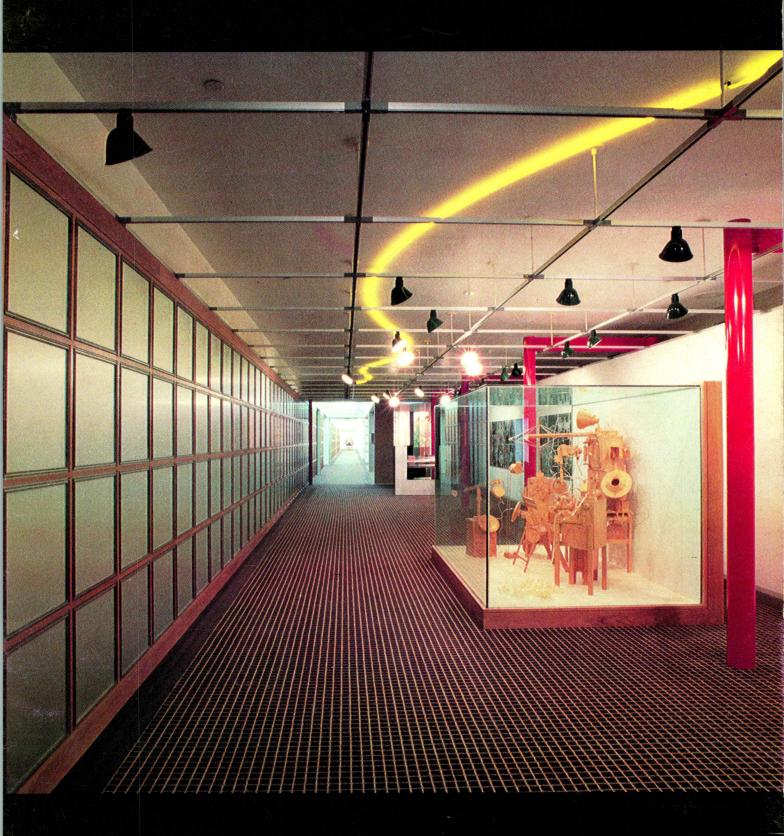
IOWA ARCHITECT

November/December, 1981



AIA Design Awards

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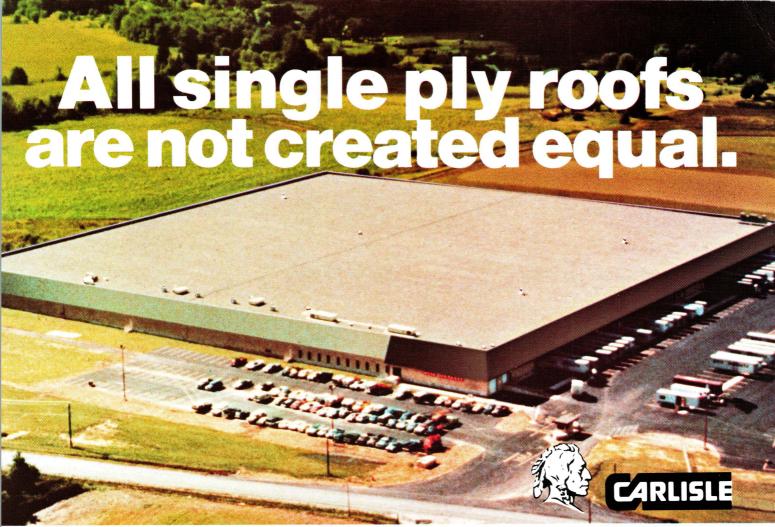
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IOWA ARCHITECT

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On The Cover: Meredith Corporation headquarters remodeling, Des Moines, Iowa. Honor Award.

Charles Herbert and Associates, architects. Photographer: Farshid Assassi

Works In Progress

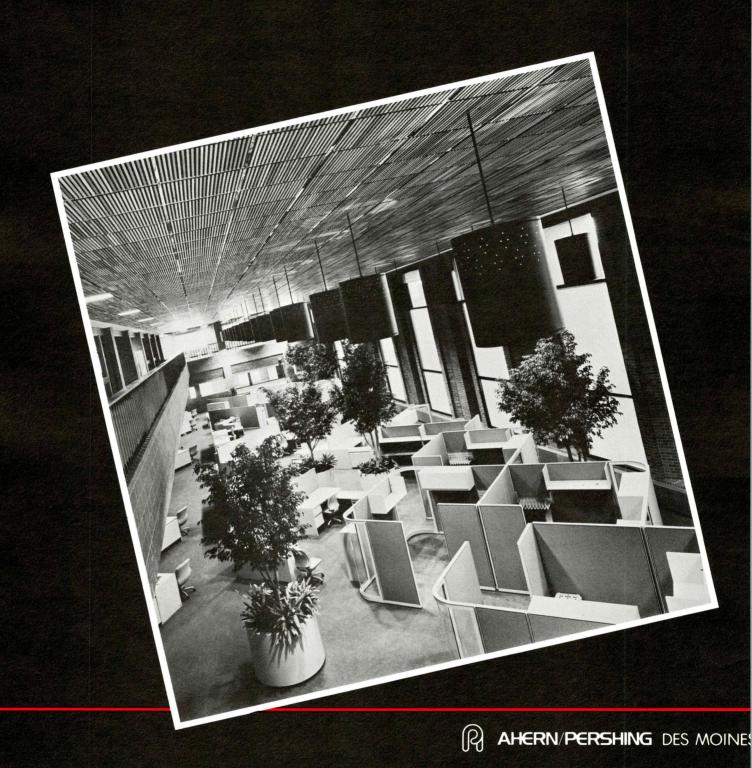
The 20th Awards Program Photos and commentary highlight the 1981 Honor Awards program of the Iowa Chapter, American Institute of Architects.

Architecture As A Social Art Now may be the time for the architect to again become more independent and more political.

In Search of Recognition

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CONVALESCENT HOME FOR CHILDREN Johnston, Iowa ARCHITECT: Environmental Design Group, Ltd. P.C. CONTRACTOR: The Weitz Co., Inc.

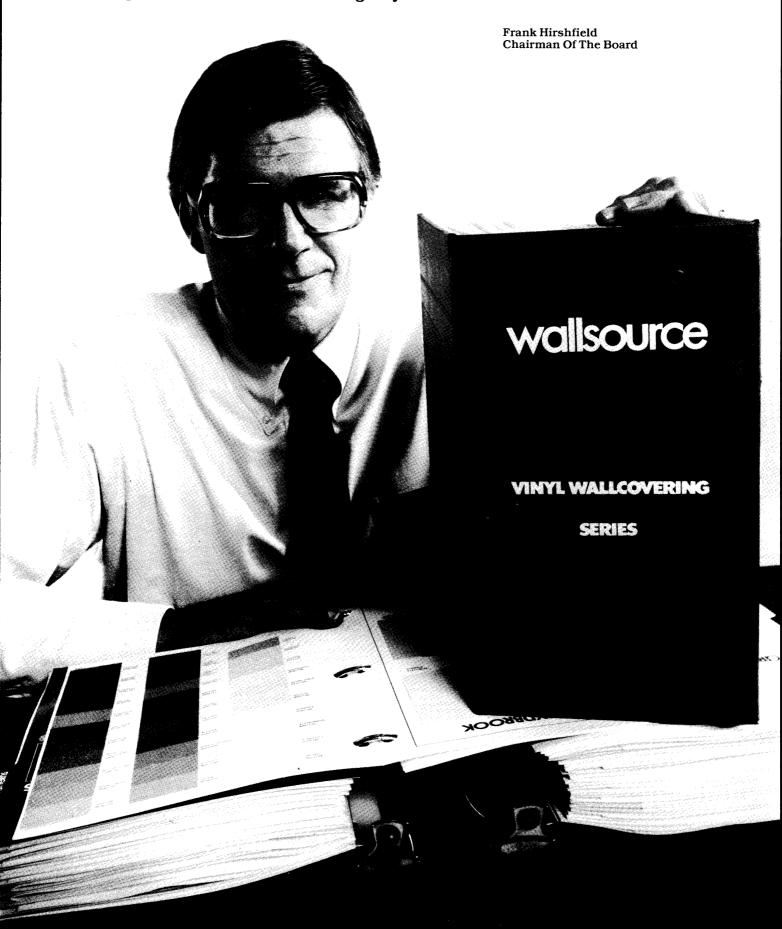
1981 Design Award Submission



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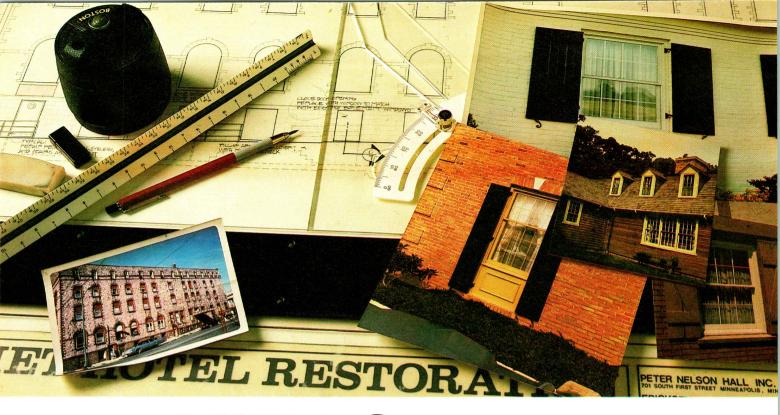
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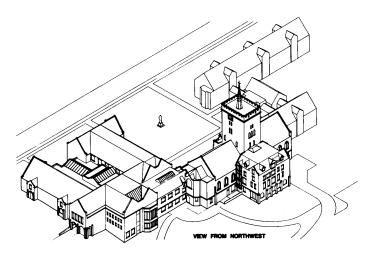
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WORKS IN PROGRESS



Wartburg Theological Seminary, Addition and Remodeling

Construction has begun on a new addition and remodeling project at the Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Designed by Herbert M. Stone of the firm Brown Healy Bock, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the new addition on the north and west sides attempts to return that portion of the building to its original Romanesque style of soaring roof lines by employing a combination of ecclesiastical and architectural monumentality.

The major interior spaces that are being done in this phase are the Seminary library, a new campus bookstore, and an artifacts museum. The addition to the library is combined with a new tiered, 100 seat lecture room, which is equipped for closed circuit transmission to other class rooms.

Compatibility and restraint have been the guidelines for dealing with problems of parking, new walks, roads, landscaping, and access for the handicapped. A new handicapped entrance on the east into an exisiting stair tower will be created in order not to disturb the tranquil beauty of the inner courtyard.

Thermal efficiency will be increased by adding rigid insulation and drywall to the inside face of exterior walls in major areas of renovation, adding rigid insulation to all roof areas, and adding storm sash to windows.

Total cost of the project is \$3,450,000, with a completion date set for September, 1982.

Cedar Rapids Municipal Airport

Designed by a team headed by Edward G. Sauer of the firm of Brown Healey Bock, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, the new Cedar Rapids Airport Terminal will soon be under construction.

The triangular shape of the building derives from the

need for control and security to the concourses and for ticket services to have adequate queue depth and adequate circulation throughout the lobby. These particular functions have been congregated in the central lobby configuration, where the flexibility of space will allow the high volumes of people to move comfortably in the area. The configuration additionally allows immediate identification and location of all major facilities.

There are three major entry points to the terminal, all on the north face of the building. Two of them front along the main drop-off drive under a continuous protective canopy to provide overhead shelter. The third entry point is located at the center of the north building face, where there is a drop-off point within the short term parking area. This point is some thirteen feet below main floor level and leads into a passageway beneath the main road to the terminal. The passage terminates in a large open stairwell in the center of the new terminal lobby. Elevator facilities are provided for the handicapped as well.

Grading for the apron and roadways will be started this fall with an estimated terminal completion date in 1984

Robertson Music Center



The new music facility and associated remodeling of Smith Chapel for Simpson College will bring into focus a strong music program, currently accommodated by various and dispersed buildings. The design emphasizes a courtyard and lower level passage to establish a functional connection and above grade physical separation, between the new structure and Smith Chapel. The courtyard further provides a visual focus for lower level studios and practice rooms in both structures, while facilitating improved natural ventilation.

Energy efficiency has been taken into consideration by using a plan shape that is compact, and by using masonry materials and orientation of heavily-used areas to the south. Simpson's wish for 'aesthetic simplicity without ostentation' influenced the selection of gray polished block for interior spaces, and careful orientation of glazing to frame important views of the campus. The recital hall lobby is widened at its center to serve as a gathering place for students and faculty. Sloped glazing overhead is folded, and continued down the west wall, visually expanding the common space and opening it into Simpson's Quadrangle.

Designed by Brooks, Borg and Skiles Architects and Engineers, the 18,500 square foot project is scheduled for a fall, 1982 completion.

THE 2011H AWARDS PROGRAM

Introduction

For those who give more than passing attention to design award programs, there is something ritualistic about a jury's concern for the failure of so many entrants to explain adequately the context or basic objectives of a project. Yet unless the submission makes them clear, the finest intentions, the most sensitive process, the most brilliant solutions will go unrecognized by the jury. Cloistered in a hotel room for deliberation and honestly trying to avoid a cursory review, the jury — after all — can only judge *submissions*. Communication remains a problem.

This year's jury, unlike other recent ones, had no difficulty finding winners among the large scaled projects and rejected the notion that quality is inversely proportional to the size of the job. Previously criticized for their failure to embody concerns for the formal and aesthetic aspects of architecture, the large scale projects are notable both for their consistently high quality and for their synthesis of important trends that have occurred over the last ten years in architecture.

The jurors were clearly concerned with issues such as response to context; they recognized as equally crucial the "content" or "appropriateness" of architectural forms and wistfully looked for the appearance of a Midwest vernacular. Many of the submissions were characterized simply as good, honest buildings, appropriate to their programs and responsive to their site. Indeed, the strongest criticism was reserved for those few projects which, by seeking to emulate "popular demigod architecture", had seemingly lost track of what they were trying to do.

Last year's winners had tended to affirm the stature of a well-defined avant-garde. This year's jury was chosen with an understanding of their own position within that group; yet considerable attention was focused on other concerns, notably image making and clarity of design concept.

At jury's end, twelve projects had been selected for critical discussion, but only four elevated to the level of the HONOR AWARD.

Jacob: I think that as a general observation on many of the entries, my reaction was that there was not enough

information given on the site, on the actual context of the site. There were buildings, of course, with site plans that interested us, however, often there was far too limited information. It didn't tell us why the building was located where it was, and in only very few instances was there a larger site plan. I was frustrated with that. I felt I would like to see more of the setting of the building, rather than just the emphasis on the building, which of course, is what this was all about. Various schools emerge (it is hard to say schools) but certainly there are groupings that emerge and most of them are reacting to popular architectural models.

Spear: I guess what I found refreshing was that there was hardly any work that seemed as if it had been cribbed from publications. So it wasn't as if there were a lot of things cloned from Stearns and Graves and popular heroes of architecture. That was very good. Neither was there anything extremely inspirational. There were things that were thoughtful and were certainly good efforts, but there was nothing that was really in the vanguard. There were some very competent projects, no doubt. And certainly the scale of the projects submitted was impressive, because who would suspect that in lowa such big buildings actually are being built.

Casbarian: I'd like to pick up on Bernard's comment about the difficulty of this review. I find myself in the somewhat presumptious position of actually sitting in judgement of your work, which I find disturbing to an extent. One has to make a judgement on the information provided and description of an often times very vague slide representation. That's not really a very complete method to give us a true picture of the project. In fact, we saw some of the work today that we've seen in slides. Usually what happens is that the slide shows are better than the project. In the cases today, the work itself seemed a lot more controlled and more clear.

Actually I'm both encouraged and disappointed in what I saw and I share Laurinda's point that the encouraging thing is that they're not superficially fashionable works. The work seems to have a high degree of competence, and tries to solve certain basic problems. I found curious the fact that the large scale projects were more in-





left: Bernard Jacob, Team 70 Architects, Minneapolis. right: Taft Architects, Houston: left to right: partners John J. Casbarian, Robert H. Timme, Danny Samuels. not pictured: Laurinda Spear, Arquitectonica, Miami.

teresting than the smaller scale projects. One would feel that using modest projects, like houses, for instance, would provide an opportunity to explore ideas with greater freedom, and that corporate offices would not provide that opportunity. This I found a curious juxtaposition.

I think the thing that I looked for most critically was the relationship of the outside of the building to the inside, in terms of creating a sense of place. You know, we can talk about the attitudes, the current attitudes and ideas in architecture, and somehow identify them with funny words like *premodern*, *postmodern* or *modern* and it really doesn't matter how one would classify a building or what style it is. What I think architecture has to do is solve conflicting, sometimes, problems of function, context and image.

I'm disappointed that at least in lowa there isn't some more concern for vernacular. From that standpoint I'm a bit disappointed that the buildings look like they could have been in Houston, Texas, for instance. I'm not a big proponent of regionalism, but in many ways that has something to do with the response to context.

Finally, I think that the image of the building, not as an end in itself but as a part that one has to solve, is important. It seems to me that the back should look like the back and at the same time the building should respect the neighborhood it's in. I was a bit disappointed in that buildings that seem to work really well in terms of the context and image seem to fall apart on the inside in terms of really resolving the space that people would enjoy and work in. And some projects that have shown great sensitivity toward procuring the space, somehow didn't work to establish an image. I must add that I say this with great humility, and I hope it is not presumptious that I would even make these remarks.

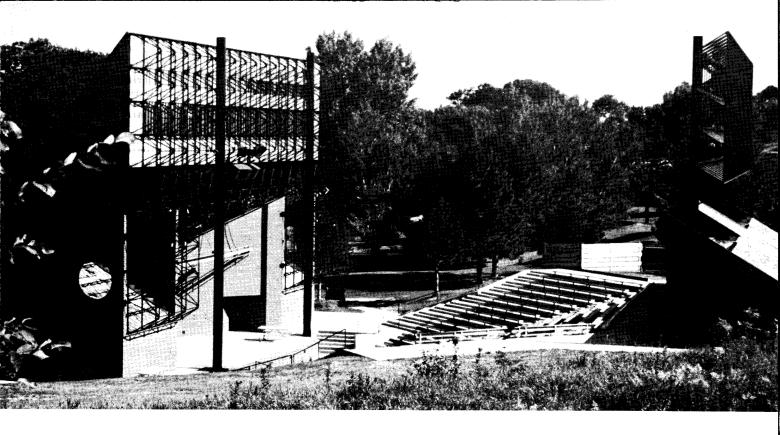
Samuels: It's not presumptious, but you made all the remarks I was going to make. Well, I can reiterate what everybody else has said. I thought that the general level of architecture was pretty good. Once again, not in most cases brilliant, but good solid buildings that for the most part solve the problem. And I guess on the other side, I would make the same of observation about a lack of con-

textural continuity in the rural buildings, which almost universally are treated as masses in space. I don't know what other approach there might be, but once again they are missing the fact that it is lowa, that it is rolling hill country. In the urban schemes there was the same type of lack of contextural concern, for the most part failing to ask, how does the building fit into what's around it? Many times we were missing the specific information, but even in those cases we did sometimes it was obvious from the slides that the buildings really didn't relate very well to the neighbors. They're still being conceived of (in our Houston sense I guess) as the object by itself rather than the object as a part, as a neighbor to everything around it

Casbarian: The most important aspect of design awards is that it is an encouragement to the client, who may take certain risks and then feel good about the recognition from the profession. I think the merits of an awards program in general is that it is helpful to clients. I don't think that architecture should be geared to winning awards and it shouldn't be the prime focus but it seems the striving to solve problems and to somehow share with your colleagues the results of that effort and to make clients feel special about that process make this a very important program.

Samuels: The lack of design continuity from the outside of the building to the inside of the building was also troublesome. Sometimes it was hard to equate what the interior looked like with what the exterior looked like. It just seems that there should be a closer mesh if the basic idea is strong. In a lot of cases the basic ideas were really strong. It manifested itself on the exterior in terms of massing, in relationships, but there was really not much of a hint of that in the interiors.

One point I would like to make is that as we went through the projects there was an amazing consensus among the jurors. For the most part we agreed on the buildings that were good and the buildings that were weeded out without very much dissention at all. I don't know what that means, but I guess it means something. Even coming from different viewpoints good design is obvious and when it does not work it is equally or even more obvious.



HONOR AWARD

Davies Amphitheater Glenwood Lake-Park Glenwood, Iowa Dennis W. Stacy

Owner: City of Glenwood, Iowa

Structural: Walter D. Rudeen & Associates, Inc.

Mechanical/Electrical: Raymond G. Alvine & Associates

Photographers: Larry McChesney, Dennis Stacy



Program

To provide an outdoor stage suitable for a variety of performances, including plays, musical performances, ballet, opera, orchestras, movies, and community activities.

The fixed seating capacity is 730.

Site

Located within a 60-acre city park in a community of 5,600. All approaches to the amphitheater are through wooded areas and relate to the lake that is located within the park.

Solution

The facility was constructed without destroying any trees and the existing vegetation was used as a backdrop for the structure. The stage area and the last row of seating were constructed on existing grades leaving the environment virtually undisturbed. Materials, including brick, natural cedar siding and wood decking, were selected to accentuate and complement the park's wooded environment, to provide acoustical control, and to minimize maintenance. The angular sides of the service buildings adjoining the stage act as a sounding board for the

stage. To provide an acoustically reflective surface over the stage, a steel space frame system was used with a wood decking. Since the topography of the site dictated that the audience face west, the space frame system was also extended vertically to provide sun-screening capabilities because most performances will be held in the early evening. The space frame system is further used as a front lighting tower and allows speakers, scenery, and other stage equipment to be suspended from it. Another vertically mounted steel space frame system was used for the rear lighting tower.

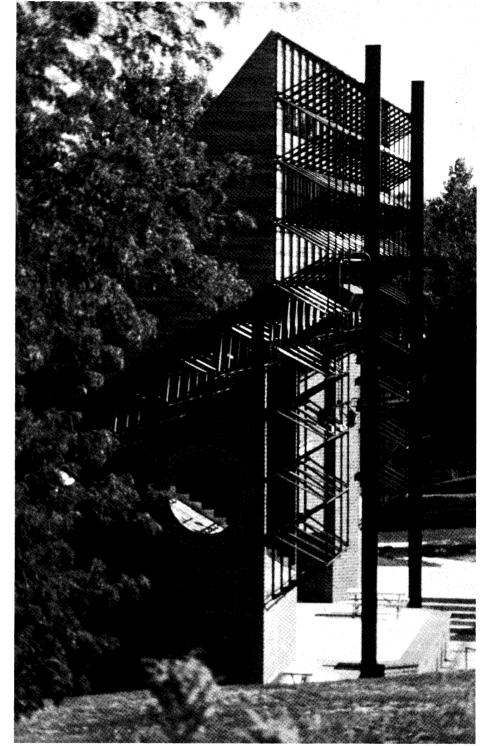
Jury Comments

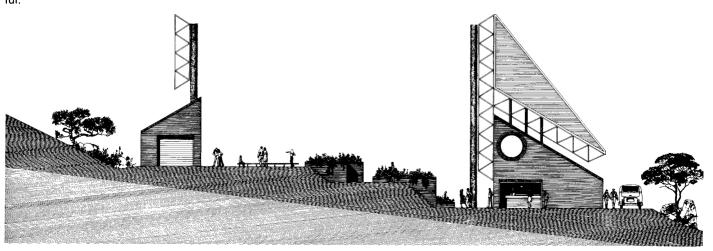
Casbarian: We appreciated the relative simplicity of the idea and the lacy handling of the space frame. I must say one of the things about looking at projects like this is that you can also read into them great potential. I was very intrigued by what my imagination led me to see in this. There are some awkward conditions that I don't think are very well resolved, but diagrammatically I was intrigued by its simple, straightforward response to the outdoor theater program.

Samuels: We didn't realize how responsive it was until we figured out that the reason for the screening over the stage was to cut out the west sun from the viewer's eyes in the late afternoon, which immediately gave a rationale for something that looked at first to be a bit superfluous. In any case, the design sets up a very nice interaction or space between the two screens; the use of one screen as a sun shade, the other as a lighting grid.

Spear: I like this if I imagine it part of the constructivist tradition. But what if instead of black, one had used color in the trusses and supporting pylon? What if the triangle had been one pure form instead of sliced through?

Samuels: All of us had a problem with the end elevation and separation. It seemed like it should have employed one triangle, or one form, or one expression. But cutting it apart in this particular way and punching it with the circle was a little bit painful.







HONOR AWARD

Banco Mortgage Company Servicing Center, Waterloo, Iowa The Durrant Group, Inc.

Owner: Banco Mortgage Company **Photographer:** Farshid Assassi



Program

A new center representing the most recent expansion of facilities in the city. Relocation of operations from separate buildings to a single structure to more than double the available floor space of the center to 75,000 square feet.

Site

Approximately 15 acres, sloping gradually toward the south; previously a soybean field and cornfield.

Solution

Planning has responded to the need for a new, pleasant working environment and parking for a staff of 450 together with provision for 100 per cent expansion on the site.

In response to the south sloping site, the steel framed two-story structure was set one and a third stories into the ground at the north facade to take advantage of the constant 57 degree earth temperature for both winter heating and summer cooling, and also to minimize exposure to the northwest winter winds.

The site has been transformed into a rolling lawn, with extensive shade tree and evergreen plantings, and a refreshing lake. The lake not only provides a quiet site amenity, but also accommodates parking and site water run-off and a ready source of cool water for the building cooling system by use of spray fountains within the lake. A skylit protective canopy at the entrance extends through the building to the south as an atrium. The atrium provides natural daylighting to the interior spaces and focuses the east and west office areas on a two-story space overlooking a lower level dining area and adjacent exterior lakeside terrace.

Jury Comments

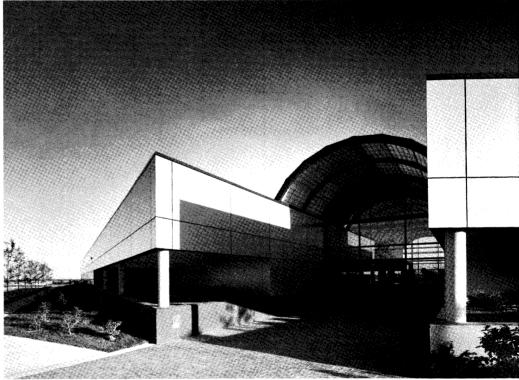
Samuels: Once again we had the question about context...why was the building inflected in this way? I think we all appreciated the obviously very strong form, which certainly goes a long way to make entry on one side and exit on another side.

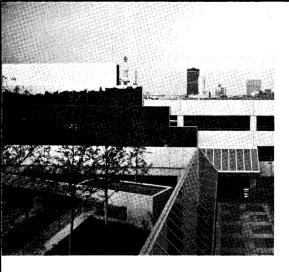
Spear: What is wierd is how you approach the building in a car. Initally you really don't have anything to do with the entry and then must circuitously navigate around to that point where you finally can go into the building.

Casbarian: I like the basic simplicity of it. It could have been pushed further, but nevertheless, there is a building form, in what we would assume is the rural land-scape, that seems appropriate.

Jacob: It is a very consistent building. It shows the merit of good photography which was not always the case in the submissions. The consistency is evident on the interior as well.







Program

A major publisher and printer whose corporate offices had sprawled to fill the company's original 70-year-old plant plus several additions had considered new quarters in a suburban development. Having many historic and strategic ties to the central downtown, they directed the architect to convert the plant to a modern office facility.

Primary design objectives were: (1) give identity to the exterior of the building, (2) simplify and centralize internal circulation, (3) improve efficiency and work environment quality for the 600 + employees (4) improve energy efficiency, and (5) provide on-site parking. Construction had to proceed without interrupting operations within the facility.

Site

Existing headquarters building located at the west edge of the central business district on a roughly triangular site of some 4.5 acres.

Solution

A 1910 facade and tower are restored and the assortment of existing masonry additions are sheathed in a flush aluminum and reflective glass solar screen. The skin also sheaths part of the new precast concrete parking ramp to create a facade recalling and reflecting the original masonry version. An existing light well is skylighted to become a three-story entrance court, which includes an architectural mural by Richard Haas dealing with relationships between the old and the new architecture.

This court and two others provide landmarks along a three-level circulation spine which connects to the garage at the first level. Offices and conference areas are grouped internally to enhance the effect of perimeter windows on predominantly open office areas.



HONOR AWARD

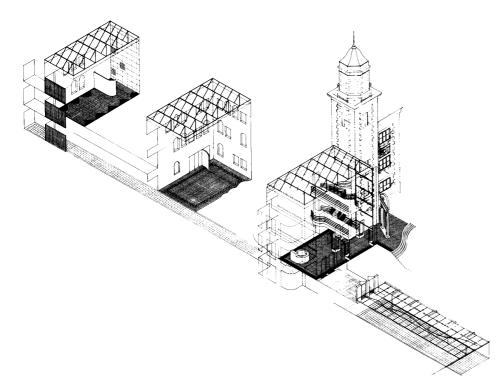
Meredith Corporation Headquarters, Des Moines, Iowa Charles Herbert & Associates, Inc.

Owner: Meredith Corporation

Structural Engineers: Vander Linden - Katzmann Structural Consultants: Brooks-Borg-Skiles Consulting Engineers: Stevenson & Schilling Photographers: Farshid Assassi, Paul S. Kivett







Jury Comments

Spear: This building had good and bad points for all of us. One thing I didn't like is that the parking garage was clad with the same skin of aluminum and reflective glass as the rest of the building. It just didn't seem appropriate. It wasn't even the whole garage, just part of the garage, although probably the budget had something to do with that.

Casbarian: The original addition to the old building was a very good one and the architect had something really positive to start with. This is one project where we felt the interiors were handled quite well and sensitively. We did have an objection to the cladding of the garage.

Samuels: We also had a problem with the presentation. It took us a long time to figure out what was the original part, what was the original structure and what was new. The stair pavilions are quite nice, as are many of the other interior details.

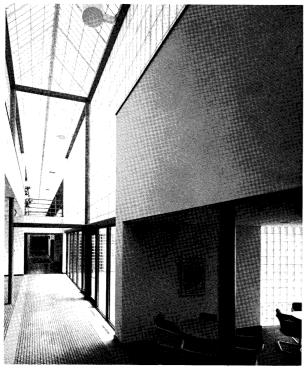
Spear: It was particularly puzzling that one would take the oldness out of the building and then clad it with new material. That seems on shaky ground.

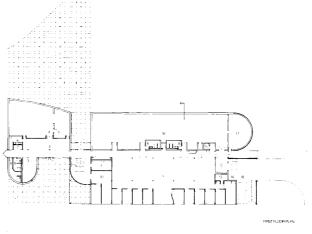
Casbarian: We were impressed with the interior handling, the relationship of the grids, the overall order and the simultaneous playfulness of the neon light.

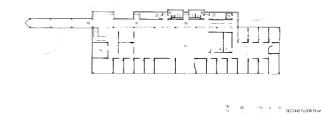
Jacob: From the slides I was afraid this was too overwrought. But in general, the interiors are very well done. I liked the innovative use of neon light in the dining

Spear: The lightwells without the painting are much better than the one with the painting.









Program

Provide new employee facilities for one division of a major agriculturally oriented corporation. The building will house reception and meeting areas for public and employee use, lunch room and lounges for staff, offices and shop areas for printing promotional material.

Site

An expansive lot on the edge of a new planned community. The lot includes an existing man-made lake and overlooks miles of farmland.

Solution

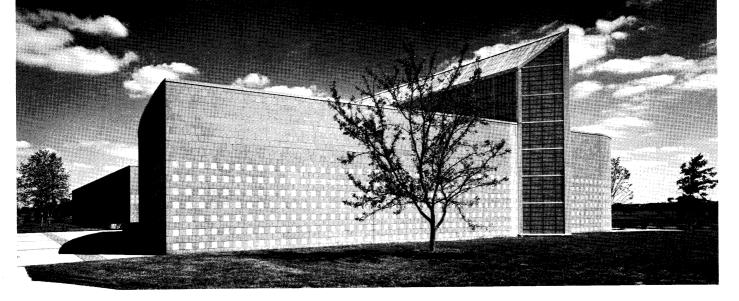
The building is sited near the lake with fenestration overlooking the lake and river valley to the south. Low masonry elements have north orientation and are organized in a linear fashion against the atrium wall. The atrium becomes the

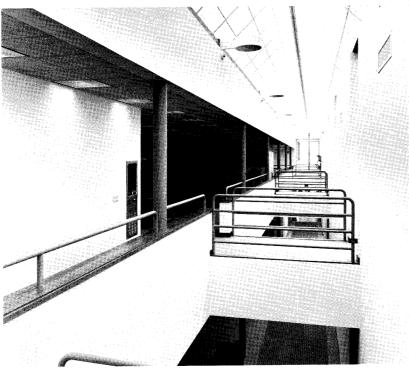
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street along which the varied elements collect. The entrance bisects this street at the reception area dividing public and lounge functions from offices and shop. Service and delivery are within the envelope screened with glass block. Exterior plaza double as display areas during yearly promotional expositions. The drive is configured to direct progressive views and the bermed parking to become a positive element in the site. Elements of the design have been extended along the east-west axis to compliment the quality of the land.

Materials

Solid elements on the north are bearing brick masonry; the atrium is insulated translucent panels; the office element is steel structure sheathed in insulated steel panels.

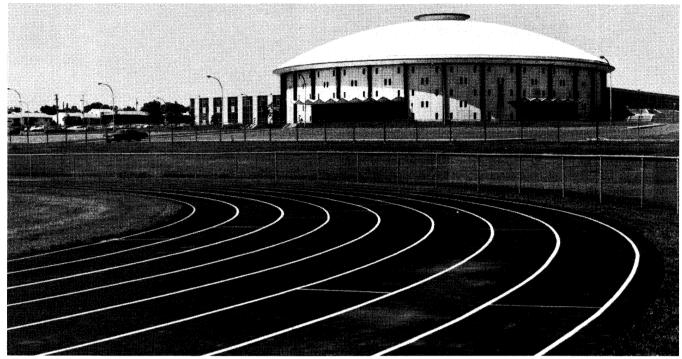
Jury Comments

Casbarian: We were really intrigued by this as a diagram, the spine with the pavilions off of it. In its resolution, the development of this idea could have been pushed further. Again, we felt that opportunities were missed just in terms of the diagrammatic proposition and the architectural potential. The other thing that we had a problem with, though not to a great extent (and I think some of the other projects also shared this problem) was the lack of a sense of entry. Often you didn't know where to enter and there was only a seam, that one kind-of slipped into. But we were guite interested in the exterior handling of the surfaces and the details.

Spear: The spine with the forms attached could be very interesting if the forms were all different colors, expressed as different items, if their shapes were radically different, if they didn't line up so carefully. We all were sympathetic to this because we saw the bones of a concept.

Casbarian: The circular volume actually is of the same skin as that seen on the other side (of the spine). Instead of reinforcing the original diagram this weakened it; we felt this volume should have been expressed differently. The major disappointment was the interior handling, the lack of any further articulation of the spaces. Nevertheless, the potential is certainly there.

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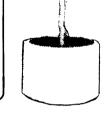


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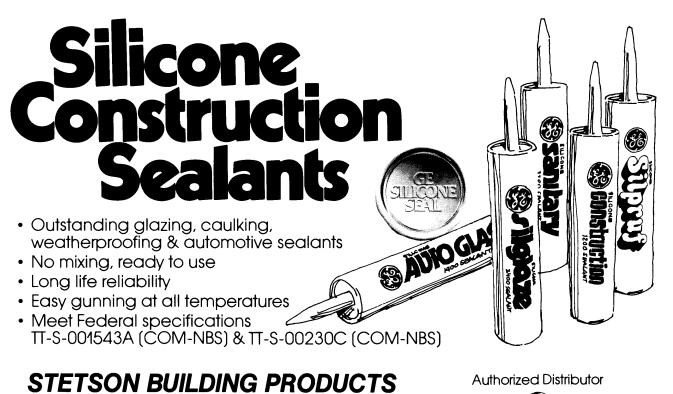
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Architecture As A Social Art

by Bernard Jacob, FAIA

The whole matter of where is architecture going today is one that we debate. Much popular architectural writing today assesses the state of architecture and then kind of despairs in the face of the apparent chasms in the profession. The polarities that are set up are very simplistic; they divide the profession of architecture between a few avant garde aesthetic leaders on the one hand and the establishment corporate offices on the other. But while they appear to lament the absence of great contemporary form givers in the tradition of Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier or Mies Van der Rohe, the excellerated mass-media consumer society has come to expect exciting new fall shows on television, new fashion styles, new automobile models, new shampoos and even new razors. All this newness is meant to be exciting, thrilling, imaginative, and of course very, very interesting. We are disappointed if CBS has merely given an old show a new name or skirts have not been raised all over the nation to a new hemline.

However, it fortunately is not architecture's role to be interesting any more than it is music's role to be loud.

Still, many buildings are designed to be only interesting. Our region, particularly in suburban areas, abound in them. They hold our interest for a brief moment, the first time we see them. But because their appearance is skin deep they do not attract our attention a second time. They are not even bad architecture, because bad architecture is a misjudgement, but not usually a pretense. We know from the history of architecture that complex and beautiful and Baroque recording of hand events that relatively little of what is built in any period of time is retained for the ages. The recent times ratio of buildings designed by architects to the total erected is very small. And the number of buildings designed by leading architects is absolutely infinitesimal.

What this means, then, is that a very major portion of our built environment is being erected by speculators, developers, bankers, and investors. Their ambitions center around the bottom line, and if making a building interesting will further that, they're all for it.

In this setting, where a return on investment is the operative priority, it is completely acceptable to cater to the cliches, and the prejudices, and the myopias of a clientele. The resulting buildings which we can see in great numbers in many of our cities are condominiums, rest homes, office buildings and office parks and their graceless massings decorated both within and without with hollow symbols of luxury and care. They are, regret-

tably, also good returns on investment in the market today and, therefore, the buyer quickly dismisses whatever qualms he or she may have had.

A few patrons do ask their architects for designs they hope will transcend functional requirements, budget restrictions, and rhetorical definitions and which in resolution of all the forces, (legal, structural, mechanical, aesthetic) will become works of art. The architect will on these occasions develop his theories and artistic visions in the context of the real world.

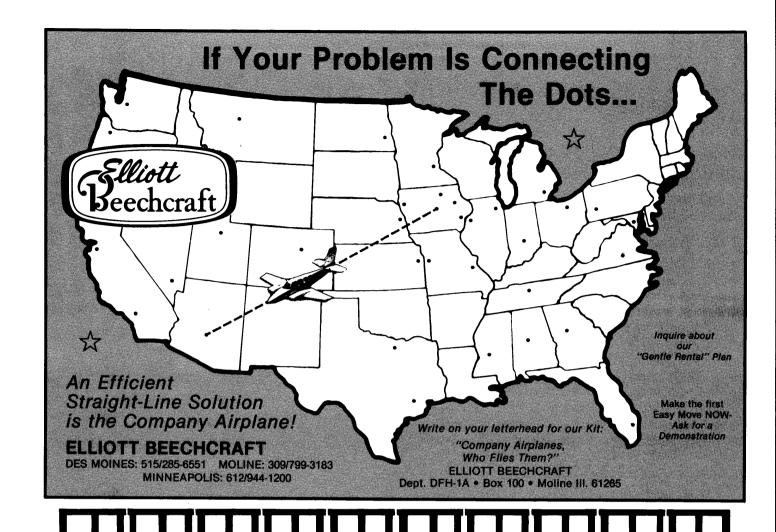
The fact that there is no simple overpowering formgiver active today who can symbolize or catalize the spirit of our time is not an important anxiety. It is a curiosity that can be elaborated on in a variety of ways. On the other hand it could even be asked whether such a genius would be accepted or recognized today.

What is far more important is the stark realization that most buildings erected today are average or below average modern buildings, sometimes of post modern card, shaped by the industrialized building materials and techniques developed in the last thirty years and inspired by the bottom line. It is important anytime to isolate problems or problem areas and to do so not just in an historical context but rather more modestly in the setting of our needs today.

The architect's urgent task now is not to generate new theory, although some do, not to go post-modern, although some do that too. It is rather to consolidate and define his knowledge in design in order to sensitize his work to the needs of its users and its community.

Because architecture is a social art and, as a result, a concurrence of architects, patrons, lenders and public officials, its shortcomings and excesses occur in the public realm; unlike those of the other professions which can be kept private and quiet. Thus it may be time for the architect to become again more independent and more political; to insist on more and better quality housing; to refuse to condominimize every apartment building; to refuse to 'mall' every commercial building; and to insist on a working environment for office workers which, in spite of high speed electronic equipment, is humane and sane.

These are some of the real problems of the profession and of its patrons. They are problems that post modern styling cannot resolve, and they are problems the modern movement set out to resolve more than 60 years ago.



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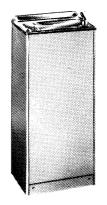
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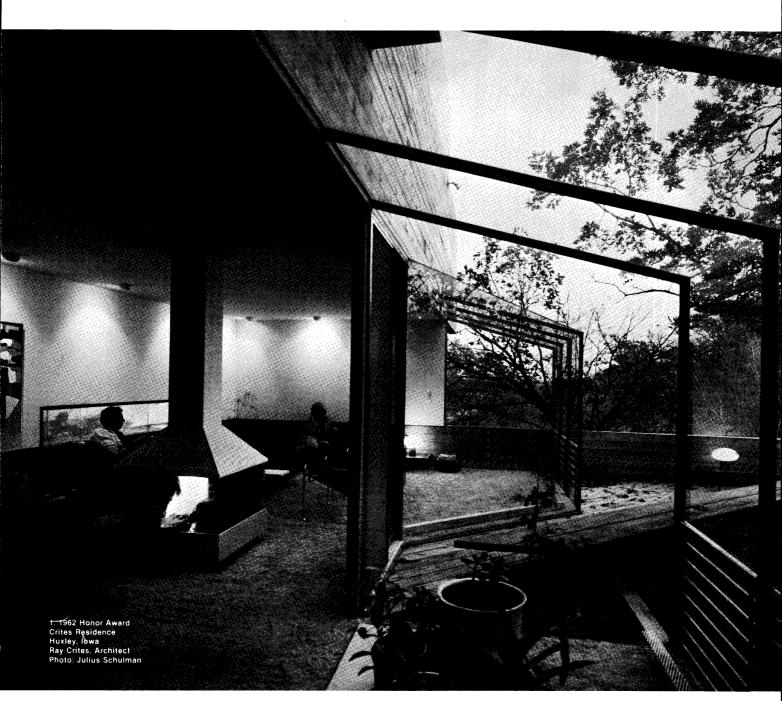
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In Search of Recognition

Because these are the 20th annual awards of the lowa Chapter of the AIA and because they come at a time when architectural design faces an unprecedented array of directions, *lowa Architect* prefaces its look ahead with a backward glance. In the Honor and Merits Awards of the past we see richness and variety as well as a spirit of innovation that the future will undoubtedly continue to demand.



State of The Art. The term, now passing into common usage defines, roughly, the best a given discipline knows how to do at this moment. At once it denotes both a value judgement and a summing up, and in these dual meanings, has particular relevance to this review of lowa architecture. The term "best" has to be subjective, given obvious limitations of time and the judgement of juries. But a review of the many buildings comprising our environment will support the claim that those few cited for excellence have very often been representative of the state of the art.

There are some, of course, who would maintain that these winners do neither, that they represent instead only an impulsive reflection of current fashions, a studied integration of catchy cliches most often found in the pages of *Progressive Architecture* or *Architectural Record*. Indeed, architectural critics within the state profession have continually lamented the gulf between the small group doing "the most progressive architecture being made today", at least from the standpoint of materials application and use of form, and the large body of firms doing the majority of building that remains far from the cutting edge of architecture, but nevertheless satisfies fundamental issues of function and economics.

The apparent tension between these views has gradually slackened — in the ensuing years the predictable criticism of award winners (and the juries which selected them) has lost much of its freshness and persuasiveness. The juries, it should be clear, have represented almost every ideological and stylistic crosscurrent in architecture. And it would be difficult, if not impossible, to make any meaningful connection between the "personality" of a given jury and the projects it selected for recognition.



2. 1963 First Honor McFarland Clinic Ames, Iowa Crites and McConnell Photo: Julius Schulman



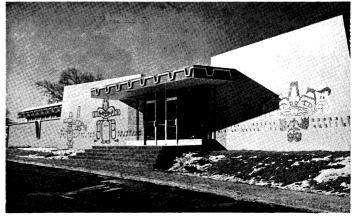
3. 1963 First Honor Shive Residence Lake McBride Village Crites and McConnell Photo: Julius Schulman

4. 1963 Merit Award The Totem Bowl Marshalltown, Iowa Brooks - Borg Photo: Karl Winkler

Looking Back

Perhaps echoing the vigorous pursuit of the good life and youthful optimism of the early 60's, that first awards program in 1962 presented a rich array of residential designs. Sharing a high level of innovation, they assimulated ideas of open planning, freestanding fireplaces, conversation pits and integrated kitchens. Ray Crites' residence (1) exemplified the joy of large window walls meticulously detailed in endless variations.

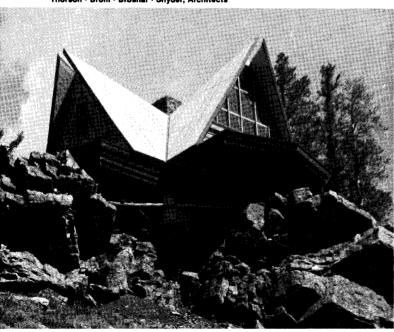
To the idea of convenience and comfort through architectural design was added a new requirement in the early 60's — freedom of form. The 60's also signaled a new acceptance of playfulness and of structures with a decidedly personal character (2, 3). As Barclay Gordon





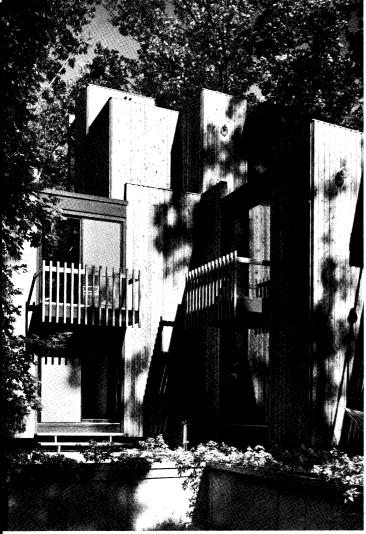
5. 1964 Honor Award lowa Methodist School of Nursing Des Moines, Iowa Brooks · Borg Photo: Karl Winkler

6. Mountain Cabin for Oz Thorson Dillon, Colorado 1964 Honor Award Thorson · Brom · Broshar · Snyder, Architects

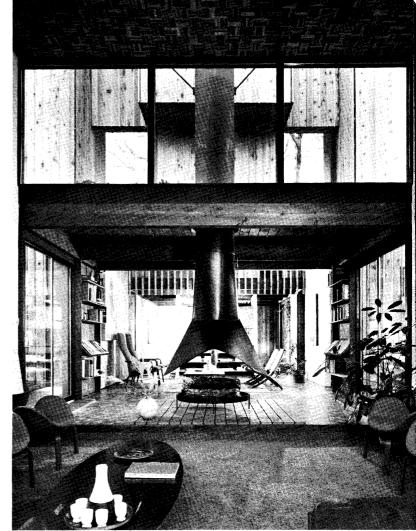


7. 1965 Honor Award Northcrest Elderly Community Housing Ames, Iowa Brooks - Borg Photo: Farshid Assassi





8. 1965 First Honor Award Crites Residence Cedar Rapids, Iowa Crites and McConnell Photo: Julius Schulman



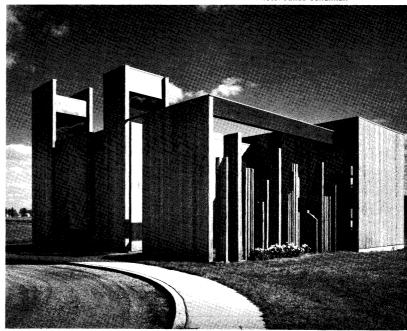
9. 1965 First Honor Award Crites Residence Cedar Rapids, Iowa Crites and McConnell Photo: Julius Schulman

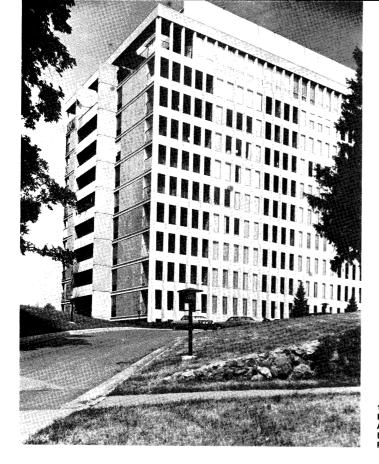
noted (*Architectural Record*, May, 1980), "not since the 20's had architects enjoyed such freeom, and at no time in the past had American life been so affluent or so full of possibilities. The (designs) of the middle and early sixties exulted in these possibilities and explored them in all of their fullness." Architects enjoyed it while it lasted (4), then quickly moved in other directions.

The awards themselves continued to represent a remarkable range of interests and scales. While the bold, if stark, expression of a concrete structural system (5) could warrant a jury's citation, a distant mountain cabin proved equally arresting and seductive (6). Of course, the charge of a jury has never been to compare projects.

At the same time, architects were exploring more relaxed, modest, vernacular forms that were somehow both comfortable and regional in their massing and finishes. Through its grey weathered siding and protective clusters, the Northcrest Retirement Community (7) did just that. With an intent to preserve as much of the

10. 1969 Honor Award Unitarian - Universalist Meeting Hall Cedar Falls, lowa Crites and McConneli Photo: Julius Schulman





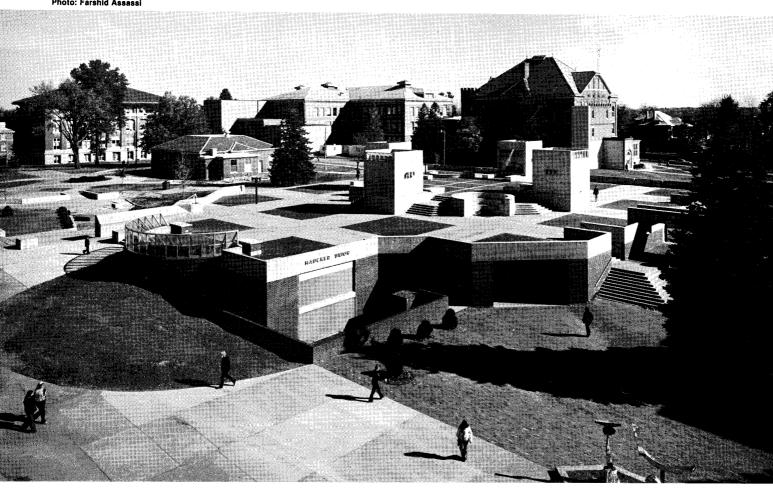
wooded environment as possible and interior allusions to the spatial and sculptural richness of barns, so did the best of houses (8, 9).

As intense compilation of forms and surfaces and a studied modulation of spaces continued to be developed during this period (10, 11). In some ways serving as a metaphor for fulfillment, it was an architecture still full of ambition and affluence, an architecture still reflecting confidence in the "Great Society". It was a current soon overwhelmed by a turbulent national mood.

Out of the protest movement, out of the inner city riots, the marches, the sit-ins, the bitter experience in Vietnam and the counter-culture alternatives, a reluctant and somewhat uncomfortable reappraisal was almost certain to occur. Architects were not exempt. Their

11. 1966 Merit Award Blair House Apartments Ames, Iowa Brooks - Borg Photo: Joel Strasser

12. 1970 Merit Award University Student Union University of Northern Iowa, Cedar Falls, Iowa Hunter, Rice & Engelbrecht and Brooks, Borg & Skiles Photo: Farshid Assassi



dialogue was sometimes factious, but for most it signaled an honest reappraisal of aims. One direction that emerged (or re-emerged) somewhat incongrously was a renewed interest in geometry and order and the adoption of forms abstract, purist and formal in content (12).

It was a period that further demonstrated that a nation's social conscience could be collectively raised. Renewed interest in and committment to the arts, in part, probably, as a reaction against commercial values, was one more positive product of the nation's introspection. Challenged to assume more responsibility on many fronts, business leaders, investors and architects unleashed impressive and expressive efforts (13). Scale alone was no measure of the creative commitment (14).

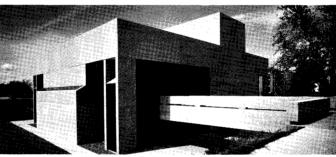
Housing, given the state of the economy in the early

13. 1971 Honor Award C. Y. Stephens Theater Ames, lowa Crites & McConnell and Brooks, Borg & Skiles

14. 1972 Merit Award A.H. and Theo Blank Performing Arts Center Simpson College, Indianola lowa Charles Herbert and Associates Photo: Joel Strasser





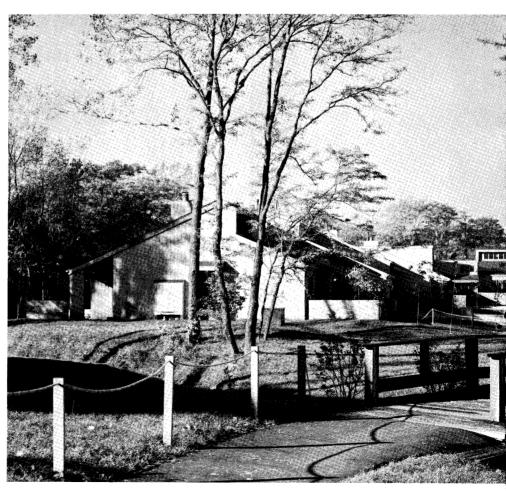


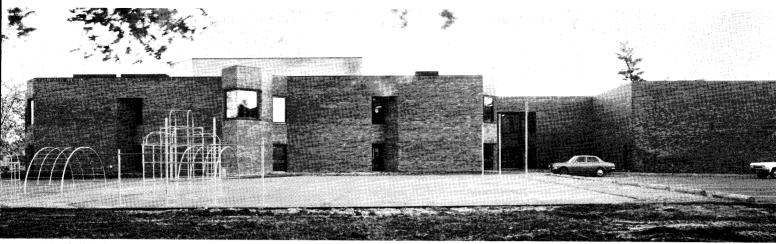


16. 1973 Honor Award West Bank West Des Moines, Iowa Engelbrecht / Rice Architects

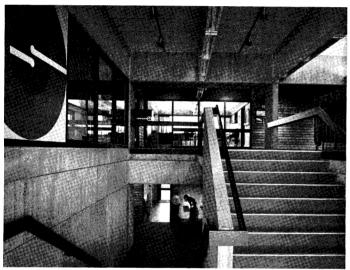






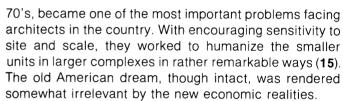


18. 1974 Merit Award Taylor Elementary School, Cedar Rapids, Iowa McConnell, Steveley, Anderson and Broom Healy Bock Photo: Julius Schulman



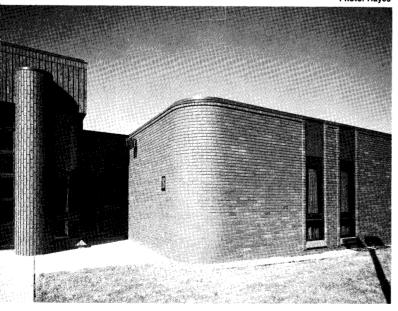
20. 1975 Honor Award Squaw Creek Elementary School, Cedar Rapids, Iowa Brown Healey Bock and McConnell, Steveley, Anderson Photo: Julius Schulman

21. 1976 Merit Awards Fire Station Prototype Des Moines, lowa McKiveen and Carney, Architects Photo: Hayes

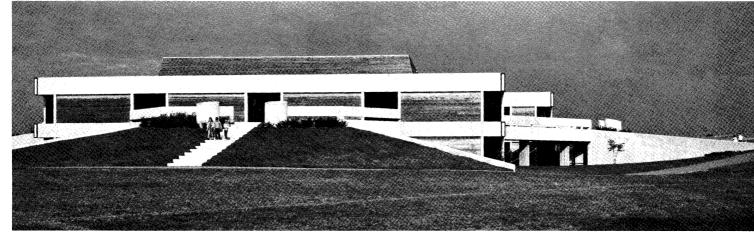


The Arab oil embargo of 1973, which added further to the social and political responsibilities of architects, exacerbated also a renewed aesthetic interest and a reevaluation of the performance of building skins. Structuralist design in its purest form had consistently dealt with what Mies Van der Rohe called "skin and bones" architecture: a steel or concrete structure covered with glass or metal skins. To this fascination with the possibilities and purity of glass and metal cladding systems was now overlayed economic incentives for a technology which would also reduce heating and cooling

22. 1978 Honor Award The Public Library of Des Moines South Side Branch, Des Moines, Iowa Charles Herbert and Associates







19. 1975 Honor Award Squaw Creek Elementary School, Cedar Rapids, Iowa Brown Healey Bock and McConnell, Steveley, Anderson Photo: Julius Schulman

costs (16). At the same time, the availability of cladding systems accelerated the mass production of buildings whose design was determined not only by the manufacturers of glass and its assembly systems, but also by developers and financial institutions (17).

In the seventies the interests of architects diverged. Modern architecture had claimed to be able to make the world both physically and psychologically better to live in. Though increasingly maligned as a well meaning but failed belief, it continued toward this aim through carefully scaled external forms and a re-exploration of internal organization of our educational structures (18, 19, 20). Indeed, most architects have not been willing to abandon the idea that the art of architecture could and should have broad application (21).

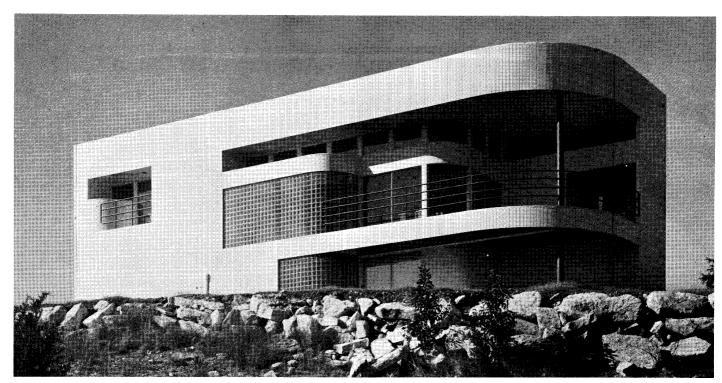
For those who rejected these notions, the directions open for serious exploration were not limited. As in

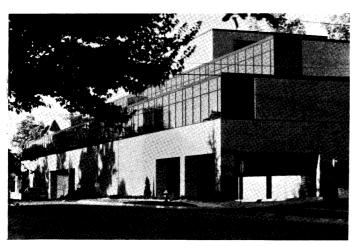


24. 1979 Award of Excellence Northwestern Bell Data Center Des Moines, lowa Charles Herbert and Associates Photo: Paul S. Kivett









25. 1980 Honor Award Clause Residence Lago Vista, Texas Tom Clause, Charles Herbert and Associates

26. 1980 Award of Excellence
Whiteside County Law Enforcement Center
Morrison, Illinois
Durrant Architects, Inc.

Europe, Regionalism gained new advocates as a more practical alternative to the theoretical rigors of the International Style. Regional or vernacular building (22) was "characterized by the use of a visible roof as a primary element of architectural composition; by a preference for natural materials; and by effects of small, almost domestic scale — even for fairly large public buildings." (Transformations in Modern Architecture, Arthur Drexler, The Museum of Modern Art).

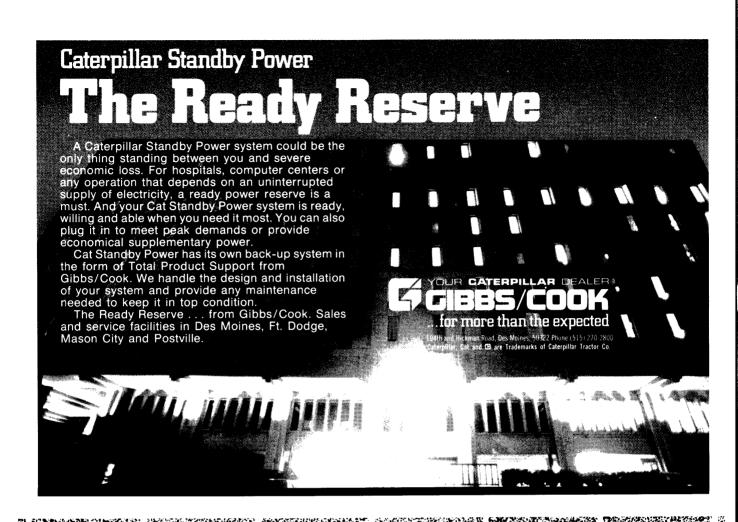
By the end of the seventies, a sort of self-conscious picking through the disparate architectural possibilities began to appear. The wide scope of professional interests and concurrent absence of a single, overpowering "formgiver" to emulate, did not, however, undermine the logic or intentions of architects' best efforts. To the contrary, it seems to have broadened architecture's range and appeal (23, 24, 25, 26, 27). It may, in fact, have assisted architects to consolidate and refine their knowledge of design and sensitize their work to the needs of its users and its community.

Even the quickest look backward over the twenty

years just ended reminds us that lowa architecture has been strikingly rich and diverse. Because the efforts of lowa architects are often overshadowed by those working on either coast and remain largely absent from national scrutiny, one would suspect a lack of innovation, a dull edge, not a leading edge. In fact, though the reward for successes is relatively small, this is a region where innovation florishes. And because lowa architecture affects our daily lives so directly and so personally, it tells us a great deal about ourselves; occasionally - like a critical spouse — a little more than we wanted to know. It continues to reflect our values and our hopes. Architects are led to search for an expression, or range of expression, compatible to both our conservative midwest values and a conflicting desire for growth. Now, at a time of uncertainty and shifting design emphasis, at a time when the good life may mean doing more with less, the images represented in the subsequent Honor Awards will be of even greater interest.

[Kirk V. Blunck]





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Des Moines Architect Cited For Family Home



D. Bryan Shiffler, Architect, of Charles Herbert and Associates in Des Moines, Iowa, has received a Citation of Merit in the residential/single-family category of the tenth annual Plywood Design Awards program sponsored by the American Plywood Association and *Professional Builder* magazine.

Shiffler, one of 13 to receive citations and awards in this year's competition, was honored for his family's residence in Des Moines. A primary consideration in the design was the use of architectural elements for privacy without employing blinds or shades. This was accomplished by using balconies with wing walls which also relieve the home's geometry. The entry walkway is a plywood truss bridge spanning to the hillside. The use of plywood systems throughout the home was important in moderating costs.

Awards jury members commented: Careful proportioning presents an exceptionally good solution to this cube design. The use of projections to break the mass, and the subtle approach to the entry are unique. Inside, the simplicity is refreshing.

Evaluating entries this year were jury members J. Donald Bowman, AIA, Mithun Associates, Bellevue, Washington; Edward A. Schmitt, AIA, Bob Schmitt Homes, Strongsville, Ohio; and John D. Bloodgood, AIA, President, John D. Bloodgood Architects, Des Moines, Iowa.

The plywood Design Awards program, which recognizes aesthetic and structural applications of softwood plywood, attracted entries from across the U.S. For more information on the program, write Plywood Design Awards, P.O. Box 11700, Tacoma, Washington 98411.

Des Moines Firm Wins Two Honor Awards in St. Louis

Charles Herbert and Associates, Des Moines, Iowa was the recipient of two Central States Honor Awards of the American Institute of Architects presented on October 13 in St. Louis, Mo.

Selected from 135 candidates, reviewed by judges Charles Warren Callister of Tiburon, CA; Frank O. Gehry, FAIA of Santa Monica, CA and George Hartman, FAIA of Washington, DC were the following buildings designed by Charles Herbert & Associates:

First Honor Award:

CENTRAL DIVISION — PIONEER HI-BRED OFFICE BUILDING, Johnston, Iowa and

Honor Award,

MEREDITH CORPORATION HEADQUARTERS, Des Moines, Iowa

To qualify for consideration in the 36th Annual Central States Regional Conference Honor Awards program, a building must have been constructed between January 1, 1976 and October 1, 1981; must have been constructed in the five-state area of Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska & Oklahoma; and must have been designed by a member firm of the American Institute of Architects.

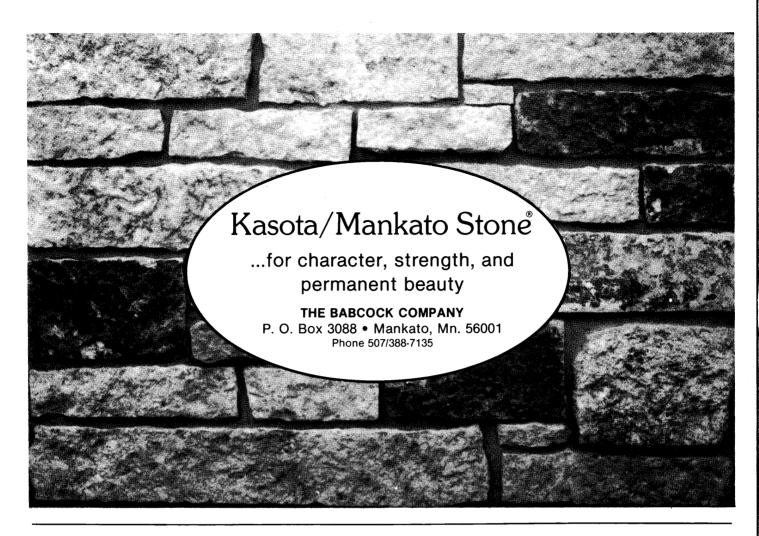
The three day conference was devoted to the theme "THE OLD - THE NEW OLD - and THE NEW". The awards, in the form of special CSR Honor Awards Plaques were presented by Henry W. Schirmer, FAIA of Wichita, KS and R. Bruce Patty, FAIA of Kansas City, Mo. who serve on the National Board of Directors of the American Institute of Architects. Also present was Robert Broshar, FAIA of Waterloo, Iowa, who is president-elect of the American Institute of Architects. Over 500 architects attended the three day conference that concluded with the Awards Banquet on Tuesday, when Harry Weese, FAIA of Chicago was the speaker.

Department of Architecture Fall '81 Lecture Series

Dec. 2 Ken Walker, AIA
Walker Group, Inc. New York, N.Y.

Dec. 9 Frank Gehry, FAIA Frank O. Gehry & Associates. Santa Monica, Ca.

All lectures to be at 8:00 P.M., Room 186 LeBaron Hall (Home Economics).





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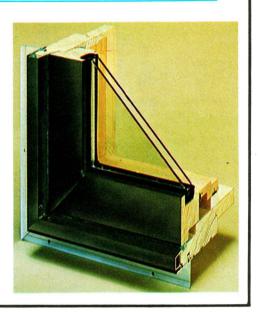
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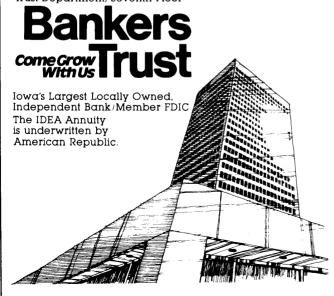
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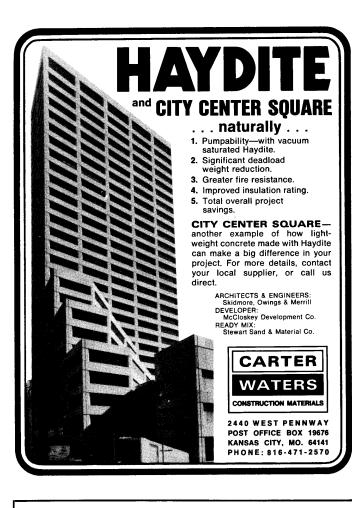
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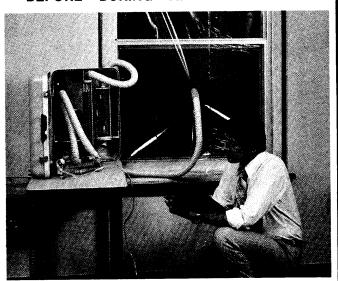
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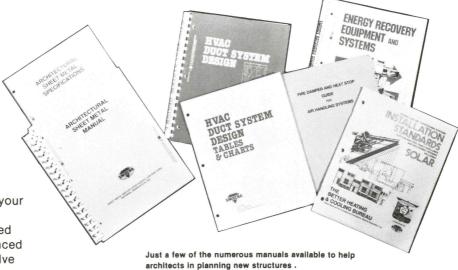


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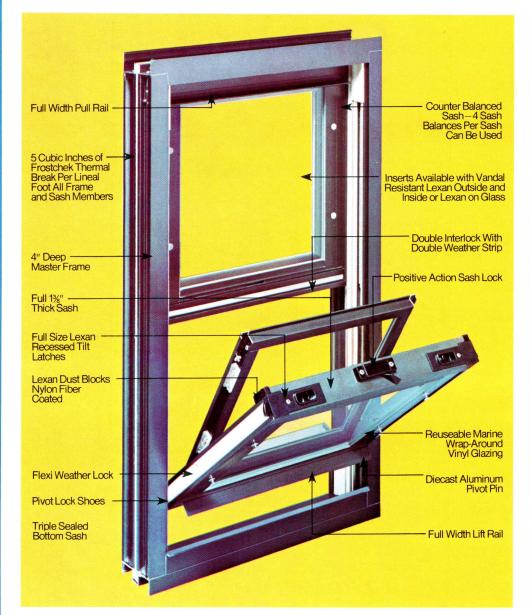


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