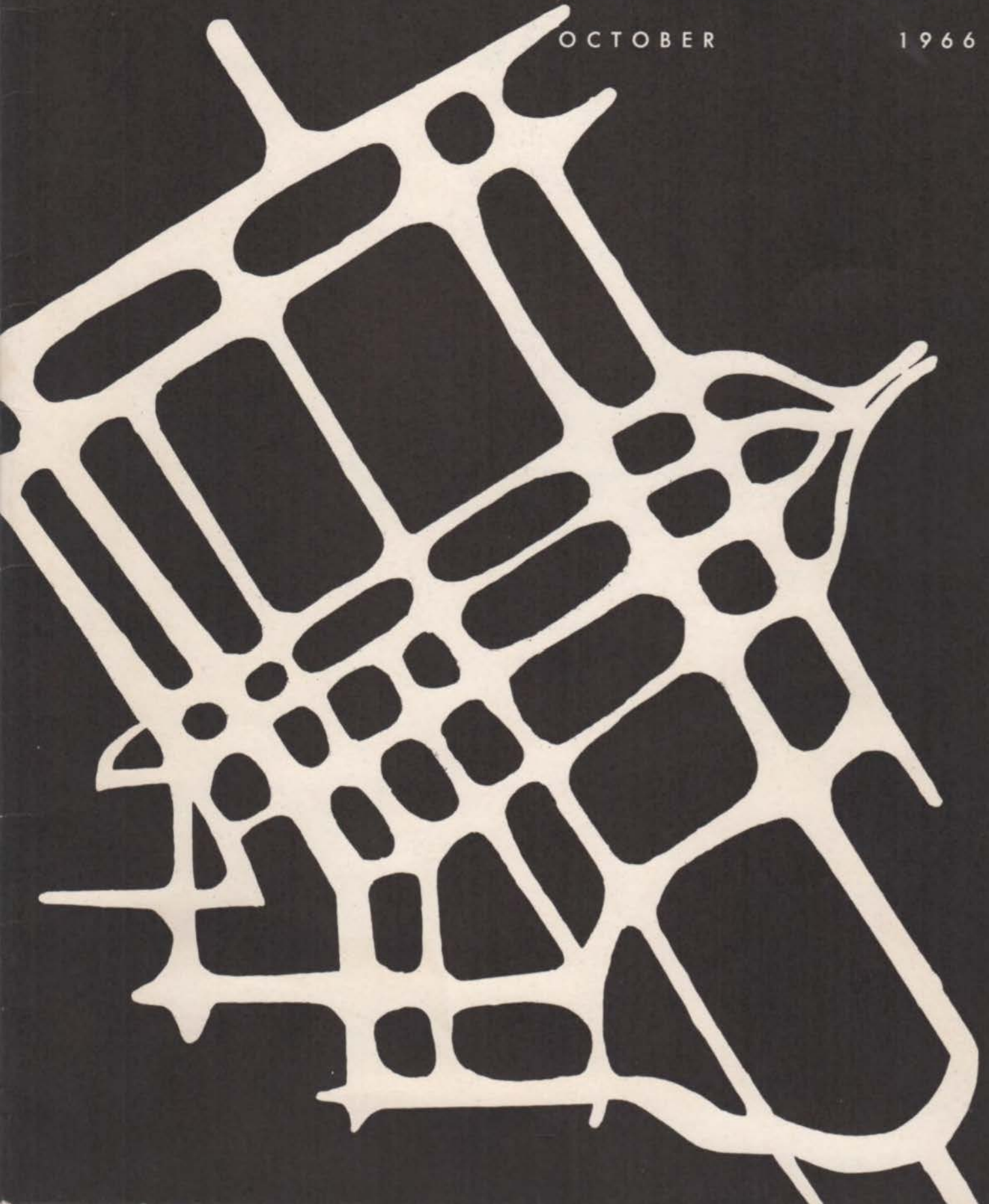


 THE TEXAS
ARCHITECT

OCTOBER

1966



THE DYNAMIC
PATTERN
ON THE COVER
IS THAT
OF THE THOROUGHFARE
DESIGN FOR
THE FORT WORTH PLAN
INITIATED
AS A PUBLIC SERVICE
BY THE
ARCHITECTS
OF FORT WORTH

Official Publication of
THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The Texas Regional Organization of
The American Institute of Architects

Don Edward Legge, A.I.A., Editor
James D. Pfluger, Associate Editor
John G. Flowers, Jr., Managing Editor

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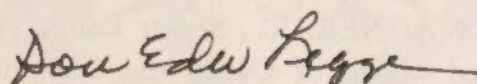
**THE TEXAS
ARCHITECT**

VOLUME 16 / OCTOBER 1966 / NUMBER 10

The Texas Society of Architects has been pleased to mail you its publication, *The Texas Architect*, free of charge each month.

In order that we may make this the most effective possible professional publication, we have engaged the firm of Management Advisors and Associates of Austin, Texas to evaluate this publication and make recommendations for its improvement. It would assist their evaluation if you would complete the enclosed questionnaire and return it to them as soon as possible.

It will require only a few minutes of your time.



Don Edward Legge, AIA
Editor



T S A 2 7 T H A N N U A L M E E T I N G
F O R T W O R T H N O V 2 N D • 3 R D • 4 T H

WOULD YOU BELIEVE . . .

The program is complete, the social activities are all planned, and the Fort Worth folks are all ready to welcome you to the 27th Annual Meeting. There are only four and a half short weeks left for all the last details to fall into place for another great TSA get-together to begin.

HIGHLIGHTS . . .

AIA President, CHARLES M. NES, JR., will deliver the Keynote Address Wednesday afternoon at 3 pm, speaking on: "THE CHALLENGE TO THE PROFESSION"

The Fort Worth Chapter will entertain at a Champagne Reception on Wednesday evening at the Art Center, featuring the opening of a retrospective exhibit of the life-time work of Le Corbusier and other French architects of distinction.

The highly important professional program will feature four outstanding Americans who will discuss the enormous challenges to the profession today. The brilliant article in FORTUNE MAGAZINE in January by WALTER McQUADE has prompted a nationwide dialogue of which this will be the most important part. Not only will Walter McQuade be present, but we will also have THOMAS GRIFFITH, Senior Editor of LIFE-TIME-FORTUNE, INC. and WALTER WAGNER, JR., Senior Editor of ARCHITECTURAL RECORD. In addition, the distinguished Mayor of Dallas and Chairman of the Board of Texas Instruments, Inc., ERIK JONSSON, representing that key member of the construction team, the client, will be a featured speaker.

A special added attraction will be the appearance of the HONORABLE BEN BARNES, Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, who will address a special luncheon on Thursday, November 3, to which many important guests will be invited. Speaker Barnes will discuss with us the problems of the difficult upcoming session of the Texas Legislature and our obligations as citizens to be enlightened observers of the Legislative scene.

WOULD YOU ALSO BELIEVE . . .

That the social program will be absolutely unique. Fort Worth, which is famous for unusual parties, is planning one this time that will be unforgettable and in the most unusual site ever chosen for a TSA party.



THE FT. WORTH STORY

1966

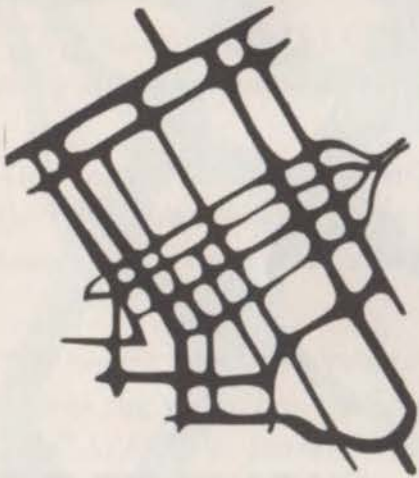
JOSEPH J. PATTERSON, FAIA

THE FORT WORTH STORY 1966

In the March 1962 issue of *THE TEXAS ARCHITECT* an article entitled "The Downtown Fort Worth Story" appeared. It was an account of an activity initiated and sponsored by the Fort Worth Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, designed to stimulate Chapter esprit-de-corps and, at the same time, to perform a much-needed and worthwhile public service.

This activity was the study of the problems of Fort Worth's Central Business District and the exploration of suggestions for solutions to these problems.

Our plan of procedure was scheduled in three phases. In Phase One we conducted a competition, open to all classes of Chapter membership and to the architectural trainees. The purpose of this competition was to provide as many ideas as possible for the preparation of a Master Plan for the Central Business District. Individuals and teams were encouraged to prepare entries which might encompass a study of the entire downtown area or of any part in detail. No prizes were offered and no individual awards were made. The drawings were to be anonymous and all were to be offered to the City Planning Department as a contribution from the Fort Worth architects.



The competition brought in 22 solutions, prepared by 39 individuals representing 16 of the 24 member firms of A.I.A. The participants were:

Charles B. Adams	Paul Haberman	Horace Maples
George Beal	Lee Roy Hahnfeld	A. C. McAdams
Oscar B. Cecil	T. Z. Hamm	Charles O'Toole
Robert W. Chambers	Thaddeus E. Harden, Jr.	Morris Parker
Clifton Clark	C. J. Harkrider	William E. Parrish
George Crane	Gary Havard	Joseph J. Patterson
Jerry Davis	J. R. Johnson, Jr.	Charles J. Pfeffer
Paul Deeley	Charles H. Kelley	Willard Reavis
Jay T. Dunlap	William C. Kneer	William C. Riley
Don Epperly	A. George King	George S. Sowden
Preston Geren, Jr.	Earl Koeppe	Lee Stuart
Larry Gernsbacher	Albert Komatsu	Edward Watkins
Ernest Grossman, Jr.	William R. Lane	Warren White

Phase Two of the program was the presentation of the 22 solutions to as many civic groups and other organizations as possible. These presentations were made as the joint effort of members of the Chapter and representatives of the City Planning Department. This dissemination of information set the public to thinking seriously about improving our city's image.

Phase Three was to be the actual working-out of a C.B.D. Plan in close cooperation with the City Planning Department, always keeping an open mind and ear for the constructive criticism of representative members of the various civic groups interested in the welfare of our community.

When the aforementioned article appeared in *The Texas Architect* we were just embarking on Phase Three.

The actual development of the C.B.D. Plan was begun by a joint meeting of our Chapter's Urban Design Committee (composed of Charles Adams, Merwyn Croston, William Kneer, Morris Parker, and Joseph Patterson) and staff members of the City Planning Department, together with representatives of the Downtown Fort Worth Association. The Director of Planning explained that his department was in the process of assembling material for a Preliminary Comprehensive Plan for the entire urban area of Fort Worth, as it might be in 1980. He asked the architects to undertake the preparation of the C.B.D. portion of this comprehensive plan. We accepted this responsibility.

THE FORT WORTH STORY

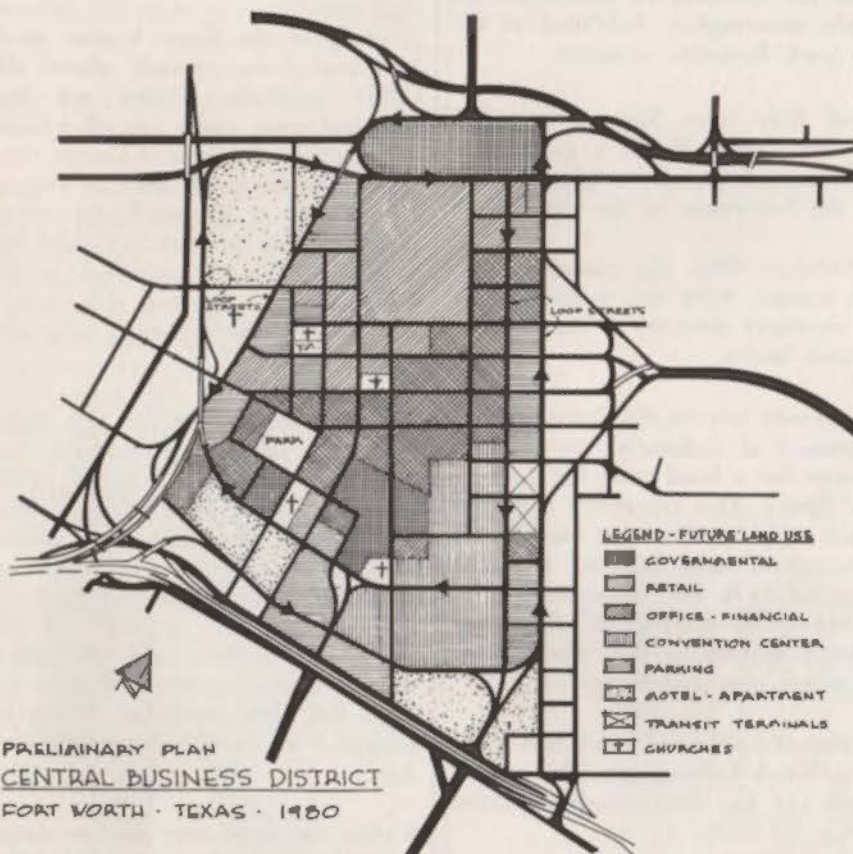
1966

At first our committee met twice a week, always with staff members of the City Planning Department, and conducted investigations, in depth, of all the factors affecting the downtown area, and ways in which these factors might be modified for the betterment of the city. In conducting these studies we kept constantly aware of the fact that a planner's solution to a problem might vary considerably from the ideas of a layman. The reconciliation of divergent views was one of our major concerns because we were determined to maintain the public support we had achieved. No plan, however good, is of any value unless it meets with general public approval.

At this point we felt that our committee should be broadened to include other professional viewpoints. Consequently we added two more architects, Thad E. Harden and Albert Komatsu, Daniel N. Reid, a professional engineer, Chester W. Nichols, a landscape architect, and Raymond Entenmann, Director of the Fort Worth Art Center, who had been educated in the field of planning and was thus doubly useful to us. This enlarged committee was called the *Central Business District Design Committee*.

Through weekly meetings this group, together with staff members from the Planning Department, studied the schemes submitted and consulted with various technical experts, finally adopting the following general principles of procedure:

- The complete elimination of automobile and truck traffic from certain portions of the downtown area.
- The discouragement of automobile traffic, in the C.B.D. which had no destination there.
- Better physical design.
- The introduction of more public attractions, such as a new convention center.
- Improved atmosphere of beauty and relaxation through the provision of public open spaces, landscaping, pleasant vistas and other esthetic features.
- The establishing of cells within the C.B.D. for related uses—retail, wholesale, financial and of-fice, residential, etc.
- The encircling of the core area of the C.B.D. by two inner loop-streets, one for clockwise and one for counter-clockwise traffic movement, to facilitate travel around the core and thus to reduce congestion in the core.
- The introduction of greatly increased parking facilities adjacent to these loop-streets.



PRELIMINARY PLAN
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
FORT WORTH - TEXAS - 1960

THE FORT WORTH STORY 1966

During the next two years the Committee, in weekly meetings, hammered out a six-stage plan leading to the ultimate development of Fort Worth's Central Business District as we envisioned it in 1980. During the same period the City Planning Department conducted several space-use surveys of the C.B.D. and in 1962 the firm of Larry Smith and Company, Economic Consultants, of San Francisco, made a comprehensive study of the city's probable growth and development. These surveys were of inestimable value in our work.

When the plan was finally completed in broad outline and accepted in principle by the Planning Department as a guide line for the city's orderly development to 1980, it was informally explained to selected members of the Downtown Fort Worth Association and the Chamber of Commerce. Its reception by these civic leaders was highly encouraging. Exhibited at the Fort Worth Art Center, the plan elicited much favorable comment.

Meanwhile, our Mayor-protem, Mr. Willard Barr (now Mayor), proposed an idea, unique for a city of our size, called "Town Hall": a great mass meeting, open to the public, where any interested person or group might have the opportunity to present ideas for the betterment of the city.

At the first Town Hall meeting, held in October, 1963, our committee presented the proposed C.B.D. Plan. A huge success, from this meeting came assurance of support for two of the most important elements of our scheme: the idea of the loop-streets and the convention center.

Since the latter was considered to be of county-wide interest the Commissioners Court appointed a citizens committee composed of influential people from all parts of the county to conduct a campaign for a bond issue for the construction of a Tarrant County Convention Center. This committee approved the location in the C.B.D. Plan and the bond campaign literature made much of the Center's nearness to present and proposed hotel facilities and that a good deal of urban blight would be replaced by a very much-needed facility. The bond issue passed by a very substantial margin and five firms of Fort Worth Architects were commissioned to form a joint venture for the design of the Center. Working drawings are now well along.

Meanwhile, the City Planning Commission *formally* approved our C.B.D. Plan for inclusion in its Master Plan for the Fort Worth Urban Area. This master plan was then presented to the City Council and was unanimously approved by that body on March 8, 1965.

Thus, we have official approval of our project.

We realize that a city plan can never be static; It must be kept flexible to allow for changes in detail without losing sight of the ultimate goals. Furthermore, these ultimate goals must be attainable by a series of stages, each of which can be accomplished without excessive financial strain on the community and—most importantly—without arousing, too seriously, the antagonism of those who chronically resist change.

We are now restudying Stage I of the C.B.D. Plan in the light of several developments which have come up as a result of certain traffic studies and economic factors. The first of these developments was the need to relocate the Convention Center one block south of our originally planned site. The second was the reconsideration to preserve Houston and Commerce Streets as southbound and northbound traffic carriers respectively, crossing the C.B.D. The third was a rather generally accepted opinion that our loop-street idea should be tried out on a reduced scale before expanding it to the dimensions of our 1980 plan.

A study of the Stage I plan, as it has now been revised, shows the C.B.D. generally divided into two principal areas, retail and office-financial, with smaller cells of County Government at the north and City-Federal Government at the south. Of course these divisions are not hard and fast—there are retail businesses in the office-financial area and vice versa—but generally the pattern is quite well established.

The inner-loop streets in this Stage enclose a much more compact core area than that shown by the 1980 plan. They are formed by using existing streets, preserving the present direction of traffic flow, and requiring only very minor acquisitions of right-of-way. Thus the principle of the double-loop system can be tested without much expense and, after its value has been established, it can be expanded as the C.B.D. growth may demand.

Within the retail area we are doing everything possible to discourage vehicular traffic and to increase comfort and safety for pedestrians by the creation of several *super-blocks*, replacing several streets by landscaped malls and placing enough deterrents to through traffic in the remaining streets so their use by passenger cars will be greatly reduced.

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Of course, the area of main interest is in the south end of the C.B.D. where the Convention Center will go and where the new Federal Building has been built. We show the Main Street Mall terminating at the south end in a little formal garden just across Ninth Street from the Arena Entrance of the Convention Center; Eleventh Street converted into a mall between Houston and Throckmorton with historic old St. Patrick's Co-Cathedral as the western focal point. Just south of this mall we have indicated a super-block where, it is hoped, an outstanding hotel will be built.

Another interesting feature in this area will be the new construction of Texas Street to Thirteenth, made necessary by the pushing of the Convention Center one block south. The route of this connection will create several areas which will be beautified by suitable landscaping.

Since the location decided on by the General Services Administration for the new Federal Office Building was unfortunate from the standpoint of providing a suitable setting, we are suggesting a landscaped mall across the block between the Federal Center and Burnett Park. This would provide a visual connection which we feel is most important.

There are already plans under way to build a new City Hall immediately south of the present one, and another building for city utility departments still further south. Room for a new police building is available between this proposed utility building and the freeway. When these three new buildings are completed the old City Hall can be removed and the entire trapezoidal area east of the Federal Office Building can be landscaped. This will form a pleasant City-Federal Governmental Center.

(Continued on page 14)

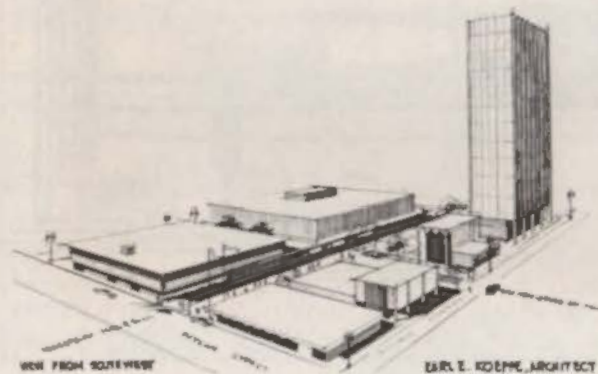


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One element of the existing city plan which has been the occasion of some concern to us is the Freeway Connection at the east side of the C.B.D. This connection serves the very useful purpose of helping to fill, or empty, the downtown area quickly during the morning and evening rush hours. However, the fact that the four streets served by this connection, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and Seventh, cross the core area from east to west gave us considerable concern as to the inevitability of vehicular-pedestrian conflict during the rest of the day. We felt it advisable to close all four of these streets to cross traffic during the shopping hours. However, the Traffic Department felt that at least one pair of the streets should run through without interruption. Consequently, we selected Fourth and Fifth because these streets more nearly conform to the boundary line between the retail and office-financial areas, and because they have less pedestrian traffic than have the other two streets.

We suggest that Seventh Street be interrupted by connecting the forecourt of the First National Bank with Burnett Park by means of a landscaped area, and that Sixth Street be closed by a small triangular park bound by Burnett, Seventh and Cherry Streets. This will close these two streets to *casual* through traffic but leave them readily accessible to anyone who has a destination in the core area.



Another phase of the central city which we feel has been neglected is provision for downtown living. To meet this need we are suggesting two high-rise apartment complexes in the fringe area. One makes use of an existing apartment hotel which is not now successful because of its run-down surroundings. We suggest cleaning up the entire area adjacent to it and creating a beautiful apartment cluster. It is ideally located in the northwest corner of the retail center. The second suggested apartment site is just west of the Federal Courts Building overlooking Burnett Park. This will provide excellent accommodations for employees in the entire City-Federal Governmental Area.

A plan for the consolidation of all railway freight yards, to be located in north Fort Worth, is getting very favorable consideration. If this is accomplished it will open up an opportunity for new C.B.D. related warehousing along Jones Street from Twelfth Street to Lancaster. This will permit a tie-in with a Public Market-Trade Mart combination which we very much need to complete the service which our city can offer agricultural and manufacturing interests. We hope to see the Public Market made into a beautiful area with an opportunity for use like the community markets of our neighbor south of the border. This sort of atmosphere can create a great deal of interest and activity in a part of the city which has been allowed to deteriorate badly. The adjacent Convention Center parking areas will also serve this new wholesale-retail complex. We suggest a motel in this area, convenient to Lancaster, for the accommodation of salesmen and buyers interested in the Trade Mart.

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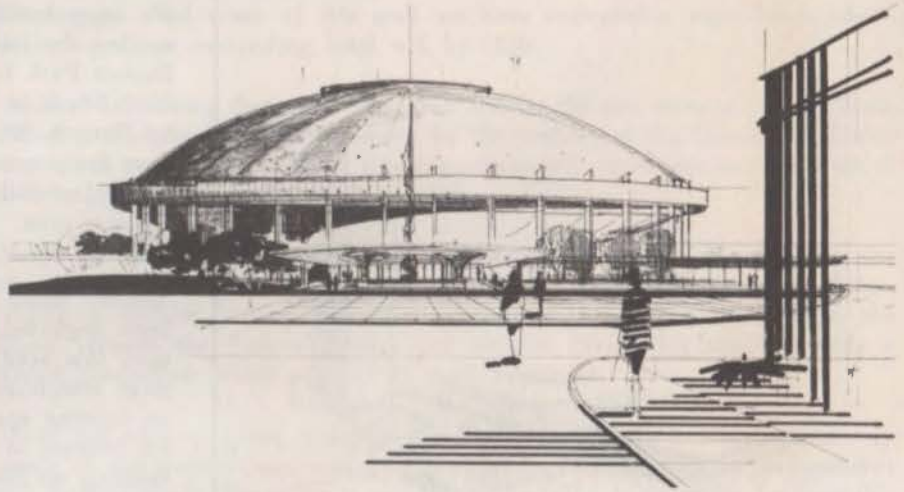
Finally, let us consider the Convention Center, the most important area in the new C.B.D.

It will be in three divisions, the Arena, the Exhibit Building and the Theater. These will be built so as to enable them to be used with complete independence or all together.

The Arena, which is circular in plan, will seat 10,000 in permanent seats and an additional 4,000 in temporary seats on the arena floor. The bowl of the seating arena and the Lamella-domed roof will be girdled by a huge tension ring supported by a circle of deep concrete columns set 12 degrees apart. A one-story wing will surround this central mass, projecting in under the bowled overhang of the arena. These wings will contain the three arena Lobbies, the Meeting Rooms, Committee Rooms and the Ball Room. These rooms will all be serviced from a corridor which is entirely separate from the Arena Concourse, thus permitting circulation for this area even though a ticketed event were to be scheduled simultaneously in the Arena. The Arena floor will be of a size to accommodate any indoor athletic event, ice show or circus.

The Theater will be at the south end of the site and will seat 2,500 in continental seating. The stage will be equipped to handle any type of production. The one story dressing-room wing will be shaped so as to form a huge exedra, embracing a small landscaped area with a fountain, or some other important feature at the center. The great bulk of the stage house will form an imposing background for this design accent.

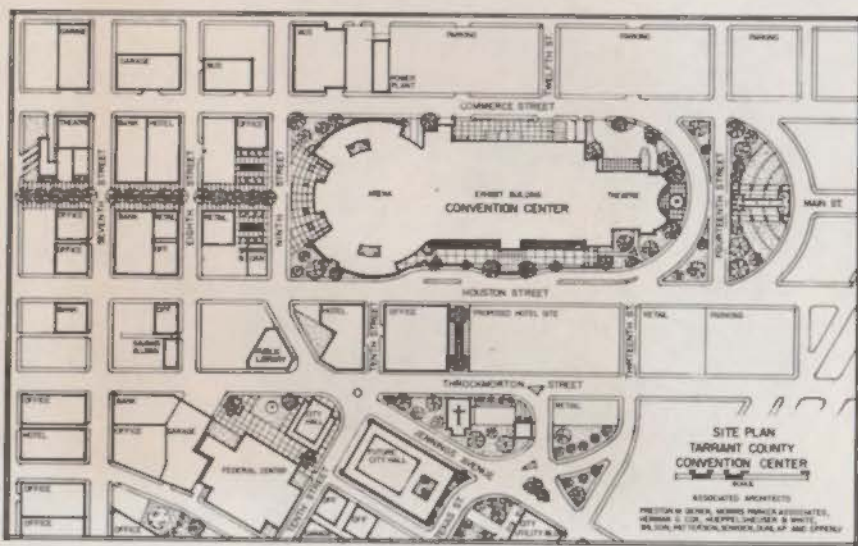
Between the Arena and the Theater will be the Exhibit Building. This will consist of a huge exhibit hall of 100,000 square feet area, which can be subdivided into 5 areas of 20,000 square feet each. Entirely across the rear of this hall will be a storage area connecting directly to the loading docks which will be accessible from Commerce Street. A ramp at either



THE FORT WORTH STORY 1966

end of the storage area will permit trucks to drive directly into the Exhibit Hall. A catering kitchen, located at the north end of the storage area, will provide for service to the Banquet Room, Exhibit area, the Arena floor, or any of the meeting rooms. The Exhibit Hall floor is the same elevation as that of the Arena and the exhibit area can thus be expanded into the arena by opening the great doors which will ordinarily separate the two. Thus any exhibit too tall to be accommodated by the 23 foot clear height of the Exhibit Hall can be located on the Arena floor.

A 30 foot wide concourse will extend along the entire west side of the Exhibit Hall, connecting the Arena with the Theater and giving access to the Exhibit Hall. The main entrance of the Convention Center will be in the center of this Concourse. The Executive offices of the Center, together with other related rooms, will be on a suspended mezzanine in the Concourse.



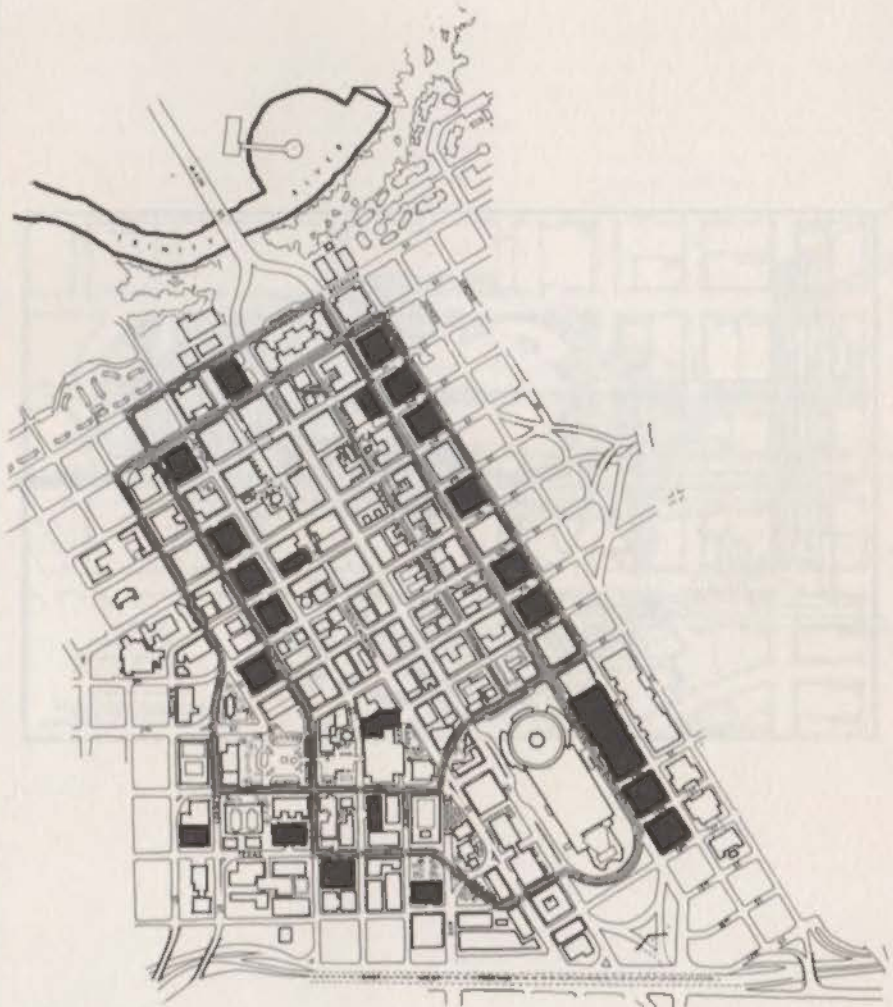
The topography of the site is such that the finished first floor grade will be about 2 feet above the north curb grade, loading-dock height on the east side, and requiring a sunken forecourt on the west. This will give us a fine opportunity for a decorative retaining wall, with planting behind it, and a broad paved area for easy handling of crowds. A reflecting pool will extend the full length of the west wall of the Exhibit Building Concourse, except where it is interrupted by the Main Entrance Lobby. In the center of each of the four remaining 90 foot bays will be a small fountain, behind which the glass of the Concourse wall will be interrupted by a large mosaic panel. These four panels will picture four periods in the history of Fort Worth; the days of the old fort and the Indian raids, the cattle drives along the old Chisholm Trail, Fort Worth as a railroad center and the air-age Fort Worth.

With the imaginative exterior lighting which we are contemplating, we feel that the Convention Center will make a major contribution to Downtown Fort Worth.

THE FORT WORTH STORY 1966

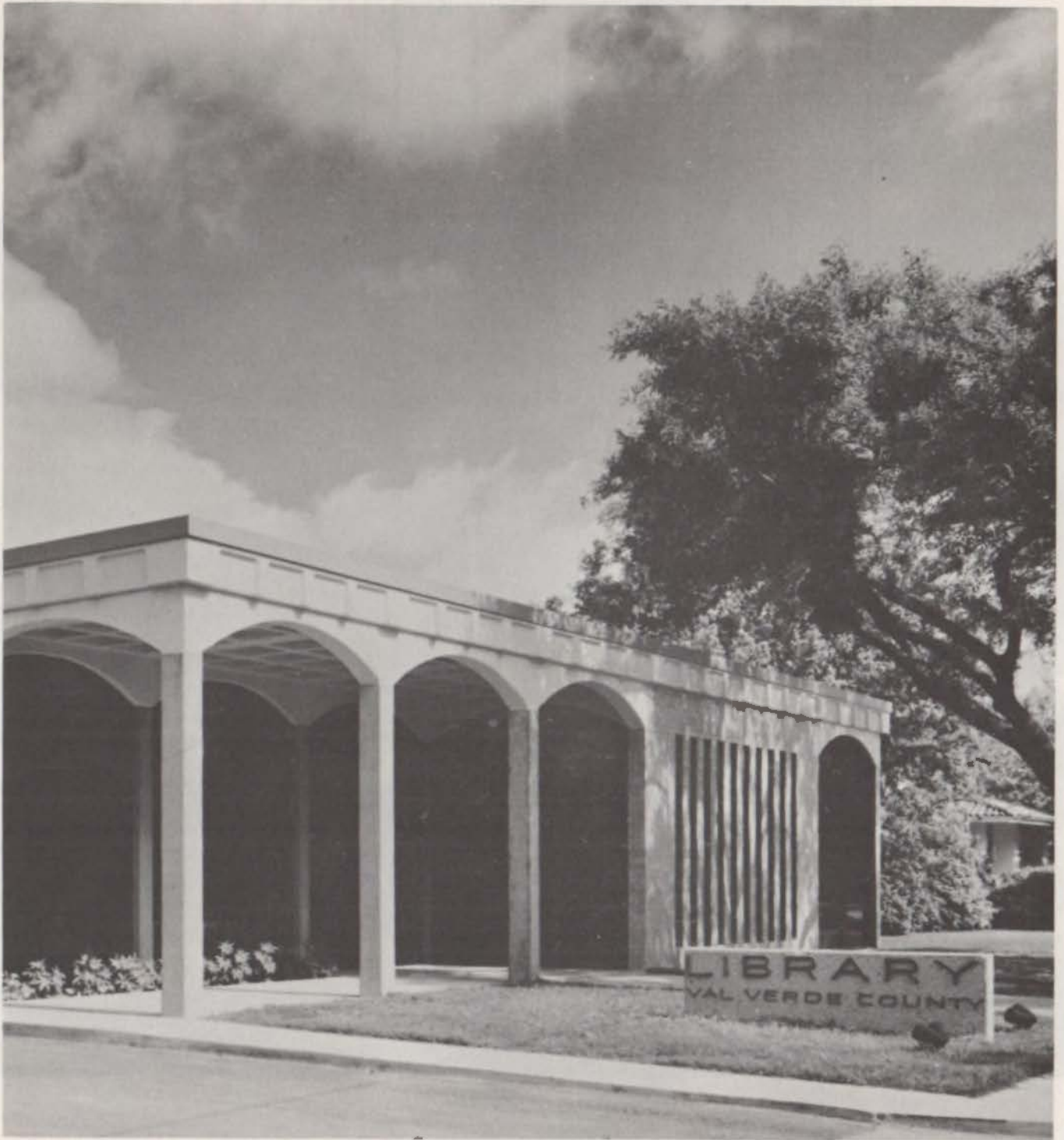
The City Planning Department has prepared a brochure covering the study of Stage I of our C.B.D. Plan. Architects assisted in illustrating this presentation.

The C.B.D. Plan is at a stage where we must wait for some more of its actual realization before continuing further study, yet as we are committed to continued assistance to the City Planning Department, we are broadening our field of interest to include studies of the principal access streets to downtown, and the two remaining sides of our perimeter freeway system.



In June, 1964, the Chairman of the City Beautification Committee of the Chamber of Commerce—a very dedicated and active committee—appointed a sub-committee to prepare a comprehensive study of a project for the beautification of the Trinity River. The Chairman of this sub-committee is Architect Charles Adams, and two more of its members are Architects Albert Komatsu and Raymond Entemann. All three are also members of our Urban Design Committee. This illustrates how our Chapter members are giving assistance to any project for the beautification of our city.

The architects of Fort Worth are thoroughly committed to this kind of public service.



LIBRARY FOR VAL VERDE COUNTY

DEL RIO

ENSLIE OGLESBY ARCHITECT

OCTOBER, 1966

VAL VERDE COUNTY LIBRARY



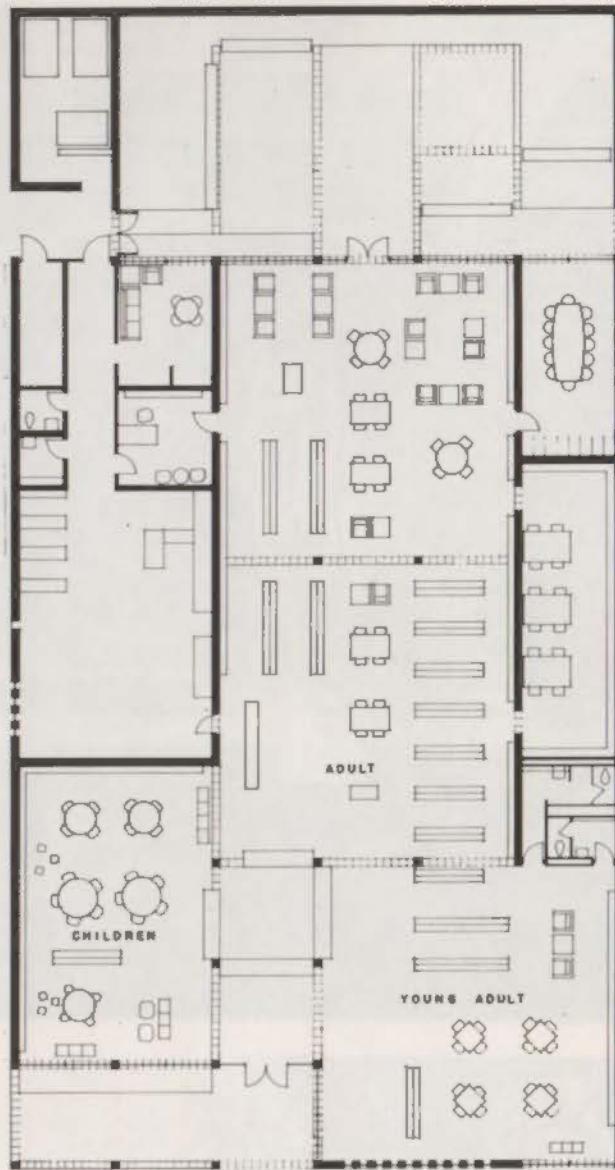
The sense of space achieved on a small site is symbolized by this reflection of the enclosed garden area outside the main reading room. Structural regularity is emphasized by the repetition of deep vertical sunshades above the glass.

This small county library becomes an inviting and forceful focal element in the community through the use of imaginative restraint, order, and a blend of structural harmonies and contrasts.

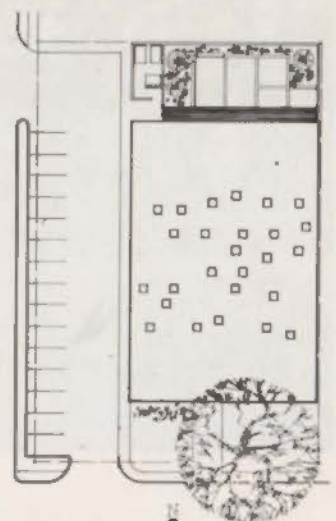
Designed to house 35,000 volumes, the restrictions of a very small site were further complicated by the need to allow an existing old building, being used as the library, to remain in use until the new building was complete. Demolition then could make way for off-street parking. Thus the possibilities for site utilization were extremely united, the area available for the new building being almost totally defined.

The architects, then, ordered a structural module of solid masonry walls, concrete columns and arched beams into various combinations to support an extremely decorative waffle-slab roof. This modular combination of structural elements creates the various three-dimensional spaces which become the functional areas of the library, further delineated by borders of Mexican tiles.

Thus a common-place geometric shape has become an exciting and compelling force through the use of simple tenets of good design applied with imagination and care.



PLAN



SITE PLAN



Integral decoration possible by the imaginative use of structural elements contrasts with the crisp simplicity of the central control desk overlooking all functional areas. Again order in the use of contrasting structural shapes creates a sense of oneness among all the spaces while defining the area as separate.



A cloister-like atmosphere is recalled in stack and reading rooms—an atmosphere that seems to say "Here are Man's treasures—our books".

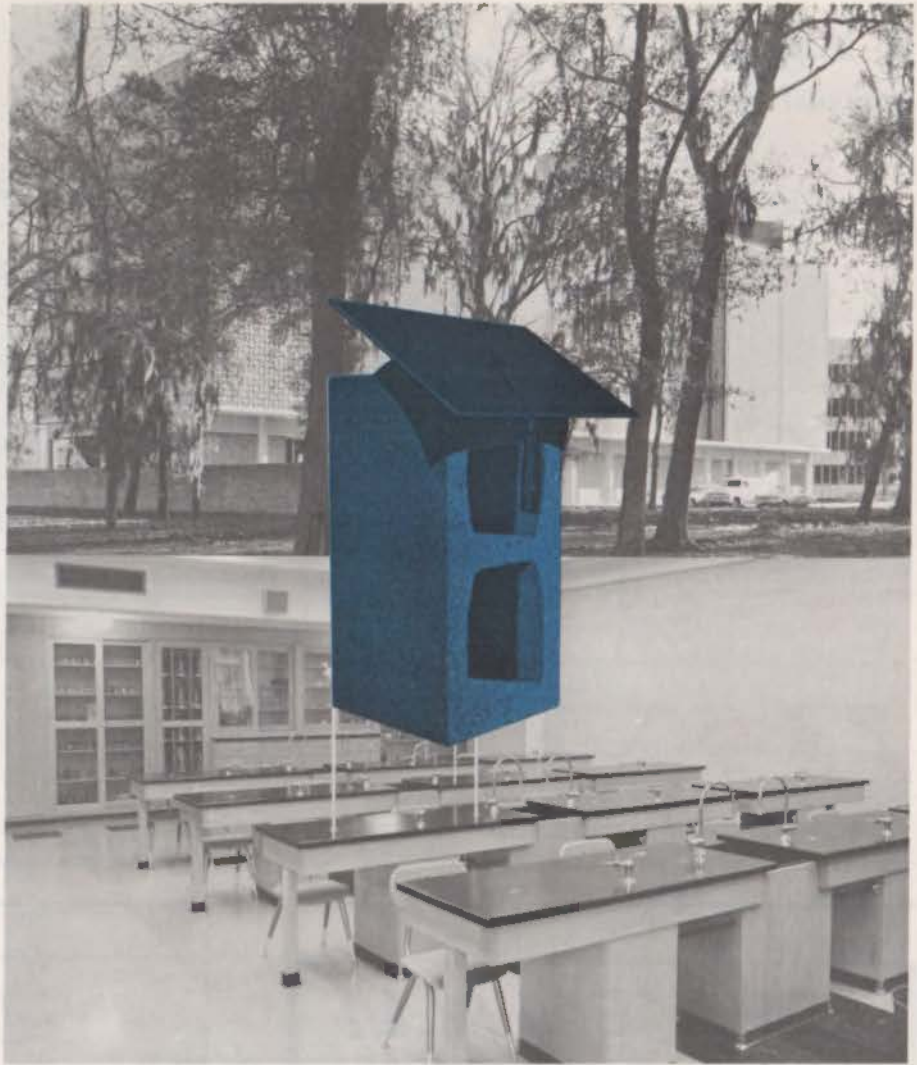


How this forceful, yet delicate, little building, shaded by its lone large tree, must exert its influence for beauty upon its community!





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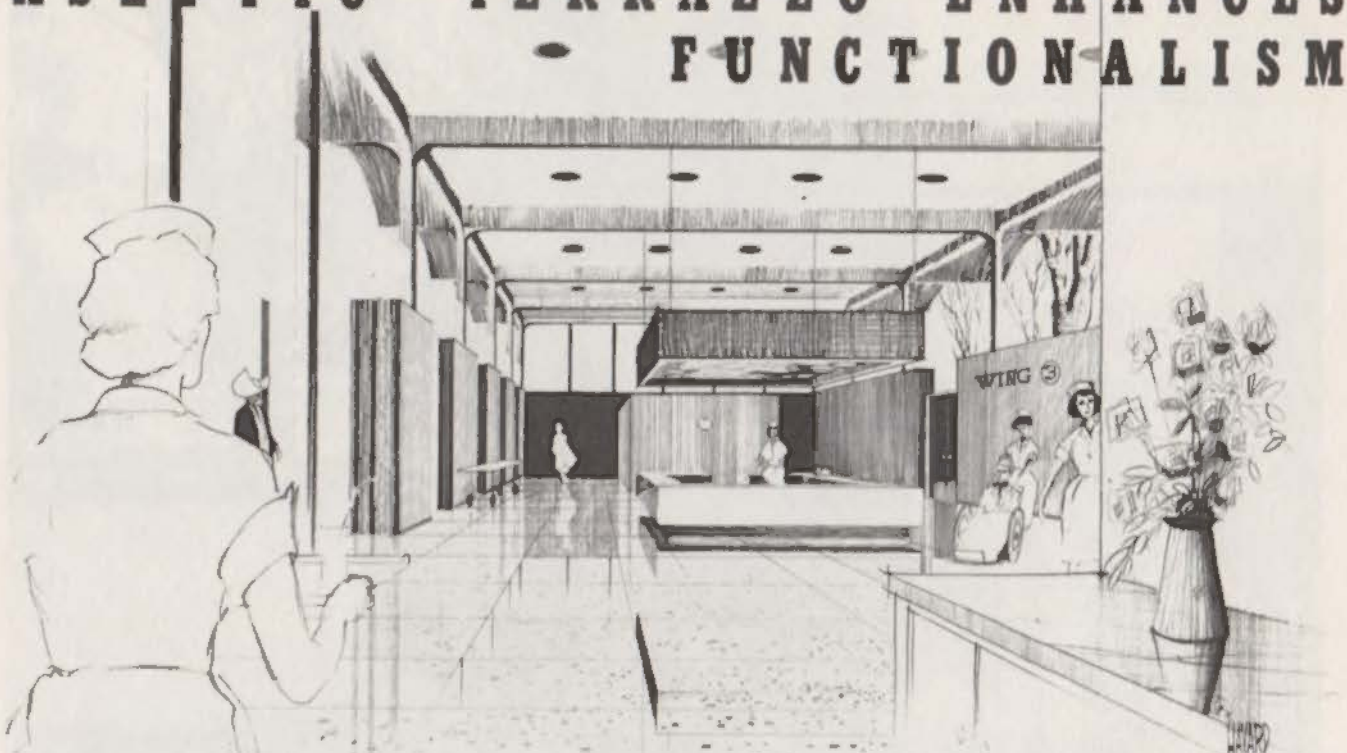


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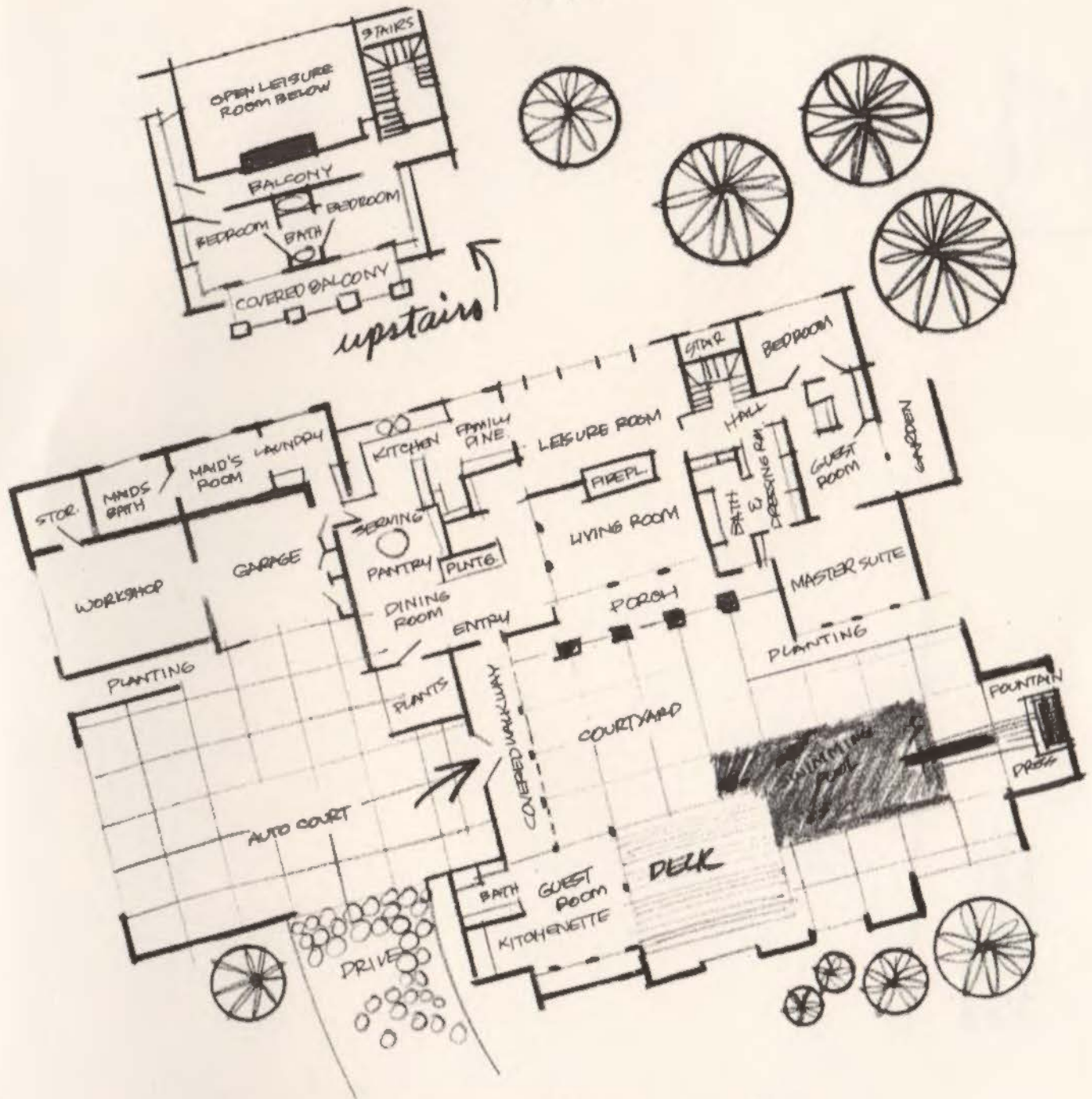
LaGrange, Texas

27TH ANNUAL MEETING

TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

NOVEMBER 2, 3 & 4, 1966

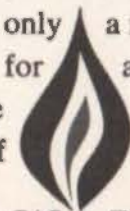
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October, 1966

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