

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OCTOBER

1962



The best designs are more exciting in concrete



“Space Frame” house of concrete is assembled in 4 days from precast units

*Award-winning house from Concrete Industries 1961
Horizon Homes Program. Architect: Robert Damora,
Bedford Village, N.Y.*

Out of the 1961 Horizon Homes Program comes this imaginative new design. The “Space Frame” house is all concrete. It is based on 16- x 16-foot modules that can be individually roofed, walled and floored. Only 6 standard sizes of precast concrete beams and panels are used.

Scores of floor plans are possible, with complete flexibility of living space. Modules can be grouped in any number, and in any arrangement of rooms, courts, terraces and gardens.

Each house can be distinctive, yet the ready-made concrete components permit fast construction schedules along with moderate over-all costs. Today, concrete offers architects unlimited opportunities for new concepts in home design. **Plan to enter the Concrete Industries Horizon Homes Program.**



Broad entrance terrace, formed by one of the basic “Space Frame” units. Floor is of 2' x 16' precast concrete panels.

110 E. Eighth St., Austin 1, Texas

PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION

A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete

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THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

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 Don Edward Legge, A.I.A., Editor
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COVER

The cover photograph this month
 is of the Pacific Mutual Life Insur-
 ance Company Building in Houston.
 Designed by Architects Neuhaus and
 Taylor, the building is a Texas Archi-
 tecture 1961 award winner.

The President's Letter

HAROLD CALHOUN, FAIA

President
 Texas Society of Architects



Occasionally it is good for us to take a look at ourselves. What do we see when we stand in front of a mirror? How do we compare with the animal species? We eat meat, but we have neither the teeth nor the claws nor the agility of the carnivores of our size. We would not stand a chance in a bare handed fight with a tiger. We have no fur to shelter us from the cold. Our fertility is low by most biological standards. How does our species stay alive? The human species is able to **accumulate knowledge** from others almost from the beginning of time. This, the animals cannot do. The mechanism which enables us to learn not only from our own experience, but also from the experience accumulated through the ages by our whole species is **communications**. This unique quality makes us the crown of creation. Communications gave us science, the great religions, the arts, etc.

Continuing this exercise of self-examination, how efficiently do we use this mechanism with which we are uniquely endowed. Some of the symbols of communication are language, painting, sculpture, architecture, drama, etc. Endless volumes of the written word are available to us for study. Priceless works of art are housed in the museums of the world for everyone to see. Masterpieces of architecture through the ages still stand for our appraisal. Have we taken full advantage of this infinite knowledge? Are we improving our own experience through communications with our contemporaries? Are we so consumed with the arrogance of individuality that we have excluded ourselves from the undefiled morality of "creating a total physical environment in harmony with man's highest aspirations"? Let us hope that we are not kindred to those eighteenth century aristocrats who solved the problem of cleanliness not by taking a bath, but by dousing themselves with perfume to-cover up the stench of their bodies.



PACIFIC MUTUAL

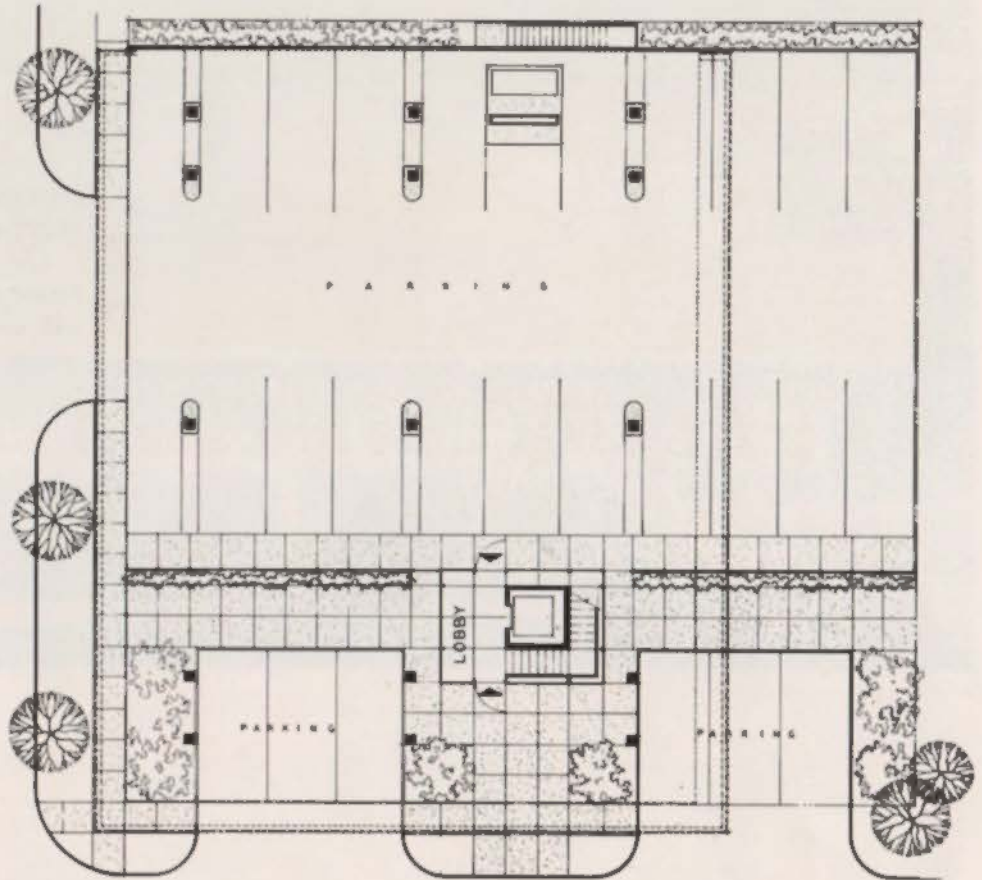
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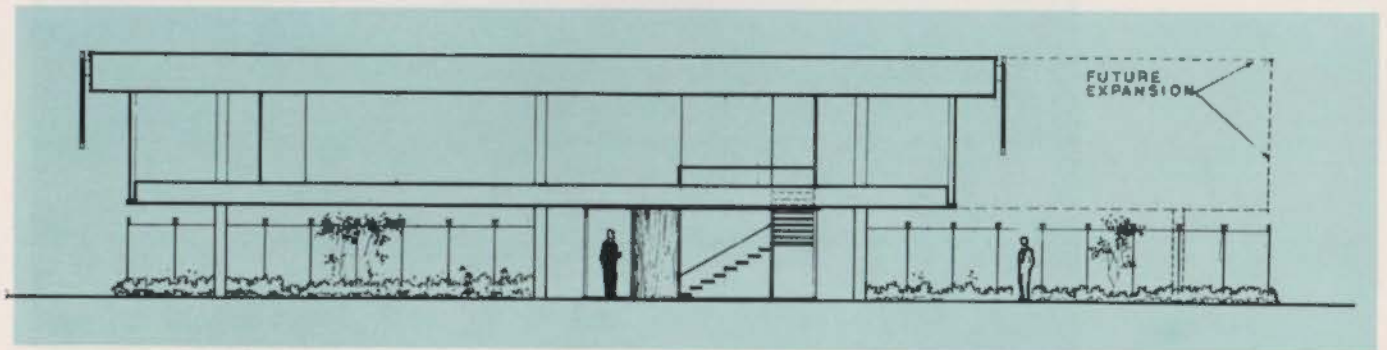
H O U S T O N

ARCHITECT
NEUHAUS AND TAYLOR
MECHANICAL ENGINEER
JAMES G. BROWN
STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
VOGT AND CLOUSE

A major consideration in the design of this office building housing a branch office of a major insurance company was the extremely high value of the site itself. The need to provide adequate employee and customer parking on-site required either additional land or elevating the office space in order to use the ground level for parking. The architects determined the latter to be the least expensive.

Thus the "ground floor" almost completely covered by the office floor above, has customer parking directly off the main street, employee parking to the rear, separated by a travertine screen wall, garden and lobby housing an elevator and stairway.





Conceived as a pure working space enclosed with perimeter walls of glass, protected from sun and rain by an overhanging roof and suspended travertine sun-shades, the building presents itself as a handsome design of planes and rhythmic lines.

The building is planned for the future expansion of one bay which will create a symmetrical front elevation.



CONVENTION

Taking note of America's "cultural explosion", planners met in Houston Oct. 24-26 at the Rice Hotel.

A dynamic program has been worked out pointing up the things that have been scheduled between seminars, work sessions and social events.

Basil Rathbone, the celebrated English actor, will be the star of the drama in which he will give readings from Shakespeare and other plays that have been so popularly associated.

On Thursday evening, the architects will have the entire program to themselves alone by Sir John Barbirolli, conductor in chief of the Houston Symphony Orchestra personally and promises some special delights. Sir John was last year's member as former conductor of the New York Philharmonic and has been so popularly associated everywhere.

With drama in the hands of Rathbone, and music in the hands of the Lucia Chase's National Ballet Theatre.

National Ballet Theatre one of this country's top two companies has the support of the National Ballet Theatre and almost every year enjoy the support of architects only. Lucia Chase, director of the company, has seen to it that the

This array of talent is dedicated to bringing culture, in the form of

Houston hosts felt that architects, themselves practitioners of the art, are in a unique association with the other arts.

The convention city itself teems right now with a dynamic atmosphere.

During the summer, Houston Endowment (the Jesse H. Jones Foundation) has acquired \$1.5 million square of land in the heart of town where old City Auditorium stood, across the street from the projected Hall for the Performing Arts, and the cultural halls will look out upon landscaped malls if all goes well.

Excitement in the arts has run at fever pitch in Houston and the city is in good health at the same time. On the wave of this, entrepreneurs are beginning to

Convention goes with extra energy after the regular sessions of the Houston ballet.

Come to the convention. It will be fun, and different. Per

INVESTIGATION
SUBREPORT

of the Texas Society of Architects' 23rd convention have chosen the lively theme "Arts and the Man" for its sessions in Hous-

close association between architecture and the sister arts. Three provocative programs featuring internationally famed artists events.

convention's moderator, making the convention's keynote address on Thursday morning. He will offer also, a program on the major works. He may very likely begin his program with an excerpt from one of the Sherlock Holmes mysteries with which he

90-man Houston Symphony to themselves at the Music Hall, in a program to be planned, rehearsed and performed for on ensemble. What Sir John has in mind is, at this point, the best kept secret of the convention, he knows many architects heard from on the fly in Europe, where he was guest conducting a string of orchestras, in the national capitals. He is re- and as conductor of Manchester's 103-year old Halle Orchestra. His recordings on major labels are known by music lovers

portfolio of Sir John, ballet for the convention is being worked up right now in New York by some of the finest young dancers of

companies, has toured the world with enormous success many times. Houstonians contribute, through a local chapter, to the a 'little season' of ballet from this troupe. The appearance of the dancers at this time is a command performance for to the creation of a program representing several types of ballet exclusively for the convention in Houston.

its most attractive package, into the architectural sessions; and Rathbone will introduce each arts program with comments.

of 'the mother of all the arts', through habit or press of business, often drift away from what could be a happy and enrich-

ism in the arts being noted on the national scene.

H. Jones foundation) gave \$6 million for the construction of a hall exclusively for the performing arts to be erected on a atorium now stands. Five days earlier, the same organization gave the nationally-admired Alley Theatre, a half block of down- forming Arts, as the site of its forthcoming new building. Both these tracts are on the very ring of the burgeoning Civic Cen- goes as expected.

n since that July week when almost \$8 million was pledged in land and building money to the arts of the city--and to urban announcing expanded art plans almost daily.

ons will find the city offering its usual rich fare from four theatres, two museums, and concert bureaus delivering music and

haps, even, rewarding!



BORDER PLANNING

The exciting potentialities of joint activities by the Architects of Mexico and the United States were again made manifestly clear at a meeting August 17 in the Menger Hotel, San Antonio, of the International Border Development Committee. Heading

the Mexican delegation were Arquitecto Guillermo Rossell of the Patrimonio Nacional; Ramon Corona Martin, Head of the International Relations Committee of the Sociedad Arquitectos Mexicano; Arquitecto Domingo Garcia Ramos of the Programa Nacional Fronterizo; and Arquitecto Carlos Contreras. Representing the AIA members of the Border Commission were Edwin W. Carroll, F.A.I.A., El Paso; Robert Alexander, F.A.I.A., Los Angeles; and Sidney Little of Tucson, Arizona, Head of Department of Architecture, University of Arizona. Richard Ives, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Urban Planning of the HHFA, Washington, D. C., and F. J. Von Zuben, Jr., Director of Urban Renewal for the State Health Department, Austin, were also active participants. Chapter President Jerry Rogers, Regional Director Reginald Roberts, Chapter Director Harvey V. Marmon, Jr., and Ed Mok represented the San Antonio Chapter. President Harold E. Calhoun, President Elect Arthur Fehr, R. Max Brooks and John Flowers were present representing the Texas Society of Architects.

A dynamic program of mutual cooperation by the Border Commission

was discussed and adopted by the Commission members. The completed work of some fourteen Mexican city plans was reviewed in detail. The necessity of encouraging the sister cities in the United States to accelerate their planning activities and to establish active and close liaison with the Mexican cities was decided upon and made a matter of policy. The proposal of the San Antonio Chapter to engage in some preliminary planning with the city of Eagle Pass was reviewed and applauded as a most significant pilot effort by the profession.

The importance of local committees of architects to meet jointly in the furtherance of the long range program was approved. Since this conference joint meetings of the City Planning Commissions of Brownsville-Matamoros, Laredo-Nuevo Laredo, Eagle Pass-Piedras Negras and El Paso-Juarez have already been scheduled. The interest of the Federal and State Governments in the success of the program was most heartening to the Commission members and an accelerated number of meetings of the Commission was decided upon. The hoped for cooperation initiated in the Charter of El Paso has now become a reality.

INVESTIGATION & REPORTING

C. HERBERT COWELL

The architect of our time is confronted with a host of requirements for the successful practice of his profession. In addition to the many demands made upon his time and energy required to sell his services, design, develop plans and specifications, and supervise construction, he is called upon to select materials and methods of construction for what he hopes will be a lasting and economical structure. In this effort he must rely upon the resources available to him, his own experience, the experience of others, manufacturer's catalogs, trade organization standards, as well as valuable assistance from his own professional organizations. The Producer's Council, The Specifications Institute and The American Institute of Architects have placed a great amount of emphasis on research of products and methods, and have encouraged manufacturers to publish precise and factual data, rather than pictorial, elaborate material, normally designed for the lay public.

Many new products are finding their way into the construction industry promising opportunities for the ever expanding needs of modern civilization. New and important advances in techniques are many times offered before adequate testing can take place, or as many of us know, unanticipated field conditions can drastically modify the successful intended use of that particular item.

If architects are to avoid repetitions of previously proven failures, or to be able to specify with confidence, the installation of products with proven successes, they must have reliable performance data readily available.

The need is great for an unbiased investigating and reporting service for

architects. The successes and failures of building products and construction methods could thus be determined and presented to architects subscribing to this service. This, of course, must necessarily be developed on a professional level with the cost being paid by the subscriber, rather than by the manufacturer.

The Texas Society of Architects considers the importance of such a service to be worthy of consideration by the American Institute of Architects. Realizing that financing requirements may be beyond the scope of present A.I.A. facilities, it is hoped that attention can be directed toward private testing and reporting services. The medical and legal professions have for many years been served with similar data, and the opportunity must exist for a profitable venture in architectural reporting.

The service could be most successful if it is national in scope, with field representatives located in the various regions of the United States. The cooperation of the architectural profession in reporting actual experiences would be essential to its success. Perhaps initially it could be limited to new materials or new types of construction where sufficient background information is not widely known. The use of testing laboratories or their associations should provide valuable performance data where required.

Widespread participation would be necessary to keep the costs of the service at a minimum. Increased demands upon the profession in its responsibility to the public make it imperative that protective devices such as an efficient investigating and reporting service be started at an early date.



Space-Age Schools

PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION

Though its twenty multi-color pages of handsome school buildings are intended to illustrate the possibilities of concrete construction in schools, this well-designed booklet published by the Portland Cement Association handles its commercial message with considerable taste while introducing the layman to a new vocabulary: hyperbolic, paraboloid, pre-stressing, etc.; all strange terms of which most any school board member would have to confess ignorance, but which are becoming everyday words in the world of the Architect.

The booklet serves, too, to introduce a new vocabulary of forms: shapes of buildings which, may be as strange to the layman's eye, perhaps, as such words are to his ear; yet shapes which serve the educational needs of our communities in this age with efficiency and a new beauty.

If for no other reason than it points out: "A new school is your community's most serious and confident investment in the future. Only as it yields dividends commensurate with the age in which we live will your school fulfill its very highest goals. This is the spirit that the entire design and construction team wants to develop," *Space-Age Schools* is well worth a few minutes of any school board member's time.

It is available without charge from the Portland Cement Association, 110 East Eighth Street, Austin 1, Texas.

CARRUTH

Superintendent of Schools Irby B. Carruth was the guest speaker at the first fall meeting of the Central Texas Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Mr. Carruth, incumbent President of the American Association of School Administrators, used as the topic of his presentation the implications for world educational problems as reflected by political and economic blocks, advanced technology in the fields of communications, automation and space research. He pointed out that although it is much less spectacular and receives less flamboyant publicity than political, economic and military conflicts that the contest between the West and the Communist Block for the means to influence the human mind is at a high pitch and of greatest importance. The struggle for the possession of the educational systems of new and indecisive countries as well as for the means to influence changes in those long establishments is extremely intense, Carruth said. Carruth is convinced that the American educational system will wield a great influence on the developing countries.

Carruth said the American architect in designing school buildings must become highly conversant with the changing approaches to meeting advanced and new educational requirements in order to produce a functional school plant. He is confident that the dedication of the personnel of the American schools coupled with the skill and imagination of the American architect can solve, adequately the school housing requirements.

Superintendent Carruth, as representative of his organization, attended meetings of the World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession held in Stockholm, Sweden and the Atlantic Education Conference sponsored by the Atlantic Treaty Association held in Strasbourg, France during the past summer.

A & M APPOINTMENTS

Appointment of four men to the Division of Architecture at Texas A&M College has been announced by Prof. Theo Holleman, head of the division.

A native of Cuba, Guillermo Vidaud, will join the architecture faculty as an assistant professor. He is coming to Texas A&M from the North Carolina Highway Commission, Raleigh, N.C., where he also taught at North Carolina State College.

Vidaud is a graduate of the Havana University School of Architecture. From 1953 to 1959 he was in private practice, specializing in private homes and apartment buildings. He was a professor of architecture at Havana University before coming to the United States in 1961.

Weldon C. Steward, a native of Pampa, Texas, is returning from New York to join the architecture faculty as an assistant professor.

A 1957 graduate of Texas A&M, Steward earned his Master of Architecture degree at Columbia University in 1961, concentrating in architectural design and research.

The two instructors named to the faculty are Steve M. Vaught of Port Arthur and David G. Woodcock of Manchester, England.

Vaught, who first earned a business administration degree at Texas A&M in 1952, returned to the college after five years of Air Force fighter-bomber pilot duty to earn his Bachelor of Architecture degree.

He has been associated with architectural firms in Beaumont, Bryan and Houston.

Woodcock is coming to Texas A&M from the firm of Howard & Seddon in Manchester, England. A 1960 architectural graduate of the University of Manchester, he also earned a certificate there in urban and suburban planning.

He has previously been a design critic and lecturer at the University of Manchester, and has done consid-

erable research in architectural history and urban decay in industrial areas.

Appointment of Willard Strode, architectural engineer, as professor of architecture at Texas A&M College has been announced by Prof. Theo Holleman, head of the college's Division of Architecture.

Strode, who is chairman of the architectural engineering division of the American Society for Engineering Education, comes to Texas A&M from the University of Kansas.

An experienced architectural engineer who has done considerable research in shell structure and plywood hyperbolic paraboloid lattice structures, Strode will teach and direct graduate research in structures, Holleman said.

Strode holds a master of architectural engineering degree from Iowa State University and a bachelor of architecture degree from Texas A&M.

A native of McKinney, Texas, Strode has been involved in some phase of the building industry since 1936. He spent seven years doing overseas construction in Aruba, Netherlands, East Indies, and in the Republic of Panama. He was associated with a Bryan, Texas, architectural firm before joining the Kansas faculty in 1955.

He is co-author of several publications on design, construction and testing of plywood hyperbolic paraboloid lattice structure and single layer plywood monkey saddle bell construction, in addition to authoring magazine articles on similar subjects.

Strode is a member of the Tau Sigma Delta and Scarab architectural honorary societies, Tau Beta Pi, engineering honorary, and Phi Kappa Phi, academic honorary. He holds memberships in the National Society of Professional Engineers, Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture among other professional organizations.

NAMES

A vice president and board member of Monarch Tile Manufacturing, Inc., San Angelo, Texas has just received a national award in another field among his diversified interests.

E. G. Spencer in addition to his Monarch Tile affiliation is also president of Consolidated Tiles, Inc., of Houston, Texas, and president of Consolidated Frozen Food Lockers, Inc. of Houston and La Grange, Texas.

In the latter capacity, Spencer received the highest award given by the National Institute of Locker & Freezer Provisioners. He was given the Institute's Achievement Award at the group's national convention in Long Beach, California early in August.

Spencer was honored by the association for his leadership and support of the locker and provisioning industry through many years of membership.

Caudill, Rowlett & Scott, Houston-based architects, planners and engineers have increased the number of associates in the firm to 22 with the appointment of six new associates.

New associates at CR&S are:

Robert H. Sohn, a graduate of Purdue University who is in charge of electrical engineering at CR&S.

William Travis Steely, a graduate of Texas Technical College who is a CR&S production manager.

Robert A. Wright, a graduate of Oklahoma State University who is a CRS production manager.

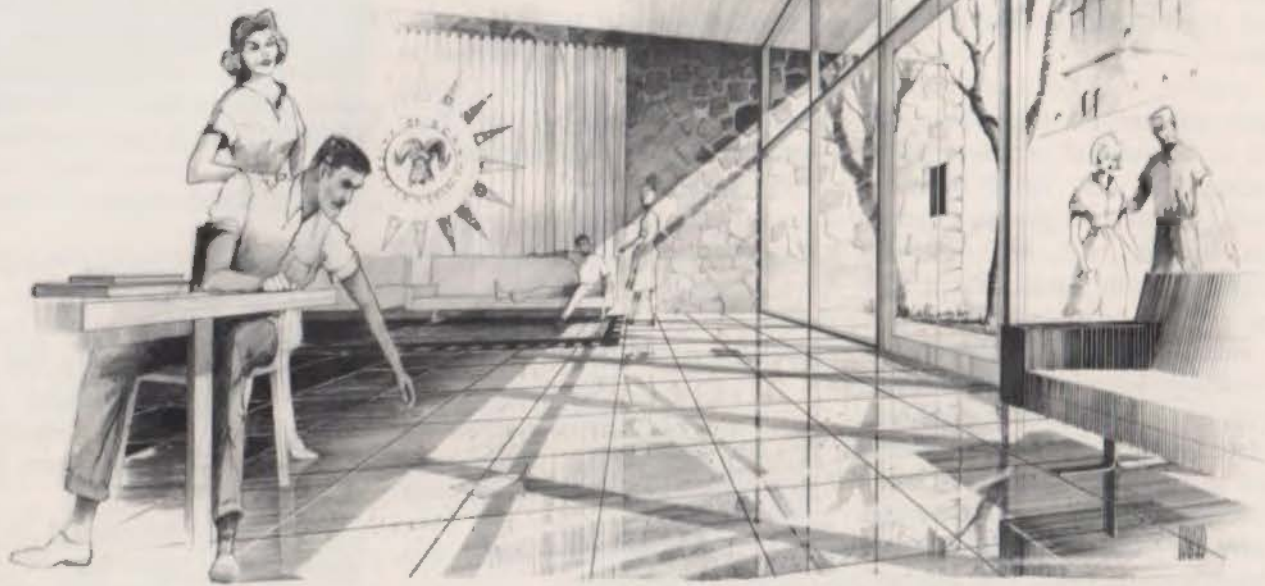
James M. Hughes, a graduate of Texas A&M College who is a CR&S production manager.

Robert E. Ray, a graduate of the University of Texas who is a CR&S project manager.

Joel M. Walker, a graduate of the University of Texas, who is a CR&S project manager.

The firm of Caudill, Rowlett & Scott now consists of eight partners and 22 associates.

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