The objectives of The American Institute of Architects shall be to organize and unite in fellowship the architects of the United States of America; to combine their efforts so as to promote the aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the profession; to advance the science and art of planning and building by advancing the standards of architectural education, training and practice; to coordinate the building industry and the profession of architecture to insure the advancement of the living standards of our people through their improved environment; and to make the profession of ever-increasing service to society.
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ON THE MOVE

The profession of Architecture in Alabama is on the move. We have only to look and see the tremendous building programs in our cities and counties to be convinced of this fact. Yet we are told that this is only the beginning of what will be in the period ahead.

With the influx of industry and the population explosion, come demands for more schools, more offices, more plants, as well as additions to present facilities. Many architects are being called upon increasingly to design homes, as an appreciation for the services of this professional becomes apparent against the fading post-war push of mass produced pill-boxes for the populace.

Architects are busy people today, and not only at the drafting table. Most are taking seriously the job of community enlightenment through the avenues offered by the four A.I.A. chapters.

While North Alabama architects have well-staffed committees to work for betterment in such areas as utility distribution, ordinances, master landscape planning, visual surveys and recreation areas (to name a few), they are still ardently pressing for preservation of important historic structures. At the other end of the state, architects in Mobile have nearly completed their successful participation as evidenced by their herculean achievements in the Operation New Birmingham program. These valuable hours in cooperation with various city departments to simplify and equalize certain specific regulations.

Of great importance to the architects of the future will be the ground work now being laid by the Foundations for Architecture and the Building Sciences at Auburn University. Dean William Speer is personally visiting every A.I.A. chapter to explain the particulars of this far reaching program.

Although still a fledgling, the year-old Alabama Council of Architects is proving a vital coordinating force state-wide.

(Continued on page 21)
This Year At Auburn

ACTIVITIES IN THE SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

The jury provides opportunity for review of students’ work. It should always be a teaching instrument for discussion of concept, development, and presentation of approach and solution to a specific design problem. Interim juries offer a more informal discussion of ideas, and the final jury becomes the culmination of the problem in its presentation by the student to the jury composed of faculty and practicing architects.

Jim Adams, architect from Birmingham, Alabama vividly demonstrates his point during a final jury.

Gerald Curts presents his solution of a complex planning problem to the jury in the Biggin Hall Gallery.

DESIGN STUDIO

As a student progresses through the five year sequence, the design studio is always the center of educational experience. Here he forms his ideas and concepts of architecture and grows in his understand of the design process. A group of fifth year students under Professor Newton LeVine are exploring various approaches to town planning in connection with Madison County during the past fall. Visiting critics such as Professor Hubert Hoffmann from Austria enrich the design program and provide class stimulus.

Group discussion of the approach of one design team is explained by Max Green.

Val Gafford considers a comment concerning her solution to the problem.

Professor LeVine makes a point during class discussion.

Photos by Elbert Tucker and Prof. Nick Davis.
CRITIQUE

with
EDWARD DURRELL STONE

The opportunity to discuss architectural problems with recognized leaders in the profession is always an exciting prospect for the student. Such an opportunity was realized during the First Annual Alabama Council Convention with the invitation of Moreland Smith to the students to meet in his home for a discussion with Edward Durrell Stone. The fourth year design class under Professor Ralph Morrill brought their solutions to a married student housing project to Montgomery for a review and critique by Mr. Stone, and later exhibited them at the convention.

Mr. Stone carefully considers a design by Graydon Pierce.

Claude Moss (right) explains his solution to Moreland Smith (left) and Edward Stone (center).

Samuel Donze points to the living quarters within his solution to the married student housing complex for Mr. Stone.

Bill Gwin offers his solution for the group's consideration.
COMPETITIONS AND DESIGN PROGRAMS

Competitions within the school such as the Alabama Gas Competition and AIA Scholarship Competition offer an incentive to the design program. During past months the third year class, under Professors Nick Davis and Adnan Taspinar, have developed a program sponsored by the Alabama Concrete Industries Assn. which offers a cash award to the winner. This organization also sponsored a field trip to Mobile for the students (see February Alabama Architect). The problem was the design of a college art museum for the Auburn campus. It was judged by a jury composed of Ed Baumhauer AIA, Mobile, Charles Blondheim AIA, Eufaula, and several faculty members. Four different solutions to the problem are shown in mass model studies.

Bowden Wyatt, Second Place Winner

This model of a town planning project for a population of 20,000 was part of the fifth year design program. Team members involved were: Gerald Curts, Elbert Tucker, Jack Neuschwander, Ross Amaro, James Beidle, and Kenneth Weaver.

Winning design in fourth year competition for married students housing selected by Edward Durrell Stone.

Student Work

A model study of a second year project for an artist's studio is by Robert Griffin.

This third year project by James Eley for a sports arena seats 10,000 spectators.
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Dear Jay:
The article in the January-February of the ALABAMA ARCHITECT reporting the recent student tour for third year students from the School of Architecture at Auburn was read with great interest by me and other members of the ACIA. We were very well pleased by the interest of the students and faculty in such a tour. This being the first student tour sponsored by the ACIA, we naturally approached it with a little bit of concern as to the success of such a venture. Based on the comments by students, faculty members and the local practicing architects, it was certainly a grand success and we look forward eagerly to sponsoring future tours for these fledgling architects.
The interest of the ALABAMA ARCHITECT and the Alabama Council of our association is sincerely appreciated.
With best personal regards, I am
Yours very truly,
J. C. Stallings, Jr.
ARCHITECTURE ON THE MOVE

(Continued from page 4)

wide. It's legal committee is ready with a long range plan that will be launched with requests for specific legislation next year (in cooperation with other interested groups in the design and construction fields).

In a lead article in the January issue this year, potent FORTUNE magazine stated:

"Suddenly the nation wants an architecture to match the glory of its machines. Cash and the desire to create are plentiful, but is this tiny, groping profession up to the challenge?"

YES! confirm architects in Alabama. And they're setting out to prove it.

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Frederic Child Biggin was the first dean of the School of Architecture and the Arts and a teacher of Architecture for 27 years. An Emeritus member of the Alabama Chapter, AIA, in 1939, he was advanced to Institute Fellowship in recognition of his services in the field of architectural education.

During 1965 loans to students totaled $2,600. Payments of $1,031 were made on student loans, and presently there are outstanding loans of $3,732.35.

Priority is given to fifth year design students. Applications for the Biggin Fund Loans are accepted by the School of Architecture and Arts twice each year, during the first month of Fall Quarter and the first month of Spring Quarter, which is announced to fourth and fifth year design student classes. Students are requested to fill out an application form and to write a letter requesting the loan, giving the reasons for need. The interest rate of three per cent after graduation conforms with the rate of interest charged by the Auburn University Office of Student Loans. Repayment of the loan usually begins about one month after graduation. The amount of the loan depends upon previous indebtedness and the approval of the committee, which consists of Dean William A. Speer and other appointed members.
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URBAN RENEWAL IN NORTH ALABAMA

This is the plan of Big Spring Park in Huntsville after removal of buildings on the west side of the Square (Cotton Row). The new State National Bank building and Courthouse are in background. (See map of Urban Projects, Area B, Page 5, this issue.)
Once noted mainly for its utility, concrete masonry has become a new and exciting material. The design versatility made possible by an almost unlimited array of shapes, sizes, colors and textures is winning new appreciation from architects, builders and homeowners. Of all masonry used for walls, 70% now is concrete masonry. 3,700 concrete masonry plants are turning to increased use of automation. Today, a single automatic block machine can produce more than 5,000 units in a normal working day. Contributing importantly to such advances are the research findings and technical data made available to the entire building industry through the 38 field offices of the Portland Cement Association.

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The President Speaks:

One of the most stimulating and ambitious of the current endeavors of the Institute is its “War on Ugliness” which has caught the imagination of Chapters and Communities throughout the Nation. The objectives of this program can be stated, simply, as (1) creating an awareness in the public eye of the scope and dimension of the ugliness that mars the environs of every urban area in America, and (2) developing the desire, the resolve and the programs to eradicate this blight.

No one will question the reality of the depressing effect imposed on man’s sensibilities by the sight of acres of junked automobiles, by vast jumbles of neon made illegible by their multiplicity, by dirty streets and highways or streams fouled with sewage and refuse. Conversely, no argument can be raised against the spiritual “lift” man experiences in the presence of beauty, be it natural or man-made.

With this knowledge and background, The North Alabama Chapter has spearheaded the “War” in our State, and their activities are reported in this issue. The Alabama Council commends these architects highly for their civic mindedness and strongly urges the other AIA Chapters, in concert with public officials and civic leaders of their communities, to do likewise.

Edward B. Baumhauer
President
Alabama Council AIA

CONTENTS

President’s Message 4
Urban Renewal — North Alabama 4
News Briefs . . . 10
Committee Visits Auburn 11
Baumhauer Addresses ACIA Conference 13
Letters 14
New Members-Change of Status 14

ALABAMA ARCHITECT

May-June 1966 Volume 2, No. 3

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While the rumble of another static test firing of the giant Saturn booster fades in the distance, the clatter of an almost unbelievable number of large concurrent construction projects picks up tempo in Huntsville’s downtown area. “Amazement” seems to be the typical reaction of the many visitors to this 140,000 plus population city. But measured in terms of design excellence and the quality of human responses, how is she measuring up to her opportunity? While evidence of man’s great technological achievement abounds on Redstone Arsenal on Huntsville’s west border, it would be truly ironic for the “Rocket City” to fail in providing her citizens with a pleasant, stimulating living environment.

At the heart of any city’s prospects is its downtown area. There are now in various stages of planning and execution six urban renewal projects underway in Huntsville’s downtown area. (see map) Prime objectives in this renewal effort are to renovate the central business district, relieve the stranglehold traffic has on the CBD, to link the CBD to the “shopping street” that Memorial Parkway has become during the city’s boom years, to continue its mission to alleviate local area slums and blight and to provide sanitary and decent homes for low income families.

While her Research Park and the Huntsville campus of the University of Alabama expand to the west, while a treasure of 19th century architecture is being wrapped in a protective cloak to the east and traffic arteries are going through major changes in all quarters, the downtown area is taking on new dimensions and increased vitality. Huntsville, Alabama, is fast approaching its goal of becoming the first city in the United States of comparable age and size to be completely “slum free.”

Area A (see map), the Central City Project, now in progress, will provide for rehabilitation of conservable properties, or for acquisition and clearance of unrestor-
a magnificent destiny or chaotic growth

able properties. Rapid access and ample parking will facilitate the high volume of traffic attracted by the public, financial and related institutions located in the 47 block area. It will provide a CBD traffic loop that will feed into a peripheral system of multi-story parking garages, the first of which (see photo) is now out for bids. Focal point of the area is a super-block on which the new Madison County Courthouse is sited with its landscaped pedestrian mall system providing a haven for office workers and shoppers. (see front cover) The walking areas with covered canopies will penetrate the walls of Court House Square with arcade-connectors to the parking garages which will house a total of 4,000 cars.

Area B, the Big Spring Project, is the first and largest step of a three phase Central Neighborhood Renewal Plan which ultimately will eliminate sub-standard housing, traffic mazes, parking shortages, and a rapid devaluation of property. In its place will be smooth flowing property, expanded low-rent housing, preserved historical homes and a commercial link between the Memorial Parkway and a revitalized downtown.

Area C, the Parkview Project, is an integral link in the connecting chain between the Memorial Parkway commercial sites and the Central City public and financial sites.

Area D, Phase III of the General Neighborhood Renewal Plan, will be the final area to be redeveloped under current long-range plans. This project will provide the final portion of a site for the eight million dollar Civic Arts Convention Center just awarded to a collaboration of four Huntsville architectural firms.

Area E, the West Clinton Street Project, was the first Urban Renewal Area undertaken and consequently the first finished. The large revenue taken from the shopping center and office buildings (see photo) will soon completely return the city's investment. The total current redevelopment is assessed at $3,276,800 upon which investors are annually paying over $33,588.00 in real estate taxes which is in addition to regular sales and business taxes. The real estate tax alone will repay the city's share of the cost within five years. This is contrasted to the same area in 1965 when the assessed valuation of $128,000 brought the city $5,000 in income.

Area F, The Winston Street Project, formerly known by local residents as the "Honey Hole," has assumed the character of "Automobile Row" in that 80% of the disposed lots have been redeveloped for that purpose. The
Buildings on the west side of the Court House Square are being removed in the Big Spring Project, formerly known as "Cotton Row." This area is to be developed as an overlook for historic Big Spring and the proposed International Park.

This 600 car parking structure is to be built in the Big Spring Project area (Huntsville) adjacent to the new City Hall in foreground and new Courthouse in background (See Map of Urban Projects, Area B, page 5 this issue).

Wehrner von Braun, Senator John Sparkman, Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson, and Mayor Glenn Hearn of Huntsville, view beautification plans for the Big Spring International Park in Huntsville. The 10 acre park is a memorial to countries sending students and military personnel to study at Red Stone Arsenal.

This shopping center was built in the West Clinton Street Project area.

automobile dealers in that area feel that the proximity of competitors is a mutual benefit and have expressed pleasure with the environment created by the Urban Renewal Plan.

All of these Urban Renewal Projects have been accomplished through the Housing Authority of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, under the guidance of Nathan F. S. Porter as Executive Director. The Housing Authority, now in its twenty-fifth year of operation has pledged to continue its efforts through the coming years to make our city a better place to live. Nathan Porter says, "Our work can never be completed until all slum areas have been destroyed and all low income families have been able to obtain standard dwelling units."

Chaotic Growth for Huntsville? . . . by no means. If the architects in the city keep their vision on the horizon of what can be and accept the responsibility that is theirs to set high standards and inspire their fellow citizens to excellence in thought and deed . . . she truly has a magnificent destiny.

This automobile agency showroom was built in Winston Street Project area.
Waging the War on Community Ugliness in North Alabama

by Eugene E. Burr, AIA

Without the forcefulness of a dictatorship or the efficiency of a monarchy, it is obvious that Alabama's urban areas will not become utopias by edict. Nor, as architects seriously study their community's growth patterns and the influences resulting, does instant beautification by edict seem really desirable. Rather, it is to the well-considered, broad-based but unrelenting program of inciting community action in creating vital and enriching urban areas that the architects must commit themselves. Failure in this effort, in which the AIA "War" should serve as an important catalyst, would be an admission that, "in the 20th century, the American character, buttressed by wealth, political stability, and mechanical ingenuity, was unequal to the task of creating a decent living environment for its people." (AIA president Morris Ketchum).

In North Alabama, thirty-five school, civic, government and church groups have viewed the film "No Time for Ugliness" and discussed its local application with AIA chapter representatives. The 36-page illustrated brochure of the same name has been placed in the hands of major public officials by members of the central "Strategy" committee. TV stations in Decatur and Huntsville have aired the film also, but plans include panel-discussion type follow-up programs—the important thing being to translate principles and broad objectives into a sequence of purposeful, enduring projects.

In the immediate future is perhaps the most important milestone to date in the North Alabama Chapter's "War." Huntsville's city commission, badgered by many growth problems, will discuss with the Chapter "Strategy" committee, the establishment of the Chapter's seven-point approach as a basis for all present and future efforts by the many organizations involved. The Chapter has recognized and thus recommends that any such presentation must be comprehensive, creative, and include documentation of the specific problems to be solved—and that its implementation must relate realistically to the fiscal program of the city government.

URBAN RENEWAL IN FLORENCE and DECATUR

DECATUR'S CIVIC CENTER

The location of the new civic center for Decatur is intended to achieve a tie between the two separate downtown areas. Historically Decatur is two towns: Old Decatur or Bank Street Area and Albany or Second Avenue Area.

The civic center is planned as a mall linking the two business districts with a central governmental core. The nucleus of the center is an area already containing the new Federal Building and the Chamber of Commerce Building. The future City Hall and Library Buildings, now in the planning stages, are expected to go here also.

PROJECTS IN FLORENCE

Florence has achieved one of the most comprehensive and well-balanced smaller city urban renewal programs in the nation. Located in the heart of TVA country, it has combined its own resources with Federal assistance to achieve: New housing for low income and elderly; middle income housing; decreased slums and blight; historic preservation; new school hospital facilities; and increased tax revenues. City planning includes a new school, recreation area, swimming pool, garbage collection, fire protection, and a bus line. Before redevelopment, the area brought the city $325 per year in taxes. Now the city receives more than $2,500 per year.

Eliza Coffee Memorial Hospital Project is immediately adjacent to the county-city hospital and a high school. The city has received more than $100,000 in Federal funds for a new science building and a student center for the college was a 30-acre site containing buildings, now in the planning stages.

Florence State College Project: With increasing enrollment at Florence State College, new facilities were required. The college was a 30-acre site containing over 70 dilapidated residences. These were cleared, and the site sold to the college. New dormitories, a science building and a student center are under construction.

Florence Center covers 116 acres and includes the central business district. More than 300 mercantile and commercial parcels are involved. The city plans upgrading of the neighborhood under the "Concentrated Code Enforcement Program" and the FHA section 220 mortgage program to replace obsolete downtown areas.

East Hill project is now in the planning stage. It covers a basically sound, but deteriorating neighborhood, with over 300 houses in an area of 105 acres. The city plans upgrading of the neighborhood under the "Concentrated Code Enforcement Program" and the FHA section 220 mortgage program to replace obsolete downtown areas.

Before his death Handy contributed money for restoration of his birthplace, and it is now a museum.
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NEWS BRIEFS...

... Morris Ketchum, Jr., FAIA, president of the Institute, has resigned from the National Advisory Committee on Highway Beautification because such membership, he felt, placed the AIA in a position of "tolerating, or even approving, policies of which it disapproves." In his letter of resignation to Secretary of Commerce John T. Conner, Ketchum said that federal policies on the design of highways within cities are producing "disastrous results" and are in "direct opposition to those of President Johnson."

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1966 AIA Alabama State Convention will be December 1, 2 & 3 at the Tutwiler Hotel, Birmingham. We have 100 rooms reserved and expect exhibitors to participate. The Auburn-Alabama football game is scheduled for December 3rd, but our program will conclude before it starts.

Ralph K. Morrill, AIA, Associate Professor, Auburn University, recently assigned to Montgomery Chapter, compiled the article "Relating Traffic to Town," AIA JOURNAL, May 1966 issue.

Lee Haigler Sims, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carlton Sims of Montgomery, has been awarded a scholarship from the Alabama Council, AIA. A junior architecture major at Auburn, he was presented the scholarship for his design of a housing complex.

Howard Bozeman, North Alabama Chapter vice-president, won the democratic nomination to place no. 1 in the Alabama House of Representatives from Madison County and was re-elected president of Huntsville's Downtown Development Association.

William Howell Golson, Jr., (first photo) of Wetumpka, is the Auburn University recipient of the Medal of the American Institute of Architects presented annually to the graduating student in architecture who has exhibited throughout the entire course the highest scholastic achievement. Golson is shown accepting the award from Dr. Floyd Vallery, assistant to President Harry M. Philpatt, during the annual Honors Convocation.

GOLSON RECEIVES AIA MEDAL.

DAHL LOOKS OVER HIS FIRST PRIZE DESIGN.

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ALABAMA ARCHITECT
AIA WELCOMES DR. PHILPOTT

Auburn Visitation Committee officially welcomes Dr. Harry M. Philpott as president of Auburn University at a meeting in his office on Wednesday, June 8th. Seated (1 to r): Dr. Philpott and Alabama Council President Edward B. Baumhauer. Standing (1 to r): Howard E. McElhaney, President, Montgomery Chapter; Fred Renneker, Jr., President, Birmingham Chapter; Thomas G. Shepherd, President, Mobile Chapter; and A. Jackson Davis, Secretary, Alabama Council, representing North Alabama Chapter.

On behalf of the architects in Alabama, the committee offered support and cooperation to Dr. Philpott.

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Baumhauer Addresses Alabama Concrete Industries Conference

"It is a pleasure to be with you today representing the American Institute of Architects, and it is particularly pleasing to participate in your Alabama Concrete Industries Association program recognizing these architectural students for their achievements in design. I would like to add our congratulations to these young men for their fine work.

I would like to express to you, the members of the ACIA, the appreciation of the AIA for your interest in the educational processes of young architects. Through this program, you exposed some 30 young men to some of the problems and possibilities inherent in the use of concrete.

While the design problems formulated by the faculty required extensive research and study at the University, they were also given the advantage of observing first hand the manufacture and use of concrete in many of its forms, from conventionally reinforced, to pre-stressed, to pre-cast exposed aggregate, to block and so on. It is impossible to gauge with any accuracy the impact of direct observation on the education of students who have been more or less cloistered, but it is considerable.

Perhaps they realize for the first time the infinite variety of shapes and forms that are possible due to the plasticity of concrete, that it is not only a utilitarian, working material, of great durability and strength, but that it has beauty within itself when properly used.

One of the major concerns of the AIA is the abrupt change from the generally theoretical aspects of the five academic years to the generally harsh practicalities of the three years of apprenticeship. We recognize that we need to inject more of the professional problems into the formal education, and we need to inject more continuing education into the Profession.

The concept and execution of the ACIA program made a real contribution toward this end, and Architecture as a whole, from educators to practitioners, are deeply grateful."

May-June 1966
Dear Sir:

First I wish to compliment you on the good get-up of the “Alabama Architect.” Something we have needed for a long time.

In regard to the last Roster issue, I wish to correct some discrepancies, namely,

The designation Auburn School of Arch. should be eliminated, as I retired July 1, 1964.

The telephone company changed the tel. number to 887-8303 lately.

Dean Biggin passed away in 1943, not 1948. (This on the next to last page.)

The best of personal wishes to you.

Sincerely yours,

E. Walter Burkhardt, F.A.I.A

NEW MEMBERS AND CHANGE OF STATUS


Ralph K. Morrill, AIA, 404 East Magnolia, Auburn, transferred April 1, 1966 to the Montgomery Chapter from the Boston Society of Architects. Department of Architecture, Auburn University.

ASSOCIATE — Luther P. Aaberg, 715 Franklin Street, Huntsville, member of the North Alabama Chapter. Firm: Northington, Smith, Kranert & Associates.


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