

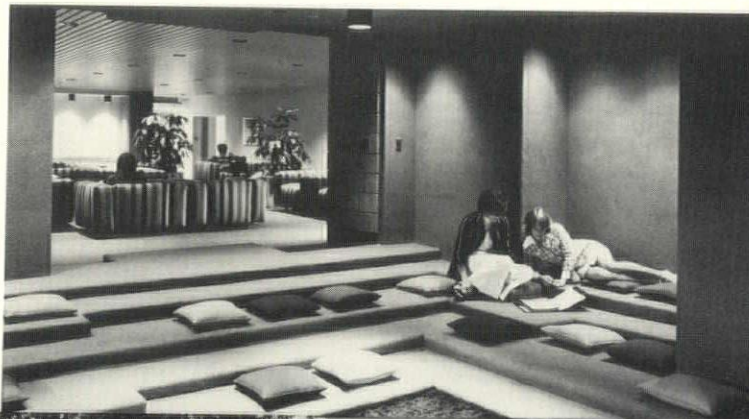


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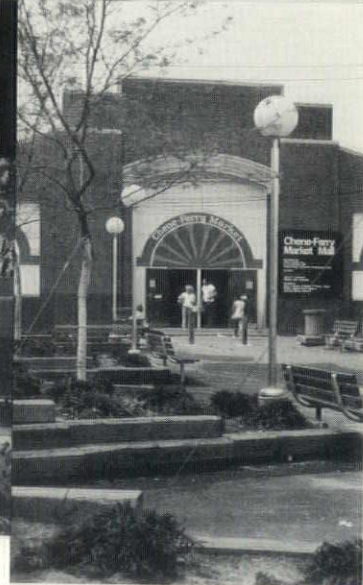
Monthly Bulletin

Michigan
Society of
Architects

February 1975
\$1.00



**Detroit Chapter
Honor Awards**

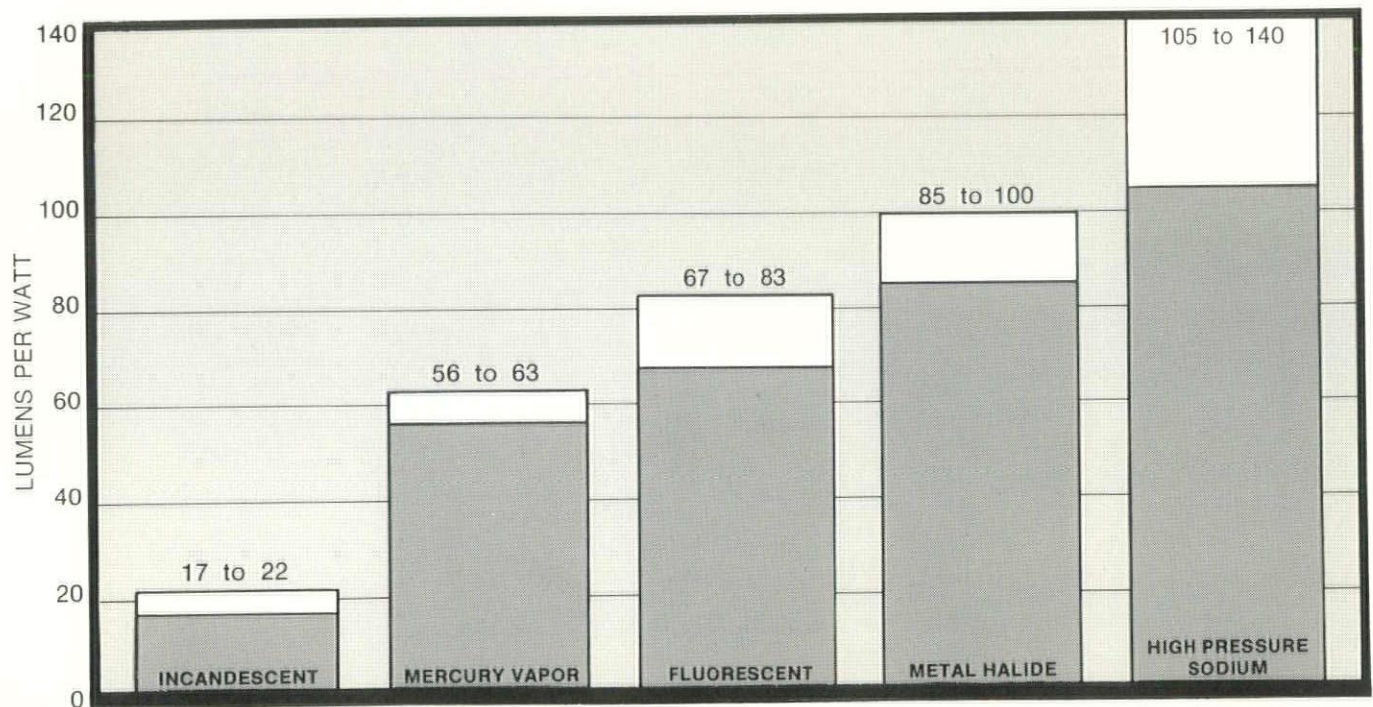


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The lamp comparison chart below illustrates the efficiency of light sources expressed in lumens per watt, which is the amount of light produced for each watt of electrical energy consumed. As can be seen from the chart, both fluorescent and high intensity discharge lamps (mercury vapor, sodium and metal halide sources) use much less energy to produce light than the incandescent lamp.

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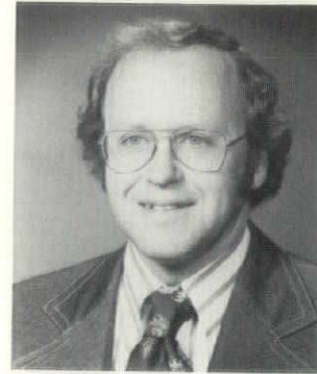


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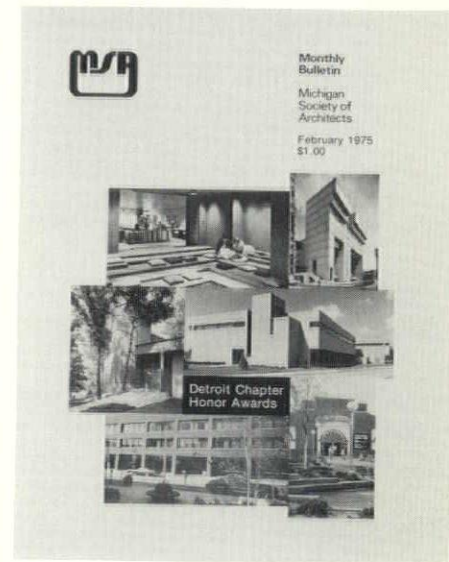
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February, 1975

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William F. Thrall



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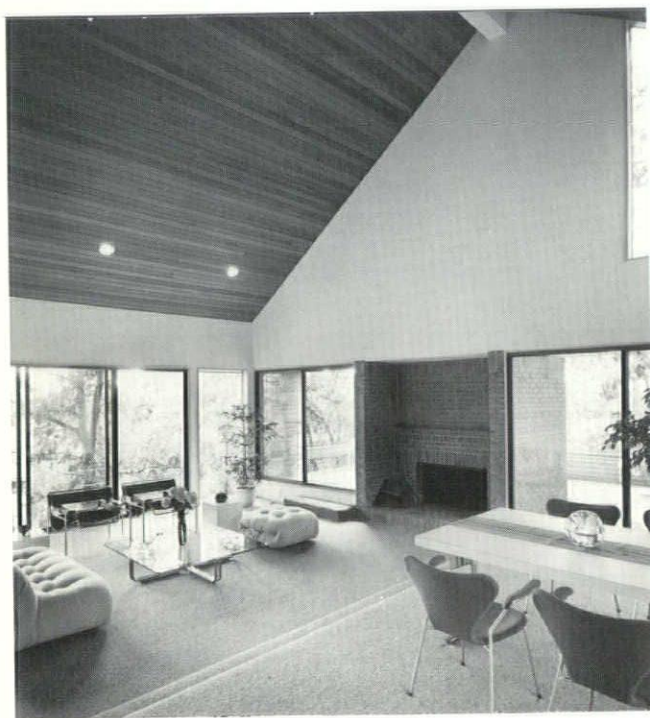
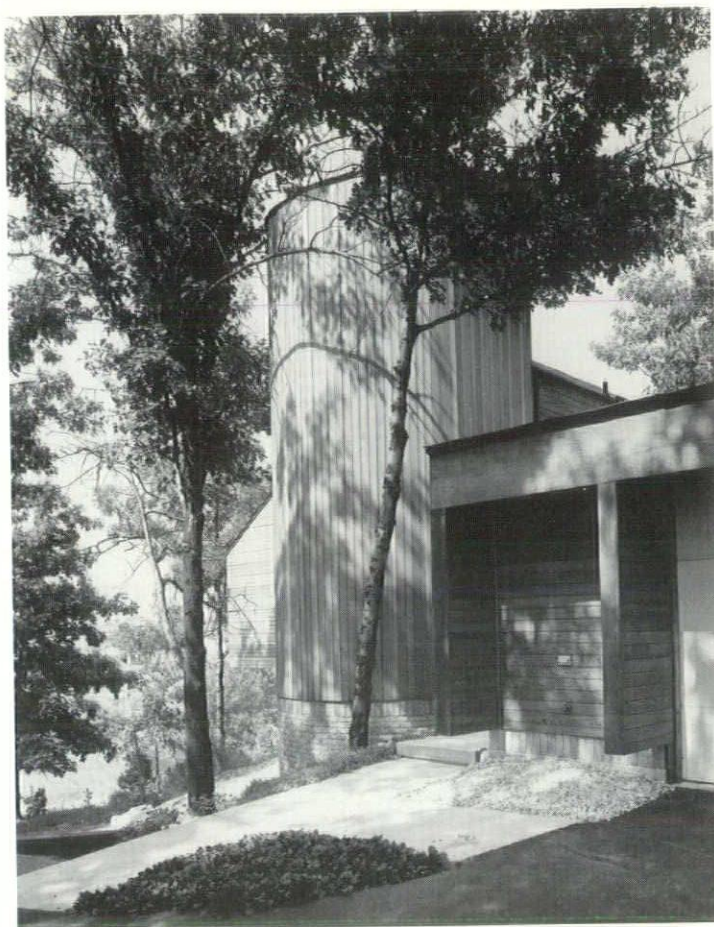
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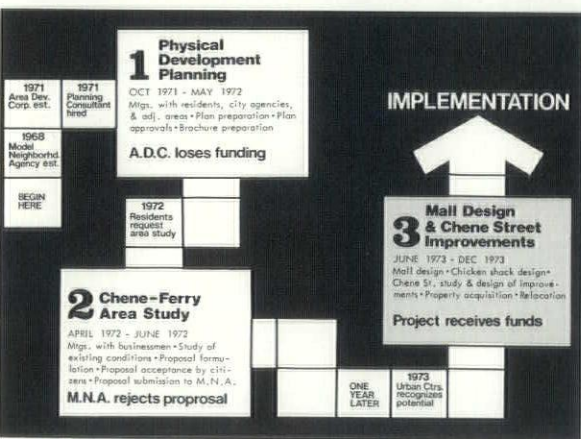
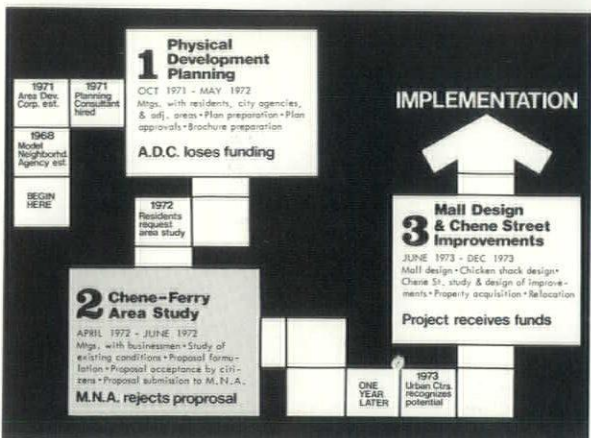
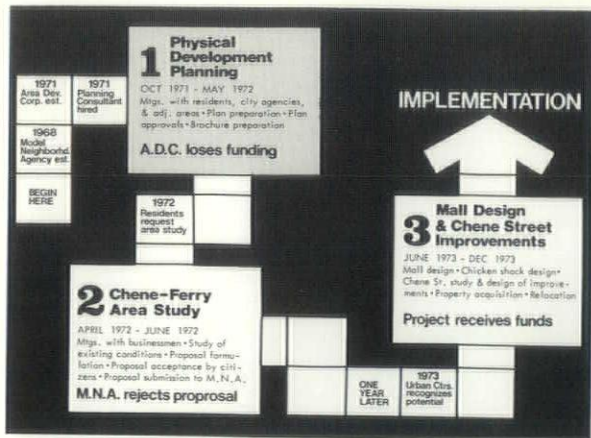
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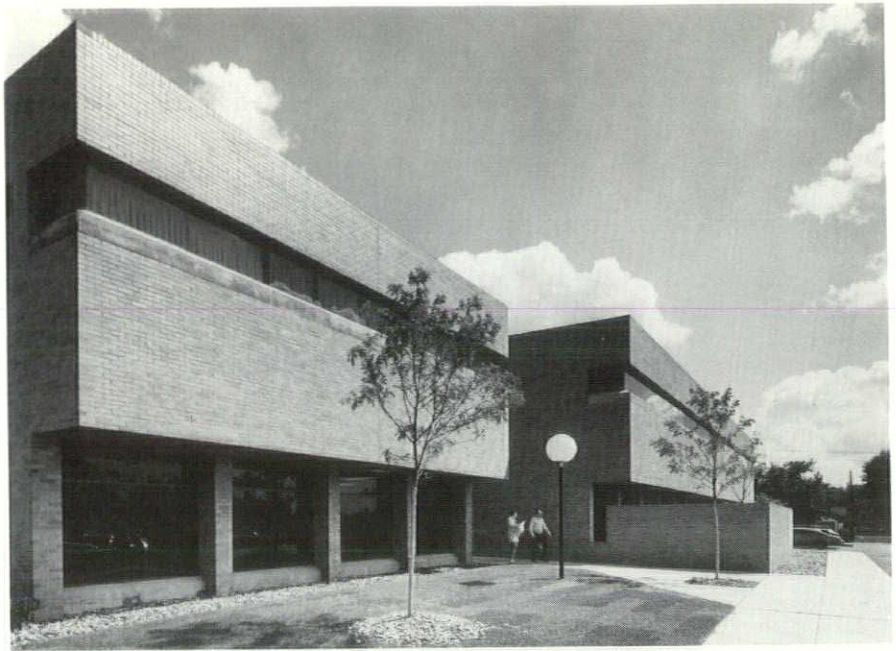
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THIS SUBMISSION PRESENTS IN THREE PARTS THE WORK THAT WAS CARRIED OUT BY AN ARCHITECTURAL-PLANNING FIRM AS CONSULTANTS TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE PULASKI-KING SUB-AREA OF THE MODEL NEIGHBORHOOD AREA. THE FIRST PART COVERS THE PREPARATION OF A PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE ENTIRE SUB-AREA. THE SECOND PART COVERS AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF PART OF THE SUB-AREA. THE THIRD PART PRESENTS THE PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS THAT WERE FINALLY IMPLEMENTED.

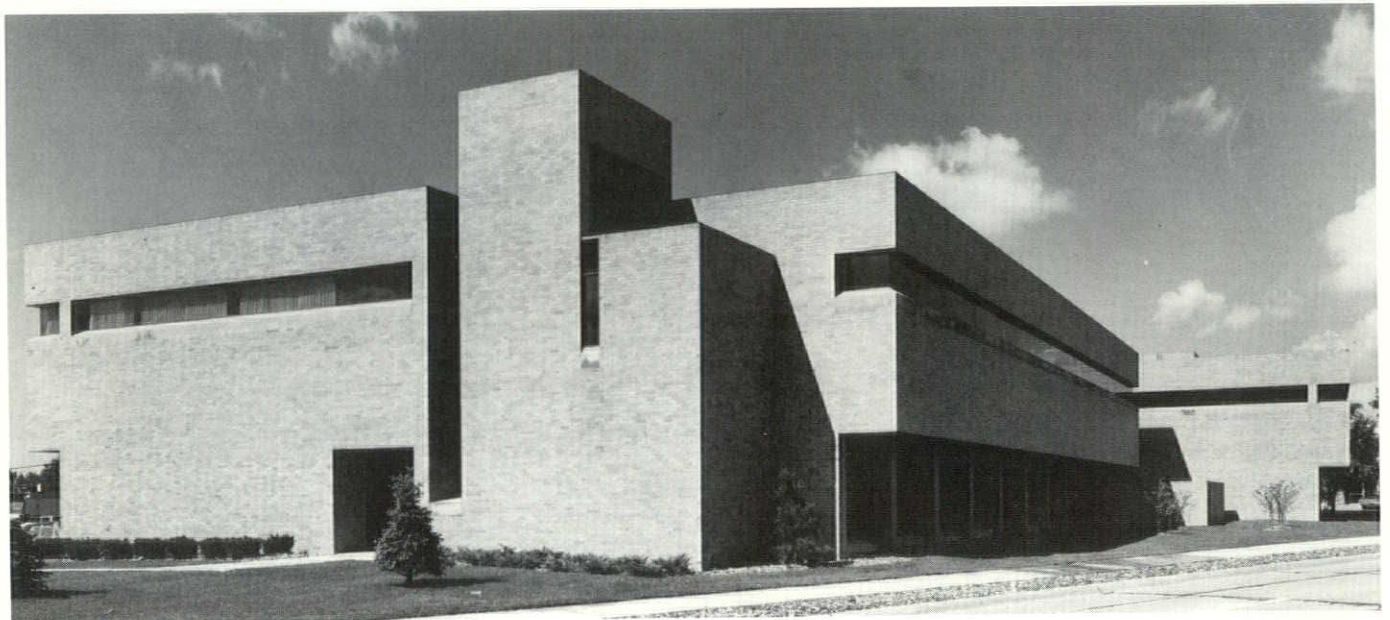
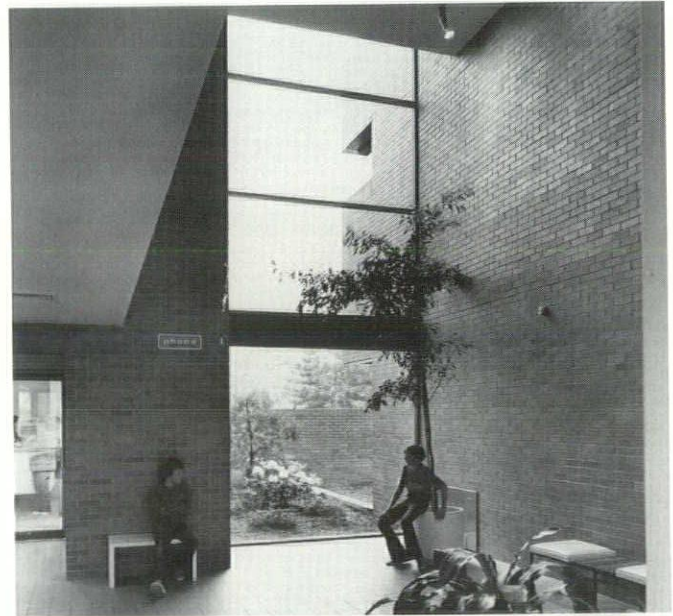


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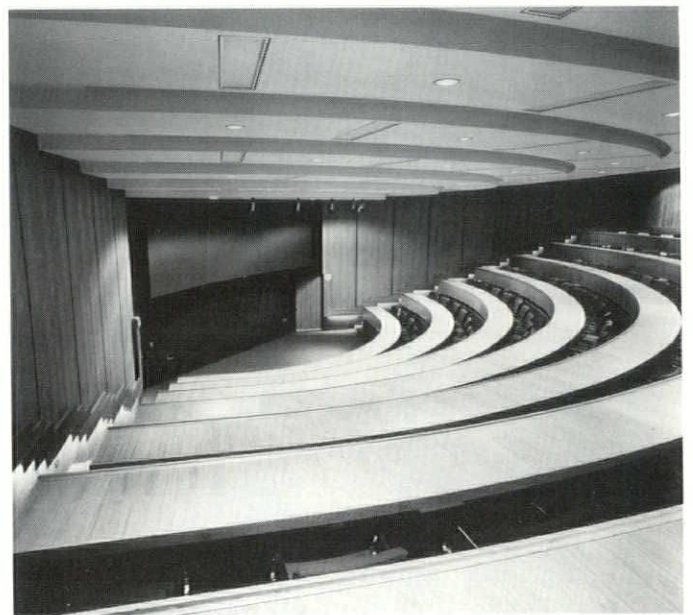
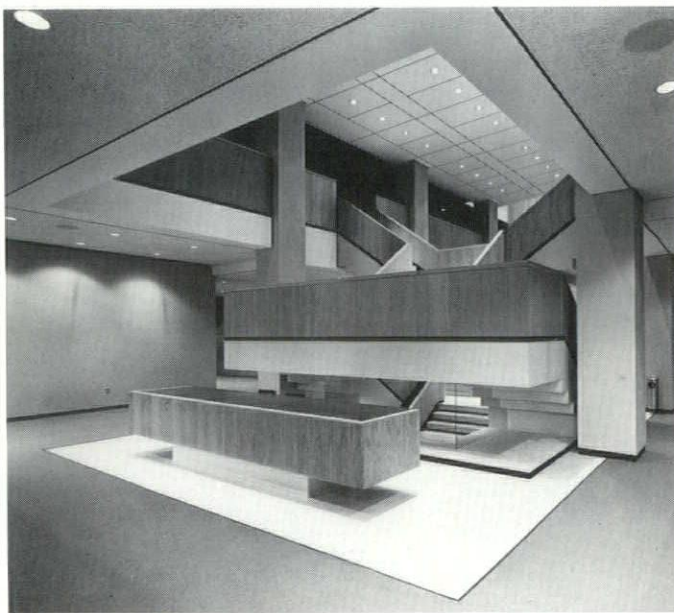
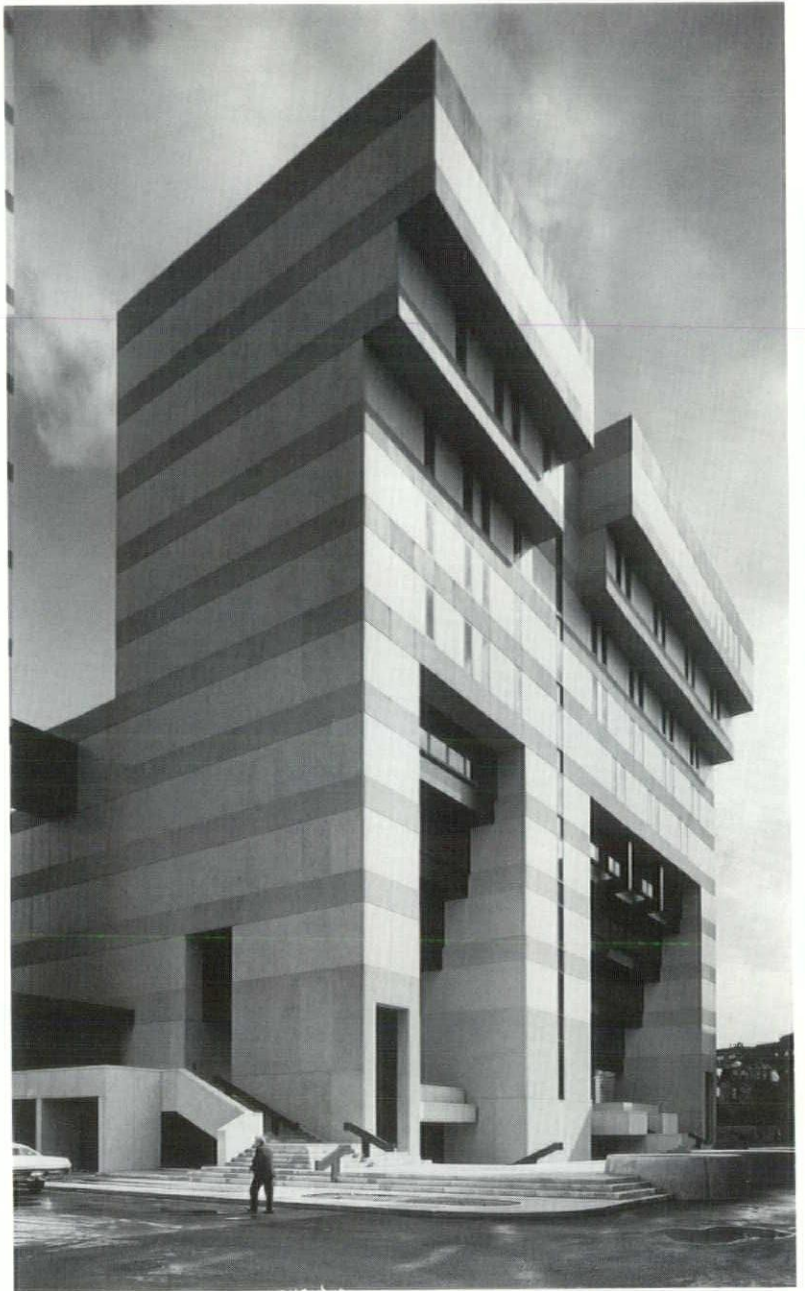


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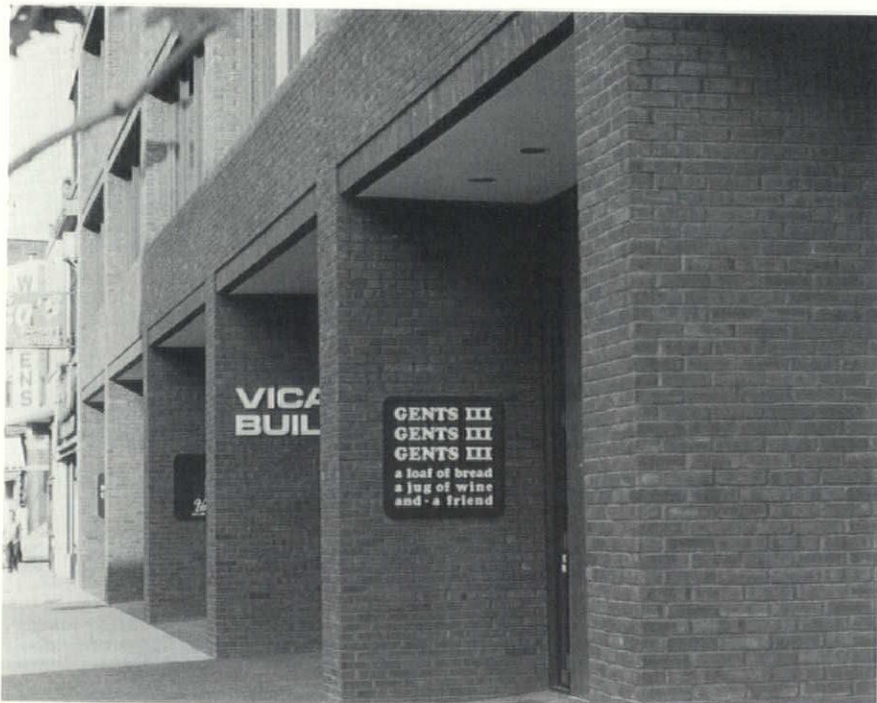


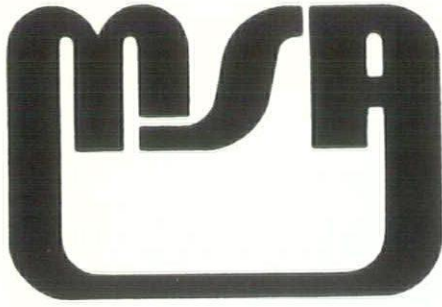
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The Architect as Community Advocate

by
William F. Thrall, AIA

William Thrall is a highly respected architect. He was instrumental in forming the teams of architects and other experts that examined 70 houses for possible Urban Home-steading. His firm, Steenwyck & Thrall Inc. occupy a rehabilitated building at 35 Lafayette N.E.

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New River Free Press.

On July 10, 1968, a public meeting was held at the Church of the Redeemer on Jefferson Avenue, during which a group of local architects and other young professionals were to enter into dialogue with the "inner city community" in an attempt to establish planning and housing development criteria for the area soon to become the "Model Neighborhood." This meeting, and later efforts toward this admirable goal, met with nearly total failure.

There are, of course, many and complex reasons why such a venture was preordained for doom — including the mind set of the architects (led by our fearless author). With respect to the past, present and future relationship between the architect, the community, and the housing dilemma, I offer the following:

The sixties were heady and challenging times for young architects. The design professions, slowly emerging from decades of catatonic trance, were carried along in the civil-rights surge, proclaiming a re-discovered sense of social responsibility and mission (by implication, pleading guilty as charged to elitism, narcissism, irrelevance).

"Advocacy" planning — for and with the oppressed minorities, often against the bureaucratic establishment — was "in," planning commissions and departments were "out;" "community design centers" were "in," ivory tower monument building was "out."

Seizing the possibility of a "model neighborhood" program as the touchstone for ghetto revitalization through advocacy planning, a committee of black leaders (appropriately militant) and architects (radical-chic?) attempted to define community needs and goals vis-a-vis the City Master Plan and its consequences (symbolized by Campau I Public Housing on Division Avenue).

Community meetings were held at which exciting new concepts were proposed to the handful of bewildered neighborhood residents who appeared: cluster development (vs. the cottage-picket fence syndrome); modular housing ("Operation Breakthrough"); Jane Jacobism (the failure of the white suburb as an environmental prototype, a more ideal model being diverse, urban, concentrated — Georgetown Tex. Levittown).

Residents were asked to specify desirable housing types, land use configurations, traffic patterns, recreational, commercial and cultural needs, after which the designers would (and did) prepare alternative master plans and prototype residential models for purposes of confrontation with the establishment (the architect playing several roles, including those of Clarence Darrow and Jesus Christ).

When community meetings turned out to consist of committee members only, attempts were made to organize block clubs and conduct house to house surveys in attempt to more accurately determine community attitudes and preferences. Failure once more.

As we entered the more cynical 70's, several cherished concepts littered the path to architectural relevance, among them:

Advocacy: The architect cannot create community enthusiasm and action, he can only respond to it and offer his specific expertise, which is not political or social-scientific skill but technical knowledge and aesthetic sensibility. Moreover, the architect is too often guilty of assuming that a "community" (the "Black Community," the "Latin American Community," etc.) exists as an identifiable group with common goals and ideals. The "community," on the other hand, however it defines itself as a client-group, must realize where its contributions and abilities stop and the designer's being — confusion of roles can only produce mediocrity and impasse.

Social Science: The relationship between the behavioral sciences and architecture is important, but the architect cannot play sociologists or psychologist. Accurate data gathering is a complex and specialized science, and generalized predictions from specific data can be very dangerous, especially when it comes to behavior in an untested environment.

Environmental Ideals: In spite of the architect's claim to leadership in relevance, his ideals remain elitist. While he decries the suburb as monotonous, wasteful, unstimulating, and ugly, this is where he lives. Ideal models proposed as ultimate solutions (excitingly massed, contemporary clusters of dwelling units, with automobile-free play areas, intermixed shopping and cultural facilities within walking distance) are rejected by the "have nots," who retain the image of the single family residence on its own "turf" as the American ideal (in spite of the failure of Freedom Homes, however admirable the intentions). Prefabrication and modular construction, in addition to the "image" problem (cheap, temporary) have proven economically unsuitable for low and moderate income housing (sorry, George, - houses aren't like Ramblers).

Messianic Potential: Since the modern movement cast off the shackles of the past at the turn of the century, we architects have been hung up on "physical determinism" — the idea that through *design* we can bring about the new society. It ain't so. Economics and politics are far more basic determinants. The influence of the architectural profession on the American environ-

ment is nearly nil, and where it exists it is too often negative.

Where do we go from here? New housing is in a chaotic stage. Federal funding comes and goes (usually the later) at the whim of political expediency. FHA standards produce an automatic design — feed them in one end, 2½ story apartments with half brick fronts and tiny bedrooms come out the other.

The Michigan State Housing Development Authority, threatened by marketing problems, is opting for the one and two bedroom middle-income market (swimming pools, etc.), leaving the problem of the large low-income family for others to solve. Construction costs are inflating at a fantastic rate — mortgage money priceless or non-existent, the new single family home fast becoming the impossible dream (whatever its environmental qualities). Recent federal and state stirrings indicate that some funds may be available soon for long delayed local projects such as the Model Village Development.

But when new housing is constructed, *location* becomes as big a factor as project environmental quality — this, as well as management and maintenance policy, is out of the designer's control.

What the architect must do, while trying to retain his professional integrity under nearly impossible conditions, is attempt to deal with the very real problems of image, security, privacy, the community in a noncondescending nor elitist way, recognizing that the user's need for the ability to identify with, modify, and improve his environment, as well as for private and defensible space, is more important than the designer's preconceived formal images. This is a difficult pill for the designer to swallow, the temptation being to say the hell with it and give in to the Orwellian bureaucratic process (which always results in the lowest common denominator of taste) rather than fight on, often alone, for new and more responsive images and environments. Post construction evaluation of projects (after they have been "lived-in" for a while), a procedure now virtually non-existent, becomes critical if we are to learn from past failures or successes.

Obviously, rehabilitation and Urban Homesteading efforts should be encouraged, not only because of

the economics of recycling structures but because of the need for continuity and preservation in the man-made environment. The architect's contribution here can be a valid one, but he must be willing to lower his expectations, or cost advantages will soon vanish. Direct subsidy to the tenant homeowner, as Peter Blake has pointed out, while denying the architect the role of social savior, may turn out to be one of the few shining insights of the past administration.

If we can reach the point where families have the income and

opportunity to rent or buy where they choose, the stigma of housing "projects" and the design problems associated with them will be moot.

Until that point in history (which may be the millenium), the architect (or at least this architect) would be wise to concentrate on the development of a responsive professionalism, setting "his own house in order" before claiming the right to a leadership role in policy determination or community advocacy.



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Architect's Sunday

The Detroit Chapter has been running a successful series of public awareness programs called Architect's Sunday. Designed for the general public to meet an architect and tour a building, the past six programs have produced a tour of Twin Tower Office Buildings Fairlane, a housing project - West Bloomfield Fairways condominiums, the Troy library, SH&G Office Building and Tower 14. Future buildings will include the Berry International Terminal at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, in Downtown Detroit Harmonie Park and the new Arts and Crafts Building in the Art Center.

Architects wishing to have their buildings featured for Architect's Sunday are expected to furnish a quantity of printed descriptive sheets on the project, showing any special features, design problems and solutions and uniqueness and sufficient members of the firm to act as knowledgeable guides for the tours. The attendance has been very good with as many as 1500 people through a single project in two hours on Sunday afternoon. Chapter committee members act as hosts, assisting with parking, answering questions and handing out balloons.

Borrowed outright from St. Louis Chapter, AIA, with their blessings, the program will be continued for the remainder of 1975 with the committee beginning to work on a special series for the BiCentennial year 1976.

Inquiries are invited, just call the Chapter office for details.

Harper Appoints Architect

Reginald Schaffer, of Ann Arbor, has been appointed to the position of hospital-based architect for Har-

Preservationist Opens New Offices

Richard C. Frank, FAIA, long known and recognized for his dedication in the field of historic preservation restoration and conservation has formed a new firm 'Preservation/Urban Design/Inc.

With Frank in the new venture are Richard Macias, ASLA, Richard A. Neumann and Douglas Kassa- baum.

Located at 410 South Main Street in Ann Arbor, Michigan the group will devote themselves to the areas

of preservation architecture and planning, landscape architecture and urban design, historic site development and restoration and adaptive modification.

Formerly, the AIA State Preservation Officer for the State of Michigan, Frank has been responsible for restoration projects at Mackinac Island, Fort Michimilimac at Mackinac City and many locations across the country. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



per Hospital Division of United Hospitals of Detroit.

The appointment was announced recently by Cecil Wallace, director of Buildings and Grounds at the Hospital.

Schaffer comes to Harper from the Ford Motor Co., Dearborn, where he worked as a project manager. Previously he was a project designer for Jickling & Lyman Architects of Birmingham and a senior designer for Albert Kahn Associates.

Michigan School Fire Safety Regulations Rule 197(2) Sprinkler Water Supply

Recently several requests for modification have been received by this office, to permit the use of the domestic water supply in lieu of a 3,000 gallon independent pressure tank for sprinkler protection for small stage areas.

This request, of course, relates to schools in areas where there is no public water system and local wells

are supplying the domestic water for the school.

This office realizes that, in some instances, sufficient water can be obtained from a domestic system, which may be a substantial savings in eliminating the pressure tank system.

Although each request will have to be evaluated on an individual basis, the following guidelines can be used, and must be met before any consideration for modification may be given.

1. The domestic water supply can be no less than 2,000 gallons of water in a 3,000 gallon tank or tanks (2/3 water, 1/3 air). The hot and cold domestic water tanks may be connected in tandem to meet this requirement.
2. The stage area may not exceed 1,500 square feet, nor more than twelve (12) sprinklers.
3. The water supply and pressure must be sufficient to supply 120 g.p.m. at 15 p.s.i. at the top line of sprinklers, for a duration of 30 minutes, during average domestic use.
 - (a) The g.p.m. listed is for a stage the size of that listed in Item 2. A smaller stage area could require less water.
4. Fill pumps and compressor must be approved for thier intended use.

We will give consideration to any request that meets the above criteria. If there are any questions please feel free to contact Fire Marshall Division, Department of State Police, 714 S. Harrison Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823.

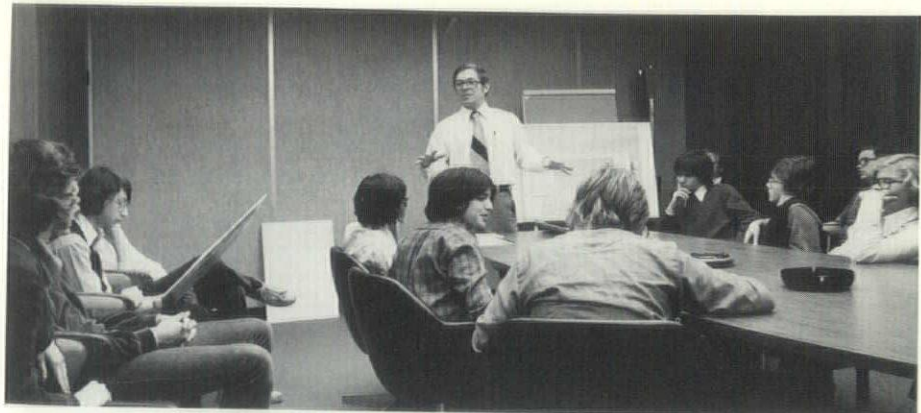
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March 10-11

ASHRAE presents two day seminar on "How to Save Energy in Existing Buildings"

March 15-16

Lawrence Institute of Technology Open House - General Public & Professionals - Southfield, Michigan

March 3rd Week

Historic Preservation Program Detroit Chapter, AIA

March 17-19

The American National Metric Council's first annual conference, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.

March 19

Detroit Chapter Meeting of Committee Chairman & Chapter Board

March 19

The Builders Exchange Annual Meeting - Sheraton Cadillac

April 17

AIA/CEP Managing & Profiting from Cost-Based Compensation Detroit Metro Hilton

April 18

Quality Control Seminar The Professional's Approach to Liability & Loss Prevention Hilton Inn, Detroit Metropolitan Airport Co-Sponsored by Michigan Society of Architects.

May 11-14

The Society of American Value Engineers hold conference at Hilton Hotel, downtown Baltimore, Md.

May 18-22

AIA National Convention Atlanta, Georgia

July 13-18

Illuminating Engineering Society holds Annual Conference in San Francisco, Calif. Hilton Hotel & Tower

July 15-16

International Lighting Exposition held during the Conference week at the San Francisco Hilton & Tower

August 7, 8, 9

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