing task—and of making our skills and knowledge more widely available to the American public.

There is a great deal to be accomplished before we can seize this opportunity, or discharge this duty. The contemporary record of the architectural profession in housing only shows how far we have to go. A writer in an architectural publication estimated that architects provide professional services for less than one per cent of the single-family homes built. Nothing will be gained by arguing the reasons for this situation—by attempting to blame the home builder for not *wanting* to work with architects, or by accusing the public of indifference to what we can contribute. These are our problems, too, and the fact remains that our profession has not had an influence on American housing commensurate with its abilities. Yet I doubt that I could find in this audience a single architect who would dispute the statement that



the home is man's most "immediate," and therefore most important, environment.

It may sound like a form of boasting criticism for an architect to say it, but I believe that the consequences of my profession's isolation from housing have been enormously destructive. They may well include the decay of city centers and the physical and visual pollution of entire regions of the nation.

To be understood, cities must first of all be examined in terms of housing, and in these terms America's cities have to be judged harshly. As residences, our cities today are largely populated by the socially or economically unwanted who live there because they have no choice. The simple fact is that this happened because most of those who had a choice, chose to leave. They didn't leave the city just because it was possible to do so—because they had an automobile and a road on which to run it. The middle class deserted the city because it was, for middle class Americans, already an unsatisfactory place to live. Their places were taken by the disadvantaged, and the shortcomings of the city as a place to live were exacerbated by poverty and social isolation until today's intolerable conditions resulted.

But the middle class, in rushing to suburbia for the greenery and space it could not get in the city, lost something with which it had no intention of parting, or, perhaps more accurately, did not know that it valued. In a classic case of over-reaction, the essentially urban nature of suburbia was ignored and rural patterns of housing were imposed. Much of suburbia today gives one the visual impression that we have regarded it as an extension of the city. Architects did not foster this illusion, but we must share some of the blame for allowing it to flourish.

The illusion contained tragic seeds. Suburbia was built in a fashion that often prevented the orderly growth and development of cities when it should have facilitated such changes. Furthermore, suburban housing wasted and despoiled land and landscapes. Just as tragically, the repetitive, deadening pattern of suburban housing failed to provide a sense of community, or identity. In many cases, we built good houses, only to plunk them down on postage-stamp lots that provided no kind of privacy, and put them in mass housing tracts that were absolutely devoid of community amenities. At the same time, in order to somehow hold the rigidly differentiated city center and suburbia together, it became necessary to spend billions of dollars on new highways that blighted the landscape while providing an increasingly unsatisfying answer to an unnecessary problem.

This bleak picture of our nation's housing "mess" can in some small way be relieved, however, by one fact: we—the architectural and other design professions, and to a

degree the American public—have learned something from the experiences of the past two decades.

We have rediscovered something which was well known to the people who first settled and built this nation—that there is a vital difference between a house and a home: we have rediscovered the necessity of community.

I believe we have also learned that suburbia is the city, and that only when city and suburb are ecologically unified can either of them be healthy.

Because we have learned, or are beginning to learn, these things, I find the outlook to be hopeful. The "new town" and "planned community" movements on the one hand, and some outstanding urban redevelopment projects on the other, are favorable signs. Both attempt to do essentially the same thing—to fuse, or synthesize, a lively urban community with the suburban attributes of greenness and open space.

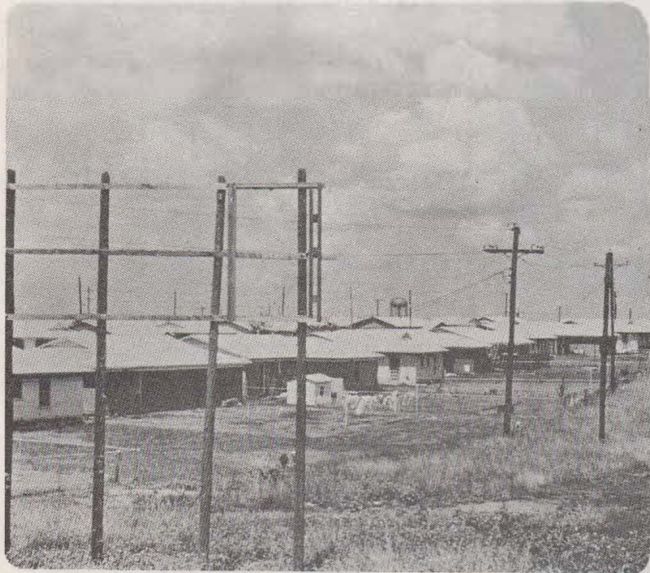
These movements offer additional hope—they involve architects in a basic and major way. In the one instance, a new and different kind of private client makes it possible for architects to attempt design solutions that have housing as a primary consideration. In the other instance, public clients with a new understanding of the needs of our cities make the same thing possible.

There is hope, therefore, that we approach our new road junction in housing armed with workable design ideas to improve our environment, and with the skills and talent to put these ideas into effect. It is vital, however, that architects, acting as individuals as well as collectively through the Institute, work to insure that government programs enacted at all levels do not foreclose the possibility of improving the quality of our housing—that they, in fact, open the door to good design.

To this end, the AIA must make a basic reappraisal of its policies on housing, and issue statements that will inform the public and legislators of the profession's stand. We owe it to the people of our nation, and to the members of all legislative bodies who will be considering housing problems in the near future, to offer carefully conceived and positive advice and counsel. At the same time, we must intensify our efforts to inform the public of the elements and benefits of good community design.

I feel that it is highly important for the profession to serve public notice that it is interested in housing, and is prepared to involve itself. It is high time, I believe, for us to make it easier for individuals to obtain architectural consulting services on housing matters. We must continue to insist that it is preferable for a client to put an architect in control of the design process. At the same time, we have a public responsibility to see that home





owners and home builders who cannot afford, or do not wish to use, full architectural design services, but would like to benefit from architectural consultation, can do so. In brief, we must recognize our duty to the architectural out-patient.

The chapter organizations of AIA can be of service in this matter. I would like to see each chapter maintain a list of its members who are willing to provide such consultation, so that any individual who has a building problem can get professional advice. Fees to be charged for this kind of consultation obviously would have to be tailored to fit the client. It is one thing to spend an hour discussing a home improvement with an individual. It's another matter entirely to spend the same amount of time discussing with a home builder or businessman a land development problem. This is not, however, the kind of difficulty that should make us hold back our services from the public.

Before we have reached that point in time when a new housing route for the nation must be chosen, or else forced upon us, architects must also apply themselves to exploring the potentialities of the multi-disciplinary team in community design, and the systems approach to design and building. If we are to use these new and promising tools, we must first be able to "sell" them to both public and private clients. We must be able to convince the client that housing inevitably involves such diverse elements as economic planning, transportation engineering, and commercial and industrial development—and we must show the client that the multi-disciplinary team furnishes the broad professional competence needed to deal with all of them. The systems approach may make it possible for us to radically alter the design and construction of housing—in particular low-cost housing. It may significantly advance the ability of architects to design balanced communities that will include homes, schools, and recreational, commercial and industrial facilities.


It is clear, I believe, that we have much work to do if the profession is to be able to take advantage of developing opportunities in housing. I would not, however, have any architect feel that in undertaking this work we are preparing for a short campaign. Architects are by their nature opposed to "crash" programs. Housing problems that have accumulated over two decades will not be swept away overnight, no matter how new the broom or how skillful the sweeper.

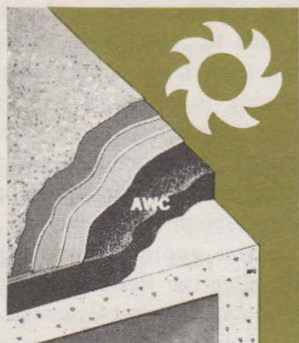
If we reach the road junction in housing and take the correct route—the one that leads toward the development of a satisfying environment for our people—the job will only have begun. Each step along that route may be difficult, and perhaps painful. But the burdens that are unbearable when you walk down the wrong road can seem light when you're headed in the right direction.



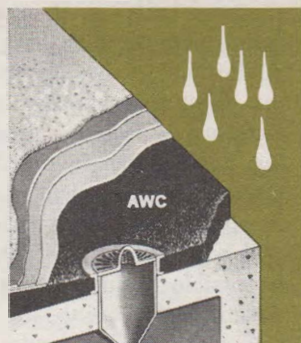
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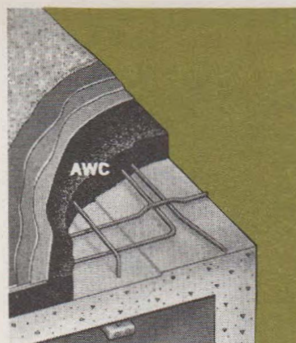
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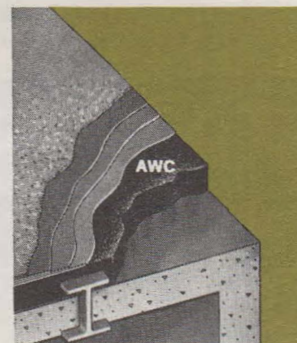
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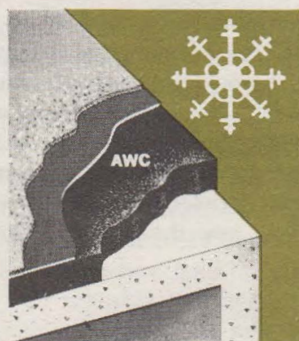
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## CREATIVE ARTS EDUCATION

DOCTOR HAROLD TAYLOR  
1967 AIA CONVENTION, NEW YORK

Because American schools treat the creative arts, including design and architecture, as something you do after school or in the evenings, the general public is unprepared and unable to judge what is good and what is bad in its environment.

The problem, consists in developing the sensibility of the young, and of everyone not young, toward visual experience, teaching people how to see.

The American public school curriculum is a process of slow attrition of the sensibility and the substitution of categories of fact-gathering, conceptualizing and memorizing in place of the development of the creative faculties . . . the faculty to think independently, to form one's own taste, conclusions and opinions.

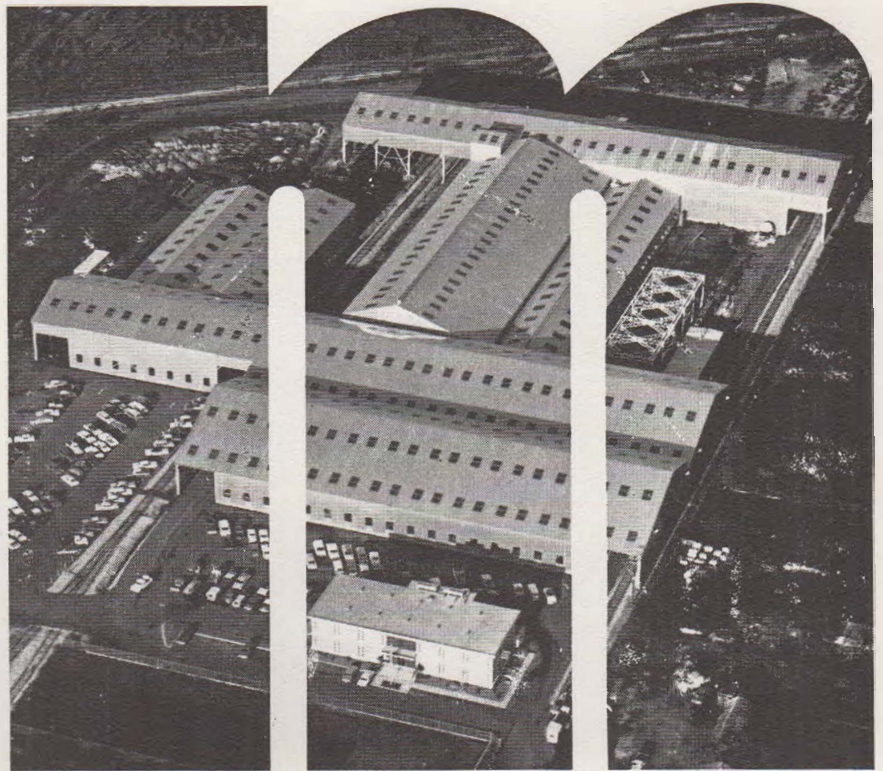
If we are raising a population of visual illiterates, we are also raising a population of children who are for the most part deprived of esthetic experience by the circumstances of their education.

School teachers by and large have not had direct experience with art forms and as a result, the taste of teachers in the field of the arts, visual or otherwise, is about that of the rest of the population . . . In the absence of such resources in the schools, the public is the victim of the taste of the manipulators of the mass media and the standards of a mass culture.

I would argue that once we introduce theater, music, dance, poetry, painting, sculpture, and design into the school and college curriculum as full-fledged subjects, in equal status to the respectable "hard" subjects, we will be preparing people to pay attention to the ugliness or beauty of what surrounds them. We would be well advised to teach children to look at the cities, towns and villages in which they live as examples of what man has done to his environment, and to include that form of direct experience among the items in the school syllabus.

NOVEMBER, 1967

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