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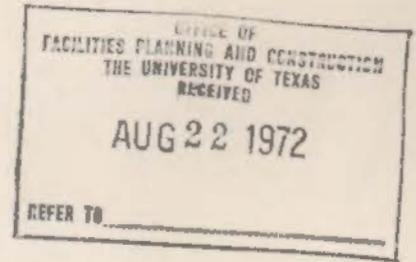
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THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

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DALLAS GARDEN CENTER SOLARIUM

DALLAS

TEXAS

HONOR AWARD

TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1971

PRATT, BOX, HENDERSON & PARTNERS

Architecture, Urban Design, Planning

Dallas, Texas



Architects were asked to expand an existing Garden Room for growing and exhibiting specimen plants. Proper temperature control was a major design factor in the expansion.

The expansion — an enclosure in which specimen plants are grown and displayed — is a plaster-fireproofed steel frame structure sheathed in clear glass set in a purposefully proportioned steel mullion system. The clear glass wall allows for a

visual connection between the interior and the surrounding gardens and park, as well as the light necessary for growing plants.

The proportioned mullion pattern is used not only to structure the windows and define the limits of the enclosure of the see-through wall, but to add scale and a richness of texture. The single volume space has many vantage points to view the plants inside

photos by Balthazar Korab except as noted the structure, including overlooks, a continuous sloping interior terrain with brick walks which also extend behind a waterfall, a pool and a mezzanine walkway at the window wall, and the gardens outside.

Multiple vantage points, mullion texture and the use of a minimum number of materials creates a spaciouly exciting, elegant background for viewing the plants exhibited.

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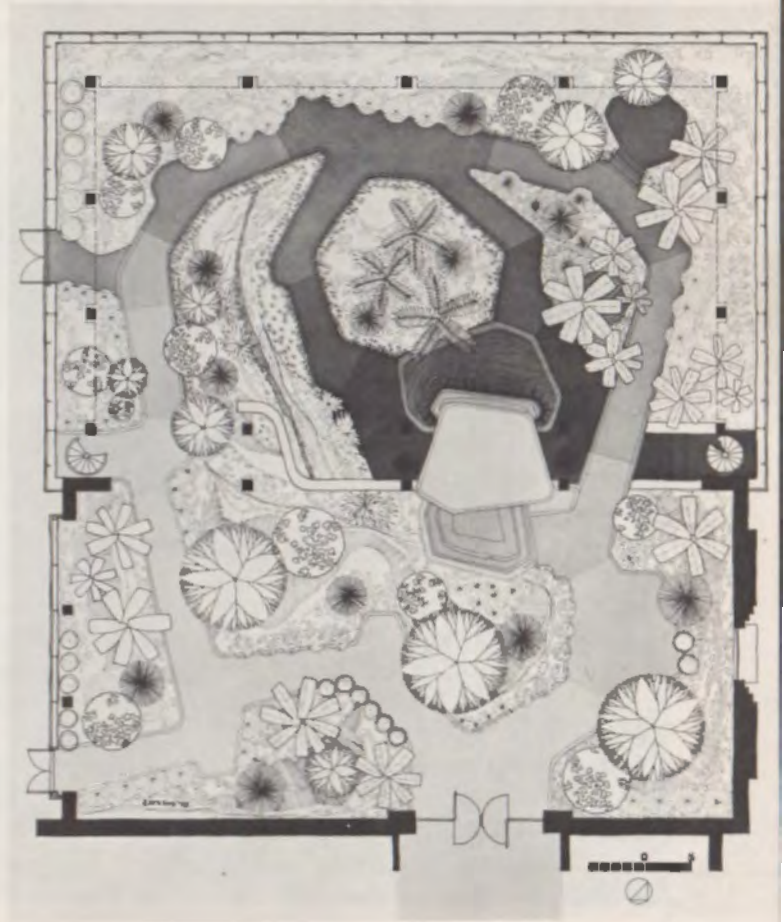
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photo by David Connally



PRESIDENT NIXON'S 1972 REPORT ON NATIONAL GROWTH

The American Institute of Architects claims that President Nixon's 1972 Report on National Growth advocates "no policy" and this is unacceptable at a time when the country desperately needs national policies to guide growth.

Members of the Institute's National Policy Task Force told a Congressional committee that they found the President's report a "clear reversal of his earlier bold statement" calling for the development of a national growth policy in his first State of the Union address.

Archibald C. Rogers, FAIA, Institute vice-president and chairman of its National Policy Task Force, said the President's report "overemphasizes the difficulties and challenges in defining the objectives of a national growth policy."

"We feel the first Report of our National Policy Task Force addresses itself more forcefully and squarely to the issues of growth in this country rather than the President's national growth report," Rogers commented. AIA's National Policy Task Force was set up two years ago and charged with the same objectives as Congress charged the President — the responsibility of recommending policies on urban growth and the means to implement such policies.

AIA's first report on national policy advocates broad governmental and tax reforms to encourage rebuilding of inner cities and building of new communities, construction on a

neighborhood scale, of "Growth Units which would provide all essential services, and assembly of one million acres of land by government in the 60 largest metropolitan areas on which to build these Growth Units."

The Wall Street Journal in March commented on the President's report in a story headlined "Nixon Declines to Offer an Urban Growth Policy in Report to Congress." The story said Nixon sent a report on national growth policy that played down the need for such a policy and ignored intra-administration pleas by Housing and Urban Development Secretary George Romney for urban policy initiatives."

The President's report states: "There is no place in our country for any policy which arbitrarily dictates where and how our citizens will live and work and spend their leisure time. Our plans for national growth must rather seek to help individual Americans develop their unique potentials and achieve their personal goals."

Rogers told the subcommittee that Nixon's report "does not address itself to the concerns of Congress as expressed in Title VII of the 1970 Housing and Urban Development Act." That Act, Public Law 91-609, directs the President to prepare a biennial report to Congress on national growth problems. More importantly, Rogers says, it directs the President "to recommend policies on urban growth and means to implement such policies."

The President's Growth Report

points to Administration proposals for sharing federal revenue with state and local governments as increasing their ability to deal with growth problems. Rogers commented, "We believe that the concept of revenue sharing is valid, but the Administration ignores the basic issue of local government reform. Pumping money into fragmented local governmental units without some powerful incentives for reforms can only further entrench unacceptable governmental arrangements at the metropolitan level."

"Congress and the nation have been shortchanged in the administration and implementation of the New Communities program," Rogers further commented."

The President's report notes that new communities will serve "the objective of orderly growth within metropolitan areas by offering the promise of innovative, well-planned development," and that they would "set a standard of excellence in planning, conservation housing balance, education, health, and community participation."

But Rogers said, of the five major forms of assistance for new community development authorized by Congress, the Administration has implemented only one, the mortgage guarantee program. In addition, the staff to administer this program has been inadequate from the start, he said, and now when the 1972 federal budget calls for the approval of 14 new community developments (doubling the 1971 level) the staff has been reduced.

THE JIM HARVEY RESIDENCE

WEST OF AUSTIN, TEXAS

ARCHITECTS

TANIGUCHI, SHEFELMAN,

VACKAR, MINTER, AIA

TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1971 — COMMENDATION

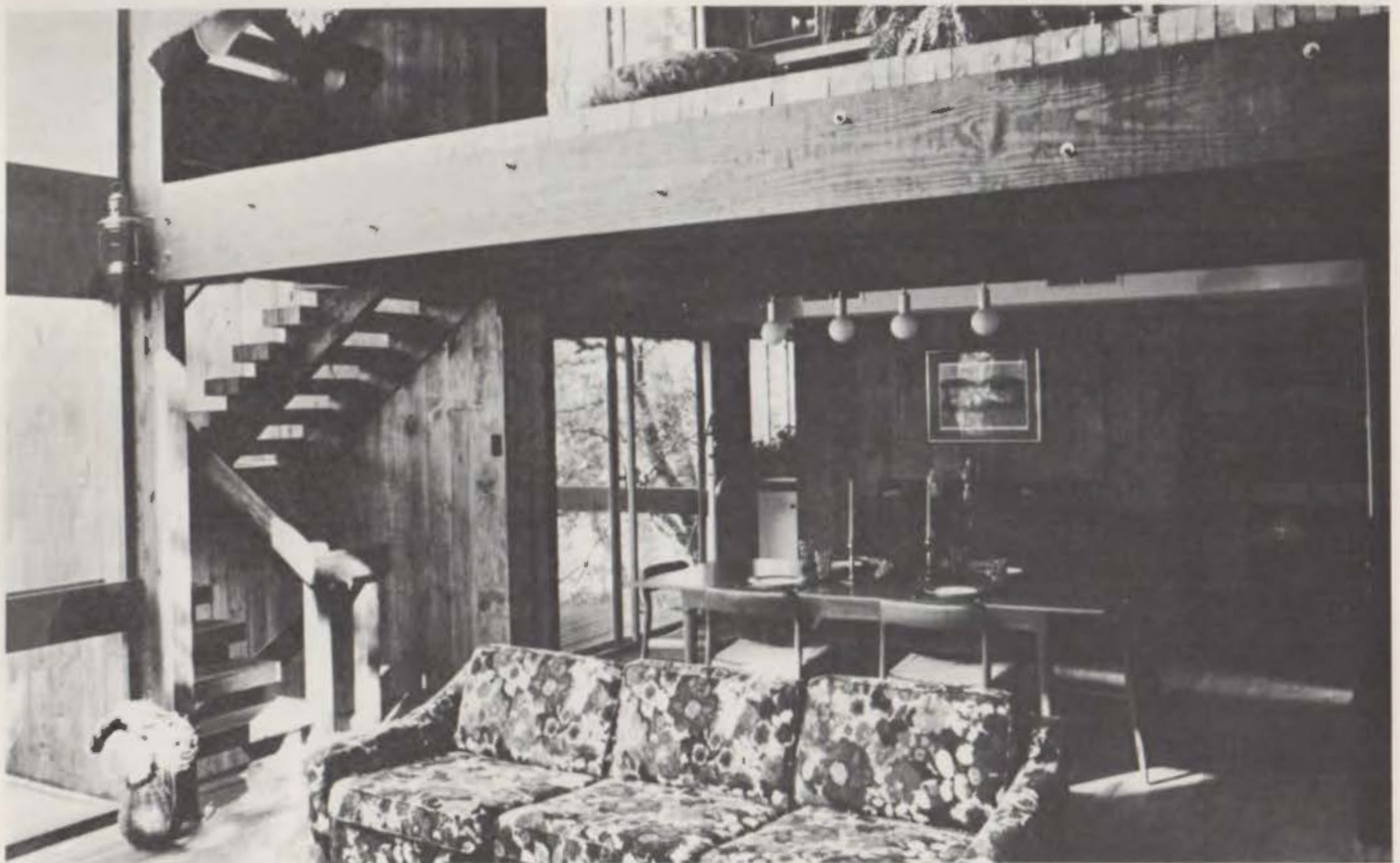
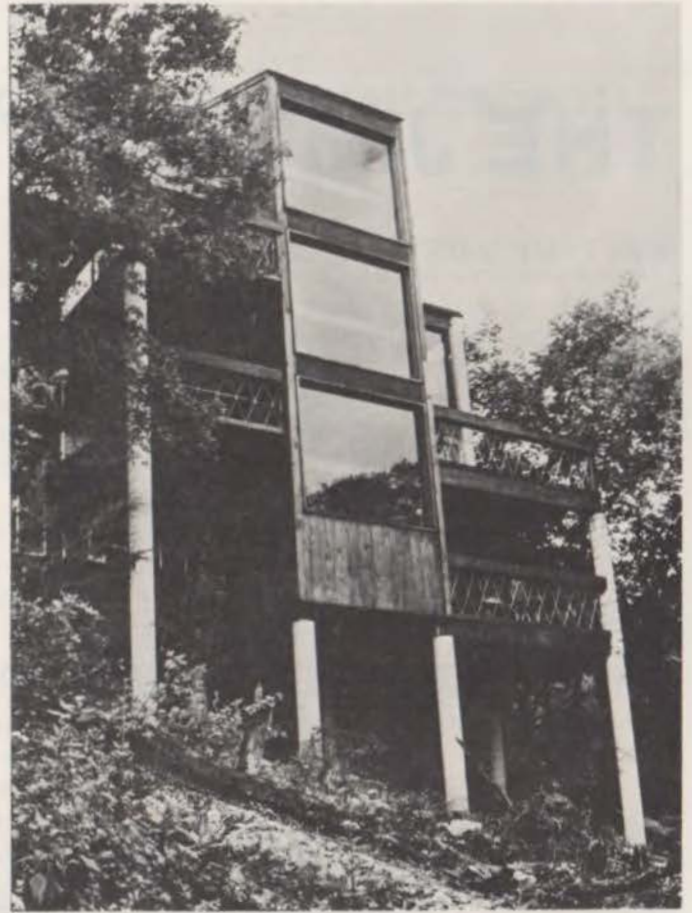
Architects were asked to design a residence for a family of five with definite separation of parents and children.

Site is at the intersection of two canyons with dynamic views of the wooded hill country to the north. Owners requested that maintenance and construction costs be kept to a minimum.



Solution was to vertically organize the space so that children are on the lower level, public living areas on the main entry level, and master bedroom suite on the top level. All areas are oriented to the view down the intersecting canyons and the north light.

Construction is post and beam with 2 x 4's turned on edge for a flooring system. The tops of the 2 x 4's are sanded and finished and the bottoms are exposed to the spaces below. Exterior siding is 1 x 8 stained pine. Cost was \$35,000 or about \$14 per square foot.



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RESIDENCE 3918 NORMANDY DALLAS

THE OGLESBY GROUP INC.

ARCHITECTS

Site for this residence is in an established neighborhood consisting of expensive older houses, many of which are being restored, remodeled or replaced. The house is built adjacent to a creek with good views through the trees to the country club beyond.

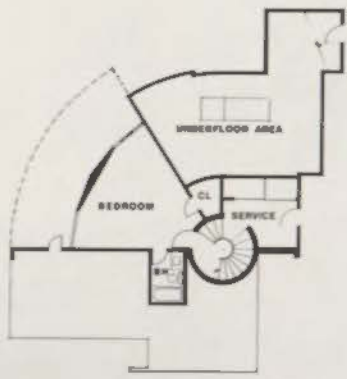
Planned for a couple whose children are grown, the house is designed so that additions can be made to satisfy a wider market if the house should be sold.

The house is organized around a stair tower, which serves as major circulation; the main entrance is at mid-level, as are the major living areas, with a guest room below and master bedroom above.

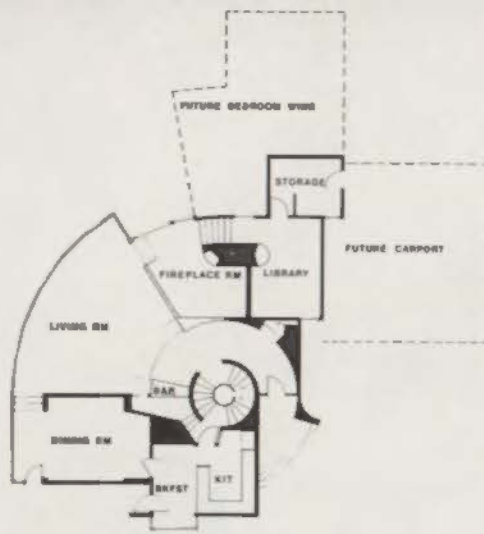
The stair tower serves as a major structural element. Radial trusses bearing on the tower and on concealed beams accomplish a 48-foot-wide expanse of glass that allows a view unobstructed

by structure. Glass is detailed without mullions. A wide overhang and trees protect from west sun so that drapery or shading is not necessary.

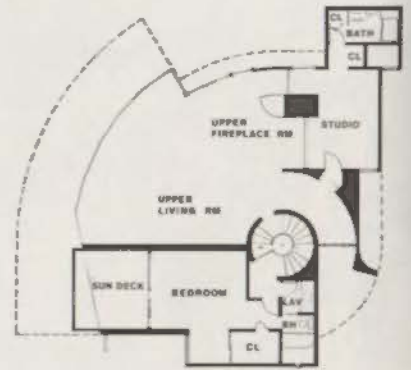
White stucco for exterior walls allows clean transitions from straight to curved planes and provides background for tree forms and shadows. Roofs are weathered cedar shingles. Interior partitions are gypsum board and floors are wood or carpet.



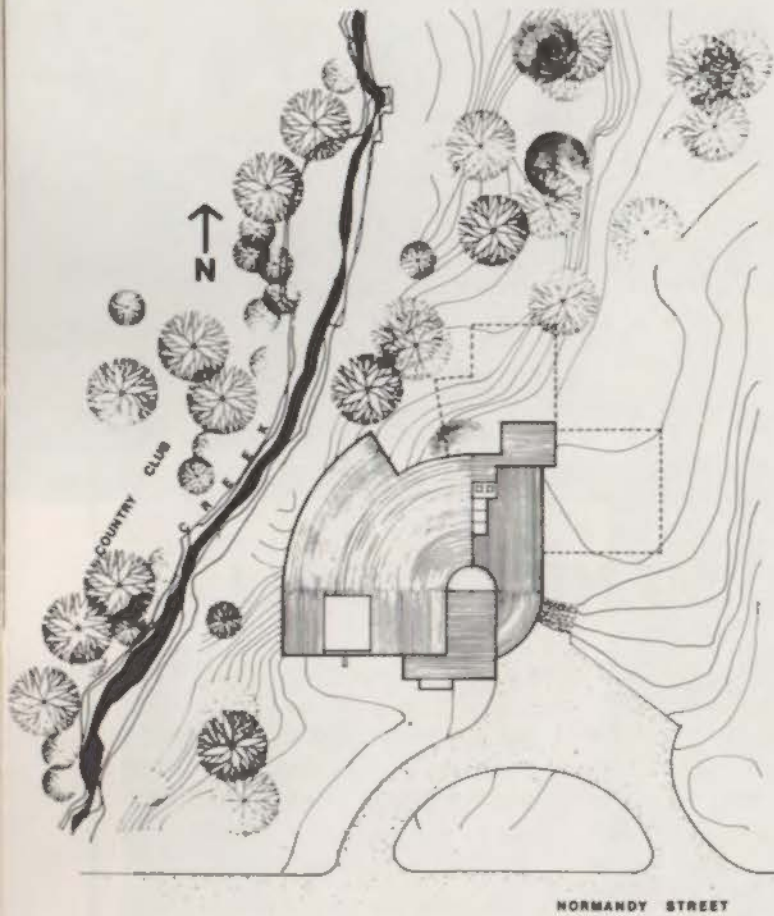
LOWER LEVEL



MAIN LEVEL



UPPER LEVEL



NORMANDY STREET



SITE PLAN

THE W. T. TRAMMELL HOUSE SWEETWATER, TEXAS

Indian hunting grounds had passed into the hands of an Anglo-American community. Entrance of the cattleman, the building of railroads, the developments of farming, and the coming of industry all went into the making of the frontier town of Sweetwater in the late 1880's. Something of the vigor and color of this frontier town was evident in the lives of its early citizens and their architecture reflects this era. Especially is this true of Thomas Trammell, who promoted the area by his activities in ranching, railroad construction, banking, industry and architecture. His influence is responsible for this house belonging to his son Walter Trammell. A. L. Winters of Abilene, Texas was the architect for this Victorian-style house.

excerpts from a graphical essay by

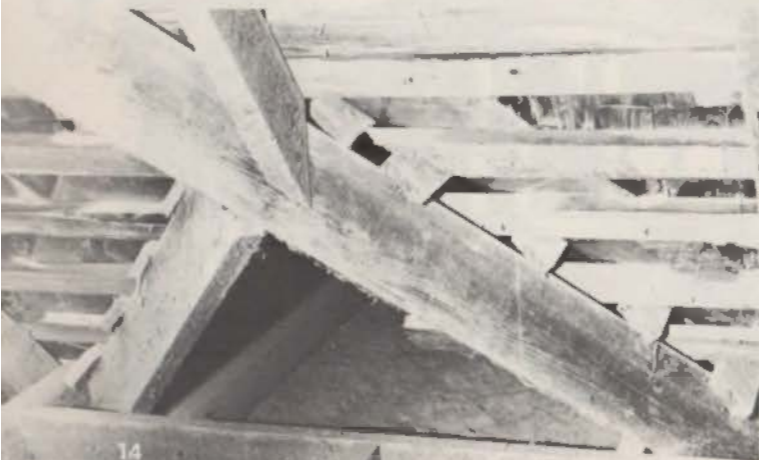
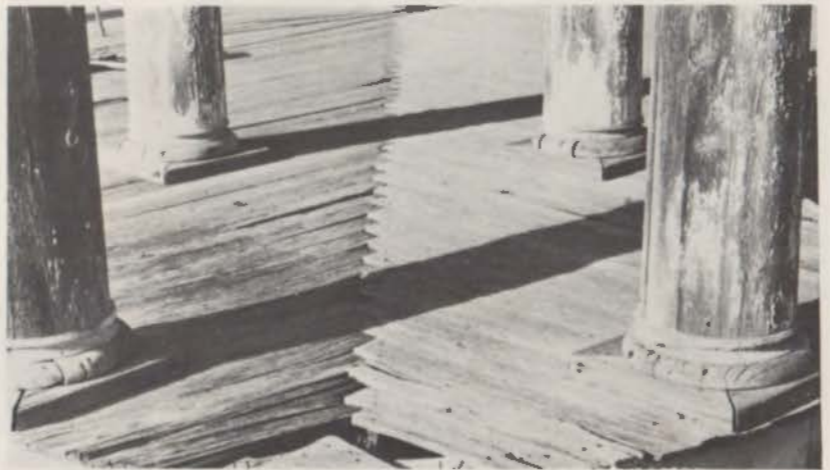
MONDEL ROGERS

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY



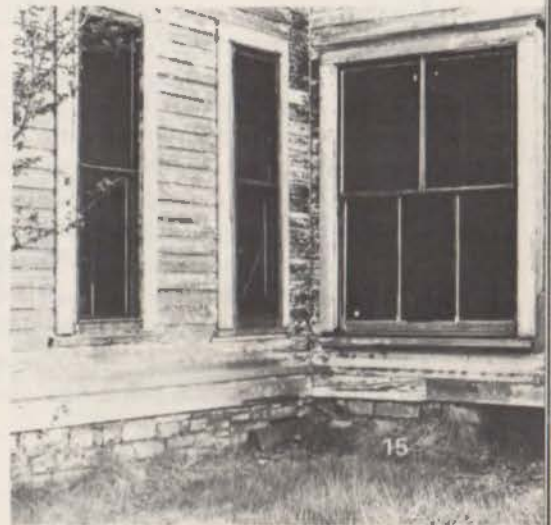
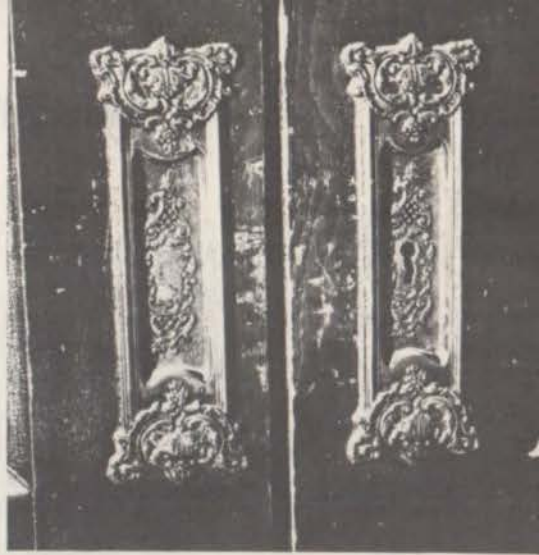


THE
W. T. TRAMMELL
HOUSE
SWEETWATER, TEXAS





MENTAL DESIGN RE
THE
DOME
AND
THE
SOUTH



ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN RESEARCH

"We have got to stop designing buildings for nobody."

"We have to begin designing them for a specific somebody and really find out what he wants and needs."

The architecture student who made these comments at a conference in early 1972 summed up the primary focus of environmental design research — the user. The user is the person who lives, works, visits, gets well, or bides away his time in the buildings that architects design.

During the past decade this has been an increasing concern on the part of architects and the "soft" scientists to understand the social and psychological impact — positive and negative — of buildings on people's lives. Increased concern about environmental design has grown out of the social changes of the 1950s and 1960s and the realization that more of this kind of knowledge is crucial because our cities are in trouble. Research in this area seeks to answer such questions as why so many residential units — both old and new — are being abandoned and why the elderly feel isolated and alienated in high-rise buildings when they are surrounded by hundreds of neighbors.

This concern has been heightened, according to the introduction of "Architecture for Human Behavior" (published by the Philadelphia Chapter of AIA) by "instances in which highly praised housing projects have proved unlivable, and the highly regulated design of corporate palaces and institutions has op-

pressed the people who occupy them."

The Pruitt — Igoe housing project of 2,900 apartments on a 57-acre site in St. Louis is the prime example of a "highly-praised project" which has "proved unlivable." Built at a cost of \$36 million, the 33, 11-story, slab-shaped buildings were extolled in glowing terms in architectural publications in 1951; today they are largely abandoned. The City of St. Louis has even begun a program of selective demolition which will take the top six to seven stories off many buildings and demolish others in an attempt to make the project more attractive by reducing population density.

Two of the project's features — much touted originally — were skip-stop elevators, which stop only at the fourth, seventh and tenth floors, and large open galleries at each of these stops. These galleries were envisioned as safe playgrounds close to each apartment. But, according to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, the tenants found the galleries to be turf for violent youths, difficult to police, more properly labeled "gauntlets." The number of terrorized children, muggings, rapes, and robberies in those galleries and in the stairwell leading up and down from the elevator stops became a social index to failure of the design.

Researchers who are examining the questions raised by such projects as Pruitt — Igoe recently attended a conference on environmental design research at the University of California at Los Angeles. The joint conference — the third meeting of the Environmental Design Research Association and the

eighth meeting of architectural researchers — drew 700 participants who are doing work in this field. Among them were sociologists, psychologists, and geographers as well as architects, designers, and urban planners.

At that conference, architects were asked to look at their building less as "final solutions" to specific problems and more as "tentative solutions." They were asked to go back to completed structures — as part of the design process itself — and find out if they actually meet the needs of the users in the best manner possible.

The "soft" scientists, in turn, were asked to do the kind of research that would help architects make design decisions and to put it in a more usable form. Both groups, however, began to call into question the policies of the social and political agencies that lead to large monolithic structures, with their institutional character. One architect, calling some institutions "villains," said he hears many architects repeatedly objecting to being asked to design huge hospitals, housing projects, or other large structures. "We should be designing smaller prisons, schools, hospitals, and housing projects and stop crowding sick people and deviants and criminals all together in one place," he said.

The goals of environmental research are to produce more livable places for everyone. It will also help pinpoint areas of concern now overlooked. One area insufficiently considered is design for children. The New York Times observed in a recent article, "The kind of design that builds high-rise housing for un-

sophisticated families with small children, without ground floor toilets, is asking for behavioral trouble." Constance Perin, too, says that the assumptions regarding the effect of high-rise, large-scale housing on children, as well as on community interaction, have gone unquestioned.

One study presented at the UCLA conference documented another way in which, as the paper said, "children are rarely considered in the environmental design process, even when the product is intended specifically for them. Adult designers are insensitive to children's preferences."

The study measured children's preferences for playground design represented in a series of photographs and measured what adult designers believed would be the children's preferences. Children and adults agreed substantially on what made a bad play area — ones that were stark, enclosed, barren, cluttered or colorless. But the two groups agreed very little in what they selected for a good play area. The study led the researchers to conclude that "systematic measurement of children's preferences is an essential step in design if the facilities are to be attractive and satisfying to children."

In the recently issued report on a policy for national growth, the AIA focuses on this growing concern with environmental design: "Much of what we have built, largely since World War II, is inhuman," says the report. "We have created a community architecture which in its lack of efficiency, its inattention to human values and scale, and its contribution to chaos, adds up to a physical arena adverse to that pursuit of happiness which is one of the fundamental rights which stirred us to create a nation."

JULY 1972

THE LONG AND SHORT OF IT



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Dresser Tower/Cullen Center Utilizes Stub Girder Design for Maximum Economy

The 40-story Dresser Tower/Cullen Center will be the newest addition to the Houston skyline. Over 12,000 tons of Mosher fabricated steel will be used in this project. By utilizing a stub girder design, maximum economy is achieved with longer and lighter beams. The long and short of it . . . achieving maximum economy and speed of construction through steel design. Mosher fabricated steel helped make it possible on the Dresser Tower/Cullen Center.



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**TEXAS ARCHITECTURE 1971
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**THOMAS H. SHARTLE RESIDENCE
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Architects were asked to design a residence for a couple whose children are not living at home. The clients like to travel for extensive periods of time, leaving the house in the care of three servants. The clients wanted to separate the house into areas that might be closed off when they are away, or when the guest quarters were not in use. The heavily wooded bayou site had easement and flood control restrictions that required careful placement of the compound.

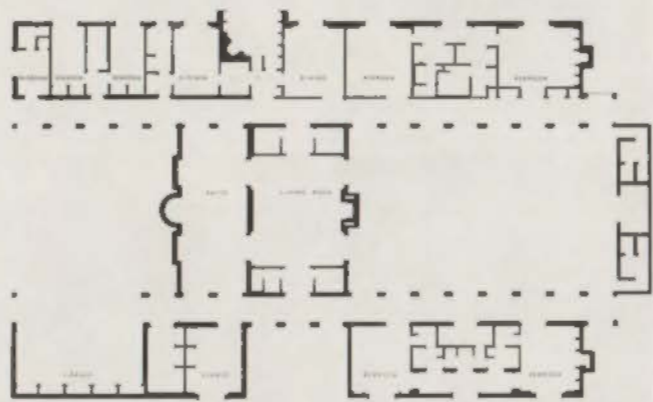
The "H" shaped plan forms wings for each living section. The owner's bedrooms form one wing, and the guest bedrooms another. The third wing is the kitchen and the servant's quarters, and the fourth a studio and garage. These wings join the living-dining area in the center of the "H". A swimming pool and dressing rooms fill out one side of the compound. An entertaining court opens off the other side of the living room. All areas are connected by open and closed loggias that create vistas to all parts of the wooded lot.

Exterior of the house is champagne Mexican brick. The floors are dark stained oak and champagne Mexican tile; the terraces are brick and pebble concrete. The windows and doors are hand carved shutters from Mexico.

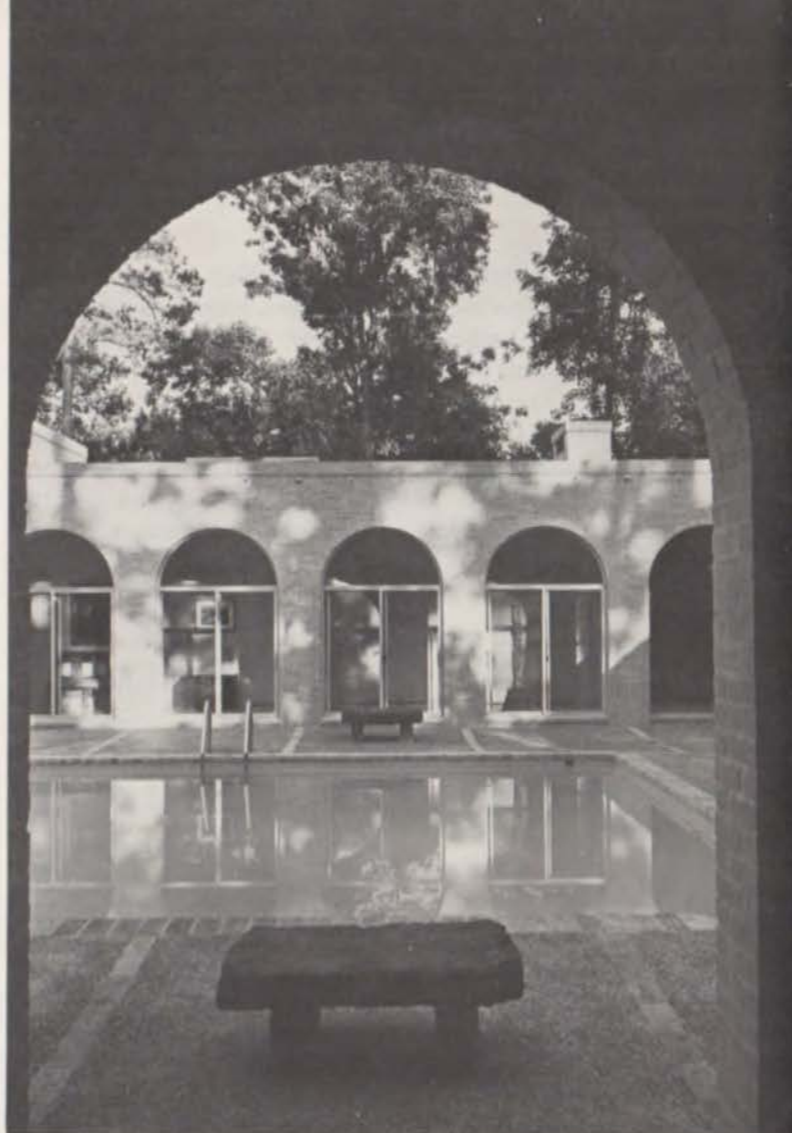


Photos by Balthazar Korab





FLOOR PLAN



NATIONAL POLICY TASK FORCE

The American Institute of Architects has recommended to the Platform Committee of the National Democratic Committee that it endorse a new mission for American society: that of building and rebuilding our environment to a high level of quality by the year 2000. The Institute's primary concern was that the Democratic Committee recognize the urgent need for a national growth policy in the United States. A series of ten proposed platform planks were presented which would define such a policy.

Speaking for AIA, Archibald C. Rogers, FAIA, vice-president said, "We believe that our nation, which was founded as a missionary society, has lost confidence in its prior mission and suffers from a national lack of self-confidence. We've lost faith in the prior mission of the taking of the West, for there is no West left to take; of exporting democracy when we now recognize this often must be done by force of arms; and we have lost faith in the New Deal mission of an ever expanding standard of living, since this ideal is incompatible with limited resources."

The new mission, Rogers explained, would be to build an environment of high quality, which would be "a mosaic of community architecture, on the one hand in equilibrium with its natural setting and, on the other hand in sympathetic relationship to its using society."

Highlighting the main points of the report of AIA's National Policy Task Force, Rogers said that the rebuilding of American communities should be planned and carried out at a neighborhood scale of between 500 to 3,000 residential units. We must move away from the "haphazard and small increment development process that now exists. Public utilities, transportation, and services should be installed in advance as a conscious act of public decision-making to locate and guide growth."

Rogers emphasized that building and rebuilding our communities on a neighborhood scale should be used as a means of expanding the options of where and how one lives. This expanded free choice should be facilitated by insuring open occupancy, directing housing subsidies to people rather than to structures, linking development of urban cores to growth in peripheral areas, and increasing citizen participation.

Buildings constructed by the federal government should reflect the finest examples of American architecture and design, Rogers stressed.

JULY 1972

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EASTFIELD COLLEGE

The May issue of *Texas Architect* which featured Eastfield College in Dallas should have noted that Ernest J. Kump Associates, Palo Alto, California, served as associated architects with Harwood K. Smith and Partners of Dallas.

ROBERTS/SAVAGE

Ken Roberts and Dick Savage have announced the formation of their new Dallas architectural firm. Bob Sanford is also associated with Roberts/Savage at Two Lemon Park West/150.

GENE LAM

Paul Wharton, AIA, has announced the promotion of Gene Lam to coordinating architect for all design and production work for the firm, Paul C. Wharton & Associates of Arlington, Texas.



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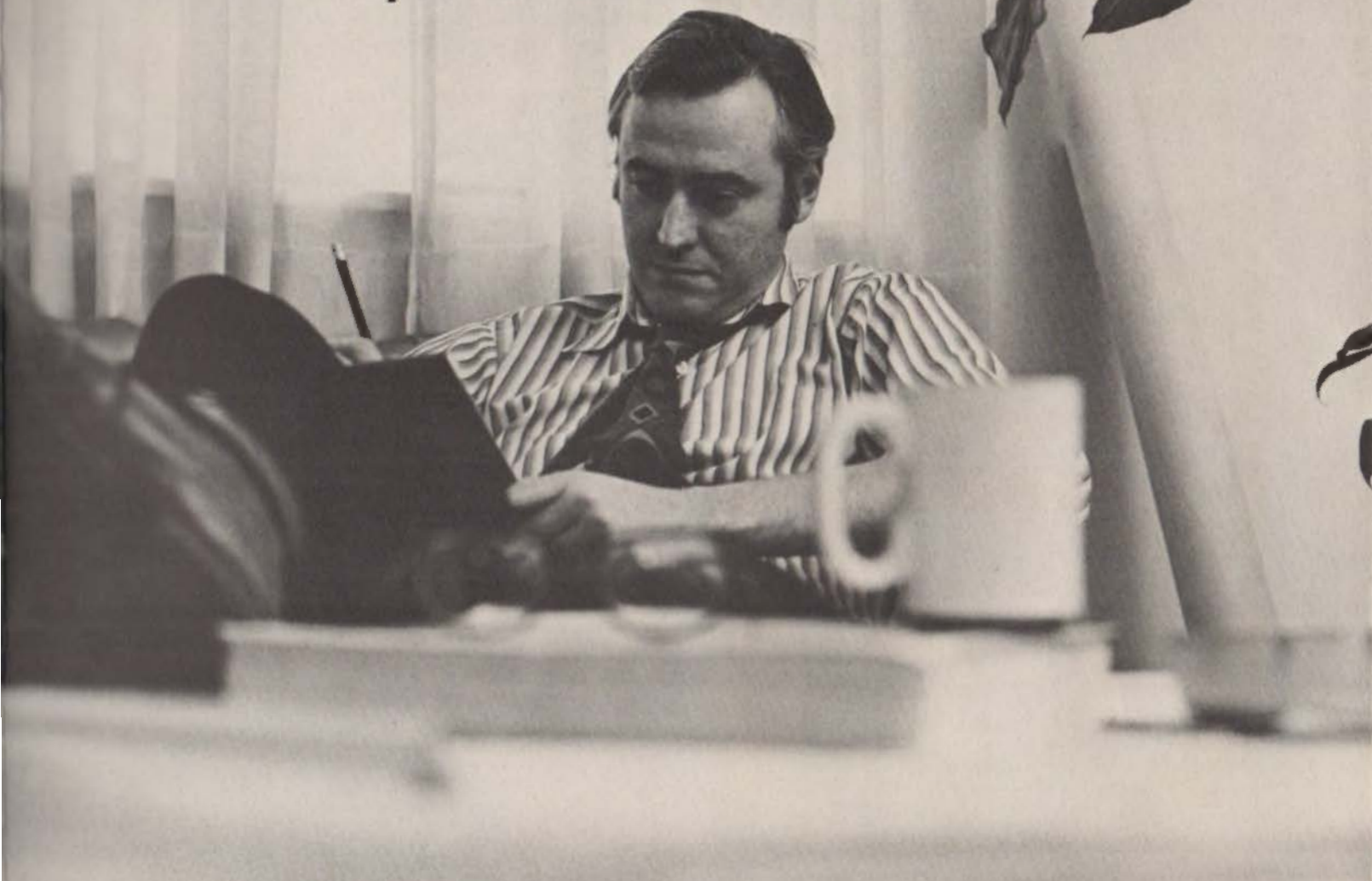
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