

AIA Design Awards

11



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#### ON THE COVER:

American Federal branch bank addition Des Moines, Iowa 1982 Design Award winner Charles Herbert and Assoc. Photographer-Farshid Assassi



IN PROGRESS



#### 1982 DESIGN AWARDS PROGRAM

Photos and commentary highlight the 1982 Design Awards program of the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architects







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## THE JURY

**Jeffrey Cook** received his Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Manitoba and his Masters of Architecture from Pratt Institute.

He has worked professionally in Canada and Denmark as well as the U.S.A. and taught at Polytechnic in Manchester, England and Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada, before accepting his present Professorship at Arizona State University.

He has been a consultant to the states of Missouri and Arizona, and various programs of the Federal Department of Energy, to the American Institute of Architects, to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and to the Architectural Design Branch of the Tennessee Valley Authority. His expertise is focused on specialized areas of planning, energy, and aesthetics.

Mr. Cook is on the Board of Directors of the International Solar Energy Society and is founding Editor-In-Chief of the International Quarterly, *Passive Solar Journal*. He is the author of seven books on architecture, including *The Architecture of Bruce Goff*, and he has over 120 published articles and papers on energy and architecture; including the recent *AIA Journal* article "Prophetic Presence in Downtown Portland".

He has been a guest lecturer and jury member throughout the U.S., Canada, Britain, Mexico, Scandinavia, Italy, and the Far East.

**E. Fay Jones** received his Bachelor of Architecture at the University of Arkansas and his Master of Architecture from Rice University. He then served an apprenticeship to Frank Lloyd Wright.

His professional career has been a combination of teaching and practice. He has taught at the University of Oklahoma when Bruce Goff was head of that school and at the University of Arkansas where he has served as Chairman of the Department of Architecture and as Dean of the School of Architecture.

Mr. Jones is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a Fellow of the American Academy in Rome. His firm has received thirteen National Design Awards including a 1981 Honor Award from the American Institute of Architects for Thorncrown Chapel.

His work has been featured in the AIA Journal, Progressive Architecture, Architectural Record, Architectural Digest, and other nationally distributed magazines, his projects have also been published in numerous foreign publications such as The Architectural Review, Architecture & Urbanism, Nikkei Architecture, Schoner Wohnen, L'Architettura, and Domus.

Mr. Jones received a Rome Prize Fellowship in 1980-81 and spent six months in independent study at the American Academy in Rome. **Richard Meier** received his Bachelor of Architecture at Cornell University, then worked for Skidmore, Ownings, and Merrill, and Marcel Breuer before establishing his own private practice.

His work has been featured in various architectural magazines and exhibited in over thirty national and international locations; including the U.S. Pavillion, World's Fair, Osaka, Japan; and most recently the VII Mostra di Archtettura, Naples, Italy; Graham Foundation, Chicago; Jacksonville Art Museum, Florida; Art Institute of Chicago; Amon Carter Museum of Western Art, Ft. Worth, Texas; New Harmony Gallery of Contemporary Art, Indiana; Masterworks of Bronx Architecture, Bronx Community College; Modernism Gallery, San Francisco; Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford, Conneticut; High Museum of Art, Atlanta; Max Protetch Gallery, New York; and Harvard University.

Mr. Meier is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and has received numerous national Design Awards from the American Institute of Architects.

He has been visiting critic and professor at many universities, including Princeton, Pratt, Naples, Syracuse, The Cooper Union, Mc Gill, Houston, Carnegie Mellon, Yale, Harvard, and the American Academy in Rome.

James Stewart Polshek is the senior partner and founder of James Stewart Polshek and Partners. Mr. Polshek has practiced architecture since the early sixties and has been Dean of the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture and Planning and Special Assistant to the President of the University for Planning and Design since the early seventies.

Mr. Polshek's designs have been published here and abroad in every major architectural journal and has been the recipient of design awards including the Japan Building Contractor's Society Prize for his design of the Teijiin Central Research Institute near Tokyo; The Architecture Award for Excellence of the AISC for his Service Building Group for the Suny College at Old Westbury; and The First Honor Award of the Connecticut Building Congress, Inc., for his campus for the Rosemary Hall School in Wallingford, Connecticut. His design for the headquarters for the New York Bar Association in Albany, New York was given one of the earliest National Honor Awards of the AIA for a building complex that involved both historic preservation and the creation of a new building. His design for Kingsborough Community College received the coveted Bard Award from the City Club of New York. Most recently, his designs for the United States Consulate in Lyon, France and the Glenfield Middle School have received Progressive Architecture's Citation for Design Excellence.



Left to right: James Stewart Polshek, Richard Meier, E. Fay Jones and Jeffrey Cook.







#### Program

In order to placate neighbors in a community of 800, the owner circulated a petition promising to build a branch bank with residential character.

#### Solution

The architect addressed the town's history and its progress by combining traditional forms and detailing with a contemporary version of a street facade on the drive-up side of the structure. The two story expression of the exterior blends with its environment while concealing a single volume interior space. Generous daylighting reduces the need for artificial lighting. The north wall, with minimal pentrations, delineates entrances, forms a screen between the parts, buffers winter winds and conceals mechanical equipment.

#### Type of Construction

Wood frame construction with horizontal wood siding on east, south, and west elevations. Vertical wood siding on north elevation. Gas forced air mechanical system.

# HONOR AWARD

### Brenton State Bank Granger, Iowa Charles Herbert & Associates, Inc.

**Owner:** Brenton State Bank **Photographer:** Charles Herbert & Associates, Inc.



#### Jury Comments

**Polshek:** Of the banks we've seen, and given the constraints of the bank wanting to please its neighbors, it's hard to find fault with this approach. It's kind of a second or third generation Charles Moore scheme. One either accepts or rejects this kind of candy store routine. Some people can do it very well and some people cannot do it so well. This does it very well. Given that the quality of the interiors are very handsome and very controlled; the outside is forgivable.

**Jones:** It's something we're seeing much of these days. Again, I'm not sure if Charles Moore could have done it any better. It does show a competent understanding of this approach to design, and it's scale in the neighborhood is quite appropriate.





# HONOR AWARD

Blades Hall/Steffens Arcade University of Dubuque Dubuque, Iowa The Durrant Group, Inc.

**Owner:** University of Dubuque **Photographer:** Ken Smith



#### Program

Classrooms, offices, and multi-purpose chapel/auditorium for a small Presbyterian university. Together with the arcade and an existing chapel, the complex serves as the front entrance to the college campus.

Money for construction of a new Chapel/Auditorium with associated classrooms and offices for a small private college was offered by a trust fund which stipulated that an existing building be demolished. The terms of the trust also stipulated that the new structure be built of good quality brick, cut stone and stained glass to blend in with other buildings on campus.

#### Solution

The winning proposal was conceived as a complex of structures surrounding a new courtyard. A small existing chapel behind the administration building was spared from demolition, renovated by the school, and is now the focal point of the courtyard. Stonework from the demolished building was carefully salvaged and reassembled with new brickwork to form a defining front edge to the courtyard and serve as a gateway to the campus.

Cut stone panels salvaged from the original building have been reinstalled at the front and rear of the new chapel/ auditorium space and a salvaged brass chandelier is the focal point of the new lobby.

#### Type of Construction

The building consists of poured-in-place footings and foundations, pre-cast concrete floors, structural steel roof framing, brick veneer and concrete block walls. The arcade is reconstructed from salvaged stonework and new brick.







#### Jury Comments

Polshek: At first glance this received very little enthusiasm. The plan is logical enough. It is not inspired, but, in fact, the volume of the building was largely dictated by the major surrounding structures. There were extreme constraints imposed upon the architects with respect to materials to be used and what could be taken away. What the jury came to recognize is that the elements that became the street wall were formed from a part of another building. I think that it was worked out extremely well and that in the future when the other building is built on its other side, it will make a very beautiful and very simple complex.

**Cook:** We were very critical of the interiors. A couple of the shots made it look more like a barn than a religious building.

Jones: My interest was in the decision to stay with the same materials, the same textures, same color schemes and same stonework. One sees so many bad additions, modern additions to old buildings where there is a change of materials, a change in structural framing. All sorts of obscure rationalizations can go on; they still come out to be something very much in conflict with the original structure. This project showed a great deal of restraint.



#### Program

An existing savings and loan branch office needed to accomodate a new vault and growing customer service functions. The client requested that the addition reflect the image of the award-winning existing structure, and that minimal reworking be expended on the original.

#### Solution

The building was expanded to the east, creating a new skylit entrance in the extended, symmetric street-front facade; the panelized plaster box character of the original was incorporated and elaborated upon in the addition. The solution is organized around a high central lobby which, due to adverse exisitng structural conditions, is supported by independent, exposed steel frames. Similiar arches with infill grids of metal plate mark the entrances. Glass block provides natural illumination with required privacy.

#### Type of Construction

Plaster on masonry backup to match existing; exposed steel frames; glass block. Three new single zone, forced-air units provide heating and cooling, the former via steam coils fed from an existing boiler and the latter by direct expansion units.

# HONOR AWARD

American Federal Ingersoll Branch Des Moines, Iowa Charles Herbert & Associates

**Owner:** American Federal **Photographer:** Farshid Assassi





#### Jury Comments

**Cook:** The addition is done very cleverly to this existing bank with a drive thru window. It's obviously trying very hard to pull itself together. The new is beautifully knitted to the original structure. Spatial definition is provided by the large dark colored steel frames that march into the bank interior.

**Polshek:** One of the most engaging things is the way it holds the streetscape. Most banks we reviewed had been so "hoked up," exhibiting both misplaced effort and misplaced budget. This one was extremely refreshing because it was so very direct, so very straightforward.

**Jones:** The use of structural steel columns and bracket, the idea of grid and structure and the articulation of that space defining system seemed very clean, clear and simply executed.

**Polshek:** An excellent indication that buildings don't have to be large to have important lessons in them. The separation of structure and the definition of materials is very nice.











## HONOR AWARD

## Felton/Evans Residence Dubuque, Iowa Wehner, Nowysz, Pattschull & Pfiffner, P.C.

Owner: Mrs. Geraldene Felton Photographer: Roland C. Wehner, AIA

#### Program

Single family residence located near the border of a town in a wooded area.

#### Solution

Duality. Of function. Of form. This residence takes up the time-honored duality of life, giving it new meaning through direct and symbolic expression. The duality of public versus private is distinctly articulated both on the interior and the exterior. One side of the house obviously displays its public functions - open to the interior circulation path, but closed to the prying eyes of the public beyond. The other side of the house jealously guards its private functions - closed to the interior circulation path, but open to the sun and landscape beyond.

Tying together the two sides is a tense connecting gallery expressed with Miesian precision in its skylit openness - a clear skin in tension. By contrast, a massive beam gives weight and motion to the connection. A linearity is established, moving the duality through time. The sense of motion and time is stridently enhanced by the rhythmic marching of Tuscan columns beginning beyond the entry of the house to beyond its end. Timelessness is fully developed here directly through the use of the Tuscan columns and indirectly through the motion carrying one through the building and beyond to an eternal perspective.

#### Type of Construction

Wood frame construction with wood truss roof frame, concrete footing and walls at grade level. Cedar ship-lap siding.





#### Jury Comments

**Polshek:** I really liked this house. Particularly admirable was the plan expression. The organization was so very, very clear; one might say obvious. I admired the placement of vertical and sloped glass and its reinforcement of the spine of the house. It's not unflawed, but nothing in the world is flawless.

**Cook:** One of the things I'm not too happy about are the columns; the rather ruthless way they are repeated through the interior.

**Polshek:** I guess being from New York, I admire ruthlessness.

**Jones:** I had no misgivings about awarding this house. I thought it nicely done. It used a simple means [glass grid] of putting the two volumes [of the house] together and had a clear organization.





## Shiffler Residence Des Moines, Iowa D. Bryan Shiffler, AIA

**Owner:** D. Bryan Shiffler, AIA **Photographer:** D. Bryan Shiffler





#### Program

This house was designed for a young couple, both professionals and without children, who wanted to live in town but away from suburbia. The site was an acre of mature red and white oak woods in the city. The parcel of land was split from a larger estate thereby leaving the contrast of a woodland setting with close neighbors. While privacy was not a problem in the summer, nearby houses in the winter were to be screened architecturally without the use of blinds or shades. The couple's prime goal was a house that was inexpensive to build, inexpensive to heat and inexpens, 'e to maintain.

#### Solution

The house became an exercise in adapting builder materials and details to create a more spatially exciting product. The house was framed, sided and sheetrocked by a general contractor while the owner finished the inside. Care was taken to dimension all room sizes and building elevations to fit modular lumber spacing and plywood sizes. To further economize, all interior and exterior components are off-the-shelf products.

The solution became a sculptured cube enclosing as much cubic footage as possible with a minimum amount of skin. Wing walls enclose balconies while focusing the view out into the woods and away from neighbors.

#### **Type of Construction**

Wood frame, M.D.O. plywood exterior, gas fired forced air heating.





#### Jury Comments

**Cook:** The 3-story plan is evidence of the skillful organization in fitting all elements of the house together. It's a beautiful piece of land with a house that's like a lantern; very seductive, very straightforward, very simple. Our reservation was that it's very much in the mode of things with which we are very familiar. We've all seen this house many times before.

**Polshek:** I don't think there is much of an architectural idea in this house, but it is admirable because of its restraint. It is really just okay.

**Jones:** It's not the kind of house I would do, but I like the house. It is worked out of a basic module based on standard sized building materials and an established style. It appears that they were able to use a lot of off-the-shelf items. It took a well established building grammar and, I think, did a pretty nice job.











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# IN REVIEW

## AIA Exhibition Spotlights America's City Halls



Proposed City Hall, Creston, Iowa

Two centuries of American architecture are chronicled in The American Institute of Architects' major photographic exhibition of 49 outstanding city halls on display Nov. 16 - Dec. 30, 1982, at the AIA Building, 1735 New York Ave., N.W.

"America's City Halls" commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), a joint program of the AIA, the Library of Congress and the National Park Service. Documentation and photos for the exhibition were obtained through the combined efforts of the Department of the Interior, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the AIA.

The 49 city halls represent over 100 specially documented by HABS in 1981. They range in age from the 1789 Lancaster (Pa.) City Hall, a local landmark of historical and architectural importance, to the 1977 Dallas City Hall, a building whose careful design and construction consumed 15 years.

Of these 49, only one is from Iowa.

According to the catalogue, "National Register of Historic Places in Iowa," the CB & Q railroad station in Creston, Iowa "was the largest, best constructed depot in Iowa on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy at the turn of the century. Built in 1899, it served as the division headquarters for all railroad business in southwestern Iowa. The depot was the most majestic structure to be erected in Creston up to that time or since."

In 1974, citizens of Creston contacted Wagner, Marquart, Wetherell, Ericsson Architects of Des Moines for assistance in finding a suitable usage of the delapidated vacant building. Ultimately, that firm designed for them an adaptive re-use/restoration of the building as the Creston City Hall.

Other national historic landmarks include the city halls of Philadelphia, Richmond and Salt Lake City, and the Old City Hall of Boston.

A variety of architectural styles and periods are



reflected in the buildings comprising the exhibition, such as "Richardsonian Romanesque," a style attributed to H. H. Richardson. This particular style is found in such suitably monumental buildings as Richardson's Albany City Hall. An example of the French Renaissance style is found in the St. Louis City Hall, an impressive interpretation of the Hotel de Ville in Paris and one that recognizes St.Louis's French heritage.

The exhibition will remain in the lobby of the AIA Building until Dec. 30, 1982. It will then travel to New Orleans in conjunction with the AIA National Convention, May 22-26, 1983, and to other proposed locations.

## IEPC Federal Energy Grants

lowa Energy Policy Council announced that 103 federal grants totaling \$775,521 were awarded on August 30 to Iowa's schools, hospitals, local governments and public care institutions.

These grants match the institutions' costs of implementing energy conservation. The total cost of the proposed projects is \$1,380,678 with a potential annual savings of \$485,547 for an average payback of less than three years.

Technical assistance grants must be completed by March 30, 1983 and final reports sent at that time. This includes a copy of the annual financial audit of the institution. Recipients of energy conservation measure grants must send progress reports December 30 and June 30 and complete the project by September 30, 1983. If recipients are experiencing any problems with the implementation of their grant projects, they should contact the Iowa Energy Policy Council. (IEPC)

While the federal budget for the current fiscal year has not yet been passed by Congress, IEPC is making plans for another grant cycle in March 1983. If you would like information, please contact: Iowa Energy Policy Council, Capitol Complex, Des Moines, IA 50319.



## Sand Jam

During August, the Des Moines Architects Council held its first annual "Sand Jam." The competition was organized in conjunction with the AIA's 125th Anniversary.

The sand castle/sand sculpture design and construction was held at Pickle Farm Beach east of Des Moines. It



was open to architects, landscape architects, graphic designers, and interior designers. Fifty-six individuals participated in teams consisting of up to four people each. Each team had up to five hours for construction of their castle or sculpture.

At the conclusion of the competition, a distinguished jury consisting of Des Moines Councilwoman, Elaine Symoniak; Des Moines Art Center Assistant Director, Peggy Patrick; and WHO-TV personality, T.J. Beer, judged the end products on creativity and engineering. Teams were also judged on congeniality and uniforms.

The castles/sculptures ranged from a 20 foot long lobster, to a 10 foot telephone with receiver and talking heads, a castle resting upon a sleeping dragon, a picnic lunch, E.T., and several sand castles.

## Public Series on Architecture

American architecture and design will be brought into millions of U.S. homes as the result of a major long-term public awareness and educational endeavor of the AIA in partnership with Washington (D.C.) public television station WETA.

At its recent meeting, the AIA Board of Directors authorized an initial \$100,000 investment to support the station's five-part series, "America by Design," to be aired in 1984. This is part of a three-year commitment involving a total investment of \$300,000 by the Institute and the AIA Foundation. For its investment, the AIA will help shape the content and message of the series as well as support materials to be used in classrooms.

The \$2.1 million project was spawned last year when the National Endowment for the Arts awarded WETA-TV a \$700,000 matching grant—the largest from NEA for a single TV project.

## Increase In Computer Use By AIA Firms Seen

An increasing number of architecture firms will acquire office automation equipment in 1983, according to the AIA's second annual survey of computer use in architecture firms.

While 30 percent of the 580 surveyed AIA firms now use some form of automation (up from 24 percent a year ago), 53 percent anticipate entering the computer marketplace or increasing their hardware/software holdings in the next year.

Major increases over the past year include purchases for word processing (from 44 to 53 percent of surveyed firms); specification software (from 37 to 40 percent); job cost accounting (from 33 to 36 percent); and financial management (from 36 to 39 percent).

Other computer capabilities covered in the survey are project management, energy audit/consumption software, structural and mechanical design software scheduling, computer graphics, life-cycle costing and



library storage. Tentative budgets estimated for automated expenses are under \$15,000 for 48 percent of the firms

## Art Chicago 1983

The fourth Chicago International Art Exposition, the world-class art forum has been set for May 19-24, 1983 at Chicago's Navy Pier.

Approximately 120 leading art galleries from the United States, Europe and Japan will exhibit paintings. drawings, sculpture, graphics, multiples, photography, art books, periodicals, journals, video, performance art, concepts and documentation, and new expressions.

It offers art lovers and serious collectors an unparalleled marketplace for viewing and purchasing high quality 20th Century art from all parts of the world.

The Chicago International Art Exposition has grown rapidly in stature and reputation, spearheaded by its President John D. Wilson and key advisors like sculptor Richard Hunt, architect Walter Netsch, art consultant Fred Fine, Art Institute of Chicago Director James N. Wood and the Museum of Contemporary Art's founding President Joseph R. Shapiro.

In addition to Art 1983 CHICAGO, the highly-regarded Mile of Sculpture will be mounted outdoors on Navy Pier for the second straight year. Curated by the Chicago Sculptural Society, this will be the largest showing - approximately 50 pieces - of monumental sculpture in the United States.

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