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1993 DESIGNAWARDS



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Tenth Annual Review of Midwest Architecture

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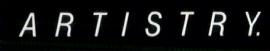
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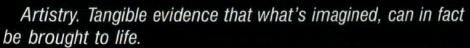
Cover

Central States Region Excellence Award winner Perishable Distributors of Iowa, Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunk Architecture, Des Moines. Photo by Farshid Assassi





ConAgra Corporate Complex—Omaha, NE Architect: Opus Corporation—Minneapolis, MN



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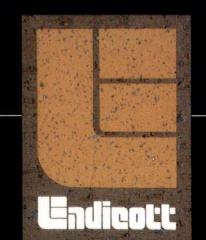
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The Garden in the Galleries

Claes Oldenburg and Coosje van Bruggen's colossal fountainsculpture Spoonbridge and Cherry and Siah Armajani's 375-footlong Irene Hixon Whitney Bridge are two artworks that have become landmarks in Minneapolis and helped attract more than 280,000 visitors to the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden last year. Through a new exhibition at the Walker Art Center, viewers will be invited to more fully appreciate the work of familiar Garden sculptors.

The Garden in the



Galleries, on view February 20-September 4, will present works by 18 artists whose sculptures are featured in the Minneapolis Sculpture Garden. By highlighting connections between artists' indoor and outdoor pieces, the exhibition will demonstrate how they maintain a consistent vision while adapting their work to different circumstances.

Artists represented

Among those represented in the exhibition are Kinji Akagawa, Deborah Butterfield, Mark

PAUL MANKINS, AIA

ARTS









di Suvero, Ellsworth Kelly, Martin Puryear, Richard Serra and Judith Shea. In addition to presenting work in a variety of media, including painting, drawing and video, as well as sculpture, the exhibition will feature maquettes and working drawings for Garden sculptures, providing visitors with insights into the evolution of those works.

Focus on the basics

A special focus of the exhibition will be on the basic elements of sculpture, including materials, scale, mass and three-dimensional form. The properties of various materials and the significance of artists' choice regarding them will be explored throught the work of American artists Butterfield and Puryear. The effects brought about through changes in scale will be examined through the work of architect Frank Gehry and Pop artist Oldenburg. The properties of mass and balance will be explored through the weighty constructions of Serra and the delicate kinetic sculptures and mobiles of Alexander Calder.

The Garden in the Galleries will also include a selection of works that address the human figure, both as subject and as a user of objects. Works by British sculptor Henry Moore and American artist Shea offer different interpretations of the human form, while artists such as Akagawa, Armajani, Scott Burton and Isamu Noguchi offer variations on functional objects such as benches, chairs, bridges and lamps.

Special programs

Like the inaugural exhibition "Inside, Outside," The Garden in the Galleries takes full advantage of the Walker's unique position as both a conventional museum and a sculpture park, revealing itself as a significant cultural asset for the Midwest.

Workshops for teachers and students are planned, including the creation of an







interactive sculptural learning space in the museum's Art Lab. Minnesota-based sculptor Steven Woodward has been commissioned to crea the installation.



Muscatine Residence

Scholtz-Gowey-Marolf Architects & Interior Designers of Davenport has recently completed the design of a new residence near Muscatine. Located on a bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, the site has a view 20 miles upriver to the east, eight miles downriver to the west, and ten miles across the river to the south. The house's design, oriented to take advantage of the view, is divided into three groups of gable-roofed forms suggested by the various groupings of buildings on neighboring farmsteads. Each form dentifies an internal function of living, entertaining, or sleeping space, and all are interconnected by a lat-roofed galleria. Construction is underway and completion is scheduled for the summer of 1994.

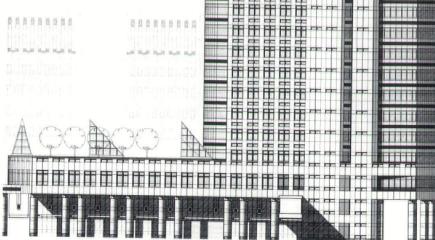


Office/Warehouse Facility

Construction has begun on the 15,000 square foot office/ warehouse facility for Intertrade Limited in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The facility, designed by OPN Architects, Inc., will be located in the River Ridge North Office Park. The design accentuates the sales area, administration area, and warehouse as three distinct elements unified through the use of common materials. The entry is highlighted by a wall supporting a translucent-panel skylight and suspended aluminum canopy.

EMC Expansion

Brooks Borg and Skiles Architects and Engineers has completed schematic design for a 425,000 square-foot expansion of EMC Insurance Companies in downtown Des Moines. Located adjacent to EMC's existing headquarters, the expansion consists of a 20-story office tower next to a three-story support facility. In addition, the project provides three new skywalks and two levels of underground parking. Construction of the estimated \$50 million building will commence in the fall of 1994.

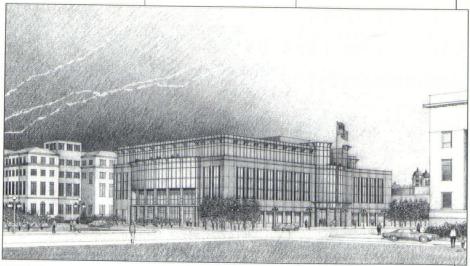


Federal Courthouse Annex

Construction has begun on the Federal Courthouse Annex in downtown Des Moines. The project was awarded through a design competition to Architects Wells Woodburn O'Neil.

The building's design was based upon opening a realm of discourse concerning the current thinking towards the symbolic, functional and experiential qualities of government buildings.

The discourse is based on dichotomies of mass and void, security and accessibility, their appropriate textures, connections and symbols, all based within the context of the Des Moines River and a historical district.



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Central States Region Jurors William McDonough, AIA William McDonough Architects Margaret Helfand Margaret Helfand Architects Kenneth Frampton, AIA Ware Professor of Architecture, Columbia University

AIA Iowa Jurors
Stephen Paul Badanes
Jersey Devil Architects
Edward Mazria, AIA
Mazria Associates
John Rahenkamp, FASLA
John Rahenkamp
Consultants

1993 design awards

From the summer floods across the Midwest to the materials which comprise our buildings, the various environments in which we live, work and play all left an indelible impression on our lives in 1993. As architects and designers, we are gaining a greater awareness of the impact we can have on the environment, and the ways in which the environment can impact both our buildings and our lives.

"Design and the Environment" was the theme around which both the Central States Region Convention and AIA Iowa Annual Convention revolved.

Historically, speakers at these conventions are asked to serve as jurors for the design awards programs which also take place during the conventions. Steven Paul Badanes, a founding principal of Jersey Devil Architects; Edward Mazria, AIA, Mazria Associates; Bob Berkebile, FAIA, BNIM Inc.; and John Rahenkamp, FASLA, John Rahhenkamp Consultants, Inc., were chosen to speak at the AIA Iowa Convention based on each person's career as an environmentally-conscious designer. All were invited

As architects and designers, we are gaining a greater awareness of the impact we can have on the environment, and the ways in which the environment can impact both our buildings and our lives.

to address the convention attendees and participate on the awards jury. With the exception of Berkebile, these jurors reviewed approximately 80 submissions from which they selected seven award recipients. Showcased on the following pages are those projects, two of which received honor awards, while five received merit awards.

Also showcased on the following pages are those projects which received awards from the Central States Region Design Awards Program. This year's jury consisted of William McDonough, AIA, William McDonough Architects; Margaret Helfand, Margaret Helfand Architects; and Kenneth Frampton, AIA, Ware Professor of Architecture, Columbia University. Iowa firms captured six of this year's eleven region awards. In light of the fact that both awards program jurors were chosen based on similar criteria, the outcome of each jury was not, by any means, overtly concerned with environmentally-responsive projects.

Congratulations are due not only to those individuals and firms receiving state awards, but to the entire architecture community of Iowa for its overwhelming success in the Central States Region Awards Program.

Todd Garner, AIA *Iowa Architect* Editorial Board

1993 AIA Iowa Design Awards Committee



EXCELLENCE AWARD

CORPORATE ENLIGHTENMENT

Perishable Distributors of Iowa

The awards jury praised Perishable Distributors of lowa, designed by Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck Architecture, Des Moines, for its "very sophisticated sense of order and imagination. Modest but expressive techtonic language ... they have managed to achieve a high degree of expression without any gratuitous elements. The use of natural light for a building like this is quite an accomplishment."

Perishable Distributors of Iowa (PDI), a regional wholesaler and distributor of perishable food products, was seeking to expand the office portion of its Ankeny-based distribution center. A key objective for the 14,000 square-foot addition was the clear expression of the company's highly progressive managerial style, notable for its openness, accessibility and encouragement of employee involvement. Further, the project was tightly constrained by PDI's demanding construction schedule and limited budget. The architects for the project, Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck Architecture, Des Moines, responded with an elegant and deftly-crafted construction which tangibly demonstrates PDI's commitment to its underlying corporate philosophy without sacrificing the pragmatic necessities of the company's budget and schedule.

The addition is structured around a central core of open-office workstations, situated beneath a broadly-sloping, clearstory roof monitor. Defined by an accessible network of finely-detailed office enclosures, the space is continually bathed in cool, diffuse sunlight emanating from the clearstory above. The atmosphere is cheerfully crisp, free-flowing and particularly accommodative to informal interaction among staff members.

Flanking either side of the central work area are blocks of support space: conference and seminar rooms, employee lockers and exercise area, staff lounge, file storage, and a limited number of private offices. Each area shares with the central work space an open, engaging personality, punctuated by a fine sophistication of detail, and illuminated in natural daylight.

Throughout the project, the architects skillfully exploit a familiar palette of industrial materials and metal decking, steel bar joists, components: exposed duct work and utilitarian light fixtures, each chosen in direct reference to the textural character and construction of the adjoining warehouse facility. What distinguishes this assemblage from its predecessor however, is the refined manner in which each component is introduced and placed within the overall composition. Overhead duct work purposefully marches across the ceiling plane, defining concisely ordered spacial bays. Exactlypositioned fluorescent light fixtures illuminate the disciplined rigor of the building's structural system. Each connection, column to beam, beam to joist, and joist to deck, has been carefully examined and consciously assembled. The resulting construction possesses the richly interwoven texture of a delicately-crafted tapestry.

The space is not, however, without its sense of wit. The extensive use of glass block suggests a

playful reference to the crystalline structure of iconot an entirely coincidental allusion to PDI's bus ness of refrigerated storage and distribution. For the receptionist desk at the addition entry, a splaye fiberboard enclosure mimics the planar character of the shipper's utilitarian cardboard packaging boxe. Elsewhere, a familiar yellow and black striped mot which ordinarily denotes the presence of hazardou conditions is appropriated to form a decorative comic atop freestanding partitions. The gesture is more that a clever graphic citation; it also emphasizes PDI commitment to a safe work environment.

What is perhaps surprising for such an astute ar artful work of architecture is its fiscal prudence: the project was completed on schedule and under burget. It is in this striking convergence of pragmat discipline and inspired imagination that PDI finits standing as an award-winning project.

Roger Lynn Spears lives in Raleigh, North Carolin and currently teaches architecture at North Caroli State University.

(Right) The receptionists's desk exploits a playful reference cardboard box construction.

(Below) The elegantly-detailed clearstory monitor bathes the central work space with diffuse natural light.



Project: Perishable
Distributors of Iowa
Location: Ankeny, Iowa
Completion Date: July 1993
Owner: Perishable
Distributors of Iowa
Architect: Herbert Lewis
Kruse Blunck Architecture,
Des Moines

Project Team: Principal-incharge-Cal Lewis, AIA; Project Architect-Will Worthington, AIA; Intern Architect- Scott Worth Structural Engineer: Charles

Structural Engineer: Charles Saul Engineering, Des Moines Civil Engineer: Bishop Engineering, Urbandale

Mechanical Consultant and Contractor: Taylor Industries,

Des Moines

Electrical Consultant and Contractor: Tesdale

Electrical, Ankeny **General Contractor:**

Taylor/Ball, Des Moines

Photographer: Farshid

Assassi, Assassi Productions

ROGER LYNN SPEARS, AIA



EXCELLENCE AWARD

ACT TWO Stage Center

A remodeling of a highly acclaimed theater in Oklahoma reinvents not only the architectural space, but the value and significance of the building to its community.

Project: Stage Center Location: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Owner: Arts Council of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Square Footage: 64,000

square feet

Total Cost: \$1,900,000 Architect: Elliott + Associates Architects.

Oklahoma City, OK

Project Team: Rand Elliott, AIA; David Foltz, AIA; Bill Yen, AIA; Eva Osborn, Assoc. AIA

Structural Engineer: Yordi, Smith, Pickel

Mechanical and Electrical Engineer: PSA Consulting

Engineers, Oklahoma City **Acoustical Consultant:**

Moody Coffman,

Oklahoma City **Theatrical Consultant:**

Ken Dresser **Landscape Consultant:**

Warren Edwards, Oklahoma City

Lighting Consultant: Paul Easlon, Hunzicker Lighting, Oklahoma City

Architectural Lighting:

Dan Mills

General Contractor: Yordi. Smith, Pickel, Oklahoma City Photographer: Bob Shimer, Hedrich Blessing, Chicago

ROBERT TIBBETTS

As a sophomore at Oklahoma State University in 1970, Rand Elliott was asked to select and analyze any recently completed building. For young Elliott there was no question: the Mummers Theater complex would serve as the topic of his assignment. The theater was the creation of architect John M. Johanson and completed that year amid controversy and international acclaim. Even then Elliott viewed the building as an inspired work and felt it his destiny to contribute to its success.

The theater was originally designed for the Mummers Theater Company, a regional theatrical group that enjoyed remarkable success during the late 1960s. However, the group did not have business skills sufficient to maintain the theater; it closed shortly after its opening. For the next 20 years the complex suffered through a history of brief, unsuccessful ventures, and then sat idle for several years. Eventually, plans for demolition brought the interest of the Oklahoma City Arts Council (OCAC).

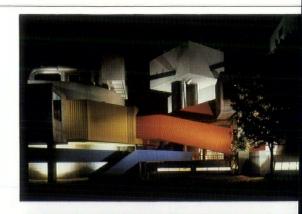
The complex was conceived as an electronic circuit consisting of three distinct pods: a thrust theater, arena theater and rehearsal hall. Each is linked by service corridors and elevated people tubes. The unconventional design was well received in many circles, but widely misunderstood and criticized locally. The complex' repeated failures and location in a transitional, semi-industrial area made demolition a near certainty.

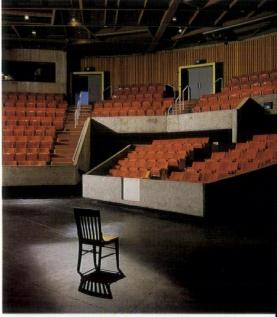
Despite the building's history, the OCAC undertook a four-year fund-raising program and sought to reinvent the complex as an expanded-use facility. Stage Center is now primarily a center for arts and community activities, but also supplements the city's nearby convention center and serves as an art gallery, a site for business seminars, and a setting for

small private and public gatherings.

Working with Johanson, Elliott set about to transform the complex while maintaining the original character. The primary concern was to update the building's mechanical systems to meet current codes. As originally designed, the building had one service zone, was virtually uninsulated and, as a result, was prohibitively expensive to operate. Today the complex has 27 separate service zones, an array of sophisticated HVAC systems, and has been thoroughly insulated, all of which combined to drastically reduce operational costs.

The original connecting people tubes were by today's standards an ADA nightmare. Extensive renovation was required in order to make the complex accessible and increase circulation. The rehearsal hall was changed into a small public space dubbed the Cabaret. The Cabaret is now a social gathering





(Top) The Mummer Theatre complex is a composition of scu tural elements that come to life at night with new lighting.

(Above) The Thrust Stage is one of the three distinctive pods comprising the electronic circuit concept.

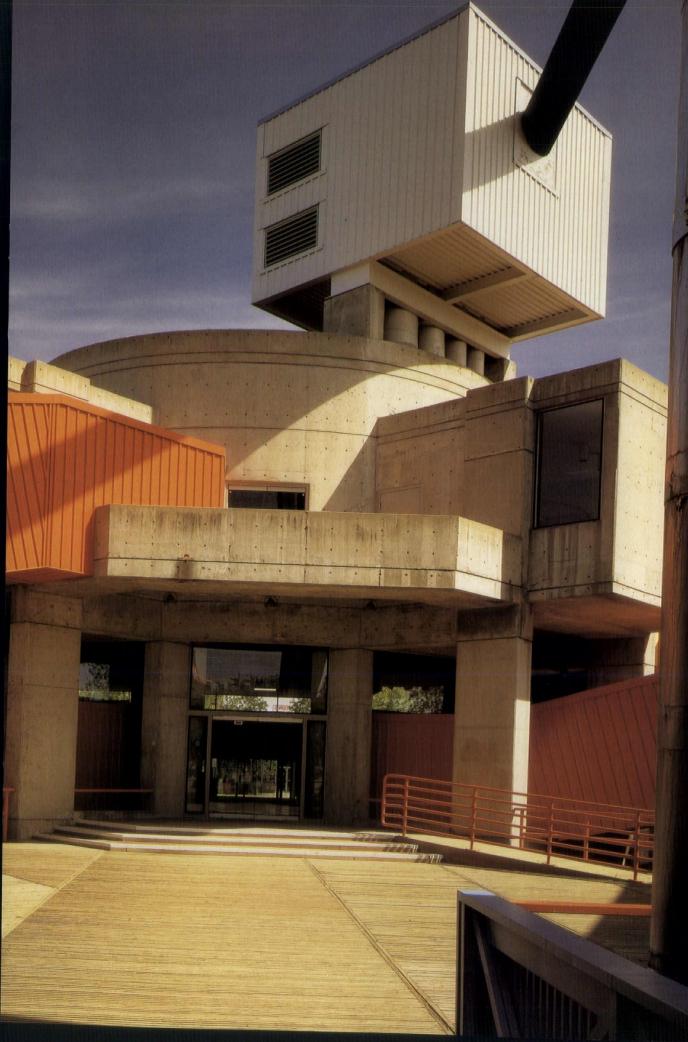
(Right) The Cabaret, with lobby and concession functions, lie to the theater complex through connecting people tubes.

place used prior to and after performances. With its v bar and catering kitchen, the skylit Cabaret is an id space for small public gatherings and private parties

On the exterior, the complex was kept as close its original appearance as possible. ADA renovat required some alteration, but for the most part inventive design remains intact. The most sign cant change on the exterior is dramatic lighting t accentuates the building's energetic, sculptu elements, while improving security through the complex.

Stage Center's new multi-use versatility r finally lead to sustained success. Local groups gradually discovering the utility and unique bea of this complex, and in time may regard St Center as one of the city's most treasured place That Stage Center is even in a position to pros and contribute significantly to Oklahoma Ci social and cultural environment is a tribute to vision of the city's arts council, the determinate and skill of Elliott, and Johanson's patient inspirat

Robert Tibbetts writes frequently on art and arch ture from his home in Oakland, California.



THE COOL DIP

Maryville Aquatic Center

quatic center layfulness, ad solid design to imming pool for Since at least WPA days, the local swimming pool has been a cool respite from oppressive summertime heat and humidity. The Maryville Aquatic Center opened last spring, and despite the summer's cataclysmic weather, exceeded attendance expectations while being open for less than half of the traditional May Day to Labor Day season.

The success of the aquatic center was unexpected and is no doubt the result of sound planning and colorful design. The facility is the centerpiece of an established city park, intended to serve as a family center for Maryville and surrounding communities. The aquatic center effectively complements a sheltered picnic area, softball fields and volleyball courts, and is the park's most colorful attraction. While last summer's successful results may or may not be indicative of the park's eventual popularity, they are very encouraging.

Designed by Shaughnessy Fickel and Scott Architects, the aquatic center is an updated version of the traditional public swimming pool and a more relaxing alternative to burgeoning water-slide parks. The aquatic center is made up of traditional elements (bathhouse/concession building, wading pool, shallow end, deep end and diving boards) but differs significantly in execution.

The focus of the designer's attention was on the complex of buildings that include the bath house, filter room, life guard office and clock tower. Like theme parks, arcades and movie theaters, the structure creates a suitably playful character and establishes in no uncertain terms that this is entertainment architecture. The exposed, sloping aluminum roof

seems to float above the changing rooms, showers concession area on the pool side. On the outside facility uses far less gregarious coloration.

The anchor of the complex is the guard's of and clock tower. Pipe railings, awnings and bund massing give the structure a strong sense of nau design and solidity. The bright yellow and aquarine paint accentuate the facility's energenvironment, and a trellised arcade runs the left of the bath house and provides space for a strest. Visually, the trellis adds to the facility's temposition and ties the entire complex together

The pool itself also differs from traditional portion of the pool itself also differs from traditional portions are also a sophistic surge pump that separates the shallow from deep end and calms the water surface. Children's area has a zero depth pool (artificial shallow), whimsical water fountains and plenty comfortable seating for parents.

Providing that 1994 will not be the year of locust or other such natural catastrophes, Maryville Aquatic Center should enjoy its first summer. Prayers around the guard house are flong, lazy, hot and humid season, and the kin mindless, splashing fun that is a midwes birthright. But remember, no running, and no sw ming for half an hour after you eat.

Robert Tibbetts is a frequent writer on art and a tecture living in Oakland, California.

(Below) The guard house and clock tower anchor the comp with massing and details that recall images of ocean vess

Maryville Aquatic

Maryville, Missouri Naryville Parks and n

ootage: 8,875 -15,000 - pool ;ost: \$1,900,000 : Shaughnessy Fickel t Architects, Inc., ity, MO al Engineer: Kerr

Graham Associates
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ng Engineers

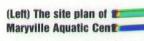
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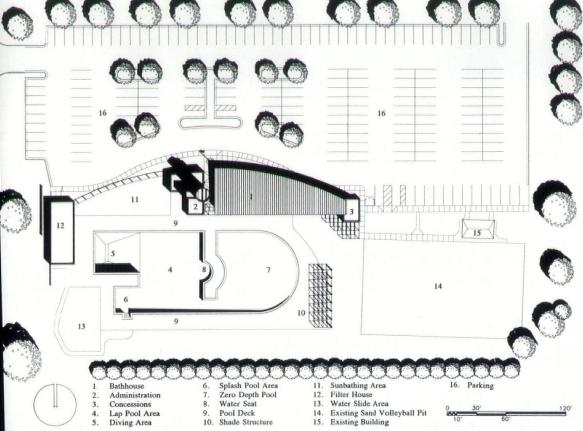
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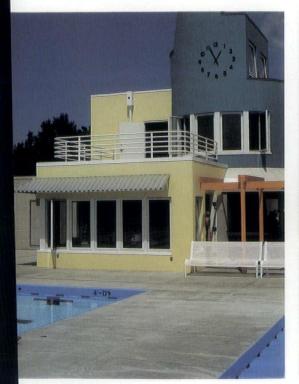
ROBERT TIBBETTS

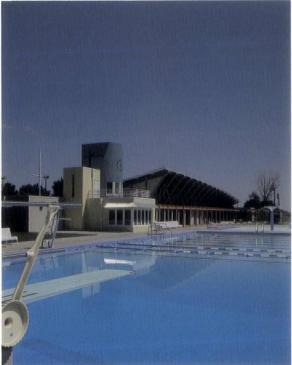






9. Pool Deck 10. Shade Structure





(Far left) The aquatic center's complex of buildings respond with playfullness to the traditional public pool elements.

(Left) A view of the swimming pool from the diving boards.

CENTRAL STATES REGION

EXCELLENCE AWARD

FOREST AVENUE LIBRARY

Des Moines, Iowa

Owner: Des Moines Public

Library

Architect: Baldwin Clause Architects, Des Moines **Structural Engineer:** Charles

Saul, P.E.

General Contractor: Taylor/Ball **Mechanical Contractor:** Waldinger Corporation

Electrical Contractor:

ABC Electric

Photographer: Farshid Assassi

Previously appeared in Winter 1992 Iowa Architect.



CENTRAL STATES REGION

MEN'T AWARD

IOWA TELEPRODUCTION CENTER

Des Moines, Iowa

Project: Iowa Teleproduction Center

Owner: Iowa Teleproduction

Center

Architect: Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck Architecture,

Des Moines

Structural Engineer: Gerald Katzmann

General Contractor: Pace

Company, Inc. **Photographer:** King Au/Studio AU

Previously appeared in the Winter 1992 lowa Architect.



CENTRAL STATES REGION

MERIT AWAR

PULMONARY MEDICINE, P.C.

Des Moines, Iowa

Project: Pulmonary Medicine, P.C.

Dwner: Dr. Stephen Zorn **Irchitect:** Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck Architecture,

es Moines

tructural Engineer:

tructural Consultants, P.C. Techanical/Electrical ngineer: Mosher

ngineering Company eneral Contractor:

ig Boy's Construction hotographer: Farshid

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reviously appeared in Winter 992 Iowa Architect.





CENTRAL STATES REGION

DETAILS OF DISTINCTION

MERIT AWARD

Dject: Whitfield Handrail
chitect: Todd Garner, AIA,
rbert Lewis Kruse Blunck
chitecture, Des Moines
ner: Whitfield & Eddy,
s Moines, Iowa
uctural Engineer:
uctural Consultants, P.C.
btographer: Farshid

WHITFIELD HANDRAIL

Des Moines, Iowa



CENTRAL STATES REGION

EXCELLENCE IN ARCHITECTURAL

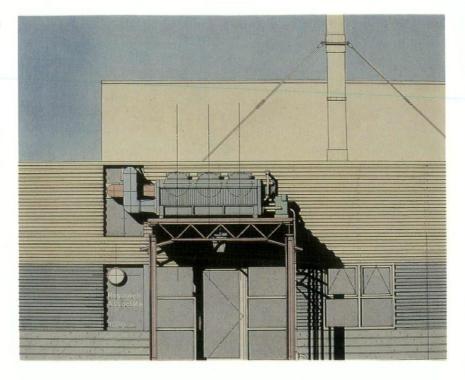
DRAWING AWARD

OAKDALE CANOPY

University of Iowa, Iowa City

Architect: Roger Spears, AIA, Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck Architecture, Des Moines **Owner:** University of Iowa,

Iowa City



CENTRAL STATES REGION

DRAWING AWARD

McCormick Place Expansion

Design Competition, Chicago, Illinois

Architect: Steve Parker, Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, Inc., St. Louis Owner: Metropolitan Pier & Exposition Authority, Chicago



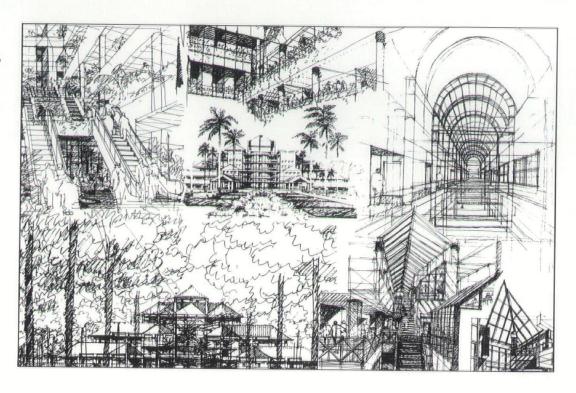
CENTRAL STATES REGION

MERIT IN ARCHITECTURAL

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Brain Institute

rchitect: Richard Olson, verdrup Corporation wner: University of Florida, acksonville, FL



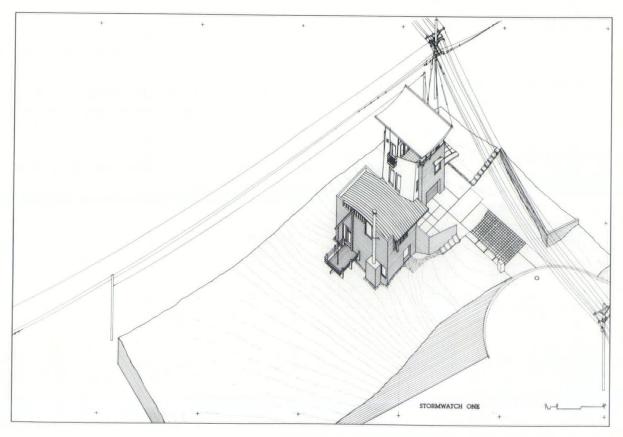
CENTRAL STATES REGION

TERTI IN ARCHITECTUR

DRAWING AWARD

hitect: Wendy Ornelas, Condia Ornelas ociates, Kansas City

STORMWATCH ONE



HONOR AWARD

RETURN TO SANITY

Seerley Hall, University of Northern Iowa

With major renovation and restoration, Seerley Hall on UNI's campus has regained its splendor by returning to a sane plan respectful of the prime directive.

Project: Seerley Hall Renovation, University of Northern Iowa

Location: Cedar Falls, Iowa **Owner:** University of Northern Iowa, State Board of Regents

Completion Date: March 1993 Architect: Thorson Brom Broshar Snyder Architects, Waterloo, Iowa

Project Team: Robert Broshar, FAIA; Michael Broshar, AIA; Jon Harvey

Structural Engineer:Bossenberger Associates,
Ames

Mechanical/Electrical Engineer: Gilmor & Doyle, Ltd., Waterloo

Contractor: Prairie
Construction, Waterloo
Mural Restoration: Upper
Midwest Conservation
Association, Minneapolis
Photographer: Koyama
Photographic

MARK BLUNCK

Corporate and educational buildings often suffer more indignities and seem to be the most altered structures in existence. Over the course of several decades, the original program is frequently transformed and the end result is a conglomeration of disparate functions under a single roof.

On the University of Northern Iowa campus in Cedar Falls, Iowa, stands such a building. Constructed in 1908 as the library, Seerley Hall is a brick structure that exudes a quality of elegance inherent in its style. In the mid-1960s, a remodeling converted the library into the business school, and its Great Reading Room was subdivided into lecture halls. A magnificent mural was taken down and put in storage. The serene symmetry of the exterior was annihilated by a projected stair tower at the northwest corner. Throughout the years, more remodeling continued to clutter circulation paths, but finally in 1991, Thorson Brom Broshar Snyder Architects began the renovation and restoration of this campus building.

The east exterior wall features a procession of arched windows separated by vertical Indiana limestone elements that also appear on other facades. This contrasts with the red-face brick and the low elongated roof. A new stair tower was added to the southwest corner and the older tower was reworked to match this new construction. Balance has now been restored to the building. This necessary evil propagated by the first alteration has significantly changed the character of the building and is an example of faulty decision-making prior to the first tower.

Interior renovation was extensive and has returned the former library back to a stately grandeur inherent in the original program. To simplify circulation, a second stair was reconstructed, enabling a symmetrical access between the lobby and the Great Reading Room. This splendid room that spatially dominated the interior features new lighting, windows and woodwork that closely match-



es original construction details. Two small murals it the Reading Room were refurbished and the enomous 12 foot by 86 foot mural on the west wall we restored and reinstalled. The meticulous restoration of this room is apparent with the ceiling sections and murals hovering above the period chairs and tables.

The lobby was restored along with auditorium on either side of the Reading Room. The same intreate care employed in the large room was carried or in other spaces. Seminar and class rooms have becreated in appropriately-sized areas on the first threfloors. The fourth level now houses offices for History Department faculty.

This type of work on such a large building is daunting task for a design firm. When a structure here been carelessly altered many times, this effort restore sanity becomes even more difficult. In the case, symmetry was only accomplished by adding element identical to the one that upset the balan in the first place. The interior restoration, which the important quality sought by the user, has be beautifully achieved with appropriate materia. Now that the building has been returned to former stature, students and faculty may enjoy it much as the first occupants so long ago.

Mark Blunck frequently writes for Iowa Architect.

(Below left) Limestone and brick surround arched windows the east wall and throw shadows and light into the Great Reading Room.

(Below) The identical stair towers resemble the initial brick and stone, but clearly impact on the integrity of the original building.

(Right) The Great Reading Room is the showpiece of the interior with its restored murals and detailed ceiling.





HONOR AWARD

DECO ON DISPLAY

The Principal Financial Group Auditorium Renovation

Inside an important building is a new auditorium reflecting the exuberance of the Deco and Streamlined periods with shapes, materials and colors from the era.

(Right) An overall shot depicts the use of rich materials and design clues to create an impressive corporate image.

Project: The Principal Financial Group Auditorium Renovation

Location: Des Moines Completion: April 1991 Owner: Principal Mutual Life Insurance Company Architect: RDG Bussard Dikis, Des Moines Project Team: Project Director - Dave Duimstra, AIA; Project Architect/

Designer - Paul Klein, AIA; Project Designer - Jeff Schaub **Structural Engineer:** Jim

Wilson, Des Moines

Mechanical/Electrical

Engineer: Brooks Borg &

Skiles. Des Moines

Acoustical Consultant:

Coffeen-Fricke & Associates, Lenexa, Kansas

Lighting Consultant: Imero Fiorentina Associates,

New York City, NY General Contractor:

Taylor/Ball, Des Moines Other Contractors: Baker Mechanical; Brown

Brothers Electric

Photographer: King Au

rilotographici. King At



On High Street in downtown Des Moines stands a landmark building now owned by The Principal Financial Group. Upon its completion in 1939, this restrained Art Deco structure was a technical and structural showcase. The exterior is replete with vertical elements associated with the Deco style but fortunately lacks the chevrons and ziggarats often associated with this design type. This is due to the influence of the Streamlined aesthetic which flourished in the mid- to late-1930s when all added ornamentation was excluded.

In 1991, RDG Bussard Dikis completed construction of a new corporate auditorium within a 'found' space once occupied by a gymnasium and stripped auditorium, both fallen into disuse. The new space is an elegant and impressive exercise in utilizing design clues from other parts of the building with a combination of using rich materials of the Deco period and shapes from the later Streamlined era.

The original space had a flat floor and high stage area that made executives feel as if they were on display when making presentations. To eliminate this "human as object" sensation, the stage was lowered and a sloping floor was built on steel studs, metal deck and concrete. A new proscenium arch designed from the original with expressive fluting provides a dramatic frame for the stage.

The most sumptuous forms, however, are the

beautiful radius curved wall sections on each side the room. The streamlined panels of African ribbo mahogany and brass trim recall both the materials Deco and the shapes of later thirties design. T polished mahogany also appears on all setbacks at a curved section enclosing the projection room. So upholstery is a teal shade with a very subtle oran pattern that contrasts nicely with the wood and brattrim and is an appropriate color for the era. Invert triangular sconces thrust light upward, emphasizi the white curvilinear upper acoustical wall pan separated from the hardwood with deep gre bands. Neon cove lighting reiterates the rad curves of the walls and borders a perforated me ceiling deck concealing gypsum board.

The lobby for this exquisite auditorium conta elements equally important to the ambience of the building. The new design recreates the externation entrance lost to previous building expansion a features a large bas-relief sculpture that had been storage since the mid-1950s. This former external work is a superb design resembling WPA multiple with perfectly-formed bodies engaged in activity

Tan travertine marble and green granite mat ing the exterior stonework is used in the new lob In keeping with the thirties period are broadlings with three curved rails in each section to match balustrades in other parts of the buildi

MARK BLUNCK







A "before" shot showing the flat floor, high stage and look of the old space.

lle) The original bas-relief sculpture was 'thinned' by a stonecutter and installed in the new lobby entrance.

m) The mahogany walls signify pure elegance with trim. Seat shells are built with the same hardwood and asting upholstery.



This three line motif was often employed as the only acceptable ornamentation of the time and has been coined "the cult of the trinity."

Vertical features in the lobby include what appears to be an oversized wall sconce completely out of scale for its location. This is actually the back wall of the projection and control room. Graceful semi-circular stairs with bronze railings have been added to provide access from the skywalk to the lobby area. Deco-inspired bronze upright lamps appearing at stairway landings complete an extraordinary juxtaposition of metal against stonework.

The construction of this new corporate auditorium by The Principal and RDG Bussard Dikis illustrates a success only possible when a client is willing to do things right. A streamlined auditorium as splendid as the work of Donald Deskey and other designers represents both a 1920s and 1930s aesthetic with material and form reminiscent of both decades.

Mark Blunck lives in Oakland, California, and frequently writes articles on architecture and film.



(Left) An intricate bronzeraling and lamp are brillintly contrasted agains stone and a color schemed denoting pure luxury.

(Above) A handicappedaccessible passage was **through** an old boiler roomand and is lit by a zig-zag neolight.

MERIT AWARD

A GOOD PLACE

West Bend Elementary School

An addition to an early ninteenth century school building retains the architectural integrity and spirit of the original structure, while adding necessary elements to accomodate a growing school population.



(Right) The addition addresses the dignity and symmetry of the original 1916 school.

Project: West Bend
Elementary School Addition
Location: West Bend, Iowa
Owner: West Bend-Mallard
Community School District
Architect: Allers Associates
Architects, P.C., Fort Dodge, IA
Design Team: Terry Allers,
AIA; Designer - Randall
Milbraith (Assoc. AIA at
the time)

Structural Engineer: Allers Associates Architects, P.C. Mechanical and Electrical Engineer: Dale Schnackel Company, Omaha, Nebraska Contractor: Sande Construction and Supply Company, Humboldt, Iowa Civil Engineer: McClure Engineering Company P.C.,

Fort Dodge, Iowa Heating and Plumbing Contractor: Drees Heating and Plumbing, Carroll, Iowa

Electrical Construction: Packard Electric, Belmond, Iowa

Photographer:

Terry Allers, AIA

The important places that bind small town America are few: Main Street, church, post office, diner and tavern. More often than not, however, the public school is the anchor of such towns. It is where everyone spends 13 of their first 18 years, learning the golden rule and "three Rs." The gymnasium is where you vote, cheer for the home team and applaud grade-school pageants. In the cafeteria, the volunteer fire department holds fund-raising suppers, and the marching band sponsors ice cream socials. The schoolyard is where fist fights erupt, friendships are forged and young people first fall in love. The small town school is where the most important events in your life take place, and the

In West Bend, Iowa, the school house sits prominently on a rise at the end of main street. Originally built in 1916, the school was typical for its time: bold massing, earthen brick and limestone trim. In 1957, the dignity and symmetry of the building was marred with the introduction of a boxy, buff-colored gymnasium. The building, though, is impeccably maintained and has gracefully endured.

source of immense pride.

A sharp rise in birthrates in recent years required additional space; according to architect Terry Allers, the people of West Bend were very concerned and enthusiastic about the eventual design. Allers' firm had conducted a masonry restoration on the school some years earlier and saw the addition as an opportunity to extend the influence of the original building and mitigate the presence of the 1957 gymnasium.

The addition provides classroom space for grades K-4, administration offices, a media center and gym-

nasium lobby. Designers were able to reemphas the prominence of the 1916 structure by creating broad, symmetrical mass which is bisected by assertive new entrance. The horizontal for enhances the bold massing of the original structure and diminishes the imposition of the gymnasic block. Detailing and coloration were respectful adopted from the original building and give overall appearance a vivid sense of continuity.

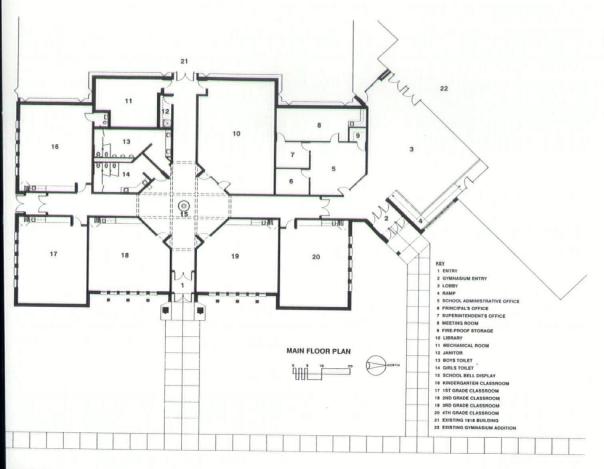
The emphasis on the interior design was to on nize circulation and increase natural light. Circulat was improved through the introduction of an octanal rotunda, off of which the building's main corrice extend. The rotunda is naturally lit through gener clerestory windows and is one of the school's mapopular spaces. Another focus of the interior is intersection of the addition and the original building entrance. Allers has made the 1916 stone work a felement, which like the rotunda, marks the spin the building's main corridor with a strong sense tradition and permanence.

West Bend Elementary School is simple, dura and attractive. The transition between the old new is seamless and unpretentious, and the chater, dignity and purpose of the original buildin intact. Generations of children will continue rattle doors and teachers' nerves, and learn who tare and how to survive with integrity. In a twhen the efficacy of public education is being q tioned in cities throughout the nation, the certa of this simple, small-town fact is warmly reassur

Robert Tibbetts is a one-time resident of Iowa currently living in Oakland, California.

24 Iowa Architect No 93:208

ROBERT TIBBETTS



(Left) Plan of the addition to the school.



(Left) The rotunda helped improve circulation, and is one of the school's most popular spaces.

FIREHOUSE FACELIFT

Dr. Jeffrey Carithers' Office

A delightful turn-of-thecentury fire station begins a new life with a facelift for a doctor involved in human reconstruction.

Over the past few decades, older buildings that no longer serve their original purpose have been adapted to new uses. In large cities, abandoned warehouses have been converted to striking live/work lofts commanding prices comparable to single-family housing. On a much smaller scale, diminutive structures have been renovated for use as residences and office space for all types of businesses.

One such project is the office of Dr. Jeffrey Carithers, housed in an elegant city fire station constructed in 1901. This two-story late Gothic Revivalstyle building, enclosing a mere 1250 square feet, has been renovated by Shiffler Associates Architects. A north addition of 634 square feet was also part of the project to provide space for exam rooms, consulting and office functions.

The architects faced a difficult decision. Program for the original building was too large to squeeze into the existing structure. Yet to add on to the building would require appropriate homage to the much beloved street facade. That dilemma ultimately provided Shiffler Associates the concept they needed.

The street elevation of the addition was designed as a background facade. Its purpose was to match in spirit, not detail, the original building. Once around the corner and no longer in view of the front, the addition grows more playful. Exaggerated historic elements combine with the fire station's horizontal brick banding to create an addition that is both rooted in the past but looking to the future.

Exterior restoration consisted of new wood-frame windows, brick replacement and tuck-pointing. The prominent arched door that has seen both horsedrawn and motorized fire pumpers was reconstructed as a fixed window for the lobby. The brickwork at street elevation provides a contextual link to the addition as rows of indented brick reveals radiate from the window and are expressed on the three sides of the addition. A visual connection is thereby established even though a cursory glance will differentiate between the two structures.

Color and design clues from the original building further connect the two spaces to one another. The rich reddish-brown base brick is carefully matched and the addition is clad in a brick similar to the side and back of the old firehouse. Original tan brick at streetside provides a pleasing and subtle contrast to the addition with its various angles and corner details.

The lobby has two historical features with the original firepole in place and an arched stained glass window, found in storage, now positioned above the reception counter. The former exterior brick wall of the firehouse is an interior wall created by the addition and a linking corridor. This brick is visible on

both levels and provides a historical union between the two buildings. Interior furnishings and patter employed in the lobby, decorated by Interi Concepts, evoke an early 1900s ambiance, carri throughout the interior renovation.

This project is an excellent example of t importance in utilizing existing architecture who feasible. Despite difficulty in matching origin materials the overall effect imparted is one of fine detailed work. When clients and architects emba on this project type, not only are resources efficien ly used, but neighborhoods are able to retain t architectural diversity that makes them a joy behold.

Mark E. Blunck lives in Oakland, California, a frequently writes articles on architecture and film.

(Above) The north side of the addition employs elements tha compliment the original structure, or as with the projected window, contrast with the character of the composition.

(Right) The light brickwork on the old structure contrasts with addition. A Palladian-style door is now a fixed window with smaller adjacent forms. Glass block insets provide symmetry the addition's upper level.

Project: Dr. Jeffrey Carithers' Office Building, Des Moines Location: Des Moines, Iowa **Completion Date:**

November 1990

Owner: Dr. Jeffrey S. Carithers Architect: Shiffler Associates, Architects, Des Moines Project Architect: Russell Bitterman, AIA

Consultant: Dennis Magnani Structural Consultant,

Des Moines Contractors: Graham Construction Company,

Des Moines Photographer: Farshid

Assassi

MARK BLUNCK



MERIT AWARD

SPARE POETICS

B.A.D. Productions Studio

In creating a modest office and studio space for a Des Moines video producer, Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck Architecture has exposed the powerfully poetic virtues of an architecture explored at its experiential roots.

(Opposite page) Materials are common to promote an endeavor for the roots of architectural expression.

(Right) The larger room for public gatherings is sparse in appearance, but rich in architectural substance.

(Far right) A floor plan details the studio.

Project: B.A.D. Production Studio

Location: Des Moines, Iowa **Owner:** Beverly Ann Davis

Completion: 1991 Budget: \$15,000

Architect: Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck Architecture, Des Moines

Contractor: Pat M. Fisher, PMF Investments,

Des Moines, Iowa Photographer: King Au,

Studio Au

ROGER LYNN SPEARS, AIA

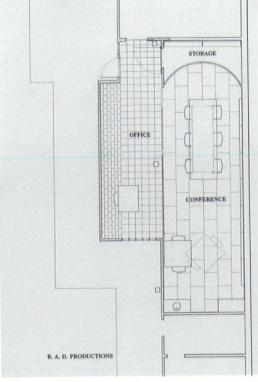


There is a seductive allure to an architecture of absolute spareness. It is a cool, dispassionate poetry in search of experience at its most elemental core. It is an art ultimately concerned not so much with conception as distillation.

"Minimalism" is perhaps not nearly succinct enough a term for this instinctual examination of architecture's essence. The endeavor intends far more than mere economy of expression. It intends to lay bare the undiluted substance of architecture squarely at its roots.

As such, the office and studio space for a writer, producer and community activist seems an unlikely venue for so cerebral an investigation. This humble setting, crafted by Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck Architecture, would, at first glance, appear too shallow a canvas for such depth of expression. Yet it is precisely this narrowness of intent which offers its architect a concisely-framed context for the exploration of architecture's most fundamental instincts.

The programmatic brief for B.A.D Productions was, itself, expressly minimalist. The client, Des Moines producer Beverly Ann Davis, requested a space which reflected only her manner of work: long hours laboriously logged astride one or more computer terminals, a space for theatrically-charged presentations before her astute but impressionable clientele, room for casual interludes among the company of friends and associates, and a comforting place disposed to moments of quiet contemplation



and introspection. She required flexibility atmosphere and a physical setting discrete removed from the distractions of day-to-day metown Des Moines.

Located in a turn-of-the-century brick warehou just west of Des Moines' central business districted studio is constructed within a windowle second story lease space. Both setting and prograsuggest a workplace consciously focused inwarpon itself.

The studio is composed of two flanking, lin volumes, the larger concerned with the business gathering (meeting, presenting, conversing), and smaller attendant to the needs of an individual work alone. Massive ten-foot-high oak and che doors, selected from the building owner's collect of architectural salvage, were appropriated to cre a "movable" wall between the adjoining spaces.

The spaces share, above all else, a deliber spareness. The palate is monochromatic. The mat als, (raw metal, gypsum, particleboard and quarry though elegantly placed, are intentionally comm. Furnishings are limited to three custom-desig work tables perched on rolling casters. Any gest that might mediate direct experience of the architure itself is scrupulously expunged.

As a consequence, the spacial experience of studio transcends the narrow limitations defined its intended use. The elongated, apsidal form of conference room assumes a near reverent stat evoking a sallow remembrance of mythic, say places. The room's brusque, metallic appointment a presentation shelf, work counter and lavat acquire the aura of ritualized vestments. In efficiency the space transports the small, unpretentious nesities of work to a realm of much loftier contention. For B.A.D. Productions, it is this mergin the utilitarian with the spiritual, the prosaic with poetic, that so persuasively justifies an architect of absolute spareness.

Roger Lynn Spears lives in North Carolina and w on an occasional basis for Iowa Architect.



ALA LOW

MERIT AWARD

KRUSE/BERG KRUSE RESIDENCE

Des Moines, Iowa

Project: Kruse/Berg Kruse Residence

Location: Des Moines, Iowa Architect: Herbert Lewis Kruse Blunck Architecture; Rod Kruse/Jan Berg Kruse, Des Moines

Structural Engineer: Charles

Saul Engineering

General Contractor: Eggers Construction Services

Photographer: Farshid Assassi

Previously appeared in Winter 1992 and Spring 1993 Iowa Architect.



AIA IOWA

MERIT AWARD

SCHWARTZ RESIDENCE

Parkersburg, Iowa

Owner: Richard and Linda

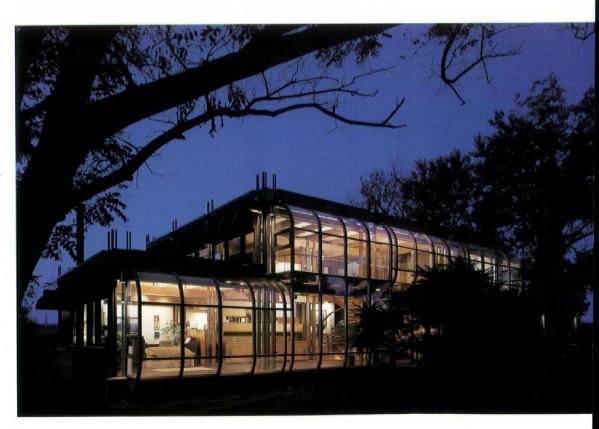
Schwartz

Location: Parkersburg, lowa **Architect:** David A. Block

AIA, Ames, IA

Contractor: Hosch-Abbas Construction, Aplington **Photographer:** King Au

Previously appeared in May/June 1986 Iowa Architect.



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Playback is a series of wood frame chairs with a selection of nine interchangeable wood back designs and one upholstered back. These options offer the flexibility for use in a variety of environments. Available in arm and armless versions in fabric, leather, and vinyl. Wood finish selections are natural, mahogany, pear, honey and ebony stains on beech.

ROBERT A. NOVAK, AIA

DesignDigest







The Pyramid Nevins International 713.681.4274

An inverted pyramidal form is juxtaposed with a slender steel rod base to form a planter which gracefully hovers above the floor. The Pyramid is available in a variety of sizes and heights as well as metal and wood finishes.

TABLA Italiana Luce 203.378.4000

TABLA pays homage to perfect geometric harmony by utilizing four distinctive shapes: the cone (base), the curve (arm), the line (arm) and the circle (shade). The jointed

Corona Zelco Industries Inc. 914.699.6230

Designer L. Porcelli took his inspiration from various cultures, such as the crafts exercised by the Shakers, the Japanese image and Italian design. The Corona floor lamp, in iron and aluminum with a shield of rice paper, is included in the permanent collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York.



arm rotates 360 degree is adjustable and can b positioned in all directions. The finish heat-resistant black.

TABLA won 1993 Roscoe Design Award for Best Lighting Desig and Product of the Yes

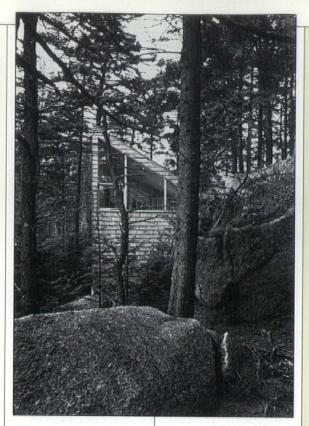
Journal

rnacular Design Inored

enowned for the simple eauty of its structure d the elegance of its an, the Haystack ountain School of afts, designed by Iward Larrabee Barnes, AIA, has been selectby The American stitute of Architects to eive its 1994 Twentyve Year Award. The mplex provided an ly and profound ample of the fruitful d liberating fusion of macular building ditions with the ratio-

aster and Architecture

nceton Press has
eased Pamphlet Archiure #15: War and
hitecture, a timely and
ving response by
hitect Lebbeus
ods to the bombing
Barajevo. With text
both English and
batian, accompanied
the author's exquisy drawn, hauntingly
utiful proposals, the



nality and discipline of Modern architecture.

Located on a spectacular sloping site on the Maine coast, the summer school for artisans and craftspeople is a village-like collection of shingled workshops, dormitories and communal structures sharing simple geometric forms. The entire project is set on piers several feet above ground so the decks and

structures seem to float above the rocky slope. The modest barn-like buildings cost only \$5 per square foot when they were built in 1962.

Haystack represents a significant milestone in American architecture. Designed when many architects were moving to elaborate sculptural forms, Barnes made a strong statement with the grace and refinement of his Haystack.



book is both dedicated and addressed to the citizens of this ravished city.

In *Pamphlet #15*, Woods identifies the two predominant

patterns for rebuilding cities following catastrophic destruction: restoring the city exactly to its previous "historical" state, or "erasing" the remains of

lowa Architect Receives Awards

Iowa Architect magazine has been named recipient of two Gold Medals in the American Society of Association Executives' Gold Circle Awards as "Best Magazine" and "Most Improved Magazine/ Journal." The Gold Circle Awards are a national communication competition that recognize the most creative and professional publications and public relations projects by associations, as chosen by a panel of peer judges. Iowa Architect was judged on objectives, mission statement, target audience, budget and results as best in its section (associations with budgets under \$2 million).

The award for "Best Magazine" was given to recognize the best association magazine published at least quarterly. "Most Improved Magazine/ Journal" was awarded for the association magazine or journal that has shown the most significant improvement in the same format during the same year. *Iowa Architect* underwent a design renovation in 1992 by Mauck+Associates of Des Moines.

ASAE is a professional society of the nation's association executives. Trophies were presented December 5 in New York City at the ASAE Management Conference. The 1993 Cold Circle competition drew over 1100 entries in 22 categories; all award winners will be featured in the 1993 Gold Circle Award Book of Winners.

Spring Seminars

The Department of Architecture and AIA Iowa are offering unique seminars this spring as a part of the Professional Development Series. On Friday, March 18, a Daylighting workshop will be held, and on Friday, May 20, the Proactive Practice Symposia will be conducted. Each is expected to be as valuable and interesting as the Building Skins Seminar, held this past January. For registration and program information, call AIA Iowa at 515.244.7502.

ISU Professor Publishes Book

James Patterson, AIA, an architecture professor at Iowa State University, has recently published a helpful and insightful text titled *Simplified Design for Building Fire Safety*. The book has become an instant bestseller and is available through publisher John Wiley & Sons.

the city to construct a new utopia. These, he argues, are twin forms of denial. Woods draws an analogy to the process of biological and emotional healing, presenting architectural forms that act as "injections, scabs, scars and new tissue," within the complex organism of a city.

"Only by facing the insanity of willful

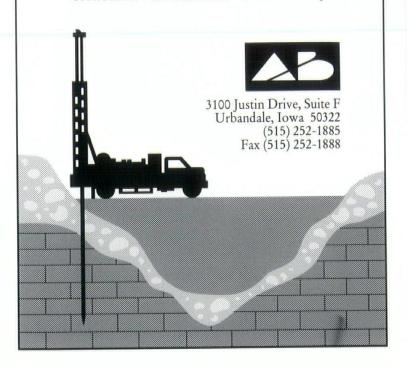
destruction," he argues, "can reason begin to believe again in itself."

This text displays a few of the many influences architecture encompasses, and some of the book's issues seem relevant to architecture in Iowa and the Midwest after the disastrous floods of the past summer and the subsequent rebuilding.

MICHELLE KAUFMANN

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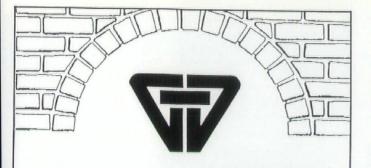
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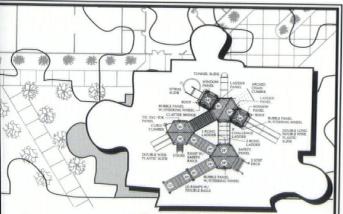
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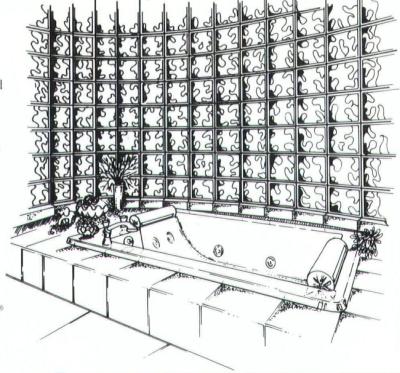
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