IOWA ARCHITECT

November/December 1983

AIA Design Awards

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Photographer - Farshid Assassi



IN PROGRESS



1983 DESIGN AWARDS PROGRAM

Photos and commentary highlight the 1983 Design Awards program of the Iowa Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture.



IN REVIEW

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BY

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SAMPLE COMPARISON OF ESTIMATED ANNUAL ENERGY COSTS FOR WATER HEATING



SOURCE: FTC ENERGY GUIDE

IN PROGRESS



Vets Auditorium Remodeling

The initial design phase of a three part \$2 million project to remold the image of Veteran's Memorial Auditorium in Des Moines has been completed by Brooks Borg and Skiles, Architects-Engineers. That work, estimated to cost nearly \$1 million will provide a new entrance lobby to the west, improve the building's south entrances and remodel meeting rooms. The reconstructed main entry, doubling the size of the lobby and ticket waiting area, will eliminate the pedestrian traffic jam that often occurs as people entering the hall break across ticket lines. The addition is composed of Kasota stone and large glass expanses that rise to a peaked skylight, echoing the massive building's peaked roofline. Completion is expected in early 1984.

Iowa State University Agronomy Building Addition

Bussard/Dikis Associates, Ltd. has completed Design Development on the Agronomy Building Addition and

remodeling at Iowa State University. The 186,000 square foot addition will provide research laboratories, support activities, research offices, and some greenhouse space with adjacent teaching labs. The 57,000 square foot existing building will be remodeled to provide teaching, administrative, and extension spaces.

Brick, metal panels, and a ribbon curtain wall of coated glass, reflective glass and clear glass compose the exterior. Building construction will begin in March 1984.



Scott County Detention Center

The Scott County Detention Center located in Davenport, Iowa was developed from a Study Report which analyzed the alternatives for fulfilling the detention needs of Scott County.

The detention needs of Scott County could best be met by completely renovating the present jail building for medium and minimum security housing and providing a new building addition for prisoner intake services, maximum security housing and jail operational functions.

The 4.6 million dollar project was started in November, 1981, and will be completed in November,

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1983. The facility is designed to house 89 inmates of all classifications plus 6 holding rooms. The project also includes a below grade building connection to the elevators within the existing Courthouse to provide secure prisoner transfer to the courts.

The Study Report and architectural and engineering design were by The Durrant Group.





THE JURY



From left, Mark Simon, Jefferson B. Riley, Robert L. Harper, Gunnar Birkerts.

Gunnar Birkerts, FAIA was born in Latvia in 1925 and came to the U.S. in 1949. He established his own practice in 1959. He is Professor of Architecture at the University of Michigan and has received Gold Medals from Tau Sigma Delta in 1971; The American Institute of Architects, Detroit Chapter in 1975; and the Michigan Society of Architects in 1980.

His work has been published internationally and his projects have won 41 major awards. His work has been exhibited in the United States and abroad.

The firm of **Moore Grover Harper** had three participants in the convention.

Robert L. Harper, AIA received his B.A. degree from Amherst College in 1961 and his Master of Architecture degree from Columbia University in 1964. In 1969, he became associated with Charles W. Moore Associates and since 1975 has been a Director and Project Architect.

Mr. Harper has many teaching credentials including Visiting Critic in Architectural Design, Rhode Island School of Design 1975-83, and Yale University 1983; Adjunct Assistant Professor of Architecture, and Carnegie Mellon University 1979.

Jefferson B. Riley, AIA received his B.A. in Art from Lawrence University in 1968 and his Master of Architecture from Yale University in 1972. He began work with Charles Moore Associates in 1973 and in 1975 became Director and Project Architect.

His teaching experience includes Visiting Critic in Architectural Design at the Rhode Island School of Design in 1976 and at Williams College in 1979.

Jefferson Riley was author of two recent articles in the AIA Journal and his work has received numerous awards.

Mark Simon, AIA received a B.A. from Brandeis University in 1968, graduating Cum Laude, with Honors in Sculpture. Mr. Simon received a Master of Architecture Degree from Yale University in 1972. Since 1974, he has been with Charles Moore, most recently as Director, Vice-President, and Project Architect for Moore Grover Harper, P.C.

Mr. Simon has served as Visiting Critic in Architecture at Carnegie Mellon University in 1979, Yale University 1979-1982, and North Carolina State University 1982-1983. He has written several magazine articles and has received numerous awards.

Dr. Richard Guy Wilson received his Bachelor of Arts in 1963 from the University of Colorado, his Master of Arts in 1968, and his Ph.D in 1972 from the University of Michigan. Dr. Wilson's dissertation was "Charles F. McKim and the Renaissance in America." He was Assistant Professor in the Department of Architecture at Iowa State University from 1972 through 1976. Since May of 1979, he has been Chairman of the Division of Architectural History, University of Virginia.

Dr. Wilson has been involved in numerous capacities in consulting, public service and as guest lecturer. He has authored numerous papers, reviews, articles, essays, monographs, and books.

Dr. Wilson has written two books *The AIA Gold Medal: A History of Architectural Taste, 1907-1982* and *McKim, Mead & White, Architects* which are to be released soon.

HONOR AWARD

Des Moines Register Skywalk Lobby Des Moines, Iowa Charles Herbert & Associates, Inc.

Owner: The Des Moines Register and Tribune Company **Photographer:** Farshid Assassi

Program

The local newspaper owns and is the prime tenant of a 14 story office building. An enclosed bridge was recently added to the front of the building to connect with the extensive city skywalk system. The owner consequently needed a new entrance and elevator lobby at the skywalk level; they also wanted a small store to sell their newspaper and company souvenirs. They could only afford to give up a minimum of space from the key operational functions already existing on the floor. The original ornate limestone building constructed in 1915 had been covered with an aluminum and glass skin in 1959 as part of the prevalent modernization movement.

Solution

The slight plan angle focuses on the mural which stops the space yet allows functional access to the stairway beyond.

The vertical space is accentuated and "left open" at the top with a skylight image which serves as a light source. The forced perspective and the layered points of passage magnify the actual spatial experience.

The cast iron canopy is recreated through a photo mural of the original drawing. The columns and entablature of the stone facade where the bridge enters the building are recreated as an entrace portal to the lobby. The entire building is recreated in a trompe l'oiel painting which serves as the lobby focus.

The new building wall as expressed by the entrance portal was moved inside the actual building creating an "exterior" and "canopy covered" space for the newsstand to occur. In the lobby the mural allows you to "look out" of a window at the view you would have seen from the skywalk bridge entrance across the street, before the skywalk ever existed.







Jury Comments

Wilson: Project harkens back to detail and character of buildings before if was "skinized". Effective use of material. **Riley:** Consistent use of detail and materials. A light and airy space. **Birkerts:** One has to question the details historically completed in stone now completed in sheetrock and plaster.







Program

Develop office space for a prestigious and growing accounting firm consisting of private offices, conference rooms, open office staff stations and support functions. The client sought an image that would facilitate recruiting of the finest young accountants. Traditional materials were to be crafted in a way that signaled quality, not lavishness, to the firm's clients. Finally, accessibility to the partners and communication between managers and staff was to be clear and direct.

Solution

The project is organized in a perimeter arrangement with 25 offices along the exterior wall. Support functions, which include the two libraries (audit and tax), computer room, word processing center, secretarial groups and extensive record files, are concentrated at the core. Tax and audit staff work stations also flank the core and are opposite the managers responsible for directing and evaluating their work.

Glass walls at both exterior and interior spaces create an illusion of depth and diminish the sense of isolation inherent in law and accounting offices. Views, often through several transparent layers, are offered to each interior space. An important visual intersection occurs at the reception area; there a glass walled conference room placed directly behind the reception area emphasizes a view of the downtown. Detailing and materials are elaborated

HONOR AWARD

Deloitte Haskins + Sells Des Moines, Iowa Brooks Borg and Skiles, Architects-Engineers

Owner: Deloitte Haskins + Sells, CPA **Photographer:** Farshid Assassi



along the two major axes of the plan, the entrance/reception foyer and the main circulation spine along which partners offices are grouped. The wood grid floating behind the glass office enclosures is intended to imply a sense of order and, along with the custom oak light columns, emphasizes the importance of the partner's contribution to the firm.

The majority of construction is accomplised through simple building standard metal stud and gypsum board partitions. The grid is consistently repeated in the oak wall panels in both the reception area and partners' offices, and through a red painted grid on the glass enclosure of interior spaces. Custom storage wall units, along both audit and tax circulation corridors, define the staff work stations and extend the concern for quality to areas often overlooked.





Jury Comments

Birkerts: This project goes beyond Post Modern and develops its own vocabulary. The materials are rich and honest - forms are not done in plaster. Column forms are not pretentious but simply do what must be done.

Riley: Effective use of red line on glass partitions to indicated accounting ledger sheet.

Simon: Project shows thought given to every detail. All in all, it is very complete.

HONOR AWARD

AID Insurance Services Eden Prairie, Minnesota Charles Herbert & Associates, Inc.

Owner: AID Insurance Services Photographer: Farshid Assassi



Program

A regional office building for an insurance company consisting of open office, private offices, conference rooms, lunch room, support functions and a drive-in claims facility. To be located on a sloping lot within an office park development bordering a lake and wildlife reserve.

Solution

The building form consists of three masses separated by two skylit galleries. The masses step down progressively in relation to the site. Partitioned spaces are zoned along the buildings south portion. The open office, lunch room, and roof terrace are oriented toward the view of the lake and wildlife reserve. A stepped garden terrace connects the upper and lower levels. The building and its natural surroundings compliment each other by being placed in direct opposition.





Jury Comments

Birkerts: Project is very clean looking. Clean all the way through with no surprises. You know that all intersections and details have been addressed.

Harper: Nice site planning concept. The parking lot median strips align with the entrances and bring people into the building.

Simon: Uses gable effectively as a device to step the building down the hill.







HONOR AWARD

Agri-Gamble Des Moines, Iowa Thomas Baldwin

Owner: Living History Farms **Photographer:** Farshid Assassi, Chris Conyers



G

Program

Living History Farms, a unique area located on rich agricultural land near Des Moines, Iowa, portrays the history and heritage of the family farm with museums, working farms, traditional crops and equipment, as well as a farm of the future.

Living History Farms came to the designers with the challenge to invent and develop a permanent exhibit that would teach the most easily grasped concepts of the risks of modern farming in a way that is fun so that visitors leave with an appreciation for today's farmer. The client also wished to portray a new image different from the hand-craft vocabelary extant at the farms. The exhibit was to be assembled in a newly completed earth

sheltered concrete dome, one of many 15 minute stops on a tram route.

Solution

To encourage active participation by all age groups and teach a lesson as well, the idea of a progressive game involving skill, luck, and risk seemed a natural. A game named appropriately "Agri-gamble" was designed as the vehicle and is comprised of several stations each exhibiting an aspect of farming risk and allowing pariticipants to play a "teaching machine" to deal with that risk. An arcade was selected as the context for the game as it suggests action and skill and would contain the different teaching machines. Classic arcade machines were rounded

up and reconditioned and all new art work designed to turn the long silent amusement games to their new use. Banners, billboards, and special lighting transform the little cavern of a building into a bright and lively space. To return the arcade to the farm images familiar to visitors and articulate the interior volume, the outline of a barnyard scene is traced in bright colored steel tubing set on checkered vinyl tiles and trimmed in neon. A whirring yellow windmill towers over the scene as friendly barnyard animals observe the gongs and bells ring good farm fortunes or buzz bad. Visitors tally their scores and see their farm future on special cards using electronic calculators at the final station.





Birkerts: I question as to whether this project has a category. I don't know if this is really architecture but rather stage set design.

Harper: I also question the project as architecture but it does define the space. The existing space is so mean to the exhibit. It almost seems that the exhibit is located in a storage space.

Riley: It is an exciting solution to explaining the risks of farming, almost a state fair atmosphere.









Program

A midwestern university library desired to improve the academic stature and architectural presence of its present facility. The library was converted from its original 1925 "closed stack" building to an "open stack" facility with additions in 1960 and 1966. The out-moded existing building needed to be master planned with the addition of 94,000 square feet for growth in special collections, archives, microforms and media. Also, new changes in library technology and automated bibliographic retrieval were envisioned as present and future needs. The location of the library in the center of campus deemed it to be the prime study area for students between classes. However, 20 years of collection growth had supplanted study areas for the expansion of the collection. The addition therefore, needed to correct the study space inadequacies and to up-date with current library technology.

Solution

The addition was sited to the south of the existing building to provide a terminus to a major campus mall where other campus buildings of similar scale were located. A secondary mall was developed to the east as a passive view space where large ex-

isting trees were used to contain and focus an interior atrium. The first floor contains the public service functions and a diagonal circulation linkage that reactivates the original building as an integral part of the library. The first floor also serves as the base of an atrium used as the primary orientation space, circulation space and passive view for study areas surrounding the four story atrium. The second floor houses the technical services and student study areas. The third floor provides study space and the administrative suite for the dean. The fourth floor is used exclusively for special collections and the mechanical system.

HONOR AWARD

Library Addition Iowa State University Ames, Iowa Charles Herbert & Associates, Inc.

Owner: Iowa State Board of Regents Iowa State University **Photographer:** Farshid Assassi





Jury Comments

Birkerts: Sensitive addition of relating to old building with the base, shaft and cornice. Transistion of new building and old made by effective use of glass.

Wilson: Nice try is appreciated but scale of openings is out of proportion with openings in original stone skin.

Riley: Edges of curtainwall very crisp and nice. I like the enclosure of the old building in the central atrium space.

Harper: Good sense of portal and entrance with views of old buildings through portal.







HONOR AWARD

Carver-Hawkeye Sports Arena University of Iowa Iowa City, Iowa The Durrant Group Inc. CRS Group Inc.

Owner: Iowa State Board of Regents **Photographer:** Balthazar Korab

Program

Arena with 13,200 fixed seats plus 2,000 movable seats, and floor area for practice and exhibition sports, with secondary use for university-wide convocations and cultural events.

Solution

This poetic, low-profile design blends harmoniously with the natural wooded surroundings, acts as a terminus for the west end of the University of Iowa campus, and symbolizes the strength and vitality of its varied athletic program. Shaped by the contours of a natural ravine, the arena seating is pushed deep into the site to minimize the extent of exterior walls and to take advantage of the natural earth insulation. Unobstructed views of the arena floor are possible from all seats under the $3\frac{1}{2}$ acre roof.

Since the arena is sunk into the bowlshaped ravine, the enormous building mass has been considerably reduced and gound level entrances bring visitors to the upper lip of the seating areas. Large vestibules are located at each entrance and help retain heat inside the building. A ground level public concourse encircles the entire seating arena facilitating traffic flow and providing a popular social gathering place.

The lower ring of 2000 seats is retractable so that the main floor area can be expanded to 20,000 square feet for basketball and volleyball practice, wrestling and tennis tournaments, and other massseating events.

Adjacent to the seating arena is the athletic office wing that comprises 60,000 square feet on four floor levels, and provides an array of support/administrative office space for the athletic program.



Jury Comments

Simon: The building has been done with a great deal of care; even the lighting and mechanical are integrated into the scheme.

Wilson: The human experience of entering the building is well done. Continuous transparency at the entrance level through the use of glass block invites people in.

Birkerts: Very effective use of the ravine to minimize the building form.







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Des Moines Architectural Council 1983 Community **Rewards Program**

The Des Moines Architectural Council presented its 1983 Community Rewards Program December 6th at Terrace Hill.

The purpose of this program is to recognize local individuals or organizations other than architects, who have "made outstanding contributions to the quality of the built environment".



Robert N. House

Robert Mickle

Selected for this year's honors are Robert Houser and Robert Mickle. Mr. Houser has provided leadership in community development as working president of the Des Moines Development Commission and as chairman and C.E.O. of Bankers Life. His company has demonstrated a strong commitment to the built environment.



Civic Center

Projects cited include the Convention Center, Civic Center, Century Center and a new proposed office building for Bankers Life. Mr. Mickle has been a leader in planning efforts associated with the rebirth of Des Moines' downtown. As Director of the Des Moines Planning and Zoning Department during its formative years. his efforts beyond his duties as director can be seen in every major downtown project. His latest contributions include Capitol Square, downtown landscaping and river front development, and the skywalk system.

Judges for the awards were Claudia Cackler of the Iowa Chapter AIA, Denise Caringer of Meredith Corporation and Kate Sullivan of WHO T.V.



Northeast Iowa Technical Institute Wins Design and **Energy Conservation Awards**

Distinguished honors were recently received by the school board, administration, staff and Durant Group Architects and Engineers of Dubuque from five separate national and state groups for building design and energy conservation in the new vocational/technical building in Dubuque, Iowa.

The new South Campus of Northeast Iowa Technical Institute at Dubuque, was completed initially during 1978; a sizable addition was occupied in 1982. The single roof "umbrella" brings together over 500 students and 17 programs of study that were previously housed in rented facilities throughout the Dubuque area.

The 1983 "Energy Conservation Award" presented this year by the Iowa Engineering Society is the fifth award garnered by the school. The South Campus building was also selected during 1981 by the American Association of School Administrators for its national "Walter Taylor Award" which considered the mechanical system and energy efficiency of the design as one of its judging criteria. In addition, the school was featured in American School and University magazine and was singled out as the national winner as the best of college architecture for 1981. The building won praise from the judges because of the Durrant Groups' energy efficient design. During 1980 the State of Iowa American Institute of Architects jury also selected the NITI school building for one of its Honor Awards. During 1982, the State of Iowa Energy Policy Council presented the school board with their Award of Excellence for Energy Conservation.



Northeast Iowa Technical Institute

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