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JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/1969

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## IOWA ARCHITECT

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The **IOWA ARCHITECT** is the official publication of the Iowa Chapter, The American Institute of Architects, and is published quarterly.

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**6** In an expanded format, **NEWS** is presented to update the reader on events related to the architecture of Iowa. Projects in varying stages from commissioning of the Architect to completion of the job will be featured, in addition to current events. Your contribution is welcomed. The **CALENDAR** should help schedule upcoming dates. Those that conflict will be minimized.

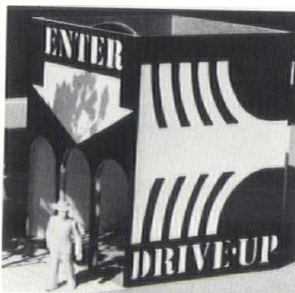


**10** Iowa's cultural heritage will be explored and recorded in an irregularly scheduled series on historically significant architecture. This quarter features the **WOODBURY COUNTY COURT HOUSE**, possibly Iowa's most important pre-War building. This surprisingly little known building is of immense interest and value to the story of architecture in Iowa and should be always preserved.

**15** The latest books to be acquired for the Iowa Chapter Library are reviewed. Available to the public as well as members, books may be borrowed for a two week period, in person or by mail.



**16** Don Maiwurm has been pondering downtown renewal in his few spare moments, and his thoughts have crystallized in **THE ALLEY CONCEPT**. Startlingly simple in theory, this concept could open-up new downtown land to public use at little expense.



**18** From rags to riches characterizes the transformation of a lowly trailer to an exciting supergraphic sculpture in **contemporary architecture**. The reuseable, stage-setting type covering suggests many applications. Could this concept distinguish the usually unimaginative and ugly mobile homes?

**20** An organization that is apparently little known to architects and less so to the public is the **IOWA SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS**. This small but active group searches out and recognizes Iowa's valuable landmarks. Its growth underlines an awakening recognition of the importance of historic preservation.

### Photo credits:

Des Moines Dog Pound rendering—Mark Engelbrecht

Iowa-Des Moines National Bank rendering—Pisit Viriyavadhana

First Federal State Bank—Bill Dikis

Drake Computer Center rendering—Ron Walker

Woodbury County Court House—Robert D. McIntosh

Alley Concept renderings—Don Maiwurm

contemporary Architecture—Don Maiwurm

Hubbell Mansion rendering—Bill Wagner

### Cover:

Abstract derivation of an elevation of the First National Motorbank, Fort Dodge, by Tom Clark.

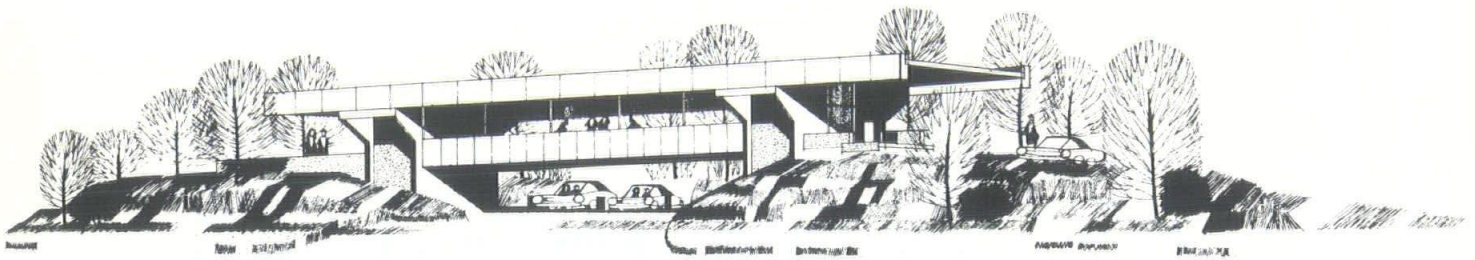
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The Editorial Staff wishes to recognize those advertisers whose extra care in advertising design has enhanced the continuity of the magazine. From the January / February / March issue, they are **VICE GLAZE**, Cota Industries, Inc.; **SWANSON GENTLEMEN, Inc.**; **STENDIG**, Koch Brothers; and **VINCENT CLAY PRODUCTS CO.** From the April/May/June issue, they are **LARRY DAY** and **MODERNFOLD**, Swanson Gentlemen, Inc.

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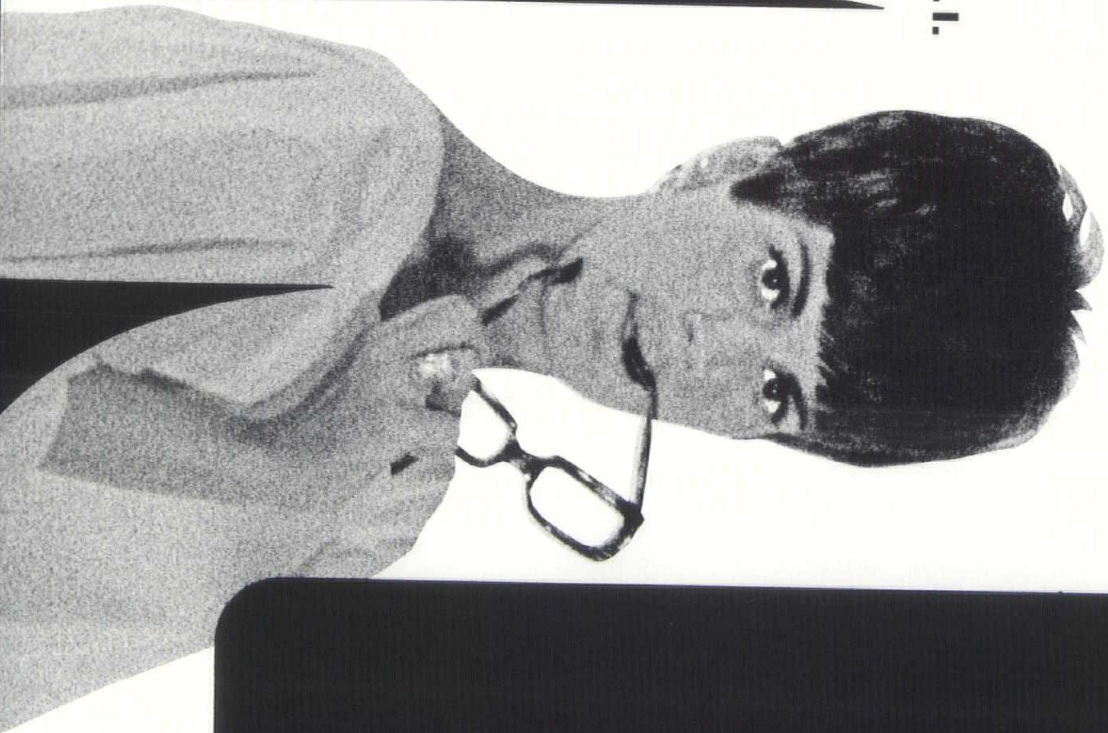
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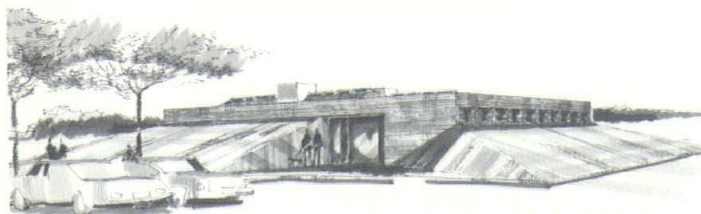
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The firm of Rice, Hunter and Engelbrecht has completed design of the Municipal Dog Pound for the city of Des Moines. It is designed for short term maintenance of a maximum of one hundred and thirty animals. The kennel area is entirely enclosed and sky-lighted, with earthen berms built up to a height of seven feet along the outside walls. The berms have been utilized to minimize winter moisture build-up from the extraordinary latent heat loads and to counteract heat gain during the summer.

THE CONSTRUCTION SPECIFIER, official magazine of the Construction Specifications Institute, known for its avante-garde and abstract illustrations which supplement the feature articles, had its day of glory in mid-June at the 20th Annual Exhibition of the Art Directors Club of Metropolitan Washington where it was awarded 25 Gold Medal Certificates for its artwork during 1968.

The Des Moines firm of John Stephens Rice, Architect has announced a change in name to Hunter, Rice and Engelbrecht.

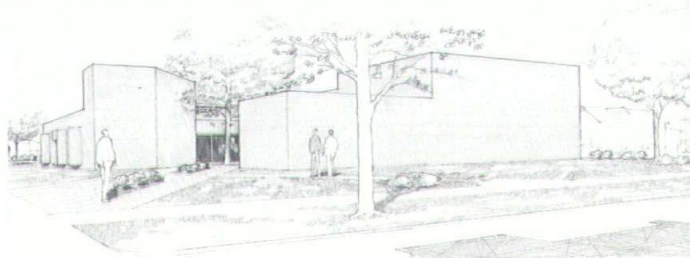
A new courthouse, jail and city hall have been proposed for downtown Dubuque. The old jail, dating from 1857, was designed by J. F. Rague and is recognized as one of the few examples of "Egyptian Revival." Environmental concept plans have been prepared by Harry Weese and Associates, Chicago architects, for a private golf club and housing development to be built at Crow Creek near Davenport.

Contracts have been signed for the new Franklin General Hospital in Hampton. Architects for the \$2 million project are Architects Associated of Des Moines.

A new Scott County Mental Health Center is to be built on a site adjacent to Mercy Hospital, Davenport. Architects are Charles Richardson and Associates of the same city.

Due largely to publicity distributed by the Iowa Arts Council, the 1969 Architectural Award display panels of the Iowa Chapter will be seen by a good many Iowans. They were at the Sioux City Art Center through the month of August, will be at Scattergood School in West Branch the first two weeks in September, at the Davenport Art Center September 19-October 13, at Parson's College the last half of October and at the Waterloo Recreation Center through the month of November. Arrangements for other exhibit dates may be made with the Chapter Office.

The new director of the Des Moines Art Center is James T. Demetron, formerly director of the Pasadena Art Museum. The art center was designed by the late Eliel Saarien, with a recent addition by I.M. Pei, and has become nationally recognized for its excellence. Charles Herbert, Des Moines Architect, serves on the Board of Trustees of the Art Center. The Members Council is a group which coordinates and initiates art-related activities, such as receptions, art fairs and trips. Des Moines architects active are Dick Kruse, Jack Bloodgood, and Bill Dikis.



Charles Herbert and Associates has designed their second building for the Drake University campus. The Computer Center is scheduled to perform all campus computer functions and provides computer classroom instruction. It is located at the eastern edge of the campus and in effect is the termination of the eastern campus boundary. Materials are brick bearing walls utilizing forty foot long plywood box beams.

The Nebraska Chapter will host the Regional Central States Convention, "BACK TO ARCHITECTURE," on September 18-20. Professional headliners will include Gerhard M. Kallman and John Carl Warnecke. Social events will include: "Capitol by Candlelight," helping to celebrate the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Nebraska State Capitol, Naughty-Nineties Supper Theatre and a football game, the University of Southern California versus the University of Nebraska.



Senator Alan Cranston of California, in appreciation of its content, recently read into the Congressional Record a resolution resulting from the 1969 AIA convention. The text is as follows: It has become clear in both moral and economic terms that our nation can no longer afford or pretend to intervene in the political and military affairs of nations throughout the world, maintain a military and weapons establishment of unlimited size, explore the moon and, at the same time, rebuild our decaying cities, provide an adequate supply of housing, and finance domestic programs needed to solve pressing social problems.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Architects of America that:

One. We call upon the President and the Congress to assume responsibility for a comprehensive reexamination and recording of our national priorities, reorganizing that we have neither unlimited ties, recognizing that we have neither unlimited hope to instruct other nations in the paths they should follow when we are increasingly unable to demonstrate that we know how to maintain a viable society at home.

Two. We call upon our leaders, at all levels of government, to recognize that an efficient and humane environment is basic to the maintenance of a harmonious and prosperous society and that the skills to produce it are well within our grasp. At the same time, we wish to remind our representatives that neither hope, time, nor technology will solve the problems that presently make urban life a dirty, difficult and dangerous experience. Only a wholehearted commitment of will and money will enable us to apply the skills needed to erase the shame of urban America.

Approved and adopted by the American Institute of Architects at its annual convention in Chicago, Illinois, June 26, 1969.

An addition to Bondurant High School and alterations to existing school buildings in Bondurant and Farrar have been designed by McMullen and Miller, Des Moines.

Ida Grove's new high school is being designed by Frevert and Ramsey.

Governor Robert D. Ray has announced the appointments of two architects to state positions. William J. Wagner FAIA of Des Moines has been re-appointed to a four year term on the Capitol Plans Commission. Richard W. Goewey A.I.A. has been appointed for an indefinite term on the Armory Board. Both appointments were announced by the Governor's Office on July 2, 1969.



Construction has begun on the First Federal State Bank in Des Moines designed by Wilkins and Bussard, Architects. It is located adjacent to the Drake University campus and is the first major new building in the Model Cities area.

In order to keep the bank in continuous operation, the new 14,000 square foot building will be constructed immediately west of the present structure. Upon completion next spring, the old building will be razed and replaced by a plaza and sunken garden. The plaza will be utilized for a neighborhood park and community activity area. The sunken garden is of three-fold advantage: it furnishes a pleasant view from the lower level offices; it satisfies a building code requirement in lieu of sprinkling the basement; and, because it allows a direct second exit, all alleviates the need of a second interior stair, freeing additional floor space. Entrance to the main level is by a bridge spanning the garden.

The design concept is a square one story building of column-free interior space. Four massive corner "columns" support the roof and house executive offices. The resulting openness visually enlarges the banking floor and lends a great degree of functional flexibility. A drive-up facility will be located adjacent. It will have five "visual" pneumatic tube customer units, and will be connected to the main bank by a security tunnel.

Materials are dark neutral brick, grey plaster, grey glass, and exposed aggregate paving, and furnishings are of grayed oak and grey carpet, enriched by fabric accent colors.

The new chairman of the Dubuque Planning and Zoning Commission is an architect, George Deininger of the firm of Durrant, Deininger Dommer Kramer and Gordon.



WASHINGTON, D. C., July 24, 1969 — The Joint Committee on Employment Practices will sponsor its third annual conference on December 5, 1969, "Employee/Employer — A Relationship in Transition."

Under this theme, the all-day conference will present ideas on attracting and retaining men and women into the design professions. The emphasis will be on the opportunities for service in resolving social problems, the right of employees to representation in developing means to make their service more effective in enhancing the total environment, and the opportunities for employers and employees to develop an attractive work environment. Preliminary plans also call for a prominent luncheon speaker to discuss the future of environmental patterns.

The conference will be held at the Arlington Park Towers, adjacent to Chicago's O'Hare Field.

The Joint Committee of Employment Practices is a coordinating body of the American Institute of Architects, American Congress on Surveying and Mapping, American Institute of Chemists, American Society of Civil Engineers, Consulting Engineers Council/USA, Council for Photogrammetry, and Professional Engineers in Private Practice of National Society of Professional Engineers.

The detailed program for the December 5th conference is scheduled to be released in August.

For additional information contact; Robert Allan Class, AIA, 1735 New York Avenue N. W., Washington, D. C. 20006.

A new architectural firm in Cedar Rapids, Iowa is Armon, Kopecky, Johnson. Principals are Dohn Armon, Thomas J. Kopecky and Joel Johnson. All are registered architects and graduates of Iowa State University.

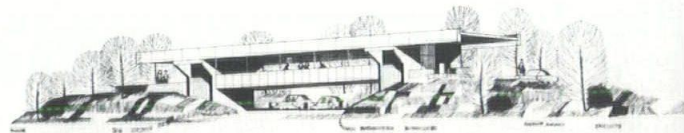
The Des Moines Architects Council recently appointed a five-man jury to evaluate the work of the first graduates of the Architectural Construction Drafting Program in the Des Moines Area Community College.

The jury, composed of Ken Bussard, Jim Champion, Tom Peterson, Jim Wilkins and Rich Goewey deliberated with Roy Berger, Drafting Instructor, for three hours on the night of July 22, and made the following selections: **Academic Excellence** — Gene Small, Dallas Center; **Graphic Proficiency**, first award — William Burke, Madrid; **Graphic Proficiency**, second award — David Fagen, Perry; **Overall Performance** — Edwin Willson, Des Moines.

Most of the graduates will be working for archi-

itects, engineers, and construction materials firms in the Des Moines area after graduation, although job offers have come from Omaha and Minneapolis, as well as throughout Iowa.

New to the architecture faculty at Iowa State University this year is D. Lawrence Case. He will be teaching in the graphics area. Larry received his Bachelor's degree in 1964 from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and his Master's degree from I.S.U. in 1966.



The construction of a new banking facility designed by Architects Associated for Iowa-Des Moines National Bank is nearing completion. Located at East 25th Street and Euclid Avenue, the new facility will provide the east area of Des Moines with both vehicular and walk-in banking services.

The design concept addresses the problem of accommodating and yet segregating two diverse traffic forms, vehicular and pedestrian, while relating both to complete banking services. The basic form is an expression of this concept, with "walk-up" banking functions, executive and conference areas, at parking level, housed in a "bridge" form spanning four lanes of vehicular banking traffic served by pneumatic tube customer units.

The structure is supported on four major pylons containing mechanical service. Basic materials are concrete, sandblasted, and grey glass.

General contractor for the project is Neumann Construction Company.

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Leland D. Blackledge of Porter/Brierly/Blackledge, Des Moines

Arthur C. Kuehn of Charles Richardson & Associates, Davenport

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See Oct. 14th

Dale A. Nederhoff of Durrant-Deininger - Dommer - Kramer - Gordon, Dubuque

William Nowysz of William Nowysz Architect, Iowa City

Robert L. VandeVenter of VandeVenter & Griffith, West Des Moines

Kenneth P. Wictor of Foss-Engelstad-Foss, Sioux City

**Associate** Timothy W. Downing of G. B. Cox, Bettendorf

Gary L. Warner of Prout-Mugasis-Johnson, Clinton

**Professional Affiliate** Donald W. Appel of Peterson & Appell Engineers, Des Moines

Jack L. Bouse of Moore & Bouse Consulting Engineers

Carlyle W. Peterson of Peterson & Appell Engineers, Des Moines

The Architectural Registration Examinations were given in June to about twenty applicants. One of the largest groups of newly registered architects resulted. Following are the architects and their respective firms:

Daryl Andersen, Thorson, Brom & Broshar, Waterloo

Alan Bowman, General Management Co., Des Moines

David Dicken, Leo C. Peiffer & Associates, Cedar Rapids

Tim Downing, G. B. Cox, Architect, Bettendorf

Mark Engelbrecht, Rice and Hunter, Des Moines

Bernard Jones, DeWild, Grant, Reckert & Associates, Sioux City

William Ludwig, Architects Associated, Des Moines

Robert Mathieu, Brooks, Borg & Skiles, Des Moines

Charles Overton, Brooks, Borg & Skiles, Des Moines

Richard Pattschull, Wehner & Associates, Iowa City

Jerry Quebe, Hansen, Lind & Meyer, Iowa City

Ronald H. Walker, Charles Herbert & Associates, Des Moines

## CALENDAR

**Sept. 5-6** AIA Continuing Education - "Specifications." Chicago

**Sept. 16** Senator Birch Bayh - "A democrat views the Nixon Administration" - Iowa State University

**Sept. 17-Sept. 20** Central States Regional Conference - Lincoln, Neb.

**Sept. 19-Oct. 13** Iowa Chapter Honor Awards Exhibit, Davenport Art Center

**Thru Oct. 31** The Seventh Biennial Architects Exhibit co-sponsored by the Eastern Iowa Section of the Iowa Chapter and the Western Illinois Chapter of the A.I.A. will be held at the Davenport Art Gallery.

**Sept. 23** Senator John Tower - "A republican views the Nixon administration" - Iowa State University

**Sept. 25** Sander Vanocur - "A Correspondent views the Nixon administration" - Iowa State University

**Oct. 14** Stewart Udall - Lecture, Iowa State University

**Oct. 15-Oct. 31** Iowa Chapter Honor Awards Exhibit, Parson's College Fairfield, Iowa

**Oct. 30-31** University of Wisconsin Architectural Seminar, "Cold Weather Construction." \$70.

**Nov. 1-Nov. 30** Iowa Chapter Honor Awards Exhibit, Waterloo Recreation Center

**Nov. 6-7-8** University of Wisconsin Architectural Seminar, "Architectural Refresher." \$50.

**Nov. 21-22** University of Wisconsin Architectural Seminar, "Construction Contracts and Specifications." \$50.

**Dec. 4-5 & 11-12** University of Wisconsin Architectural Seminar, "Housing and Human Needs." \$50.

**Dec. 9-10** University of Wisconsin Architectural Seminar, "Lighting Techniques in Architecture." \$70.



# WOODBURY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

PHOTOS BY Robert D. McIntosh AIA

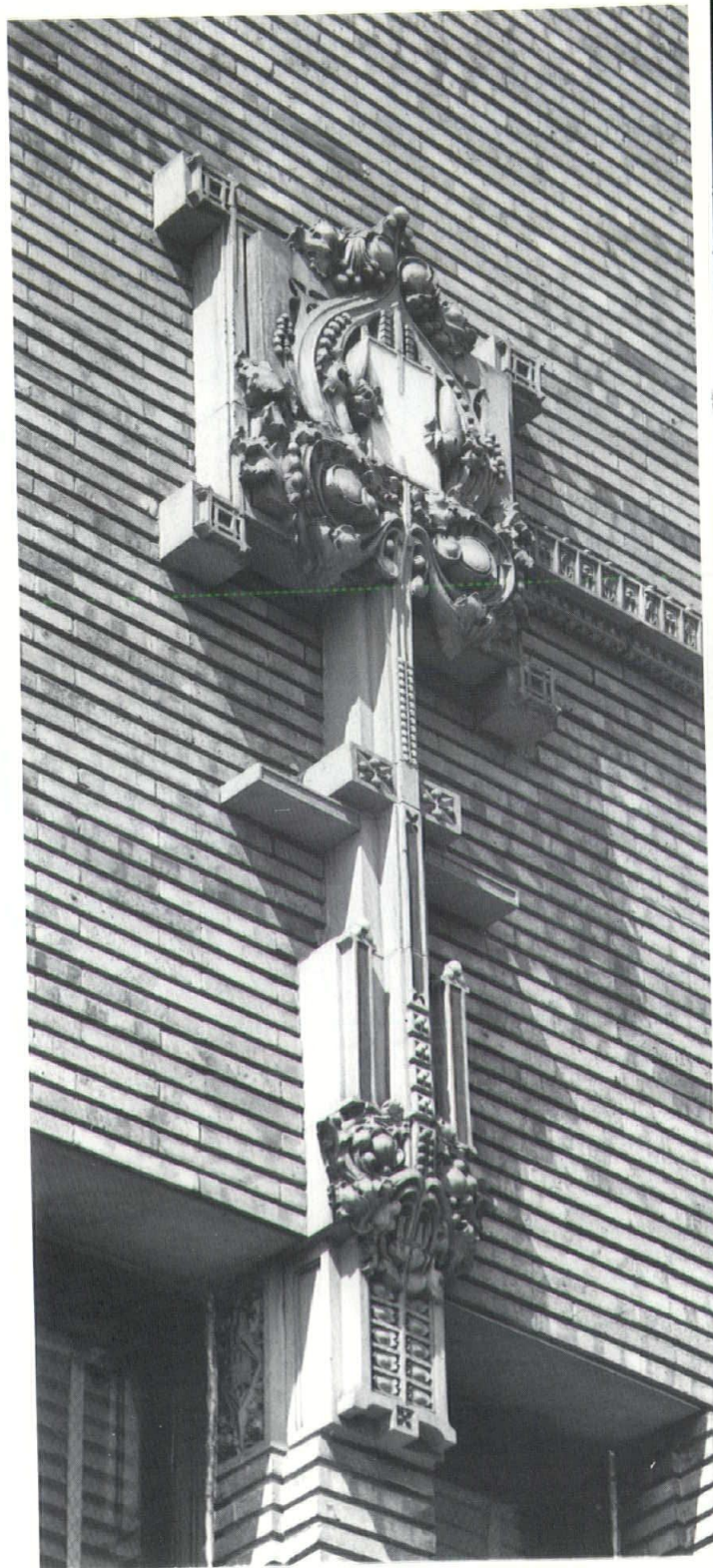
TEXT BY William M. Dikis AIA

Among the finest buildings in the Midwest and, in fact, in the Nation, the Courthouse for Woodbury County in Sioux City, Iowa stands unique. The eight story brick structure was completed in 1918, with architectural services provided by William L. Steele AIA. Formerly a draftsman in the firm of the renowned Louis Sullivan, Steele had established his own firm in Sioux City. He called in an associate architect and design consultant, a fellow employee from Sullivan's office, the talented George Elmslie of the Chicago firm of Purcell and Elmslie.

The architects attacked the problem from the then radical philosophy that the exterior of the building should be a reflection of the interior spaces, which should be arranged in the most convenient and humanly pleasant manner. This was as opposed to the more common method of designing a magnificent formalized monument based on past architectural modes, into which functional areas were squeezed with less care and usefulness. Having successfully convinced the Board of Supervisors of this approach, considerable public opposition was conquered. While unique in western Iowa, other buildings of the "Modern" type in other Iowa cities probably helped win confidence. Frank Lloyd Wright's Mason City Bank and Hotel (1911) and Louis Sullivan's Church at Cedar Rapids (1914) and Insurance Building at Algona (1913) were living examples of the "new architecture," loosely characterized as Prairie Architecture.

Materials are light brown Roman brick with a raked horizontal joint, granite, terra cotta sculptured ornamentation, and bronze doors and grille-work.

The wonderfully integrated sculpture was done by Alfonso Iannelli. The west entrance has a massive brick colonnade relieved by the over-door sculpture signifying Law and the People. At the north entrance two figures represent the social unit of the Family. At the top of the tower's west projecting bay is a gigantic eagle.



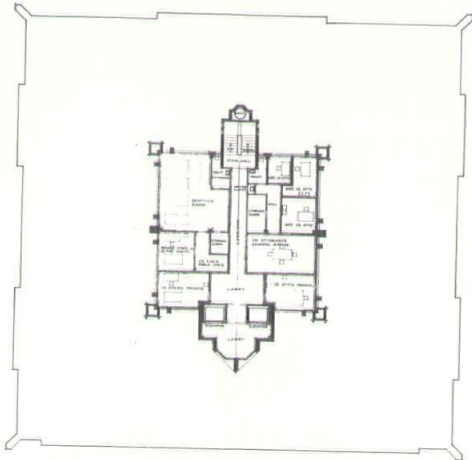
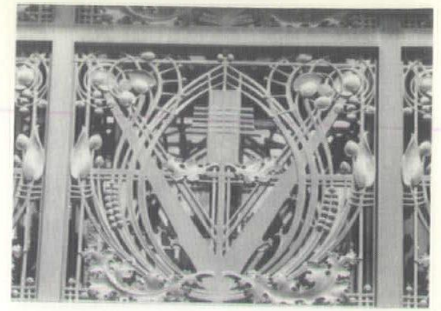




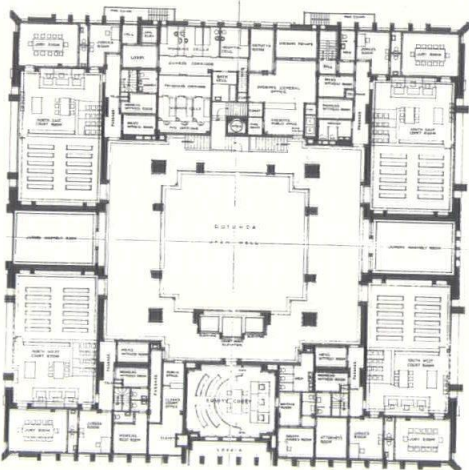




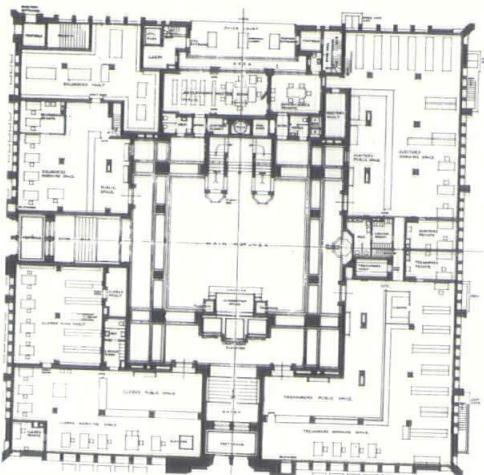




Typical Upper Floor Plan



2nd Floor Plan



1st Floor Plan

The basic building form is a two story broad base above which the narrower tower rises from the center. Especially interesting, in light of recent trends, are the corner brick piers which, at 45 degree angles, establish a line of strength and grace. Here are gathered those departments most used by the public—auditor, treasurer, recorder and courtrooms. The courtrooms are fine spaces with stain glassed windows and large skylights.

The tower houses less accessible offices. The upper-most floor establishes a definite top to the tower by its different form and fenestration. Smaller in area, projecting eaves reiterate the wall line below, protecting a series of closely spaced narrow windows and casting a dark shadow. Dominant on the tower are the two projecting bays: The west contains elevators and lobbies; the east is the stair and chimney.

The interior space holds fine surprises for the new visitor. The center of the two story base is devoted to public space, both stories open to a magnificent stained glass dome. Intricate terra cotta modeling of column capitals and ceilings contrast with the same brick used outside. Sculptured light fixtures were designed by the architect.

In all the Courthouse is a phenomenon of its day, a masterpiece of teamwork by the architects, engineers, and owners. It is obviously the product of designers and builders who deeply cared about their work. Its well-preserved existence is invaluable to Iowa's cultural history.









**"WITH BENEFIT OF ARCHITECT"** by Edward Tuttle, Jr. AIA

MacMillan Company, New York—\$7.95

Reviewed by Roy E. Berger, AIA

The Blurb on the jacket states "complete guide to this all-important client-architect relationship" to which should be added "for residential work." The author fictionalizes a "typical" family, deciding to build a home designed specifically for them, and carries the reader thru the whole process from selection of an architect to the as-built drawings and contractor's guarantee.

In spite of the author's biased and somewhat superficial treatment on the selection of an architect, this book should be of interest because of its introduction to design philosophies and its thoroughness in explaining the whole process from architectural fees and preliminary sketches thru construction contracts, shop drawings, application for payment, etc.

**ARCHITECTURAL PROMOTION, ARCHITECTURAL PRODUCTION, ARCHITECTURAL MANAGEMENT** by Guideline Publications, Berkeley, Calif.

\$2.00 for each or three for \$5.00

Reviewed by Richard H. Kruse AIA

Office practice is a vital concern to those involved in the business of architecture. This topic has been discussed in many different ways and in varying scope. In this series some of the most prominent aspects (promotion, production and management) of architectural practice are investigated in a rather unusual way. The manuals are a compilation of confidential inquiries from architects and others who work in related fields. The information was analyzed and condensed, resulting in an overview of the most common problems and solutions that many architectural offices face and can profit from today.

Unfortunately the questions as to where the next architectural project will come and when it will arrive are all too familiar in every office. Some rather cogent ideas are elaborated in **Architectural Promotion**. The manual clearly states that promotion is not unprofessional; in fact it is probably more unprofessional for an architect not to introduce his office to a prospective client for whom he would like to work. The architect must have a professional approach to promotion, including the

physical appearance of his office, letterhead and graphics, client relations and community activities. Also described are effective means for magazine and newspaper submittals for best results.

**Architectural Production**, as pointed out in another of the three manuals, is a major expense to any architectural office. Reducing production cost without compromising the quality of work should be the goal in every office. Valuable suggestions for setting-up a system for time and cost accounting, use of new equipment and improved techniques for production should help smooth-out production cost headaches.

**Architectural Management** is very relative to both preceeding topics. Good management has as much to do with a good promotion approach and efficient production as it does with securing an earned fee or reducing direct costs or office overhead. An approach to good management ranges all the way from obtaining a commission at the proper fee to apportioning that fee. An architectural office, like other businesses, must be ready to investigate and institute new methods and procedures in their practice. To do this architects first must be aware of the many possibilities.

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF HEAVY CONSTRUCTION** by Ronald C. Smith—Prentice-Hall, Inc. Englewood, New Jersey 1967

Reviewed by Bruce DeJong

"Principles and Practices of Heavy Construction" presents the logical sequence of steps involved in the construction of permanent buildings using heavy timber, steel, concrete, or a combination of such materials. It is hoped that this book may provide the reader with some insight into the problems involved in the construction of a large building. This is the way Ronald Smith opens the preface to his book—probably the most comprehensive on the subject of heavy construction to date.

The book outlines in a clear, straightforward manner, the complete construction process of a large building, starting out with such topics as site investigations and layout, excavations, and foundations. He then covers the various types of construction—concrete, steel, timber, curtain wall, etc., and goes onto the floor and roof systems and interior finishes.

Mr. Smith has written an excellent textbook for anyone who is interested in knowing what is involved in heavy construction, and needs a comprehensive reference source.



# THE ALLEY CONCEPT

By Donald J. Maiwurm AIA

"All in favor say 'aye!' The 'ayes' have it. A committee will be appointed to study the possibility of a mall for the downtown district."

In the past ten years, many cities throughout the United States have heard this parliamentary procedure repeated at their planning meetings. Many more cities small and large, will consider this action this year, next year or in the future. Why? Why a mall? Why a downtown mall? The committee will ask many questions before their study is complete.

Since the end of World War II, the shopping center has been a natural development in the Metropolitan Urban areas. Urban population growth demanded more shopping facilities. The automobile precipitated the shopping center with its spacious parking facilities. The architect created a whole new world of space and environment for the shopping pleasure of the customer. The segregation of pedestrian and vehicular traffic soon evolved and the customer found himself in a "mall-type" atmosphere; he liked the feeling.

The shopping center concept moved from the city to urban areas and from urban to rural areas. A city of 30,000 serving a rural trade area that totaled 250,000 in population found it could support a shopping center. The center was usually located on a tract far removed from the "Downtown" shopping district, and thus a problem was born. The population growth was not adequate to support two shopping areas, and we found a split in the buying habits of the customer. In most cases, the downtown merchant felt the pressures of slow sales, he soon noticed empty stores in his retailing "Camelot." As the trend became apparent, he reached out to revive the traffic by attempting to duplicate the environment of the shopping center with new fronts, trees, flowers, and no traffic; thus, the downtown mall.

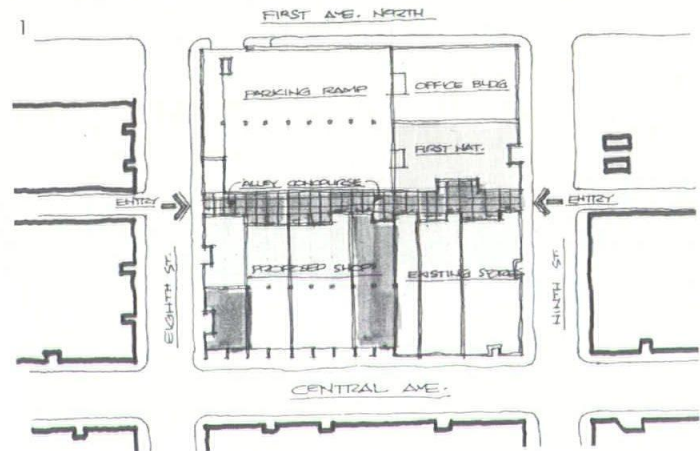
The mall dies in committee many times after very complete studies. Many problems developed when it was suggested that streets be closed and trees planted where parking meters once stood. How long should the mall be? Would the loss of parking in front of my store end the business? Who would pay for cutting the grass and maintaining the mall? How would the mall be financed? Would the fire department be able to gain access for fire protection? Would this mall really bring back the customers? Despite this type of apprehension, many malls were built and many are planned. Possibly more downtown rehabilitation would develop if still another concept were proposed to counteract some of the foregoing questions.

Allow me to suggest here the "Alley Concept" as a possible solution for a shopping environment.

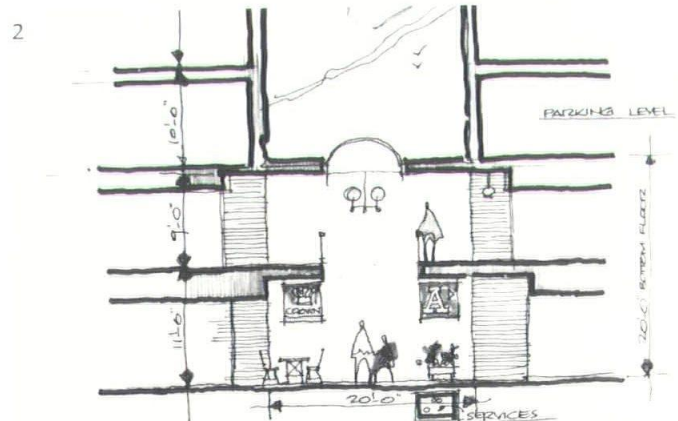
The Alley has virtually disappeared in today's subdivision planning because it requires much land, is expensive to construct, and serves no real purpose that can not be solved in other ways. Alleys in a downtown business district are left over from another era and create many frustrating problems

for cities. They are too narrow, always blocked, difficult to maintain, impossible during the winter months with ice, and invite filth and decay since they are seldom used by people. My proposal is to use the alley for pedestrian rather than vehicular traffic.

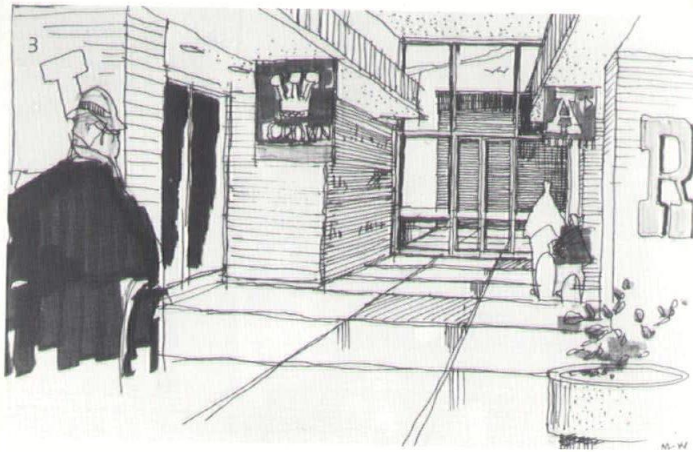
This would straight-away answer a number of questions. The main street would remain open and parking could still be allowed at the front of the store or shop. Fire protection would not be impaired. There would be a decided reduction in expense and maintenance in developing an "alley concourse" as opposed to the street mall. With this concept, the 20' alley could be vacated and returned to the adjoining property owners for development, thus putting it back on the tax roll. The alley could be developed as a concourse one block in length (1) or it could be developed one or two stores at a time. This could prove important to small cities where interest may develop slowly.



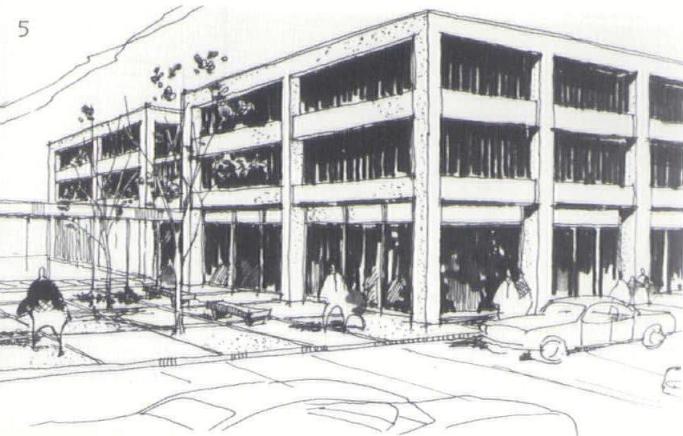
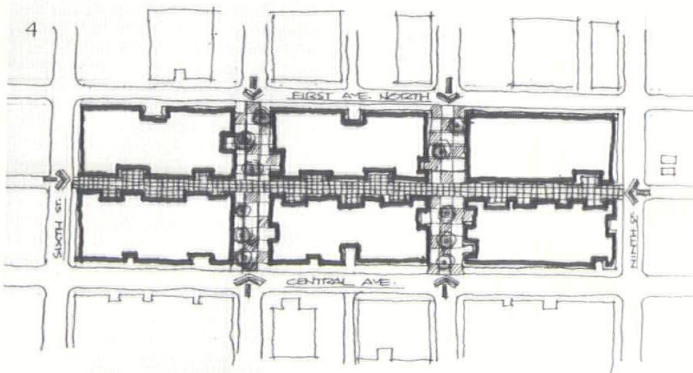
The scale of the alley creates a natural arcade or concourse in scale with the human figure. (2 & 3) The alley could be enclosed and economically air-conditioned. The 20' width could be two stores in height with a natural light source from above. Each







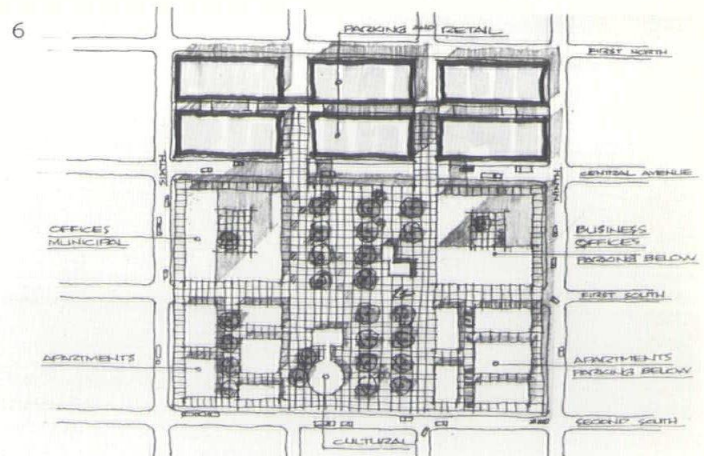
store could develop a new concourse entrance utilizing many of the existing masonry materials hidden in the alley at only a portion of the cost of developing the front street. The scale would give a more intimate shopping environment allowing unlimited opportunity for design with the many level changes and indentations normally found in



alleys. Services could be installed below the walk or above the two-story space. Stock deliveries would be moved to the street.

The Alley Concourse would not have to be confined to one block, but could cross the side streets and grow to two or three blocks in length. (4) The side street could be closed and a series of small open malls developed. This could provide additional loading and unloading areas throughout the shopping block. The enclosed concourse could continue across the side streets as a glass enclosed space opening to the outside mall areas. (5)

As the city adjusts to a new relationship of space for retail sales offices, apartments and parking to meet the changes in shopping patterns, the retail area could be confined to a portion of the original downtown area. As this began to flourish, parking areas would replace buildings on adjacent blocks at street level. Apartments and offices would develop on the second level and above with a large pedestrian mall embracing this development. (6) The second level could join the second level of the alley concourse, completing the total separation of pedestrian from vehicular traffic. Including apartments as a part of the outdoor and indoor spaces would create a living area 24 hours a day, in keeping with the original concept of retail stores with apartments above. Apartments and office space within the city core have suffered in proportion to retail space. The "Absentee" landlord has not helped to solve the city problem, but would be more willing to invest if a demand for his rental space were proven. And a compensating adjustment is in order.



The small city is not ready to give up in the wake of the competition. The property owners have too much invested, and the city has too much pride in the traditional downtown merchants, to close the door without reviewing every plan available. When the committee is appointed "to study the possibilities of a mall for the downtown district," "The Alley Concept" is worth their consideration.



# conTEMPORARY architecture

by Thomas Clark

In an attempt to look into the design process rather than simply review the finished product, this is the first in a series of articles on projects still on the drawing boards of Iowa architects. On a wide range of design problems, the design team will comment on the problems of the program and how they have attempted to solve these problems. This issue probes the peculiarities of a "Disposable Building" by Maiwurm-Wiegman. John Wiegman, AIA is partner-in charge, and the project designer is Thomas Clark. Construction will begin this winter.

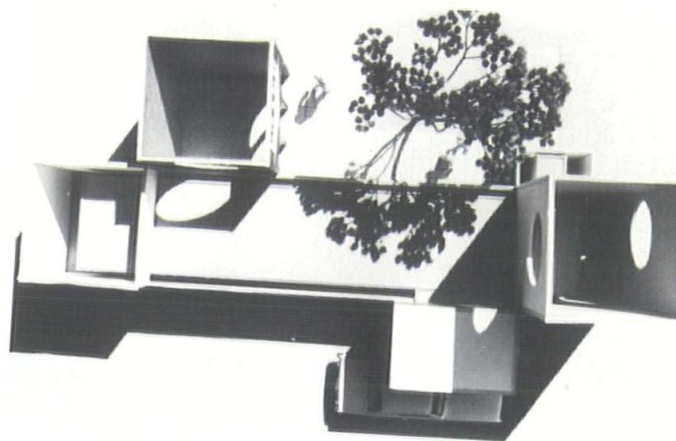
For the past three years, First National Bank of Fort Dodge has provided motor banking services at the Fort Dodge CrossRoads Shopping Center. And, for the past three years, the "temporary" trailer-bank has done little to upgrade the image of the commercial strip. In the words of Keith Dickerson, First National's advertising manager, the trailer is an "awful looking" solution to a difficult problem. Nevertheless it has served the valuable function of establishing a banking clientele during the programming, design and construction of a new and permanent bank building.

In fact, the trailer bank/permanent bank pattern is so successful that the bank wants to use it again in establishing a new bank at the Iowa Central Community College campus on the west edge of Fort Dodge. Maiwurm-Wiegman was commissioned by bank president Earl Underbrink to "do something" to make the trailer bank presentable for the next three years in its new campus location.

"The idea of building a facade and calling it a new building didn't appeal to us at all. Our first thought was to scrap the trailer completely and do a very simple new building for the 'first stage.' However, this would represent too great an investment to totally discard. A survey of the trailer showed that any new roofing, plumbing, electrical or interior cabinetwork would just be a duplication of what exists in excellent condition. For a building with a life expectancy of three years, the only major fault with the trailer bank was image: visual image from the adjacent highway, and a good public relations image with the college community.

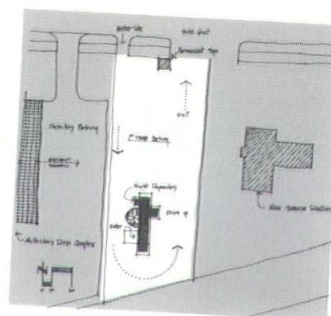
In addition to creating a suitable image, the first stage facility must relate to its surroundings and accommodate construction of a second stage which is to be the permanent full-service motor bank serving the college.

With this program defined, a simple concept involved: the temporary solution could be a screen around the trailer, situated in the middle of an auto-pedestrian plane. The second stage was cartooned as a "non-building" in a negative space between the positive masses of adjacent buildings. We feel that we have an excellent opportunity to contribute to the campus by creating a parklike site which can be a strong node in the campus traffic pattern. Our site is a critical turning point at the end of the East-West pedestrian axis through the 1200 student dormitory complex.

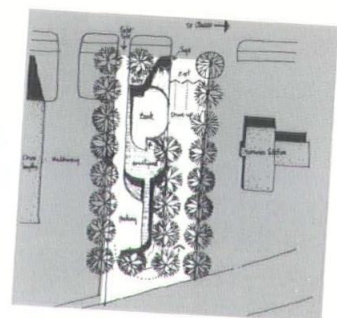


Working back from the second stage site plan, the first stage is planned to allow total first stage operation of banking facilities on the tight site without interference of final building construction.

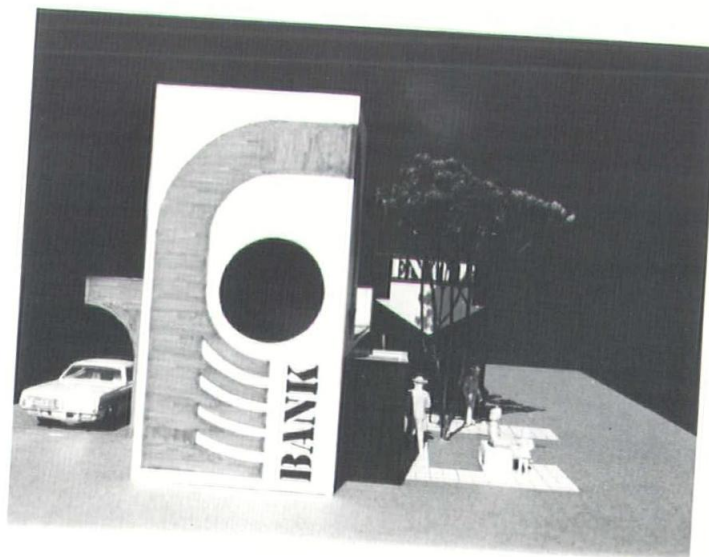
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1st Stage



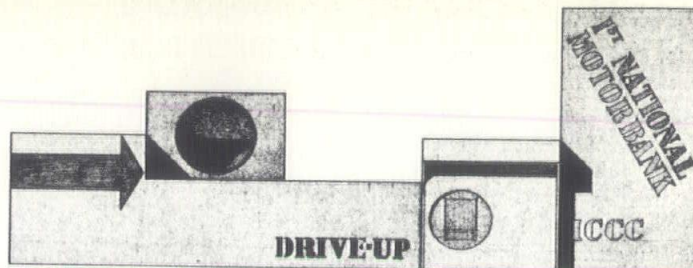
2nd Stage



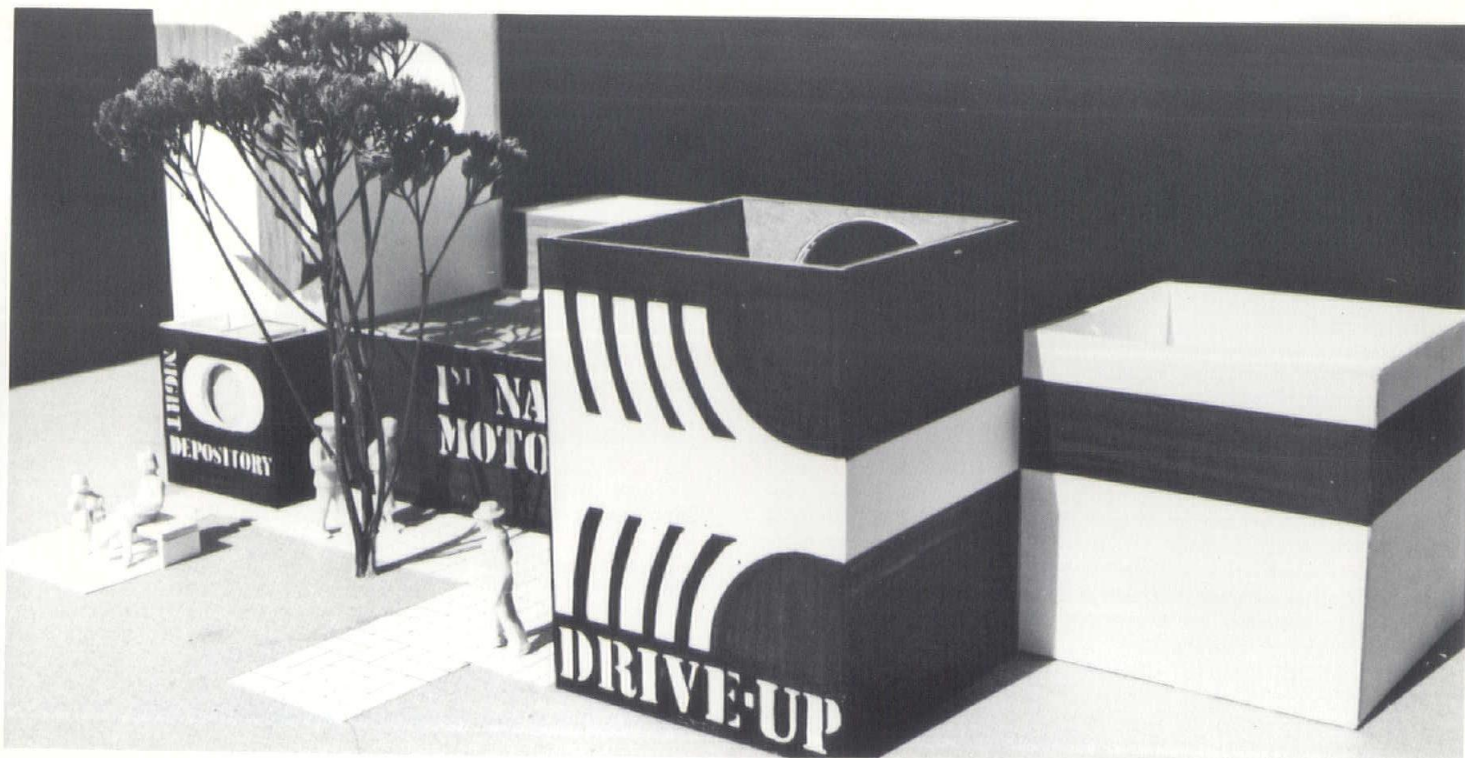
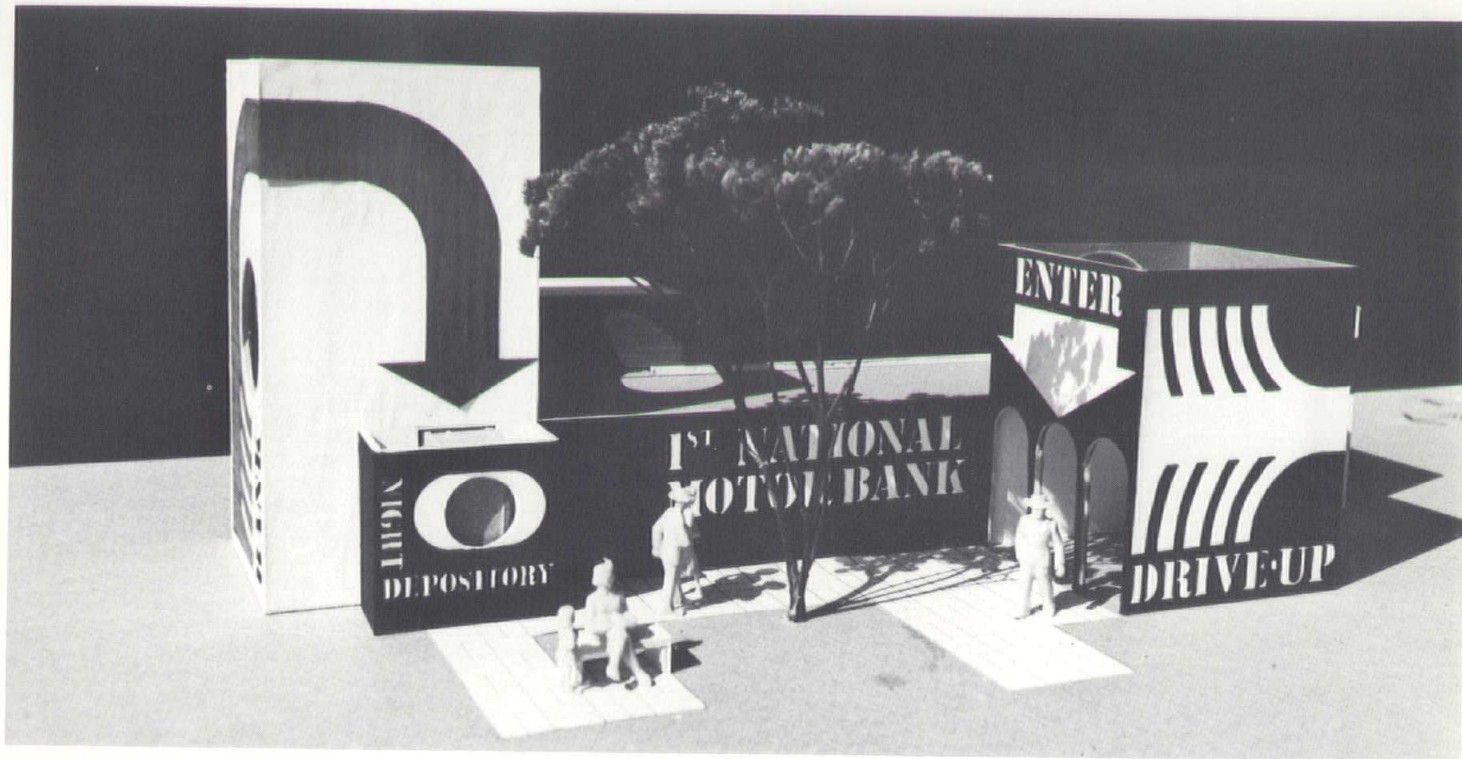




Existing Bank



East Elevation



Model by Robert Claussen    Photos by Don Maiwurm



# IOWA SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF HISTORIC LANDMARKS

by William Wagner, FAIA

As stated in the Articles of Incorporation, the purpose of the Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks is to kindle and keep alive an active interest in the historical sites, buildings, and landmarks of Iowa; aid and encourage local groups and communities in preserving such sites, buildings and landmarks, after determining their value for preservation and evaluating their worth to posterity from a historical, architectural and aesthetic viewpoint; publish historical materials; and co-operate with similar organizations in Iowa and the Nation whose objects are substantially the same as those of this Society.

The Society seeks to stimulate the steadily growing interest in the identification and preservation of historic sites and buildings which tell the story of Iowa. Encouragement and advice is given to those who wish to preserve specific places. The Society endeavors to co-operate with local, state and national organizations such as the State Historical Society of Iowa, the State Department of History and Archives and the State Conservation Commission, the Iowa Development Commission and the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and is an institutional member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Washington, D. C. The Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks does **not** own property or administer sites.

Looking back to the early 1950's, it seems hard to remember just what prompted the early talks on the forming of a group of persons to encourage preservation. It is a little like which came first . . . the egg or the hen!

Several people were interested in the preservation of historic architecture. Mr. George Mills of the Register and Tribune had an interest for years, and almost regularly he would do a story about a landmark that was coming down. He wrote of Des Moines' Wesley Redhead barn that was to be torn down because the family could no longer maintain it, and a few months later, of the family home which was torn down.

Professor Leonard Wolf of the Department of Architecture at Iowa State University in Ames had an interest in the preserving of good architecture from an architectural historian's point of view. My interest in preservation had been rather personal and quiet until the Herbert Hoover Birthplace Society started looking for an architect to help with the reconstruction of Herbert Hoover's father's blacksmith shop. The three of us met and reviewed the stories in the newspapers and various letters from persons around the state expressing their personal interest in their own pet project. It was at lunch one day that we put together a list of about fifty names of persons around the state who we knew were interested in preservation of architecture, sites and monuments.

Prior to the organization of the ISPHL, the State Historical Society of Iowa under the guidance of Wm. Petersen was doing a good job preserving

what could be put on shelves — photographs and drawings of threatened and doomed buildings. It seemed important to us that a society for the PRESERVATION of architecture was needed; for years, other arts had been religiously preserved. Letters were sent to those persons who we felt had an interest in preservation, inviting them to get together with us for an idea session to see what might be done to help preserve our fast-disappearing landmarks.

On Thursday, May 31, 1956 about fifty persons arrived at the Hubbell Mansion in Des Moines for this first meeting. Two major acts were accomplished at this meeting . . . formulation of a Society for Preservation was unanimously approved, and an Executive Committee was appointed which was to meet, as a smaller group, to work out details.

On October 8, 1956, the first regular meeting was held, again at the Hubbell Mansion, and an election was held for the officers of the Society. Also elected was a Board of Directors representing the different congressional districts. One of the most important and worthwhile results to come from the membership is diversity of talent represented and brought to focus on preservation. Within this group are persons who can give to other society members help in any number of fields, such as . . . judgment of the worth of preservation from an historic and/or architectural point of view, legal advice, realty value, public relations and news coverage, site planning, interior restoration and furnishings, insurance on site and furnishings, and research or information pertaining to a specific site. This has been given at no expense to members, either as individuals or societies, other than travel or out of pocket expenses.

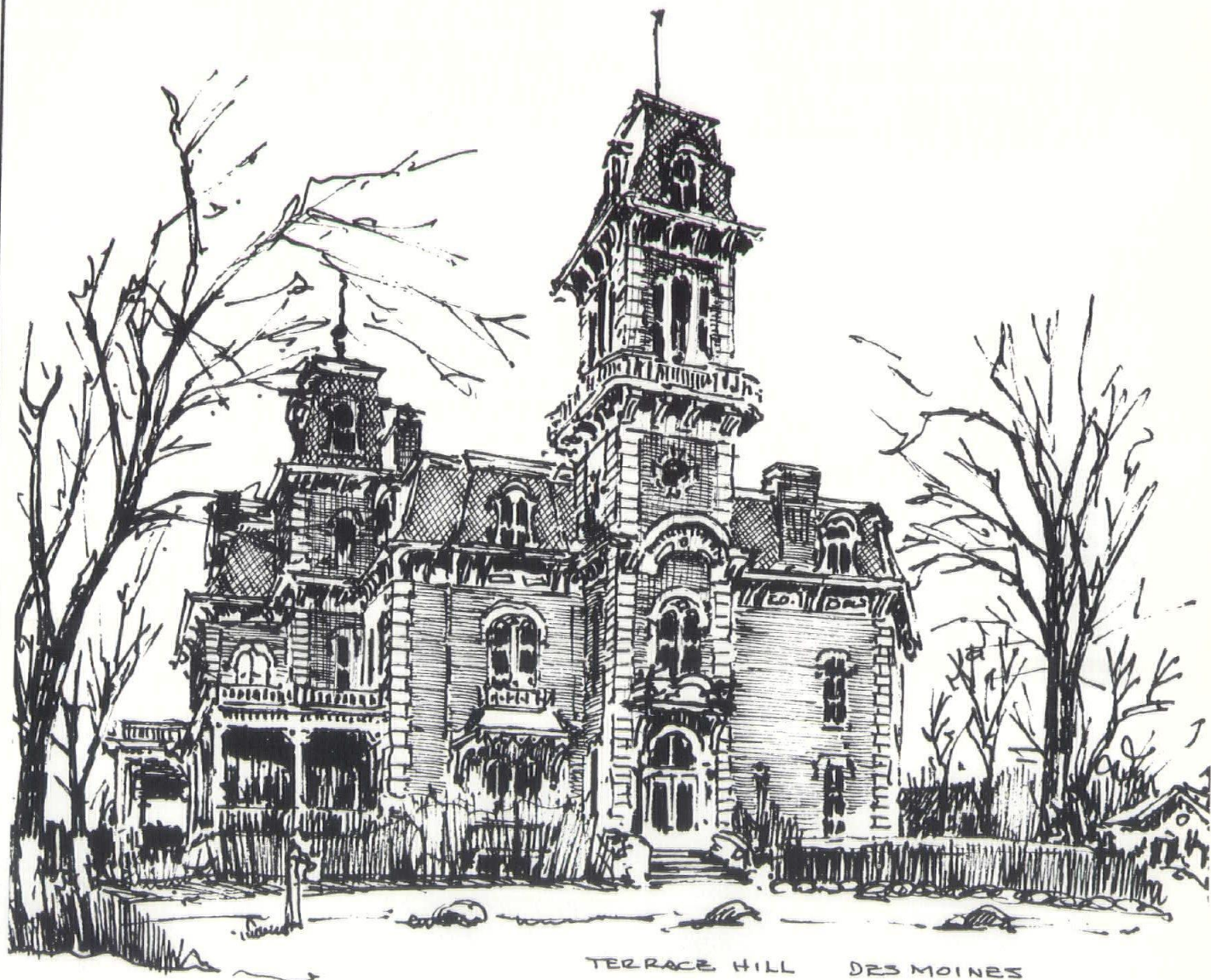
The Society has two regular business meetings a year and one or two tours to historic sites in the state. The tours offer mutual encouragement to those in the areas toured and to the visiting members who may see what others are doing.

It seems that the architect receives more calls for help than any of the other advisors. Architects around the state have been involved in projects in their areas. Public interest in preservation is greater than almost anything else in which an architect can get involved. I feel that the A.I.A. public relations developed through preservation activities is greater and more far reaching than any other A.I.A. committee activity.

On an average, approximately twenty-five trips are made each year, under the name of the Committee on Preservation of the Iowa Chapter AIA and the ISPHL, to all parts of Iowa, meeting with groups to explain the the preservation story or help with advice. Many letters arrive asking for information on how to have this or that, how to raise money, etc. "Please send me all information you have on Historic Sites of Iowa" comes from any number of school children.

The results in black and white figures as to what the Society has accomplished in the way of





preservation is a little like advertising. The good that is done is hard to prove with statistics. Currently, the Society and other interested groups are working for promotion of Des Moines' Terrace Hill as a Governor's Mansion. This was designed by W. W. Boyington in 1867 for B. F. Allan. F. M. Hubbell purchased the home in the mid-1880's and it has been in the Hubbell Trust since. This use

would solve the problem of preserving one of Iowa's finest houses as well as provide the Governor with handsome and impressive quarters befitting his important office.

Those interested in becoming members of the ISPHL are invited to write Howard C. Amick, Treasurer, 608 Bankers Trust Building, Des Moines, Iowa, 50309. Annual Dues are \$2.50.





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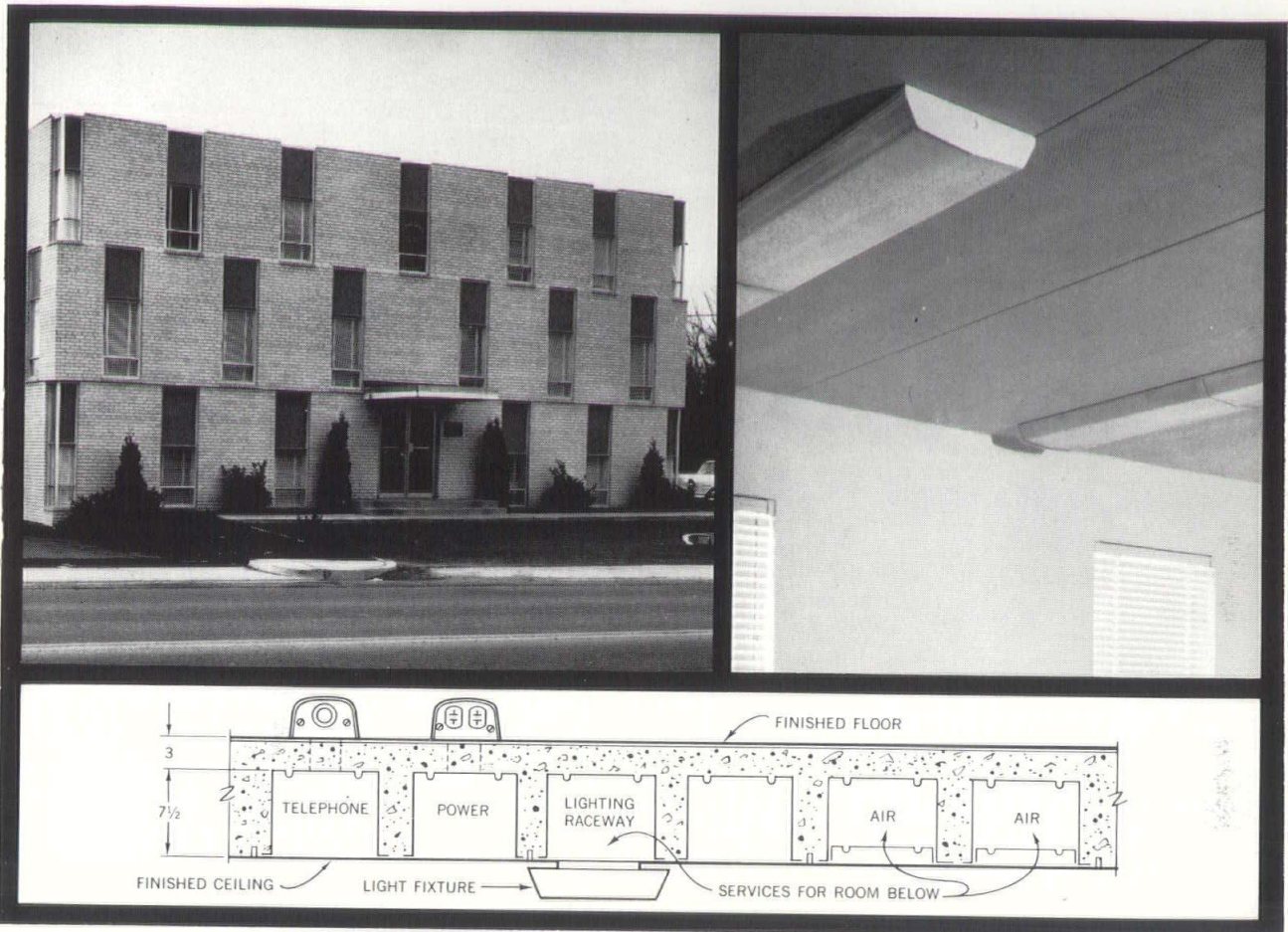
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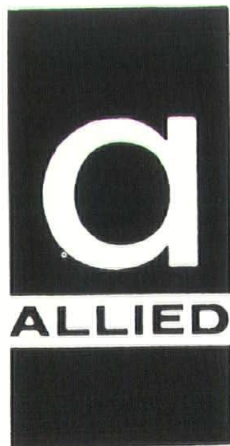
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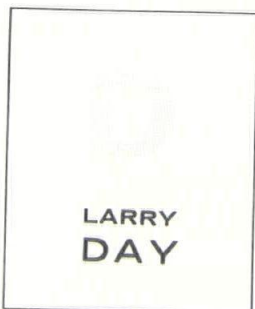
The final massing of the screen was based on the necessity for accommodating a drive-up window, an entry, and a night depository in existing fixed relationships. The structure is a 4x4 frame with a plywood skin on one side. Holes will be cut in the plywood to express to fact that it is a screen.

The screen solution is not in the category of colonial porches on ranch houses and mansard 'roofs' on restaurants. It performs a purely aesthetic function, but it is quote **obviously** a screen. It doesn't pretend to be more than it is.

Brightly painted graphics on the plywood will identify banking functions. The inside of the shell, the exposed framing and plywood, will be painted in strong primary colors that can be see through the screen openings.

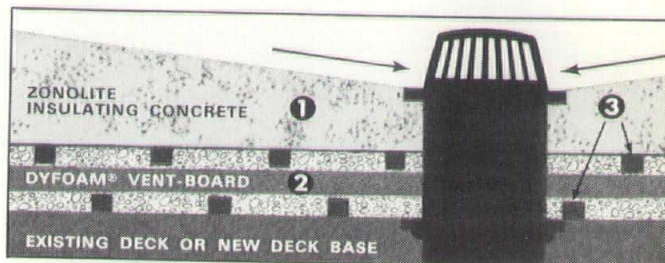
We chose stencil lettering for its impermanent but controlled look. We want the building to appear temporary, because it **is**. Hopefully, the graphics are happy enough to excite student interest, but not so uncontrolled that they encourage the students to "finish" the project or "improve" it with supergraffitti!

Proponents of the "Architecture is space" philosophy might question if what we have here is architecture at all. Perhaps it is simply graphic design or sculpture. Whatever it is, it is representative of the diversity of problems which architects face today. A small bank requires the same basic background in creative problem solving as a regional planning project, and it is the architect and his related professionals who are uniquely qualified by their training, experience, and ethical standards to design the appropriate solution.



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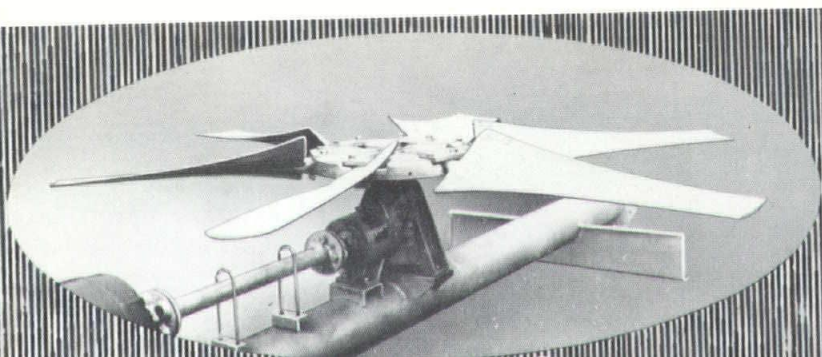
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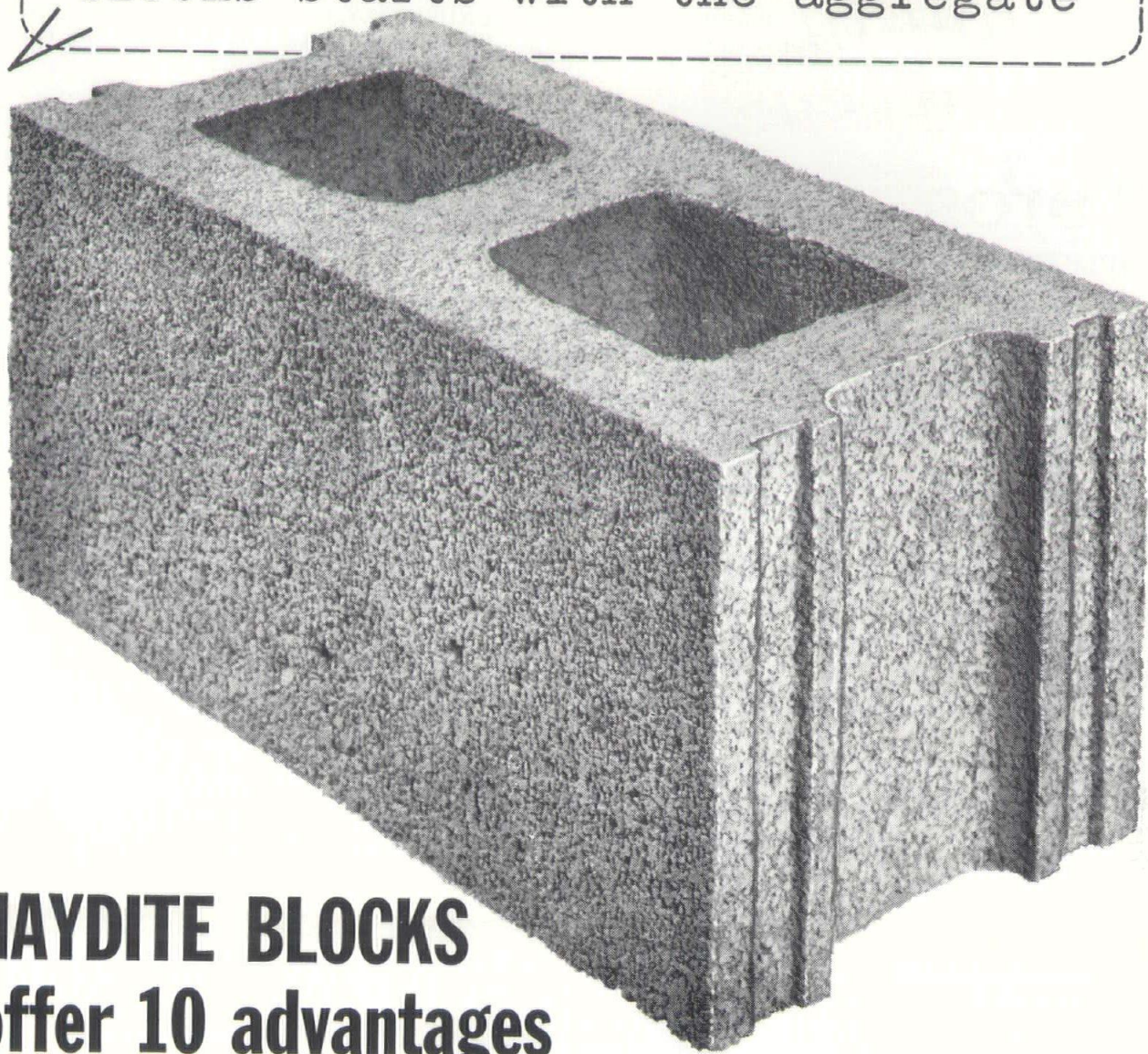
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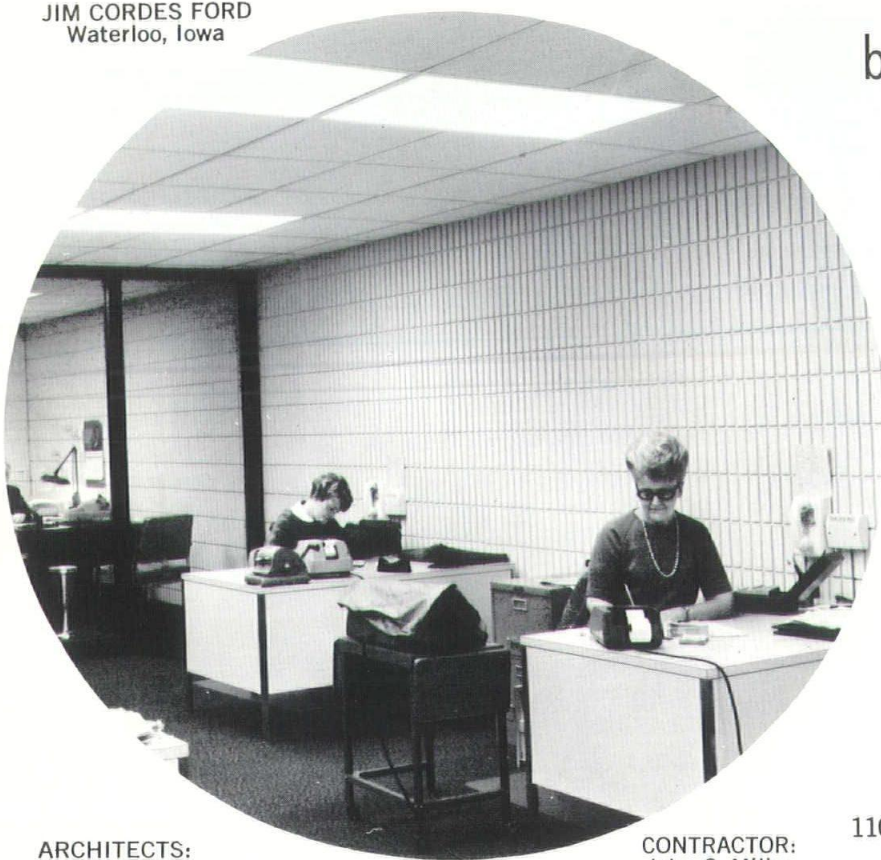
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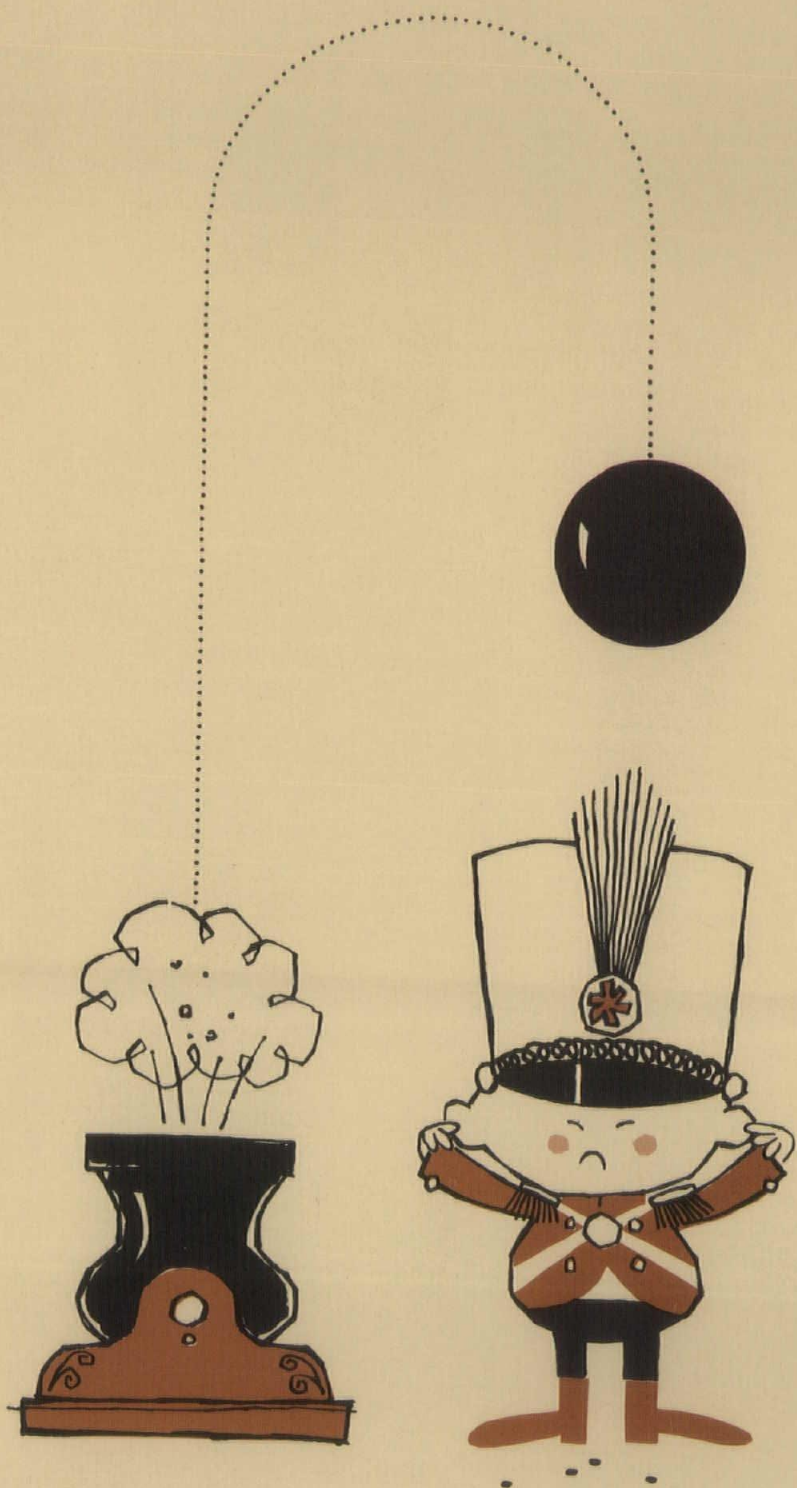
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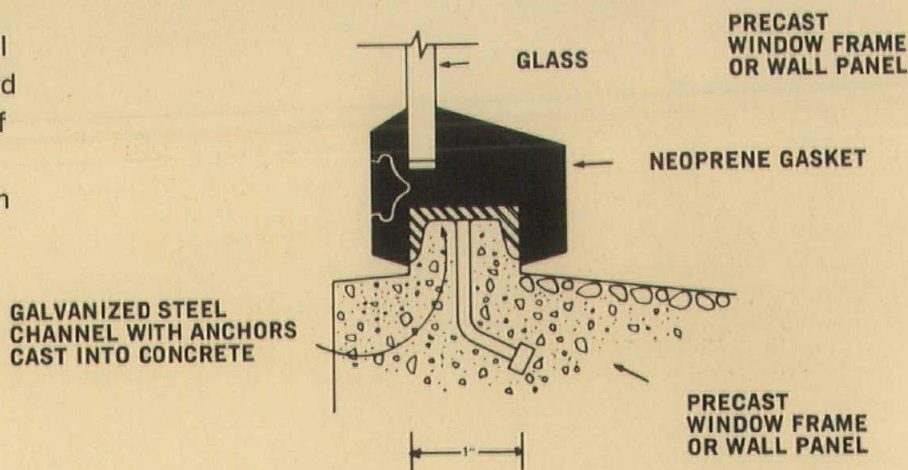
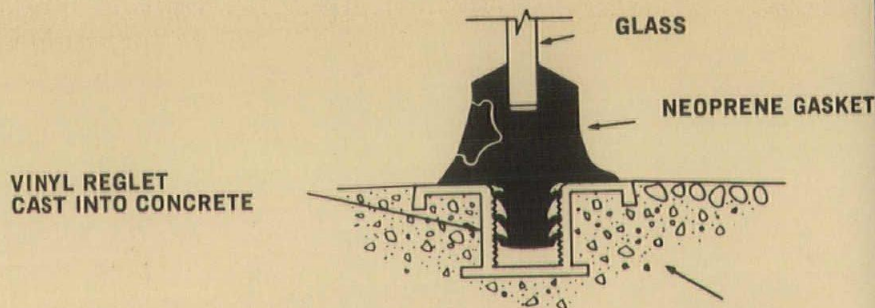
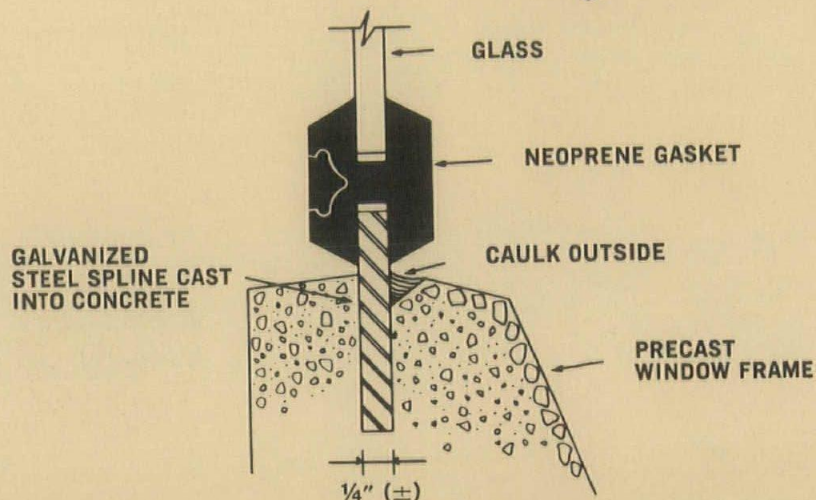
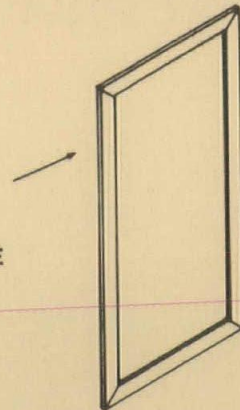
## ... WHEN SPECIFYING FOR STRUCTURAL GASKETS

**W**hen structural glazing gaskets are required for single glass panels we recommend a metal spline be cast into the precast window frame to receive the gasket. Rustproof splines should be  $\frac{1}{4}$ " in thickness, or more, depending on the size of glass. The spline should be made into a complete frame with mitered corners welded and ground smooth.

The groove type frame in a precast window panel has been most successful when a vinyl reglet is used in the precast. This type of reglet holds the required tolerances and provides a smooth surface for sealing the lips of the gasket.

When thicker gaskets are required for insulating glass we recommend a projecting concrete lug or nib only when it is capped with a rustproof channel frame. The dimensional tolerances required by the structural gasket manufacturer of  $\pm \frac{1}{32}$ " is hard to hold in concrete alone because of the necessary removable forms. A channel frame is recommended with mitered corners ground smooth.

GALVANIZED STEEL SPLINE  
PREWELDED INTO FRAME  
BEFORE CASTING IN CONCRETE  
TO FORM WINDOW OPENING



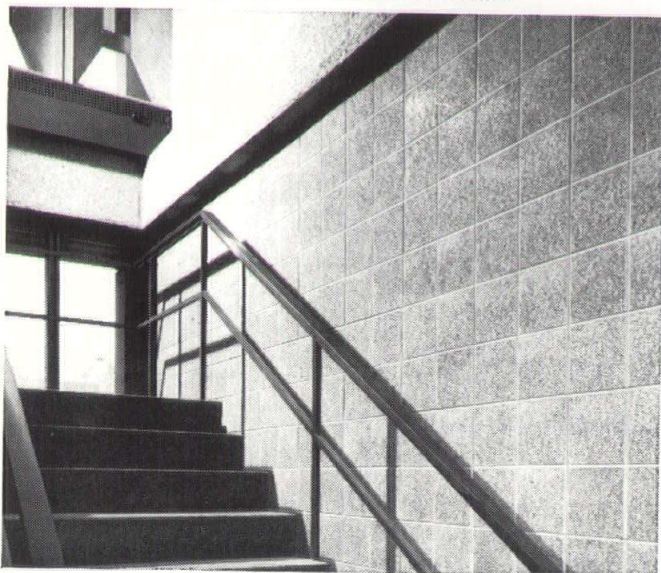
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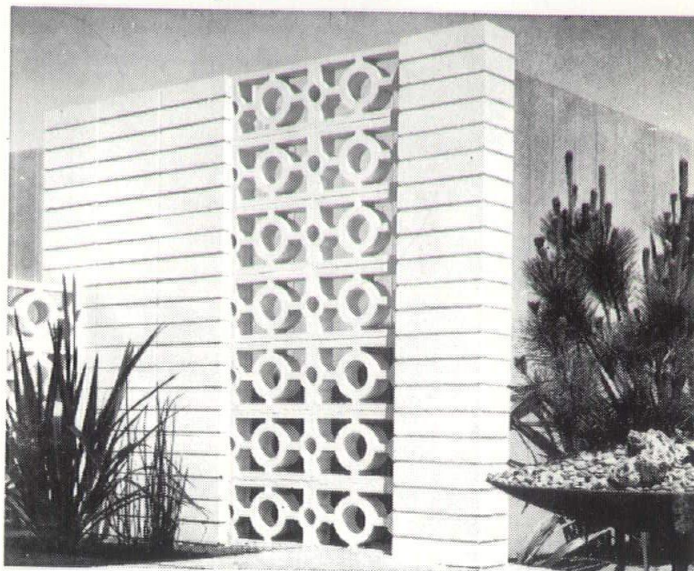


# Concrete masonry is the superior material for all types of wall construction

For exposed interior or exterior walls



Or decorative garden walls



No other building material being used today in modern construction offers all of the following features in one package:

## ☐ High Fire Resistance.

Fire resistance ratings of concrete masonry walls are based on numerous tests made by Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc., and the National Bureau of Standards. Concrete masonry walls are tested at temperatures of over 2000 deg. F. for as much as eight hours and subjected to a hose stream test with a water pressure of up to 45 psi. Bearing walls undergoing a fire test also carry a working load of 80 psi on the gross cross-sectional area of the wall.

## ☐ Acoustical Control.

The high sound-absorption qualities of concrete masonry surfaces are recognized by specialists in acoustics. The exposed surface of ordinary concrete block will soak up as much as 68% of sound. Equally important is the ability of concrete to resist the trans-

mission of sound, making it an ideal wall material for apartments, hotels, schools, hospitals and office buildings.

## ☐ Economy

Concrete masonry walls furnish low-cost construction, are virtually maintenance-free and provide effective weather protection... a plus combination for ultimate economy.

## ☐ Pleasing Appearance

Adaptable to any architectural style, concrete masonry units are available in a virtually unlimited variety of sizes, shapes, textures and patterns. Use of color and form permits even greater freedom of expression.

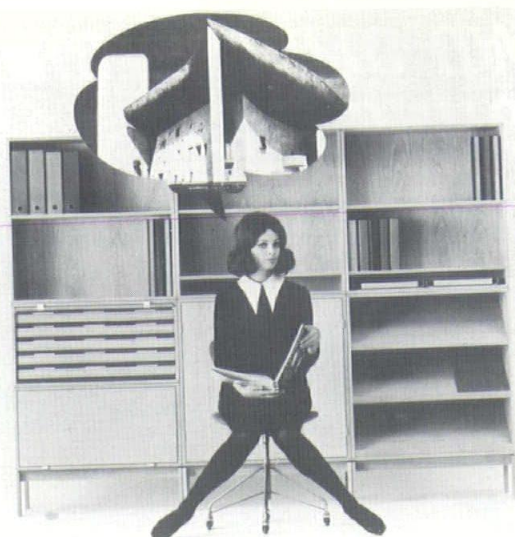
For more information on this most versatile building material, contact the Portland Cement Association at the address shown below.

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*An organization of cement manufacturers to improve and extend the uses of portland cement and concrete*





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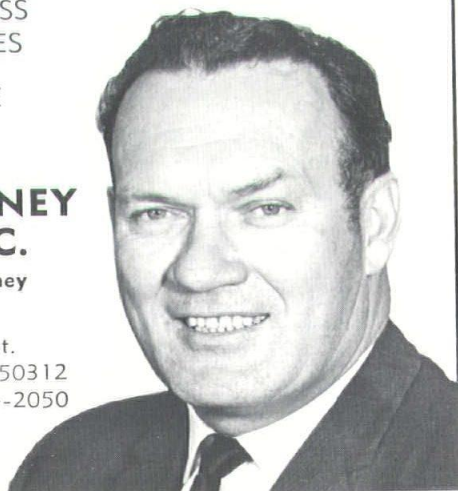
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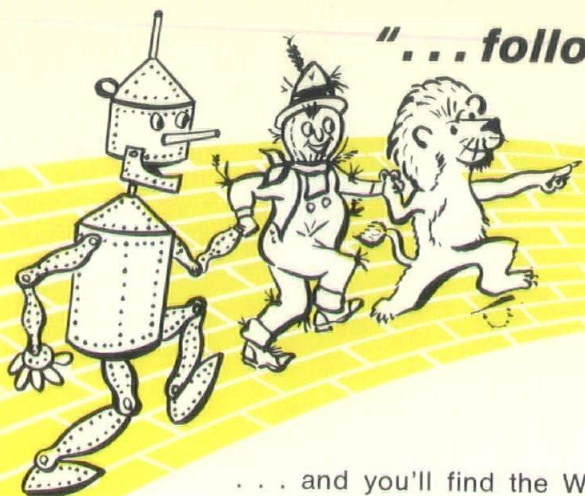
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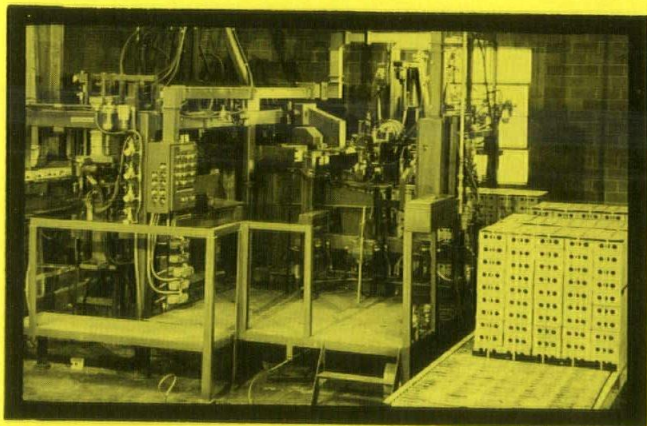
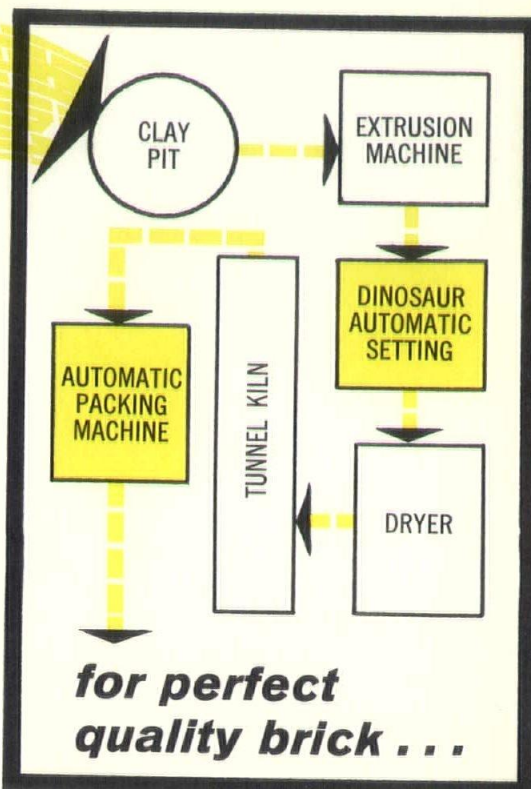
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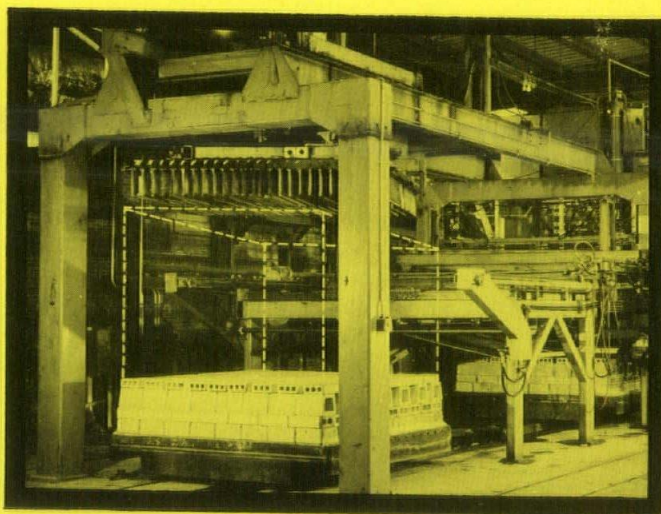
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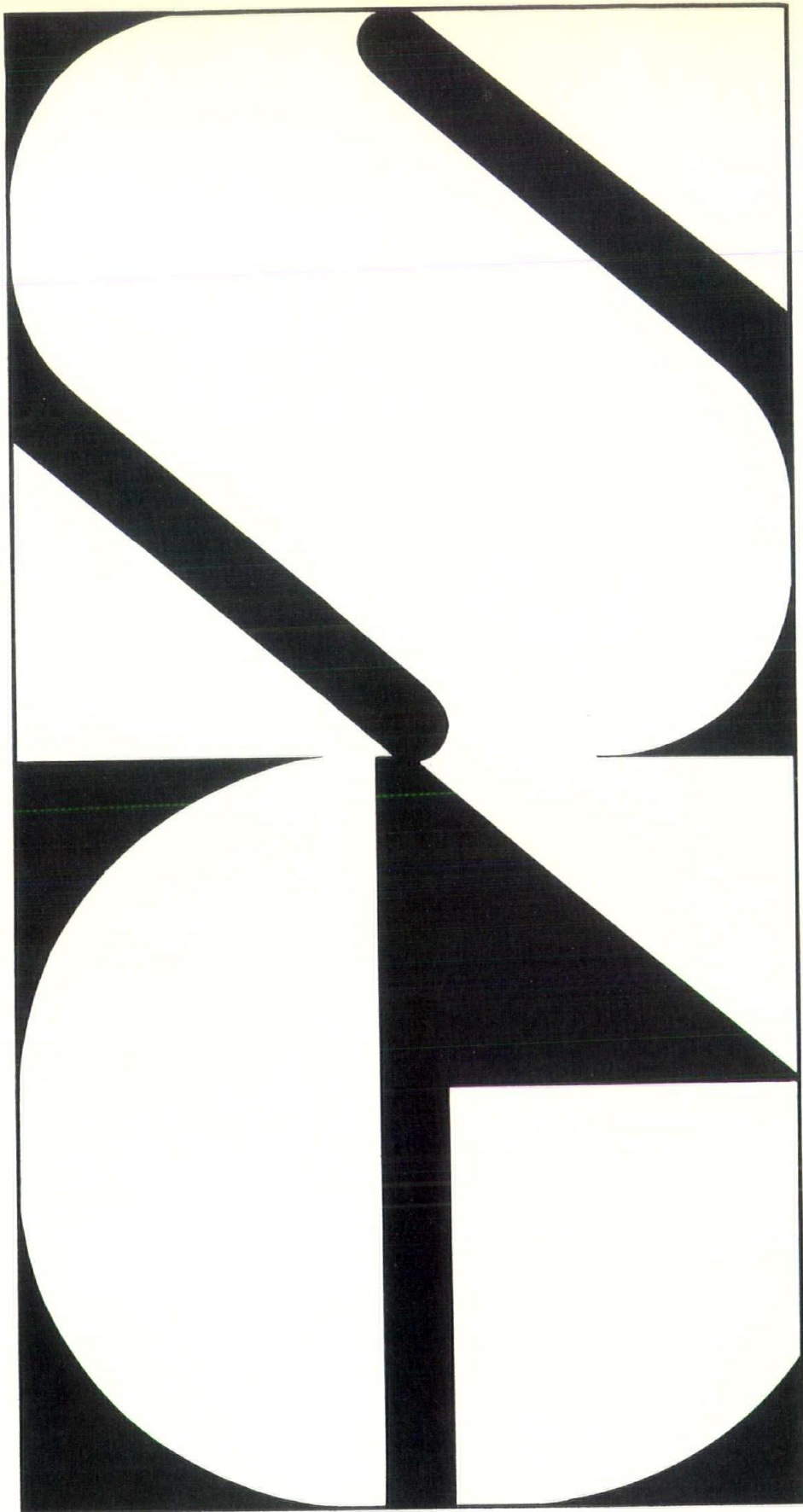


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