

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

SHOULD YOUR CHILD BE AN ARCHITECT?

TEXAS ARCHITECTURE—'54 COMPETITION OPENS

RECORD CONVENTION ANTICIPATED AT FORT WORTH

ARCHITECTS CAN HELP VICTIMS OF HEART TROUBLE

SEPTEMBER
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T H E T E X A S A R C H I T E C T

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 9-24 — "Texas Architecture — '54" at State Fair, Dallas.

November 3-5—15th annual convention, TSA at Fort Worth.

February 7-11—UHAS symposium at University of Houston.

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SHOULD YOUR CHILD BE AN ARCHITECT?

With the approach of fall, families in Texas and across the nation are concerned with the re-opening of school and the return of vacationing children and youths to the classroom.

In many a household, this is the time of the year to discuss what field of endeavor children are prone to follow, particularly where the youngsters are approaching, or are already in, adolescence.

The choice of a life work is often tied in closely with aptitudes, interest, the occupation of the father, friendships and associations, and other factors. This is obviously something that should be given the most careful thought and study, including probably personnel counseling and testing.

We would like to point out an unusual article in this issue by the well-known architect Pietro Belluschi, dean of architecture and planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Originally appearing as a public service advertisement by the New York Life Insurance Company, the article explains clearly the attractions of this professional field, the demands it makes upon the practitioner, and what can be expected by those who enter the field.

Moreover, Mr. Belluschi outlines how a young man or woman, boy or girl may begin the study of architecture, the approximate costs involved, and other tangible advice of value.

As with any other following, the youth will find that the advantages of being an architect are balanced by exacting demands. Perhaps one of the principal attractions is the fact of "enormous gratification in the architect's work." As the author emphasizes, "buildings an architect designs can not only be seen and felt, they can be lived in and used". But the calls upon the architect are great, making it necessary for him to be "a combination of business man, organizer, technician, planner, economist, sociologist, surveyor, landscaper, engineer, and artist".

After eight or 10 years of experience, the architect should be making an income of \$9000 or so, which is considerably above the average. Yet again, there is the deterrent of long schooling and apprenticeship.

Particularly since the profession has not been widely known or understood by many adolescents and their parents, the article may prove of real value to parent and child alike. We recommend that you read the condensed version contained in this issue.

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SHOULD YOUR CHILD BE AN ARCHITECT?

By Pietro Belluschi, Dean of Architecture and Planning,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

(Editor's Note: This article originally appeared as a public service advertisement of the New York Life Insurance Company. Because of the wide interest it has aroused, we reprint a slightly condensed version)

In all likelihood, your son will never make a fortune as an architect. Very few men do. But he can acquire another type of wealth that will probably mean more to him than all the money in the United States Treasury.

There is enormous gratification in an architect's work. No other art can give its practitioners such a sense of completeness. The buildings an architect designs not only can be seen and felt, they can be lived in and used. And they add to the world's store of beauty.

Most significant, the architect has the satisfaction of knowing that he is helping people to live, work and play together better.

Today, architecture offers wonderful opportunities for young men. It is difficult to believe, but there are less than 20,000 licensed architects in the United States. A boy who chooses architecture as his profession is almost sure to get an interesting job (paying about \$50 a week) immediately upon his graduation from college and, if he has ability, he can be certain of advancing rapidly. The chances are, as I've said, that he won't become a millionaire. However, after eight or ten years' experience, he should be making a comfortable living with an annual income of \$9,000 or \$10,000.

The architect today must be a combination of business man, organizer, technician, planner, economist, sociologist, surveyor, landscaper, engineer and artist. And he must be a keen psychologist, too, if he is to understand what his client really needs.

How can you tell if your boy is suited to be an architect? Ask yourself and him these questions:

1. Can he draw? An architect does not have to be a Rembrandt but he must be able to sketch neatly and accurately.

2. Can he visualize? He should be able to describe, in words and sketches, buildings he's seen.

3. Does he have a grasp of dimensions? An architect must have a good eye for the size and shape of things.

4. Does he have a feeling for what is appropriate? An architect should not design a railroad depot to look like a gas tank.

5. Is he good at mathematics and technical subjects? An architect must know his engineering.

6. Can he synthesize? An architect must be able to cope with a wide variety of information and come up with the correct solution.

7. Is he persevering? It takes a colossal amount of detail work to develop the plans for a building.

8. Can he work under pressure? An architect's work comes in spurts and he frequently must labor 16 or 18 hours a day to meet deadlines.

9. Is he a diplomat? He must be able to "sell" himself to people.

Most of all, your son should have imagination, enthusiasm and common sense. They must be in equal parts.

How does a boy become an architect?

It can be done without even going to college. By working eight years in the office of a registered architect, in most states a high school graduate can qualify himself to take the state examinations and win his license.

Some of our most successful architects have come up in this manner, I cannot

(Continued on Page 11)

"TEXAS ARCHITECTURE—'54" AT STATE FAIR

More than 100,000 visitors are expected to see the third annual exhibition of the best current Texas architecture, "Texas Architecture—'54" at the 1954 State Fair of Texas in Dallas, October 9-24.

Previous exhibits, in 1952 and 1953, have proved to be a major attraction of the annual State Fair. As in past years, the exhibition is sponsored by the Dallas Chapter with the cooperation of the Texas Society of Architects and the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts.

All entries must be Texas buildings designed by registered architects practicing professionally in Texas, and completed since January 1, 1946, not previously exhibited at the Dallas Museum

of Fine Arts or a TSA exhibit. Entries must be received on or before September 11.

One entry will receive a First Honor Award. There will be as many Awards of Merit as the judges consider appropriate. Two out-of-state architects and a prominent editor from the art or architectural publication field will comprise the Jury of Awards. Awards will be announced the first week of October during a preview showing.

The exhibit will be shown at the Fort Worth convention at the Texas Hotel, November 3-5, and later over the state.

George W. Edwards, TSA-AIA of Dallas, is general chairman of the exhibit committee.

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Record Registration Anticipated At Fort Worth

Advance registrations indicate that the 15th annual convention of the TSA, at the Texas Hotel in Fort Worth from November 3-5, will be the largest gathering in TSA history.

Recently announced are the seminar theme at the Fort Worth convention: "Orienting The Younger Practitioner", two principal speakers, George Bain Cummings, secretary of the American Institute of Architects; and William Stanley Parker of Boston, Mass., architect and consultant to the AIA who will discuss "AIA Standard Contract Forms and the Law".

David C. Baer, TSA-AIA of Houston, national chairman of the Committee on Office Practice, has also been named as a key speaker at Fort Worth. Walter Megrongle of Pittsburgh, Pa., public relations consultant to the AIA, has been

invited to lead a session on public relations for the younger practitioner.

Producers' Council To Have Famed Caravan In Three Texas Cities

The \$100,000 Caravan of the Producers' Council, a mobile display of the newest and most significant products of 40 national manufacturers in the building materials field, will be in Texas September 17-24.

The Caravan is to be displayed September 17 at the Baker Hotel in Dallas; September 21 at the Olmos Club in San Antonio; and September 24 at the Alabama Catering Service in Houston.

TSA Chapters will cooperate with Producers' Council officials in staging the exhibits in the three Texas cities, thereby providing first-hand knowledge of late developments in building products.

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HEART TROUBLE? ARCHITECTURE MAY HELP

Russell G. DeLappe, a Berkeley, Cal., architect who suffered two heart attacks himself, has sought the help and advice of his fellow practitioners and of the medical profession in redesigning his office and home so as to minimize physical exertion.

The result may be a new chapter in architectural design aimed at help not only for cardiac cases, but for paraplegics, the blind, the infirm aged, and other handicapped persons.

Because of Mr. DeLappe, the Alameda County Heart Association, Berkeley physicians, and the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects, of which he is a member, are collaborating on the design of homes and offices that hold physical exertion to a minimum.

Among the means of accomplishing this are suspended ceilings made of light and easily cleaned materials, intercommunication systems, an unusual amount of glass to increase range of vision; and non-glare lighting. The trick is to get these things designed with a maximum of economy and comfort. The California group inspired by Dr. DeLappe is sponsoring research by architectural students who are extracting from architectural and medical sources all information possible about building for life and work with a minimum of exertion and tension.

Later this year, the students will write up an overall report of their investigations, which it is hoped will help toward the production of economical basic designs to help the handicapped.

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Should Your Child Be An Architect?

(Continued from Page 5)

say that I recommend it, though. In my opinion, an architect needs more than practical experience. He must also have a deep reservoir of culture. He must understand yesterday's architecture to create the architecture of today.

So, I would urge your son to go to a good college of architecture. There are 50 in the United States, and most are excellent. They give a five-year course which usually leads to a Bachelor's Degree in Architecture.

Tuition at some colleges runs as high as \$900 a year, to which must be added another \$1,000 for room, board, books and materials. But many of the state universities have low tuition fees, and the private institutions all offer scholarships to outstanding students. Furthermore, an ambitious boy can raise a large part of the money he needs.

After a boy has finished college, he still must get three year's training in an architect's office before he can take his state examinations.

These examinations are difficult. A high percentage of those who take them fail. But the good man can get through.

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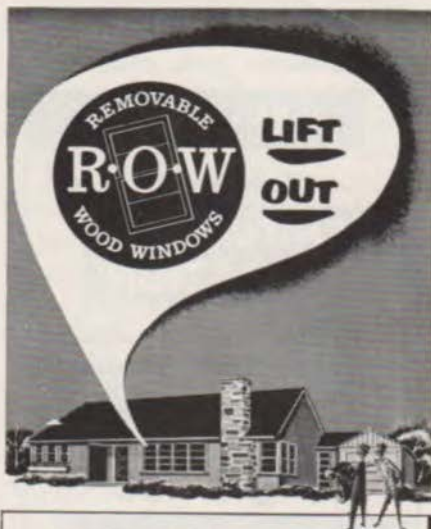
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