

Skylines



JULY 1954



SKYLINES

Published monthly by the Kansas City
Chapter of The American Institute of
Architects

EDITOR

Frank V. Grimaldi, AIA
402 Congress Building
Kansas City, Missouri

PRESIDENT

William H. Simon
25 East 12th Street

VICE-PRESIDENT

Frank R. Slezak
18 East 11th Street

TREASURER

Robert S. Everitt
R. A. Long Building

SECRETARY

Donald R. Hollis
9423 West 75th Street
Overland Park, Kansas

DIRECTORS

I. L. Roark, Jr.
7133 West 80th Street
Overland Park, Kansas

John T. Murphy
15 West 10th Street

Joseph B. Shaughnessy
3527 Broadway

CHAPTER OFFICE

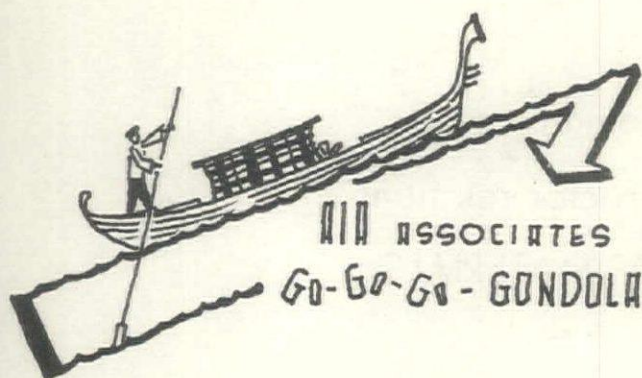
1016 Baltimore Avenue
Room Five One Five
Victor 9737
Betty J. Martin
Executive Secretary

Skylines

Volume 4, Number 7

4, Number 6

July, 1954



AIA ASSOCIATES PRESENT
GO-GO-GO - GONDOLA PARTY

- IN 1953 - PARIS & A FRENCH PARTY!
- IN 1954 - **VENICE** & A REAL CRAZY GONDOLA PARTY ---- BRING YOUR OWN GONDOLA!
- DATE - SEPTEMBER 8 - WED. 6PM TILL THURSDAY...
- PLACE - MISSOURI YACHT CLUB LAKE LOTAWANA
— SWIMMING —
- ENTERTAINMENT - REAL LIVE JAZZ - DANCING..
- PRICE - \$3.00 PER EACH - SAME AS LAST YEAR FOR BETTER FOOD & FUN.....
- DRINKS - AIA BAR - CHEAP AS USUAL.....

■ AIA ASSOCIATE PARTY

SEPTEMBER 8th 1954

AIA MEMBERS - WIVES AND/OR GIRL FRIENDS...

SECOND IN A SERIES

a statement

by the joint committee on

architect-contractor relations

APPROVAL OF MATERIALS

The last two meetings of the Joint A.G.C. and A.I.A. committee have dealt with the approval of materials. On the surface this did not appear to be a serious problem but after some discussion it was learned that this is a matter which is much abused and loosely handled. It was also very apparent that the ideal answer to this problem was not easy.

In writing specifications, the Architect will specify one or two products for a certain purpose and add the ancient "or equal" clause immediately following. This "or equal" clause has as many meanings and interpretations as there are people who read the specifications. This clause also makes the Contractor a judge and jury. He is normally not qualified to judge equals and in any event, certainly can not know what will be acceptable to the Architect. The Contractor is also subject to a financial loss if in assembling a bid uses a material that is not specifically mentioned, but which he considers equal, and which is later rejected by the Architect. If this is the case the Contractor naturally uses all his persuasive power on the Architect to force an approval and this in turn irritates the Architect.

The Committee has the following suggestions as an attempt to clarify a confused situation. It is a suggestion for a few cases and does not profess to be a cure-all or a solution to all circumstances.

Supplementary General Conditions should include something like the following:

K. C. Chapter AIA
Frank R. Slezak
Edgar Voskamp
Wm. Simón
I. Lloyd Roark
Herbert Pennington

K. C. Chapter AGC
Edwin Elliott
Julius Johnson
O. D. Lantz
Hal Laughlin
W. W. Hutton

"When the phrase 'or as approved' is used in this specification it shall be interpreted to mean that products other than those specified will be considered for use if approved by the Architect. To simplify bidding procedure the Contractor's proposal must be based on the specified products as no other products will be approved during the bidding period. Products other than those specified will be recognized by the Architect in writing to the successful Contractor with a request that the Contractor submit the change, if any, in the contract amount if the product in question is used in lieu of that specified. Upon the receipt of this information from the Contractor the Architect shall approve or disapprove the product."

In writing specifications usually four basic situations arise:

1. It is desired to specify only one product with no substitution allowed. This may be accomplished by a case allowance or by naming the product and flatly stating that no substitutions will be acceptable.

2. Two or three products may be acceptable and it is desired to accept the lowest bid. This may be accomplished by naming the products and not mentioning "or as approved".

3. More than two or three products, but not all on the market, are acceptable and price is a major consideration. This may be accomplished by naming the acceptable products and using the "or as approved" phrase and selecting the product to be used by the procedure outlined in the supplementary General Conditions.

4. The Architect is familiar with only certain products but wishes to consider others, the unknown products being higher or lower in price than those specified. This may be accomplished by the means outlined under No. 3 above or by an alternate which requires supporting data to be submitted with the proposal.

Through all the above procedures it becomes apparent that the phrase "or equal" is not exactly descriptive of what is really intended. The phrase "or as approved" seems to fit the picture much better.

It is apparent that if the above suggestions are to be successful the Contractor must religiously figure only the product or products actually mentioned and not ask for approval of another. Likewise the Architect should stick by his guns and only permit the use of the materials he has actually mentioned or as approved under the above procedures.

..... In The News

THE SUMMER RECESS from Chapter Meetings has not slowed down the important chapter work of the Executive Committee which continues to meet each month, nor does it affect the continuing work of the vital committee on Public Relations. Chairman Kivett reports that meetings with the Home Builders Association and the KU Extension have laid ground work for another lecture series on homebuilding to be held this year. Participating have been Larry Winn, Jr., and Leo Mullin of the Home Builders, Edward S. Avison of KU, and Architects John Monroe, Jr., Angus McCallum and Kivett. An expanded and more imaginative program is being planned for this year's series. Chapter members with experience or ideas in this endeavor are asked to contact the committee and make themselves heard. "Operation Homebuilding" is scheduled to start the first week of October.

CHAPTER MEMBERS are encouraged to visit the executive offices of the KC Chapter AIA and the KC Chapter Producers Council in the 1016 Baltimore Building. Drop by and visit Executive Secretary Betty Martin. Renovation of the office was recently completed with the application of new Zolatone painted walls courtesy of Devoe of Kansas City (Sterling Ronai) and Jerome & Associates painting contractors. The new "Stria" acoustic tile ceiling is courtesy the Fiberglas Corporation (Howard Neipp) and Kelly-Asbestos Co.

SKYLINES welcomes new advertisers: this month, Devoe of Kansas City (see inside back cover) and next month the Carthage Marble Corporation will begin a series of messages.

Refer to SKYLINES ADVERTISERS for the best in building products and architect-contractor services.

BOOKS RECEIVED FOR REVIEW:

"Design for Modern Merchandising," published by F. W. Dodge Corporation is a big, handsome companion for recent Dodge books on "Commercial Buildings" and "Motels, Hotels, Restaurants and Bars." No office with any amount of work in the field of stores, shopping centers and showrooms should be without this valuable book. Under one cover is an expert, detailed study of design for all types of selling establishments. The great variety of business establishments are graphically illustrated with more than 600 photographs, plans and diagrams. 247 pp., \$8.95. Dodge Books, 119 West 40th Street, New York 18, N. Y.

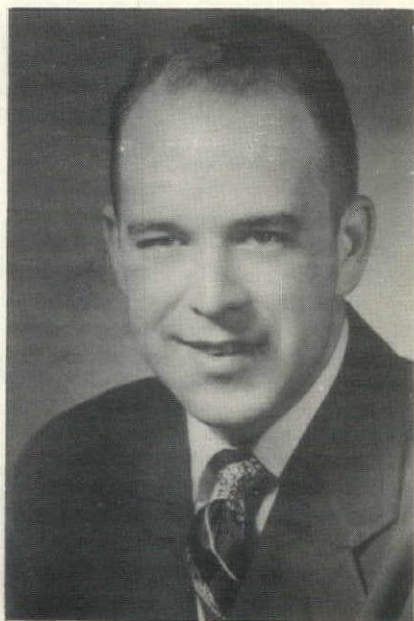
"Building Better from Modular Drawings," published by HHFA, was prepared by AIA staff-man William Demarest, Jr. Its purpose is to introduce construction superintendents and foreman to modular dimensioning. The AGC has endorsed this publication and is circulating it among members. Copies are available from Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., 25 cents each.

THE JUNE MEETING of the Board of Directors was directed towards preparation for the national convention, with arrangements made for attendance at important special meetings held at Boston. Delegate allotments totaling \$400 was equally divided among the four delegates, W. H. Simon, Robert S. Everitt, Donald R. Hollis and John T. Murphy. Others attending were David Mackie, L. B. Simpson, and Ralph Myers.

A discussion was held on the possibility of setting up the Executive Secretary's office as a clearing house for draftsmen and other employees. It was suggested that employment blanks be secured and given to the Executive Secretary. These blanks to be filled out by any person desiring employment and left on file in the Executive Secretary's office. Any office looking for employees could then look over any employment applications which would be on file. It was suggested that all offices tell any person calling on them for employment to fill out one of these employment forms. It was also suggested that any office needing employees should notify the Executive Secretary.

NEW JUNIOR ASSOCIATE MEMBER accepted in June is Dale A. Nelson, 1308 East 49th Street, K. C., Mo. Dale is a graduate of Northeast High School and Kansas University, '47. He has been employed as an architectural engineer with Tanner & Mitchell Inc. since June, 1950.

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER, advanced from Jr. Associate, is James E. Northern who recently opened his own architectural office at 4149 Pennsylvania (Je 9196). Jim is a graduate of Central High School and received his B.S. in Architecture from K.U. in 1950. Since graduation he has worked in the offices of Marshall & Brown, Neville Sharp & Simon and Andrews & Hutchins.



James E. Northern

NEW TECHNIQUES IN DRAWING REPRODUCTION

By Jack Wally

Western Blue Print Company

It always amazes blue printers that owners of business structures rarely have satisfactory prints of their holdings, much less tracings, which eventually become so highly desirable for client use, renovation work or transfer of ownership. This is not to say that architects are responsible for this common deficiency, but the fact remains that even managers of large office buildings right here in Kansas City almost never have decent plans to work with, on old locations, although the buildings involved represent millions of dollars of investment.

The very latest technique for protecting originals is one of the most interesting photographic developments of recent years, because it does something reproductionists have always considered impossible, that is, reduce a drawing down to small size on a film which is capable of being blown back to full original size without loss of detail . . . EVEN WITH AN IMPROVEMENT ON THE ORIGINAL.

The images involved measure about 4 x 6 inches, are small enough to be filed or stored in a very small space but are so precise that they reproduce better than by any other process known to the blue print industry.

Microfilm advocates always look longingly at the voluminous files of engineering and architectural drawings stored in this design-conscious country, but the capacity to blow back up on A TRANSPARENT MATERIAL never was possible with true microfilm.

The exchange of drawings in miniature size between cities and for quick reference in drafting rooms is an interesting by-product of this method which was developed here in Kansas City. Pencil drawings . . . even those with weak lines . . . lend themselves to this process.

Functional photography will soon make itself felt in routine drafting procedures.

**WESTERN
BLUEPRINT CO**

APPRECIATES EVERY ORDER

**K.&E., DIETZGEN & POST SUPPLIES
HAMILTON DRAFTING FURNITURE
ALL THE BEST PHOTO PROCESSES
SUPER MICROFILM
909 GRAND
VICTOR 7881**

Suggested **CONTROL JOINT** for **CONCRETE MASONRY WALL**

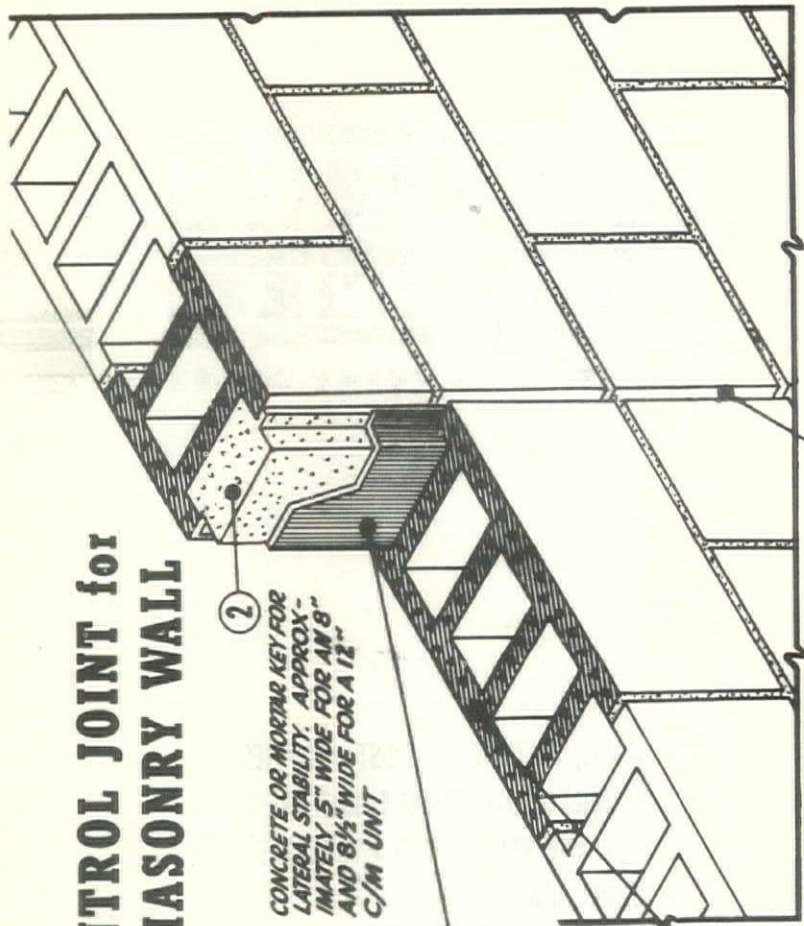
SCALE: $1\frac{1}{2}" = 1'0"$

(Recommended for
20 to 35 foot intervals)

CONCRETE OR MORTAR KEY FOR
LATERAL STABILITY. APPROX-
IMATELY 5" WIDE FOR AN 8"
AND $8\frac{1}{2}"$ WIDE FOR A 12"
C/M UNIT

1
PLACE BUILDING PAPER
OR APPLY A COATING OF
ASPHALTIC MATERIAL
TO ONE SIDE OF CON-
TROL JOINT TO PRE-
VENT ANY BOND BE-
TWEEN THE KEY AND
THE C/M UNIT

4
8"x8"x16" HOLLOW
REGULAR C/M UNIT



COURSING PLAN

RAKE OUT 3/4" MORTAR AT CONTROL JOINT
AND CALK AFTER CONTRACTION HAS TAKEN
PLACE., SELF EXPANDING JOINT MATERIAL
MAY REPLACE MORTAR AT THIS POINT

3

4

HALF 8"x8"x16" HOLLOW
REGULAR C/M UNIT

5

Recommended for Better Concrete Masonry Construction

MO-KAN CONCRETE PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION

Asner Blocks & Bldg. Materials Inc.
Builder's Block Company
The Carter-Waters Corp.

Cinder Concrete Prod., Inc.
City Block & Prod. Co.
Concrete Bldg. Units Co.

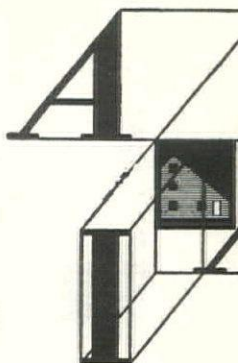
Etamcrete Prod. Inc.
K. C. Concrete Pipe Co.
Slaton's Concrete Prod.

REPORT

86th

Annual Convention

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



BOSTON

JUNE 15-19,

By W. H. Simon, President

K.C. Chapter AIA

This was my first experience attending a National Convention of the AIA. It was frankly considered a duty, but after having attended, future national conventions are on my agenda. What do you really get out of them? A feeling of the trend of architectural progress as expressed by leaders in the profession. Meeting and discussing architecture, problems of the profession, and our organization, with people vitally interested in like subjects. The 69th National Convention will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and anyone who hasn't attended one should plan now to attend.

Boston became Mecca—Architecture became a religion—you became a pilgrim. We all know the religion, but in making the pilgrimage, we reaffirm certain beliefs, evaluate our attitudes, acknowledge wherein we can improve ourselves. The Kansas City Chapter, in its activities, Chapter affairs, public relations, etc., compared very favorably with other chapters much larger in membership. We should strengthen and broaden the

PRECAST HAYDITE CONCRETE ROOF SLABS

PROVIDES THE PERMANENCE
OF CONCRETE

VIRTUALLY NO MAINTENANCE
COST

HIGH INSULATION VALUE

PRECAST TO SAVE
INSTALLATION TIME—
LABOR COST

FIRE SAFE

LIGHTER IN WEIGHT

CONSTRUCTION  MATERIALS
CARTER-WATERS
KANSAS CITY  8 MISSOURI
2440 PENNWAY Phone GRand 2570

base of these activities in order to keep building upon them. It was very noticeable that no work from our Chapter, and little from this region, was exhibited in the Medal Awards Exhibit. The work exhibited was from all parts of the country, not from two or three large urban communities as it has often been in the past. Therefore, quality of work is not rated on size, cost, etc.; in other words, we all have an opportunity. We should conscientiously try for this end in our work—let's have something on those boards at Minneapolis!

One is impressed with the national organization. You realize that the Octagon in Washington is energetically working on solutions to our individual problems. These vary considerably with the region and chapter. A great effort is made to have all details of documents which are mandatory apply to every locality. Again the importance of the region as a workshop to channel our particular attitudes and problems through to the national committees is made clear. As many of us as possible should attend and take an active part in our regional conference this fall at Wichita.

It was interesting to note that in both the pre-convention meeting and the scheduled meeting on Chapter Affairs, the problem of membership was discussed at some length. No official action was taken, but the discussions seemed to point toward a new classification, that of "Licensed Associate". The qualifications for corporate membership were also not clearly interpreted alike by all chapters and state associations. It will take time to work all these details out on a national basis. The National Chapter Affairs Committee, of which Lloyd Roark is a member, is very active and promises to solve some of these problems in the near future.

Another subject discussed at great length in the Chapter Affairs Committee meeting was that of Medal Awards. A few of the ideas which may apply to us were—providing a plaque in architectural schools which is a continuing record of the winners names for each year, its physical form being that of a trophy. Providing an actual medal or other object to the architect and owner recognized on the local level. Providing an award on the local level for service to the chapter by someone outside the organization, such as an editor of a newspaper or craftsman. All medal awards, of course, tying in with a well executed public relations program.

The Chapter Editors Breakfast again pointed out the fact that our chapter measures up well with chapters of comparable membership. Our advertising policy seems to be in line, if anything on the conservative side. It was noticed that publications of like size and larger invariably carried more articles written by chapter members. These articles were on any subject dealing with architecture or pertaining to the practice of archi-

Smooth Modern Lines...
Maximum Cleanliness...
Quality Protected 3 Ways...



WEISART COMPARTMENTS

Weisart installation in new office building of M & St. L. Railway, Minneapolis, Minn. Architect Clyde W. Smith; general contractor James Leck Co. Ceiling hung Weisart, illustrated, enables easier floor cleaning. Same quality available in floor braced model.

Smooth modern lines and lustrous finish of Weisart compartments are the exterior symbols of thorough-going quality. This quality is protected three ways: (1) flush steel construction with edges locked and sealed, galvanized surface smooth as furniture steel (2) Bonderized for additional corrosion resistance and positive adhesion of enamel (3) synthetic primer and enamel separately baked, combining highly protective surface with gleaming beauty in choice of 24 colors!

In appearance and in the enduring Serviceability which their quality assures Weisways are eminently suited for use in today's finest buildings. For detailed information, write



BDR ENGINEERING CORPORATION

MATERIAL SUPPLIERS TO ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS AND BUILDERS

P.O. BOX 5879

4243 PENNSYLVANIA AVE.

KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

texture. Frank Grimaldi, our Editor, has continually asked for such articles. We should help him out. If we get the ball rolling it should prove to be a lot of fun and make our "SKYLINES" more personal and interesting.

You probably have noted in the "Memo" that Clair Ditchy was re-elected President, and Frank McNett of Grand Island, Nebraska, is our new Regional Director. Would like to call your attention to the fact that in his capacity as Regional Director, McNett is now sitting as one of eighteen on the Board of Directors, which is the policy making body of our National organization—quite an important position, especially when we wish to be heard in a particular problem at a national level. Might offer one note of warning and caution for future delegates to a national convention in regard to voting for officers: Each delegate must cast his own ballot. Thus, if our chapter has, say 7 votes, and there have been, say 7 delegates registered and only 4 delegates vote, then only 4 votes are recorded and counted and 3 are lost. In a closely contested election this could have sad results if not known in advance.

Many interesting seminars and informal discussions were held on the subject of architecture. The consensus of opinion seemed to be that we have reached an end of an era and are progressing into a new one. The era ended is one of stark functionalism; and the era we are entering is one in which art in architecture is gaining in importance. Surely reprints of speeches delivered will be forthcoming, and which are well worth reading—watch for them. Especially those of Paul Rudolph, Eero Saarinen, Sert, Percival Goodman, and others.

Of course, every convention has its lighter sides, with trips and entertainment scheduled. The most enjoyable of these was an afternoon and evening event up the North Shore through Salem, Marblehead, etc. to Ipswich. Many of the homes and gardens in Marblehead were open for inspection and stops were made along the way at interesting places. At Ipswich, a marvelous estate "Castle Hill" was made available to us for dinner in the garden, entertainment in an outdoor theater, and dancing in the Great House. Everyone who attended will remember the evening if for no other reason than that it was damn cold.

Attending a National Convention of the AIA is really an active week. Being architects, they would mix everything together, business, education, and just pure fun. It was a workout to try to participate in all three branches. Hope Mrs. Murphy attends the 69th Annual at Minneapolis next year—because it takes a better man than I am to room with John at an AIA Convention!!!

Concrete Building Units Company

Manufacturers of

VIBRACRETE

CONCRETE JOISTS

During the past thirty years of service to the construction industry in Kansas City we have seen many methods of floor installations.

After careful investigation of these varying types, we are convinced that the most economical and versatile method is still the reinforced pre-cast concrete joist. This method develops a T-beam structure capable of carrying great loads. Before designing your next concrete floor we will consider it a privilege to serve you by calling at your office or meeting with you to discuss this type of floor construction.

Call VA. 5300
for details

Specify

VIBRACRETE CONCRETE BLOCKS

Natural and Light weight Aggregate



"Serving Kansas City Over Quarter of a Century"

VIBRACRETE

CONCRETE BUILDING UNITS COMPANY

3405 Terrace

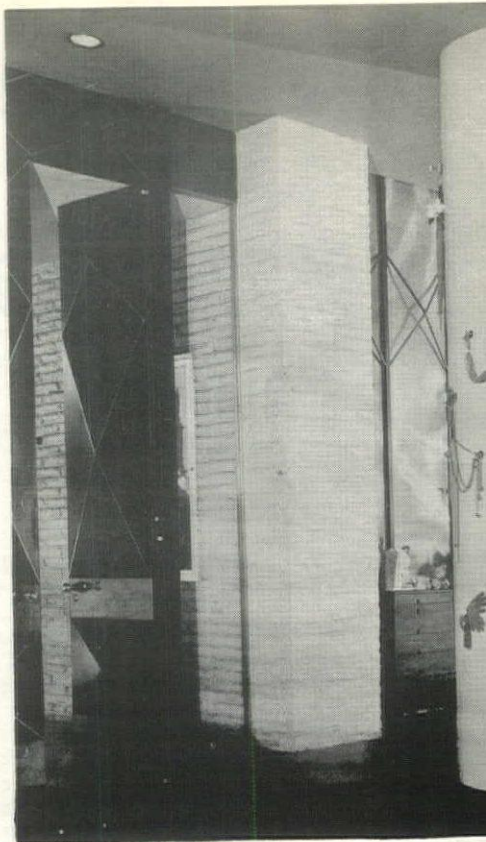
Kansas City, Missouri

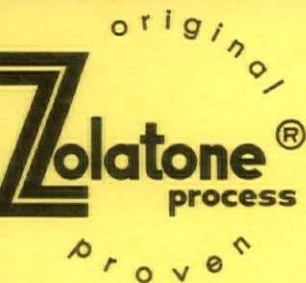
ATTO SLABS • CONCRETE JOISTS • AREAWAYS • SPLASH BLOCKS • ALUMINUM & STEEL SINKS

cricket west
 308 west forty-seventh
 kansas city missouri
 kansas city, missouri
 wm. beckett, architect



architectural
 photography by
 wayne wright
 5501 n. garfield
 kansas city north
 GL. 5500





● **The original multi-color finish with the ultimate in wearability and washability**

Non-Static

Repels dirt and grease particles. Non-Static quality keeps surface cleaner longer without constant care. Less dust will settle on a Zolatone surface than on conventional finishes.

Washable

Extremely washable. Withstands endless washing. Dirt, grease, stains, body oils and acids, etc., have little chemical effect on the film. Any paint solvent, dry cleaner, household soap, detergent, or cleanser can be used to remove ink, fingerprints, smudges, etc.

Durable

The very tough film resists chipping and scratching to a far greater degree than conventional finishes, even when subjected to attack by pointed objects.

Attractive

The multi-color pattern gives the surface an unusually live effect. Zolatone has depth and creates the feeling of a third dimension.

Camouflage

The multi-color pattern tends to conceal flaws and imperfections in the surface being covered. Similarly, protuberances into a room area can be masked out to make the room appear larger.

Long-Lived

The life expectancy of Zolatone can be expected to be far in excess of conventional finishes.

No Spray Dust

No fog or misting allows a cleaner, neater job.

DEVOE

of kansas city, inc.

• **STERLING RONAI**
General Manager

PHONE VI. 5672

• 200 SOUTHWEST BOULEVARD
• KANSAS CITY 8, MISSOURI

EXCLUSIVE ZOLATONE DEALER

