



 THE TEXAS
ARCHITECT

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The Texas Regional Organization of
The American Institute of Architects

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THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

VOLUME 20 / SEPTEMBER, 1970 / NO. 9

3 Architect Ralph Kelman of Dallas turned a forty two acre site into a pleasantly arranged and detailed residential community. Man made lakes, waterways, landscaped plazas and open spaces are part of the relaxed atmosphere.



23 Pressure for change and problems of the people and environment are evident every day in newspapers, radio, T.V., movies and luncheon conversations. Preston Bolton, Houston Architect and secretary of the American Institute of Architects discusses solutions and action required.

27 Recent developments in the Texas building scene reflect new publications as well as changing architectural services.

29 Owners, architects and furniture suppliers everywhere find functional as well as financial benefits from the changing interior design field.

9 High schools and special education facilities exhibited at the 1969 TASA-TASB convention present contemporary thought in planning and design.

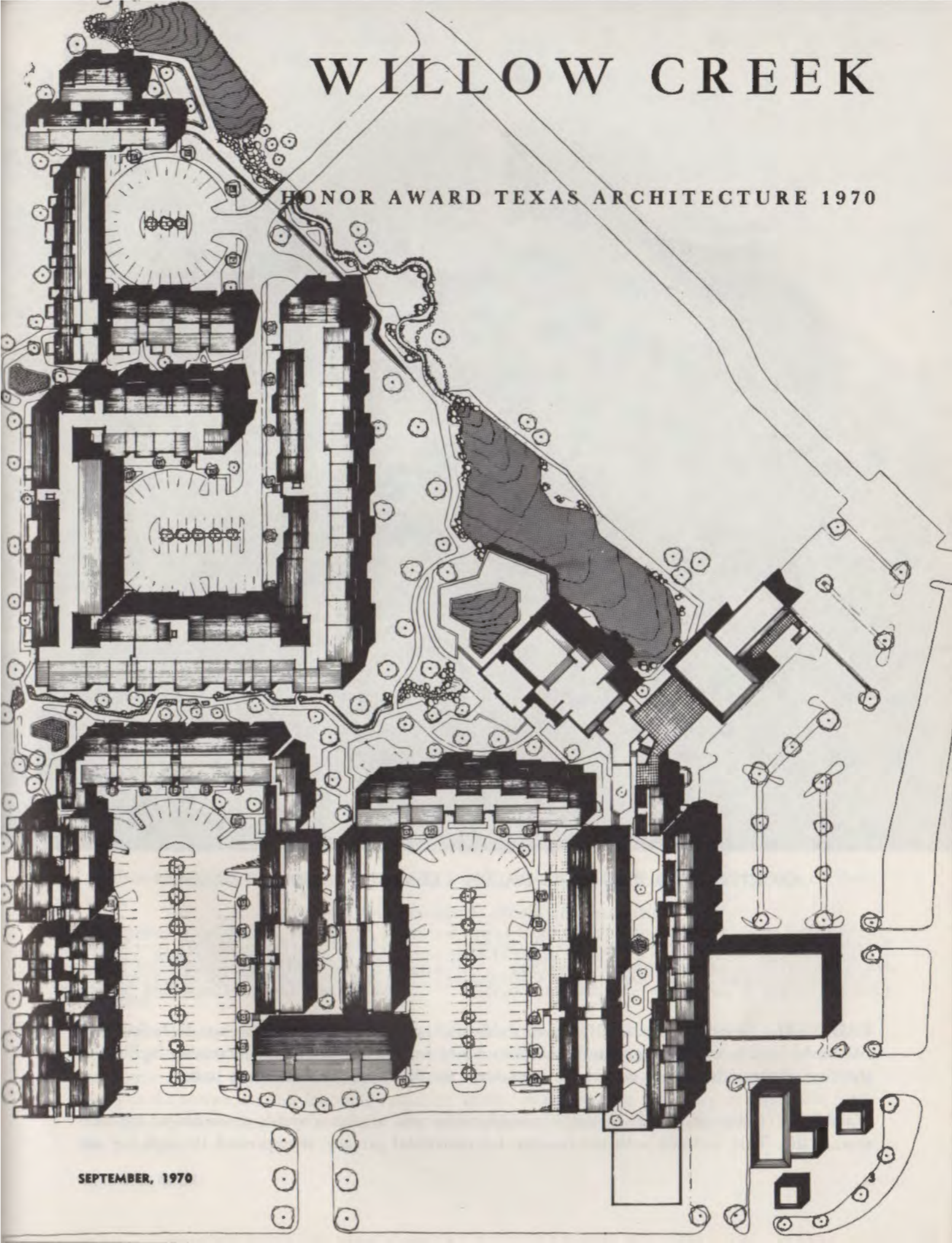


Texas Architect Advertisers:

- P. 26 Electric Utilities Company of Texas
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- P. 29 Josam Manufacturing Co.
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WILLOW CREEK

HONOR AWARD TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1970



SEPTEMBER, 1970



ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS RALPH KELMAN & ASSOCIATES, INC.

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Naud Burnett Associates—Landscape Architect

Fred H. Cooper & Associates—Mechanical Engineer

Hubert S. (Hub) Miller, Jr.—Architect

Chappell-Taylor & Mitchell—Structural Engineer

Gaddy and Loven—Consulting Engineers

PROBLEM: Design a privately financed residential community on a 42 acre site including low-rise multi-family dwelling units and 70,000 sq. ft. of support shopping and recreation facilities in the first phase. Ultimate development is planned for 900 additional dwelling units.

SOLUTION: The architect's principle consideration was to plan a viable environment for community life. This, coupled with the concern for individual privacy, is expressed through the use



View of club and recreation area overlooking lake.

of abundant patio and balcony areas with equal importance given to the orientation of these areas.

The primary residential orientation is inward, away from the surrounding high-speed traffic generators; however, the function of the commercial facilities is dual: a) to provide facilities which are integral to the residential village, and b) to provide a service node for the surrounding neighborhood.

The open space concept relates to a progression of privacy, from intimate courtyards to landscaped pedestrian malls which form connectors to the large-scale recreation and lake area. The pathways around the man-made lake provide for a sense of place as well as access from dwelling units to the recreation and shopping facilities. Water, in the form of streams and waterfalls, feeds throughout the entire complex to the lake adding an audial experience to the visual continuity of the project.

WILLOW CREEK



View of shopping area with living units above.

TEXAS ARCHITECT

WILLOW CREEK

View of three story living units over parking. Residents look out over landscaped garden areas & lakes.



View of waterway and landscaped open space in a pedestrian area.



Shopping plaza with living units above shops.

SEPTEMBER, 1970



WILLOW CREEK



View of man made lake and recreation areas.



LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION
CAD
STAIRS

Editor's Note: The August issue of *The Texas Architect* presented elementary and junior high schools. This issue presents the high school and special education facilities exhibited.

EXHIBIT OF OUTSTANDING SCHOOLS

SELECTED FOR EXHIBIT AT 1969

TASB-TASA STATE CONVENTION BY

Texas Society of Architects

Texas Association Of School Boards

Texas Association Of School Administrators

RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN

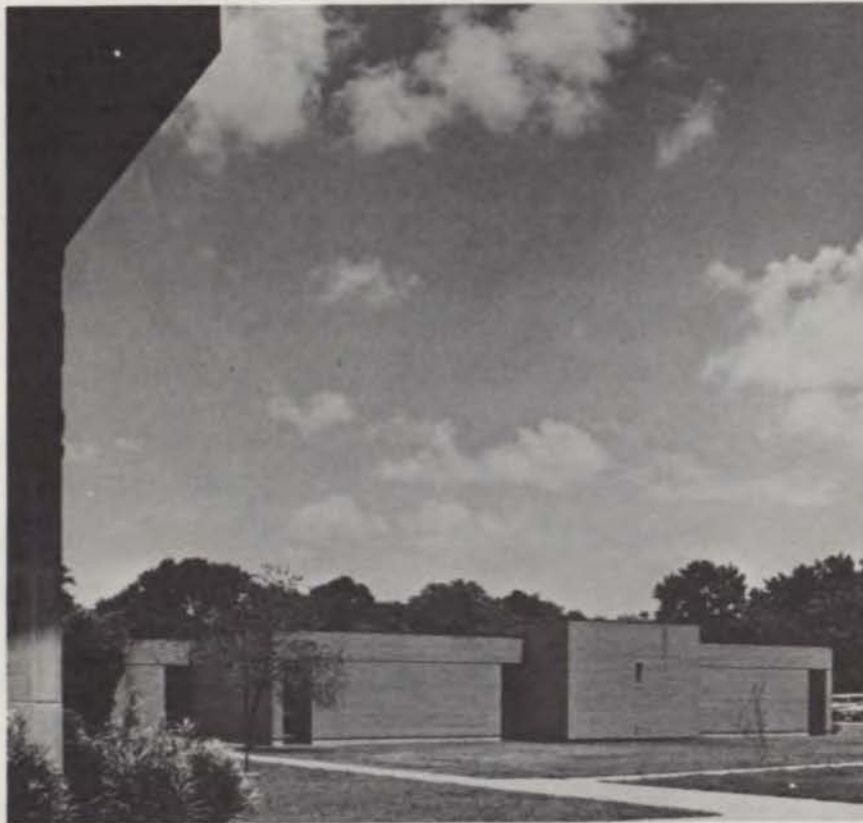
PLANNING, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION



LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL ADDITION

LIBERTY ISD

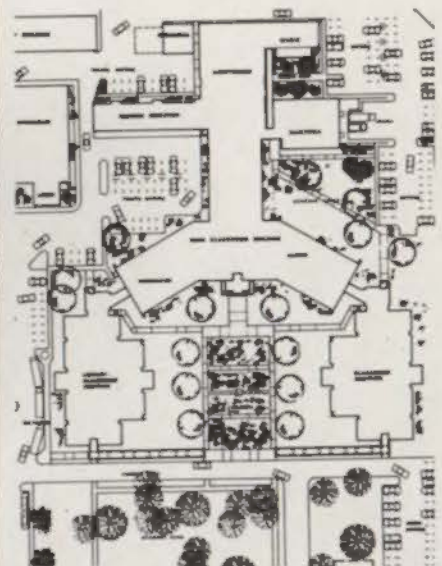
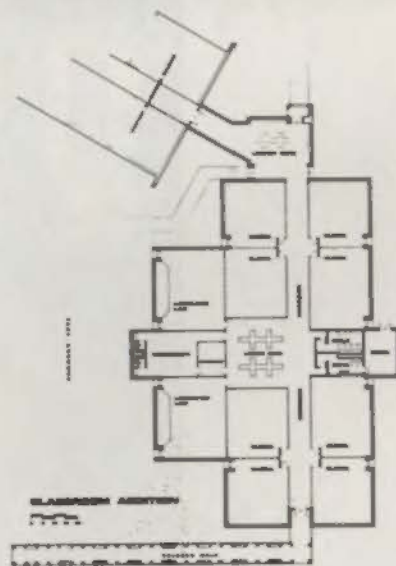
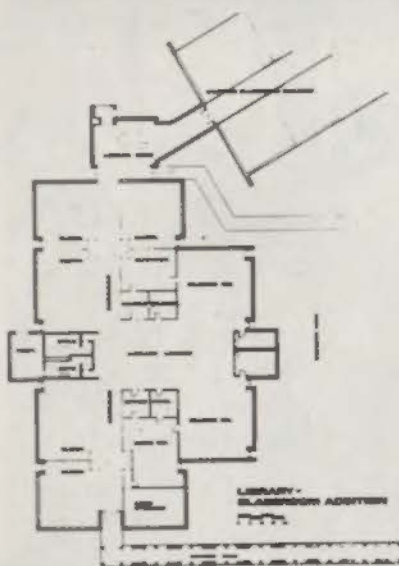
AUGIE W. SAXE, JR., ARCHITECTS-PLANNERS



The two classroom wing additions are designed with multi-use functions as a criteria. Team teaching and individualized learning are to be a part of the teaching methods incorporated in the school district, and with this in mind, future arrangement of spaces was an essential consideration.

Combining the circulation routes of the existing school plant with the new additions, without compromising either was handled with a locker core link acting as a nucleus of activity and student movement. Interior as well as exterior circulation moves through these connecting links. The learning-resource center located in one of the classroom wing additions provides a multi-function teaching space from individual cubicles to conference-seminar rooms to large reading-research areas. This resource center is open and becomes a part of the circulation path of the wing.

photos by richard payne





CALHOUN HIGH SCHOOL

PORT LAVACA ISD

SMYTH & SMYTH, ARCHITECTS

A three-year climate-controlled High School for both college bound and terminal students at an initial enrollment of 1,500 and ultimate of 2,000. Compact, departmentalized, low in initial and maintenance costs, pleasant environment, free internal traffic to reach a variety of teaching stations, with flexibility from small seminar groups to team teaching, yet affording after-hour public access with positive administrative control.

SOLUTION: The relief from the sensation of a total enclosure, sometimes associated with a compact plan, was achieved with five interior Patios which are an integrated portion of the respective teaching stations. A minimum of plant material with a maximum of textured paving results in low initial cost and upkeep.

This plan demands a lesser percentage of expensive exterior wall with a minimum of heat transfer and more positive controlled lighting. With vandalism a constant factor, and in an area of tropical storms, window breakage is held to a minimum.

The Music Department, in many instances divorced to a remote part of the plan, remains centralized to the performing stations but easily accessible to bus loading for frequent off-campus trips; while maintaining complete sound isolation and desirable acoustical qualities.

The large covered Patio, adjacent to the Dining Room and Snack Bar affords an informal atmosphere for lunch periods, school socials and intermissions to events in the Gymnasium and Auditorium. Rolling overhead metal grills allow complete isolation of the Dining Area, from the remainder of the plan for freedom of movement of the public.

photos by dan wadley



QUINCY VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL

QUINCY, MASSACHUSETTS

CAUDILL ROWLETT SCOTT, ARCHITECTS



The architects were engaged to provide facilities for flexible vocational and technical programs that serve 1100 full-time students according to their capacities. The prime objective was to provide marketable skills for use in businesses and industries located within a 50-mile radius of the school.

Design was based on these educational objectives:

The school must be as attractive as possible, overcoming the notion that vocational education is somehow second-rate.

It must integrate academic, shop and laboratory spaces, so that students may understand that all elements are part of their education.

It must minimize distinctions between college-preparatory and post-secondary training programs.

Above all, the school must be flexible.

The educational programs are designed to provide for changing occupational goals within a family of occupations with the least amount of time loss. A strong guidance program is available to assist students in making the most logical choices according to their desires and abilities. All programs lead to a high school diploma and may also prepare students for further technical education beyond high school.

Instruction in shop processes and laboratory, mathematics, science, English, social studies and health education is offered in all programs. There are 11 occupational divisions: electro-electronics, metals and machine, power mechanics, general woodworking, general piping, foods preparation, computer data processing, health occupations, graphic and commercial arts, home economics, and business education. The Grades 10 through 14 curriculum leads to more than 250 specific jobs and trades as well as post-graduate programs in specific vocational skills.

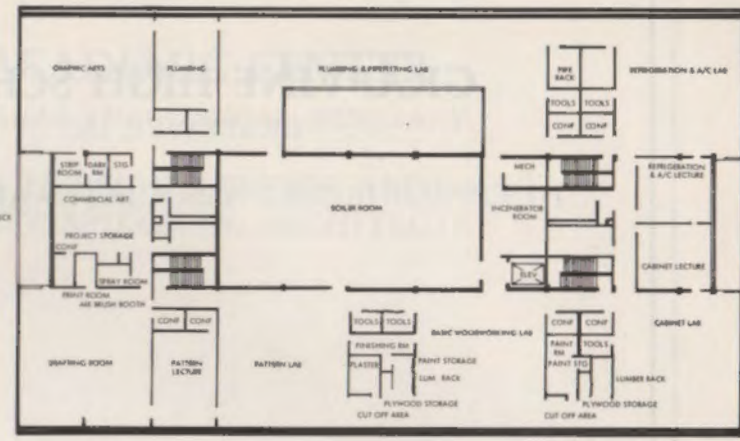
A strong interdisciplinary approach to instruction also exists, including facilities and curriculum shared with a high school across the street—a mix for both facilities.

photos by john bintliff

TEXAS ARCHITECT



FOURTH FLOOR



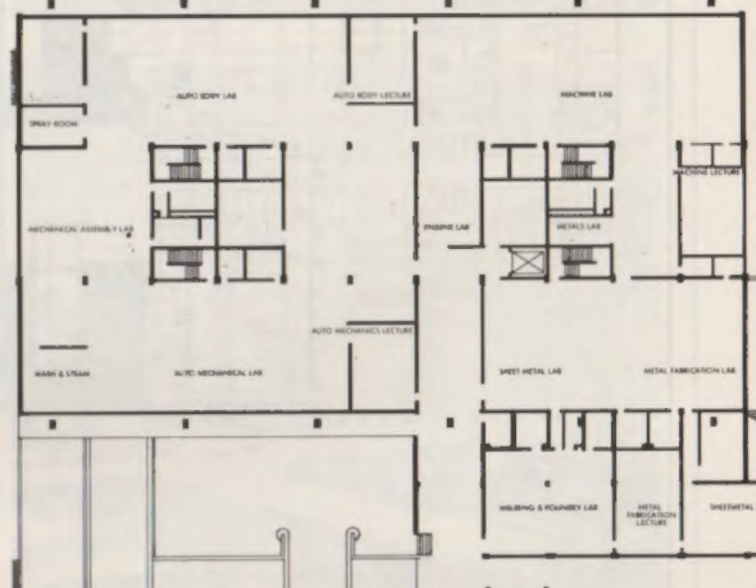
THIRD FLOOR



MAIN FLOOR



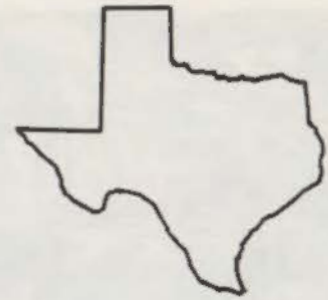
FIRST FLOOR



GRAPVINE HIGH SCHOOL

GRAPEVINE ISD

HUEPPELSHEUSER ASSOCIATES-ARCHITECTS

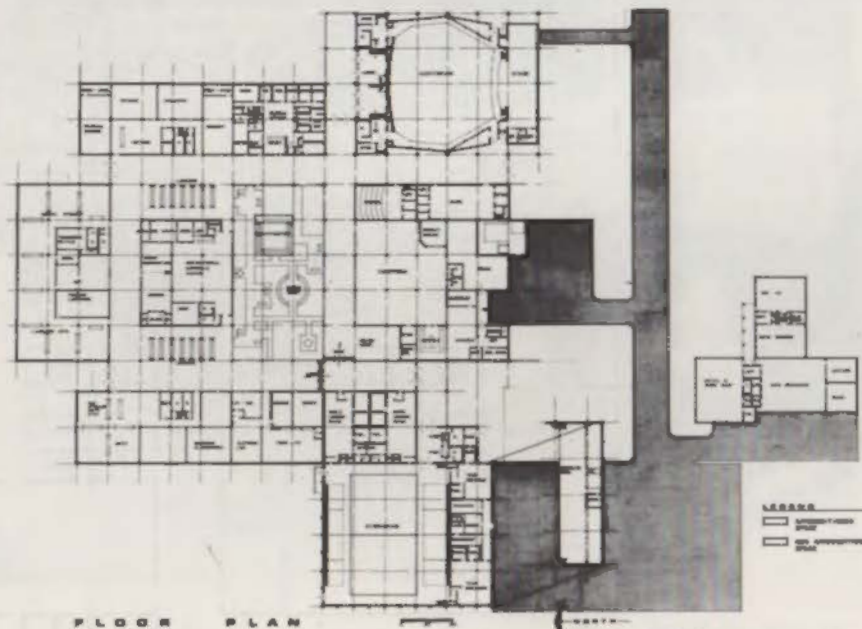


The Grapevine Board of Education charged the Architect with the responsibility of designing a senior high school that would serve well the needs of current teaching methods and also provide design innovations to serve the needs of rapidly changing and predictably varied instructional techniques. Foremost was the requirement to create classroom space that was flexible in all areas to facilitate teaching by the inquiry method.

The solution creates a school plant in the heart of a beautiful, fifty-acre wooded side, located approximately in the center of the school district, but out of projected aircraft noise zones. As much of the natural surroundings as possible was kept to enhance the aesthetic value of the campus.

The building is conceived as a series of separate instructional units and service elements arranged in a well ordered community within a single structural system and under a common roof. This creates an expanded, open and improved school environment that liberates the student from a single conventional building. All spaces are so arranged to complement and function in conjunction with outside instructional spaces that provide additional flexibility and variation in the teaching curriculum.

The instructional program functions around the student resource center where a comprehensive library is housed. An independent study center is available with an abundance of electronic equipment to provide bounds of knowledge and information at the students' fingertips. Carpeted open-plan type classrooms with moveable book storage divider units provide flexible team teaching spaces apart from conventional teaching disciplines.





ACADEMIC CENTER

DALLAS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

J. HERSCHEL FISHER AND
PAT Y. SPILLMAN, ARCHITECTS

Design considerations are:

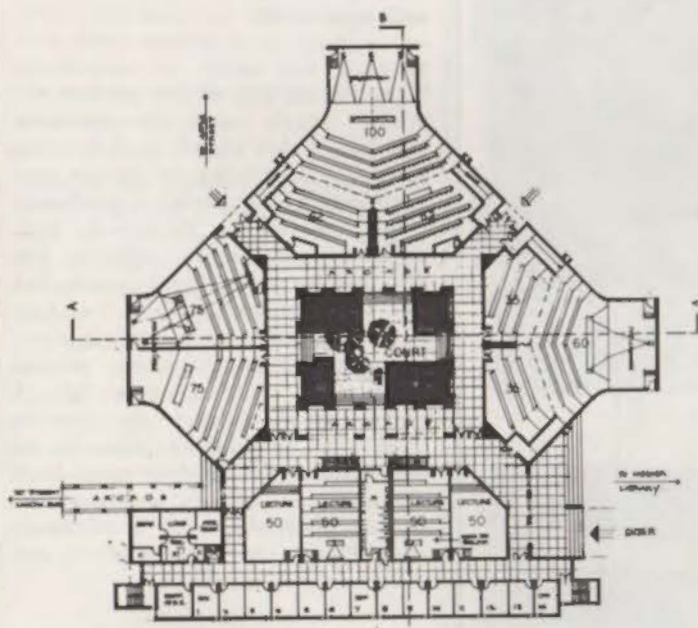
1. Accommodate a master plan prepared by Johnson, Johnson and Roy, Inc., Landscape Architects of Ann Arbor, Michigan.
2. Harmonize with materials and design styles in existing structures

constructed in the early part of the century. A Spanish character of arches and clay tile roofs prevails.

3. House a variety of functions and volumes into a congruous whole, stressing flexibility.

4. Provide expandability so that a portion or portions may be constructed independently without loss of function.

5. Create human scale and areas for meditation.

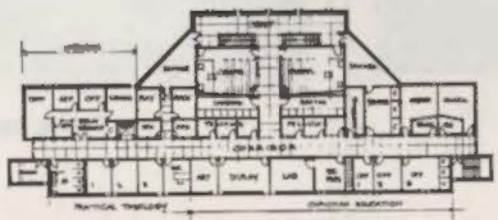


GROUND FLOOR
36,900 sq. ft.

- MEDIA PROVISIONS**
- BACK PROJECTION
 - FRONT PROJECTION
 - 16 MM MOVIES
 - 35 MM SLIDES
 - CHALK - TACK BOARDS
 - FILM STRIPS
 - AUDIO - VIDEO
 - T-V PROJECTION
 - LIVE CAMERA



SECOND FLOOR
12,500 sq. ft.



UNIVERSITY CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

G. PIERCE-GOODWIN-FLANAGAN, ARCHITECTS

Editor's Note: The University of Houston University Center was a 1969 "Texas Architecture" finalist and will be featured in the October Texas Architect.



Perhaps the most significant design criteria for the campus center was the need for proper accommodation and movement of large numbers of people destined to many and varied activities within one building complex, as well as a need to control the noise and congestion inherent in a building serving a student body of well over 12,000.

Since the success of the project depended largely upon its maximum use, the burden placed on a building serving this number of people was immediately apparent. Contained within the building were to be such things as a 1,000 seat ballroom, 500 seat cafeteria, 500 seat snack bar and food preparation facilities. Also to be included were a bowling alley, bookstore, music, recreation, private dining and meeting rooms, all of which would attract considerable crowds and at different times. By its very nature, the building must have the ability to absorb, separate, and quickly distribute, with a minimum of confusion, the many students and their intended activities.

The final building design involved a three level building surrounding a large mall. The mall, skylighted, but open on either end of the outside at the middle level, serves as both the main entrance to the building complex and a means of distributing students to their activities before actually entering the building proper. By entering at the middle level, no student is more than one floor from his destination. In addition, the mall symbolizes the very center of student activity and, as such, offers opportunities for outdoor concerts, pep rallies, student electioneering, or, just a place to meet a friend.

top photo by robert r. murray
lower photo by bill goodwin



CULLEN COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

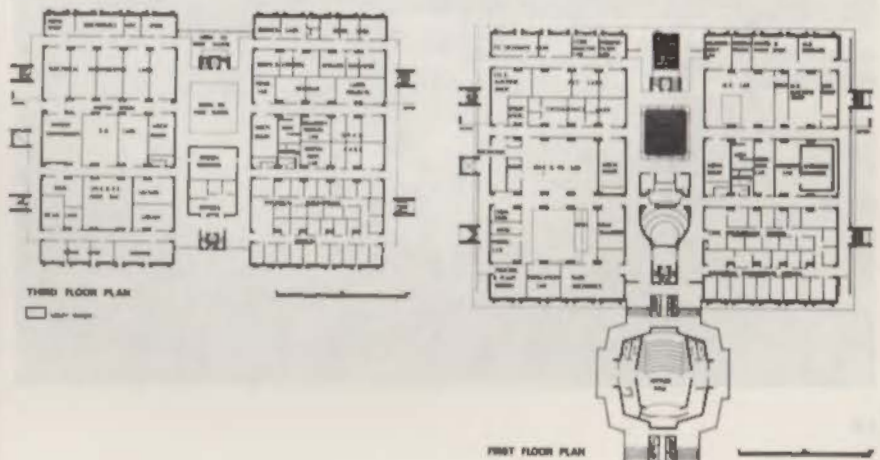
GOLEMAN AND ROLFE, ARCHITECTS

The basic requirement for this college engineering building was to provide specialized facilities for six separate engineering departments in areas that would be completely flexible as the requirements changed. The multipurpose needs of the several departments dictated the large clear-span teaching modules that are the basic plan units of the design solution. Each module is designed to accommodate all types and sizes of laboratories and is also adaptable for administrative use.

Because the primary teaching areas of the building are utilitarian in nature, the architect felt that a central, human oriented space was needed as relief. The central, three-story student lounge was designed to provide an area for between class breaks, student meetings, and traveling industrial exhibits. Balcony corridors surround the lounge on the upper levels and emphasize this space as the central unifying element of the building.



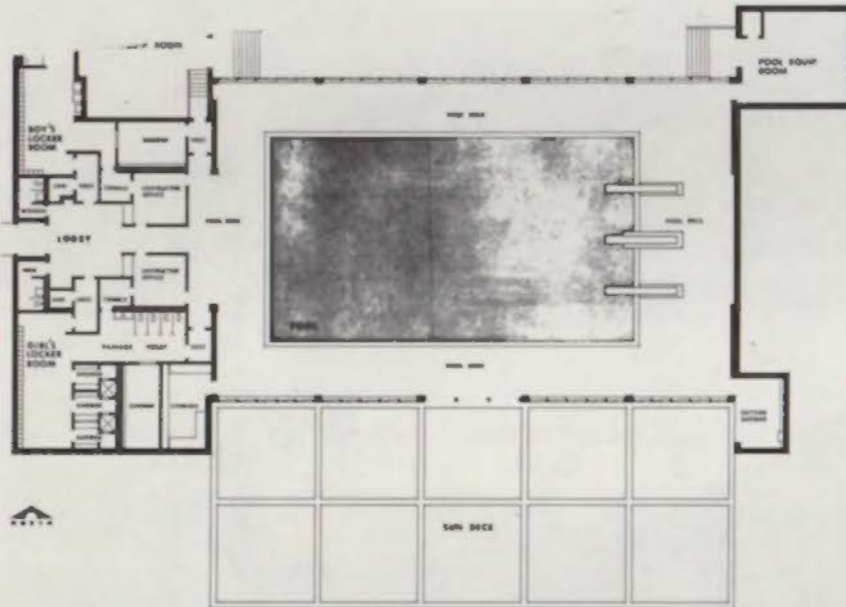
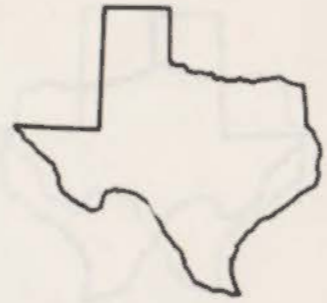
SEPTEMBER, 1970



PLEASANT GROVE NATATORIUM

DALLAS ISD

BERAN AND SHELMIRE, ARCHITECTS



THE PROBLEM: To design an indoor instructional pool with a bright, cheerful, well ventilated atmosphere, providing a pleasant, safe and practical environment for both winter and summer use.

DESIGN CONCEPT: Taking into consideration problems of glare, heat loss, condensation, corrosion and cost:

Windows and skylights carefully placed to eliminate dark areas in room and pool bottom and to provide excellent ventilation.

Low windows provide light, breeze and view for swimmers while preventing pool surface glare which makes observation difficult.

Indirect lighting prevents direct glare and fixture reflection on water.

Offices placed for admission control, locker room supervision and total pool observation.

Locker rooms placed so that students enter shallow end of pool.

Sun deck located on south side of building for warm weather sun bathing, with outside showers provided for swimmers entering pool from deck.





ASPERMONT HIGH SCHOOL

ASPERMONT ISD

WOODLIEF BROWN, ARCHITECT

MURRY THAXTON, ASSOCIATE ARCHITECT

THE PROBLEM: Design a High School Building for an Independent School District in a rural community of small population.

Include offices for School District and make building a tornado and nuclear fallout shelter for entire community.

Building is not to be a complete High School, since certain facilities in adjacent buildings will continue in use. Allow for possible expansion.

SOLUTION: A building of reinforced concrete construction.

Gain shelter protection and reduce costs by placing building halfway underground and using bermed earth fill around building. This leaves part of building in view for aesthetic reasons.

Concrete overhang, baffles, and changes in direction and elevation will protect entrances and interior.

Offices are placed above to give scale and to allow easy access for public through separate entrance.

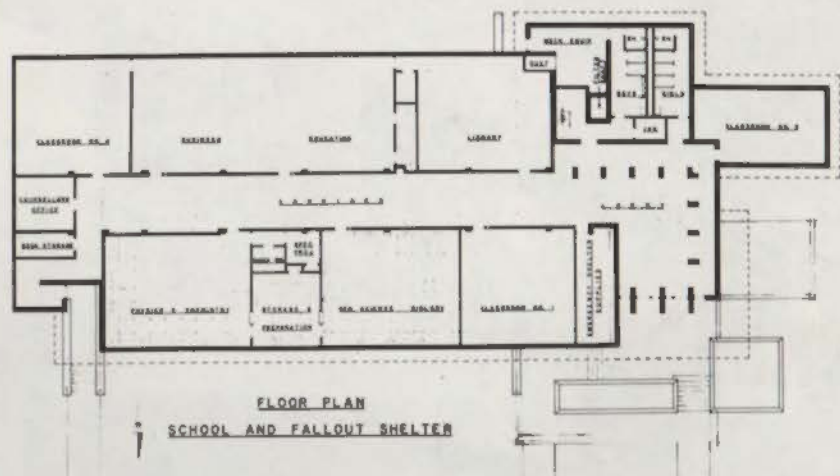
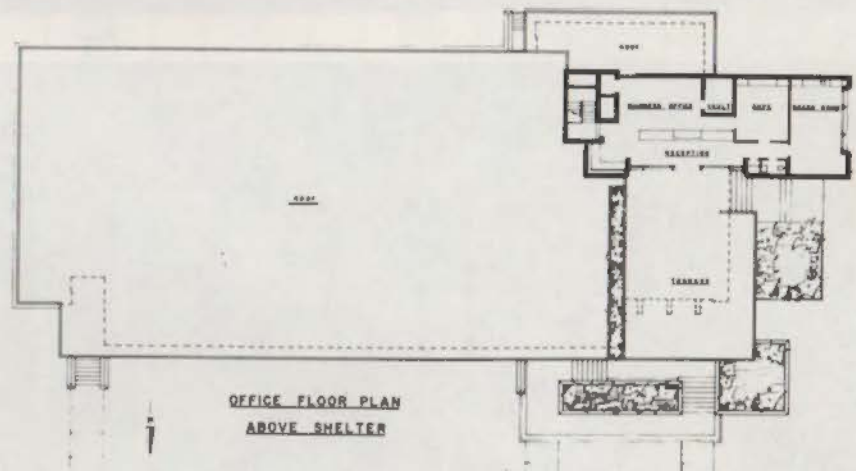
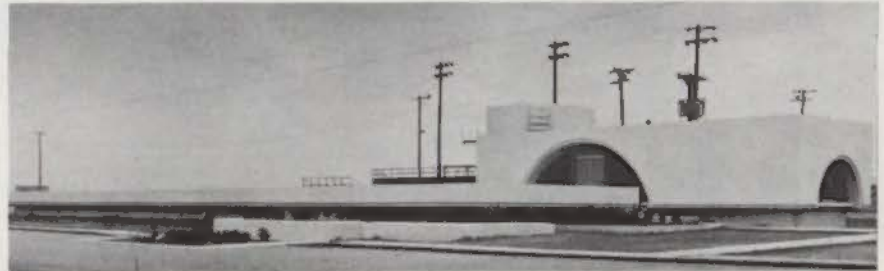


photo by paul white

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

HOUSTON ISD

NEUHAUS AND TAYLOR, ARCHITECTS

Editor's Note: In addition to being selected for exhibit at the 1969 TASB-TASA Convention, the Central Administration Building is a recent award winner in the 1970 Portland Cement Association White Cement Architectural Awards Program. Another Texas winner, the new Houston Post, will be featured in a future issue of *The Texas Architect*.



THE PROBLEM: The Architects were commissioned to design headquarters for the Houston Independent School District which would be flexible for future growth and change and accommodate the requirements of the District for the next ten years.

Inter- and intra-departmental circulation was deemed very important and four existing departments required over twenty-thousand square feet net. The clients desired a monumental structure symbolizing the strength and importance of the public school system.


THE SOLUTION: To facilitate internal circulation the building is arranged as a square doughnut surrounding a central air-conditioned courtyard. The floor of the courtyard is the roof of the Board Room which is the focal point of School Board activities. Open architectural stairs are located in each corner of the courtyard to facilitate internal circulation. Each quadrant of the building is elevated one-quarter level above the adjacent quadrant, which creates a building spiraling upward around the interior courtyard. Fire-stairs are located on the external corners of the building, and toilet rooms and mechanical shafts and elevators are located infringing into the corner of the courtyard so that completely flexible space in excess of 150,000 square feet is created. This solution will allow any department to expand around the building without necessitating splitting departments between typical floors. The initial designed concept was for a building with an interior courtyard, but early in the evolution of the design it became apparent that the money spent to glaze the four interior court walls could be used to create a skylit roof. This solution facilitates the use of the area surrounding the central Board Room for the Board Room Lobby and Reception areas for the departments located in the lower levels.

photos by alexandre georges

TEXAS ARCHITECT





An aerial photograph of a city skyline, likely San Francisco, showing a dense cluster of skyscrapers. A prominent building in the center has a sign that reads "ALAMO". The city extends to the water's edge, with a bridge visible in the distance. The overall tone is black and white, with a slightly grainy texture.

Problems of the Environment

Problems of the People

PRESTON M. BOLTON, SECRETARY AIA

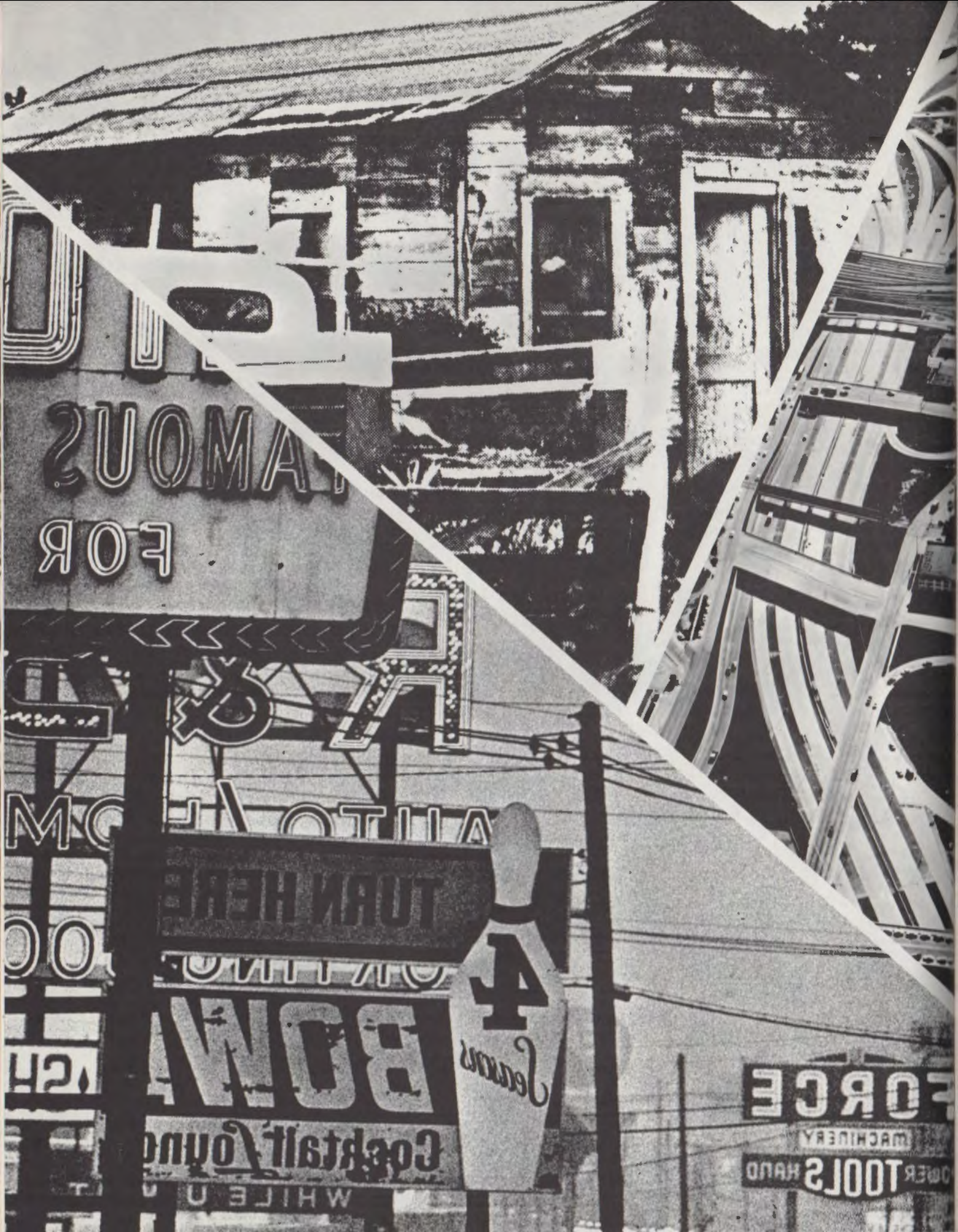
The American Institute of Architects, 24,000 strong, is trying to keep up with the accelerated change around us. And, at times, we find there are 24,000 different ways to bring it about.

The pressures for change today are considerable. The pressures come from our students who find the present system one that does not appear to meet their sense of values. The pressure for change comes from minorities who find the present system one that denies them the opportunities available to the majority. The pressure for change comes from an aroused public opinion—a public that is beginning to recognize that the present system is creating an environment that does not provide the good life they would expect to enjoy with their increasing affluence.

The pressure for change is all around us; counter measures against change are also all around us. Change is seldom welcomed, generally it is feared. It is feared because one knows not what it will bring. It is far more comfortable to deal with that which is familiar. It is not just the individual that resists change; it is also the institution. Any institution which is under attack in terms of change tends to regroup and to solidify its position supporting the status quo and protect the present mode of operation.

The architect, a professional trained to visualize and alter the physical environment, has a unique responsibility to focus attention on what man is doing to his environment, and simultaneously to help search for ways to restore an ecological balance. The first step is to develop awareness. The second is to emphasize that, as in physics, every action has a reaction—to recognize that, for example, highways invite traffic that clogs the highways that were supposed to relieve congestion, or that insecticides to control insects produce strains of insects that resist insecticides, or that the development of disposables creates a problem of disposal.

An important part of the answer is public education. The public needs to learn to appreciate what



Famous
for

TURN HERE

BOWLING

Leaning Tower

POWER TOOLS
MACHINERY

constitutes good design from an ecological as well as an aesthetic standpoint. It also must know how to achieve it. Such education needs to start at an early age. School curricula should include programs to develop both aesthetic discrimination and environmental awareness. A child should be exposed to the beauty of form, texture, and color. He should be taught to really see, to feel, to listen. He should learn that he has choices—that he can decide what kind of world he wants to live in—and that there is an interaction in environmental decisions. Environmental education must be implemented at all levels, from kindergarten, through primary and secondary education, to teacher training, and even including the continuing education of the professional.

On the national level, the AIA has made a start by testing and publishing workbooks for use in elementary schools, including a comprehensive workbook on "Environmental Education." We have launched the first national advertising campaign in the history of the Institute to guide the public on environmental design. Television stations across the country have aired our public service commercials, and we have placed advertisements in national newspapers, such as *The New York Times* and *The Saturday Review*, and *Fortune*.

We have learned one very clear lesson: The public does care. Letters, wires, phone calls from every section of the country have reinforced our belief that the matter of good design rests in the hands of the people. They have used our tools to besiege local, state and national governments to enact necessary legislation, and they have joined with architects in community design centers in several local areas. Our multi-pronged effort is directed toward total environmental design—all of the elements which combine to shape the place and the manner in which we live, on urban blight—air and water pollution, improper planning and zoning, the waste of environmental and cultural assets caused by uncontrolled growth, and the many other man-created problems in our physical and sociological environment.

For too long, Americans have subordinated environmental considerations to progress, economics, and technological growth. They have been careless with their environment. Earlier assumptions that if a place became polluted one could move on, or that if one chemical polluted the river, another chemical could make it clean again, are now being

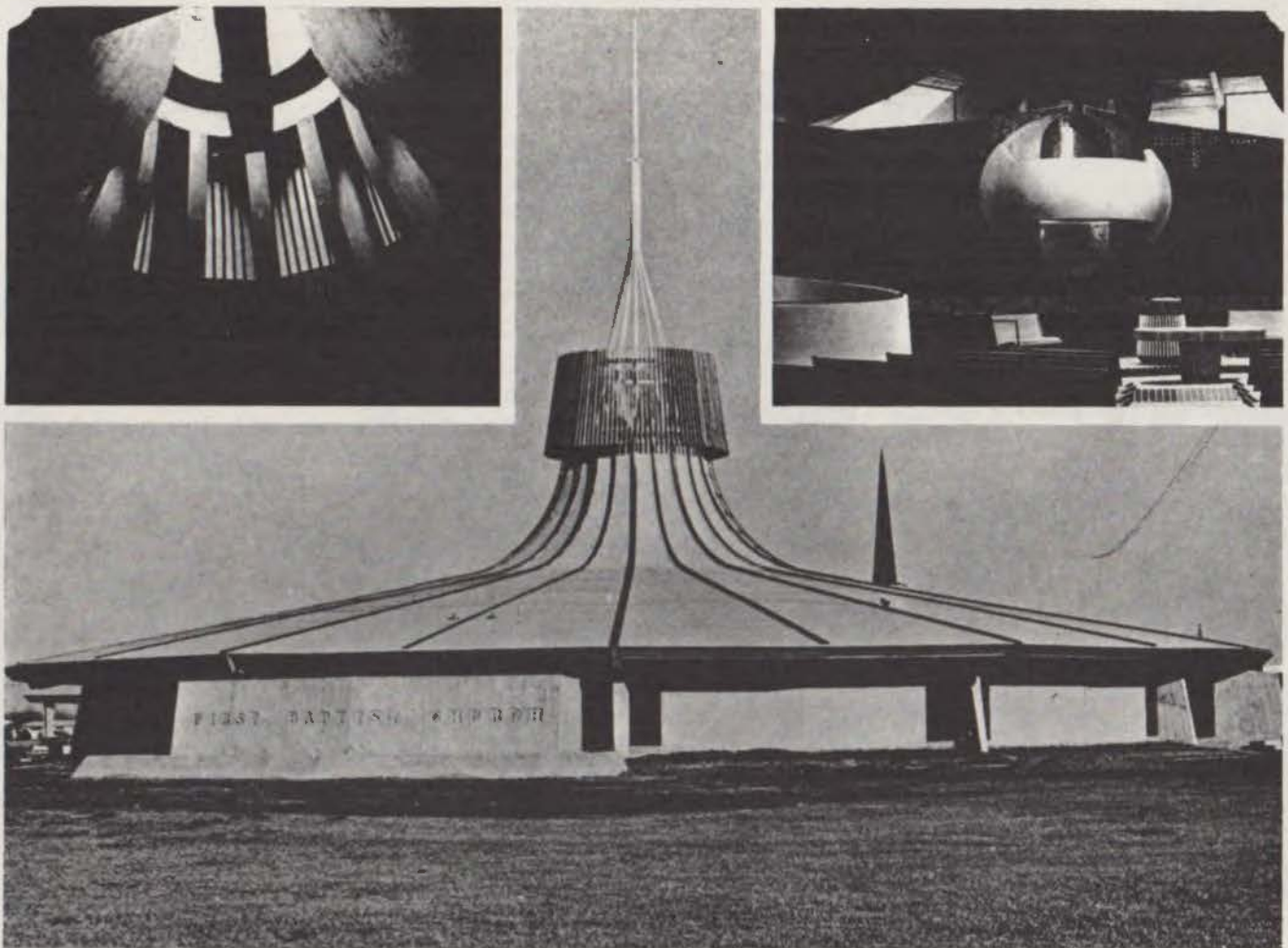
recognized as inadequate solutions.

We have called upon the federal government to review its organizational structure to eliminate the overlapping of jurisdictions on environmental problems. We have recommended that the Council on Environmental Quality be the main body around which other units of the Executive Branch and Congress reorganize. Also, we have suggested that a Joint Congressional Committee on the Environment, similar to the Joint Economic Committee, be established. These proposals but scratch the surface of what needs to be done to come to grips with America's environmental problems. In a democracy, these questions and problems will best be faced by the public, an informed public. It is they who most truly fashion their environment.

We know without doubt that an informed public does act and react. Because we of the American Institute of Architects want to fashion the best possible environment for and with the public, we now rededicate ourselves to developing both environmental awareness and quality discrimination. The effectiveness of the AIA program—of its credibility—of the genuineness of its concerns—will be judged heavily by the activities of the local AIA components.

John Q. Public may see AIA's ads. Congress and the Administration may hear—and even heed—our testimony, but the concern and interest of the architect and of the profession will be judged by the role played at the local level. The citizen may pay little heed to National programs and to National policies that seem unrelated to the environment in which he lives. But he will pay heed to the role of Mr. Local Architect and Mr. Local AIA in working to improve his environment.

The environment we build today and tomorrow will be judged not so much by us and our colleagues as by our children and grandchildren. Will they at some future date say the profession, with all its knowledge and expertise in creating a good urban environment, was unable to channel the forces of change to produce the good environment? Or will they take pride in saying that the profession saw with considerable perception what changes had to be wrought—and collectively were able to channel change to produce an environment that provided them—our children and grandchildren—with not only an environment physically rewarding, but also with an environment socially rewarding. ■



Architects: Hoover & Morgan. Consulting Engineer: Ralph J. Speich & Asso.

Contemporary Design...Modern Electric Power

Combining Functional Beauty with All-Season Comfort!

This beautiful new Baptist church in Texas City is a perfect example of how contemporary architecture and modern electric power can be blended to provide both functional beauty and comfort.

The church utilizes two 27-ton air conditioning units, two 85-kw electric heaters and two 7½ h.p. air handlers to insure its congregation year 'round comfort.

The focal point of the interior is, of course, the worship area in the center of the church. It is located under a canopy of natural light originating from a skylight high above the room. And at night, electric light provides this same effect.

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ENVIRODYNAMICS

Woodward, Cape & Partners, Inc./Architects, Engineers, Planners announce an expansion in the firm's management and services, and a change in the firm's name to Envirodynamics, Inc./Architecture, Planning, Engineering. The following Principals are officers in the firm: Burtram C. Hopkins, II, Executive Vice President and Treasurer; George W. Cape, Jr., Senior Vice President and Jerry L. Clement, Senior Vice President. Mrs. Lynette Reid is Vice President and Secretary of the firm. Curtis L. Inglis has been promoted to Vice President, and Joe Edward Guthrie has joined the firm as a Vice President, after leaving private practice.

Envirodynamics will continue to offer professional environmental design services in architecture, land planning, urban design, engineering and research as it has since its founding, eight years ago. In addition to these, landscape architecture, space planning and interior design services are being offered through two Divisions.

The Landscape Architecture Division is directed by Ken de Haas, ASLA. Lee Dodson will direct the Space Planning and Interior Design Division. Landscape Architectural and Interior Design services are offered independently or in conjunction with other services offered by Envirodynamics.

The following Senior Associates are now Associate Directors: James W. Emmrich, Associate Director of Information Systems; Emory O. Young, Associate Director of Design and James L. Hewlett, Associate Director of Computer Applications. ■

PRAIRIE SCHOOL

The Fourth Quarter 1969 issue of the Prairie School Review is dedicated to the Henry Trost: the Prairie School in the Southwest. Excellent photos, sketches, drawings, and details trace the Prairie School in the El Paso-Tuscon, Arizona area. Interested persons may address correspondence to Prairie School Press, Inc., 12509 South 89th Ave., Palos Park, Illinois 6464.

HEALTH FACILITIES

Architects, engineers, and others engaged in the planning and construction of health facilities will find of particular interest a new Public Health Service publication, **Selected Studies in Building Research**.

This publication was developed jointly by the Health Facilities Planning and Construction Service, which administers the Hill-Burton Program, and the Federal Health Programs Service, both components of Health Services and Mental Health Administration, Public Health Service, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

The publication includes an annotated list of approximately 400 research projects applicable to the design and construction of health facilities and a "keyword" index. The name of the principal investigator and the address where information can be obtained on the results of the research are provided for each listing.

Single copies of the 63-page booklet, PHS Publication No. 930-D-26, may be obtained free from the Health Facilities Planning and Construction Service, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

NEUHAUS & TAYLOR

NEUHAUS & TAYLOR, Architects & Planning Consultants of Houston, Dallas and New York, have announced the appointments of:

Jack M. Rains as Managing Partner. An attorney, Mrs. Rains is charged with the administrative and business management of the firm.

Henry C. Hwang as Associate Partner. He received his architectural training at Cheng Kung University in Taiwan, the University of Houston and Texas A&M.


Paul M. Terrill as Associate Partner. He received his architectural training at Texas A&M and the University of Houston.

R. P. Sweeney as Associate Partner. Mr. Sweeney received his architectural training at the University of Houston, the University of Texas and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

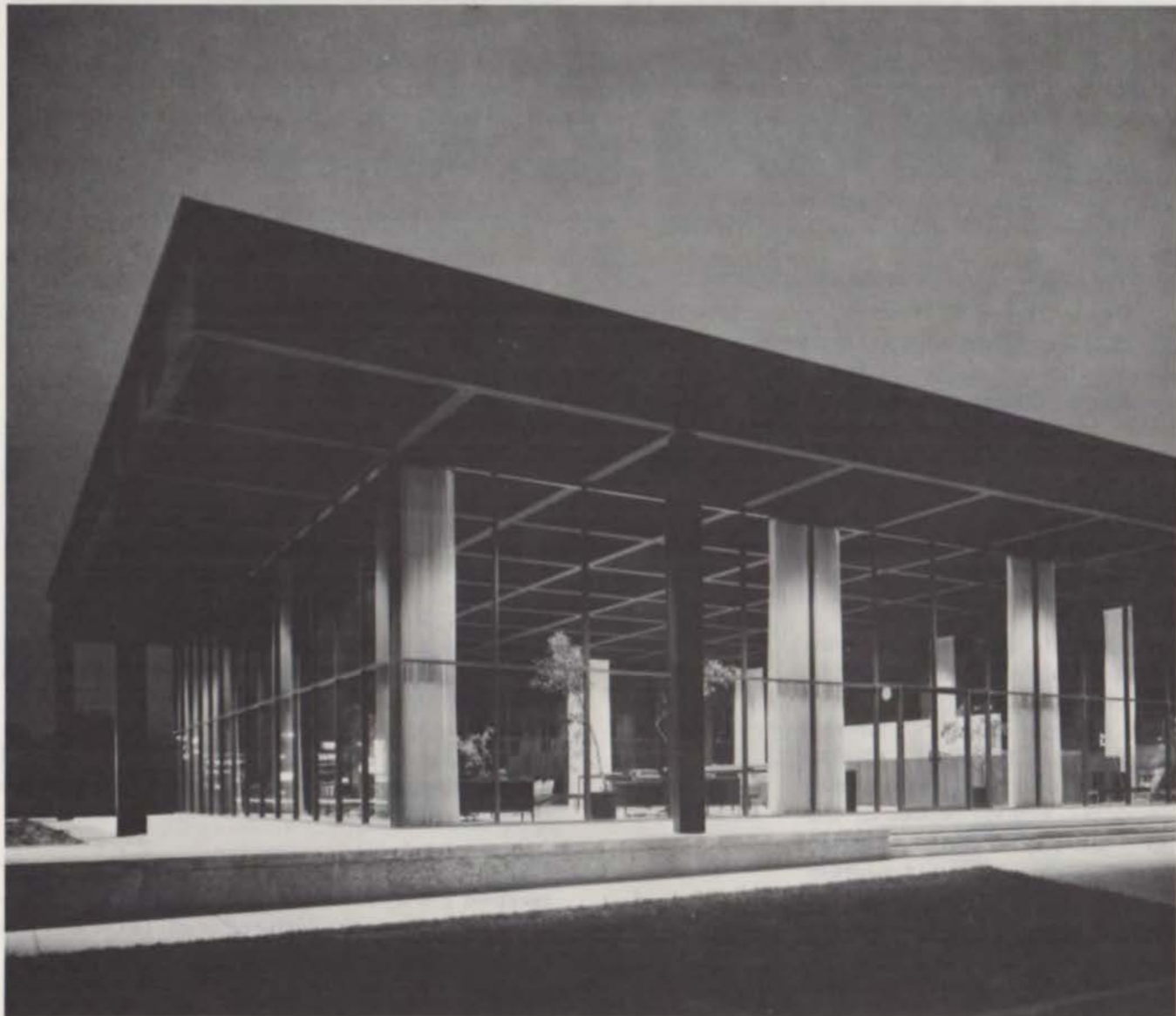
How did architects create a feeling of openness in the Bank of Houston?

The design for the Bank of Houston recently received an Architectural Award of Excellence from the American Institute of Steel Construction. This dramatic structure is framed by an exposed steel two-way plate-girder grid supported by eight exterior columns located at quarter points of the span. In harmony with the architect's idea of maximum exposure, the banking room is a glass-walled column-free space. The plate girders and columns, fabricated from ASTM A 36 structural steel, have been painted matte black.

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The Bank of Houston, Architects: Wilson, Morris, Crain & Anderson, Houston; Structural Engineers: Walter P. Moore & Associates, Houston



THE NEW INTERIOR SCENE

"The Office Furniture Landscape Revolution," a seminar explaining the open end plan in office design and furnishings will be held October 20 in the Office Furniture Division of Finger Furniture Center, 4001 Gulf Freeway. The concept of approximate space, within which all dynamic change can occur without major architectural alterations constitutes a revolutionary approach to office planning and architectural considerations. One of the most significant examples of this office landscape revolution is Designcraft's award winning Open Equipment System. The October 20 seminar will explore in depth its concept and application, and a complete 1,000 square feet office utilizing it will be set up. Speakers will be Dr. R. E. Planas, President of the Quickborner Team, Inc., Milburn, New Jersey, International Award winning designer Hans Krieks, Steart A. Segar, Executive Vice President and Director of Operations for the Design craft Metal Manufacturing Company, and Alvin E. Palmer, A.I.D., project architect for the

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U. S. Department of Labor Office Building, Washington, D. C., who will speak on "The Architect's Role in Facility Planning."

"No longer can office spaces be considered as fixtures," said Dr. Planas. "Rather they should be considered a very important tool for management. This tool will become increasingly important as business has more complex problems to deal with, and faster decisions to make. As a fast changing world makes rapid changes in the system necessary there will be an increased need for flexibility."

In the traditional planning of office buildings, the architectural and design approach puts the main emphasis on design aspects, whereas the open plan concept puts the main emphasis on the information processes which must be carried out in any business organization. Rapidly expanding companies are frequently faced with the problem of keeping the office environment pleasant and smooth running during periods of expansion. But a firm can sub-divide only so far. It is costly and disconcerting to make structural building changes, and in many instances it should be entirely unnecessary.

This is what the Office Landscape Revolution is all about. Paper flow and processes of oral communication are analyzed to determine placement of personnel and equipment. Key officers are not separated by walls which cut office space into a group of small cubicles. Rather, they are placed by or near those workers with whom they most frequently communicate.

Lines of communication between individual work places are determined by paper flow, which is effective only when it is continuous and without intermittent storage. Each work station is equipped with a movable file for current paper. All other files are located in a central storage area, where they can be quickly recovered on demand.

In this open plan concept, work stations can be varied rapidly without great expense as business requirements dictate. Because traffic lanes and movable partitions can be changed, the administrative structure is not rigidly determined in advance. There are no additional costs for building alternations other than rearrangement.

Office Landscape distains geometric layouts, operating on the principle that people are not square, therefore, furniture and furniture placement need not be square. ■

CELIA—WAS HER NAME



Architects in Corpus Christi are working to turn what could be the nation's third most damaging hurricane, Celia, into a chance for a better city. The Corpus Christi Chapter of The American Institute of Architects and the Texas Society of Architects are operating a new Redevelopment Assistance Center in the meeting room of a downtown savings and loan association.

Mr. and Mrs. David Smith, 3626 Waterloo Drive, called the volunteer architects when they figured they wouldn't be able to determine extent of roof damage to their home and worried about danger. "The average person can't tell about these things. We were worried. Was our place safe?" said Mrs. Smith. Charles L. Bellah, AIA, got the Smiths' plea and went to investigate. "He took about an hour crawling in the attic, checking supports, then showed us evidence of damage that others hadn't seen. We would have lost our porch with the next gust of wind if he hadn't showed us what had to be done," said Mrs. Smith. By word of mouth, news of the 25 ready architects travels in the stricken city. Bellah's next beneficiary was Mrs. Smith's father, Shelby Fowler, a postal worker. Bellah showed Fowler extensive signs of damage to his home and dangerous conditions. Now others are clamoring for the services and the Texas architects' major concern is how to meet the deluge of needs.

Members of the local AIA chapter plus other area architects comprise the volunteer crew. The Texas Society of Architects has issued a call for help to architects in other parts of the state. However, longer-range plans for reconstructing neighborhoods also are receiving architects' and citizen attention. "Disasters in the past—hurricanes and the Great Depression of the 1930s—were turned around by citizens here to help make a better city," noted architect Leslie B. Mabrey, AIA. "In addition to emergency help and inspections, it's the plan of our new community development and design center to discover if there are storm-ravaged parts of this city that could be replanned as well as rebuilt to make them more livable, more productive, and better tied to the rest of the city." Such benefits through rebuilding occurred after hurricanes earlier in this century, he noted.

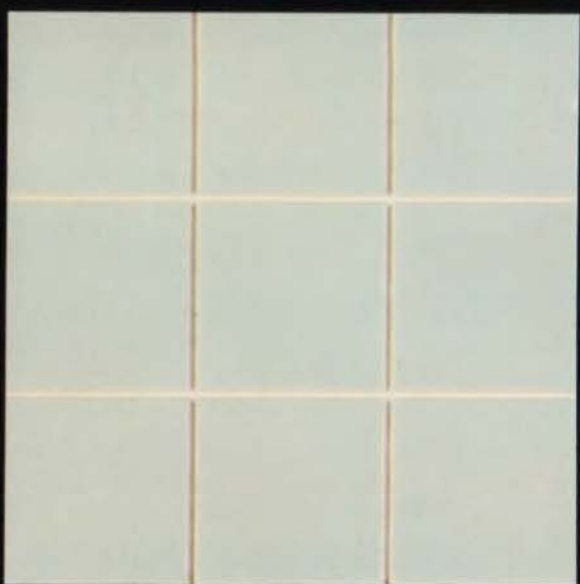
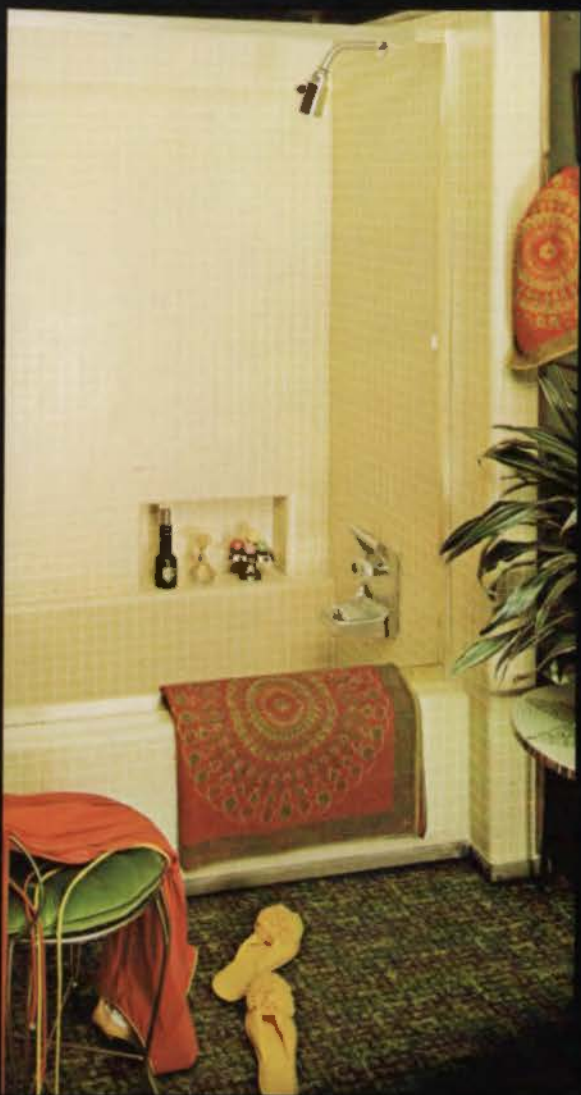
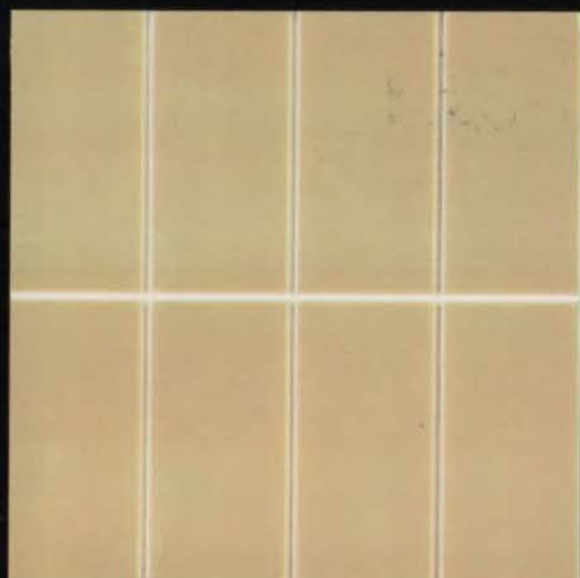
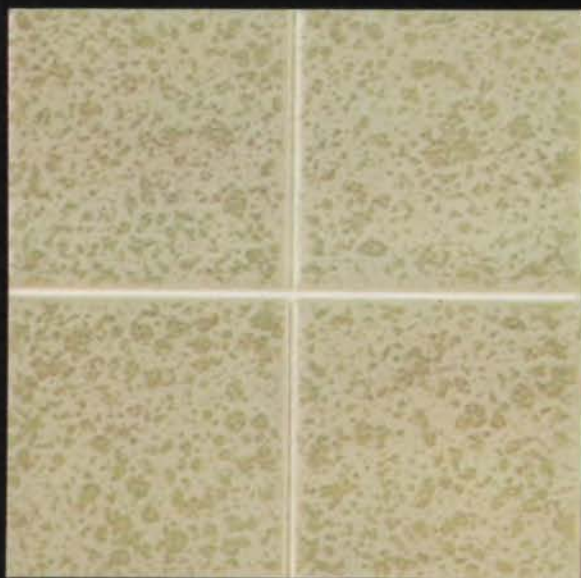
Depression relief funds were used to build a scenic boat marina and resort, government, and commerce area on land fill, he added.

Celia churned into Corpus Christi and five surrounding counties August 3 for about four hours with winds up to 160 miles an hour during a two-hour intensity period. "Celia whirled, screeched, shook, and did the Watusi," recalls Mabrey. When it was over 13 persons were dead and some 65,000 homes were destroyed or damaged in the South Gulf Coast area, according to the American Red Cross. Damage estimates range from about \$375 million to more than \$500 million. Perhaps one fourth of the area's homes, apartments, and trailers have been destroyed or shattered. Hard hit were low-income sections of Corpus Christi as well as some rural towns and the Port Aransas area where flimsy frame structures are common. Mabrey noted that some homeowners and residents do not carry insurance which could repair residences. One of the jobs of the architects' Redevelopment Assistance Center is to scout relief for eligible citizens.

Already the center is at work in such parts of the city as North Beach, Hill Crest, and the old Indian Village. But help will be needed all over the city of 220,000 and in small country and fishing towns, estimates Chapter President Orby G. Roots, AIA. The 43-member Chapter unanimously voted to assess members at least one half day's professional time weekly to the center as long as it is needed. The Texas Society briefed Gov. Preston Smith, Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes, and House Speaker Gus Mutscher and won backing for the project. The city's junior Bar Association is preparing incorporation documents for the center, and the Ridgeway Company of Houston sent a truckload of donated drafting and other equipment to furnish the center, located at Mesquite and Schatzel Streets.

The University of Texas joined the effort early. Carter Howald, a local architect, is serving as the center's interim executive director. John Olson, AIA, past president of the AIA Chapter, said from 18 to 36 students are expected to join the center, including some from local Del Mar College. Architects from Waco and Lubbock, which have experienced heavy tornado losses in the past, are advising the Corpus Christi architects on what kind of assistance will be most useful. "This is a monumental task," noted Olson. "Nobody knows how long our services may be needed or exactly how we will pay for the efforts already started. But we are pledged to do all that we can as long as we are needed." ■

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