

ANUARY – FEBRUARY

VOLUME VII

NO. 1 1960

STRUCTURAL CLAY PRODUCTS and Unusually Efficient Design YIELD AN ECONOMY SCHOOL!

EVERY WALL IS LOADBEARING!

To solve the problem of economy in both initial cost and future maintenance, Wetherall and Harrison, Architects turned to the exclusive use of structural clay products when designing the twelve room Prairie City Community School.

Every wall shown in the above photograph is a load bearing wall. Thus, the use of structural steel was kept to a minimum.

Inside walls are made of two 4" Buff Valour Wirecut face tile by Mason City Brick and Tile Company. The double thick 4" feature gives a finished wall on both sides and the need for painting is eliminated.

Red Wirecut norman face brick by Des Moines Clay Company was





Double thick 4" load bearing wall. citement to the front of the building and to the coping completely around the building. A Wainscoat of Structural glazed tile by Metropolitan Brick Company was used in contact areas such as halls, rest rooms and closets in order to provide an extra strong, smooth, easily cleaned surface.

The next time present and future economy is a major design factor, investigate the advantages of structural clay products.

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BROOKS-BORG, DES MOINES

Vertical precast panel, 7' x 31' with two integral windows 1' x 8', goes into place. Foreground panels will frame plantings, reduce prominence of parking lot (occupied by crane) in front approach. Each 4-inch panel has curved front (right, left) and angular reverse (center); all faces are exposed finish, matching the main wall panels.



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by Ottumwa Brick & Tile Company

This new Velour Facing Tile is ideal for exterior or interior walls, enabling the architect to achieve varied patterns and designs, with a minimum of time and effort. The unit, with its 8" x 8" face, lends itself to the inserting of glazed or unglazed face brick in any type of pattern to produce an unlimited range of texture and color effects. Buff Velour Facing Tile is a premium quality tile. It's individually packaged in paper trays. Sizes meet ASTM specifications. The colors are Buff and Rose Buff. FACING TILE

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IOWA ARCHITECT

Iowa Chapter, American Institute of Architects

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THE COVER

The newly dedicated Y.M.C.A. building in Des Moines has been called the finest of its kind in the nation. The structure, land and equipment cost nearly \$3.9 million, but owners and designers believe the use of permanent surfaces throughout will reduce maintenance cost enough to more than offset additional investment in the original. See page 8. Photo: Courtesy the Des Moines Tribune.

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. . . Sink Your Teeth



TRUSCON Intermediate Projected Windows used in curtain wall, supercoated. Hawley Welfare Building

Hawley Welfare Building, 700 Sixth Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa

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The 1960 Iowa Chapter Program has been compiled with the aim of providing material that sticks with a subject long enough for each member to "really sink your teeth into it."

John A. Thornton, the A.I.A. Chairman on Human Safety, provides the keynote talk and that this invitation is timely was proved by a newspaper headline which early in January screamed that 950 persons died from fires in structures during the month of December in the U. S.

To help Iowa architects better understand the aims and operational intent of the State Fire Marshal's office, the Fire Marshal has been invited to appear and to participate in a question answering panel during the afternoon.

William S. Foster, editor of American City magazine, who will lecture on a tour of Russian cities, will also participate in the panel. He is an engineer who for years has paid particular attention to the problems which arise in cities.

The part of the program devoted to human safety covers the greatest portion of the Friday schedule, but seems particularly appropriate as new materials come into use, and as the world talks of a "population explosion" on top of an increasing number of longerlived oldsters among us.

It has long been recognized that a discussion of fees can tie up a convention completely for three or four days, but the subject is of great importance to all in the profession. Therefore, the subject will be handled in the way of a report by O. H. Thorson, regional director elect, who will tell the Iowa Chapter members what is being done in the other chapters of this region.

Complexity of legal situations are almost neverending, and the responsibilities of an architect are legal as well as ethical. The ethical responsibilities are less difficult to define than are the legal responsibilities. To help Iowa chapter members understand a very complex subject, the convention committee has called upon another A.I.A. Committee Chairman, Dave Baer of Houston, Tex., chairman of the committee on practice management. It will be valuable information.

Looking Ahead . . .

Iowa Architects can look forward to another stimulating afternoon and evening at Ames, April 6, when the annual Spring Meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Banquet of the Student Chapter.

For the national outlook, some 2,000 architects are expected to gather in San Francisco April 18 to 22 for the 1960 convention of the American Institute of Architects.

Convention Comment





FOSTER

THORNTON

CHAPTER BUSINESS, valuable information and fine hours with friends are in store for Iowa Chapter members at the 1960 Convention January 28-30 at the Hotel Savery, Des Moines.

For the first time, the program carries into Saturday afternoon with the inclusion on the program of Dave Baer, A.I.A. of Houston, Texas, chairman of the Institute's Committee on Practice Management. Mr. Baer will discuss and answer questions on the ever vital subject of "Contract Documents."

John C. Thornton, A.I.A., Chairman of the A.I.A. Committee on Human Safety will deliver the keynote address Friday morning and set the stage for a full discussion of many problems connected with fire safety. This subject will be continued after the luncheon when Iowa Fire Marshal E. J. Herron will be on the rostrum, then participate in a panel to answer questions from the floor.

Ladies will join the architects for luncheon to hear William S. Foster, editor since 1956 of The (Continued on page 31)

Bring On The Spring

ARCHITECTS' LADIES, shuddering in Iowa's cold, will be reminded of the bright days to look forward toward in the two major events planned by Women's Chairman Mrs. Ruth McKlveen.

"Bring in the Spring," she says, "with the fresh beauty of flowers." And to help put this idea across she has arranged for Mrs. Anderson of Kehm's Floral Co. to demonstrate flower arrangements Thursday evening in the Iowa Room. This event begins at 7:30.

"Bring on the Spring," she says, "with a style show." To demonstrate what she means, Ruth has arranged for a display of spring fashions by Fashion Signatures. Ladies will find this program getting underway shortly after the Friday luncheon at which William S. Foster will be the speaker.

Climaxing the evening will be the Annual Banquet and the following dance.

Ladies Program on Page 31

CONVENTION PROGRAM Hotel Savery

January 28-30

Thursday

7:30 p.m. Business Meeting, Des Moines Room

Friday

- 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Registration, Mezzanine
- 8:30 Film, "The American Look" Des Moines Room
- 9:15 Business Meeting. Election of Officers. Des Moines Room
- KEYNOTE ADDRESS-10:00 Des Moines Room "Fire Safety in Architectural Design." John C. Thornton, Royal Oak, Michigan, Chairman A.I.A. Committee on Human Safety
- LUNCHEON-(Ladies Welcome) 12 noon Terrace Room "Russia's Cities as Seen by An American Editor," William S. Foster, New York City, Editor, The American City Magazine.
- 2:00 p.m. "Fire Safety Regulations under Iowa Law," E. J. Herron, Iowa Fire Marshal
- 2:45PANEL DISCUSSION embracing relationship of architecture and fire safety. Des Moines Room. Moderator, William Parish, A.I.A., Davenport. William S. Foster; John C. Thornton; Harry J. Corcoran, Engineer for Iowa Inspection Bureau. 4:15
 - "What Other Chapters in the Central States District are Doing about Fees." Report by O. H. Thorson, A.I.A., Waterloo.
- 6:30 Cocktails. Des Moines Room.
- 7:30 Awards Banquet. Terrace Room.
- 9:30 Dancing. Des Moines & Terrace Rooms.

Saturday

- 9:00 a.m. Prof. Leonard Wolf & I.S.U. Des Moines Room.
- 9:30 Business Meeting. Des Moines Room.
- 10:00 "Contract Documents." Des Moines Room. Dave Bacr, A.I.A., Houston, Texas, Chairman A.I.A. Committee on Office Practice.
- 12 noon Luncheon. Terrace Room.
- 1:15 p.m. "Contract Documents." Mr. Baer. Des Moines Room.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE DES MOINES TRIBUNE



Permanent Surfaces

Judicious use of permanent surface materials throughout the structure give the newly-opened Des Moines Y.M.C.A. the look of ageless wealth which the owners and architects expect to be reflected and repaid by lower maintenance costs through a long and "active" structure life. In the photo, (top, left) black granite and white terrazzo stairs are contrasted against the tangerine of the glazed provincial brick of the back wall and the colorful ceramic tile of the pillar.

Masonry construction is used throughout, and in all rooms where it is suitable, the bricks are exposed, as in the exercise room at left center. Below are shown a typical bedroom, the chapel which is done in white marble with green and dark purple slate walls, and the campus room dominated by its green slate, massive fireplace hood; frosty wire-cut brick and dark purple slate masonry complete the north wall, while the wood is waxed and oiled oak.

Above is the mural of artist Stanley Hess which has drawn much favorable comment (He also did the designs for the mosaics in brick which appear on the face of the building; cover).

Exposing the permanent faces of the structural materials reduces the need for protective coatings, and each surface was selected to resist best the type of contact it might receive, thus ceramic tile in all "wet" areas.



Y.M.C.A.

DES MOINES

ARCHITECTS

WETHERELL & HARRISON, DES MOINES



Typical of the feeling of wealth created by the use of permanent surface materials is that experienced in the adult lobby where polished granite at the reception desk, quarry-tile floor, ceramic tile pillars and rough cut granite masonry stand silent testimony to their ability to resist deterioration.

Choice of color through the building may be exemplified in the pool room, where bright notes in a blue expanse are provided by the wall murals. Ceramic tile on the main wall and floor, with structural glazed tile at the ends. The pool has a ceramic tile lining. Metal acoustical tile are used in the ceiling to resist moisture.

At lower right, the entry way to the coffee shop again shows the use of surfaces selected because they resist wear and damage; you see granite, masonry, ceramic tile pillars and walls, stainless steel equipment, quarry-tile floors.

Lower left: The gym has a wainscoting of structural glazed tile, salt-glazed tile in the gallery corridors and above the wainscoting is tan, wire cut face tile.









F. G. Clausen

A Vivid Spirit

F. G. Clausen has been gone from the Davenport scene for nearly twenty years, and he retired from active practice of architecture nearly fifty years ago, but he is still likely to enter vividly into any shop talk of importance in the region regarding the relationship between construction superintendents and designers.

Take, for instance, the anecdote about the morning he drove out to the Kohrs Packing plant in Davenport, where a cooler and freezer building was being erected, presumably to his specifications. It was his custom to visit projects the first thing in the morning, driving a horse and, a luxury in those days, rubber-tired buggy.

This morning, he drove onto the site unnoticed by the mason crew, at work on one of the structure's massive brick walls. The wall was up two or three scaffold lifts, and the architect was interested to see that inner and outer shells had been laid up, and the mason foreman was on the scaffold with a shovel, industriously scooping loose brick and bats into the cavity of what should have been a solid brick wall.

Clausen watched silently until the foreman straightened up and caught his eye. The silence continued while the two men took each other's measure.

Clausen was not a tall man, and the mason was looking down from a height of perhaps 15 feet, but there soon was no question about their relative stature.

Then Clausen permitted himself six words: "Now you can take it down." He turned on his heel, got in his buggy, and drove away.

The tale may be apocryphal—there is no one now to bear witness. The fact that it, and so many others like it, persist today indicates the weight of influence exerted by this man who actively practiced architecture in Davenport for 42 years, and was a regular visitor in his office for nearly 30 years more.

Born in Germany, Clausen received all his training in that country. At the time, schooling in architec-



DAVENPORT.

ture was largely an education in construction, in which periods of formal classwork were alternated with stretches in the field.

The students got very little pay for their construction labor, working twelve hours a day for a bare subsistence wage. However, meals were furnished, and there were five meals in the 12-hour stint!

During the early 1870s there was a substantial German emigration to the United States, and about 1871 Clausen came to Davenport. He found employment making shop drawings for a millwork manufacturer, while he learned the language of his new country, and in 1872 he opened an office for the practice of architecture. Shortly after 1900 a son, R. J. Clausen, came into the firm; in 1914 the senior partner formally retired, but he went often to the office until a few years before his death at the age of 94, in 1942.

His early practice was carried on before the days of blueprinting, at least in this area. Final drawings were done in ink on a heavy buff detailpaper. Four or five different colors of ink were used, the color indicating the material. This set of drawings was the office copy; tracings were made on onion-skin tracing paper, also in colored ink, and one set was made for the carpenter, the mason and the pipe trades contractor.

Specifications were written in ink in longhand, and laboriously copied by an office boy for the same distribution. Many of the drawings bore no date, address nor client's name; Clausen simply knew where each and every detail belonged.

When a workman raised a question, Clausen had one stock answer: "Make it like it shows on the drawings." On one residence project, however, that retort failed to quiet the carpenter foreman, who requested, during one visit after another, that the architect check the top stairway. "There's something wrong," he insisted.

When Clausen finally climbed the stairs, he ran smack into a header, shoulder high across the stairwell. His capitulation was as succinct as all his fabled reprimands: "You fix it; I'll pay for it."

His own favorite story was from outside the realm of architecture. One day a spiritualist arrived in Davenport, and a club of German businessmen, to which Clausen belonged, invited him to hold a seance, for their private amusement. After the usual demonstrations, the medium inquired if anyone wished to communicate with a departed dear one, and a recent widower asked to contact his wife. This was arranged, and a lively conversation ensued.

The lights came up, and the widower was lavish in his praise. "It's wonderful," he said.

The medium inquired, "What? That I could arrange such a conversation?"

"No," commented the straight-faced bereaved, "that she could talk to me in English. She never spoke it when she was alive."



TOP: Harold Payne, Public Relations Chairman, talks about a new AIA pamphlet with Paul N. Norton of the Davenport School Board, while George Russell, second from right, points to a design feature in the display at the Chapter Booth during the showing of schools at the Iowa Association of School Boards' Convention in November. Mrs. Kenneth Kolkmeier, booth hostess, is at the right.

BELOW: The designs on display created an atmosphere for study and discussion according to this photo of the display area.





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DES MOINES

ON DISPLAY . . .

School board members demonstrated keen interest this year in the 21 displays by 12 firms which hung in the main meeting room during the 1959 convention of the Iowa Association of School Boards at Veterans' Memorial auditorium in Des Moines during November.

All participants in the program reported the reception afforded the displays was many times greater than at the 1958 meeting in which the architect's displays were placed in a room separate from the main assembly and display areas.

Don Foster, IASB Secretary, said plans for the 1960 meeting will include placing the displays on the west or "entry" side of the meeting room where they will naturally gain a much greater number of viewers from the flow of traffic during the meeting.

At the booth maintained by the chapter, an attractive young lady, Mrs. Kenneth Kolkmeier, handed out copies of the A.I.A. folder, "Facts and Fancies about School Construction."

LOWER: Looking over the sea of heads at the School Boards' Convention, one saw the exhibit of lowa chapter members' displays in the main meeting hall.



MASTER BUILDERS NAME OFFICERS

H. E. Fritzsche of Burlington succeeded H. L. Morehead, Jr., as president of the Master Builders of Iowa. Other officers chosen at the annual convention, at which many architects were guests, were: K. W. Gethmore, Gladbrook, vice-president; W. K. Priester, Davenport, Board Secretary; and Russell Thompson, Ames, treasurer. Three new directors are: R. A. Gleeson of Sioux City, Henry W. Youngquist of Waverly, and Roger P. Olesen of Waterloo.



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NOTE: Increasingly, both small and large hospitals are insisting on emergency power units. It's significant that hospitals meeting certain general requirements (which most hospitals everywhere <u>do</u> meet) are entitled to Federal aid in financing emergency power installations.







A Cat D326 Electric Set provides emergency power for transmitter station WWJ in Oak Park, Michigan. Even a brief interruption of commercial power can cost a radio of television station enough to pay for its Cat Electric Set in forfeited billings, and the loss of prestige. For these reasons, radio and television stations all over the country are installing Cat emergency power protection.

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The design of the columns on this project demonstrated dramatically the economy of materials achieved by using *ultimate strength design*. Engineers everywhere are finding *ultimate strength design* is quick and easy when they use procedures, data and design aids now available.

Parke Towne Place Apartments. Architects: John Hans Graham & Associates, Washington, D.C.; Milton Schwartz, AIA, Philadelphia. Structural Engineers: Dorfman & Bloom, Philadelphia. General Contractors: Parkway Triangle Construction Co., Philadelphia.

PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION

408 Hubbell Building, Des Moines 9, Iowa

A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete

FOR STRUCTURES... MODERN CONCLETE

DIRECTORY, IOWA CHAPTER, A.I.A.

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Convention . . .

(Continued from page 7)

American City magazine. He will discuss a 1957 trip to Russia during which he attended a conference on the rebuilding of cities destroyed by war, and will illustrate his talk with pictures.

Foster, Thornton, and Herron will be joined on the panel by Harry Corcoran, Engineer for the Iowa Inspection Bureau, whose work for the past 40 years has involved intimate knowledge of each municipality's fire protection system, its building code ordinance and fire prevention regulations. William Parish, A.I.A., Davenport, will moderate the panel.

Mr. Thornton has a distinguished history of activity in the National Safety Council, Michigan Engineering Society, State Industrial Safety Committee, and is a past president of the Michigan Society of Architects. He retired from active practice in 1953, and now is a consulting architect.

William Foster is a son of Walter L. (Pop) Foster who taught in the Department of Engineering at Iowa State from 1922 until his death in 1934. William was graduated in 1933 and joined McGraw-Hill publications in 1939. He became editor of American City in 1956.

Chapter business the first evening will include the showing of a short film prepared by the A.I.A. Committee on Structure in support of the proposal for a basic reform of the organization of the Institute.

LADIES' EVENTS

Thursday

7:30 p.m. Bring in the Spring with flowers. Iowa Room.

Friday

	12 noon	Luncheon, Terrace Room,
	2:00 p.m.	Bring on the Spring style show.
		Iowa Room.
	6.90	Call T N D

6:30 Cocktails. Des Moines Room.

7:30 Banquet. Terrace Room.

Saturday

12 noon Luncheon. Terrace Room.

The film runs less than 15 minutes and the showing here will be among the very first in the nation.

Election of officers is set for a business meeting Friday morning, following a motion picture which has been scheduled to provide an activity for the early risers.

"What are other chapters in the Central States District doing about fees?" A report on this subject has been prepared by O. H. Thorson of Waterloo for presentation as the closing rostrum event of Friday.

The Des Moines Room will be the scene again of the pre-banquet cocktail hour, as architects, their hon-(Continued on page 32)





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Convention . . .

(Continued from page 31) ored guests and the craftsmen to be honored will gather before the 7:30 p.m. banquet.

Claire Grant, a genial master of ceremonies, will handle rostrum details for the banquet with President George Horner introducing the new members, presenting the new corporate member certificates, and collaborating with R. Wayne Lyon in presentation of the craftsmanship awards. Immediately following the banquet, dancing will begin in the Des Moines Room to the music of Bill Bales and his Blue Notes. As soon as tables can be cleared away, dancing will also take over in the Terrace Room and both rooms will be set in cabaret style.

Prof. Leonard Wolf, head of the Department of Architecture at Iowa State University, has been allocated the first portion of the Saturday program, with the final business session of the chapter to follow so that if chapter action is required, the business would not of necessity have to wait until the Spring meeting, April 6. "Contract Documents" then come up under Mr. Baer.

Education Committee Chairman Keith Lorenzen of Waterloo has arranged for members of his committee to talk over the "Architects-in-Training" program with the 14 young men in the state who are signed in the continuation study. These interviews will be held in the Terrace Room during the morning and afternoon of Friday.



NEW PRACTICES . . .

Arthur A. Lindgren, most recently with Savage & Ver Ploeg, has announced the establishment of his own practice at 4058 41st Street, Des Moines. He is a 1949 graduate of Iowa State University, and previously was with Dougher, Rich & Woodburn.

Harvey W. Henry has announced the opening of an architectural practice at 2102 Rownd Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa.



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COLLEGE, COMMITTEE ASK FOR DESIGN PROJECTS

DESIGN PROBLEMS from actual projects will be submitted to Iowa State University students under a proposal of Prof. Leonard Wolf and Education Committee Chairman, Keith Lorenzen.

The proposal is that architects throughout the state would select and write a design problem based on a building which that architect actually designed and has been constructed.

Architects may submit projects of their own choice and they are invited to send them to Leonard Wolf, A.I.A., head of the department of architecture and architectural engineering, Iowa State University, Ames.

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SAUER PLANS BANQUET

Events for the student-planned share of the A.I.A. Spring meeting at Ames, April 6, will be in the hands of Ed Sauer, it is announced by Student Chapter President Frank Cervetti.

Cervertti reports the fourth year class entered the Emerson Memorial Competition, sponsored by the NIAE. Other activities include a redesign project for the interior of the chapter lounge and refreshment room.

Glen J. Halme of the Douglas Fir Plywood Association will address the student chapter at its February 18 meeting in the E.E. auditorium.

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