



TEXAS ARCHITECT

JUNE

1965

COVER

The varied activity
areas of the Community
Recreation Center of
Clear Lake City are
accessible from this
spacious, covered concourse.

Texas Architecture
1965 award winner,
designed by Caudill,
Rowlett, and Scott,
Architects

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THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

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Don Edward Legge, A.I.A., Editor
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THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

Volume 15 / June, 1965 / Number 6

Towns are like people: they need someone to love them, someone who cares.

Mostly we use our towns, abuse them, impose on them, crowd them, stretch them, tear at them and worst of all, ignore them.

Take from them and seldom put anything back. Seldom care.

Every town needs that little knot of people who are concerned about the way it looks, how it works; who care for its history and who respect its fabric; who understand its nature and character.

Every town needs the architects and artists, the historians and teachers, the bankers and businessmen who will put into their towns the care that will make their community vital and beautiful.

Why don't you care?

DEL



1965 AIA CONVENTION • XI CONGRESO PANAMERICANO DE ARQUITECTOS

The problems of spiraling urbanization that beset the Americas will be searched here June 13-18 at the 97th annual convention of The American Institute of Architects and the XI Pan American Congress of Architects in Washington, D. C.

"Cities of the New World" is the theme for the joint convention/congress which will be attended by architects from 21 Latin American countries and the United States. The sessions of the Pan American Congress will be the first ever held in the United States.

A distinguished group of 26 speakers will lead a thorough examination of the problems of urban growth in the Americas, both North and South, and in an exchange of remedies being applied in both.

Added to the previously announced roster of speakers have been Sir Robert Matthew, Hon. FAIA, president of the International Union of Architects, and Jack H. Vaughn, assistant secretary of state for Inter-

American Affairs.

The hemispheric gathering — the world's largest single assemblage of architects—has attracted global attention.

Delegates by way of historical perspective will have mutual starting points because the cities of both North and South America began as colonial outposts. Both the United States and South America have rich histories of city and regional planning.

Architects on either side of the equator are expected to learn much from each other at the convention/congress, bolstering their attack on the stresses that result from the convergence of the peoples of both continents upon urban areas.

Registration will open Sunday, June 13, at the Sheraton-Park Hotel, headquarters for the convention/congress. Opening sessions will be held Monday, June 14, with working sessions of the congress and seminars of the AIA to follow. Most sessions will be joint meetings.

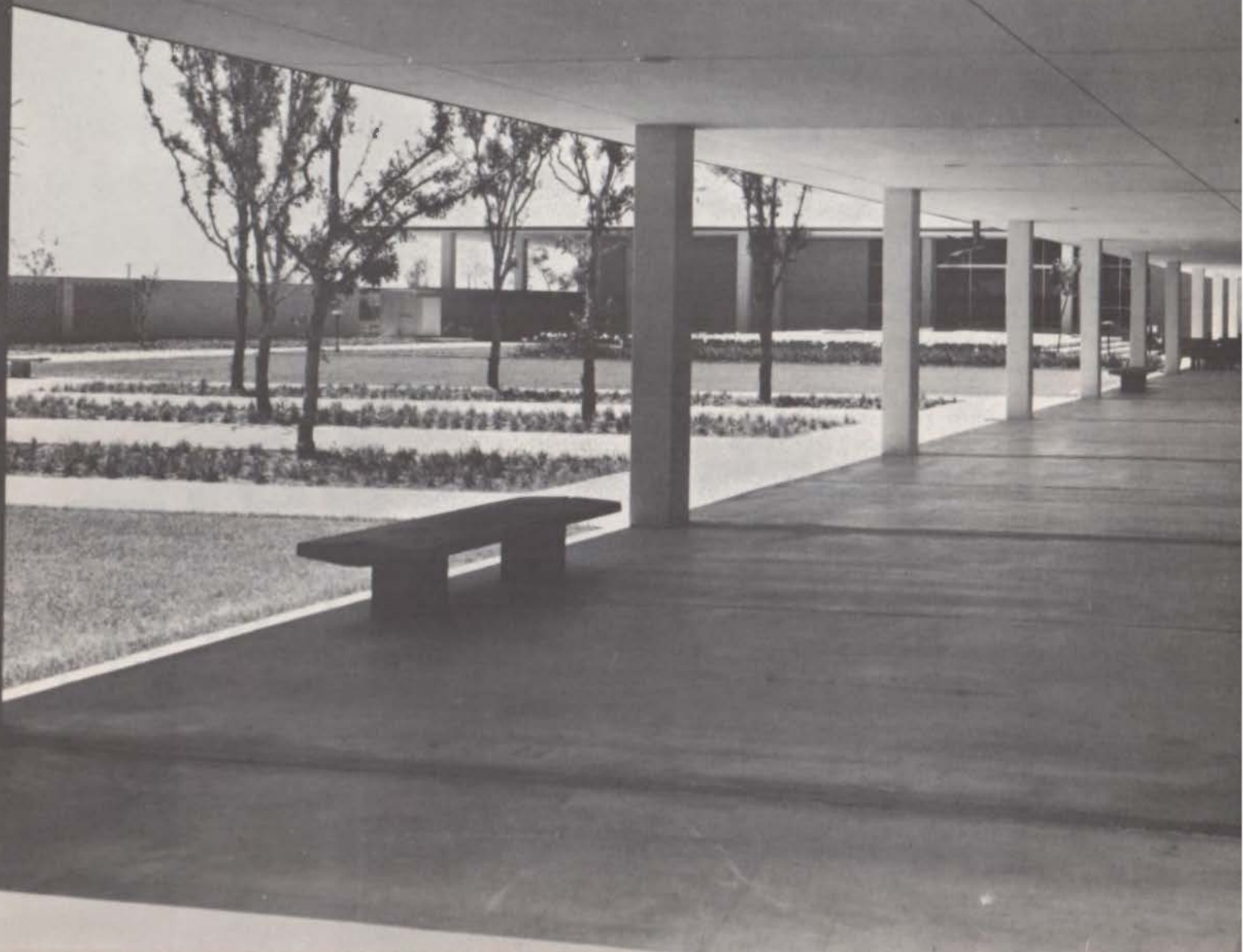
Sir Robert Matthew, immediate past president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, has headed the UIA since 1961. He was knighted the following year. He was chief architect and planning officer of the Department of Health for Scotland in 1945 and architect to the London County Council from 1946 to 1953. He is a professor of architecture at Edinburgh University.

Sir Robert will address the opening ceremonies of the convention/congress Monday, June 14.

Jack H. Vaughn, by virtue of his position as assistant secretary of state for Inter-American Affairs, to which he was appointed this year, heads the Alliance for Progress program. Before assuming his post he served as ambassador to Panama and, prior to that, as head of the Peace Corps program development and operations for Latin America. Vaughn will address the convention/congress closing ceremonies Friday, June 18.

TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1965
HONORED FOR DISTINGUISHED DESIGN

COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER · CLEAR LAKE CITY, TEXAS
CAUDILL, ROWLETT AND SCOTT, ARCHITECTS



COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER, CLEAR LAKE CITY, TEXAS

This recreation center is the focus of community activities in a new totally planned urban community near Houston.

As space for the group activities of entire families was the object, one can well imagine the multitude of kinds of areas that might be needed: a place for bridge playing, one for basketball games, another for the Kiwanis Club, swimming for teen-agers, a safe wading pool for toddlers, dressing rooms for swimmers, another for community plays, and on and on.

So program development played a large part in this center. And the architectural problem became one of translating this many-faceted program into a well organized, economic, meaningful building group.

The needs appeared to lend themselves to suitable division according to either the size of group to be served or the nature of the activity:

Large Groups

Indoor sports, large meetings, plays and recitals and community dinners all required a large indoor space.

Small Groups

Small meetings and luncheons, care of pre-school children, and quiet indoor games each needed comparatively small spaces which might be grouped together.

Water Play

Pools of all sorts, diving, olympic swimming, and wading, together with bathhouses and outdoor spaces about them should reasonably be grouped for convenient supervision and maintenance.

Ground Play

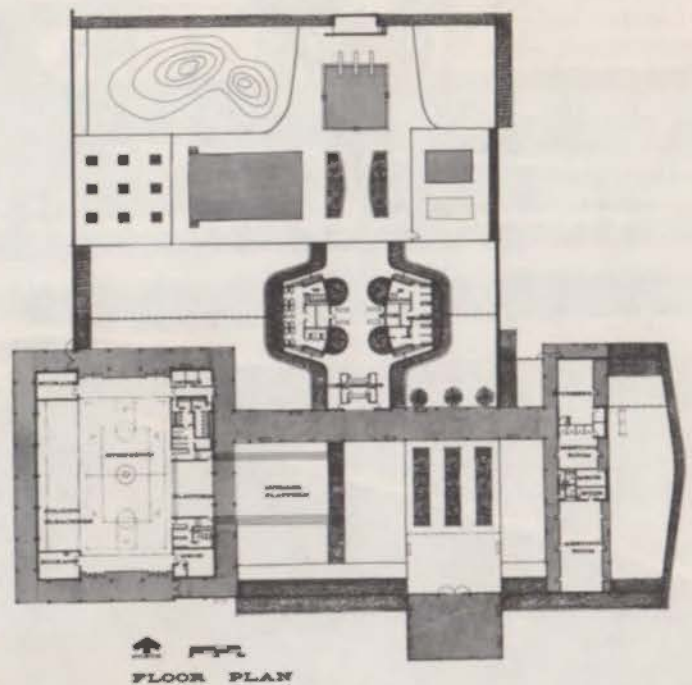
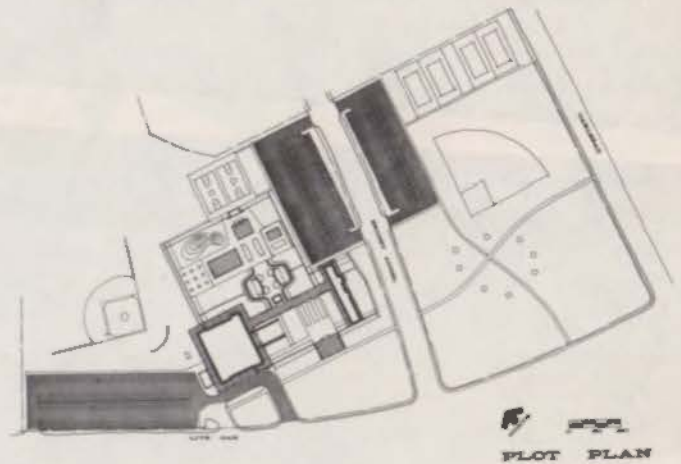
Places for all the outdoor games and sports and play for all ages could be considered as a division and located in proper relation to other elements.

Complicating the planning further was the need to accommodate caterers, to plan for complete or partial security, and for convenient parking.

In the site plan these basic program elements are easily recognized as physical elements. Large groups are housed in the square Gymnasium-Auditorium; small groups in the long rectangle; water play appears as a great yard full of pools tied to the buildings by a fluidly-shaped bathhouse area. Ground play is all about, surrounding the other elements and located according to the particular activity: fenced places for little children, covered spaces, open areas, big places.

Excellent planning, studious organization, and ingenious multi-use is obvious in the completed product.

The Gymnasium-Auditorium has folding bleachers, seating 936 spectators for league basketball. The bleachers are grouped on one side facing the stage-platform so that when the building is used for entertainment their seating capacity can be added to folding chairs set on the playing floor. When not in use the bleachers are folded and



CAUDILL, ROWLETT AND SCOTT, ARCHITECTS

the Gymnasium becomes an expanded open floor for community games, parties or exhibits. A sliding glass wall from the stage extends the space onto an outdoor platform in the Social Court.

Dressing rooms can be used for athletic events and as "green-rooms." Chairs and table storage is provided, the same space doubling as a concession stand and serving kitchen for caterers. Another storage room serves to issue athletic equipment.

In the Activities Building, there is a complete small nursery, meeting rooms, and serving facilities.

The endless outdoor activities are scattered about in courts, playsheds, yards, concourses, playgrounds, and picnic areas. The play pavilion functions as a pedestrian gateway as well as for activities in the shade.

These four basic elements were all combined with generous covered areas and landscaping in a purposeful attempt to promote a visual continuity of space throughout the center.



Seen from the main drive adjacent to the Center, the four basic elements of the program are apparent in the roofs: the large hip of the auditorium, the small roof of the activities building on the right, the playshed-entry pavilion representing outdoor activities, and the long, low roof defining the pool area beyond.



The restless curves of the bathhouse area hurry one toward the pools.

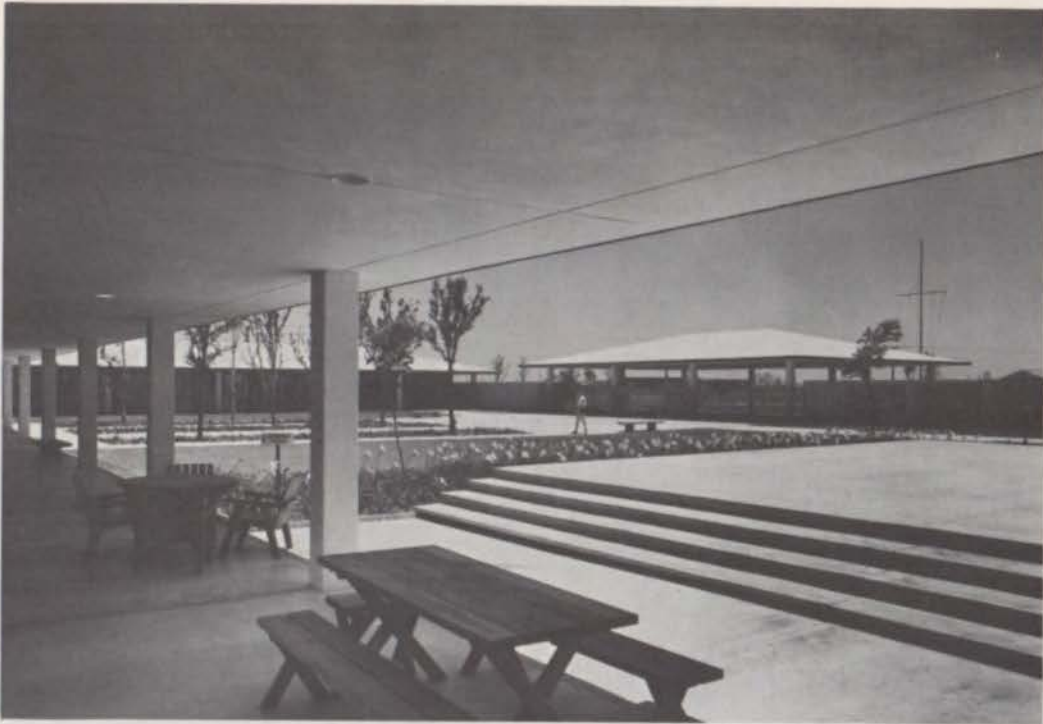
COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER, CLEAR LAKE CITY, TEXAS



The rhythm of the columns, the height of ceilings, deep shade, and landscaping contribute to creating a human scale to the large Social Court.



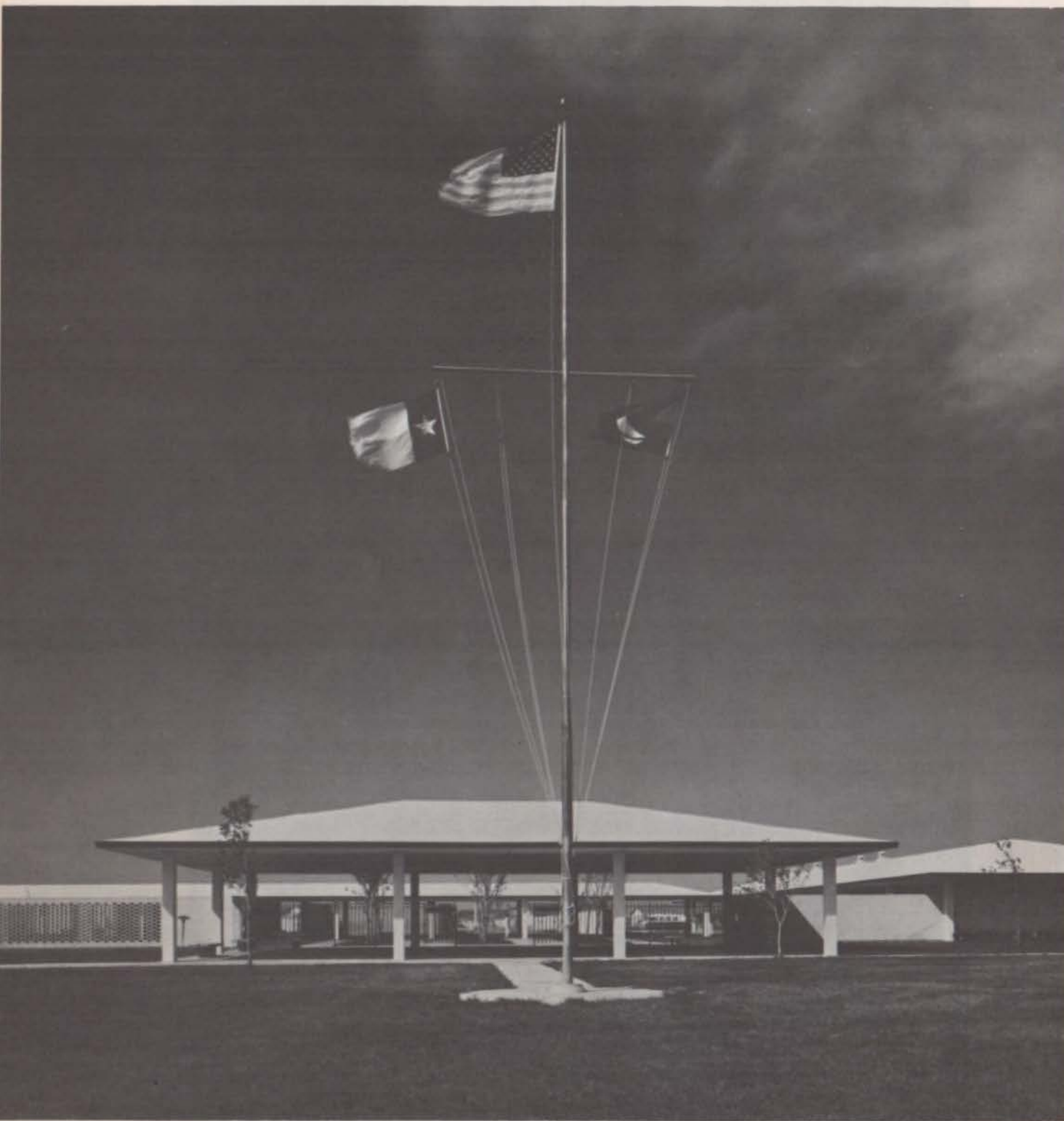
Bright and cherry and indestructible, the nursery and its play-yard are happy places. (With the blocks stacked in the wagons and rolled off to the side, it could be a meeting room in the evening or a good place for dancing class.)



Looking across the outdoor platform from beneath the covered concourse, one can imagine the multitude of activities that could happen here. Wouldn't a community fair with lots of ballons and bright colored kiosks and cotton candy be fun in here?



But the court can be quite and restful and protecting from the stiff gulf breezes for a single person to sit in the sun.



Wouldn't it be delightful to have handsome centers such as this in all our neighborhoods? Perhaps it would lead the shopping centers away from garishness and vulgarity. Maybe it would suggest that privacy is for home, that togetherness is for places like this.

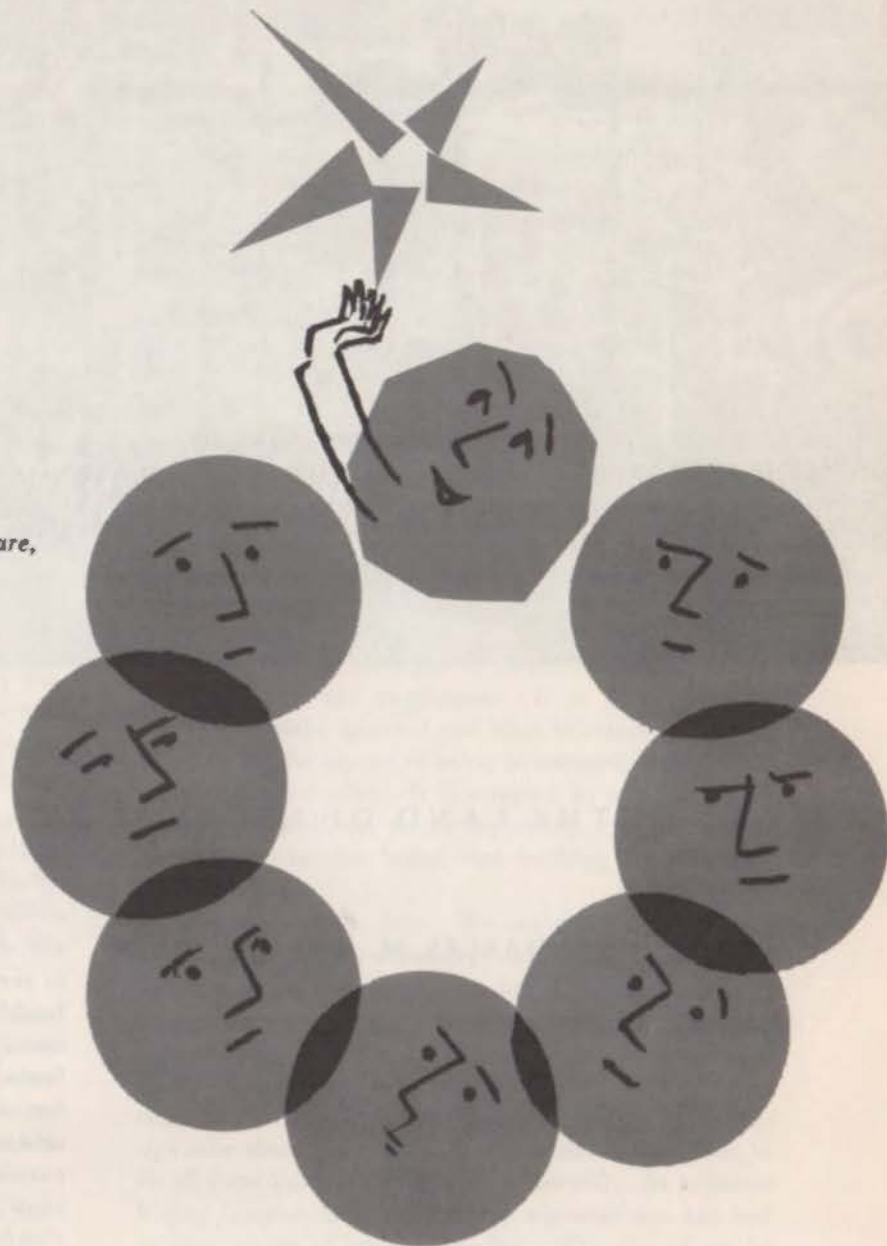
"Peter and the Commissar"

Building committees can sometimes be a bit trying.

Many an architect has shuddered and wryly smiled as he listened to a late recording of "Peter and the Commissar" composed and conducted by comic/philosopher Allen Sherman with the Boston Pops Symphony Orchestra.

Search your soul, committee-member!

*"And the one thing about these people that is
such an awful pity
Is that they forget that they're people—
they're parts of a committee!
With committee shaped souls and committee
shaped hearts,
Like interchangeable auto parts!
It's a shame because one by one they might,
Invent something colorful or create some-
thing bright,
That's how anything that's pretty always gets
its start,
In a single human brain, in a single
human heart.
For no matter how small or unimportant you are,
There is something inside you that can reach
a star!
But these people on committees, they sit
there all day,
And they each put in a color, and it comes
out gray!
Now gray is a nice color, but not if you've
ever seen,
Orange, or red, or yellow, or blue or green.
And we've all heard the saying which is true
as well as witty,
'That a camel is a horse designed by a
committee'.
The only reason for committees—people
being what they are,
Is that everybody wants to be the big
chief commissar.
You get to wear the uniform, you get to
wear the medals,
And you sit on the handlebars while
everybody pedals."*





IN THE LAND OF NEGLECT

CHARLES M. NES, JR. FAIA

At various stages of man's history, architects have been concerned with using their design skills to create security against attack, solve problems of structure, and win acceptance of new concepts of art. All of these problems are still with us to some degree, but they all amount to very little compared to the issue which faces the professional architect today. Today's architect does not merely design structures and spaces and, as geometric forms, new towns and cities. He has the responsibility for creating environment, the physical fabric in which urban people must spend their lives. And the present paradox is this: It is not enough for today's architect to know how to do this well, or even brilliantly. He must also be able to make a large number of other people understand the importance of doing it and to accept the idea that it is possible and feasible.

If I may quote another professional man, Dr. Jonas Salk says that "the source of man's power over life is through the effect he can have upon his environment." Dr. Karl Menninger tells us that mental illnesses are the product of a disordered way of life. "Something has gone wrong," he says, "with the way people see the environment, use the environment, and allow themselves to be used by the environment."

Since the height of a ceiling, the width of a sidewalk, and the visual confusion of signs and colors all have physiological and psychological effects on people which we cannot ignore, we must consider these effects in the micro-environments we create. These effects are seldom considered by people who, under the safe banner of free enterprise, systematically exploit and destroy our urban environment to make another quick buck.

Worse, these effects are not adequately considered by the people who suffer them. That is to say, they have not been in the past. Now, however, the public is becoming aware that something is seriously wrong when the nation with the world's most advanced technology, best program for mass education, and most stable political system lives in a sea of urban ugliness. Slums are an important part of this urban mass, but I do not speak primarily of the visible results of poverty, but of the visible results of wealth.

A poor people would not have the resources to bulldoze down trees, pave parkland to make parking lots, ram highways across residential areas, desecrate the waterways, and fill the city and its approaches with a repulsive jumble of billboards, store signs, and ugly street furniture.

People must realize that they are affected by their environment and, most important of all, that they can alter and control their environment. We must realize that

we have an entirely new kind of responsibility for making qualitative decisions about our urban environment. These decisions were made in the past by kings and priests and nobles. They issued the decree and fixed the styles. Today, they're all gone. For the first time in history, the ordinary citizen has the responsibility for making the qualitative decisions about his environment. For the first time, urban man is on his own.

Much of the mess around us now is not the result of bad taste, or even of bad decisions, but of no decisions at all. We have a rich American heritage in community design. The citizens of early America were planners. Today we plan our governmental programs and we plan our business affairs, but we build and rebuild most of our towns and cities without plans. Instead, we speculate with individual structures in a general no man's land of neglect. This situation is exacerbated by archaic building codes and regulations. It is perpetuated by people who make ignorant and often unconscious esthetic decisions in the course of sales, investment, and governmental administration. It is accepted by a public which has trained itself not to see or, seeing, resigns itself to the situation in the belief that nothing can be done about it.

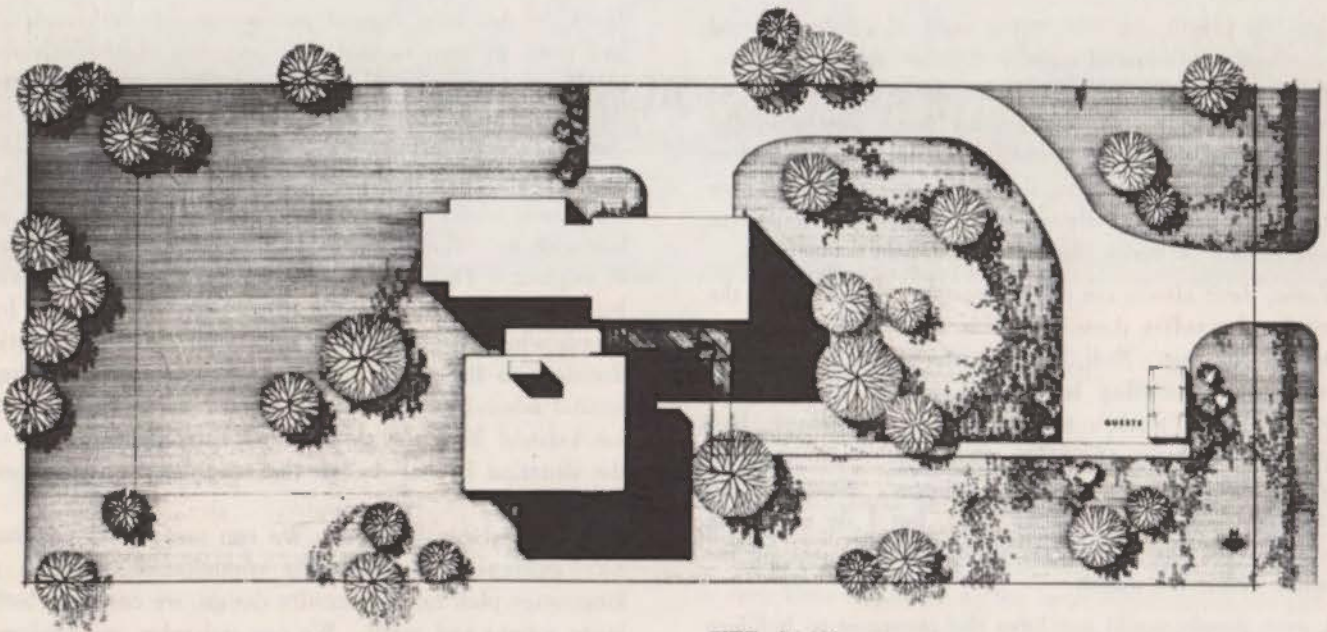
A great deal *can* be done. We can move from community awareness to community commitment. Within a long-range plan for community design, we can take both large actions and small. We can redevelop our business districts, clear out the litter, control the billboards and signs, preserve historic buildings and green spaces, bring out transportation system under control, plant trees, design new street furniture. We have the design skills to do all these things. All it takes is the will. As architect Walter Gropius has said: "Every vigorous age has had its own vision of urban splendor. Why should we be deprived of it?"

HOFF
RESIDENCE
HOUSTON
TEXAS

Eventually each architect must summon the courage to face the trauma of having his own family for a client: Bill Hoff faced it.

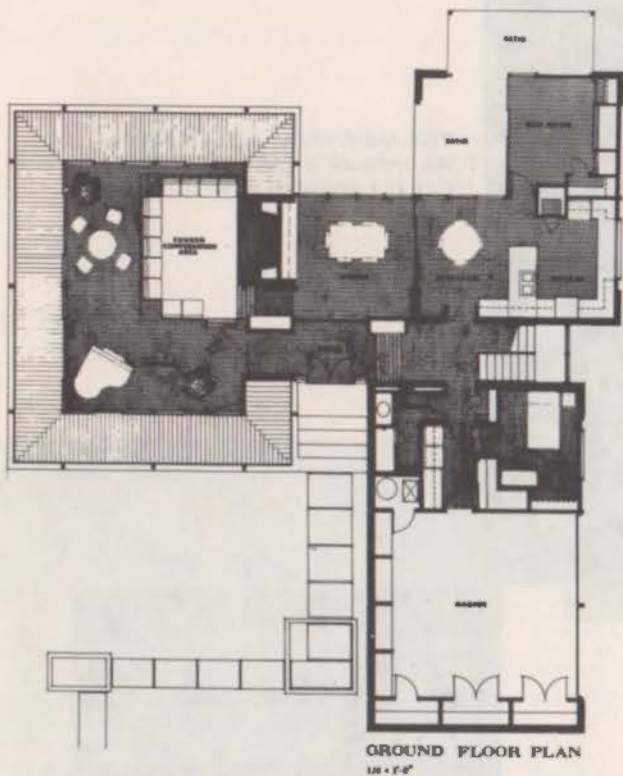
The result: Merit Award in the AIA's 1965 Homes for Better Living Program. Within the framework of his program, lending itself to a clear separation of functions, the architect has established two major elements which manifest themselves as cubic volumes in sharp contrast to the profusion of verticles of the pine trees on the site.

The contrast between solid and line, which might be harsh, has been gently softened: each block of the house has an exposed steel frame whose vertical members have been accentuated so that the linear quality of the trees is repeated within the mass of the cubes. Reflecting the natural form about it, the house seems to grow from the site and float among the slender pines.



SITE PLAN
1'-0"

The studied separation of the living functions is apparent in this site plan; entertaining, dining, working in the square shape; private quarters in the complex rectangle.

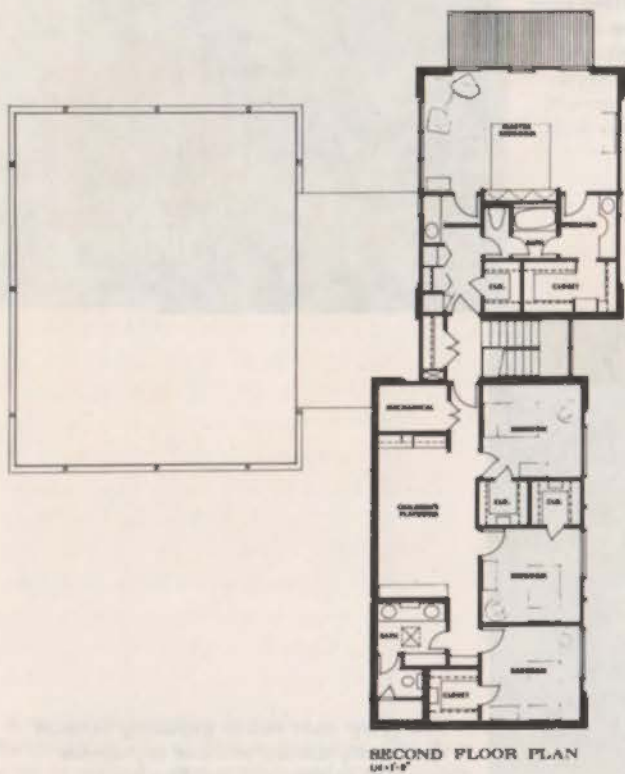


The first floor plan explains the shape of the house; a large living room which in itself is a major and separate element, both in actual use and as a design mass.

Work spaces and private dining and living become a distinct area as do services and garage.

Circulation ways connect these major areas and lead up to the family's private quarters on the second floor.

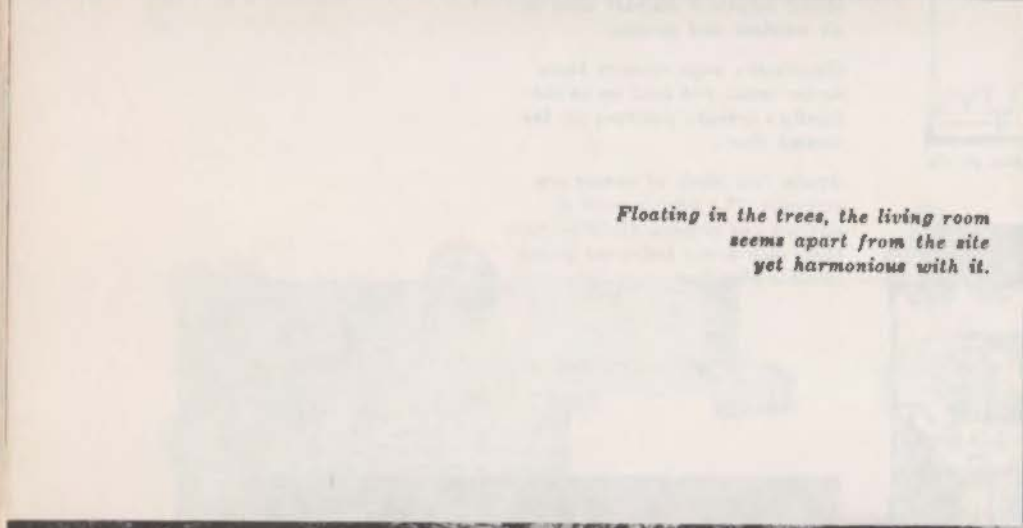
Again, two kinds of spaces are separate. The adult's suite is distinct and private. Children have their own area: bedrooms group about a playroom.



The severity of the house's geometry is eased with the use of soft, warm materials: rough textured brick and redwood.



The steel frame of the cubes repeat the verticals of the trees and blend with the nature-forms of the site.



Floating in the trees, the living room seems apart from the site yet harmonious with it.



The entry walk twists angularly through the densely wooded site and approaches in a way to show the building blocks in different aspects.



HOFF RESIDENCE • HOUSTON, TEXAS

Continuity of floor materials is a cohesive. Colors are brown-tones with white punctuated with vibrant paintings and bright rugs.



The study in line and mass continues inside: the block-like shapes of the book cases and the verticals of the rail reflect the exterior composition elements. Variation in interior volumes is achieved through varying floor levels and ceiling heights. Narrow spaces open into wide ones; close ones burst into expansive spaces.



A major conversation grouping is sunken about the fireplace, almost Queen Anne-like. The floor turns up to make its own couches and corner tables. The varying heights within the living room make for a multitude of spatial experiences and creates many effective spaces for entertaining groups.

A.I.A. endorses national legislation

The American Institute of Architects announced today its endorsement of two pieces of national legislation, one to create a Department of Housing and Urban Development and the other to establish a National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities.

Its support of the proposed department, the AIA said, is "prompted by our awareness of the complexity and scope of urban problems."

The organization said its advocacy of the foundation stems from a belief that "encouragement and support of the arts are appropriate concerns of government."

The AIA, a national professional society with nearly 17,000 corporate members and several thousand associate members in all states, represents a substantial majority of the nation's architectural firms. The Institute entered into Congressional hearings statements on both measures. It said its interest in the new department is based not only on the need for the department but on the "dedication of the architectural profession" to provide a "proper physical environment for the people of this nation."

Delegates to the AIA convention of 1957 adopted a resolution advocating the establishment of a department of urban affairs and since then the Institute has supported all legislation to grant department status to government functions relating to housing and urban development.

More than 70 per cent of the national population is now concentrated

in urban areas, with the trend toward greater urbanization continuing, the AIA pointed out. "The urgent need for programs at a cabinet level to meet the crisis of these urban areas is clear," the AIA said.

"We believe," the AIA said, "through the strengthening of the urban housing and planning assistance functions of the federal government, more comprehensive, consistent and effective programs will lead to better urban design and better urban building throughout the country."

The group urged "maximum coordination" of such federal activities as public roads, federal building programs and national parks." It viewed the department as a center of research on urban development and as a focal point for a greater national comprehension of the need to improve building and housing codes, zoning and other regulations.

A Department of Housing and Urban Development will "lend authority, prestige and greater effectiveness to programs seeking imaginative and creative means to improve our urban environments," the AIA said.

The Institute viewed the department as strengthening "constructive relationships" between the governments of the nation, states and cities. It added:

"The problems of urban America are so complex and numerous that they have already exceeded the abilities of many communities to cope with them. The Institute believes that their solution requires a coordinated attack by

*Architects
attend
Conference*

today's society in which the federal government's responsibility is undertaken by a cabinet rank department." The Institute said its support of the proposed National Foundation on the Arts and Humanities "includes the full scope of the pending legislation as it relates to the arts and humanities.

"This advocacy stems from our longstanding belief that the arts and humanities are mutually complementary and essential to our nation's development."

But the AIA cautioned against "fostering of aesthetic and humanistic enlightenment in a few major fields while tolerating dullness and ugliness in the communities of our nation. The group suggested the scope of the legislation be broadened to "benefit our entire national community and our people in their day-to-day activities."

The AIA strongly affirmed language of the legislation prohibiting government intervention in the policy or administration of non-federal organizations.

It also recommended inclusion in foundation representation of such architecture-allied fields as engineering, landscape architecture and planning as well as architecture. It stressed that education also should be included, along with architectural history, noting the "national disposition to preserve and restore the significant architecture of the past."

The AIA said the nation's prestige and general welfare will benefit from a recognition of the arts "as a national resource."

One hundred Texas architects, engineers and industrialists attended a national conference on load-bearing buildings held May 27-28 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, under the auspices of the Structural Clay Products Institute.

Chief purpose of the conference, according to Tom Grimm, Executive Director of the Clay Products Association of the Southwest, was to present the latest developments in the design and construction of load-bearing clay masonry construction.

Speakers at the two-day conference included Gyo Obata (AIA), Melmuth, Obata and Kassabaum of St. Louis, Mo.; William J. LeMessurier, structural engineer, William J. LeMessurier & Association, Boston, Mass.; Bernard Spring (AIA), contributing editor, Architectural Forum; James G. Gross and Robert D. Dikkers, director and chief engineer (respectively) for SCPI; C. B. Mond, Jr., Structural Clay Products Research; Burton H. Holmes (AIA), senior editor, Progressive Architecture; Robert E. Fischer, senior editor, Architectural Record; Tasso G. Katselas and Richard M. Gensert, architectural designer and structural engineer (respectively) for Pittsburgh's Pennley Park model development; Robert G. Zilly, editor, Building Construction; H. E. Moody, executive vice president, Berman C. Neal, Inc.; Charles W. Griffin, Jr., associate editor, Engineering News-Record.

Question and answer periods followed each session, and a panel and audience discussion was held as the final event of the seminar. The conference also included an inspection tour of a large complex of load-bearing buildings.

In a plane chartered by the Clay Products Association of the Southwest, the Texas delegation traveled to Pittsburgh where they joined approximately 450 other architects, engineers and industrialists from all parts of the U. S.

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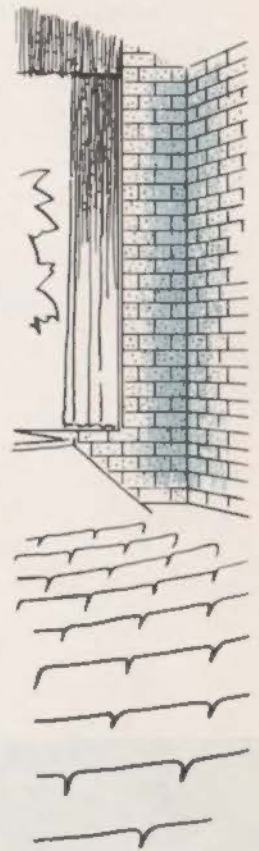
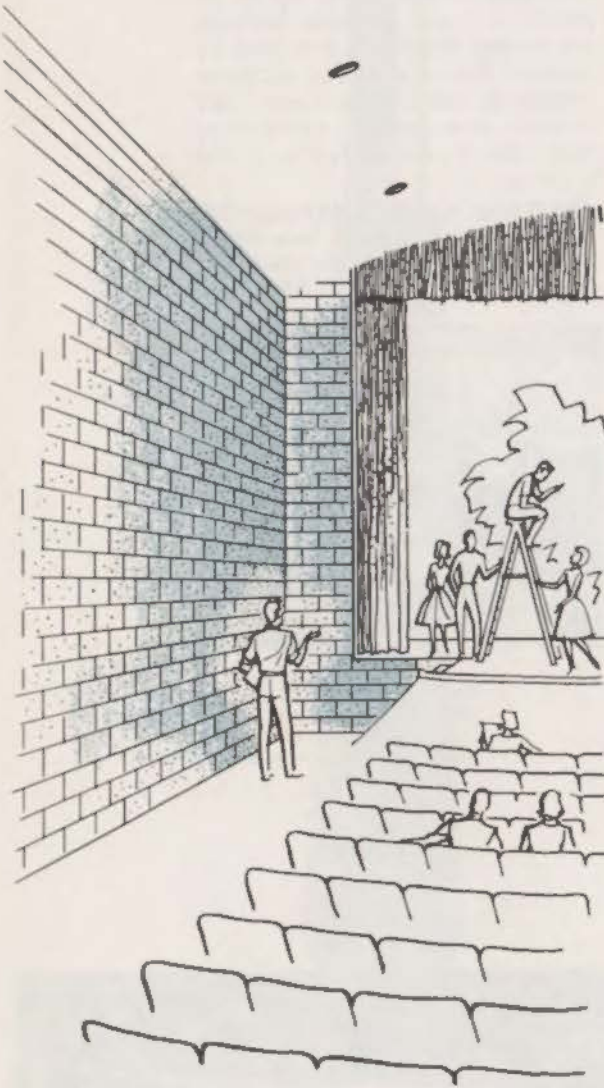
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(b) Ceramic Glazed Tile	.11	.72	.81	.24	.16	.16	.50

(a) Factors based on tests of 6T unit (5 1/3" x 12" x 4") with 207-1/4" diameter holes in symmetrical pattern.

(b) Factors based on tests of 8W unit 4" x 8" x 16" with 322 holes of random size & pattern.

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PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION

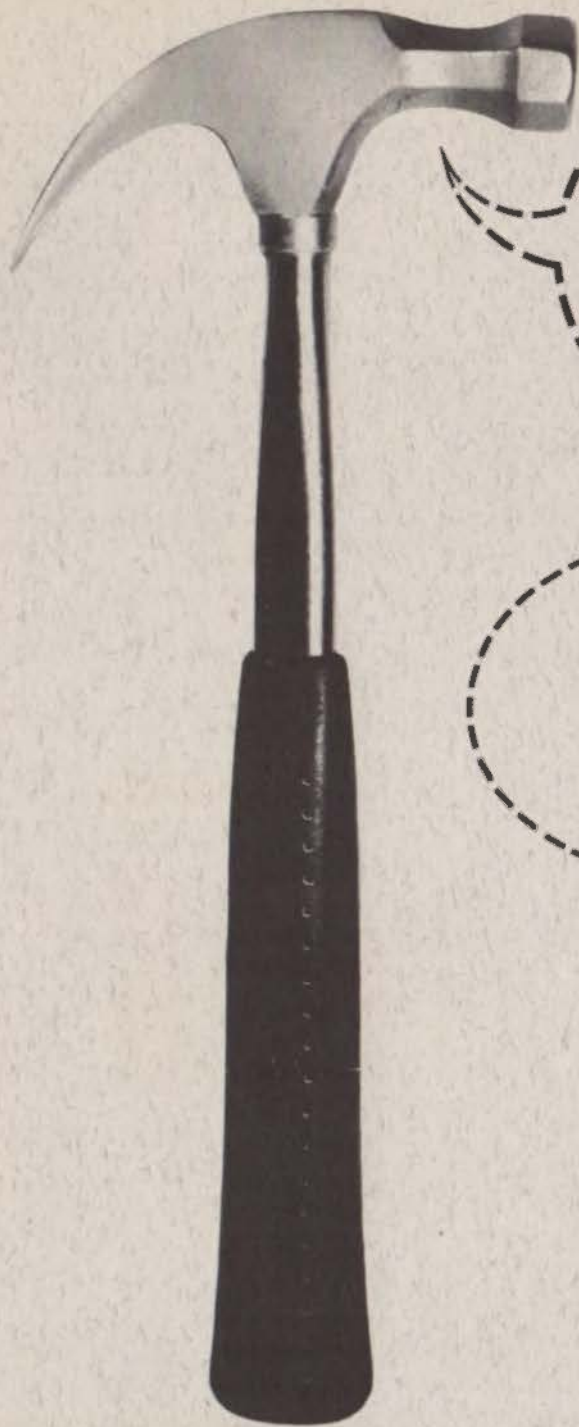
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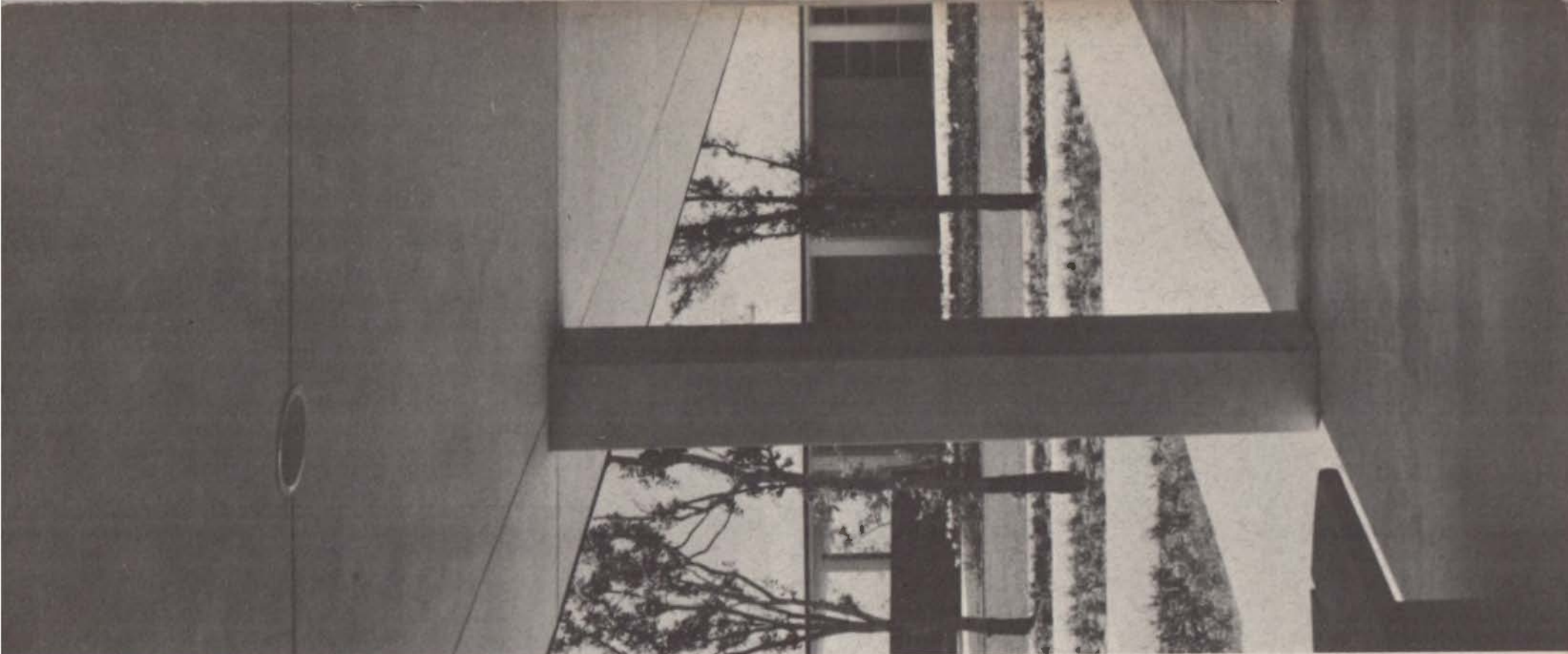
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selling
point"!



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