

Official Publication of

THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The Texas Regional Organization of The American Institute of Architects

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904 Perry-Brooks Building, Austin, Texas

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VOLUME 24 / NOVEMBER, 1971 / NO. 11

COVER AND PAGE 3

The Oglesby Group Architects sensitively arranged six stone enclosures along a flat roof gallery, entry and circulation link in a trellis-like manner. The orderly space arrangement provides a variety of intriguing views and spaces.



Valley Architect Bill Wadley, AIA, spends his spare time painting and creating wood sculpture. You may have seen his work at art shows throughout the state.



13 The Dossett McCullough house renovation and addition in Houston River Oaks shows what can be done to create a new exciting place to live and yet retain and respect the character of the neighborhood.



16 Architects is honored to recognize newly registered architects in the state of Texas for the year 1971.

19 The early Texas Architecture series features the restoration of the French Trading Post in Beaumont.

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DALLAS

The site for this residence is at the end of a cul-de-sac on a treeless promontory with distant views of a country club on two sides, dense trees on the third and a prairie-like approach on the fourth.

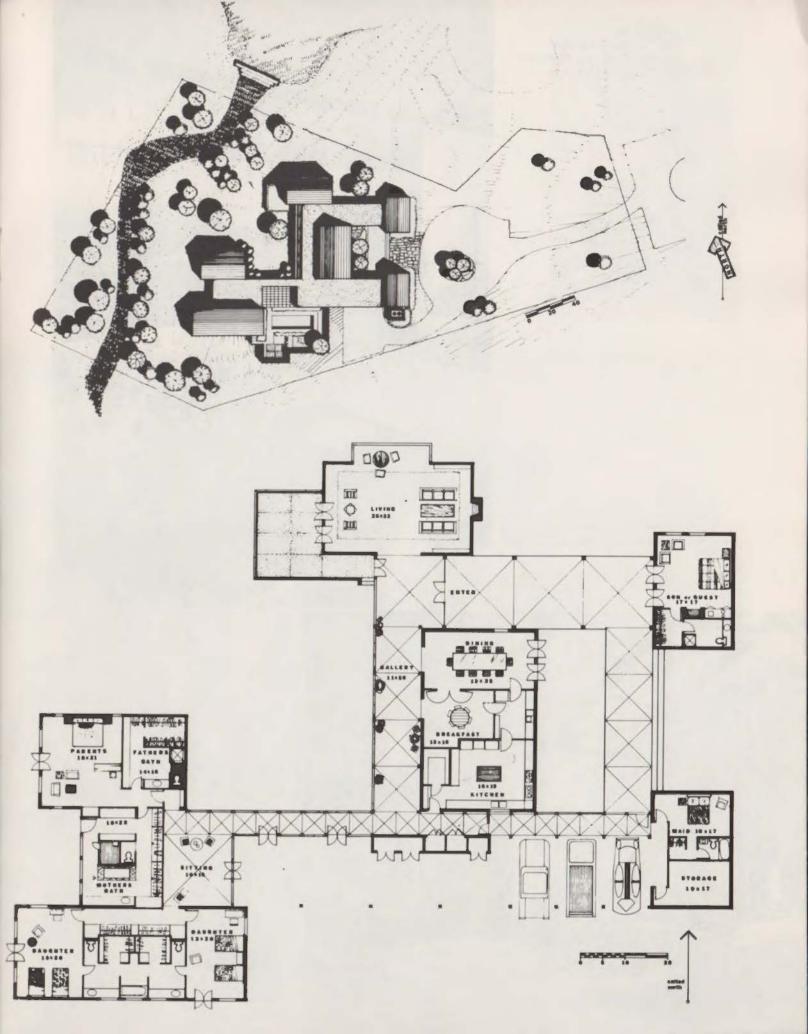
The family required a horizontally organized house with a bedroom suite for the parents and two young daughters, separated from more public rooms. The guest room accomodates a college-age son and informal daytime entertaining.

The house consists of six stone enclosures along a

connecting element, trellis-like in character, which serves as circulation. Views from the enclosures were carefully framed while the circulation element was left open visually with treillage to soften the more sunny exposures.

Light grey limestone is used as veneer to emphasize the six plan elements. Detailing inside the enclosures is finely done with gypsum board partitions, polished wood floors, and painted wood cabinetry. Finishes in the connecting element are more textured with stained posts, beams and ceiling, stained treillage and brick floors which extend out to terraces and walks.





LIVING ROOM LOOKING TOWARD GOLF COURSE



PHOTOGRAPHS: ©EZRA STOLLER (ESTO)



LIVING ROOM LOOKING TOWARD GALLERY

VALLEY ART BILL WADLEY, AIA

Valley architect William L. Wadley, N.C.A.R.B. is registered to practice in Texas and Louisiana. Bill received Bachelor of Architecture degree from University of Southwestern Louisiana and is presently an associate with Swenson, Hiester, Wilson, Boland, Architects. During his spare time he paints and creates wood sculpture. He has shown his creations throughout the state, recently at the San Antonio River Art show.





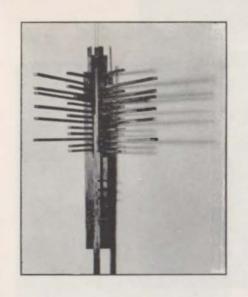


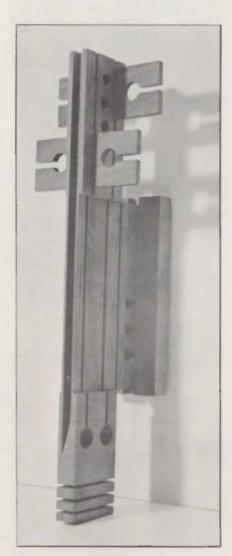




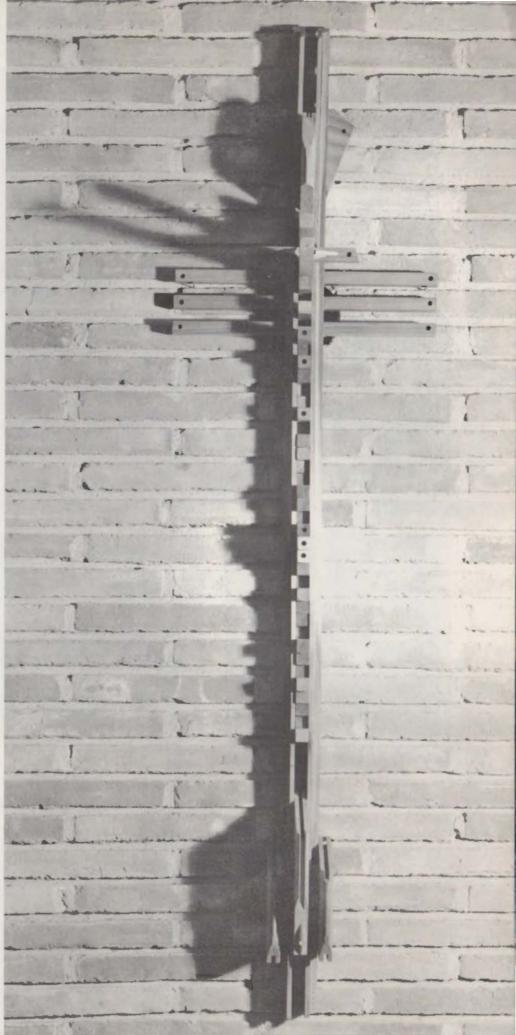




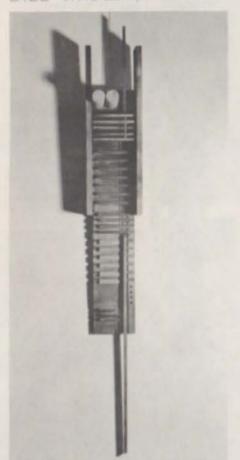




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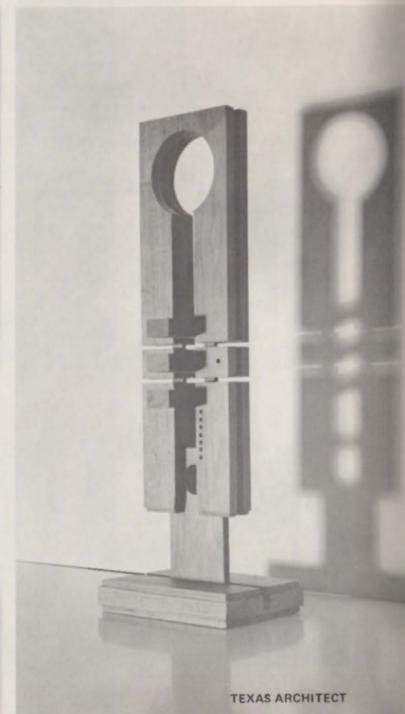


VALLEY ART VALLEY ARCHITECT BILL WADLEY, AIA





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Architects' liberation movement



DOSSETT McCULLOUGH HOUSE REMODEL

HOUSTON RIVER OAKS
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The desire was for a creative home. A young couple bought a beautifully wooded site in a neighborhood of traditional facades with an existing Georgian style building of dark, segregated rooms.

In remodeling it was decided to respect the street tradition but to explode the interior spaces into a sequence of spatial and use relationships which structured the plan zones and produced the order of the new facades.

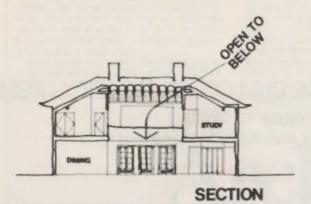
Conscious effort was made to relate the interior spaces to views of the natural elements but no attempt with the new wing was made to imitate the old.

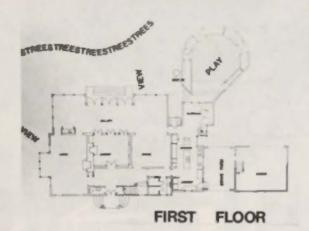
The street facades were altered by installing re-proportioned sash and dormers which act as clerestory windows for the master bath and the boys bedroom loft.

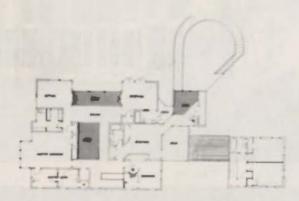
With diverse faces the integrity of the building unit became dependent upon the interpenetration of interior spaces and upon the study of exterior openings and massing. By eliminating perimeter grade beam planting the unity is more clearly established.









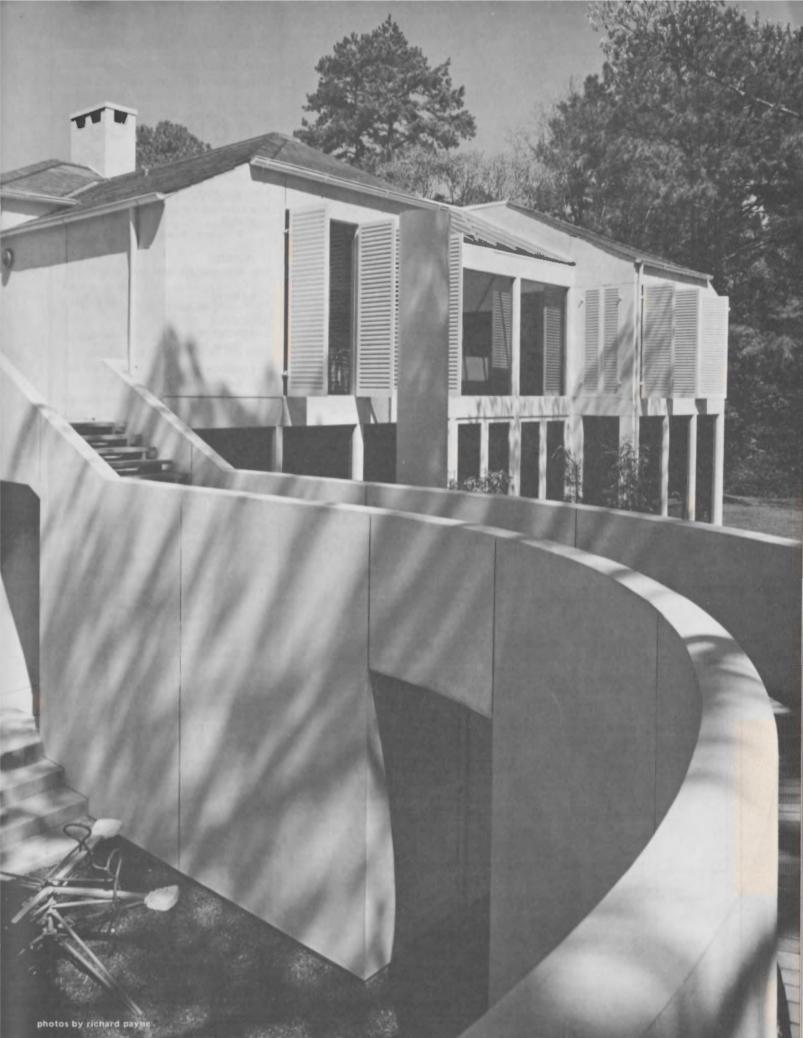


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Cities may apply to use vacant areas along state highways for parking and recreational facilities under a new policy issued by the Texas Highway Commission.

The policy allows cities and other governments to apply for construction of parking areas, playgrounds and parks beneath overhead structures and other tracts of land along state right-of-way.

The Texas Highway Department will be responsible for construction of the sites, but local governments must promise to provide playground equipment for parks and insure maintenance of the sites after the state has built them.

Cooperative agreements between the state and city, county and federal authorities will be considered on request of the applying governmental agency, subject to state highway commission approval.

Recreational facilities, according to the commission, include hike and bike trails, nature trails, bridge paths, basketball, handball and tennis courts, children's playgrounds or mini-parks and boat launching facilities.

BILL N. LACY, A.I.A.

Bill N. Lacy, A.I.A., Vice President of OMIPLAN, Inc., Dallas, Texas, and former Dean of Architecture, University of Tennessee, has been named Director of Architecture and Environmental Arts Program of the National Endowment for the Arts.

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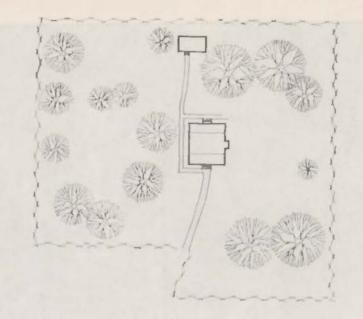
THE FRENCH TRADING POST

BEAUMONT, TEXAS

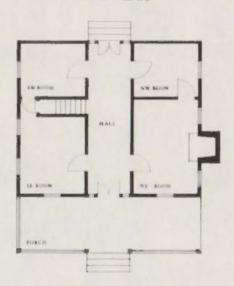
On March 2, 1970, a new museum of pioneer days was opened to the public: the John J. French Trading Post, built during the days of the Republic of Texas to house the family of John Jay French and to serve as a trading post and tannery for the Jefferson County area.

Built of native virgin pine, hand-hewn and hand-planed, the staunch house has withstood the onslaughts of time, weather, and many generations of

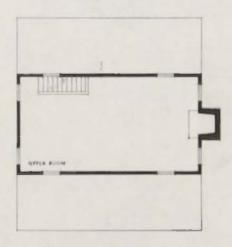
(continued on p. 20)



SITE PLAN



FIRST FLOOR



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owners. It was acquired in 1968 by the Junior League of Beaumont and given to the Beaumont Heritage Society in 1969 to be restored to its original appearance. Under the direction of Raiford Stripling of San Augustine, noted Texas restoration architect, the French house has been carefully restored, using the same hand-craftsmanship and old materials as were used when the house was built.

After removal of later additions, about 75 per cent of the original house was still intact. Used materials from houses of a similar age were salvaged at Galveston for use in the restoration and where new materials were used, they were first handdressed by the workmen.

The original owner of the house, John Jay French, was a Connecticut Yankee who had moved to Utica, N. Y., in search of a fortune as a tanner and merchant. It would appear that he was attracted to Texas by the optimistic brochures of the various land speculators in Texas in the early 1830's, such as the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company. This company, which was engaged in promoting the land grants of DeZavala and Vehlein in Southeast Texas, issued a brochure in 1831, one section of which sought specifically to encourage tanners:

"What an opening is here for tanners, curriers, morocco, skin, and leather dressers, saddlers, and harness makers; where on the face of the globe are the manufacturers of those articles as high as in Mexico? And where can there be so great a profit as in working them within her jurisdiction, where they can be sent to her silver dollar markets at a trifling cost of transportation and duty free?" (Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company, 1831 Brochure, p. 19)

In 1831 John Jay French began stocking items to ship to Texas to open a store in Galveston, However, during the trip down in 1832 by schooner from New York to New Orleans half the goods were lost in a storm at sea, French himself having a close call in the same storm. French shipped his remaining goods to Galveston, but lacking enough to open a store, peddled his goods in the area while looking for land. In 1835 he located a suitable homestead on Flores Creek (later Taylor's Bayou) in present Jefferson County, and received a grant from the Mexican Government issued by George Antonio Nixon, the agent for the Galveston Bay and Texas Land Company.

French returned to New York for his family. After a five-week trip by flatboat down the Erie Canal, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers, he was halted in Louisiana by the news of the outbreak of the Texas War for Independence. By 1838 he had settled his family on Taylor's Bayou. Later in 1845 he decided to relocate nearer the growing town of Beaumont, and bought 300 acres of land near the Concord Road and built the house which has now been restored to the appearance it must have had when French first built it. Here French operated a tannery and trading post, serving as tanner, shoemaker, saddler, storekeeper and banker to his neighbors in Jefferson, Orange and Hardin Counties. He also consigned goods and leather to merchants in Sabine Pass, Galveston, Harrisburg, Washington-on-the-Brazos, Woodville, and Jasper.

French died in 1889, a wealthy and respected man, who had left his imprint on his chosen home. French's Island, French Road, and the French Public Schools still bear his name.





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