MARCH 1963

MISSISSIPPI ARCHITECT

The AMERICAN INSTITUTE of ARCHITECTS MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER

The American Institute of Architects is the national organization of the architectural profession, and its initials A.I.A. following the architect's name have come to be recognized publicly as a certificate of merit. His membership in the A.I.A. attests to the architect's integrity, proven professional qualifications, and good standing in his community.

Mississippi Architect is published monthly by the Mississippi Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, in conjunction with Construction News, Inc. Opinions expressed herein are those of the editor and contributors and not necessarily those of the Mississippi Chapter, A.I.A. Inquiries may be addressed to P. O. Box 9783, Jackson, Mississippi

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Architecture Is Your Business

If it sounds presumptuous to say that architecture is your business, consider this: You are born in architecture and you die in it. You live and work, play and worship in it throughout your life; there are few times in your life when you neither see it nor feel it. It affects your movements, your senses, your comfort, and your pocketbook.

Within the next ten years, conservative economists say, we will spend the staggering total of 600 billion dollars on construction, a figure which exceeds the total value of all buildings in the United States today. By the year 2000, which is less than a forty-year mortgage away, we must double all present facilities to meet population needs. That is, we must build a second United States.

Mississippi, in the past, has spent proportionately less on construction than other states. There is every reason to believe that industrial development and a healthier economy will result in our spending proportionately more in the future. As a homeowner, a parent interested in schools, a potential investor, a taxpayer, and a voter, you will be affected by what and how we build even more directly than you are today. Architecture, then, is and will be your business.

Architecture as a profession is practiced in this state by men who in most cases have qualified themselves by a minimum of five years of formal training in recognized architectural schools, followed by a number of additional years of actual experience as employees and associates of other architects.

A profession, as distinguished from the production or handling of goods, is a field of effort characterized by the rendering of service for which there is a common core of ethics, principles, and practices. The true professional is always motivated by far more than the normal desire for monetary gain.

The architect's services to an owner run the full gamut from the selection of a site, through the imaginative creation of structures interpreted to the owner pictorially and to the builder technically, to the final accomplishment of the finished structure as a useful and beautiful reality.

A high percentage of the architects in this state are members of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. The A.I.A. delineates the common core of ethics, principles, and practices by which we perform. This publication represents a new effort to present Mississippi architecture to you. We invite questions, comment, and criticism in the interest of a better architecture.

— *Bob Henry*

BUILDING USE

Lower Floor: Offices, employees' lounges, printing, vault, mechanical equipment room.

Main Floor: Main lobby and banking area, IBM room, vault, tenant elevator, lobby.

Second Floor: Attorneys' offices, board room, library, executive offices.

Third through Eighth Floors: Tenant area.

FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

Capitol and State Streets
Jackson, Mississippi

Winner of an American Institute of Architects Gulf States Regional Honor Award, 1962

SAVINGS AND LOAN BUILDING

TO DESIGN a modern savings and loan association office building that would not compete visually with an old state capitol of historical significance.

This, in summary, is how architects for the award-winning First Federal structure describe a planning problem faced in early project study.

The architects encountered other problems. Most pressing was the value of site location, at the city's main traffic corner and diagonally across from Mississippi's Old Capitol, recently restored as a state historical museum.

The site's proximity to the Old Capitol posed serious design obligations. It was decided early in the design studies that no effort would be made to compete with the beautiful old soft-red brick building, despite the fact that the program demanded at least eight stories.

It was felt any strong color for the new structure would dominate, thus conflict. Therefore, Georgia white marble and blue-black granite were chosen as the principal materials for the exterior. Textural effect was considered. The classic cornices and mouldings of the Old Capitol called for a simple, somewhat smooth, contrasting treatment for the new building.

Area requirements of the rental office floors above the first floor permitted a set-back at the second floor level to avoid the effect of blocking the end of the street. The set-back was softened by the use of the maximum amount of glass on the second floor and with small live oak trees in redwood planters on the first floor roof.

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Jackson

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Frank Lotz Miller
Photos

The function of a savings and loan association, though similar to a bank's operation, is different in one respect. Like a bank it has a banking floor, but unlike a bank, the banking floor is busy only around the first of the month when mortgage payments come due. To make the floor open to the public would exhibit too frequently an almost empty space. Therefore, it was decided that the banking floor should have a minimum of exposure.

To avoid the formidable barrier effect, typical of the first floor, the architects chose a polished blue-black granite exterior finish. The mirror finish of this material reflects the street scenes, the Old Capitol and the night lights in subdued tones.

DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Foundations: Drilled reinforced concrete piles.

Frame: Columns of 5000 lb. concrete with floors of pan type construction, using lightweight concrete.

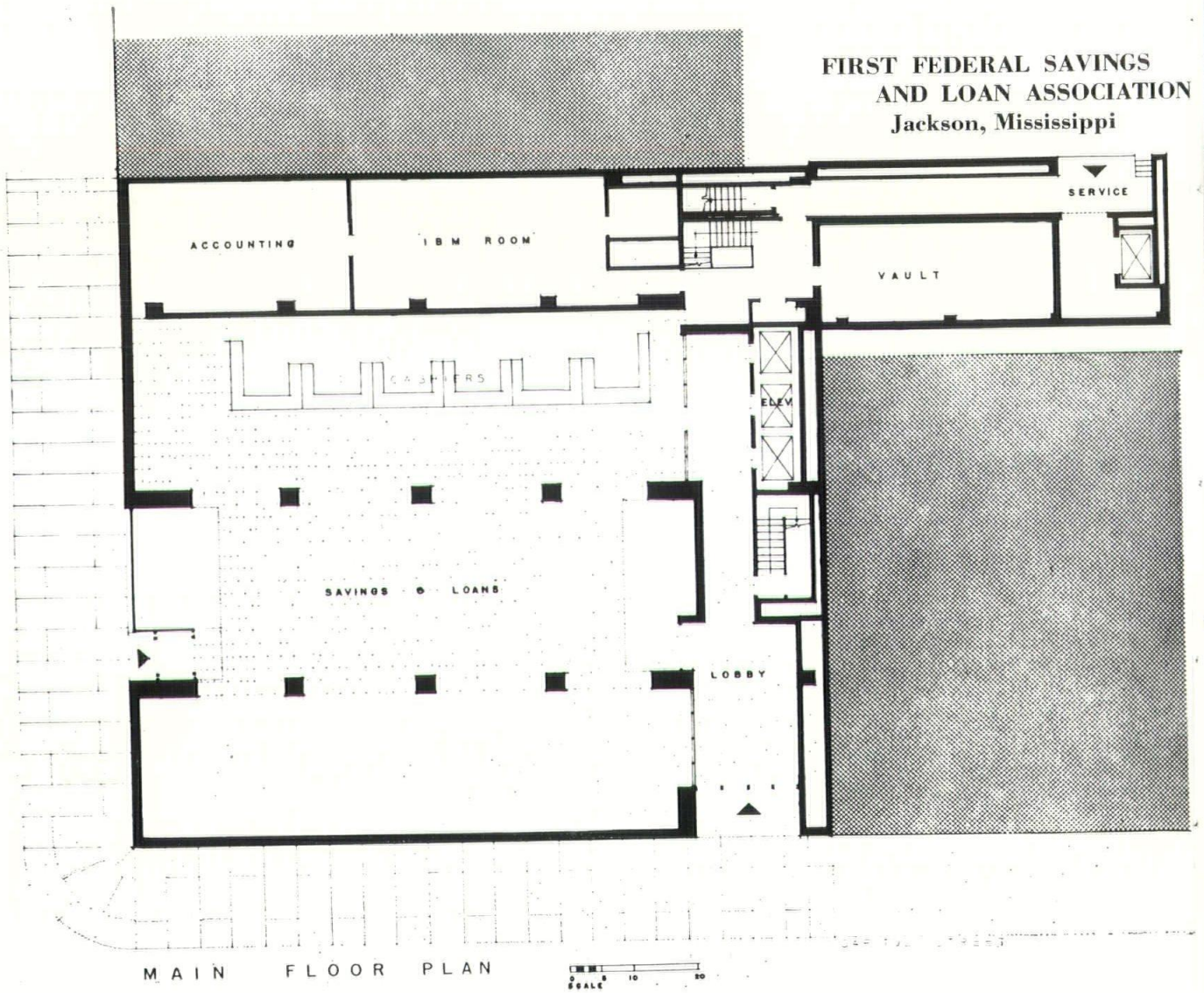
Exterior Walls: Main Floor—Blue-black granite backed up with concrete block.
Upper Floors—Georgia white marble backed up with concrete block.

Smoke Tower: Glazed brick.

Interior—Floors: Main Floor—Colorado white marble with brown streaks.
Lower Floors—Vinyl.
Upper Floors—Vinyl asbestos.
Walls: Main Floor—Teak and marble.
Other Floors—Concrete block plastered and painted or covered with vinyl wall covering.
Ceilings: Main Floor—Illuminated ceiling.
Other Floors—Suspended acoustical tile.

Mechanical System: Dual duct high velocity system with electric chillers.

Electrical: Underfloor duct system for power and telephone.
Recessed fluorescent combination lighting and air diffusing.
Exterior lighting by fluorescent lights mounted in window boxes.



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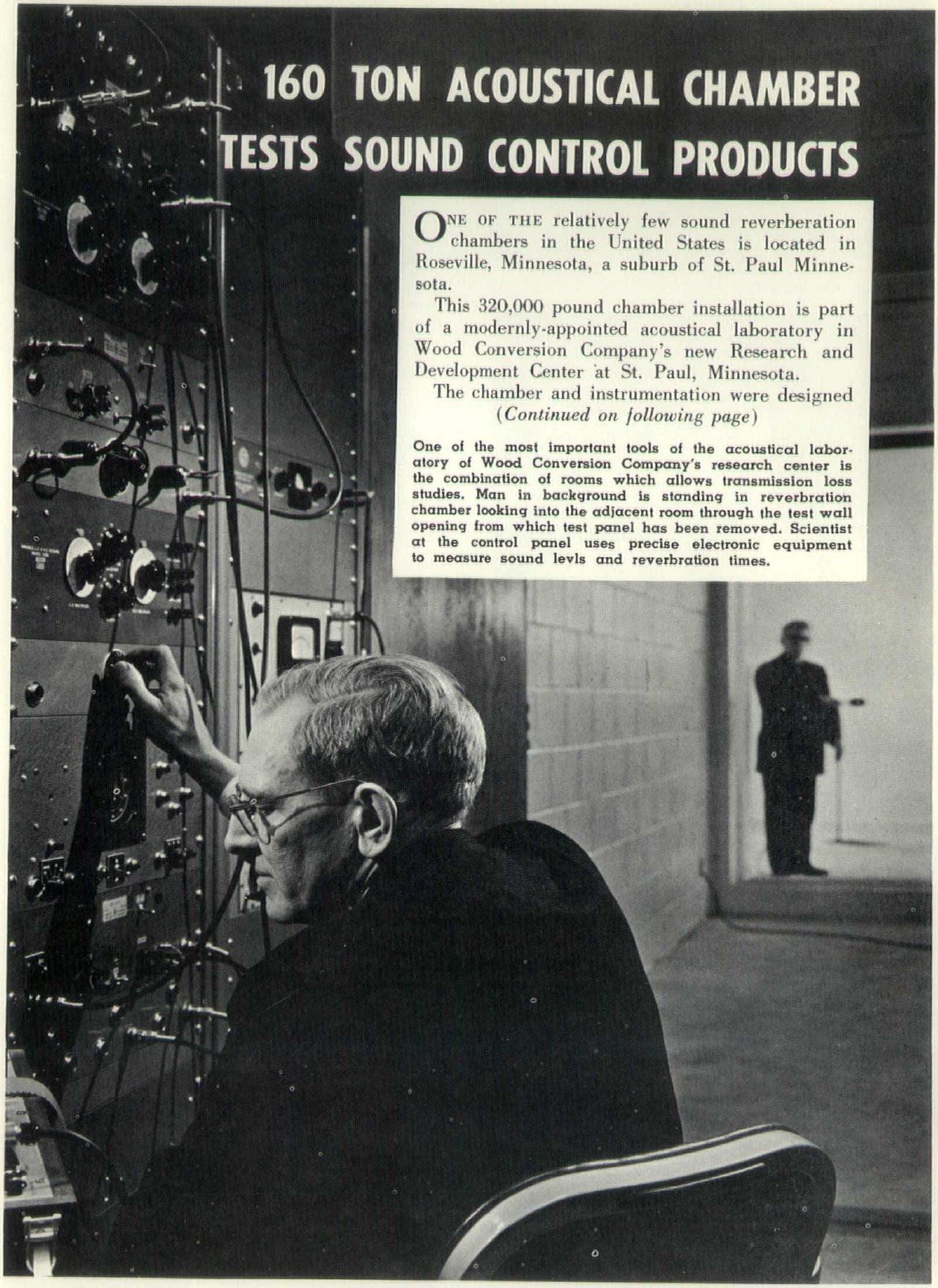
160 TON ACOUSTICAL CHAMBER TESTS SOUND CONTROL PRODUCTS

ONE OF THE relatively few sound reverberation chambers in the United States is located in Roseville, Minnesota, a suburb of St. Paul Minnesota.

This 320,000 pound chamber installation is part of a modernly-appointed acoustical laboratory in Wood Conversion Company's new Research and Development Center at St. Paul, Minnesota.

The chamber and instrumentation were designed

(*Continued on following page*)



One of the most important tools of the acoustical laboratory of Wood Conversion Company's research center is the combination of rooms which allows transmission loss studies. Man in background is standing in reverbration chamber looking into the adjacent room through the test wall opening from which test panel has been removed. Scientist at the control panel uses precise electronic equipment to measure sound levls and reverbration times.

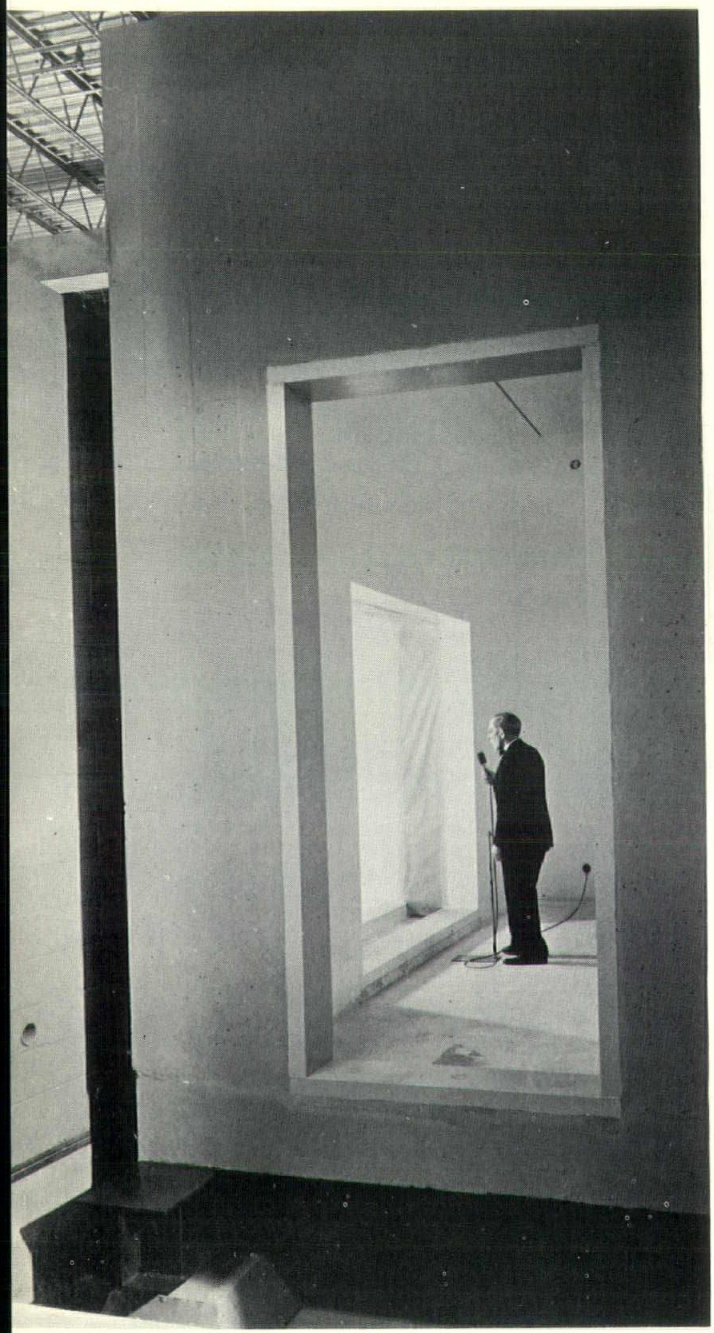
ACOUSTICAL CHAMBER

(*Continued from page 3*)

to test and measure acoustical properties of the Company's product and its experimental developments..

This reverberation chamber provides a thoroughly isolated environment in which sound waves can be controlled and measured. And since one of the objectives is to obtain architecturally-meaningful results, the chamber accommodates large representative ceiling and wall sections.

This view shows the 160-ton reverbration chamber with it's 12" thick walls. The entire room is acoustically isolated from the surrounding structure by spring mounting on a separate foundation.



The chamber contains 5,400 cubic feet and its walls are 12" thick reinforced concrete. The entire construction is so precisely supported on 16 vibration isolation assemblies that its large mass has a natural frequency of only five cycles per second. Footings for the springs are isolated from the rest of the building and are set in undisturbed soil.

No linear dimension of the chamber is either alike or a simple multiple of any other dimension. This dissimilarity facilitates sound distribution and creates a maximum number of sound vibration modes. All planes in the chamber are hard surfaced and the walls have been given a high gloss finish.

Inside the chamber is a large "paddle-wheel" reflector suspended through the ceiling and supported by a pair of isolated pillars. A concrete-loaded steel superstructure weighing one-and-a-half tons rests on vibration isolation assemblies at the top of these pillars.

A motor-drive system for turning the reflector is suspended from the steel superstructure; the bearings which support the reflector are also mounted on the superstructure. Thus, the chamber itself is thoroughly insulated from mechanical vibration.

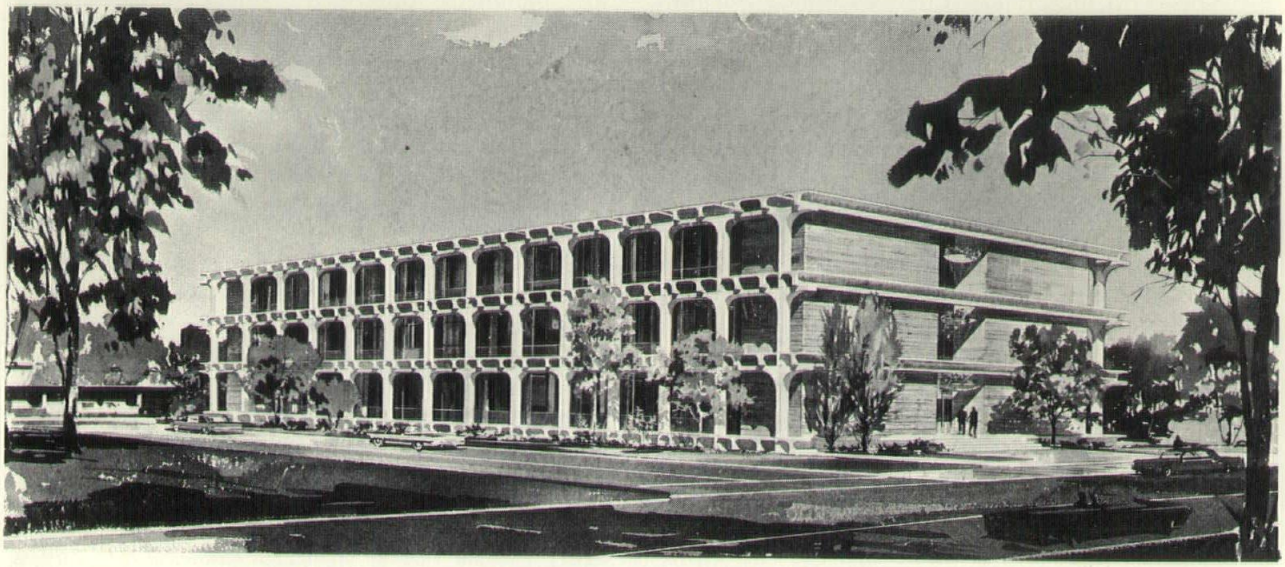
In order to determine acoustical absorption, sound of a known quality is introduced into the chamber through a speaker system and its echo-life is measured to within 1% tolerance. Then, by repeating the procedure with a 48 square foot sample of acoustical material in the chamber, a new measurement of echo-life is obtained which expresses the sound absorption quality of the material being tested.

A second room is immediately adjacent to the chamber but acoustically isolated from it. This room is used in conjunction with the chamber to test sound transmission loss and noise reduction.

The room and chamber were designed so that a 72 square foot section of experimental wall can replace a like portion of the common wall between the chamber and the room. Sound is introduced in one room, and its "leakage" into the other room is carefully measured to determine the transmission (or, conversely, transmission loss) quality of a structure.

A third room supplements the two previously mentioned rooms in a very important way — by providing facilities for the newly-established Acoustical Materials Association's Type I-II test. This test provides information on the amount of sound passing up through a suspended acoustical ceiling from a first room into a plenum, thence across the plenum and down through the suspended acoustical ceiling into a second room where the first and second rooms are separated by a partition that does not penetrate the plenum.

AUTOMOBILE CLUB BUILDING IN LOS ANGELES' CENTURY CITY TO FEATURE PRECAST CONCRETE, CLEAR-SPAN CONSTRUCTION



THE AUTOMOBILE Club of Southern California has announced plans for a new Westside Regional Office — a precast concrete, clear-span structure—to be located in Los Angeles' Century City. Century City.

"With ample parking for all visitors, the new three-story and full basement building will serve our many members living in the Westbury-Beverly Hills area," Norman P. Thompson, executive vice president of the Club, stated.

The Club's new building, designed by Century City coordinating architects Welton Becket and Associates, is expected to be completed by December, 1963 and will be located on Century Park East at the eastern terminus of Constellation Blvd.

The building will be the first to be built in the complex by an organization other than Century City.

The architects' design features a graceful series of white precast concrete arches which not only delicately express the international flavor of the Automobile Club but completely express the structural concept. The new building, providing a total of approximately 27,000 sq. ft., has been so designed that additional stories may be added in the future as the need arises.

"In designing the first Century City office building being primarily developed as a regional headquarters, we have tried to give the structure its own character representative of the Automobile Club," Welton Becket, F.A.I.A., president of the architectural firm, stated. "In addition, the needs of the space requirements by the Club enabled us to come up with a structural concept which provides for complete column-free interior spaces throughout the office areas. It is also an economical means of construction which takes less time to construct."

The sides of the structure are formed of precast columns 15 in. deep, each with a 12 ft. leg and a 9 ft. arm. Post-tensioned double tees 64 ft. long rest on top of these and span clear across the building, providing a 4 ft. overhang on either side.

The north side of the building features floor-to-ceiling curtain wall, with non-glare glass set in a dark finished aluminum frame to take advantage of the north light and provide a view of the landscaped site through the arches. The south wall will have high continuous windows, for additional sun protection, and the wall below will be sheathed in anodized aluminum panels.

By placing the service cores of the building at either end, the architects were able to provide shear walls in these end elements, thereby providing a completely free 85 by 56 ft. interior floor space.

Electronically-controlled elevator service will be in the rear, adjacent to the parking structure. A landscaped driveway on the north side leads to the parking structure from which most members will enter the building.

The view of the front of the building from Constellation Blvd. will show beautifully textured split face block walls, the full height of the structure, with a 10 ft. wide recessed area in the center. On the ground floor the recess will form the main entrance and will open for three full floors.

The first floor of the building will house the Club's membership service.

NEW YORK'S LOBBY

PASSERSBY peering into the glass front of the New York Equitable Life Assurance Society Building in New York see a colorful planting of blossoms stretching across the building's lobby.

The building boasts one of the world's biggest tropical gardens—with some 80 to 90 varieties of trees and flowering plants blooming in profusion in the lobby and arranged in planters throughout the building.

Almost every country on earth is represented in the origins of these plants, which range from tiny lichens to towering jungle-like trees 14 feet high. Between 450 and 500 gallons of water are used each week by Equitable's three full-time gardeners in the cleaning, spraying, feeding and watering of green foliage and flowering plants. The idea is to water just enough to keep the plants healthy and decorative. Too much watering would make plants grow to rapidly.

More than a thousand plants grow throughout the building's thirty-eight office floors—and a tour of inspection with Mr. Frank Turek, one of the garden's designers, or an associate at Julian Roehrs and Co., the garden's contractors—takes eight full hours.

The arrangement of the garden changes with the seasons—and individual plants are changed every three weeks to keep them always at the peak of their flowering period.

This changing and yet permanent garden is in one of the most highly populated areas on earth—New York City's mid-town. A stone's throw away from the brook is Rockefeller Center. Next door is the Time-and-Life Building. A few blocks down the street lies teeming Times Square. But in the lobby garden of the Equitable Building is the peace of a rural countryside.

The builders planned it that way. When the 42-

Visitors to New York's Equitable Life Assurance Society Building stop at the lobby garden to admire some of the more than 80 varieties of trees and flowering plants blooming there. The arrangement of the garden changes with the seasons.

GARDEN

This 42-story glass and aluminum tower in the heart of New York City boasts one of the world's biggest tropical gardens. Some 80 to 90 varieties of trees and flowering plants bloom in profusion in the lobby and in planters throughout the building, the home of The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States.

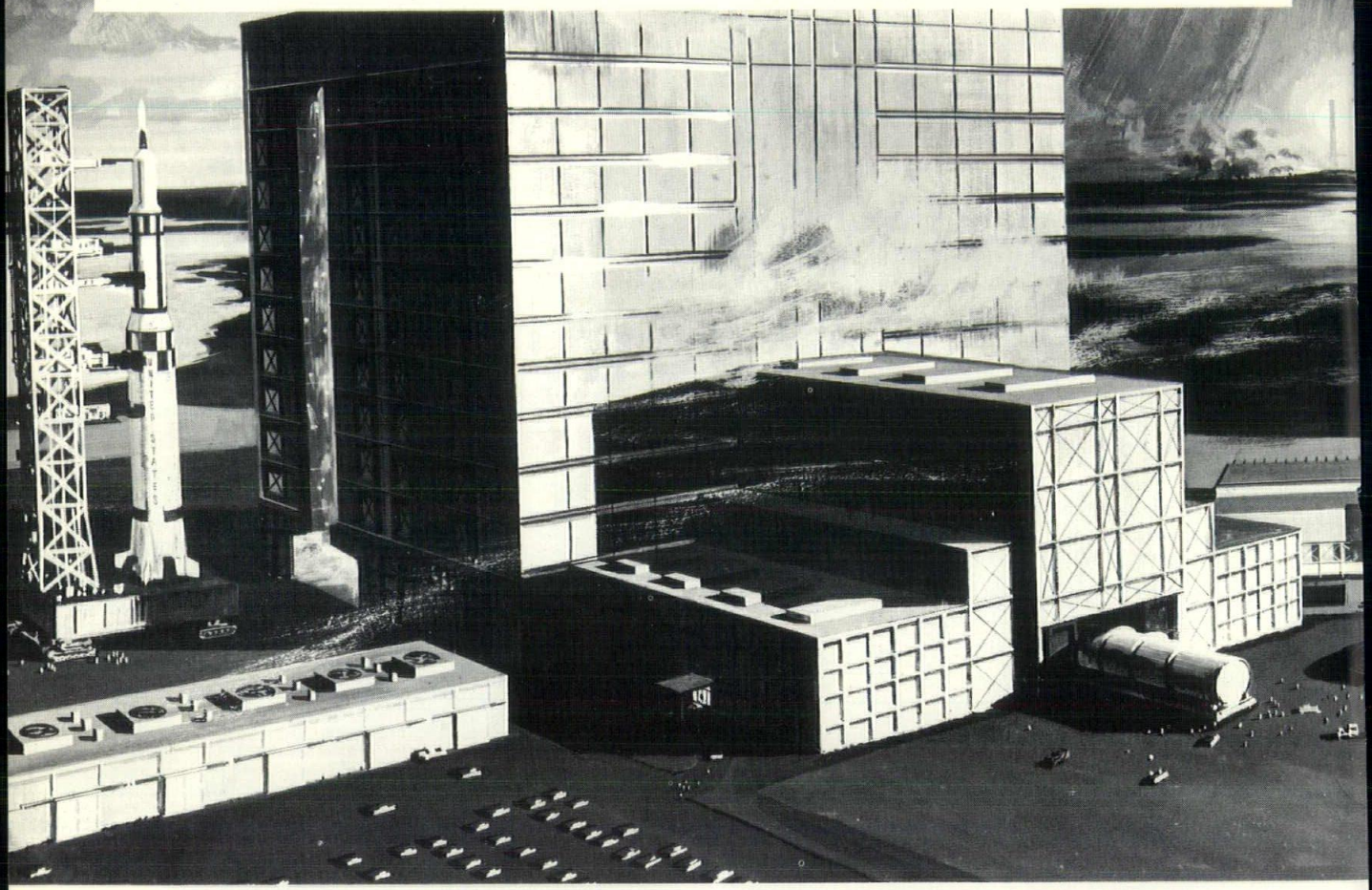
story glass and aluminum tower was still on the drawing board, architects and landscape designers left space and incorporated plans for New York's most elaborate indoor display. Their policy has now matured.

Thirty-eight feet down beneath the roots of the growing plants, safely hidden in a specially constructed safe anchored to bedrock, lies still another kind of growth prospect—five and a half billion dollars worth of securities held by the Equitable people.

Like some professional tips on planning your own garden design? Indoor landscape designer Frank Turek, suggests you start with a plan on paper showing the arrangement and masses of the the plants you hope to grow. Then, with a seed catalog or garden manual, pick out your plants, considering their (1) colors, (2) their heights at maturity, (3) how long each specimen will take to reach maturity, and (4) how well each plant will do in the amount of light or shade you can provide for it.

FACILITIES FOR FLIGHT TO MOON

New moon flight facilities for Cape Canaveral, shown in artist's rendering, are now being designed. Measuring approximately 524 feet high, 674 feet wide, and 513 feet long, the huge structure will enclose the greatest volume of any known building, 130,000,000 cubic feet.



FOUR NEW YORK firms have begun the design of facilities at NASA's Launch Operations Center, Merritt Island, Florida, which will be used as the base for flights of American astronauts to the moon.

Over 200 engineers are preparing the plans and specifications for the gigantic main building, one of the largest structures in the free world. It will be the focal point of the newly-established Launch Complex 39, situated on land already procured north of the existing rocket and missle tests center.

Standing over 500 feet tall and covering more than 10 acres, the structure will be used to mate and checkout the rockets and spacecraft being developed under Project Apollo. Representing a new approach to the problems of space flight, the building will permit the preparation of four vehicles simultaneously.

The design team is working under the supervision of Col. J. V. Solluhub, District Engineer, Jacksonville District of the Corps of Engineers, and will be known as Urbahn-Roberts-Seelye-Moran. The Managing Partner of the joint venture is Max O. Urbahn. His firm, The Office of Max O. Urbahn, Architects, will be responsible for architectural aspects of the project.

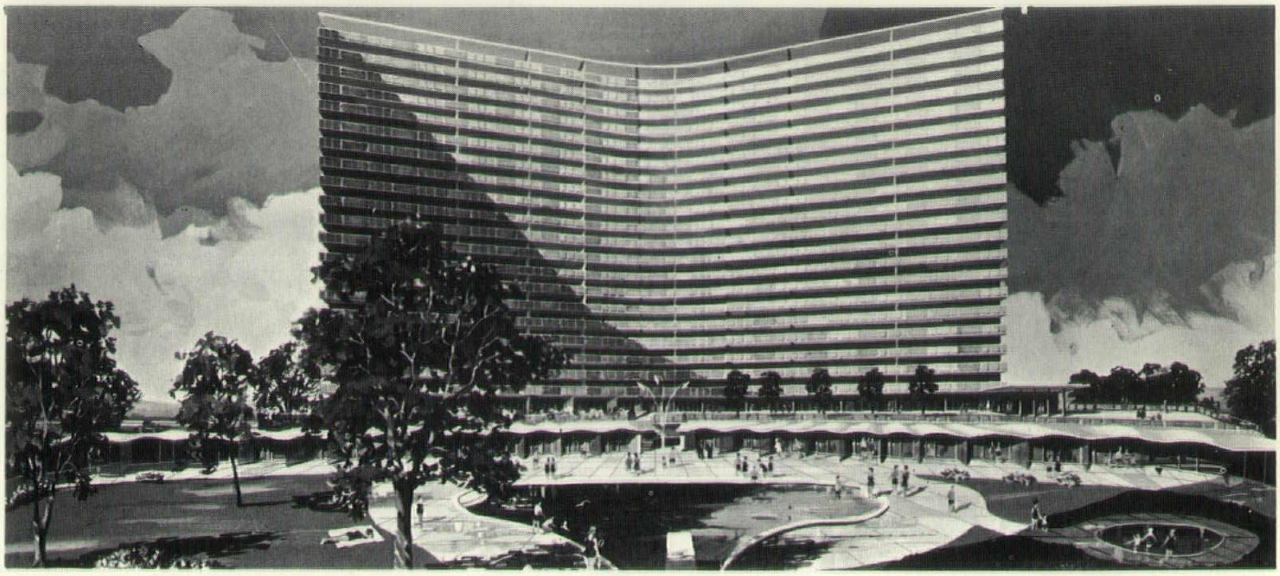
Roberts and Schaefer Company, Inc., with Dr. Anton Tedesko in charge, will prepare the structural design.

Seelye Stevenson Value & Knecht, Inc., with A. Wilson Knecht, will head a group preparing the civil, mechanical and electrical plans and specifications.

Moran, Proctor, Mueser & Rutledge are developing the analysis and designs of the foundations under the direction of Dr. Philip C. Rutledge.

Plans call for completion of one of the building's four erection bays in advance of the other three so that flight testing of the Saturn C-5 rocket may begin as early as possible. Eight smaller bays for the preparation of upper stages will also be built. The C-5, designed especially for the lunar program, will develop 7.5 million pounds of thrust from five giant engines in its booster.

PHILADELPHIA APARTMENT HOTEL



Private terraces in 350-suite apartment hotel afford broad view of Fairmount Park only nine minutes from Philadelphia's City Hall. In architect's conception, rear view of Park City West shows cabanas rimming pool.

THE 21-STORY apartment hotel known as Park City West, will feature a wealth of innovations in planning and design, many of them unique in the Philadelphia area.

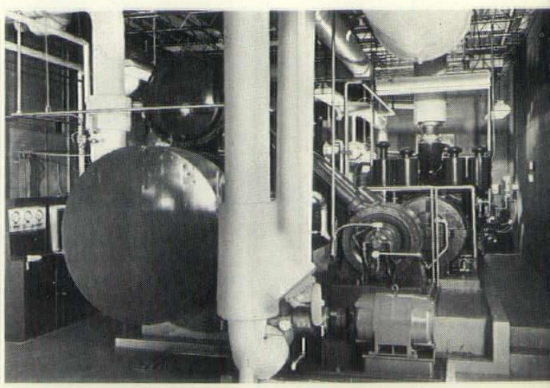
Outstanding among the features will be a complete tenant security system made possible by closed-circuit TV; a hidden entrance for delivery trucks; a landscaped parking area; a cabana club for year-round relaxation; a pool for swimming in the summer and ice skating in the winter, and a completely glass-enclosed home laundry.

The building itself, mainly reinforced concrete, glass, porcelain, and metal and aluminum, will be the first apartment building to have tempered insulated glass as its exterior wall with exterior apartment walls of glass from floor to ceiling. Each apartment will have its own complete terrace. Those of three bedrooms will have 100-foot terraces; the two-bedroom terraces will be 88 feet.

Almost all types of accommodations will be available at Park City West, running from 100 hotel rooms for transients to studio apartments and deluxe three-bedroom suites, all serviced by the central system air conditioning.

Samuel I. Oshiver Associates, Architects and Engineers, designed the building.

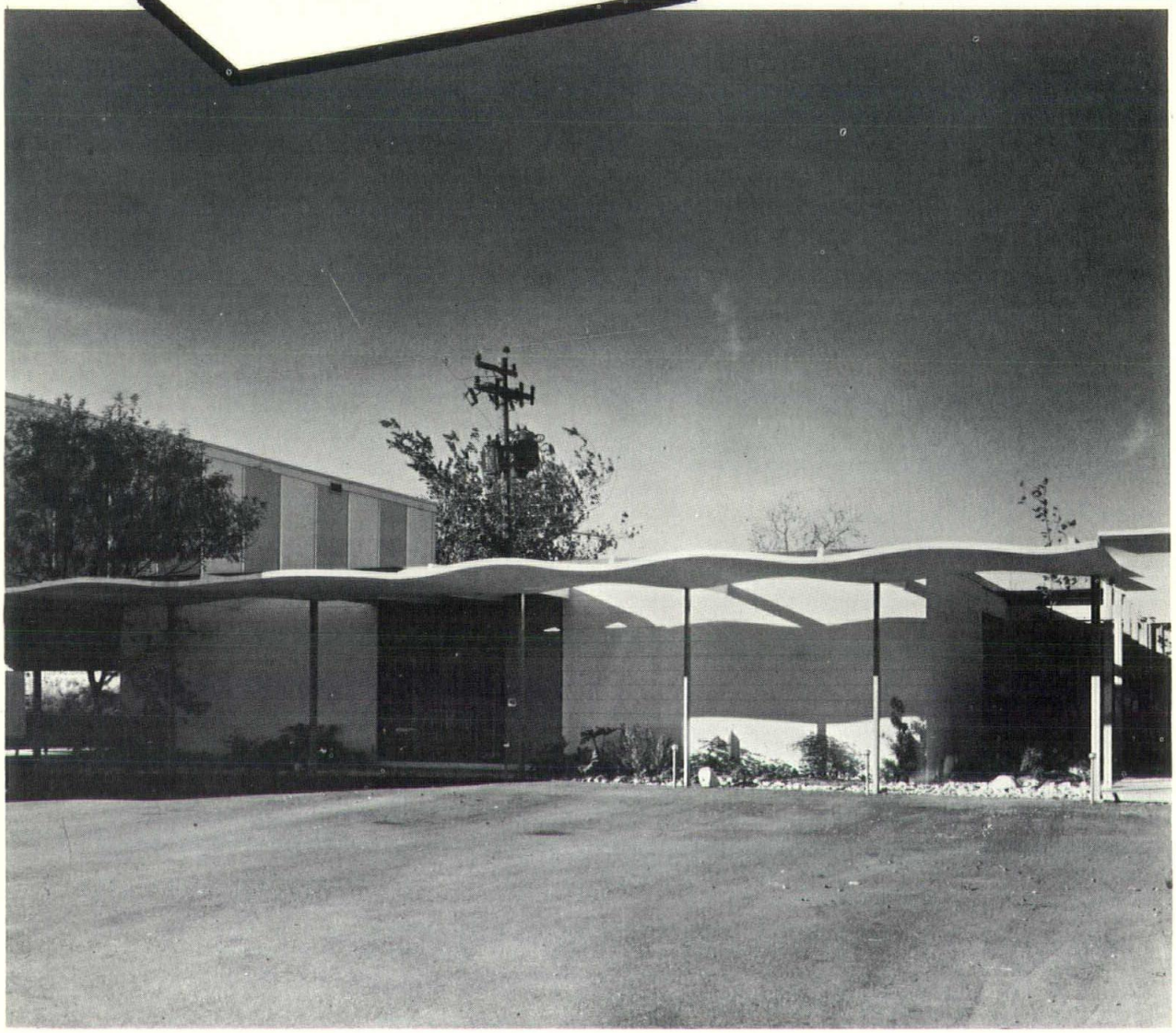
Latest construction picture of Park CityWest, Philadelphia, Pa.



The 625-ton centrifugal gas operated air conditioning system being manufactured by Worthington Corporation for Park City West luxury project in Philadelphia, Pa. will resemble this engine room installation at Black and Decker Plant in Maryland.

METAL LATH And PLASTER CANOPY IS ATTRACTIVE CAR PARKING SHADE

Beauty and utility were attained economically when a car parking shade was constructed of metal lath and portland cement plaster.



A CANTILEVERED "thin shell" concrete design has been achieved without the use of forms by means of metal lath and portland cement plaster in a small but interesting application in Houston, Texas.

Since the air conditioned automobile is becoming a near-necessity in hot climes such as Texas, Robert W. Maurice & Associates, Houston architects, realized the need to provide shade for the parked cooled cars as part of the remodelled Yeatman Building in Houston. A full carport would have dwarfed the building, but a cantilevered "thin shell" concrete ribbon ten feet wide proved to be the answer.

After welding reinforcing bars to steel beams, ¾ inch cold-rolled channels were bent and wire tied to the re-bars. The resulting frame was then covered with about 1000 square feet of galvanized metal lath. White portland cement plaster was applied over a gray portland cement scratch coat. Since no framing or forms were needed, the structure was built at an economical price.

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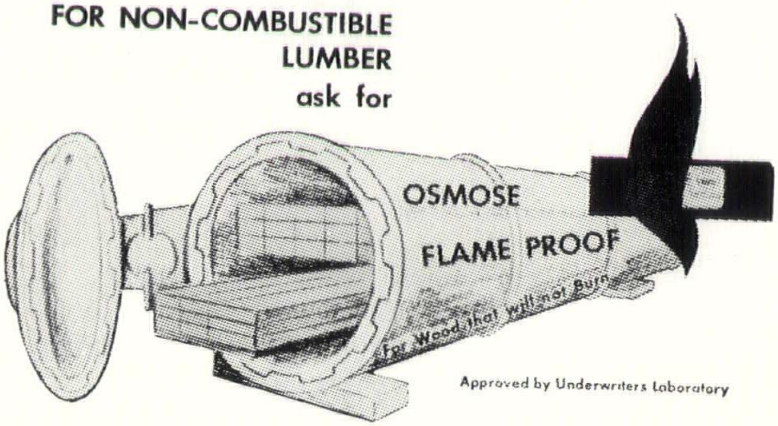

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