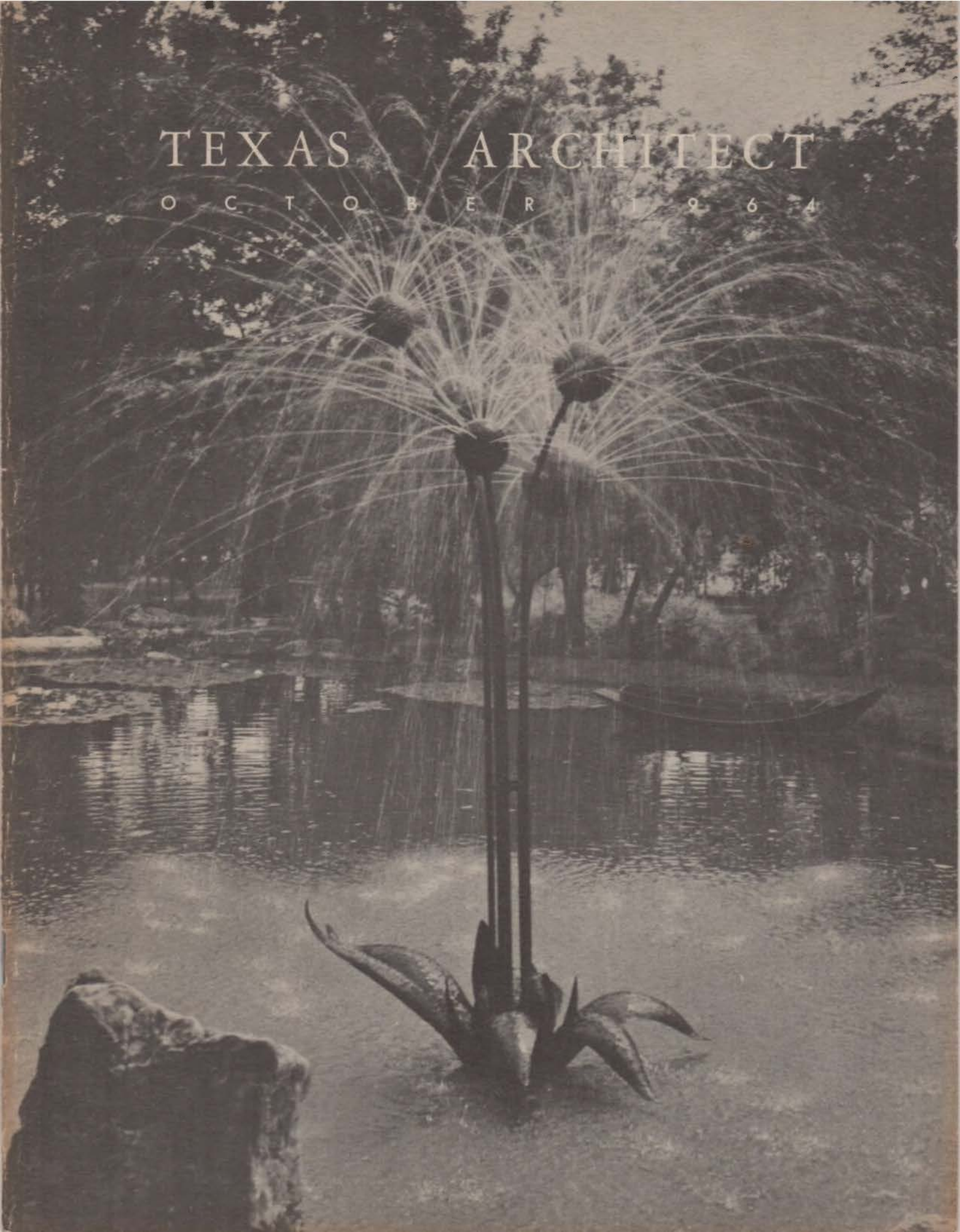
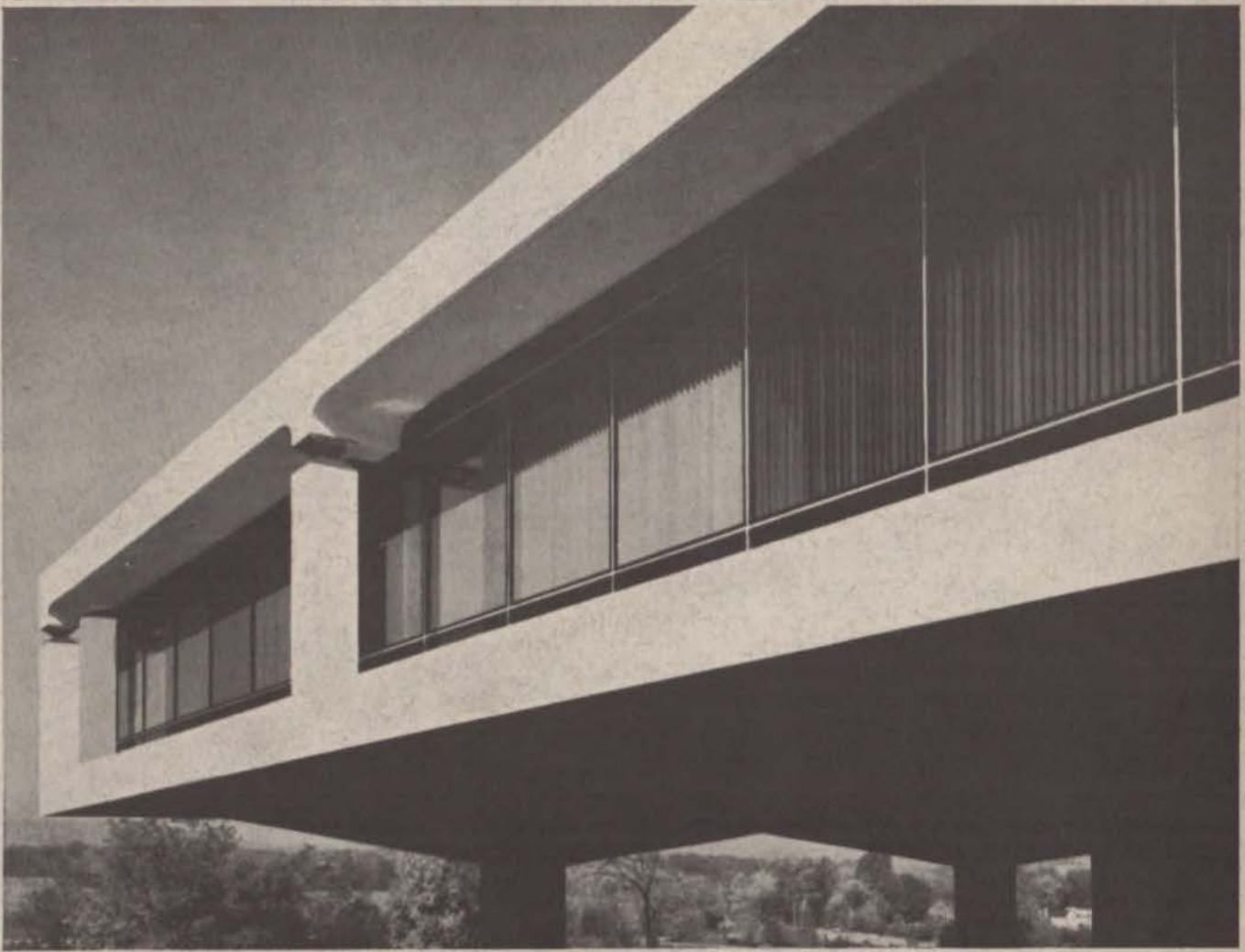


# TEXAS ARCHITECT

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# THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

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Italy, France, Spain, England . . . . . All speak visually of the glories of their past through marvelous examples of ancient architecture, and the proof of the importance of these great periods in the history of our civilization is easily shown by the millions of tourists who flock to these countries every year. Yet neither the present day governments, nor the visitors who cross their borders, seem to understand the lessons which these visible examples of past glory have to teach. We admire the splendid grandeur of the ruins of the vigorous European civilization which fathered our own, yet we fail to ask why the modern people of these lands have ceased to think and work in the same vein as their forefathers.

None of these countries presently enjoy the benefits of world leadership which existed when most of their visual examples of past greatness were created. Are their governments caught in a web of deceit? Is the tourist dollar so important that these governments seek it by requiring the majority of their new buildings to imitate the past, even at the price of dull and lifeless results? Do they not realize that the glories of their history were created, politically and architecturally, by men of creative and pioneering thought!

And what of today's tourists who flock in such great numbers to the historical and cultural shrines, too many hoping to absorb some magic ingredient by exposing themselves to a quick look and a tour guide's spiel? Only by understanding how and why these great examples of the best of our world's past culture were created, and then returning home to demand the best in creative thought from today's political and cultural leaders, can Americans really benefit from their treks across the sea. Only in this way can we be certain that history will show we are deserving of present day world leadership!

GEORGE F. PIERCE, JR.

## COVER

The refreshing oasis shown on the cover features a 12 foot high cast bronze and sheet copper fountain sculpture by Charles T. Williams for Mr. and Mrs. Ted Weiner's Sculpture Garden in Fort Worth.

OCTOBER 1964

TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1963

HONORED FOR DISTINGUISHED DESIGN



VIEW OF HOUSE  
FROM STREET

RESIDENCE AT 300 ARGYLE  
ALAMO HEIGHTS, TEXAS

ARCHITECT

BROOKS MARTIN  
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

**REQUIREMENTS:** House a family of five (one boy, two girls) and a live-in maid. Provide large, well equipped kitchen, laundry, sewing area for wife, as well as a place to paint and to feed her family informally. Master bedroom to be large, comfortable and fairly isolated from children. House 2 automobiles and a hunting wagon in an area not facing a street.

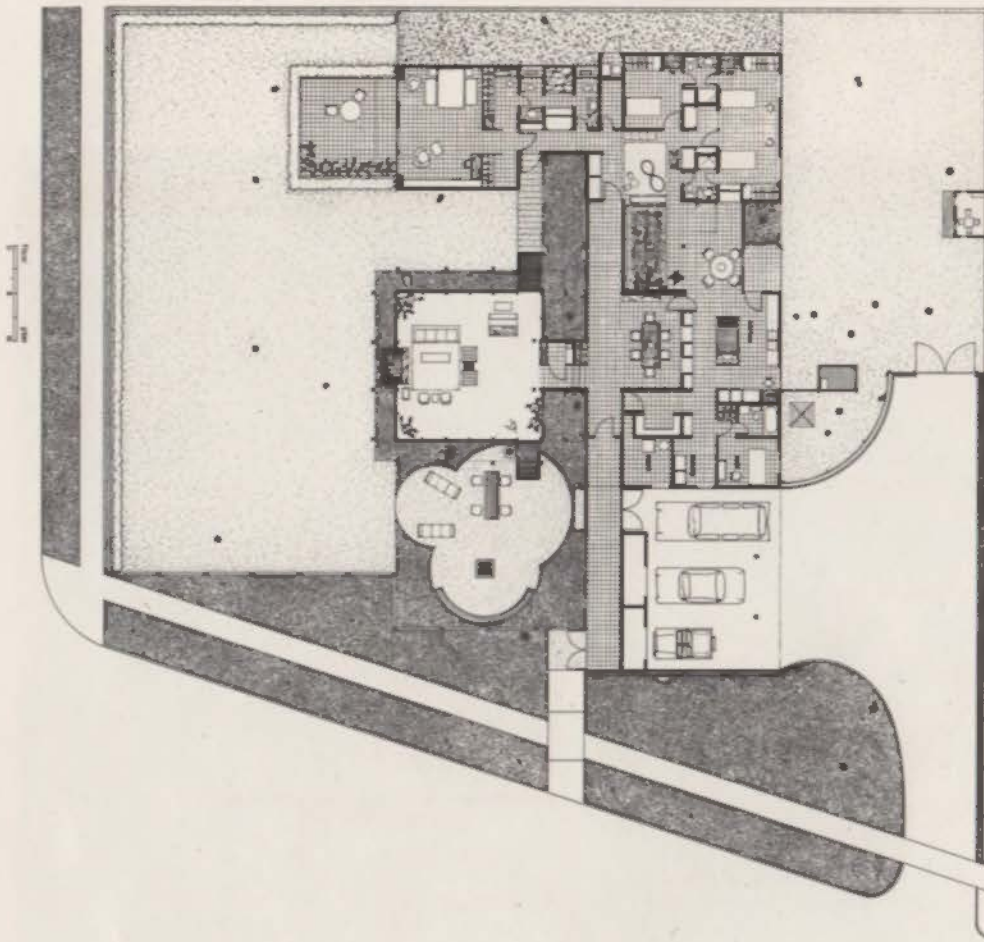


### VIEW OF LIVING ROOM

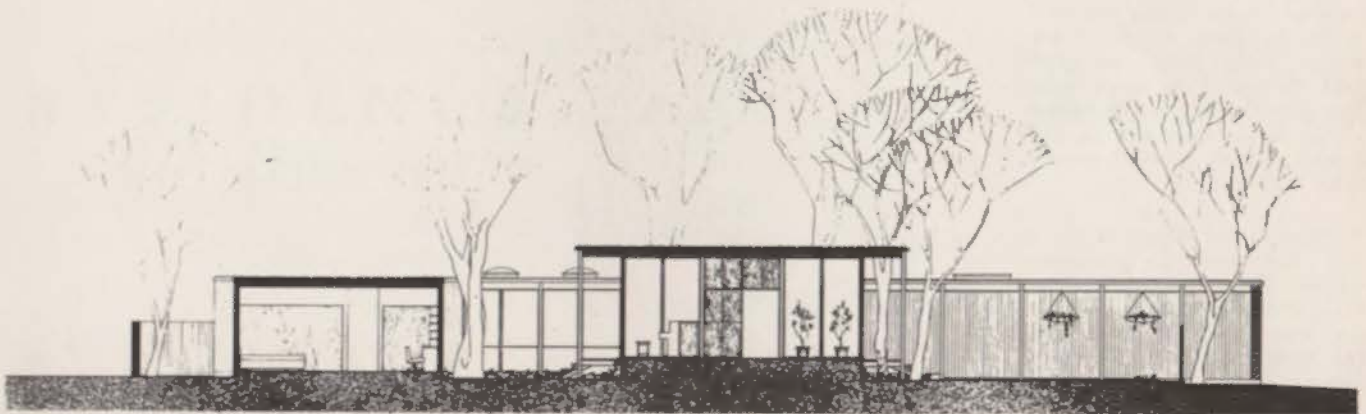
**SOLUTION:** The most prominent physical feature of this residence is the all glass, yet completely private living room. Set apart from the rest of the house it enjoys privacy from other occupants of the home while wooden and bamboo fences provide privacy from the street.

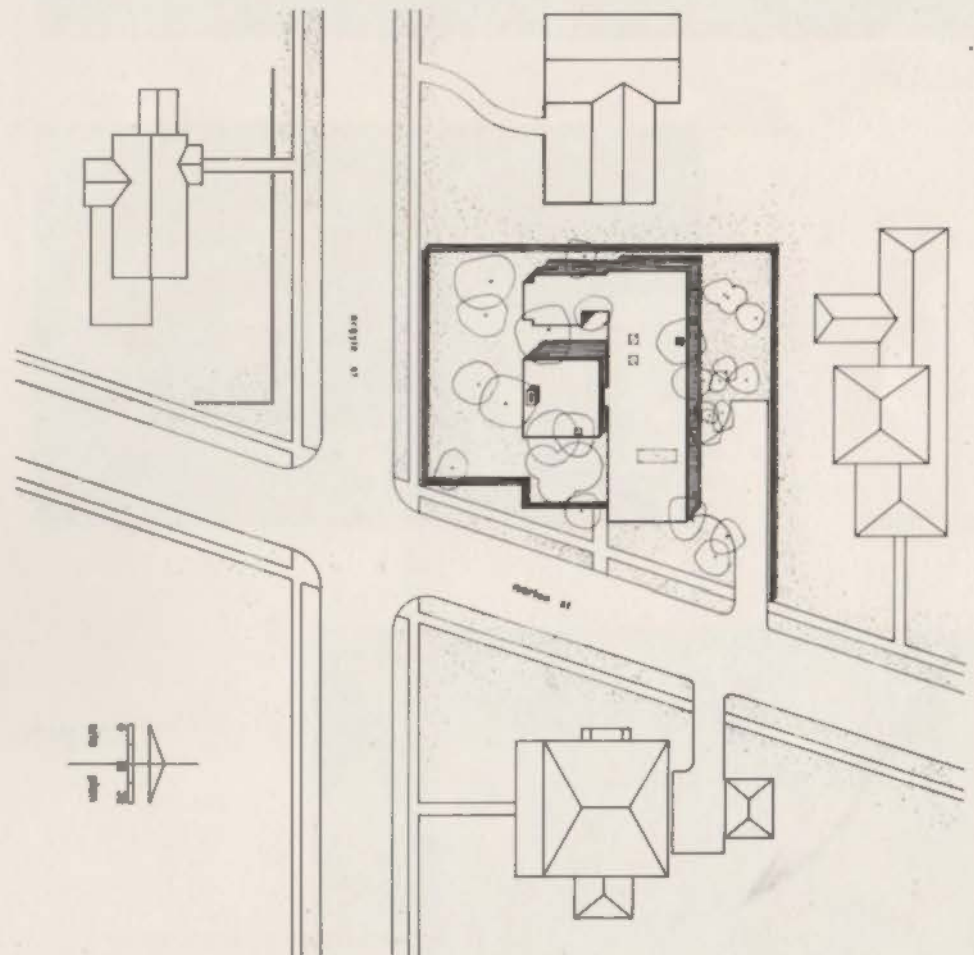
The site at 300 Argyle is 135 x 135 feet and is generously wooded. Since the City of Alamo Heights requires certain set backs and since both the Owner and the Architect wished to save as many trees as possible the home was so designed, with only one tree being lost.

# 300 ARGYLE



FLOOR PLAN





SITE PLAN

# 300 ARGYLE



TERRACE



REAR VIEW



KITCHEN

# 300 ARGYLE

TEXAS ARCHITECT



# NEW TOWNS IN EUROPE

EDWARD MOK \* AIA, AIP

\*In April and May 1964, Edward Mok took a trip to Scotland and Scandinavia to study and report on their housing and New Town development. This is an account on what he saw along with comments from an American point of view.

# HARLOW

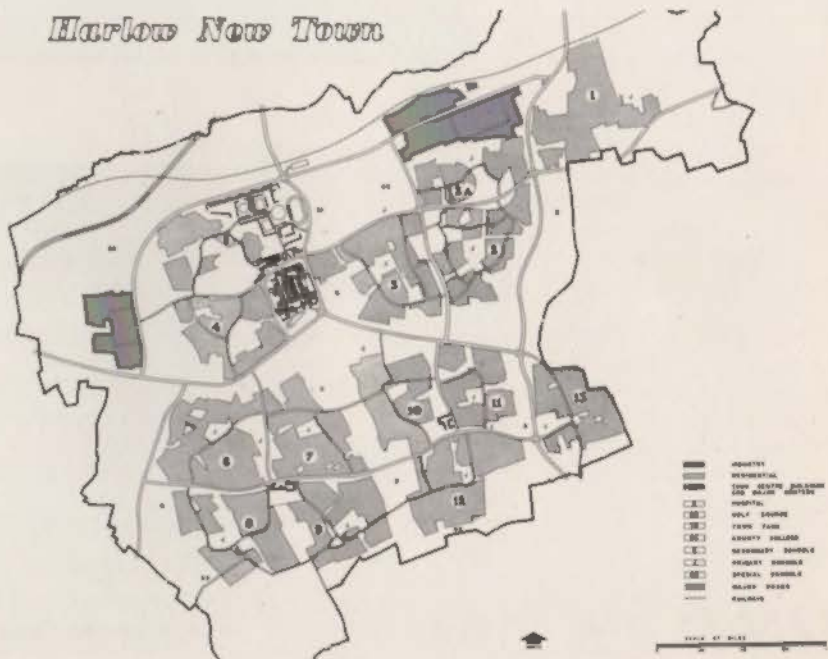
My recent visit to England and the Scandinavian countries gave me an opportunity to see their new towns and to talk to the architects, planners and administrators responsible for their realization. The inclusion of New Town proposals in the current housing bill before the U. S. Congress has made this a very timely topic. Perhaps the following account will be of interest to those who are concerned with housing and planning in the United States.

New Towns have a history of over 60 years in England. The concept stemmed from the Garden City development pioneered by Ebenezer Howard and his colleagues, when in 1900 the town of Letchworth was inaugurated. In 1920 the town of Welwyn was founded by Howard, and well before the second world war it was known as an excellent example of an organic and self-contained community, providing living and working conditions side by side amid pleasant surroundings of the English countryside.

The current movement of New Towns was spurred by the passing of the British New Town Act in 1946, an act to meet the urgent post-war housing need in Britain and reverse the trend of heavy concentration of population and industries in major British cities. Since then a total of 18 New Towns have been established; the population of each town ranges from 2,063 in Livingston to 63,700 in Hemel Hempstead. All told, there are 557,700 people living in Britain today in new communities, with their dwelling, work, education, recreation, transportation and other community facilities planned and implemented under the New Town concept.

The New Towns in Britain are vastly different from our tract-home communities. Aside from the thoughtful provision of extensive living facilities, very real results have been accomplished in placing industries within the framework of the New Towns so that upward of 75% of the residents go to work within a short distance of their homes. I have found England to be especially successful in this attempt—a fact which may prove to be the keystone of success to the entire New Town concept.

*Harlow New Town*





MARKET SQUARE  
HARLOW, ENGLAND



ROW HOUSES  
HARLOW, ENGLAND

My initial visit in England was Harlow, one of the first towns established under the New Town Act of 1946. With 17 years of history behind it, Harlow is today a community humming with activity and cheerful spirit. Arriving at the new railroad station after a 43-minute train ride through the backyards of Greater London, one is immediately exhilarated by the freshness and the pleasant surroundings of this town of 62,000. Following the main road winding toward the town center, high-rise apartment buildings, row-houses, clean factories and other community buildings come into view. I was greeted by Mr. L. E. White, Liaison Officer of the Development Corporation, who took me, along with another guest from Nova Scotia, Canada, to lunch at a most delightful and typically English inn. The inn is a well-preserved remnant of the old Harlow town of 4,000 people; now the new development has encircled this charming English hamlet.

Harlow is almost a textbook community in concept, one which has been written, lectured and advocated for the last twenty years by planners everywhere. As one sees it in reality the effect is quite overwhelming. Harlow is divided into four residential quarters, each consist of several neighborhoods. Within each neighborhood there are primary and secondary schools, shopping center, medical center, social center, church, play field, restaurants, dance hall, meeting hall or common room, and, of course, an English pub. Main roads run outside the neighborhood, so that the young children walk safely to their school which is always located near the center.

The central valley of the Harlow town site is developed into a parkway and carried the main traffic to the town center called The High. Here are shops of greater varieties, banks, several churches, an 8-story office building, "The Painted Lady" public house and restaurant, transportation terminals, magistrate's court, and governmental offices. An all-weather Sports Center with an indoor swimming pool and gymnasium has just been completed near a track and soccer field. Mr. White was delighted to point out that as a concession to Americanization, a bowling alley was also installed.

Two industrial districts were established in Harlow. During the early years, industries were attracted to the New Towns by the availability of housing for their workers—at a time when housing shortage was at its severest in post-war England. As these factories are established, new ones are coming to follow their successful examples. The demand of factory sites exceeded earlier expectations to the extent that the expansion survey of 1962 called for an almost 100% increase in area in Harlow's industrial districts.

Although industries are recruited with much gusto, their acceptance by the New Towns is very selective. Harlow prefers light but skillful manufacturing plants. In the present industrial areas of almost 300 acres, there are plants for metal rectifiers, metallurgy, glass-making, furniture-making, printing, electrical and other types of engineering, electronics and research establishments. Few of Harlow's industries owe their existence to their proximity to London. The New Towns were established on the principle that they were to reduce the heavy concentration of population and industries in the big cities; therefore, they must maintain as independent an existence as possible.

The selective policies for industries, for population, and indeed, for land use, for housing design and management, for education, and for cultural and recreational facilities are the essence of success of the British New Towns.

The New Towns in Britain are creations of Development Corporations—quasi-governmental agencies chartered by the Parliament. The board of directors of the corporation is answerable to the Parliament and the Minister of Housing. Branching from this policy-making body are the working professionals—the planners, the architects, the economists, the sociologists, the management experts, etc. Architect-planner for Harlow is Frederick Gibberd, assisted by a staff of architects and engineers.

## DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

The overwhelming majority of the New Town residents rent from the Development Corporation rather than owning their homes. This is perhaps in keeping with the tradition of the British wage earners, as home-ownership through long-term mortgage is not popular there as in the United States. However, their rent is quite modest—for a two-bedroom apartment, the average charge per month is 7 pounds 10 shillings for rent and 2 pounds 10 shillings for rate (rate is the payment for all community, medical, educational, fire and police services). Adding to this amount, the national government pays a subsidy of 3 pounds to defray the actual cost. Capital expenditures of the New Towns are obtained from government-sponsored loans, varying from 3% interest per annum at the beginning to about 6% now.

Natural questions from Americans in observing this type of "socialized" community would be "How do the New Town residents accept their way of life?" . . . "How much voice do they have in governing their own community affairs . . . their schools?" This is a sort of Brave New World in practice; Big Brother decides to a large extent the form and contents of the community life. I talked to several people, seeking answers. Among them was a secretary, perhaps twenty years old. She has lived in Harlow for ten years, a significant time span during the nurturing of her young life. I asked if she felt different in living in Harlow; if the young people feel bored; if life was too antiseptic there; and if they yearned for the bright lights in London. She was rather taken aback by these strange questions as she felt that life in Harlow is really not much different than anywhere else. "Sure, there were a few young people who ventured to London to work, to look for a good time," she related, "but most of them came back." Harlow's population is much younger than the nation as a whole. Young people are adaptable to changes. There are all types of sponsored activities if one is interested, ranging from art class to weight training. If they were bored and discontent, they were not among the ones I spoke to.

## LIFE IN NEW TOWNS

Harlow's citizens elect their town councilmen who perform the usual police and welfare duties. They have little voice, however, in major land use and housing policies of the community; policy making is strictly the prerogative of the Development Corporation. One must be reminded, however, that members of the board of directors are not running a company town, their sole interest is for the public good.

## GOVERNMENT AND EDUCATION

Infant and junior schools are located in each neighborhood. They are roughly the equivalent of our kindergartens and elementary schools. There are seven secondary schools in Harlow, a full seven-year course will qualify their graduates to enter universities. Or, they may leave at the end of a five-year course and receive a general certificate. Answering my question as to who sets the policy and educational standards, my Harlow friend exclaimed incredulously, "Why, the headmaster of the school, of course." A technical college of 2,500 has been established in Harlow. The intellectual atmosphere certainly is not lacking.

# HARLOW

## ROEHAMPTON

Although not built on the concept of New Towns, there are other significant housing projects constructed in England since the second world war. I visited the London County Council and was conducted to a tour of Roehampton by Mr. W. E. A. Beeston, a member of the Council's architectural staff. My visit was made through the arrangements of the Town and Country's Planning Association of London. I am very much indebted to the assistance of Mr. Wyndham Thomas and his secretary, Miss Ann C. Nathan.

The LCC, as the Council is abbreviated, is the municipal government of the greater part of London, having within its jurisdiction a population of 3,225,000 and an area of 117 square miles. The acute housing shortage in London after the war and the extreme scarcity of building sites as well as development capital made it necessary for the Council to go into the housing business in a big way. Now LCC operates housing developments in practically every part of London where building sites are available.

Roehampton is a huge development of 130 acres of beautiful rolling country six miles southwest of the center of London. The site once belonged to several large eighteenth-century estates; the fact that more open country and estates still adjoin Roehampton makes possible a commanding view from most of the high-rise blocks. All of the mansions in the former estates were carefully preserved. Mr. Beeston told me of a system for the preservation of trees which was adopted during the planning stage of the project—trees are marked according to their importance, those marked "preserved" must be saved at all cost. This extraordinary concern for the natural surroundings have resulted in making Roehampton one of the most beautiful residential developments I have seen.

Yet Roehampton is a low-rent project. The LCC, the national government, and the tenant each shares a third of the cost. Occupancies of the dwellings, however, are not limited to the low-income group. Their qualifications for admission are based on a point method, with their needs—whether present housing condition is adequate, parents or other dependents living with the family, etc.—determining the order of eligibility. I was particularly interested in knowing whether one socio-economic group dominated the occupancy of this project, but learned that this had not been the case in Roehampton. White and blue collar workers all live here, plus a sprinkling of professional people. Mr. Beeston assured me that there is absolutely no stigma in living in public housing, in "Council Flats" as they are called in London.

Roehampton is sometimes known as the Alton Estates. Alton East, a smaller section, was built in 1952-55 and the remainder, Alton West, in 1955-59. There is a population of 9,500 living in Roehampton—a gross density of 70 people per acre. The housing consists of 25 high-rise apartment buildings, five 11-story "mansionettes" (each apartment has two floors), a smaller number of terrace houses and a number of one-story small row-houses for the elderly. Alton West, and especially the 11-story towers containing the mansionettes, resembles strongly LeCorbusier's Unite d' Habitation in Marseille—elevated from the ground on stilts, rough textured concrete and the solid end walls of the slab-like towers. The 25 high-rise apartments are squarish and rather conservative in the tradition of British modern design. Scattered among these are the most interesting and pleasing bungalows for the elderly. These are small dwellings, attached to one another in groups of eight or ten along a staggered line. I was attracted by the scale of these bungalows; they seem particularly right for the old people, maintaining their independence, yet not burdened by an excessive amount of housekeeping.





Nearby the old people's housing is a club room and warden's house. The warden is a retired RAF squadron leader. He was busily planting flowers at the time we visited him at the club house; inside there was a large group of old ladies playing what appeared to be a bingo game. I promised to send a copy of my snapshot of them, but an elderly lady commented: "They always say that, but they never will." There are other community facilities provided in Roehampton: a very fine library containing 20,000 volumes, three new primary schools, one large secondary school, several nursery schools, three churches, one main and two subsidiary shopping centers containing a total of 28 stores plus a number of pubs.

Roehampton shares a common feature with several other group housing developments I have seen in Europe: all heating and domestic water supply came from a central, high temperature and pressure heating plant for the entire development. Hot water is piped underground to each building and through a converter to heating radiators and domestic use. One cannot help but observe the great advantage of placing all utilities underground in such developments; the result is a clean, parklike setting, void of the unsightly poles and power lines.

OLD PEOPLES'  
HOUSES

CENTRAL HEATING  
PLANT

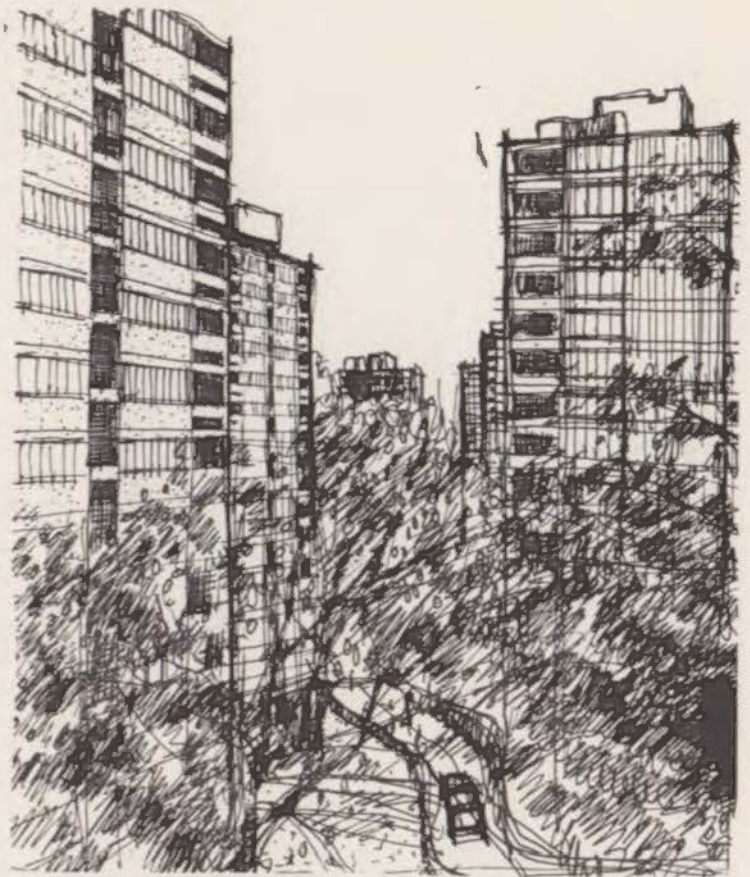
ROEHAMPTON

TEXAS ARCHITECT



OLD PEOPLES' HOUSINGS  
ROEHAMPTON, ENGLAND

EH'64



HIGH RISE APARTMENTS  
ROEHAMPTON, ENGLAND

EH'64

To prove that Roehampton is not an isolated show case in London, I went to see the Churchill Gardens project. This is a much more "urbanized" project, built along the Thames and adjacent to the thickly settled Chelsea section of London. If Roehampton is profuse in its natural beauty and distinctive in its careful siting of buildings, Churchill Gardens is noteworthy for its cleanliness and excellent upkeep of a large group of handsome but very high density city apartments. Built over a period of nine years, beginning in 1946, Churchill Gardens has 1,650 apartments, housing a total of 6,500 people. Most of the buildings in Churchill Gardens are 10- to 11-story apartment blocks, with some lower walk-up apartments spaced in between. Despite the extremely high density (200 people per acre), one does not have a feeling of being in a huge human warren. The high quality of design, the thoughtful juxtaposition of the high and low buildings, the formation of courts and neighborhoods by the building groups, the adequate provision of community facilities, all make this a most agreeable place to live in the midst of the city of London.

It is not valid to comment on a nation's housing without touching on its national character and living habits. The urban Britishers are accustomed to renting and living in city apartments. The new housing schemes in the New Towns, in Roehampton, in Churchill Gardens, etc. do not depart radically from their usual habitat. The transition is gradual and hence easier to bridge. The Britishers are a great people in living together with each other. Their admirable public spirit enables them to maintain their shared facilities—the hallways, the car parks, the walks and the commons all in magnificent form. Not only in the material way, but the community spirit is well served by their tradition of respect for order and public well being. It is in their new housing development, I believe, that we have seen one of the brightest sides of post-war Britain.

## NEW TOWNS      NEW TOWNS

*Fountain Sculpture, Ridglea Country Club, Fort Worth. Hammered sheet copper. 8' H.*



## CHARLES T. WILLIAMS



*Golfer. Ridglea Country Club, Fort Worth. Brass and walnut wood. 7'-8" H.*

THIS IS THE FIFTH OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON TEXAS ARTISTS WRITTEN BY PAUL COATES, JR., AIA ARCHITECT

A suggestion of the versatility of sculptor Charles T. Williams is contained in his observation that "almost any material can be converted to the sculptor's purpose." His transformations of so varied and numerous materials in pursuit of an expression are both arresting and compelling. As for purpose—certainly Williams intends to delight the viewer. A stroll through the elegant Weiner Sculpture Garden in Fort Worth is enhanced by William's several contributions. Particularly delightful is his combination of metal sculpture and jetting water, which add to the nature already encountered there.

Sculptor Williams, a Texan who has made his place in his native state, is well known beyond its borders. Born in 1918 in Weatherford, Williams earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Fine Arts degrees at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, where he now resides.

Exhibited in many local, regional and national exhibitions, his creations have been recognized in ten one man shows in Texas and Oklahoma since 1952. Recognition by awards has emanated from well known exhibitions, museums and galleries in Denver, Kansas City, New Orleans, Dallas, and Houston. His expanding reputation follows his many achievements.

The appeal generated by Williams to both a general and individual audience is indicated by the presence of his works in numerous public as well as private collections. Commissions executed by the sculptor similarly uphold the extensive regard for his expressions. These commissions are as varied in form and setting as they are in use of material.

Two of Williams's works are in the Sheraton Hotel in Houston. A cast bronze fountain sculpture is featured in the driveway area, and in the lobby a suspended screen of bronze, silver, lead and enamel on copper forms a functional separation of areas. Other recent commissions by Williams include: *Christ* for St. Martins Episcopal Church, Houston; *Fountain Sculpture* for Caravan Motor Hotel, Fort Worth; *Fountain and Sculpture* for the Ridglea Country Club, Fort Worth; *Screen* for the First National Bank, Garland; *Fountain and Sculpture* for the Texas Crude Oil Company, Fort Worth; and *Fountain* for the Lampasas Public Library.

In his work Williams has employed wood, stone, cast bronze, cast iron, welded copper, steel and other metals as well as found objects to achieve his wide range of expression. In his several fountain sculptures the playful action of water contributes even another dimension to an already expressive statement. Regardless of the choice of particular material, Williams nearly always bases his forms on those found in nature. Though frequently abstracted, the resultant shapes still often reflect the natural form.

Williams executes work both large and small in scale. His stated preference, however, is toward large-scale expressions. Coupled with the desire to avail himself of the possibilities of monumental work, he sustains an interest in architectural sculpture. Williams's considered choices of materials, shapes, and textures in such work reflect the rare design imagination implicit in his contribution to the art of the Southwest.



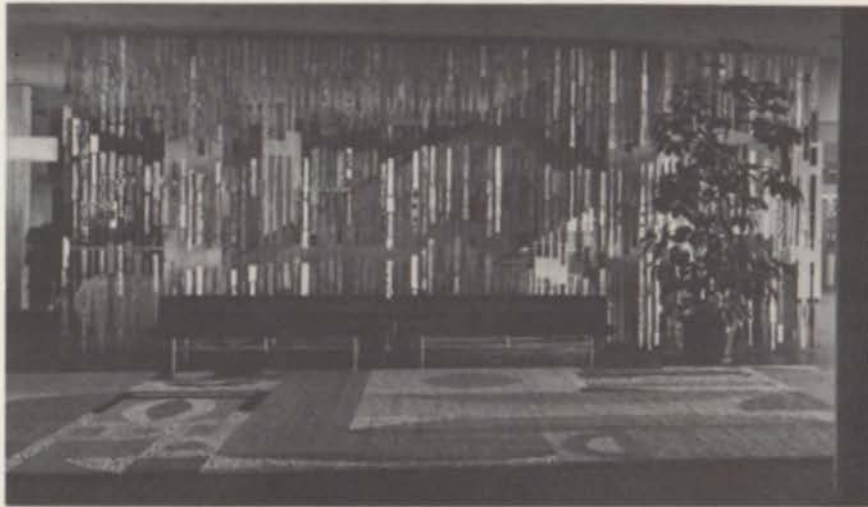


*Untitled.* Collection of Mrs. Lawrence Marcus. 35' H.

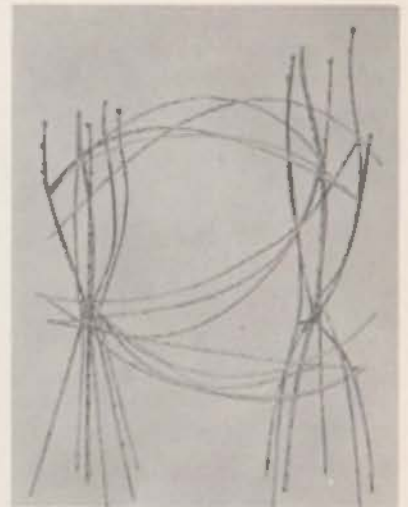


*Fountain Sculpture.* Caravan Motor Hotel, Fort Worth. Hammered sheet copper and bronze. 14' H.

# CHARLES T. WILLIAMS



*Screen.* Sheraton Hotel, Houston. Bronze, silver, lead and enamel on copper. 33' x 11'.



*Battleground.* Steel with brass coat. 45" H.



*Ancient Warrior.* San Antonio Art League. Cast iron found objects. 6'-1/2" H.



*Wall Scripture.* Mr. & Mrs. Jack Morris, Fort Worth. Hammered sheet copper. 5' L.



*Stacked Stone Figure.* Collection of the artist. Granite stones. 28" H.

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This statement was made by Architect James Oscar Dixon, Dallas, who used Armco pre-finished STEELOX® Panels in his design of the Arapaho Shopping Center, Richardson, Texas.

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 **ARMCO Metal Products Division**

TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

How does a city accomplish preservation of its historic landmarks and, at the same time, make plans to insure its share of the economic and population boom?

Architectural students at Texas A&M University are seeking answers to this increasingly pertinent question of urban design, Cecil Steward reported. Steward and William G. Wagner, both assistant professors of architecture, are in charge of a class of 33 fourth-year students who selected Galveston as the vehicle for the study.

The initial phase of the project began when the students invaded the coastal city with cameras. Their assignment: locate, identify and photograph major historical buildings and other landmarks.

With the photographs, the students prepared brochures of “their concepts of the unique influences that history might have on future planning of the city,” Steward said. The students then studied specific social and economic areas of the city.

Next, the students began to design and redevelop facilities for industrial complexes, central business district, education and culture, housing, convention activities, recreation and a completely new community on Pelican Island.

“A large portion of our students today will spend a greater part of their professional lives considering problems of masses of people,” Steward added. “Projections for the next 30 to 40 years indicate that existing urban areas will experience fantastic growth in population.”

The project participants discovered, for example, that Galveston, Harris, Orange and Jefferson counties now have a population of 1,700,000. By 1990 this same area will contain an estimated 4,800,000 people.

“Galveston was chosen for the study because of its location, configuration, history,” Steward said. “Also its future embodies most all of the critical ingredients of an American urban complex, and yet it is of a size that aids the student’s comprehension.”

Final display of the students’ efforts, including a 32-foot long scale model of “Galveston—2,000 A.D.” will be publicly displayed in the School of Architecture and later in Galveston under the sponsorship of the Chamber of Commerce.

# FIRE-RESISTANCE RATING

Historically, concrete masonry is one of the most reliable and safe building materials. Its priceless security for people and property is a major factor in the ever-expanding use of concrete masonry in every phase of modern construction.

Fire-resistance ratings of concrete masonry walls are based on fire tests made at Underwriters Laboratories, Incorporated, National Bureau of Standards, and Portland Cement Association. In the test, one face of a block wall is exposed to a fire of controlled extent and severity. Immediately following the hot face of the wall is subjected to the impact in cooling effect of a fire-hose stream. Bearing walls also carry a load of 80 psi, based on gross area, during the fire test.

## Block Passed Test With Honors

Results of these tests show the fire endurance period of concrete masonry walls is usually determined by the permissible temperature rise on the unexposed wall face. Few concrete masonry walls fail due to load during the fire test or during subsequent cooling by fire-hose. Fire endurance is a function of aggregate type used, and wall solid thickness, or percentage of solid material when units are hollow. Fire resistance ratings grouped according to aggregate type are as follows:

Aggregate Type	* Solid Thickness, inches, for rating of:			
	4 hr.	3 hr.	2 hr.	1 hr.
Expanded Slag or Pumice	4.7	4.0	3.2	2.1
Expanded Clay or Shale	5.7	4.8	3.8	2.6
Limestone, Cinders, or Unexpanded Slag	5.9	5.0	4.0	2.7
Calcareous Gravel	6.2	5.3	4.2	2.8
Siliceous Gravel	6.7	5.7	4.5	3.0

\*Equivalent Thickness

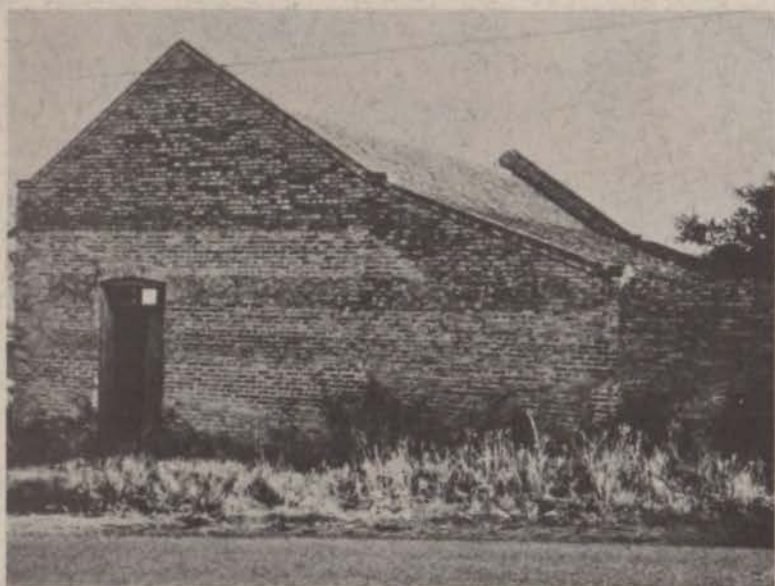
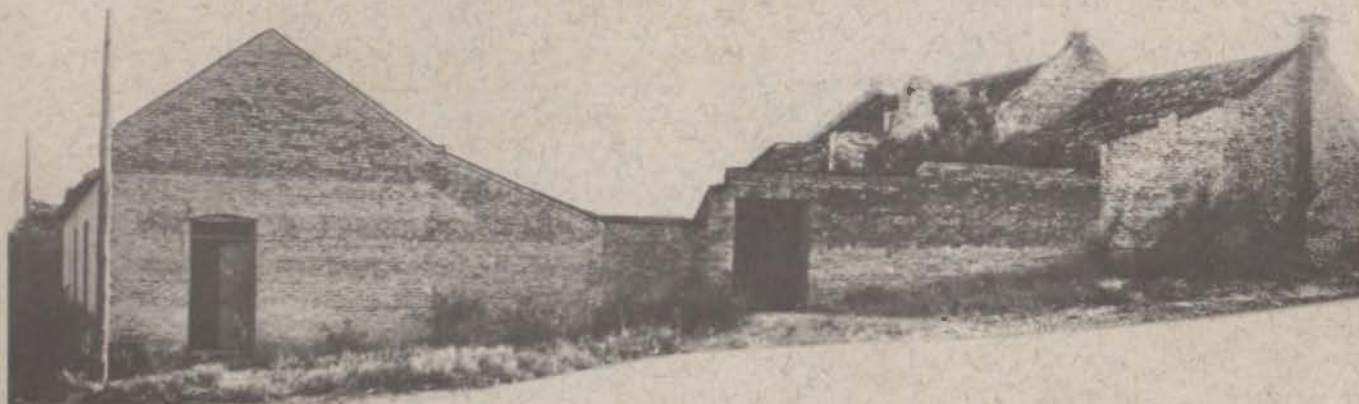


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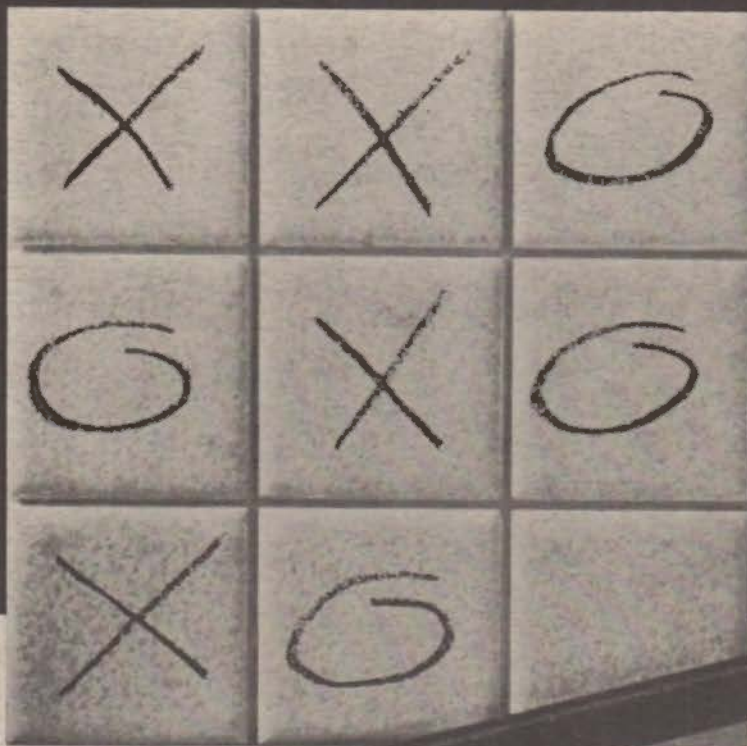
EARLY TEXAS HOUSE  
RIO GRANDE CITY

PHOTOS by JAMES PFLUGER

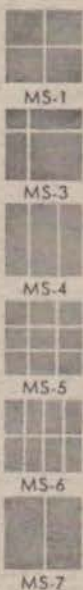


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