

# NEW HAMPSHIRE ARCHITECT

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# NEW HAMPSHIRE ARCHITECT

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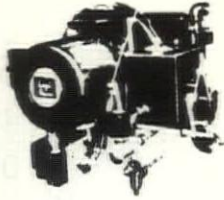
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## COVER PICTURE

Interior of "Instant Schoolhouse" erected at M.I.T., Cambridge, Mass. Detail and photos on pages 14 and 16. Photo credit to M.I.T. Cambridge, Mass. Department of Architecture.



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## NEW HAMPSHIRE CHAPTER, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS HOLD SPRING MEETING AT NORTH CONWAY

The New Hampshire Chapter, American Institute of Architects held its annual meeting on Friday, May 18, at the Eastern Slope Inn, North Conway.

Frank Kennett, Jr., was program chairman for the meeting.

Mr. Joseph Schiffer of Massachusetts Institute of Technology gave an informal talk illustrated with colored slides and motion pictures of a modular plastic unit developed at M.I.T., and sponsored by Monsanto Chemical Corp.; to be used in the construction of school buildings. Mr. Schiffer is associated with Professor Marvin Goody.

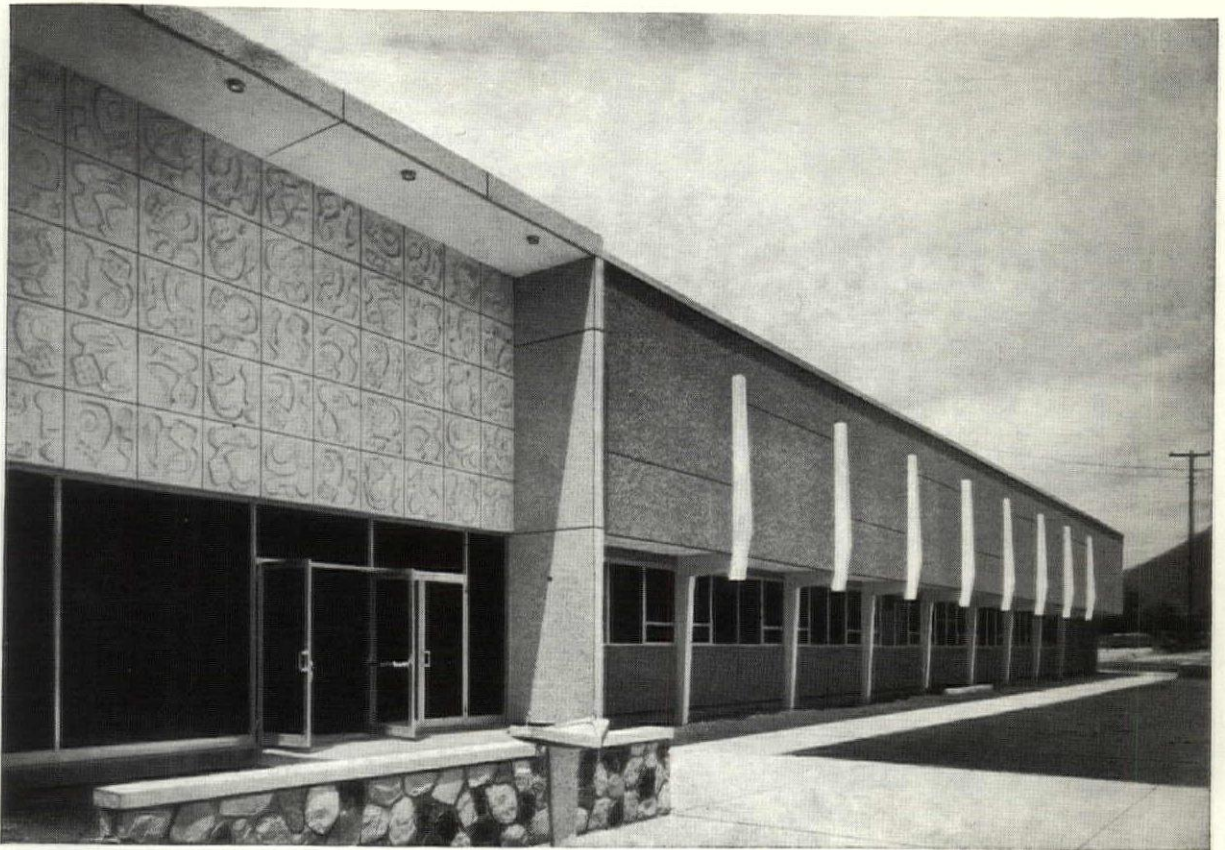
Following Mr. Schiffer's talk the annual meeting was held with election of new officers. The meeting was called by retiring President Andrew C. Isaak.

New officers are: Walter T. Williams of Littlefield & Williams, Dover, President; W. Brooke Fleck, Hanover, Vice President; Frank Kennett, Jr., No. Conway, reelected Treasurer; Russell S. Harmon, Durham, Secretary.

Directors are John A. Carter, Nashua; Edgar Hunter, Hanover, and Arthur Doyle, Keene.



Attending the May meeting of New Hampshire Chapter, American Institute of Architects, and elected to office were, left to right, John Carter, Nashua, Director, Russell S. Harmon, Durham, Secretary, retiring President, Andrew C. Isaak, Manchester, Walter T. Williams, Dover, President, W. Brooke Fleck, Hanover, Vice President, Frank Kennett, Jr., North Conway, Treasurer. Photo by Bob Duncan.



*General Purpose Addition to the Central Utah Vocational School, Provo, Utah. Architects: Dixon, Knell & Long, Provo, Utah. Engineer: Hugh McKellar, Provo, Utah.*

## **Fire safety came first – economy's a bonus in this low-cost, all-concrete school**



Stepped columns support the prestressed concrete frame. Offset provides extra 4 feet of classroom space on second floor and built-in sunshade over first floor windows.

Fire protection is a vital consideration when building a school. This was one reason the architects chose all-concrete construction for the new General Purpose Addition to the Central Utah Vocational School at Provo.

And use of concrete in its newest forms gave opportunity for economy, too. The entire shell of the building, including prestressed concrete roof, frame and floor beams, precast columns and curtain wall panels, was completed for \$3.21 per sq. ft.

All this and beauty, too. The warm texture of the exposed aggregate panels contrasts with the clean lines of the unusual stepped columns. Panels are "sandwich" type. No additional finishing is needed for interior surfaces. Over the entrance, small panels cast with plaster forms depict tools of industry.

More and more engineers are finding that concrete offers opportunity for money-saving construction.

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## JOHN J. REILLY

John J. Reilly, president of John J. Reilly, Inc. electrical contractors died at his summer home at Hampton Beach.

Mr. Reilly, dean of electrical contractors in New Hampshire, was a lifelong resident of Manchester. He was a veteran of World War I having served in the 103rd Yankee Division.

He held membership in the Henry J. Sweeney Post, American Legion, was a 4th Degree Knight, Knights of Columbus; the National Electric Contractors Association; the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and the Holy Name Society of St. Catherine Church. Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Margaret Reilly, a son, John J. Reilly Jr. of Bedford, a daughter, Mrs. Francis Blondin of Manchester, a sister, brother and five grandchildren.

### New Chapter Executive Committee Meets

The first meeting of the new Executive Committee recently met at the New Hampshire Highway Hotel, Concord. Also in attendance was the newly formed past presidents committee, of which Andrew C. Isaak is chairman.

Details of the meeting, new committees for Chapter functions and other information will be announced at a later date.

The meeting was conducted by Chapter President, Walter T. Williams.

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### Frank Kennett Jr. Changes Office Location

Frank Kennett Jr. has moved his office from West Side Road, Conway, to new and larger quarters on Main Street, North Conway. Judith Anderson, who has been at Yale for further studies during the winter is expected to return to the staff in June. Edwin C. "Ned" Vare has been with Mr. Kennett since February. Originally from Philadelphia, Ned also studied at the Yale School of Architecture, and has now settled in East Madison.

### Blumcraft Receives Award for '62 Catalogue

Blumcraft of Pittsburgh received an award for their 1962 catalogue in the product literature competition conducted jointly by the American Institute of Architects and The Producers Council, Inc.

The citation concerning the Blumcraft Aluminum Railing Catalogue M-62 reads:

"An example of the type of reference material architects find most helpful. Technical, informative, complete."

In each of the two years that Blumcraft submitted an entry, they have been successful in receiving an award.

### Please credit the following —

In the April issue, illustrating the Kendall Insurance, Inc. building modernization, in Rochester, N. H. we failed to give credit to all the contributors. Besides Littlefield & Williams, the architects who furnished the plans and article, the photographs were furnished by Kendall Insurance Inc., the sketch by Dawson advertising, Concord.

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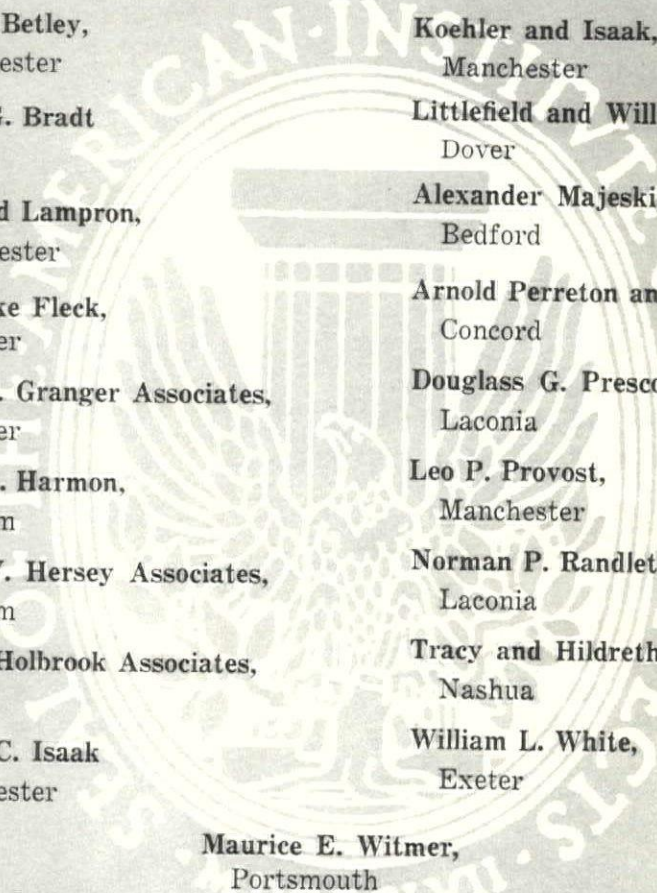


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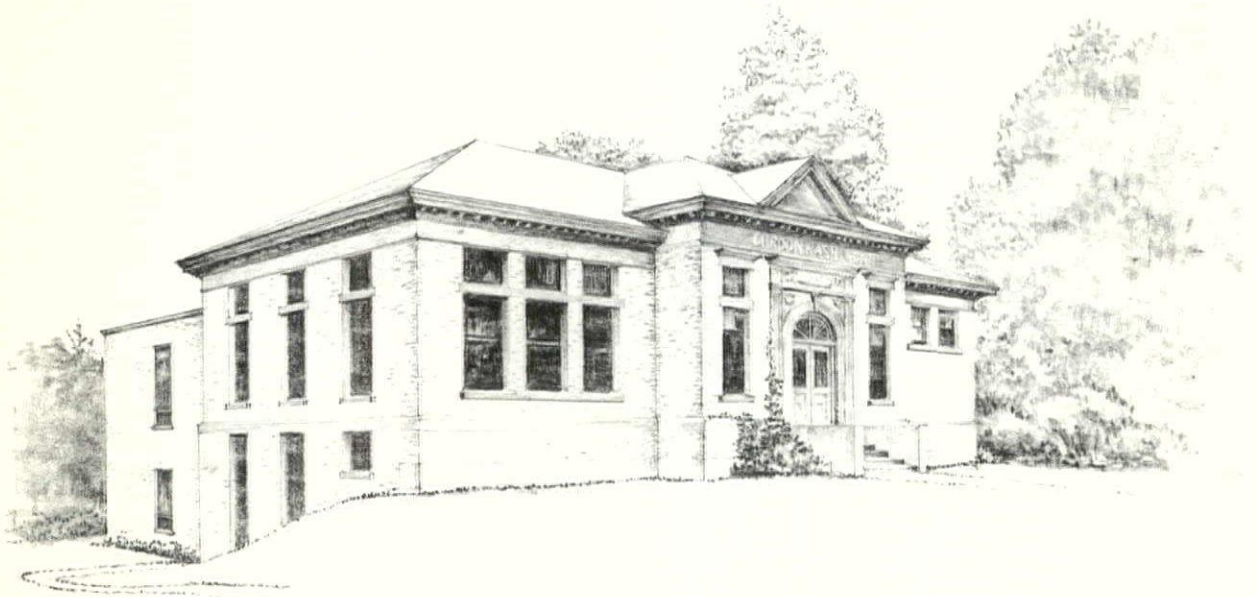
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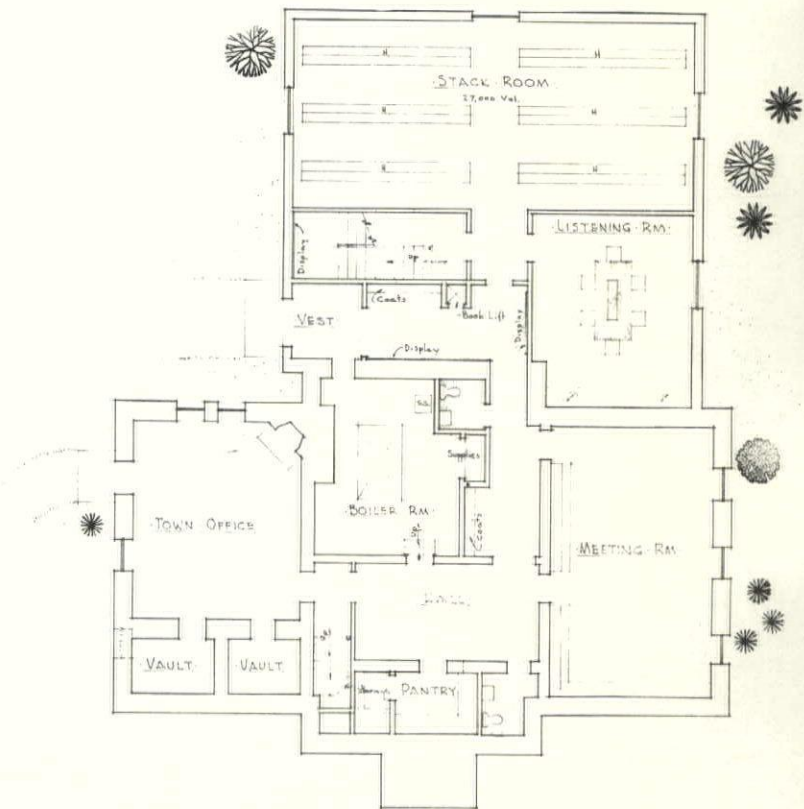
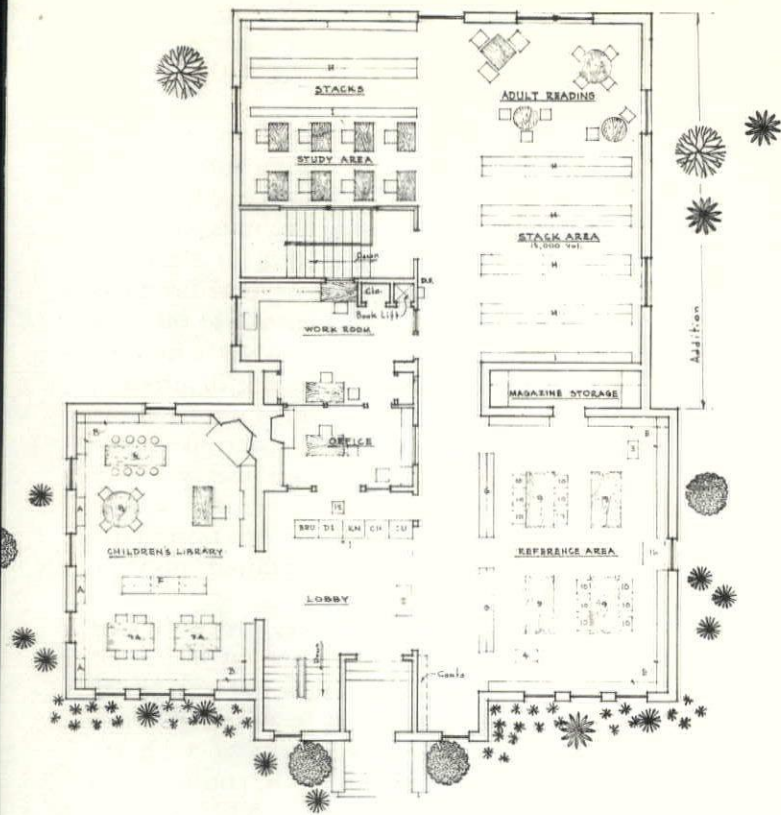
This project consisted of completely modernizing and redecorating the original building constructed in the 1800s; and in putting on an addition which doubled the size of the library. The Trustees felt justified in this project due to the growth of their Town, and to the increase in the enrollment of the New Hampton School For Boys which uses this facility. The Library was privately built and endowed, and no public funds were involved. The Building Committee was most cooperative about working with the architect on flooring, painting, furniture and equipment to achieve a pleasing harmonious overall effect.

To keep the cost of the addition within reason, it is of perfectly straight-forward construction: brick veneer over concrete block, the block being exposed on the inside; concrete flooring under tile; stock sash; bar joists; a suspended fibreglass ceiling; and a tar and gravel roof over insulated plank.

The electrical work consists of practically rewiring the existing building as well as the addition; and of installing fluorescent fixtures and a fire alarm system throughout. An electrically operated booklift was installed to bring books up from a downstairs stackroom.

The existing heating system was found to be so outmoded and inadequate that a completely new, 2-zone forced hot water system was installed; with individual room controls and baseboard radiation.





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## THE 1962 AIA BUILDING PRODUCTS REGISTER

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The AIA Building Products Register is the only reference which directly compares the physical characteristics and performance criteria of building products.

Specifically, the Register describes a product, gives its technical characteristics, tells who makes it, how it should and should not be used, what it is made of, in what sizes and finishes it is available, what accessories are furnished with it, what additional treatment it needs, and to what standards it conforms.

What the Register does not do is to replace the manufacturers' product literature or substitute for another reference. In point of fact, the user is encouraged to refer to other sources such as Sweet's Catalog File and the AIA Standard Filing System and Index. The Register often makes other literature more useful by narrowing the search for the kind of supplemental information needed.

The 1962 edition contains 1,700 individual product listings published in 24 categories together with 1200 abstracts of technical standards and specifications. The 24 product categories of the 1962 volume are:

(1) Foundations; (2) Structural Systems; (3) Curtain Walls; (4) Masonry; (5) Wood; (6) Metals; (7) Glass, Plastics; (8) Roofing, Siding; (9) Masonry and Concrete Treatments; (10) Thermal Insulation; (11) Sound Control; (12) Lath, Plaster & Trim; (13) Floor & Wall Covering; (14) Surfacing & Paneling; (15) Paints, Finishes, Protective Coatings; (16) Doors; (17) Windows; (18) Door & Window Equipment; (19) Hardware; (20) Skylights,

Roof Ventilators & Louvers; (21) Store Fronts; (22) Partitions and Wirework; (23) Furnishings & Special Equipment; (24) Residential Kitchen Equipment.

The best way to appreciate what the Register can do for you is to risk the nominal sum needed to buy one and start using it. To write a specification; to check out an "or equal" submission by a contractor; to advise a client about an alternate material; to determine which of several products will best fit your needs for a given condition; and to determine the availability of a product in your area, you look in the Register's index of product categories and check for the manufacturer's name in the index of manufacturers or by trade name in the index of trade names. Note that you can go directly from the Register to the proper section in the AIA Standard Filing System or appropriate page in Sweet's for illustrations, detailed specifications, etc.

The associations to which manufacturers belong are listed. Manufacturers show not only the recommended uses for their products but any which are not recommended. The basic material of which the product is made is shown together with the standard specifications to which it conforms. A wealth of useful abstracts of ASA, ASTM, government, and association standards is found at the end of each category.

To get the Register simply forward your check for \$15 to American Institute of Architects, 1735 New York Avenue, Washington 6, D. C., or signify that you wish to be billed. Your 1962 AIA Building Products Register will be sent to you promptly.

NORMAN P. RANDLETT, AIA

Member of the AIA Committee on Architectural and Building Information Services.



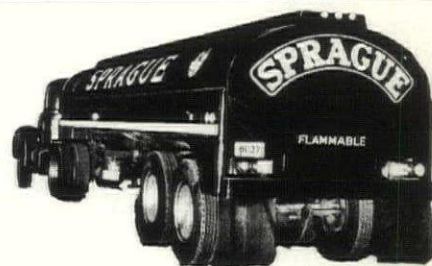
## QUESTION "WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR UGLINESS?"

It is too soon to have reports from the conference on Ugliness called by the Design Committee of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects on April 3. There have been few recent events I have regretted missing so much and I for one am impatient for the reports. One wonders if in a day from nine-o'clock to the last suburban train or bus departure, — at the Plaza Hotel (designed by Henry

Hardenbergh and completed in 1907) anyone could possibly arrive at the objective of the conference: "We do not want . . . . . a mere resolution but hope to see it start a national movement toward a more beautiful country." One wonders where this objective has or does end up.

What about ugliness? We really don't know just what it is but we know better perhaps what the contrast is because there is getting to be so little of it left around. On a trip from here to Washington, D.C., through Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland; one old New York town with its Dutch Reformed Church, New Castle, Delaware, the bridge

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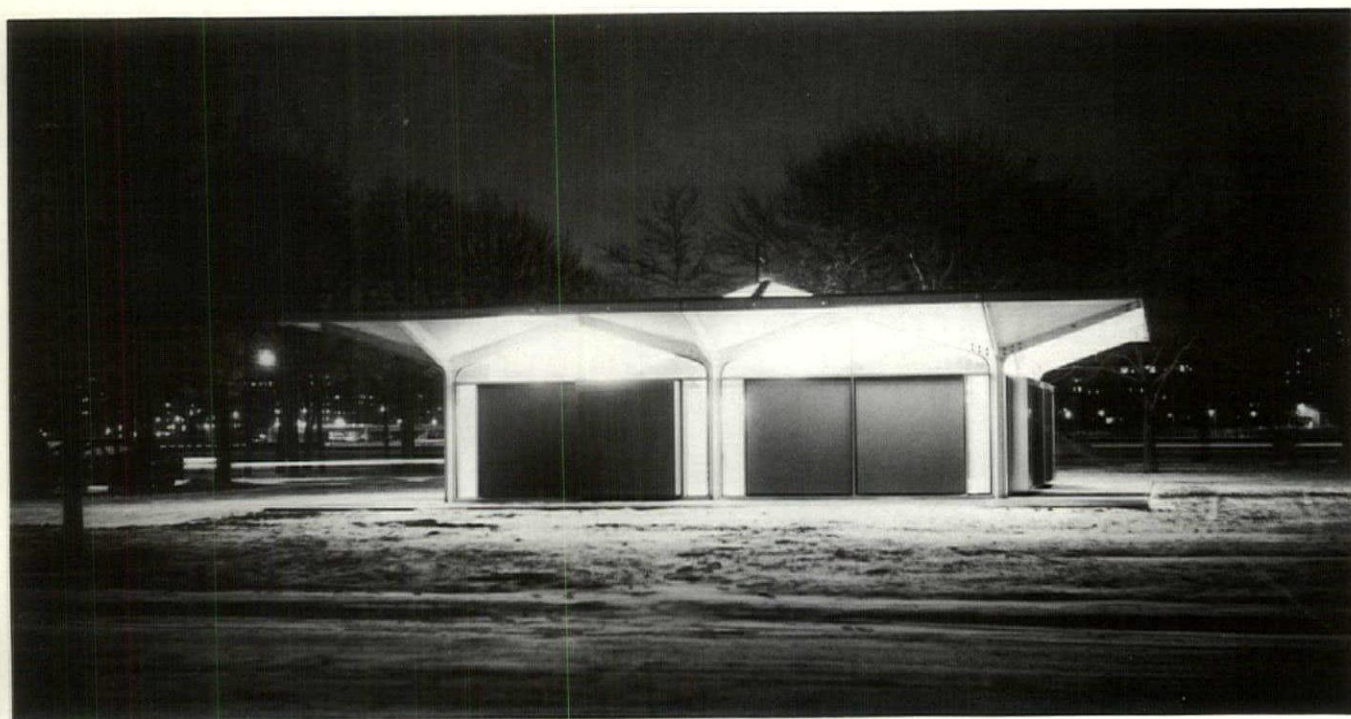
to Annapolis, a house in Georgetown by Thornton, where I stayed, stand out in relief against a continuum of tedious throughways, slaughtered seclusions, smoking industrial abbatoirs like sores on the giant New Jersey marshes, now epidemic everywhere! After a trip to the Gaspé last spring my architect school-mate and I looked at the 1000 miles of travel cheered by a breathless view of Quebec from Levis, the farms and a few towns before Cap Chat, the area around Percé and at Fredericktown in New Brunswick, and thought what 1000 miles in France, Germany, Austria and

Northern Italy had to show when we were travelling students. Thirty miles on the Tyrol would disclose a complete change of character in the living habits, eighty miles would take us from Austria to Venice over the alps and the Lombard plain with villages, towns, and great lengths of memorable countryside between. What is the difference between the New World and the Old between man near his sources and man waiting to be born in a test-tube?

George Santayana in the Sense of Beauty says "When the living core of things is most firmly grasped

Continued page 15

## "INSTANT SCHOOLHOUSE"



A demonstration classroom of a new, prefabricated "Instant Schoolhouse" has been completed on the campus of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Designed by two members of the Department of Architecture, the schoolhouse can be adapted to any community need, quickly assembled, expanded, converted to new needs, and even taken apart and reassembled at a new location.

The new concept in school construction was based on a four year study, headed by Assistant Professor Marvin E. Goody in the Department of Architecture, of the use of prefabricated building panels for construction purposes. To illustrate the applications of these panels, a detailed design for an elementary school was drawn up and a classroom has now been built.

Joseph Schiffer, instructor in architecture and designer for the project explained, "We selected the school as the subject of study as there is currently a pressing need for more schoolroom space. The design should enable school committees, working with their architects and planners, to construct standard school plans with greater flexibility. They can employ the sandwich panel concept in mobile classroom structures, demountable classrooms and, in general, obtain a flexible shelter for a variety of educational systems."

"Prefabrication," Professor Goody said, "offers an economy through mass production. However, regional factors such as the economic and social organization of the community, evolving teaching methods, and the viewpoints of school committees and educators set up varying requirements for the individual school. We have designed this school so that such factors can be taken into consideration. Our school is an entire system — roof, walls, floor plan, joints and bolts, lighting, air-conditioning, furniture, storage space. It is a versatile, complete package."

The school is constructed of building panels made of thin fiberglass outer skins bonded to a core of plywood. The panels are eight feet square and weigh about 270 pounds, or one-tenth the weight of a comparable concrete shell.

more on page 16

— there will accordingly be a felt inadequacy of expression, an appeal to the observer to piece out our imperfections with his thoughts. But this should come only after the resources of a patient and well-learned art have been exhausted; else what is felt as depth is really confusion and incompetence." Santayana then gives his characterization of the American people — "untrained" (because God made so many of us, to give Lincoln's comment) "well informed and eagerly responsive to everything" making a point of pride to understand and appreciate everything: . . . . .

Our art in its turn does not overlook this opportunity. It becomes disorganized, sporadic, whimsical and experimental. The crudity we are too distracted to refine, we accept as originality, and the vagueness are too pretentious to make accurate we pass off as sublimity. This is the secret of making great works on novel principles and of writing hard books easily. One might add of "styling" ones lares and penates, streamlining ones lanes and high roads, building ones shrines as public relations and of having "useful" friends to give a few contemporary postures.

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Somewhere deep in us are things which are permanently valid. It takes time, sweat and tears, love and integrity to raise them "de profundis." It takes love of mankind, knowledge and belief in a destiny under God, to recognize validity. If there were reverence for this validity it would not be destroyed as the works of Louis Sullivan are now being destroyed. If such were preserved, our civilization could build from strength to strength away from ugliness. Perhaps the most important of these validities is belief in our destiny under God. Such belief puts things in relationship to the best concepts of humankind, places them in aspiration not to the individual gain but to the com-

monweal; in short gives men something to live for not a man something to exploit. It is the heart which gives beauty to form created by the mind; the mind in turn which causes the heart to remember where it has been, what it has known: to see the human predicament steadily. There are elements into which the body also enters since we know structure very much through identification of it with bodily function and movement. All three are needed in any act of creation. Perhaps that culture which will use the whole man will also discover and reverence the eternally valid.

Shepard Vogelgesang A I A

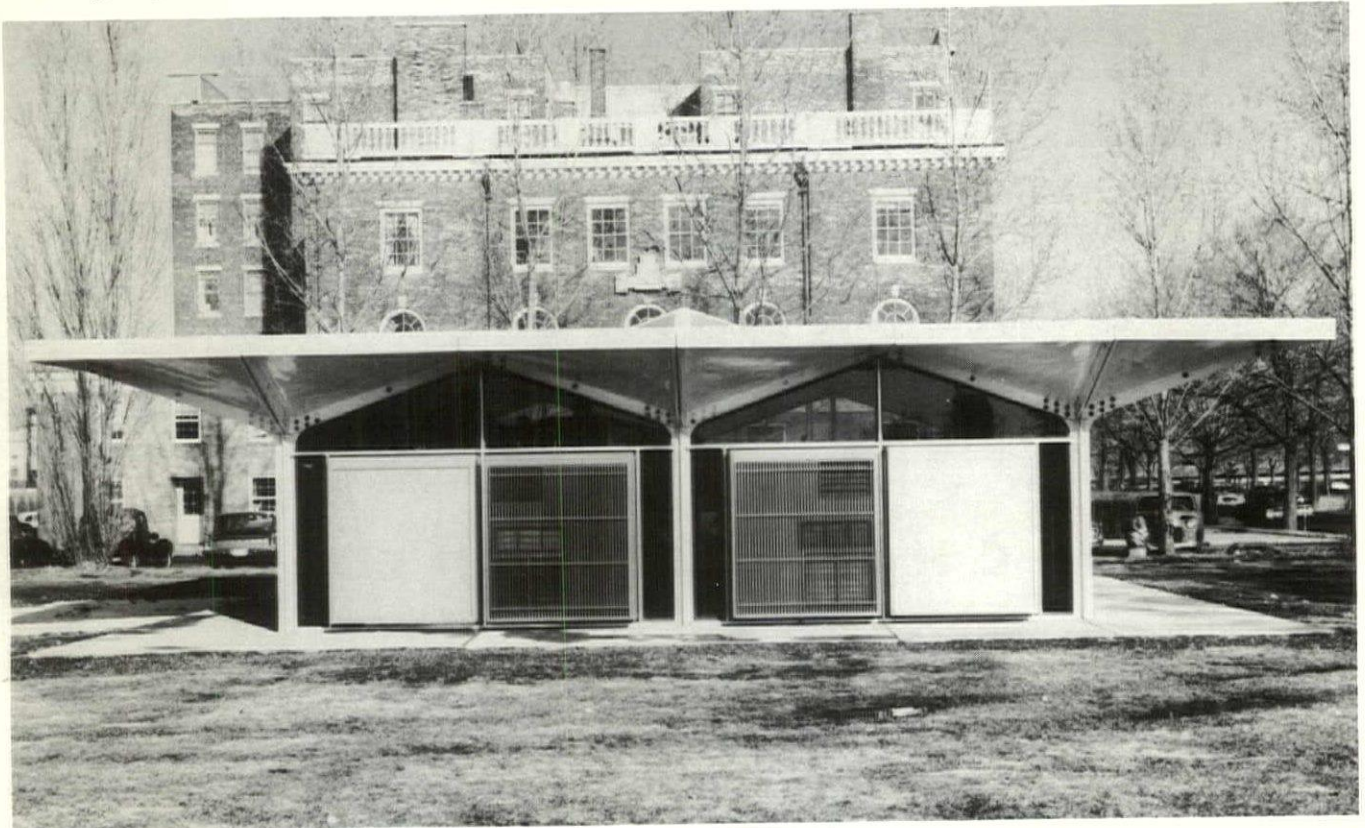
## "INSTANT SCHOOLHOUSE"

The basic structural unit of the school is called a "tree." It is a column with arms branching out in four directions to support the panels and the completed unit forms a 16' by 16' tree. Walls can be clipped in from four directions. Joined together, the units form a continuous roof and can be arranged in an endless variety of floor plans.

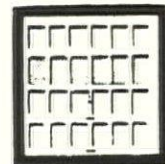
Reinforced concrete slabs and footings form the base into which the columns are set and aligned. Then the roof panels are raised, bolted together, and attached to the column head. By using bolted joints, it is possible to disassemble the structure partially if a change in plans is desired, or the entire structure can be disassembled, moved and reassembled at another site without difficulty.

The demonstration classroom, which has been erected just west of 420 Memorial Drive in Cambridge, uses eight of the structural trees to form a room 32 feet square. It has an eight-foot overhang on all sides for sun protection. "The room is manufactured, packed, shipped to the site, and erected for the same cost as the solid, inflexible classroom that is built today," Professor Goody said. "It can be erected in about one-tenth the time of a standard classroom the same size and, with air-conditioning, is designed to be used 12 months a year. A room that is built for thirty children now, can be expanded for 300 later. It is designed to deal with new ways of thinking about schools and new ways of teaching."

*Editor's note: Mr. Schiffer of M. I. T., mentioned in this story was guest speaker on the subject at the AIA meeting May 18.*



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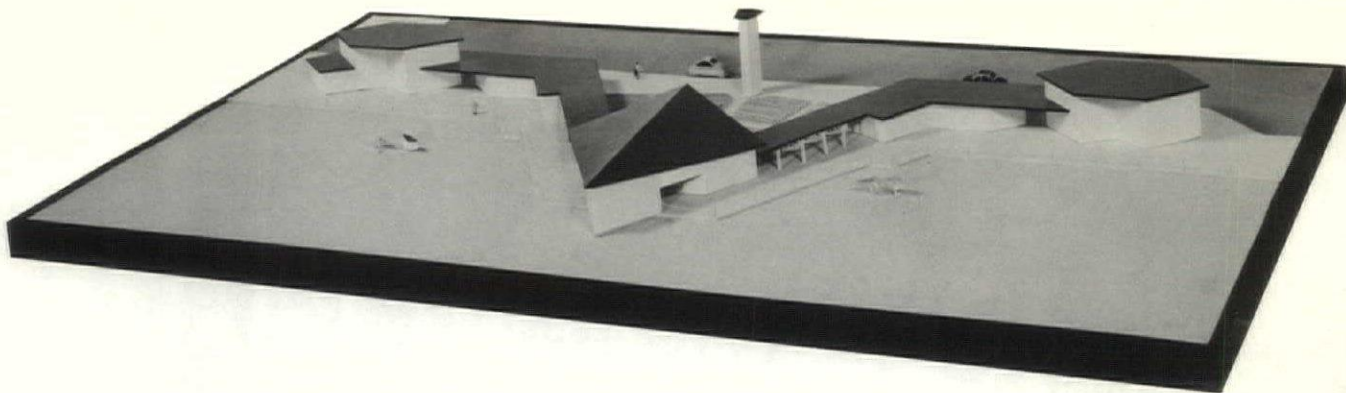


Photo shows model of new Hampton Beach Central Facility now under construction and to be completed June 1, 1963. Being built for the Division of State Parks, under the supervision of State of New Hampshire, Department of Public Works and Highways the structure was designed by W. Brooke Fleck, AIA, Hanover, and is being constructed by the Mishara Construction Co., East Natick, Mass.

At a cost of \$323,226. the Facility will house, on the right, Chamber of Commerce, Travel Agency, Bus Depot and Information Service. Flanking the seating area are men's and women's toilet facilities, combined with an open breezeway connecting to the stage. The main boardwalk passes through the stage area, with the stage projecting one hundred feet onto the beach. The nose tip will house a first aid and life guard stations. The structure on the left will house a two story observation building. Seating capacity of the central outdoor auditorium is twelve hundred.

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Photo, left to right: Harold E. Wescott, Jr.; Arthur Whitcomb; Nils Skorve, Structural Concrete Corporation; Bob Curtis, Blakeslee Prestress; and Al Roy, San-Vel Corporation.

The Prestressed Concrete Association of New England held their May meeting at the Nashua Country Club in Nashua, New Hampshire. This organization was formed recently to further the development of the prestressed concrete industry in the New England area. The companies represented are San-Vel Corporation of Littleton, Massachusetts, Blakeslee Prestress of New Haven, Connecticut and Structural Concrete Corporation of Laconia, New Hampshire and Auburn, Maine.

This past winter the Association sponsored an exhibit at the New England Building Congress in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Association further intends to hold district seminars on the design of and construction with prestressed concrete and to disseminate technical information through bulletins and direct mail literature.



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