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JUNE 1958



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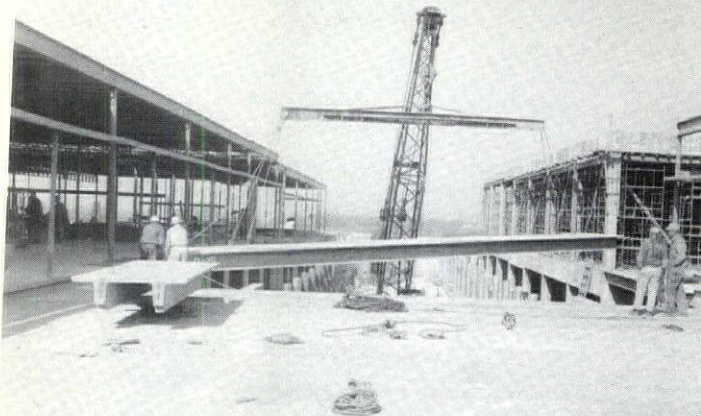
June, 1958

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SKYLINES is the monthly publication of the Kansas City Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and mailed without charge.

EDITOR.....J. DAVID MILLER
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Blue Ridge Shopping Center
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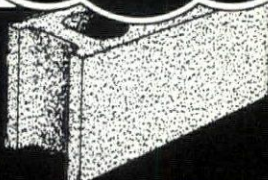
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"Tougher'n the hobs . . ."

An interesting indication of durability or resistance to failure by extreme exposures to such conditions as repeated freezing and thawing as well as wetting and drying resulted from tests conducted by the Road Materials Laboratory of the Highway Commission of Kansas. In these tests 275 complete cycles of each type of exposure was run. Compression strength tests at the conclusion indicated a consistent gain in strength.

Buildex expanded shale masonry units and concrete are chemically inert and impervious to heat, water, and corrosion. They are DURABLE under all known normal conditions of exposure.



aia ^{thirteenth}

CENTRAL STATES
REGIONAL CONFERENCE
KANSAS CITY

OCTOBER 30 - NOVEMBER 1

THEME: Space, Man and Architecture.

"Our aim from the beginning was to reach infinite space:" WALTER DORNBERGER in **Time** Magazine. Dornberger, now technical assistant to the president of Bell Aircraft, as a captain in the German Army in 1932 was the man who brought the 20-year old Wernher von Braun to the German rocket team and in 1944 was "captured" by the U. S. together with 120 members of the team in Operation Paperclip.

He will speak at the annual conference dinner to be held Friday, October 31.

"Man is not humble in the city as he is in the fields, the hills or the sea, but properly prideful and vainglorious at his achievements. It is the architect who states this pride and vainglory in visible form:" HENRY S. CHURCHILL, F.A.I.A., A.I.P., at the Central States Conference, 1955. Churchill, nationally known for his sharp comment and extensive accomplishments in the fields of architecture and city planning, is a graduate of Cornell University where he received his BA and MA degrees. He has lectured at Columbia, M.I.T. and Harvard and is the author of "The City is The People."

He will address the Conference in conjunction with an extensive exhibition of city plan designs which will be on public display at the time of the Conference.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM EVENTS:

35 mm Photography: JULIUS SHULMAN, Los Angeles photographer, and BILL CRICK, Kansas City photography expert.

A.I.A. Contract Documents: WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER, F.A.I.A., of Boston, consultant to the Institute on Contract Procedure.

Address on the Architecture of Interior Space: DANIEL SCHWARTZMAN, A.I.A., of New York.

DESIGN dignitaries expected to be present but not yet confirmed: GYORGY KEPES and CHARLES EAMES.

WORKSHOPS, all to be held Friday morning and to be conducted by regional chairman of the following committees: PUBLIC RELATIONS, CHAPTER AFFAIRS, SCHOOLS, EDUCATION and RESEARCH.

FUN NITE will be Thursday, October 30.

BUILDING PRODUCTS EXHIBITS BY Producer's Council, plus coffee and donuts.

TOUR Kansas City's cultural center, Saturday morning, November 1, including Midwest Research Institute, Volker Memorial Fountain (sculpture by CARL MILLES), Nelson Art Gallery.

Lunch exhibitions and tours at the Kansas City Art Institute on Saturday, too.

CONSIDER THE SURROUNDINGS

Kenneth Coombs

A graduate of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Kenneth Coombs has been on the staff of the University of Kansas for seven years and is a partner of the firm of Waddington, Coombs and Associates.

With each of us, any new commission is liable to be treated, unconsciously, as a monument to our tastes, talents, and architectural skill. This is not to say that such an edifice will fail to suit its immediate needs, both physical and spiritual. In fact, many such structures receive wide acclaim for the excellence of their design and suitability to purpose. Practitioners, students, and critics will study the recipient of such an accolade to learn how, and why, this building better speaks for the aspirations of its society, its technology, and its fund of knowledge. Soon, somewhere, another such building will arise. Then another, and another. Each, perhaps outdoing the former. Progress, it is said, has been made. Architecture has been enriched. Our goal, of this particular spot in time, has been reached.

Yet has it?

True, this remarkable structure of which we speak is finely wrought in all its aspects when studied as a thing by itself. But, place this building again on its site, and study it anew with its surroundings. We have termed it a monument to its creators, and because of the excellence of its creation, a monument to this time and society. Now, a monument, historically, is something to be set apart, to be studied, and admired by all. Is our building apart? Can it be seen in its entirety? Can the multitudes who pass it—or even those who use it—really see it? More likely it becomes but a new door in a series of doors, easier swinging and less grimy than those previously

established. Is there any vantage point that will give a natural vista of this edifice so tastefully executed? A vista whose beholding brings satisfaction to the esthetic wants of the viewer?

Those professionally interested will have studied photographs, sketches and drawings of the architectural press—or may have made a visit and tour of the building—much in the manner of a pilgrimage to Mecca. Really, it is the praise of these few that have established the validity and worth of our monument. The great majority—the others who see only the new door—or the new roof—are those who deserve to see, to admire, and to experience satisfaction from this skilled work. But, no view is possible—nowhere can the building be seen—the structure is lost.

We have concerned ourselves thus far with one building. One building set among others of similar size and shape. Let us now examine the group. For argument's sake, we might suppose there to be several meritorious buildings included in this group. Can we see them?

We cannot.

Again there is not a vantage point. The multitude comes and goes—some are on foot—some are in cars. All are channeled into well defined routes of travel. The very buildings we wish to see mark the boundaries of the travel route. Sidewalks open only to doors and shop windows—streets open only to moving and parked cars. Only dead ahead is any spatial opening—space defined by the course of the travel route. Does this create a vista? Does this grant the possibility of seeing the group of buildings?

In a way, yes.

Looking ahead building facades align themselves into a continuous mass. Definition of individual structures becomes an impossibility. The viewer cannot behold any single composed unit, but rather looks upon a pattern of changing textures, colors; proportions, and scales, overhung with the excesses of our technology; power lines, street lights, building signs, direction signals, et al.

Is there anything in this that grants the restful composure and unity of nature? There is not. Our meritorious buildings are submerged—their visual impact remains unseen, their speaking of the times, unheard—their message, unread. The diamonds are buried in clay; and the clay does not excite us.

What is the answer?

Obviously, not all—or even many—of our commissions will be situated in park-like surroundings. Such building sites shall forever remain in a distinct minority. Our vistas will continue grossly limited by the concentration of our population and the products of our technology. Even the suburban areas, with smaller units on larger plots, cannot escape; the car in which we travel so greatly reduces visual distance that any structure must be set many hundreds of feet back from the roadway to be truly and effectively seen. Should any unity exist between these less urban buildings, their sites, and nature, it is lost. We can be conscious only to vague shapes, textures, and colors. And here, something that may seem intriguing in passing, becomes empty of true meaning should we stop for a close examination. A highly dramatic, bizarre, or novel use of form, color and texture is not the answer, it holds no greater meaning—it is in the same category—than a four color magazine ad.

The problem becomes one then of making our particular building add something to the greater whole. The unity of the street, the block, the neighborhood, should be the goal. And this we can achieve.

Study the site surroundings. Study the forms of buildings existing; study the colors; study the materials; study the proportions; study the scales; and then study your problem. Will this, your solution, add harmony or discord to this area? Is the rhythm of solids and voids of the street perpetuated or disrupted? Is your structure a contribution to the surroundings or a distraction. In short, does a feeling of unity exist now within this area of your architectural efforts. If this feeling does exist, and it should, a contribution has been made to the physical and spiritual needs of the time. Some part of the harmonious composition of nature will have been established within the works of our society. A feeling of restfulness, and delight, will come into the life of the viewer and user.

Here, in the larger sense, success has been made. Unity achieved on the grander scale to lend greater meaning to the building of this society in this place in time. Of the single structure alone, what can now be said? Is it lost in the whole? Not at all. The skill with which it was wrought, its suitability to purpose, its excellence of design will still merit, and receive, the attention of the architectural critics. Its creator will enjoy the reward of praise for his honest efforts and expression. The accolade should be greater than ever before. For he has done something greater. He has created not only a building of great merit, but so integrated it with its surroundings as to promote the effect of the whole. ●

PARKINSON'S LAW

AND THE

AIR FORCE ACADEMY

George Peter Keleti

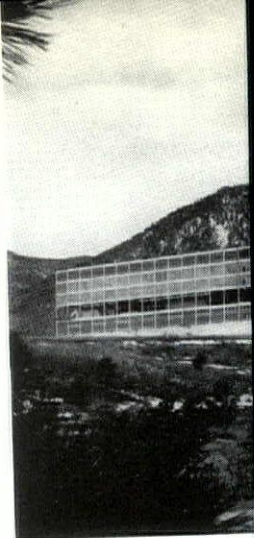
George Peter Keleti received a B.S. in Architecture at the Royal Technological Institute of Budapest, Hungary. After coming to the United States he received his Master's Degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1948. He taught at Kansas University from 1949 to 1951. During 1954, he was an Associate Professor at Washington University and worked in the office of Harris Armstrong. In 1955, he came to Kansas City and entered into a partnership with Robert S. Everitt in the firm of Everitt and Keleti.

"The importance of a person is in straight proportion to the number of people you have to see before being admitted into his office, the thickness of his carpet and the apparent order of his desk. The same rule can be used to determine a person's isolation and obsolescence." This is what is called Parkinsons' Law.

High finish and pomp are signs of decadence. A growing institution is continuously on the move, in flux, and in a state of creative disorder. After vital growth is completed, an institution can settle down to get organized and to set up plush headquarters. These beautiful headquarters are fine places to be in, to think of culture and refinement and to look into the present at the expense of thinking of the future. Fulfilment breeds stagnation and soon the vital contribution that the institution has made to life is a record of history more than a present reality.

Is the Air Force Academy project an expression of the obsolescence of the Air Force in accordance with Parkinsons' Law? Are we building a monument to the past importance of manned aircraft in a rocket age? Is the Air Force moving its educational program into their new palace the same way the Pentagon was occupied after all the really decisive battles of the last war were won?

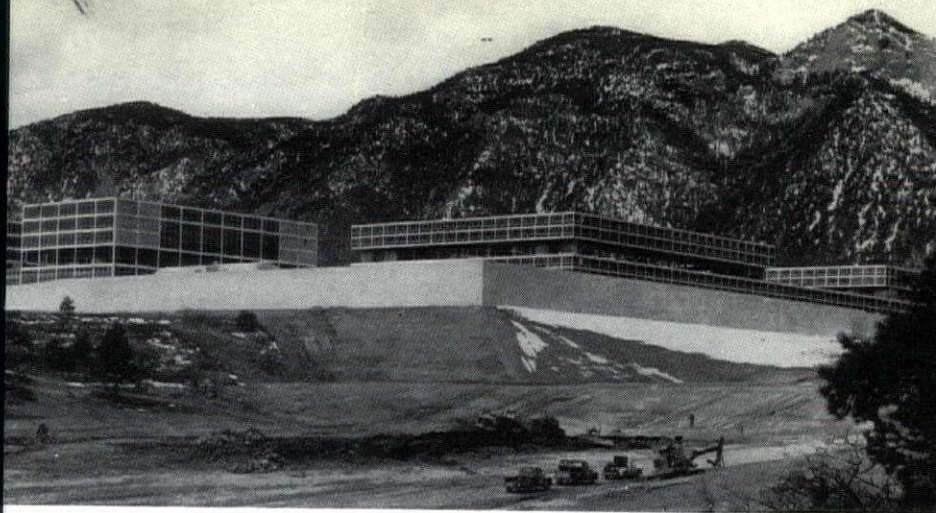
Regardless of whether the Air Force will have still something to offer in terms of defense to the country after ten more years of rocket age, the fossilizing effect of Parkinsons' Law will play havoc with the spirit of the Air Force, which is so vital to our defense at the present time.



the Air Force academy—

Persepolis—built by Persian Emporer, Darius





rings

It is unlikely that the innumerable barracks of our Air Force bases all over the world shall be refaced in polished granite. We will continue to do current defense work in makeshift quarters, for that is the way to keep awake, to get things done. The new Air Force Academy's spender will not achieve anything but to provide an environment during studies which will never be matched in the career of the Air Force officers once they have left the boundaries of this monument of prosperity.

It will be a letdown to leave the splendor of this palace for the sheetrock domain of the working territory of the Air Force. During studies one should look forward with expectation to the career, which is the purpose of one's efforts. But in this case there will be a guaranteed letdown—a real disillusionment if there is any illusion to start with. This is a problem the Air Force is going to face in due time.

Then, of course, there can be no discussion of the Air Force Academy without mentioning the Chapel. I can think of many architects who would be glad to own the design as their own. The number of contractors feeling the same way is, I expect, rather limited. Buildability of course, is an old fashioned approach to architecture and we should strive more to evaluate the spirit of architecture than the means with which it is accomplished. The brilliance of the design of the Chapel is unquestionable. Unquestionable in maybe too obvious a way; there is certain arrogance in this design, which is like a rendering of a Paganini Capriccio by a great violinist. Good music, good architecture—exciting, but with little true religious feeling. Humility is an important feeling in Christianity, especially for those who might be called upon to deliver the destruction of a hydrogen bomb. There is no trace of humility to God in this design, to the point where it would dispell even the shadow of humility in the spectator so deeply impressed by human prowess.

Great architecture is not only brilliance nor just the chance to spend money at the rate the Persian Emporer, Darius, spent it at Persepolis, the aesthetical model of our Air Force Academy. Great Architecture is a philosophical contribution to life—a guiding light which shows the way now and in the future for ever and ever. ●



"You're suppose to wait 'til we get wallboard up before you tile the place"

For your enjoyment—courtesy Pomona Tile Manufacturing Co.

DEVELOPMENT OF A SOUTHWEST MISSOURI SECTION OF THE KANSAS CITY CHAPTER

On Saturday, May 17, a group of Chapter members were invited to Springfield to visit with the newly-formed Southwest Missouri Association of Architects to discuss the possibility of forming a Southwest Missouri Section of the Kansas City Chapter. In attendance were Mr. and Mrs. John T. Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. I. Lloyd Roark, Mr. and Mrs. William M. Conrad, Mr. and Mrs. Luther O. Willis, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Monroe, Jr., and 24 Architects of the Springfield area and their wives.

Arriving at noon, lunch was had with A. C. Esterly, President of the group, Richard P. Stahl and Hal Hawkins, after which a tour was made of new buildings in Springfield. An evening business meeting was held at the Hickory Hills Country Club, during which the matter of setting up a Springfield Section of the Kansas City Chapter was discussed. This was followed by an extremely pleasant evening at which the Kansas City members were generously exposed to the gracious Southern (Missouri) hospitality.

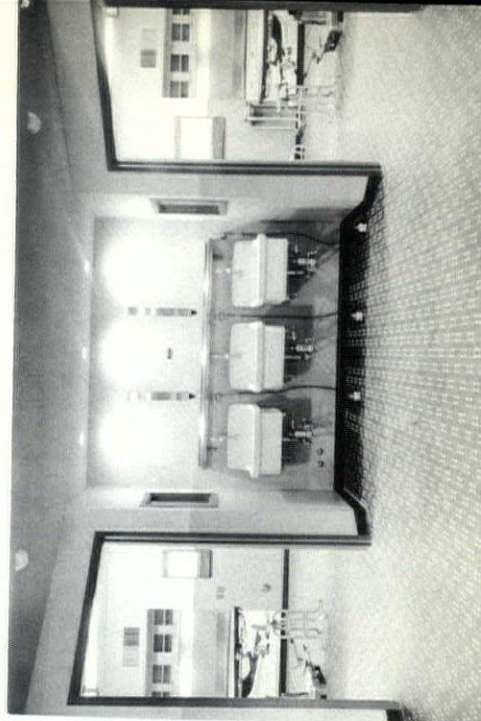
As a result of the meeting, President Murphy has appointed Richard P. Stahl and Harold A. Casey of Springfield to the Chapter Membership Committee. A special Springfield Committee, consisting of Dick Nichols, Ernest Ward and Hal Hawkins has also been appointed to iron out the many problems involved. John Monroe, Chairman of the Chapter Membership Committee, will be working closely with the group in the task of building membership in the Southwest Missouri area to sufficient numbers to establish a Chapter Section.



NORTH KANSAS CITY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

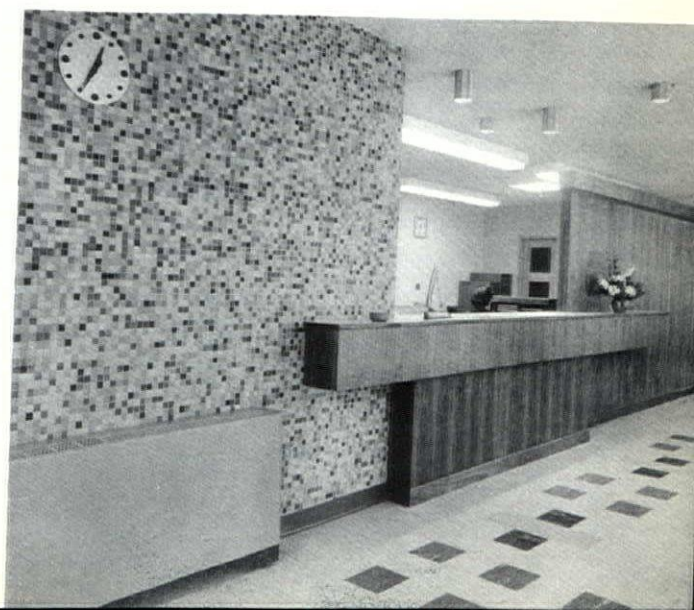
North Kansas City, Missouri

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ARCHITECTS





This 100-Bed General Hospital designed for the City of North Kansas City, Missouri contains 50,480 square feet. The cost per bed was \$13,700.



CHAPTER NEWS

● The May Chapter meeting was an interesting program on Architectural Photography given by **Wayne Wright, L. D. Jones, Larry Nicholson, and Phillip Lynn.** In addition to their interesting presentation, they brought along an extensive display of their excellent work in color and black and white photographs. Guests at the meeting were Professor **George M. Beal** and the following staff members at Kansas University: **Curtis Besinger, David Hermansen, Verner Smith, James Owen, and Morris Wilkes.** Professor **Emil Fisher** and the following staff members at K-State were also guests: **Alden Kreider, Morris Beckman, and J. Cranston Heinzelman.** **Ernest Ward** of Springfield was also at the meeting.

● **John Murphy** went to Washington, D. C., May 23rd to attend the Community Planning Committee meeting. He presented the story of the KC/80 project to the Committee and is to place the report in the hands of all National Board members at the July meeting prior to the Convention in Cleveland.

John has also received the honor of being reappointed member of the reorganized National Public Relations Committee for a period of 3 years.

● Members known to be going to the Cleveland Convention are:

John Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Krug, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Conrad, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Coombs, and Dave Miller. At press time it was not known whether **Conrad Curtis** and **Ward Haylett** were going or not.

● **Robert P. Weatherford, Jr., A.I.A.** has filed as Democratic candidate for Congress from Missouri's Fourth District. Not since 1948, when Frederick A. Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania served a term in Congress has an A.I.A. member run for an elected Federal Government post.

● **Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. McArthur** have just returned from a seven week automobile tour of the Continent. They flew to Amsterdam where they took delivery on a new Mercedes Benz sedan. They visited Belgium, Holland, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, France, and England before sailing home on the U.S.S. United States.

● The Architect's Conference at Kansas University this year netted the Chapter a profit of \$58.09. Proceeds (or deficits) are shared by the University Extension, the Kansas Chapter, and the Kansas City Chapter.

● The first Regional Conference flyer has been mailed to all Chapter members in the Central States District by the Kansas City Conference Publicity Chairman, **Clarence Kivett.**

Question: My company produces a popular building product. What can we give to the Architects for Christmas?

Answer: Most architectural offices prefer not to receive gifts—but you might try an Esquire Girl Calendar in Braille.

from Pennsylvania's CHARETTE

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the two following new members:

Wayne D. Johnson's application for Associateship has been approved. From Springfield and with his own practice since April, Wayne received his BS in Architecture at the University of Kansas, and is registered in Kansas and Missouri.

John Martin Taylor's application for Junior Associateship has been approved. Also from Springfield and the office of Richard P. Stahl, John received his BS in Architecture at the University of Arkansas.

NEW BOOKS

THE WEATHER CONDITIONED HOUSE

by Groff Conklin

Reinhold

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The problem of making the modern house a flexible, livable, economical, and comfortable part of its environment is graphically explained to the architect and builder with technical competence for the first time in any language. An intensive analysis of the thermal environment (heat, cold, rain, snow), humidity, winds, sun, sound, odors, and the deteriorating influences of moisture, pests, and fire on the materials which make up the house is thoroughly delineated and simplified for the specific use of builders, architects, and intelligent home buyers. Any one interested in the house should read this book.

CREATIVE GARDENS

by James C. Rose

Reinhold

\$10.00

Here is a magnificent, beautiful

garden book which tells more than how to plant flowers, or take care of lawns. It shows how, through creative adaptation of nature, it is possible to create a garden which is a natural and organic part of its surroundings, and therefore a relaxing and peaceful place. The author even tells how to prevent a garden, a subject which badly needed discussing because of today's emphasis on formal, almost artificial-looking gardens. The book is divided into three parts. The first part analyzes the garden without a house. The second discusses the usual house plus garden, where the garden is an afterthought that generally suffers from a tired budget. The last part illustrates with specific examples the complete fusion of house and landscape, an attribute so rare in this country that our language does not yet have an individual word to describe it. Illustrated with handsome photographs and factual case studies it gives garden lovers a new concept of creative design as applied to the landscape in general and gardens in particular.

PLANT ENGINEERING PRACTICE

by the editors of Plant Engineering

F. W. Dodge \$18.50

Here is the most complete reference book ever published which covers every major area of plant engineering activity. There is no doubt that "It is entirely a practical sourcebook of plant operation and maintenance."

Plant Engineering Practice is organized into 13 sections starting with the Site, Layout and Construction of the building and goes on to cover every phase of plant engineering activity. There seems to be no part of plant engineering which has been omitted. This book is a "must" for all engineers, architects, contractors and executives involved with industrial work.

This book, together with the preceding Dodge book, **Buildings for Industry**, will provide a good basic reference library for archi-

tecs designing such structures.

REINFORCED CONCRETE IN ARCHITECTURE

by Aly Ahmed Raafat

Reinhold \$15.00

Mr. Raafat is a young Egyptian Architect currently practicing in Cairo, having just completed 5 years of work and advance study in the United States.

Here is a comprehensive survey of very current examples of concrete design and a concise historical survey of early work. Hundreds of drawings and sketches illustrating principals of design and construction stages accompany the many photographs of buildings from all over the world. This book is the only available up-to-date bridge between architectural knowledge and many exciting new concrete shapes and forms—a necessary addition to the architectural library.

Question: Is it true that contractors, draftsmen, carpenters, high school boys and anybody else can build structures without an Architect's license if they want to?

Answer: Yes. Most state laws are such that provided the structure costs less than \$10,000 and contains less than 30,000 square feet, no architectural license is required. A parallel situation in the Medical Profession would be like allowing anybody to operate for appendicitis but requiring a license if the appendix is abnormally large.

from Pennsylvania's CHARETTE

Question: In the old days we used to speak of an architect as a "self-winder" when he had real get-up-and-go. These days it is hard to find draftsmen with that sort of spirit. Can you explain this?

Answer: If you listen attentively to the Timex commercials on TV, this situation will become clear to you. The self-winding watch of today works only when it is shaken.

from Pennsylvania's CHARETTE

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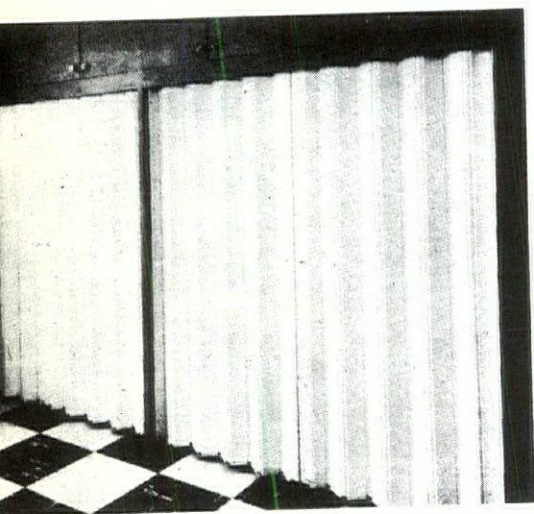
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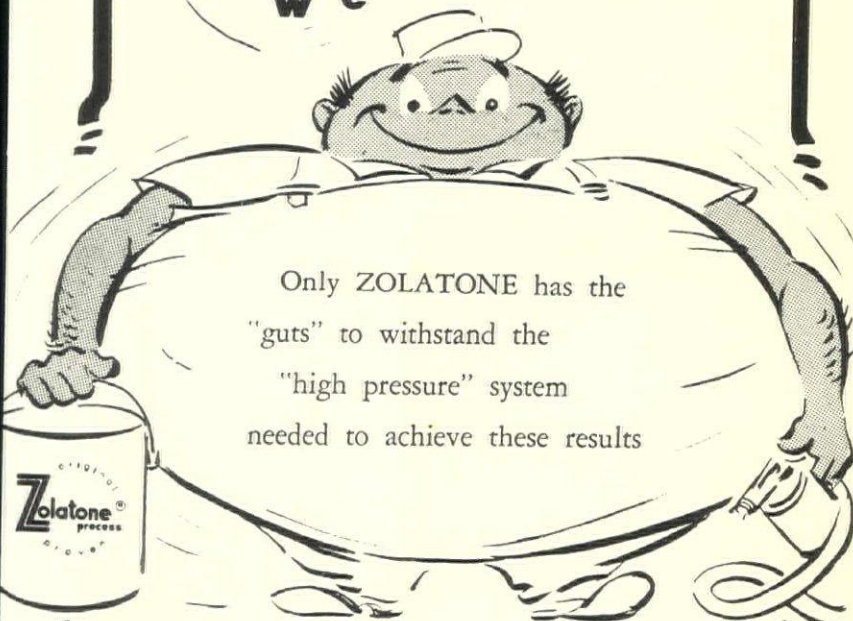
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