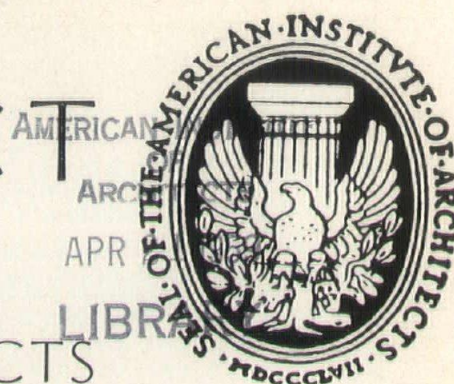


02
IOWA ARCHITECT

Official publication of

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

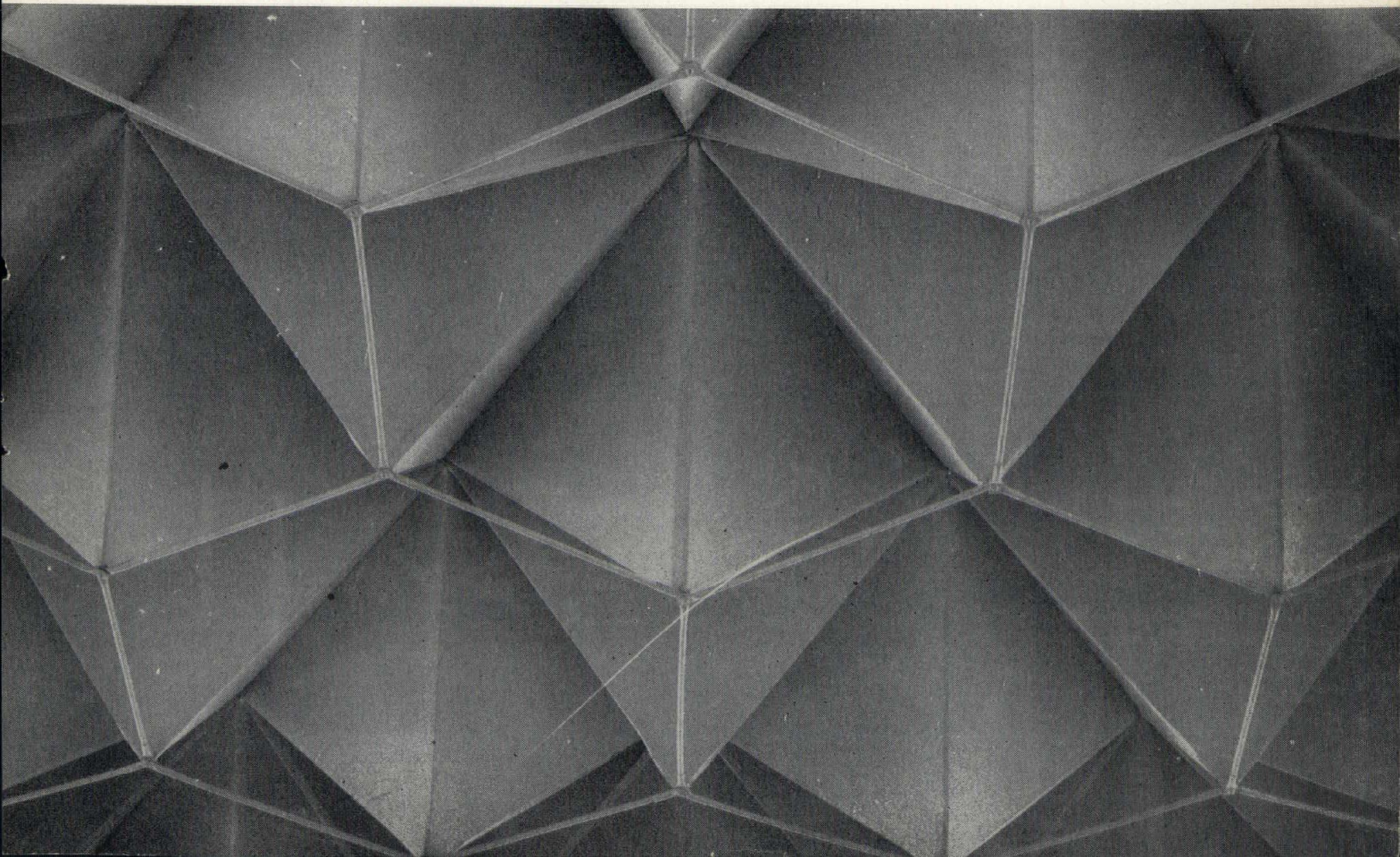


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VOLUME VI

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1959

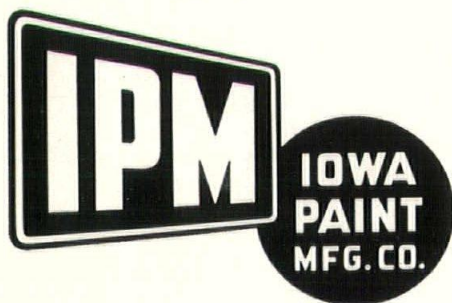




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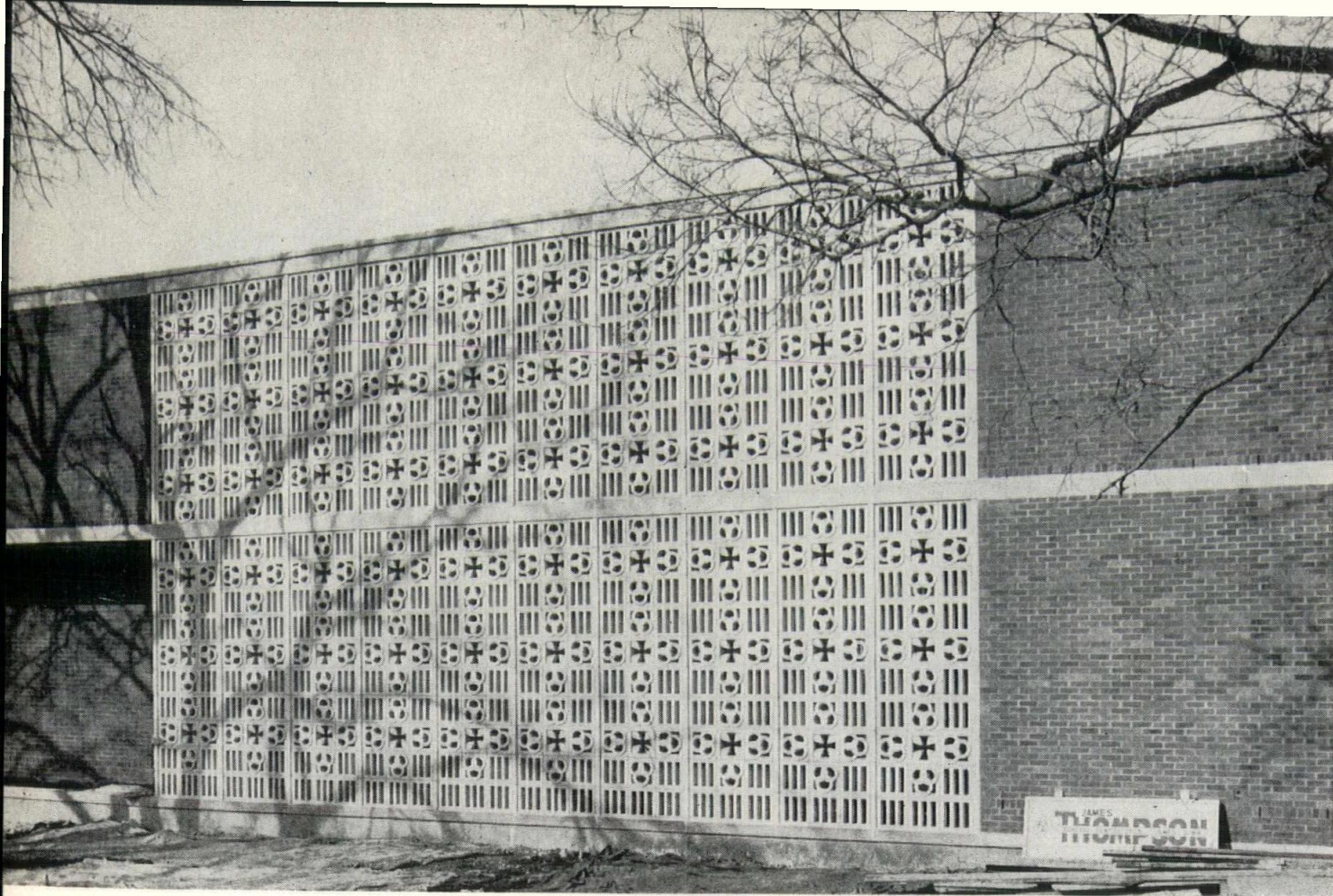
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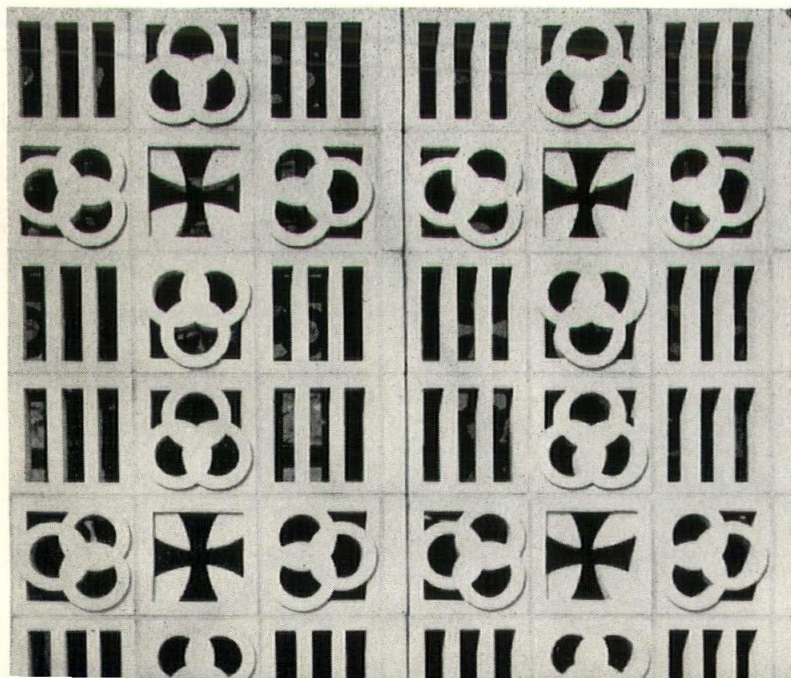
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PIERCED SCREEN at COLLEGIATE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Ames, Iowa

Architect: Leonard Wolf, Ames

Providing visual interest and shading an equal amount of window, this screen of 700 square feet is created in nine-unit patterns with units formed to the specifications of the designer. The rings project about an inch, and the cross is recessed about an inch from the face of the units.



Units: White, cast stone;
13" square,
5" thick.



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IOWA ARCHITECT

Iowa Chapter, American Institute of Architects

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THE COVER

Tetrahedrons of stressed skin roof, a project of senior engineering students under direction of Prof. Arthur Barton, Iowa State College. Roy Nelson made analytical computations; Allen Harris and James Schmidt directed construction.

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For the aging:

Adventures in environment

Eugene C. O'Neil, Vice-President of the Iowa Chapter, attended the Sixth Annual Architect's Conference at Lawrence Kan., sponsored by the Kansas City and Kansas Chapters, A.I.A.

MOST SIGNIFICANT of the problems related to aging in the United States is the very magnitude of the problem. There now are 15.5 million Americans over 65 years of age, and 850,000 over 80. By 1980 (possibly by 1975) there will be 24.5 million over 65 and 1.8 million over 80. This requires a change of general concept of where aging begins and a re-evaluation of the retirement age.

Next most significant is the future life expectancy which may be provided through medical research. It has been learned how we age, and control of the aging process appears possible through supplementation to offset glandular diminutions. It can be expected that, when medicine has learned a simple method of determining the "state of aging" of an individual, the useful and active life—which long has been considered to be 70 years—may be extended to 120 years. This radical concept of life span is almost within prediction; will our society, our culture and our economy be prepared to accept it?

Age is a state of mind. A man does not change much, but he is psychologically behind the eight-ball as he approaches age 65. Anticipated retirement may make him a drug on himself and those around him; he becomes socially conditioned to the idea of old age; and falls victim to self-pity. He may feel sorry that he is old, but society does not sympathize with him for his age is recognized as an achievement, although his skill and knowledge may be "laid aside."

Seven million of those over 65 are living as couples; four million are household heads (not as couples), and nearly five million live with children or relatives. Only four per cent are in institutions.

More than half have chronic illnesses, but still participate in social structure (8,000,000); 3.5 million have no chronic illness or ill health; 2.0 million have chronic conditions but have mobility; 750,000 are confined to their homes, and 500,000 are seriously and chronically ill.

Middle age is reached when the children leave home; housing needs change but too few people act soon enough. They keep the old large home. When retirement comes, other problems come, too. People who have seen each other only casually for maybe 40 years are thrust together constantly.

The greatest problem of aging is monotony; the greatest fears are isolation, illness, and—worst of all—of being unloved and unwanted.

There is no single type of building that serves all types of older people. The scale of descendency would be those who live in : (1) their own home, (2) residence clubs (such as retirement hotels, villages, developments, etc.), (3) sheltered institutions (foster homes, institutions, and chronic illness hospital).

Generalizations are wrong when applied to older people because they have had more experience at being an individual, and they do not reduce to statistics emotionally, medically, physically, socially or culturally.

If you reduce them to statistics, you have begun development of a "plant" for the creation of senile old people.

Although they have been orientated to the idea that after 65 they have to worry only about cashing the social security check, hunting and fishing; they do face the problem of purposeful living. Inactivity and financial security are woefully inadequate compensation for active people.

New education, adventure and experiences will keep an interest in life—for when we lose interest in accomplishment, we start to die.

What do architects do in consideration of older people in the design of homes? Probably not nearly enough, unless there is a known heart condition or a demonstrated physical disability.

Here are some proposed "rules of thumb" for design of living quarters for the aging:

Adequate lighting is a must, vision is a problem.

Carpet the bathroom, eliminate cold floors, or throw rugs which may slip. Provide shower, hand hold for getting in and out of tub.

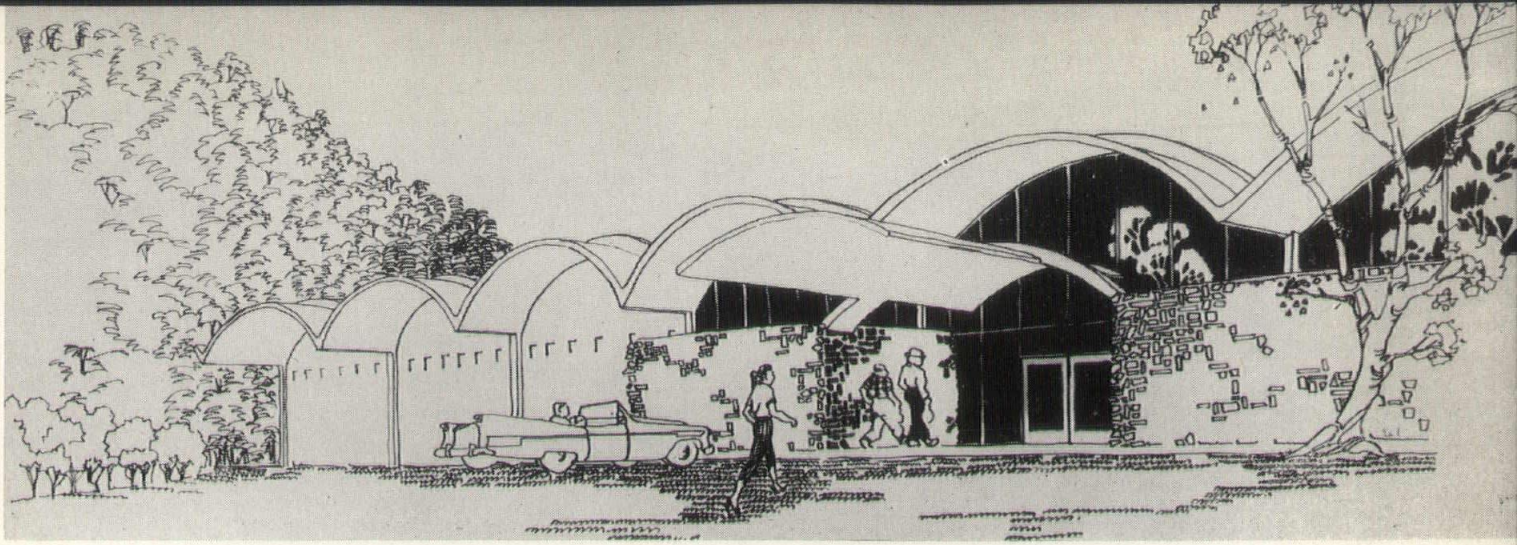
Use electricity throughout (no gas appliances); night lights throughout house; no steps, no thresholds; consider wheelchairs throughout and for every doorway.

Older people cannot tolerate chilling; use basements (even radiant heating does not turn the trick on cold floors on a year-round basis); older folk rarely suffer from heat because they are not active.

Don't let interior decorators kill the old rocking chair; old folk like their old furniture.

Dangers ahead are that architects (indoctrinated like social planners) will do their job well, and think of everything, providing a good, uniformly heated, clean, sterile physical plant so that the residents will not have to worry about a thing. Few steps to dinner, entertainment provided, etc., until a completely unstimulating environment creates a senile person out of an aging person. Adventures in environment must be provided.

The conference was thought-provoking. One cannot overlook the fact that everyone grows older; the only solution is to die young, and with so much to do in this world, there isn't time to die.



CRES-LANES BOWLING ALLEY, DUBUQUE. ARCHITECT: DURRANT & BERGQUIST

Barrels, domes, umbrellas

Thin-shell concrete demonstrates strength of a curve

BUILDERS IN this country currently are showing increasing interest in "thin shell" concrete construction for roofs and other overhead structures.

Basically, this technique recognizes that a straight line is seldom the *strongest* distance between two points; it takes advantage of the curve, the accordion-fold and other shapes to make a little concrete go a long way, and hold itself up without pillar or post.

Developed in Europe some thirty-five years ago, thin-shell construction has met with favor in South America and Mexico. It did not immediately lend itself to American methods; only in the past five years has it begun to be adopted in the United States.

Two substantial examples have lately appeared in Iowa. A dome, 174 feet in diameter, was built last fall to house a trickling filter at the sewage treatment plant for the Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District, Milford. A bowling alley with an interior span of 75 x 161 feet is under construction at Dubuque.

The bowling alley is the first multiple barrel shell construction in this state.

Each roof section resembles a slice cut lengthwise from a cylinder; each of these vaults spans 75 feet, the long way; 29 feet, across. Concrete forming the long sections, which are supported only at the ends, is three inches thick.

Ability of such thin concrete to span the long distances is due to the strength of its curve—a strength understood, if not analyzed, by anyone who hands a magazine to another person, first bending it into a curve between fingers and thumb so it will remain rigid.

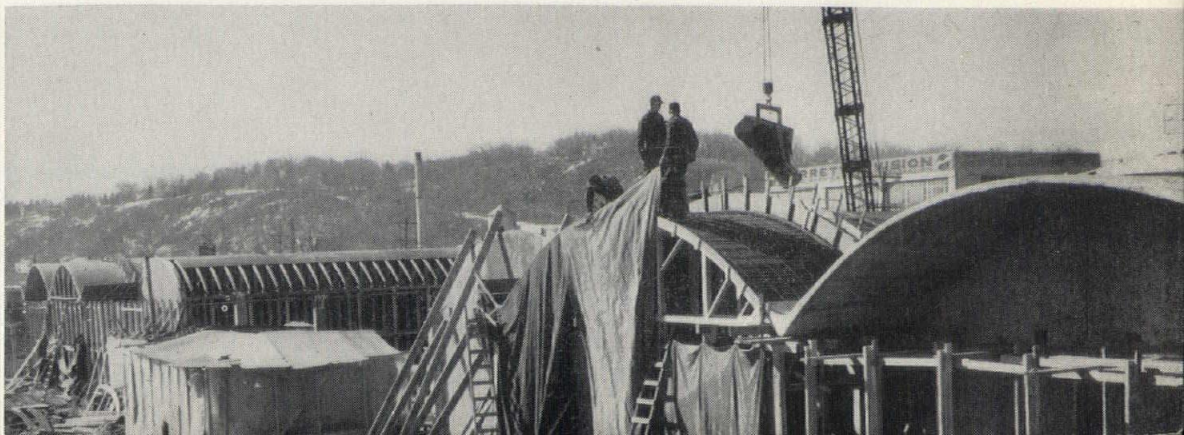
In the case of the bowling alley, a conventional concrete roof would have required three times as much concrete, the architect estimated.

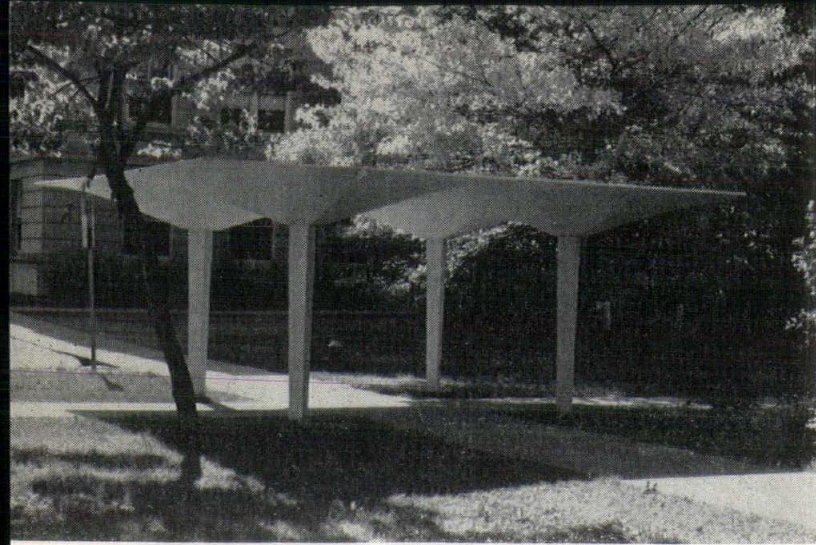
Each concrete vault is actually 83 feet long, since there is an eight-foot cantilever on the facade.

Since construction was undertaken in the winter, heated concrete was poured, and the slab was protected by an enclosure. High-early-strength concrete was used to shorten curing time, so forms could be removed in about five days.

Photos: Link, Dubuque

HEATED CONCRETE, WINTER ENCLOSURE, HIGH-EARLY STRENGTH MIX PERMITS FORM REMOVAL IN FIVE DAYS





ISC PROJECT: UMBRELLA OF ONE-INCH CONCRETE

First vault was poured March 4; the next day, 22 inches of wet snow fell in Dubuque. The vault stood under the unexpected spring blizzard; work proceeded almost on schedule.

Despite the additional requirements for cold-weather concrete work, the contractor agrees with the architect that the structural system is economical.

Architects and engineers for the project are Durrant & Bergquist, Dubuque and Boscobel, Wis. Harold Jobse, Des Moines, district structural engineer for the Portland Cement Association, consulted. Contractor is Anton Zwack, Dubuque.

CONSTRUCTION of the big dome at Milford presented, among other challenges, an exercise in reducing its size to manageable portions.

It is about half a city block from one side of the shell to the other; the "thin" shell of its roof weighs nearly two million pounds.

To prevent eccentric loading, the dome was divided into 16 equal sections, and opposite sections were poured simultaneously.

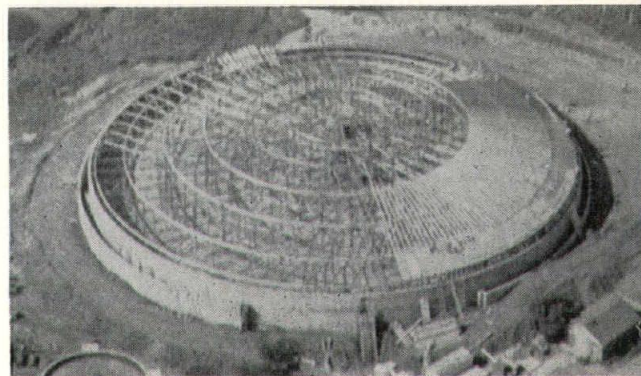
Plywood sheets were used as forms to shape the deck to the desired curvature. The plywood was supported by seven concentric ring beams (see photo),

each consisting of eight laminated one-by-twelve-inch boards, nailed and bolted to form a circle of precise size. These ring beams were held at their respective elevations by a system of wooden columns and braces strong enough to bear the weight of the massive dome until it cured and could support itself.*

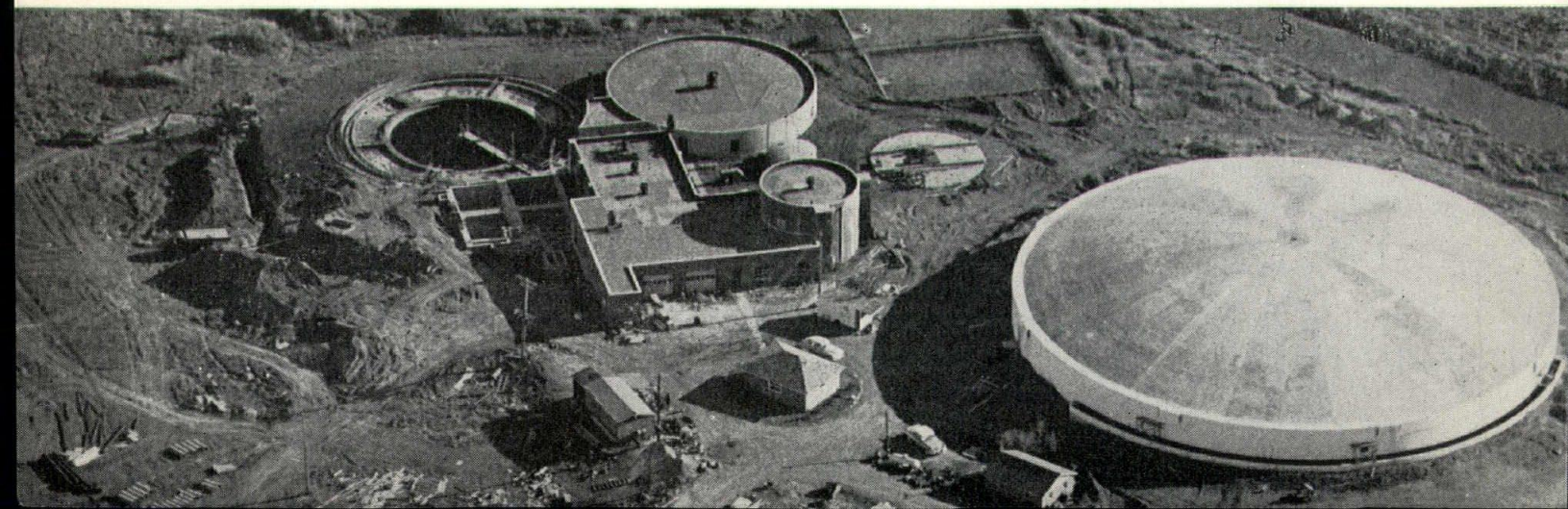
From the center of the dome to within 14 feet of the edge, the concrete is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick; the slab is shaped with such precision that half the thickness of the concrete lies above, and half below, the exact line of curvature envisioned by the designer. Outer rim of the dome thickens to 10 inches.

The dome was designed by the late C. P. Lewellen with the aid of Alfred Parme, manager of the structural bureau of the Portland Cement Association, Chicago. At the time of his death, Mr. Lewellen was a partner in the firm of Howard R. Green Co., consulting engineers, Cedar Rapids, and was a member of the Iowa State Board of Engineering Examiners. Resident engineer for the project was Harold A. Miller of the Cedar Rapids firm.

Because of the type of work, and the relative lack of similar construction in the area, closest coopera-



174-FOOT DOME HOUSES TRICKLING CENTER IN IOWA GREAT LAKES SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT, MILFORD





TEST RIG ANALYZES STRENGTH OF BARREL SHAPE

tion between engineer and contractor was essential. Miller is very complimentary about the Spencer Construction Company, contractors for the whole sewage treatment plant.

INTEREST IN thin shell construction also is apparent on the campus at Iowa State College, where senior architectural students in classes of Prof. Arthur Burton designed and constructed four "umbrellas" of one-inch concrete.

First the class made a site analysis and built a scale model; then they constructed a basic form ten feet square, using different types of reinforcement for the concrete. Four units were built, each weighing about 1,800 pounds, and hoisted by crane to the tapered concrete columns designed and built by the same class.

Later the umbrellas were moved to the engineering experiment station laboratory for testing as a thesis project in structural engineering by Gungor Tascioglu, under Prof. H. P. Harrenstien.

Students in architectural engineering have been running tests to demonstrate strength of some of the shapes utilized in thin shell construction. James Schmidt constructed the aluminum structural model shown, which simulates barrel type construction. A model such as this permits analysis which can be adapted to a full scale structure.

Ronald Baker and James Cagely did analysis in preparation for the testing, which uses SR4 type 11 strain gauges with a Baldwin potentiometer.

Data, Milford dome: Structure is segment of spherical dome with central angle of $51^{\circ} 34'$. Neutral axis, radius of $200' - 2\frac{1}{4}"$. Thickened section, subtending central angle of $8^{\circ} 58'$. Dome prestressed by post-tensioning methods of Prescon Corp., Denver. Tendons, 14 ten-wire cables of four sections 145 feet long, of ten $\frac{1}{4}"$ high tensile wires with ultimate strength 240,000 psi. Concrete in thickened section had to meet crushing test of 5750 psi at 28 days in test cylinders; other concrete 4300 psi at same interval. Maximum slump in mix of $1\frac{1}{2}"$. Ring beams supported by 2x6 and 2x4 tee columns on radial bridge planks at eighth points of tank; 2x6 braces along each line of columns formed eight trusses for main support; additional intermediate columns and sway bracing. Total weight, approx. 1,850,000 pounds.

Wheels for the Wagon

AWARDS To outstanding students of the Iowa State College Department of Architecture and Architectural Engineering will be one highlight of the Annual Spring Meeting of the Iowa Chapter of the A.I.A. at Ames, April 15.

Harold Spitznagel of Sioux Falls, S.D., North Central District Regional Director for A.I.A., has been chosen to be the banquet speaker. His work has attracted wide attention and his practice includes all types of structure. His church at Spencer, Iowa, recently was featured in an article in the Saturday Evening Post. Outstanding among his major projects are the Municipal Building at Sioux Falls, S.D., and the State Office Building, at Pierre, S.D.

The banquet will be held in Memorial Union beginning at 6:30 P.M. Officers of the Student Chapter for the 1959-60 college year will be announced.

President George Horner of the Iowa Chapter has called the chapter meeting to begin at 2 P.M. and members will gather in the Department of Architecture. The Executive Committee of the Chapter will meet at the college preceding the Chapter meeting and the Committee on Education will review the Seniors' exhibits beginning at 9 a.m.

Principal subject of the chapter meeting will be the final action on proposals to implement decisions approved at the Annual Meeting at Des Moines in January. These proposals for increasing funds available for chapter activities. Details of the proposals were distributed to all chapter members in proposed By-law changes upon which the chapter will be asked to vote at the Spring Meeting. Action at this meeting will determine how soon the Executive Committee can begin operating the expanded program which received unanimous approval of those attending the first Chapter meeting at the January convention.

Outing at Clear Lake?

Tom Waggoner of Mason City, who has been asked by President George Horner to investigate the possibility of holding the summer outing meeting at Clear Lake, has told the Iowa Architect that a preliminary report will be ready for presentation at the April 15 meeting in Ames.

At an Executive Committee meeting after the Convention, Iowa Chapter directors and officers expressed a desire to hold the 1959 summer meeting at Clear Lake, with consideration to be given Lake Okoboji again in 1960.

Dates for the summer outing also will be determined at the Ames meeting.



OFFICERS HORNER, O'NEIL, FREVERT, ROBISON

Horner New President

GEORGE HORNER of Iowa City, Superintendent of Architectural and Engineering Services for the State University of Iowa, has advanced to the presidency of the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and Eugene C. O'Neil (Woodburn & O'Neil), Des Moines, is vice president.

The elections were a major event during the chapter's convention, January 28-30, at the Hotel Savery, Des Moines. W. David Frevert, (Dougher, Frevert & Ramsey), Des Moines, was re-elected secretary, and Doug Robison, (Stewart, Robison & Laffan), Davenport, was re-elected treasurer.

Directors chosen were Ray Bergquist (Durrant and Bergquist), Dubuque; Robert Grow (Grow and DeVoe), Cedar Falls, and Robert Savage (Savage and Ver Ploeg), West Des Moines.

Oswald Thorson of Waterloo, chairman of a special "Projects and Dues Structure Committee," presented a report which called for an increase of \$4,000 annually in the chapter budget. Proposals include establishment of an "Honor Awards" program, creation of a motion picture on architecture in Iowa, establishment of an "Operation Retread" to offer refresher courses to architects; high school scholarships program; chapter publication of documents; increased budget for securing convention speakers; and the establishment of a part-time executive secretary for the chapter. Other proposals include a means of providing architect's services to speculative home builders, and a refresher course of study for persons preparing to take the state architectural board examinations.

The committee proposed that membership dues for corporate and associate members be \$20 annually, and that additional funds be raised by a "head tax", assessed against firms, of \$12 per "A.I.A.-eligible" employee per year.

Keith Lorenzen of Waterloo, reporting on actions of the Committee on Education, said the committee recommended that the chapter provide \$1,500 in 1959 and \$1,500 in 1960 to send students abroad for a summer of on-the-job training in England. The funds advanced would be repaid by the students, he explained, and would become a revolving fund. The chapter approved a motion by J. Woolson Brooks of Des Moines that the Executive Committee be given authority to use up to \$1,500 of present reserve funds, at its discretion, in support of the committee's proposal.

Members heard Prof. Leonard Wolf, head of the Department of Architecture and Architectural Engineering at Iowa State College, describe the need for office participation in the "Architect-in-Training Program." He also told of the action of Master Builders of Iowa in providing \$15,000 annually for building construction studies at ISC, and of the hiring by ISC of Dwight Kirsch, Des Moines artist, to offer a program in the graphic and visual arts.

The Chapter approved resolutions:

To establish awards suitable for recognition of contractor's superintendents, artists working in areas allied to architecture, and to craftsman-artists.

To commend the Master Builders for the program to provide special study funds to I.S.C.

To commend William J. Wagner, George Mills and Home Federal Savings and Loan Association upon the publication of "Landmarks of Iowa."

To express the willingness of the chapter to cooperate in development of and educational nature at I.S.C.

To thank the officers of 1958 for their efforts.

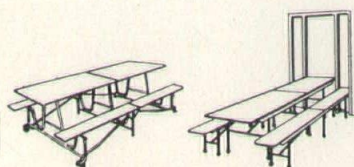
To express gratitude to the committees for their efforts during the year past.



SCULPTOR CHRISTIAN PETERSEN receives from Amos Emery (left) honorary chapter membership for "contributing significantly to architecture through activities in allied fields." Petersen lives at Gilbert.

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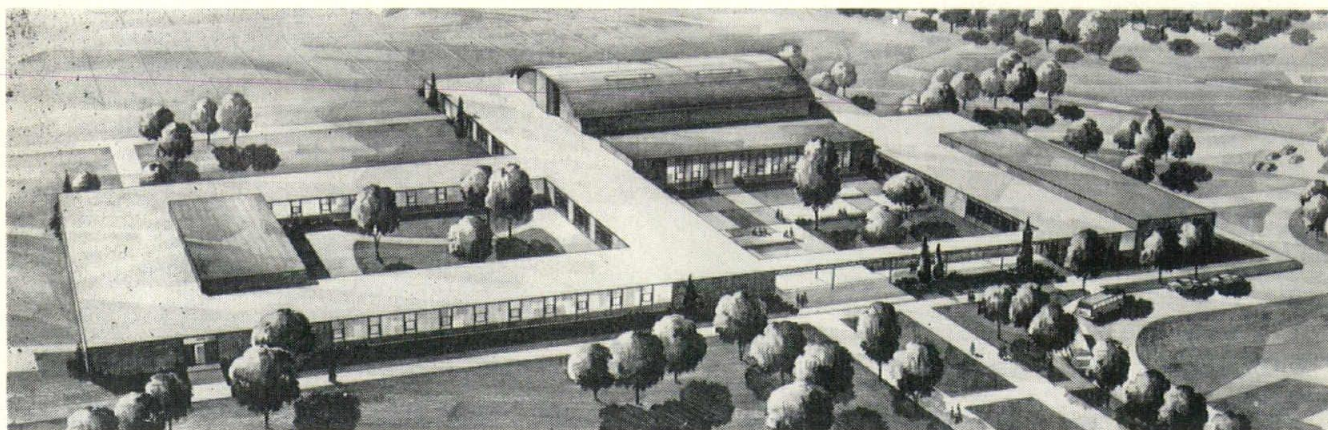


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AT A COST WELL WITHIN THE BUDGET



ARCHITECT: KARL KEFFER ASSOCIATES, DES MOINES, IOWA
CONTRACTOR: FANE F. VAWTER AND COMPANY, DES MOINES, IOWA

The new senior high school building project at Fort Madison, Iowa, was typical of so many communities all over the country. An expansion need, a budget, a time problem. Karl Keffer Associates, architects for the project, set requirements for the roof deck, stressing fast erection without going to a wet material.

The design incorporated warm toned grey brick and colorful ceramic tile exterior panels, complemented by extensive use of lustra-grey glass throughout. Tectum roof deck tiles were installed on bulb trees over a light weight steel structural system, providing, in exposed areas, an efficient and attractive means of sound control, at a cost well within the budget. New materials offering greater latitude for designers have led the trend toward functionalism in building construction. Tectum, for example, offers the inherent advantages of several materials. It is made of wood fibers yet is rated non-combustible through a unique manufacturing process. It is insulating, acoustical and structural . . . three qualities normally associated with two or more separate ma-

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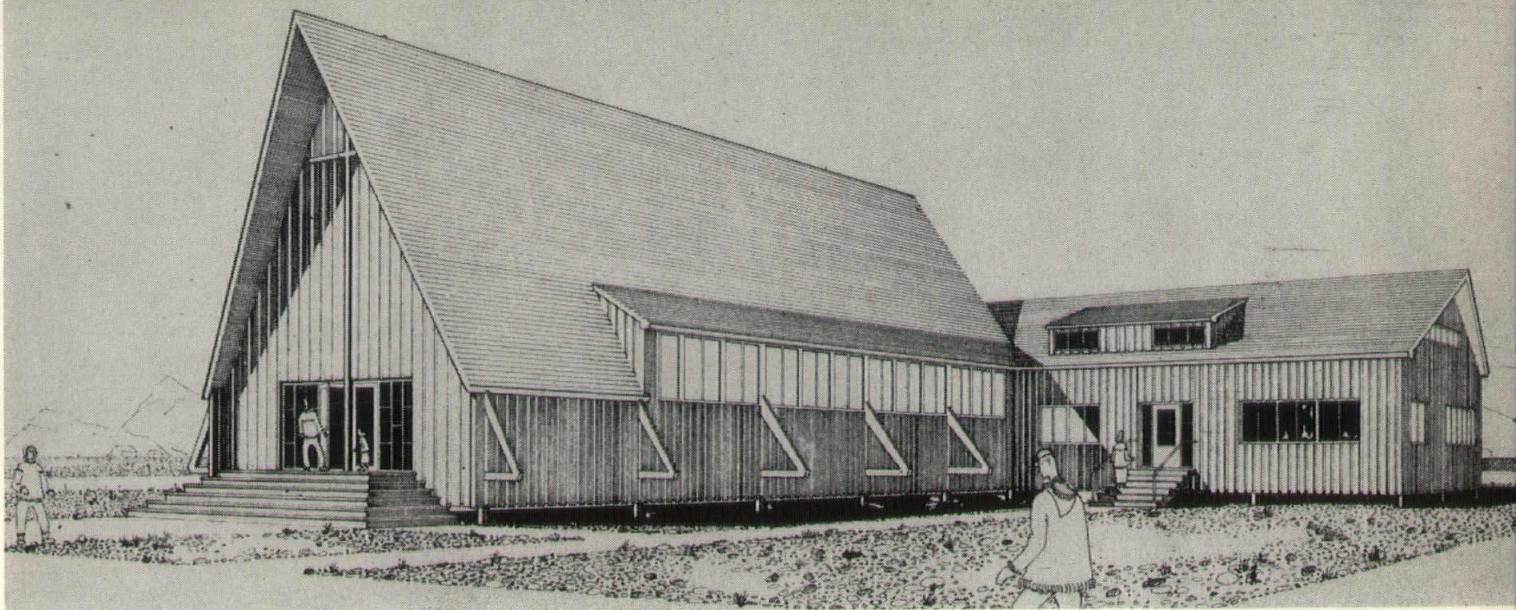
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Church on Ice

When Alaska became the forty-ninth of these United States, the work of at least one Iowa architect already was part of the landscape. Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Nome, was a project of Thorson, Thorson & Madson (now Thorson, Gjeltén & Schellberg), Forest City.

Only 150 miles south of the Arctic Circle, and about 75 miles east of Siberia, Nome is the farthest-flung metropolis of the big new state. In the rigorous Bering-Sea climate, the architect commented with obvious understatement, "many things were different" in construction of the building.

Primary problem facing the designer was the development of a suitable foundation.

In the northern latitudes, the ground is frozen, almost year-round; summer thawing penetrates only a few feet from the surface.

In the Nome area, the perma-frost is presently 67 feet deep, making it next to impossible to excavate below the frost line.

The task, then, was to develop foundation down to a point that would remain frozen all year around.

In this particular case, that meant a depth of approximately 14 feet.

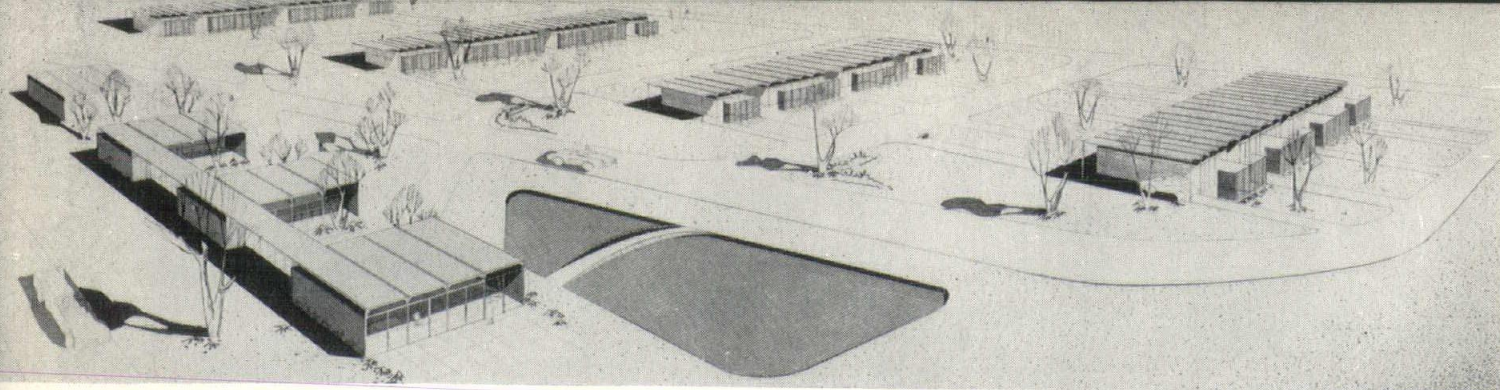
Placing of the foundation could best be accomplished during the winter, since surface water tends to stand in the soil on the undrained plains of the area. Wood piles therefore were shipped one season in advance of the contemplated beginning of the building project. During the winter, holes were drilled in the hard-frozen ground, and the piles placed upside-down to resist the pushing action of the frost. Piles were cut off three feet above ground level to await the beginning of construction.

As soon as the foundation was set, the contractor flew to Seattle to procure supplies. Because of the limited building season, every item down to the last nail must be on the first ship to reach Nome; lack of one crucial piece of material could delay the project an entire season.

After overseeing the loading of his materials for shipment, the contractor returned to wait until weather permitted the first ship to make the 2,300 mile voyage from Seattle to Nome. (Steamer service to Nome usually operates from some time in June until some time in October.)

Constant daylight provided the contractor with long working hours. The project was completed in less than three months' time, and before the first snowfall.

Contractors for the project were Dufseth Construction Co., Fairbanks, general; Nome Plumbing & Heating, mechanical; Hall Electric Co., Fairbanks, electrical.



HONORABLE MENTION in a competition of the National Institute of Architectural Education was won by Kenneth Bussard's design for a center for sports car enthusiasts, a portion of which is reproduced above. Bussard, a senior in architecture at Iowa State College, is from Clarinda.

Kenneth Wagner, of 1419 Gaines, Davenport, a student at the University of Illinois, won a \$100 prize in an N.I.A.E. competition with a design for a housing complex for elderly people.

The sports car center was to include a motel, a track, shops, lounges, exhibit area, parking space near the track and readily accessible to the motel rooms; site area was to be 1,000 feet by 2,000 feet; a control booth was to govern access to the exhibit and track area and to the parking space.

Pictures of Wagner's entry were not available.

Ah! those sketches . . .

From the Oak Ridger

Ask where is utopia, the place of eternal beauty, and the answer is in the land of the architect's sketch.

Those lovely lines, shadows, shades; that immaculately trimmed, perfectly shaped shrubbery; those aesthetically styled automobiles in the parking lot (never too many); those charmingly angular, smart, sophisticated people (one is always walking a prize winning dog); those gracious trees; that flawlessly mowed, weedless, litterless lawn.

But soon the dream fades and construction is complete. Solid, handsome, great improvement, progress—yes, but the shrubs grow, the automobiles get dirty and dented (not to mention some atrocious two-tones); the people are wrinkled, slouched, harried, hurried! the dogs get the mange, the trees lose their leaves, the lawn is ill kept because someone wanted to go fishing.

Escape, escape, back to the architect's drawing board. Would they could draw the world and then make it real.



NEW PRESIDENT of the Iowa Concrete Masonry Association is John P. Guild of Bettendorf (left). His vice-presidents are Merrill S. Bird (center) of West Des Moines, and R. C. Edelen (right) of Estherville. Larry Condrey of Cedar Rapids was elected secretary-treasurer.

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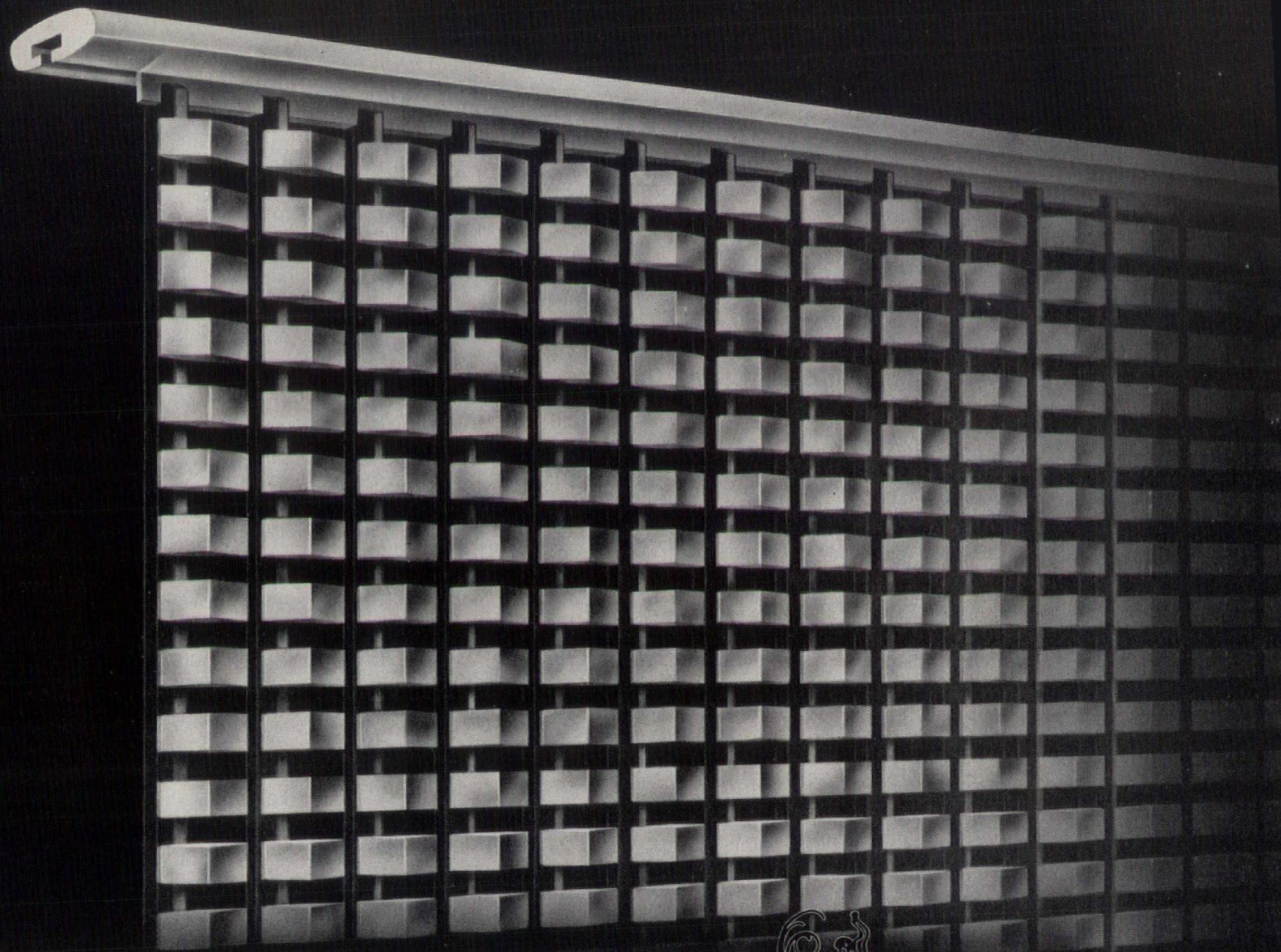
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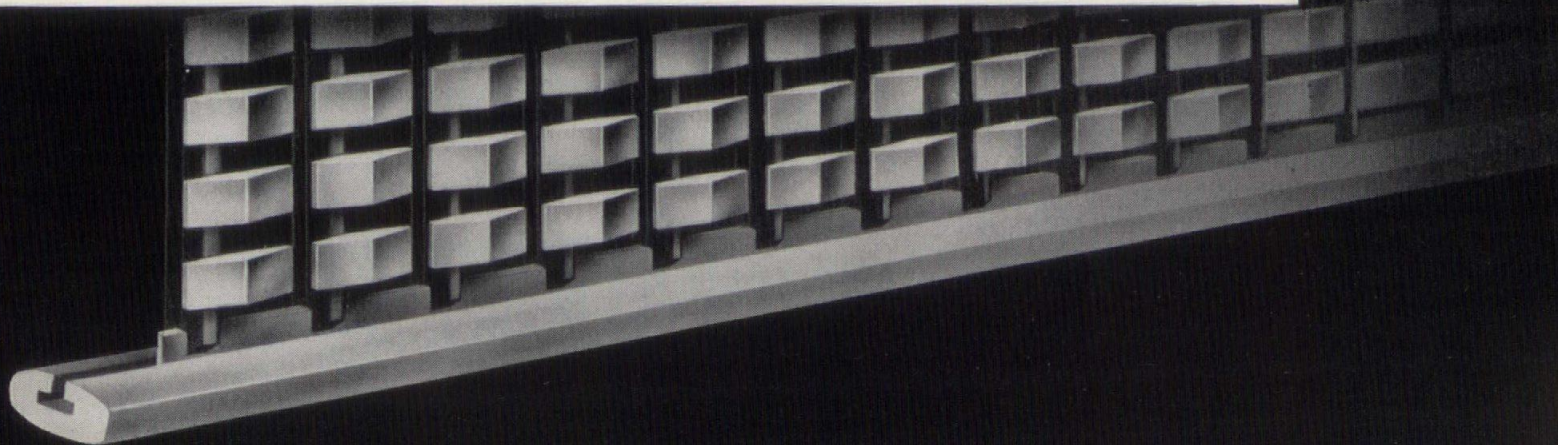


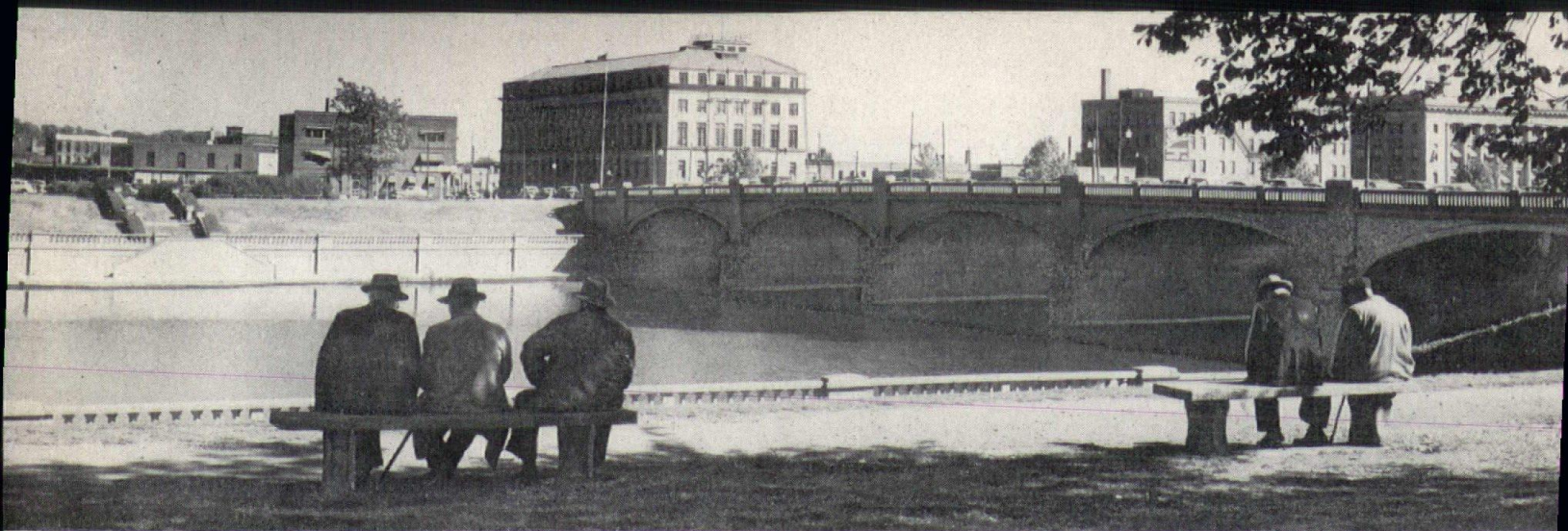
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FROM DES MOINES LIBRARY, VIEW INCLUDES U. S. COURTHOUSE (center), MUNICIPAL COURTHOUSE (extreme right)

INFLUENCES ON IOWA

Riverfronts & Thoroughfares

If a man practices architecture for 50 years in the same part of the country, his work must surely become a familiar factor in the landscape.

Yet it is possible that the most familiar, and perhaps most often appreciated, accomplishments of such a career may be those which are seldom connected with the designer's name.

So it is with Frank E. Wetherell, Des Moines, who still takes a lively interest in the profession he entered in 1892, going to the office daily despite "retirement" well before World War II.

And if some of the more significant results of his efforts are distinguished in the public mind by their beauty or efficiency, but unidentified with the name of any individual, that undoubtedly meets with the approval of the designer.

For, especially when he worked as part of a civic group, this architect has insisted, as a point of professional conduct, that whatever public mention came to the group be given to the group as a whole, no matter how large a share of the thinking might have been done by the "spokesman."

The fruits of this octogenarian's long years in architecture are numerous, and well distributed: Y.M.C.A. buildings at Oskaloosa, Mt. Pleasant, Marshalltown, Winona, Minn., Corvallis, Ore.; Episcopal churches at Oskaloosa, Des Moines (St. Mark's), Pueblo, Colo.; courthouses at Leon, Sigourney; libraries at Oskaloosa, Osceola, Bloomfield, Mt. Ayr, Bedford, Boone; Masonic temples at Winterset, Centerville, East Des Moines (Home Lodge); the Merchants Transfer warehouse (now Younkers), Des Moines; the Eastern Star & Masonic Home, Boone; the Wallace and Wetherell Apartments, Des Moines. Each section of the list is incomplete; more have been omitted than mentioned.

Born in Malta, Ohio, the son of a contractor and builder, Frank Wetherell came to Iowa at age six, when his parents moved to Oskaloosa. There he received his preliminary education, and there, after studies at the University of Iowa, he began the practice of architecture, at age 22.

Photos courtesy Des Moines Register and Tribune

IN 1930s AND 1940s, RETAINING WALLS WERE BUILT, MUD DREDGED FROM CHANNEL TO COVER JUNK



He practiced in Peoria, Ill., for four years (1894-98) and in 1905 located in Des Moines, entering the office established by O. O. Smith. Among commissions obtained by Smith but executed by Wetherell were Mercy Hospital and St. Joseph Academy. About 1912 he was joined by Alva J. Gage, who had been studying architecture in France. This partnership for several years had the exclusive contract for Des Moines schools, designing about 20 buildings including the original parts of Hubbell, Brooks and Henry Sabin schools, among others.

They also remodeled the Iliad Hotel into the Shops Building, and with three other firms were appointed to plan the new City Hall. Roland (Tip) Harrison joined some years after Gage dropped out. One of their first commissions was the Consistory Temple, in the mid 1920s. This firm, has, since its establishment, been among the most active in practice in Iowa. Associated with it are Frank's only son, Edwin H., and a grandson, John.

As soon as his practice was established in Des Moines, Frank Wetherell began to think about means of accomplishing civic improvements, to which he had

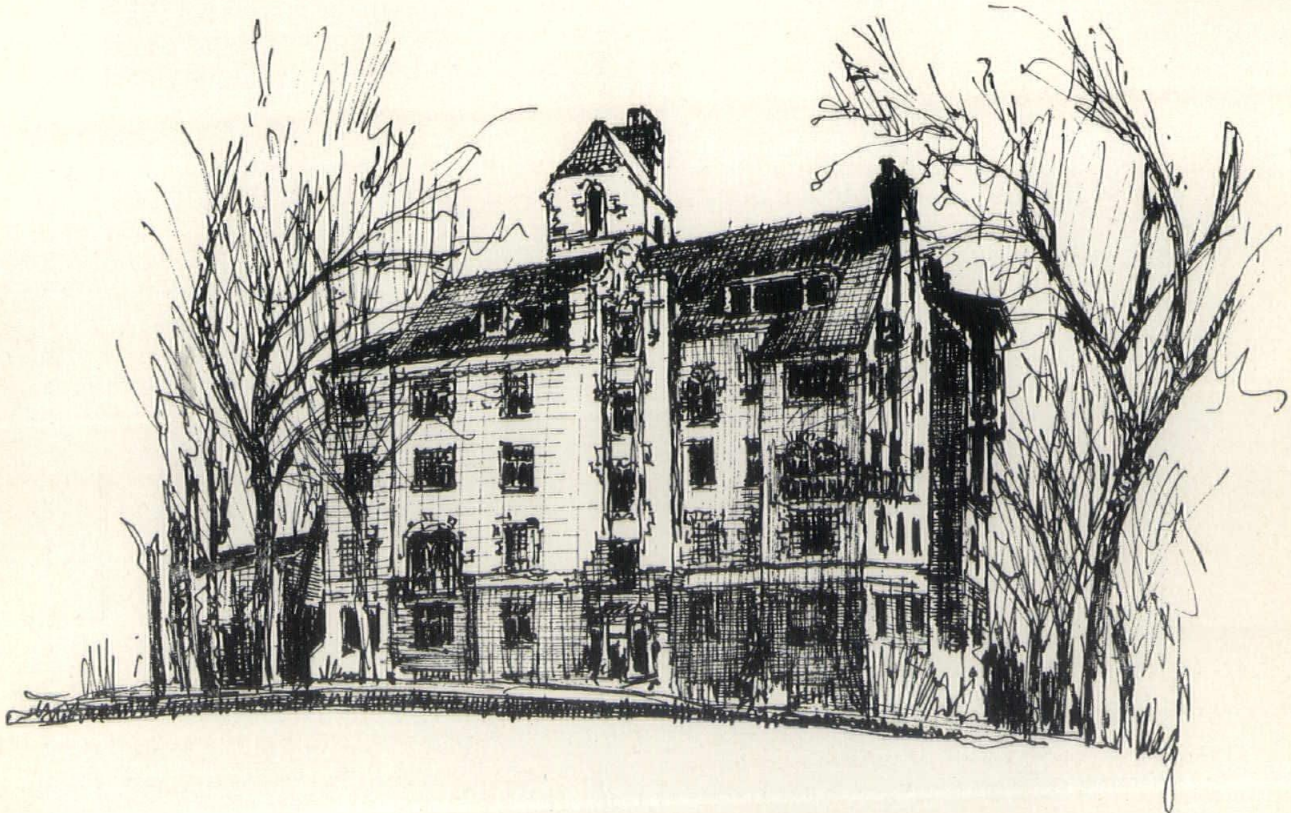
given some study in other cities. His proposal for a committee of architects resulted in a planning committee, of architects and business men, formed in 1913. It met for lunch on Tuesday noon; one or more members of the city council always attended, and reporters found it profitable to call after every meeting. Secretary, for many years, was Frank Wetherell.

Through this body, Wetherell proposed and promoted many improvements: to make a civic center along the river front; to create crosstown thoroughfares along University Avenue and other streets; to widen Grand Avenue; to create a diagonal thoroughfare to the northwest.

Out of the latter idea grew Keosauqua Way, a six-lane expressway from the loop built in the days of Model Ts, but designed so well it expedites today's high-powered vehicles. Costs were paid by a benefited district. (Keo Way was intended to be about twice its present length, emerging in the vicinity of the Beaver Avenue diagonal, and funneling traffic smoothly from the loop to the city limits.)

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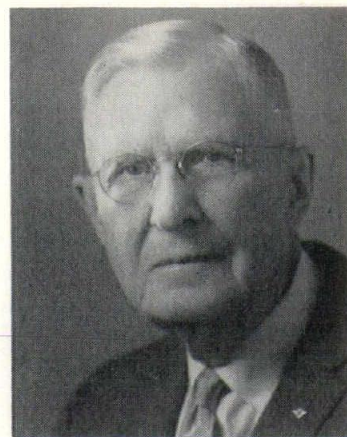
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*Frank E.
Wetherell*

Wetherell made detailed studies of laws in other states; drafted legislation for Iowa and spent long hours with legislative committees to achieve legal provision for street widening, city planning, zoning, district improvement taxes, etc.

Execution of the riverfront improvements has occupied decades, proceeding through depression public works and wartime exigencies.

The public library was the nucleus. When Wetherell heard rumors of a new postoffice for Des Moines, he enlisted support from the Chamber of Commerce and Greater Des Moines Committee; eventually saw his idea crystallize into the building across Walnut street from the library. In due time, the City Hall, U.S. Courthouse and Municipal court building followed; now the eight-story Y.M.C.A. building is being added.

A serious threat came when the old Coliseum was proposed for the water's edge. Esthetics—aided by Wetherell energy—prevailed, and the Coliseum had the same setback as the library until it burned ten years ago.

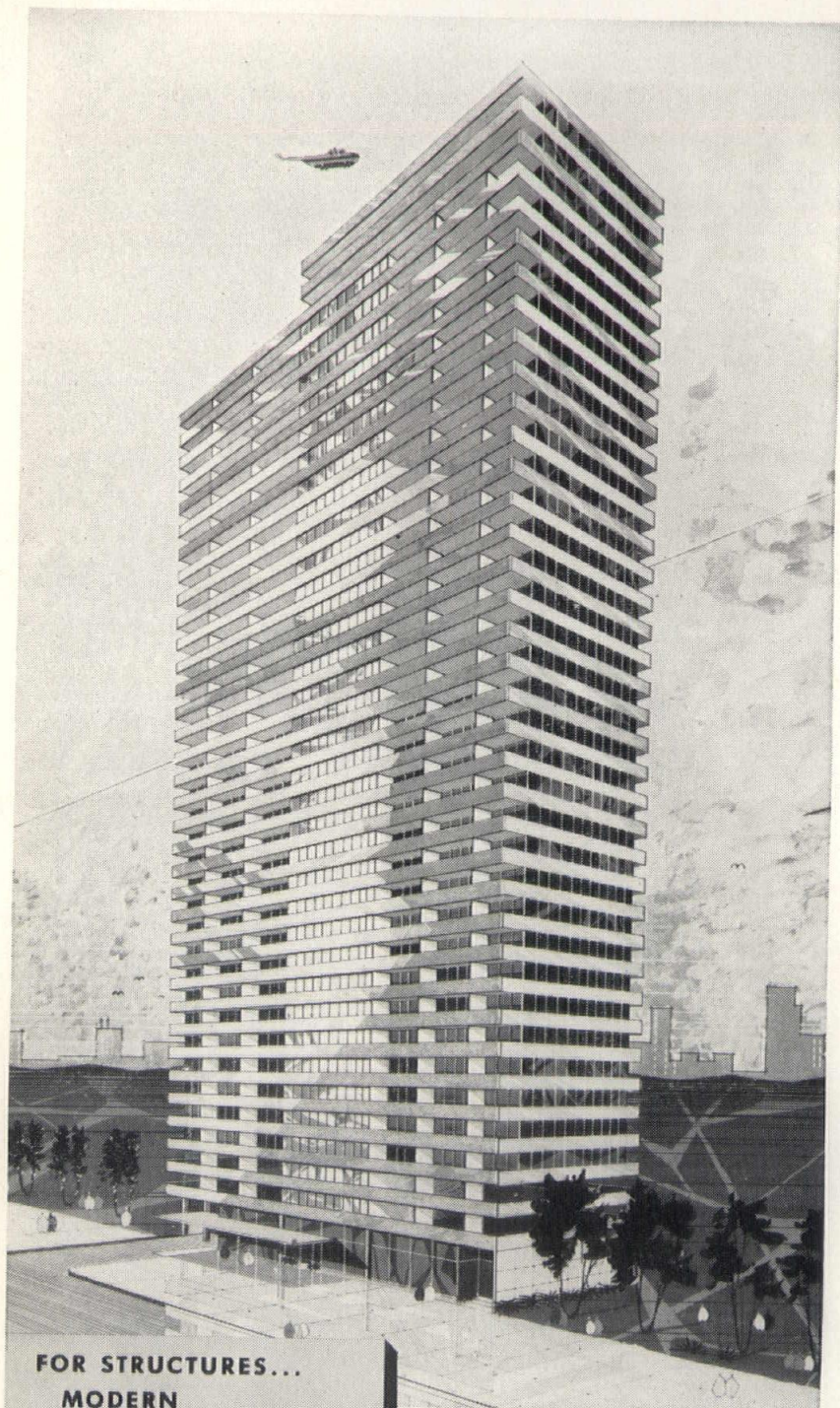
Improvement of the waterline has been a continuing project. Wetherell was authorized by the city council to draft plans for the long, decorative retaining wall now pleasantly familiar to everyone who walks across the downtown bridges. Once the walls were built, the banks behind had to be filled, ripped and planted; mud was dredged out of the river for months to improve the channel and fill behind the walls; finally the "beauty dam" was built at the junction of the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers, to improve the water level in the central section.

Civic improvement is never ended. But Frank Wetherell has seen it go a long way, in Des Moines. And every hurried motorist who moves swiftly along a thoroughfare, every harried soul who pauses for a moment of serenity at the water's edge, every citizen who delights in the orderly progression of civic buildings along the riverfront, is—probably all unknowing—a tribute to the designer's contribution to the city's growth, in spirit as well as size.

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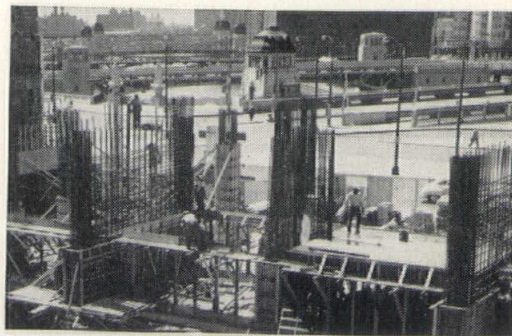
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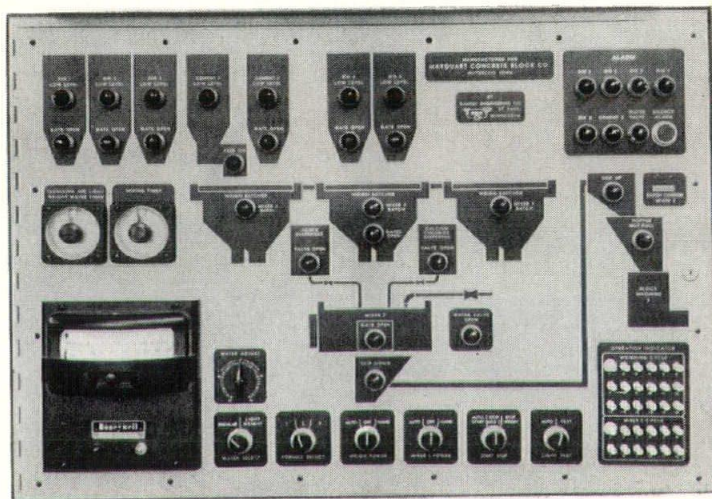
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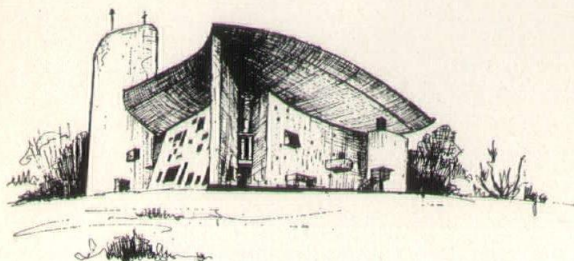
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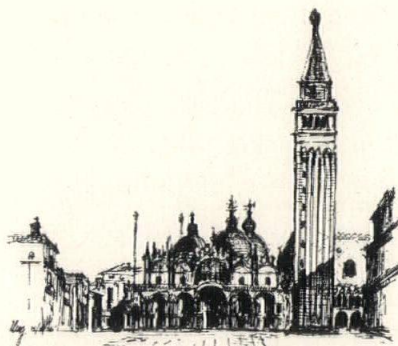
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'ON THIS HILL IN 1944 MANY FRENCHMEN DIED FOR THE PEACE'

COME LET US BUILD OURSELVES....A TOWER WITH ITS TOP IN THE HEAVENS
AND LET US MAKE A NAME FOR OURSELVES"... AND THE LORD SAID, "THIS IS
ONLY THE BEGINNING OF WHAT THEY WILL DO; NOTHING THAT THEY PROPOSE
TO DO NOW WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM..." GENESIS 11

GREETINGS FOR 1959 FROM THE WAGNERS. OUR TAB TOOK US THRU
12000 MILES OF ENGLAND & EUROPE DURING THE LAST 5 MONTHS OF
1958. WE HAVE COME HOME WITH A FEELING OF AWE FOR THE INFINITE
LABOR WHICH NUMBERLESS PEOPLE HAVE DEVOTED TO THE BUILDING OF
PHYSICAL MONUMENTS TO THEIR GOD.

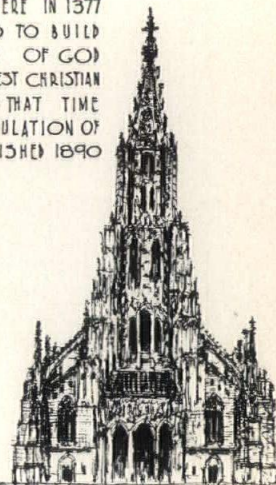


HERE 4000 YEARS AGO WAS BUILT A MONUMENT THAT, TODAY, WOULD CAUSE
OUR CONTRACTORS TO PAUSE AND WORRY. SINGLE STONES UP TO 30 FT
LONG AND WEIGHING 45 TONS WERE QUARRIED, DRESSED, TRANSPORTED 200
MILES AND ERECTED. NO RACE KNOWN IN ENGLISH ANTIQUITY HAD THAT ABILITY.



THREE GENERATIONS OF ONE FAMILY WORKED TO COMPLETE THE BRILLIANT
MOSAICS WHICH EXTEND IN ONE CONTINUOUS SURFACE OVER VAULT & DOME,
TO PICTURE THE STORY OF THE CREATION, THE FALL OF MAN, THE REDEMPTION,
THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST, & THE LEGEND OF THE SAINTS. S. MARKS - VENICE - 1042

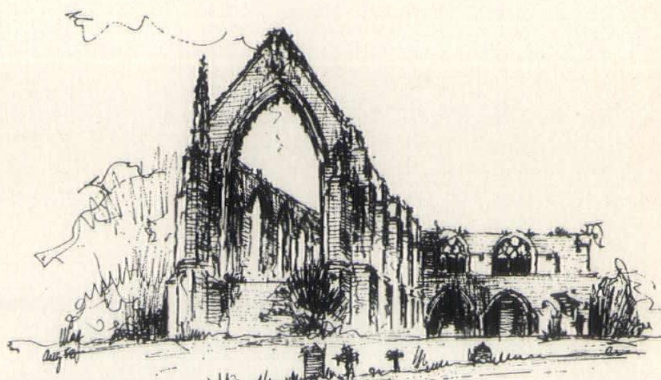
THE CATHEDRAL OF ULM, GERMANY - HERE IN 1377
BECAUSE OF THE WILL OF ITS CITIZENS TO BUILD
A CHURCH WORTHY OF THE HONOUR OF GOD
WAS STARTED WHAT IS TODAY, THE LARGEST CHRISTIAN
CHURCH IN EUROPE. A CHURCH WHICH AT THAT TIME
COULD HOUSE THE TOWN'S ENTIRE POPULATION OF
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Wagner in Ulm, Germany 10/1/58



HERE IN 597 UNDER AN ANCIENT OAK TREE, AUGUSTINE MET KING ETHELBERT AND HIS
CHRISTIAN QUEEN BERTHA. NEWS SPREAD AROUND KENT, THE KING HAS BECOME A
CHRISTIAN & WILL BE BAPTIZED. HIS SUBJECTS FOLLOWED. 10000 CHRISTMAS DAY
THE KING GAVE TO AUGUSTINE AN OLD CHRISTIAN ROMAN CHURCH - SO CANTERBURY
BEGAN. THE CENTURIES TO FOLLOW SAW IT ALTERED, ENLARGED, BURNED & BOMBED.
IT'S NAMED "BIRTHPLACE OF CHRISTIANITY IN ENGLAND" - 1800 YRS CHURCH HISTORY



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BRITISH ISLES. A FEW MONKS & MANY LAY TRADESMEN LIVED AND TOILED ALL THEIR
LIVES BUILDING ABBEYS & PRIORIES. BOLTON PRIORY, 1154, IN YORKSHIRE IS ONE
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From the New Yorker

The other day, the *Daily News*, an exponent of visual humor, headed its lead editorial "\$CHOOL DISCUSSION." Mayor Wagner and the New York City Board of Education want an amendment to the the state constitution that will let the city borrow five hundred million dollars more than the legally fixed debt limit, to catch up with a great lag in school construction, and the *News* is fighting the amendment—possibly because it fears that a general rise in the level of education would constitute a threat to its circulation, now the largest in the country. "George Washington, Patrick Henry, Abraham Lincoln and various other noteworthy Americans got pretty well educated in surroundings that couldn't be called palatial," the *News* said. Well, Samson grew up to be a big, strong boy in a day when there were no hospitals, but that is scarcely a reason to stop building them. The hero of the editorial was City Comptroller Lawrence E. Gerosa. (Washington, Henry and Lincoln were just rung in to set him off, like seed pearls around a genuine zircon.) Mr. Gerosa had issued a report that, according to a story in the *Times*, "was considered at City Hall an effort to deliver a body blow—perhaps a knock-out punch" to any new bond issue for school construction. In the report, the Comptroller said he was against it because the Board of Education had been extravagant in planning the schools it had recently built; it had, for example, retained professional architects to design buildings for specific sites, instead of using a standard set of plans for all. As another example, he noted that "it has become the practice" to put "a sink cabinet approximately six feet long and a drinking fountain in each classroom," at a cost of about a thousand dollars a classroom. It seems to us, remembering our public-school days long ago, one of the best ideas we've ever heard of. We recall the quarter hours of squirming, obsessed by a thirst that was not for knowledge, before we worked up nerve to ask the teacher's permission to go to the drinking fountain in the hall. After that, it required minutes to get recognition from the chair, who was not as sympathetic as in more clearly recognized emergencies, and who had to deal with a dozen petitions per class period. We also remember the modelling clay that gummed our hands in the lower grades; the crayon and water color, farther along; the ink the whole way through—all now susceptible to treatment without a meandering journey to the troughs in the basement. "Some seven hundred or more existing (older) schools will struggle along without such conveniences," said the Spartan Mr. Gerosa, who we bet has plumbing on the floor where *he* works. A thousand dollars divided by thirty or forty children and by thirty years, which is how long any sink or drinking fountain ought to

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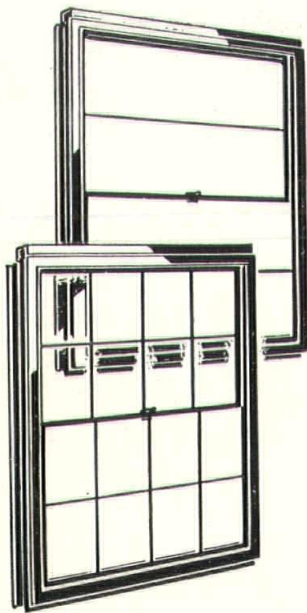
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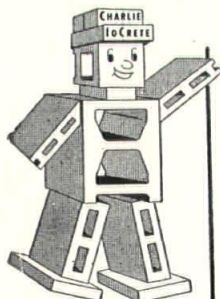
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last, works out to a nickel or so per beneficiary, and to one ten-billionth of a cent for every squirm averted. What really nobbed us, though, was the Comptroller's recommendation that "architectural embellishments and unusual and costly designs" be "eliminated." Let a man put up the most embellished office building that ever gleamed on Park Avenue and nobody, least of all the income-tax authorities, will deny that the embellishment helps him to sell soap. But learning, according to Mr. Gerosa, must be put across in a plain wrapper, like some disgraceful kind of patent medicine; the child must be repelled from the start. One of the man's wildest bleats was occasioned by the use of colored brick, instead, we suppose, of oatmeal gray, which is a couple of dollars a ton cheaper. In an age when people fall limply into molds, there must be nothing "unusual" about the design of the school the child attends, because that sort of thing might discourage him from becoming a uniform-quality, boneless, cellophane-wrapped, tabloid-reading party-machine voter. As for "costliness," the third of the sins the Comptroller cited, it is hard to define. If we could get a new building so good that pupils would run to look at it, it would be cheap at the price of four office buildings and a pickle factory.

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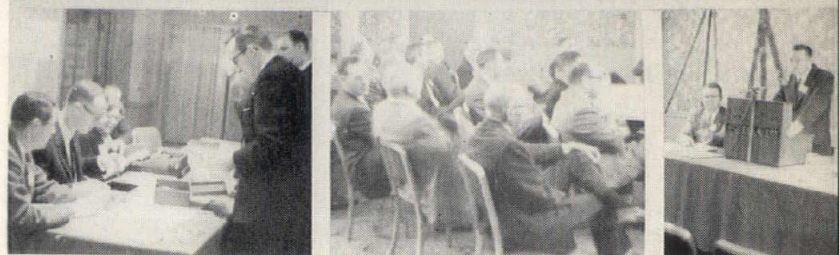


FOUR OF SEVEN men honored as Distinguished Craftsmen by the Iowa Chapter are shown following receipt of the awards. From left to right they are: Henry Jacob Geiger, 65, of Cedar Rapids, carpenter and woodcarver; Joseph Dulansky, 36, of Davenport, cement finisher; Donald M. Tisor, 43, Davenport, a carpenter, and Clifford W. Lowe, 56, of Mason City, a carpenter. Not present when the picture was made were: Svend J. Beck, of Waterloo, a brick foreman; C. O. Sharp, Des Moines, structural steel erector, and Everett V. Adams, 50, Des Moines, a brick foreman.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION to Local No. 2, Bricklayers, Mason and Plasterers International Union of America, Des Moines, is presented by President Horner for work donated in the creation of brick murals on the Y.M.C.A. Building, Des Moines. Ray Hodson, Local No. 2 business manager, receives for the union; W. J. Wagner, design participant, observes.



CONVENTION SCENES: (From left to right, top to bottom): President Horner, officers and speakers at the luncheon; Dave Frevert watches as Louis Soenke presents a committee report; one of the student models displayed; a portion of the banquet crowd of 300; architects display many levels of interest at a business meeting; two more views of the banquet crowd; the registration desk, with Stan Ver Ploeg and John Wetherell hard at work; informality marks the elections, and President Wayne Lyon at the rostrum, with Dave Frevert laboring as secretary. There were 112 chapter members registered.



PERSONAL & PROFESSIONAL

WALTER GROPIUS, world famous architect and a Harvard University professor emeritus, was named winner of the A.I.A. 1959 Gold Medal in recognition of his long service to architecture. He was first director of the Bauhaus at Weimar and later at Dessau, Germany. He came to the U.S. in 1937 after fleeing Nazi Germany and became known as an outstanding educator while continuing to practice. He

was made a Fellow of A.I.A. in 1954 and in 1956 received the Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He resides at Lincoln, Massachusetts.

HAL BULLINGTON, editor of the Iowa Architect, discussed the architectural viewpoint at an informal meeting of banking, farming, newsmen, material suppliers, and economists at the Des Moines Club, March 17. Subject of the informal discussions was the effect of the changing farm economy on the national economic picture and upon construction in Iowa. C. T. Brigman of the Goodwin companies arranged the meeting with editors and publishers of industrial publications.

ROTTERDAM will be the scene of an international congress, September 21-25, at which ten subjects will be discussed, including "Design and Calculation of Structures; Safety Factors," by Prof. E. Torroja of Spain, and "Research problems relating to the application of heavy concrete elements," by Prof. G. Kutznetsov of Russia and Dr. M. Jacobsson of Sweden. The congress will be sponsored by the International Council for Building Research and Documentation.

OF INTEREST are the court actions in Ohio, in which that state's architect's registration law has been upheld and convictions obtained against unlicensed persons for the unauthorized practice of architecture.

NATIONAL CONVENTION dates are June 22-26, and the place is New Orleans. Most A.I.A. members will be interested to know that a complete revision of the convention format is being planned. Theme of the meet is "Design." Special events for the week include an evening of New Orleans jazz on a chartered steamer, June 24, tours of plantations for the Ladies and a special luncheon at Brennan's. Among speakers at the convention

will be Philip Johnson, Edward D. Stone, William L. Pereira, Minoru Yamasaki, and Charles E. Pratt.

Recommended reading: Robert R. Denny's article "You Don't Have to be Rich" in the March 1959 issue of the Journal of the American Institute of Architects. Hitting right at the subjects under discussion by the Iowa Chapter, it is excellent preparation for the April meeting. R.B.

I.S.C. SETS VEISHEA EVENTS FOR MAY 7-9

Veishea, the largest student-managed production of its kind in the nation, will be held May 7-9 at Iowa State College. Stars over Veishea will feature the hit play "Annie Get Your Gun."

The five divisions of Iowa State will have open house; the first Horse Show of the season will be held; sports events and entertainment will continue all during the three-day program.

Veishea events passes, good for admittance to the Stars over Veishea play, Vodvil, Horse Show may be obtained for \$2.75. Write to:

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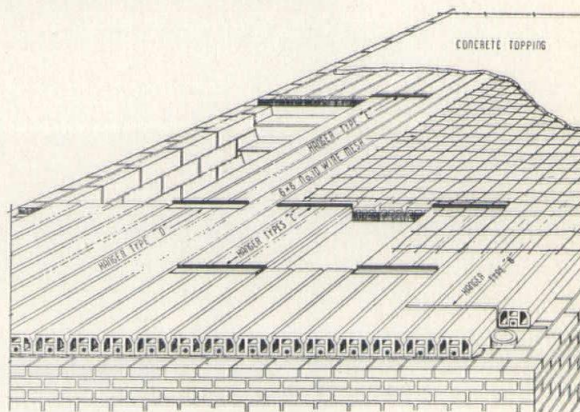
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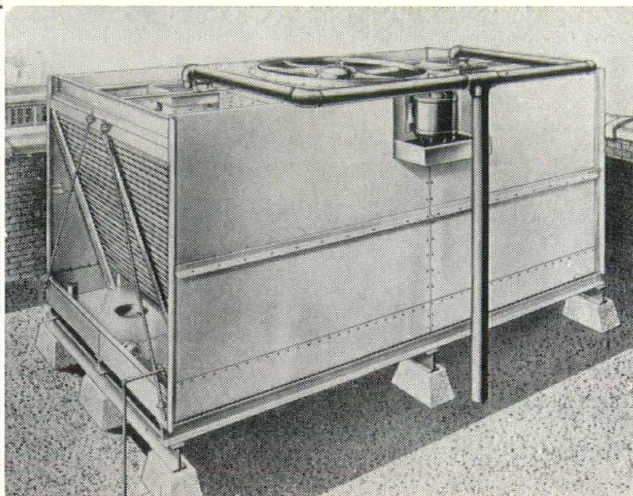
A.I.A. ANNOUNCES AWARDS

George McCue of the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and Frederick Gutheim, architectural critic and planner of Washington, D.C., writing for *Harper's* magazine, are winners of the twin \$500 first prizes in The American Institute of Architect's Sixth Annual Journalism Award competition.

Mr. McCue received the first

prize in the newspaper class for his articles on architecture in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch's* art and music section, February, May, June and November, 1958. Mr. Gutheim was awarded the first prize in the magazine class for his article on New York's proposed Lincoln Art and Culture Center, "Athens on the Subway," which appeared in *Harper's* October, 1958.

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Available without charge is a slide-type calculator for use in determining the noise level resulting from addition of fans to a room. Request it on your letterhead from the Propellair Division, Robbins & Myers, Inc., Springfield, Ohio.

—O—

Adel Clay Products Co. has announced it has begun use of a substance labelled "Additive A" in its clay products manufacture. The firm says the additive produces a higher quality product. Also recently announced is the firm's color brick available in reds, buffs, cream, tans, pinks, whites, grays, blacks, chocolate, rose, blues, and yellows, or in combinations of colors.

DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

The following corrections to the Iowa Chapter Directory which appeared in the January-February issue are designed to be clipped from this magazine and pasted on the indicated pages.

An error in identification of an engraving resulted in the appearance of two pictures of Ken Wallerstedt, and the Iowa Architect sincerely apologizes for any discomfort caused either to Wallerstedt or Richard Brom, with whose name the "younger" of Ken's photos appeared.

The firm of Cox & Couch was dissolved in June 1958. The following corrections should be made in the Directory: Page 9 (for Cox & Couch)

G. B. Cox
210 Insurance Exchange Building
Davenport, Iowa

Page 10 (for Couch)

COUCH, LOUIS C.
Lundine & Toline
1630 Fifth Avenue, Moline, Illinois

Page 10 (for Cox)

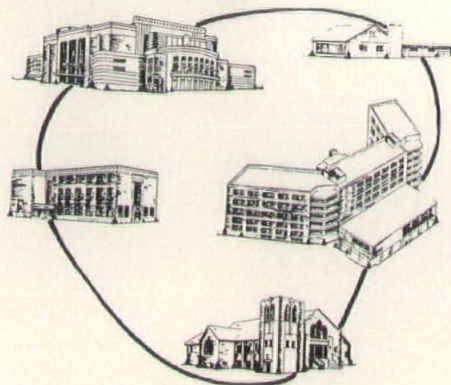
COX,
GERALD BURTON
Principal, G. B. Cox
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Exchange Building,
Davenport

Pages 13, 14, 24

Address of firm of Russell and Lynch should read:
1221 Savings and Loan Building

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The first three classes covered the principles of making and place

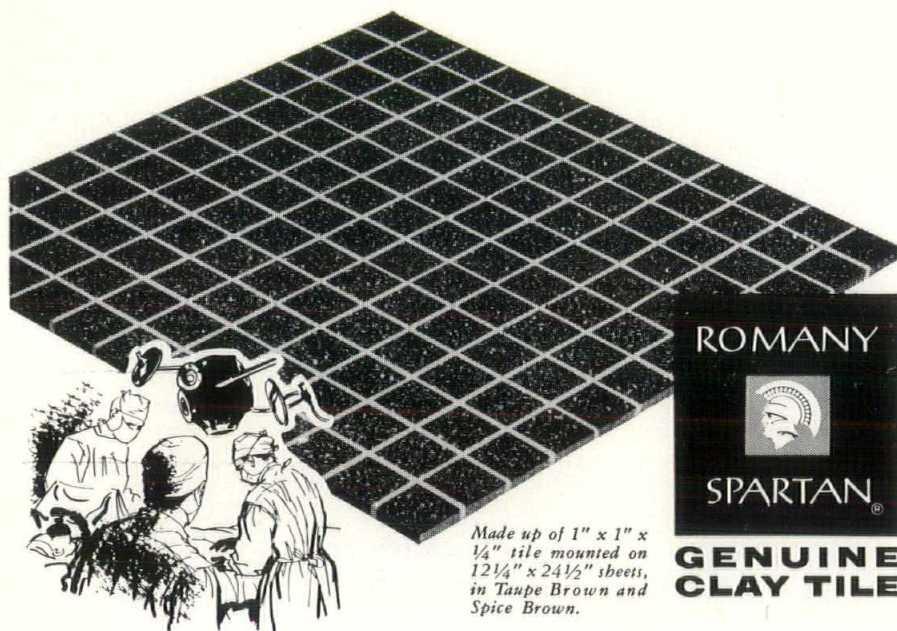
quality concrete, mix design and quality control. The last three sessions covered concrete masonry and mortars. Instructors were Marts D. Blue, Harold J. Jobse and Richard J. Schmickle, engineers with the Iowa district office of the cement association.

Architects and engineers registered for the course included:

Barry Bishop, Firestone Tire and Rubber Co., and private prac-

tice; Ernest E. Kalsow, Ed Carr and Herman T. Wiedenman, city of Des Moines; Sam Ford and C. B. Cochran of Eagle Iron Works; C. L. Smalley and Donald A. Anderson of Anderson Engineering Co.; Bob Nielsen, Don Appell, Carlyle W. Peterson, Frank B. Dennis, and Wm. N. Neilsen, Jr. of Peterson and Appell; Keneth V. Coon, Charles Vander Linden, Richard J. Maine, Rich Goewey, William A. Fors of Brooks-Borg; W. F. Adams of Thompson, Willis and Clapsaddle; George M. Peterson, John Vifquain, Keith Shirk, Rex Poggenpohl of Tinsley, Higgins, Lighter and Lyon.

Edward A. Martinsen and Bruce L. Hill of Northwestern Bell Telephone Co.; Harold L. Payne of Russell and Lynch; Floyd Grover of H. M. Iltis Lumber Co.; Charles A. Parrott, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha district; Ralph Carpino of Amos Emery & Associates; Tony Nigro and Ed Munzenmaier of Savage and Ver Ploeg; Robert E. Butts and Charles E. Steinmetz of Brown Engineering Co.; Horst W. Lobe of Wetherell and Harrison.



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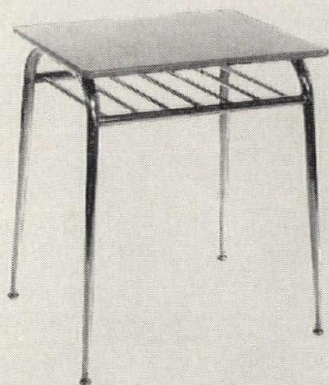
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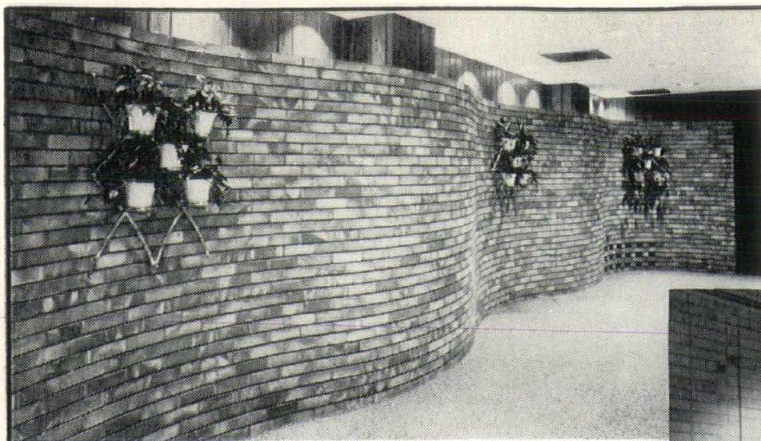
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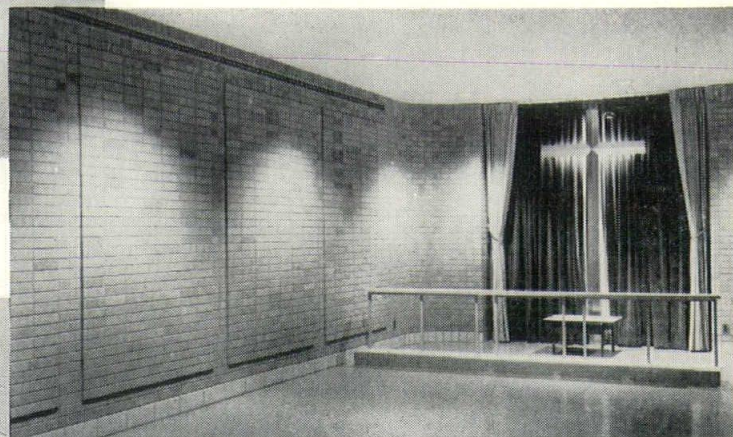
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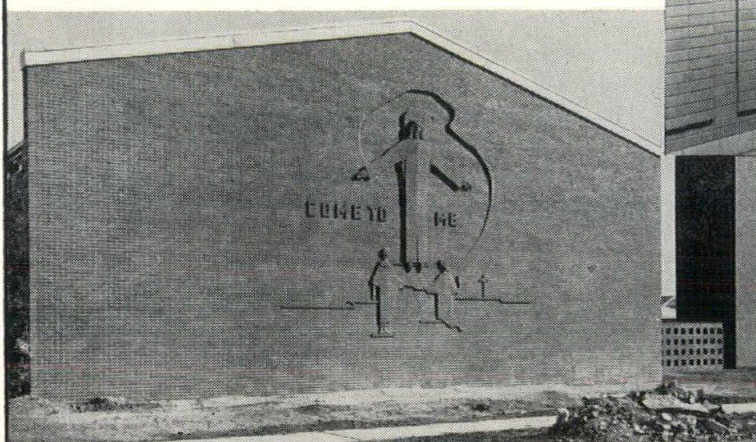
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Arbor Room, Hotel Kirkwood, Des Moines. Architects: Dougher-Frevert-Ramsey, Des Moines. Designer: Glen S. Lull, Des Moines.



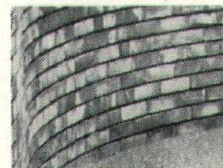
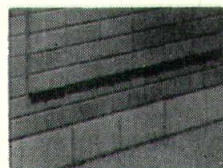
Chapel, Asbury Methodist Hospital, St. Louis Park, Minn. Architect: Ellerbe & Company.



First Lutheran Church, Fremont, Nebraska. Hermann Albert Becker, Sculptor; Architect: Donald R. Hollis, Overland Park, Kansas.

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3. Charge for floor space occupancy ²	1.25	.81	.41	3. Charge for floor space occupancy ²	1.25	.81	.41
4. Total initial wall cost	3.81	6.87	6.84	4. Total initial wall cost	3.81	6.87	6.84
5. Less depreciation credit	.69	1.23	1.23	5. Less depreciation credit	none	none	none
6. Less salvage credit	.01	.05	.04	6. Less salvage credit	.02	.13	.09
7. Less illumination credit	none	none	1.89	7. Less illumination credit	none	none	3.70
8. Less early occupancy credit	none	.14	.14	8. Less early occupancy credit	—	—	—
9. Total initial cost, less recovered costs	3.11	5.45	3.84	9. Total initial cost less recovered costs	3.79	6.74	3.05
10. Heat gain charge	.17	.34	8.00	10. Heat gain charge	.32	.67	18.60
11. Heat loss charge	.39	.39	2.32	11. Heat loss charge	.82	.82	4.89
12. Maintenance charge	.15	.17	2.62	12. Maintenance charge	.33	.39	6.09
13. Insurance charge ³	none	.12	.12	13. Insurance charge ³	none	.39	.39
14. Real estate tax charge	.78	1.39	1.39	14. Present value of total cost	\$5.26	\$9.01	\$30.02
15. Present value of ultimate cost	\$4.60	\$7.86	\$18.29	15. Relative ultimate cost	100%	172%	572%
16. Relative ultimate cost	100%	171%	398%				

1. Includes venetian blinds. 2. Entire site occupied. 3. For building only, not including contents.

4. Includes venetian blinds. 2. Entire site occupied. 6. For building and contents.

Although this data reveals important information, certain other facts are necessary before deciding to use a particular material, sound insulation, dimensional stability, color and texture, maintenance, insurance, heating and air conditioning, design flexibility, performance and weather resistance must also be judged.

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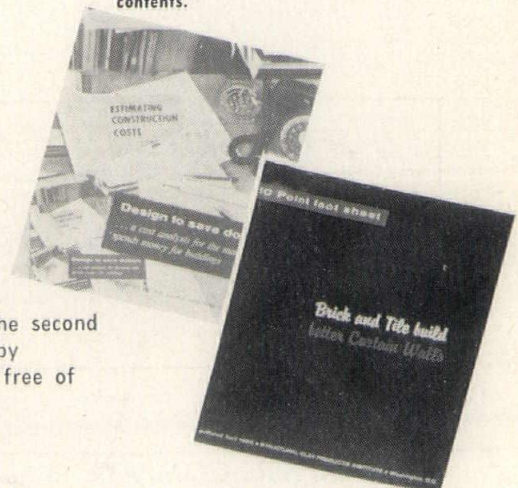
Two informative brochures are available to give you the complete story about curtain walls. The first is "Design to save dollars" published by the Allied Masonry Council and the second the 10 point fact sheet published by national SCPI. Both are available free of charge — just drop us a line.



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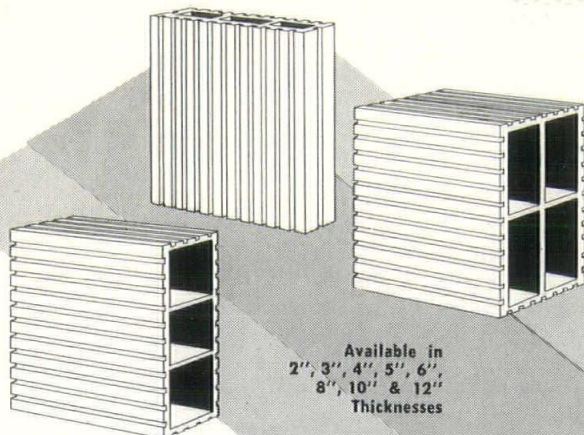
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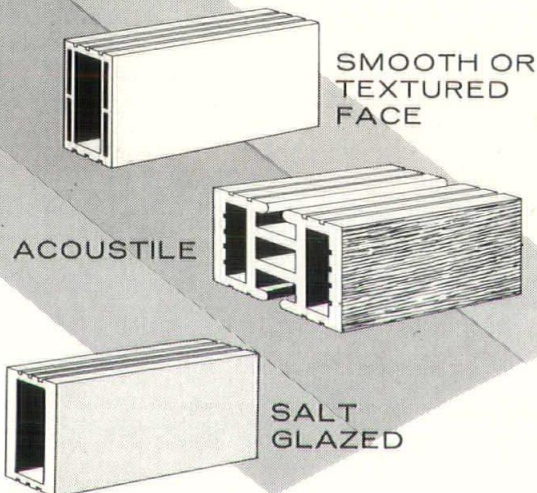
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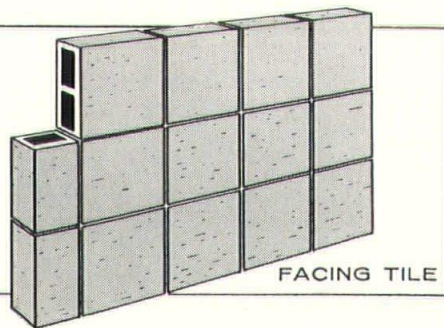
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