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Cover: Narthex Detail, First Presbyterian Church, Johnston, Iowa. Charles Herbert and Associates, Architects, Des Moines.

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What do you have to show me?

BY W. R. RAMSEY, A.I.A.

An Address to the Members of the Structural Clay Products Institute at their 1963 convention.

It would be the Quintescence of Futility for me to try to outdo the learned men on this fine convention program, so I will content myself with telling a story, which will come later.

What do you have to show me?

President Wright indicated in his opening address to the A.I.A. Convention this year that there has been progress in the age of the wheel, in the age of metal, in the age of flight and in the age of space exploration. There has been progress to a degree since the beginning of Man, and this progress has come in orderly steps that are easily traceable in the various recorded histories.

We are living in an age of advanced technology that brings changes overnight in many of our basic concepts of life. Geometric confinement is no longer a consideration in early stages of architectural design as is witnessed by the abundance of forms and shapes in use across the country. Architects have had their appetites whetted by the new products that have been given to them by science and research, and they are called upon almost daily to analyze these new materials, cataloging them in their minds for future use, or adapting them for immediate use. With this explosion of new materials, there is a natural tendency on the part of many designers to try to use many of these new products for the first time, thus giving their clients the benefit of research. We are guided by our individual taste, and occasionally a building comes to our attention that we might expect to upend and find affixed a "Made in Japan" or "Made in Hong Kong" label. This building may be the forerunner of what will be accepted by the public, but by then, perhaps, our tastes will be tempered to accept them.

This time, like all times, is a very good time if we know what to do with it.

You are a member of a responsible group that can trace its ancestry to the Structural Clay Products Institutes of Mesopotamia, Babylonia, Egypt, etc., and must continue your research to produce products that will meet the demands of future generations.

A truly successful item is successful because it is appropriate to its time, place, and to its purpose. This is equally true of good literature, manners, food, fashion, art and architecture. Architecture must always be appropriate if it is to be successful.

Thomas Jefferson said that "A nation that expects to remain free in ignorance expects what never was and what never will be."

We must struggle to develop our industry. Many of us struggle, a few have the spark of genius, but most of us are having ignition trouble. This is as true of your researchers and planners as it is of architects who are designing and planning. More of our work goes into the waste basket than ever reaches final stages on the drawing board.

I should like briefly to challenge your industry to get your feet out of the mud, keep your hands in the mud and *think*. Help the architect. We are going through a stage where fanciful shapes emerge for roofs and walls, and where a feeling of delight in shedding the old restrictions is evident. These new shapes have caught the public fancy, and will definitely become more and more a part of what history may record as good architecture in our era.

In this age of stringent cost controls, that method of contruction which involves the greatest amount of high-cost labor will often be considered least favorably in a final design development. There are many among you who can figure out a way to develop an attractive product that has great flexibility and high aesthetic appeal. This product will sell itself.

I have peregrinated to this fine spot, and my *raison d'etre* here is to tell the story I mentioned earlier. This is the story of SEPTIC as Dr. Stanton Leggett has named it. It is the story of the new Southeast Polk Junior-Senior High School.

Three old districts were reorganized into one which plans to have an ultimate 1200-pupil high school, but which at present would have 1200 pupils at the junior high-senior high level. This district elected board members, and also selected the finest educational staff and teaching personnel available to them, all with the goal of educational excellence. They purchased a 70-acre site between the three original districts, in the country on a main highway; drilled a well 2400 eet in depth, built a sewage disposal system and designed a junior high-senior high school for 1200 students. We worked with the fine educational consultanting firm of Engelhardt, Engelhardt & Legett, who programmed the educational developments. Dr. Leggett's advanced concepts will be apparent in the descriptions that follow.

Educationally, this building represents economical housing for a broad educational program that has as its cornerstone a systematic effort to develop young people with the ability to think and work independently. The school will operate on a seven or eight-period day, with instructional spaces being utilized all day. The ensuing studying hall time, characteristic of schools with a greater number of periods, is looked upon as teaching time.

The study hall areas, which also serve as lunch rooms, are adjacent to the library, which in turn is enlarged and increased in importance. Students who are capable of carrying on independent work and who are willing to take the responsibility for this kind of serious endeavor, will be expected to move out of the study hall to use facilities about the building that have been designed for such independent work. Students must make choices as to how to use study hall timewhether, as is now the case in many schools, to use the library, or whether to use individual supervised work space in science, business education, shop, homemaking, music, and the like. There is an instructional program given in the study hall to prepare as large a percentage as possible of the student body to take advantage of independent work opportunities. For those students who cannot or do not choose the independent work route, the study hall instruction will focus upon developing constructive working habits. For any students who might misuse the independent work program, a suitable refreshing experience in developing suitable work habits will be offered in the old study hall. Dr. Leggett sometimes refers to the latter in this use as his "jail".



The Southeast Polk Junior-Senior High School

A significant change in the school is the provision of space in the science areas where interested students can carry on a wide range of complex individual projects, including the use of a controlled growing area for plants and animals. The shop design is one large space in which several teachers may operate as a team at one time. Some teachers can work with the classes. Others may have a number of students who are working in different areas of the shop, pursuing a vocational program in virtual independence. The shop will also have a wide range of opportunities for the studying of motors, electronics, graphics, agriculture and the like, with similar experiences possible in business education and homemaking.

The building will adapt itself to team teaching procedures, and to the use of large classes when these devices are helpful in promoting the needs of the curriculum. It is hoped that the new high school facilities will respond to changes in education for many years to come without facing educational obsolescence or getting in the way of a strong educational program of high quality.

As in many fine school projects today, the key words here were "flexibility and expandability". Flexibility within the space is such that small groups can be taught in an area which can be converted into a large class instructional area moments later. Expandability is such that the building is being built without a swimming pool and without an auditorium because of budget, although these items must be added soon.

Early in the design stages it became apparent that our budget would not permit all that we would be required to do. It is not unusual for a high school to be built with around 60 per cent of the area of the building being educational space. I refer to this as 60 per cent efficiency, with the remainder being corridors, toilets, storerooms, administrative areas and other spaces necessary to the building but not contributing directly as educational space. We knew that the elimination of corridors would increase efficiency, and by approaching a square rather than "L" or "T" shape normally used, we found that the corridors decreased and the percentage of educational space increased. We also found that we became involved with interior spaces.

The more compact plan had advantages for us, among them a possible closer grouping of related areas and far less length of pipe tunnel. The electric runs and plumbing runs were shortened. Less exterior wall surface was involved, and fewer footings were required, because exterior walls are normally the only ones requiring footings. We were after more floor space and we were getting it. The plan's interior spaces were the only significant disadvantage inherent in it.

These large interior spaces were a problem from the ventilation standpoint. We found that we could not ventilate them adequately with air at normal outside temperatures, but also found that if this air was cooled, the interior spaces in question would become thoroughly usable. At this point, air conditioning came into the picture.

With air conditioning in the picture, we sought ways to make a more efficient air conditioned building, and in the process came to the conclusion that the compact plan would be unusable without the air conditioning.

We decided to build this school like a refrigerator. This meant greatly reducing window area. By reducing the window area to one window per classroom on the ground floor and by having some classrooms with no windows on the second floor, we were no longer bothered by the harshness of the environment in the form of road noises, glare, wind, and playground noises. It is always difficult to orient a building so that all areas requiring them have north light and southwesterly breezes. These items, because of air conditioning and a more closed perimeter wall, were no longer dominant considerations.

Air conditioning is expensive in normal buildings that are used for purposes other than school. Glass is used for many reasons, but an excess of ordinary glass prevents the sensation of warmth on a cold gray day, and prevents the sensation of coolness on a bright sumer day. Excessive use of glass in classrooms that will be air conditioned is almost prohibitive from a cost standpoint, since heat penetration is a direct function of the thermal transmission properties of the building materials used. The range of adaptability of an air conditioning system, therefore, depends on the perimeter skin and the roof. The better the skin and the roof, the easier it will be to hold the interior at a constant temperature.

Wind, so beneficial in summer cooling, works in reverse in the winter. It carries off heat at an accelerated rate, especially through glass, which is susveptible to rapid heat transfer.

I shall cite two purely hypothetical buildings having the same area as the academic portion of the Southeast Polk School.

The first is an L-shaped building having outstanding legs 525 feet long and 64 feet wide. This width would allow a 10-foot corridor in the center, and classrooms about 26 feet in width running along the long axis of the "L". These classrooms would be about 800 square feet in area. The total area represents 63,000 square feet, of which 16 per cent is corridors. A shape like this would have about 21,000 square feet of exterior wall, of which about 7,000 square feet could normally be devoted to windows, leaving a net area of 14,000 square feet of your product, masonry, to be laid in the exterior walls. This shape, if mechanically serviced by a perimeter pipe tunnel, would have nearly 2100 lineal feet of pipe tunnel.

The second building has a U-shaped plan. Again the area is 63,000 square feet, the dimensions being 525 feet on the long side and 294 feet on the short side of the "U". Corridors account for 17.7 per cent of the area. Pipe tunnels are about the same length as those in the L-shaped building, and the exterior walls have an area of about 21,000 square feet. Deduct 7000 square feet of windows, and about 14,000 square feet of exterior masonry wall remains.

In contrast to these shapes, let us now consider the compact shape of the Southeast Polk academic section. Its dimensions are 265 feet in the long direction and 175 feet in the short direction for the ground floor, with a second story section placed on top measuring 170 feet in one direction and 101 feet in the other direction. Note that there is no interior open space. The building is essentially a one-story section around a two-story core. Again we have an area of 63,000 square feet, but corridor area amounts to 13.25 per cent, which is less than that in either of the other shapes. The pipe tunnel has been eliminated, and we have used a lay-in type ceiling above the first floor corridor. The space above this ceiling serves as our pipe and duct space. Only 542 lineal feet of pipe and duct are involved. This is quite a departure from the 2100 lineal feet required for the other plans.

Exterior wall areas on the first floor total 9100 square feet, and on the second floor total 4600 square feet. There are 640 square feet of windows. These windows are set back so that they have protection from direct light and thus minimize heat transfer and reduce glare. Deduct the window area from the masonry wall, and a total exterior masonry area of 13,100 square feet remains. The same quantity of exterior structional clay material is involved in all three plans, yet the total wall area of the compact plan is less.

The first floor classrooms and interior spaces are air conditioned and artificially lighted. Loss of natural light by reduction of windows is made up by additional artificial light. Natural light is not dependable much of the year in Iowa. Gray days predominate during much of the school year, therefore this design is not dependent on environment. Orientation for natural light often leads to many compromises in design.

The classroom section exterior wall is a curtain wall set in a structural frame. The wall consists of 6-inch SCR units backed with 2 inches of foamed plastic insulation applied with adhesive. The interior finish is plaster or gypsum board. This wall has a "U" value of .10. A wall more commonly used in our area consists of 4 inches of brick and 8 inches of masonry backup having a "U" of .30. The 6-inch wall has roughly three times the insulating value we would normally use. The "U" value for the roof is .11, compared to a more normal value for uncooled buildings in our area of about .18.

We have one window per classroom. Comparing this arrangement with a more conventional classroom building that allocates 58 per cent of the classroom exterior wall to glass, figures indicate that we can ex-



pect roughly 1/3 less heat loss and heat gain through the exterior wall. This does not mean that the mechanical equipment can be 1/3 smaller, because the heat gain from pupils and light in the building is a substantial factor. The equipment needs to have about 20 per cent less capacity than would have been required with conventional construction; however, much of this is due to the heat furnished by the pupils. Even so, the operating costs are reduced greatly during the night and during week-ends when the pupils are not in class.

The SCR brick used on the exterior wall of the building will be a time saver, be very substantial structurally, and be in compliance with building codes. This will be a thermal curtain wall which eliminates distracting noises from outside. Also the building can be erected very rapidly during the winter months, as only one wythe is involved.

Another departure from the ordinary, as I mentioned earlier, is that there is no piping around the perimeter of the building. We have added electric heating units on thermostats to warm exterior walls on sub-zero days, but all other heating in the classrooms is done by warmed air.

A great deal of the building utilizes masonry bearing walls. A study as made of the academic section and the south units, and while bearing walls throughout would have cost slightly less, a poured concrete frame, floor and roof were adopted for the air conditioned academic section to cut insurance rates.

The Physical Education portion is constructed of masonry bearing walls and concrete 'tee' roof components prefabricated and hauled to the site. The contractor elected to build the gymnasium walls first so that he could place the 33-ton prestressed concrete 'tees' while the ground around the building was frozen. Structural clay products will be called upon to carry a heavy load in these walls, which are 22 feet high to the bottom of the 'tees' and 16 inches thick.

Load bearing walls proved to be most economical for the locker area, shops, music area, kitchen and power plant. These areas are roofed with open web steel joists.

Another decision affecting the design of this building was made early, and relates directly to the work you of the Structural Clay Products Institute are doing here. A few 'outsiders' have built buildings in our area using materials not native to the area, and often when a local supplier had a suitable product, it was not accepted; consequently, money left the area that should have supported the local economy. The local structural clay products manufacturers maintain a particularly high quality in our area, and they took a beating in the previously mentioned interchange. We used their products partially because they fulfilled our needs, and partially because they are always ready to assist us when new problems arise.

To summarize and conclude, the problems we feel your products helped solve were that they:

- 1. Helped provide sound control in isolating outside noises from classrooms.
- 2. Assisted in providing a "controlled environment teaching tool" where we needed to replace glass with excellent thermal walls.
- 3. Provided excellent load bearing walls as well as thermal skin walls.
- 4. Provided an aesthetically pleasing exterior appearance that will insure low maintenance costs for years to come.





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Prof. Ray Reed and Mrs. Reed chatted with Chapter President W. D. Frevert for a few moments after the 1964 Student Awards Banquet.



Formal presentation of Membership Certificates in the A.I.A. was made a part of the Chapter Meeting at Ames April 21. Present to receive the certificates were, left to right, Max D. Selzer, John Lind and Richard Hansen of Iowa City, Carl Ver Steeg and Herb Shane of Des Moines, and Thomas Reilly of Cedar Rapids.



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Honorable Mention

LEO C. PEIFFER AND ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS Cedar Rapids



RESTAURANT SHOREWOOD Cedar Rapids

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Prof. Ray Reed and major award winners (left to right) Alan Balhorn, Daniel Huberty, and James Lammers who together took more than ten per cent of the 1964 A.I.A. scholarship awards.

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Special awards presented at the 1964 student banquet went to Paul Hansen, left, to Gary Heyden, past student chapter representative, and to Charles Kurt, for placing in a competition of the PCA.



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Happy smiles light these award winners' faces: (left to right) Eric Wheeler, Charles Overton, Ronald G. Sande, Roger V. Ollenberg, past chapter president, and Charles R. Tichy.



Awards winners at the 1964 banquet included (left to right) Balhorn, Donald Alexander, David Pederson, Daryl E. Anderson, and W. D. Lee.

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NATIONAL AWARDS GO TO IOWA STUDENTS

Three major awards from the American Institue of Architects and a series of other awards from Iowa State University and interested supporters of Architecture were presented to 15 students in the Department of Architecture in ceremonies April 21.

James Lammers of Rockford, Ill., was presented a \$1,000 Syska award, and a \$500 Langley scholarship by the A.I.A., Alan Balhorn, Waterloo, received an \$800 Waid award from the A.I.A., and Daniel Huberty of Dyersville received an award of \$400 from the A.I.A. The awards comprised more than 10 per cent of the A.I.A. awards to students nationally at the end of the Spring term.

The three also were the recipients of other awards: Lammers was awarded the Koss Memorial scholarship; Balhorn received the ALCOA award, and one of the Karl Keffer awards; and Huberty received the Layne Wells award.

Roger V. Ollenberg was recipient of the first presentation of the Leonard Wolf Memorial Award.

Three special award winners were: Paul Hansen, recipient of a special award for 4th year students; Gary Heyden, the A.I.A. Service Award, and Charles Kurt, an award for having been first at I.S.U. in a competition sponsored by the Portland Cement Association.

D. Eric Wheeler received the A.I.A. School Medal and book award; Charles T. Overton received the Henry Adams Book award; Ronald G. Sande received the Alpha Rho Chi award, and Charles R. Tichy received the Leo Daly award.

Donald Alexander received one of the Karl Keffer awards; David Pederson received the C. F. Bowers Memorial award, Daryl E. Anderson





won the Griffith award, and W. D. Lee was recipient of the first award for delineation presented in memory of the late Burdette Higgins.

More than 300 students, faculty members, architects and guests were presented for the banquet, making it the largest ever in terms of those present.

Prof. Ray Reed (shown on page 24 with Chapter President Frevert) was the principal speaker and outlined principles which he will use as guidelines for the Department of Architecture at I.S.U.

The Iowa Chapter used the occasion to present award plaques to the architects and owners of buildings selected as outstanding in the 1964 honor awards competition of the chapter. The chosen buildings are shown on pages 26 through 31.

NEW INSTITUTE MEMBERS

Two most recent members of the Iowa Chapter, A.I.A., are Robert S. Brierly, of the firm of Porter-Brierly Associates, Des Moines, and Horst W. Lobe of the firm of Brooks-Borg, Des Moines.

Robert L. Johnson, Forest City, James R. Sandercock, Dubuque, and Donald E. Snedden, Ankeny, are new associates of the chapter.

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another foundation investigation by LAYNE-WESTERN CO.





Altfillisch, Olson, Gray & Thompson, architects

The architects drawing, pictured above, shows the new \$1,370,000 Physical Education Plant being constructed at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. Altfillisch, Olson, Gray & Thompson, Architects, have incorporated many innovations in this modern educational facility. Foundation investigations, preceding construction, were conducted by The Layne-Western Company.

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