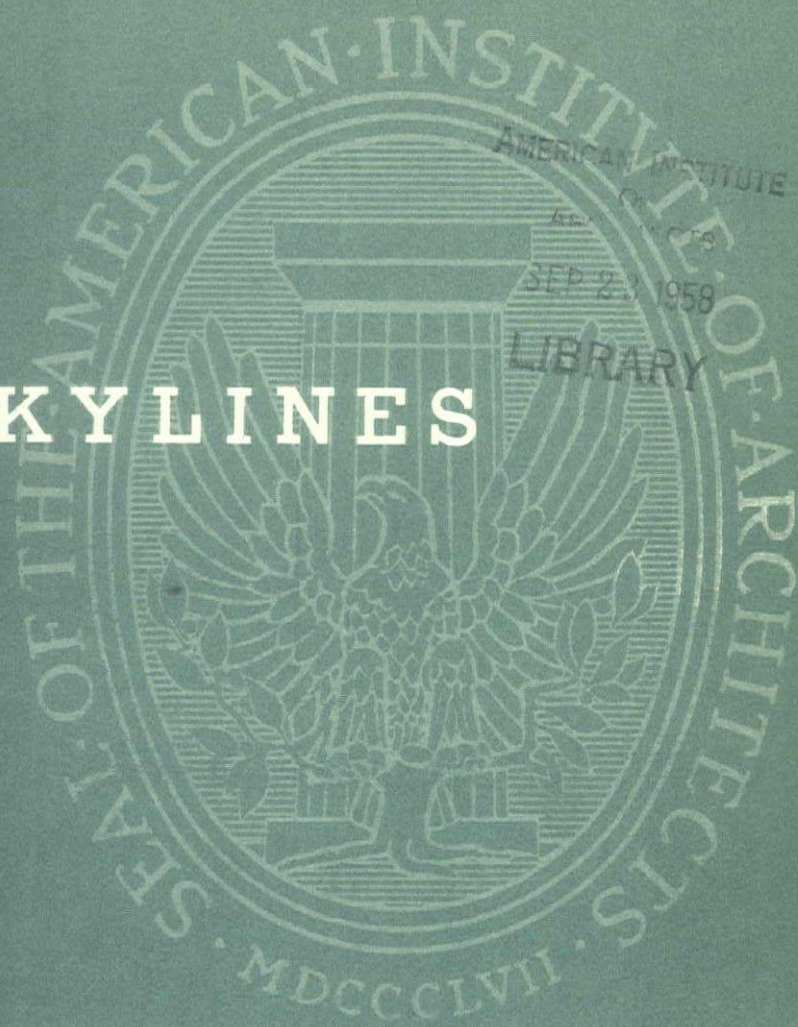


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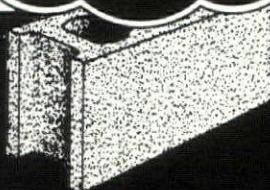
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SKYLINES

VOL. 8

NO. 8

August, 1958

CONTENTS	page
"Our City of the Future" by John T. Murphy.....	7
Report on Cleveland Convention.....	10
Chapter News.....	15
Membership	15
Alterations to Hall's	16
Report on Programs Held During the Past Year.....	20
Letters to the Editor.....	21
Cartoon	21

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

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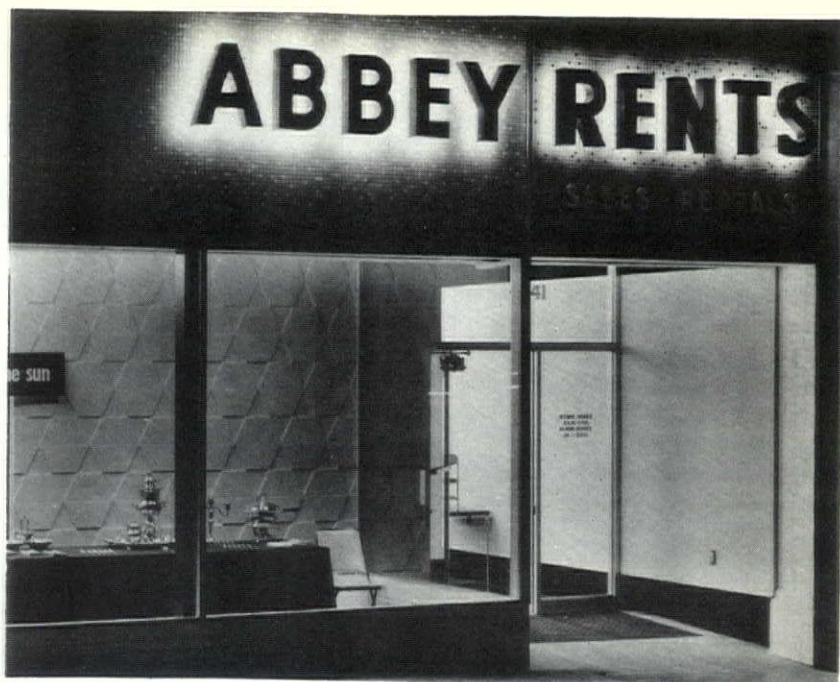
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OUR CITY OF THE FUTURE

JOHN T. MURPHY

As Chairman of the Design Committee for the KC/80 Project, John T. Murphy, from his long hours of thoughtful study of the problems of the Downtown, is well qualified to write to this subject. Much of the basic reasoning behind the KC/80 solution is evident in this article.

As the American Institute of Architects begins its second century the most serious challenges to face the profession are the growing problems of life in our metropolitan areas and what the architects' role will be in their solution.

The problems are many and the degree of their acuteness is growing daily. The movement of people from rural to urban areas continues at an accelerated pace and the central cities and their suburban sisters are finding it impossible to keep up with the demands for service which this growth creates.

Schools, hospitals, water supply and sewage disposal, fire and police protection, churches, recreational facilities, commercial and industrial developments and that entwining transportation octopus, which is strangling our very life, are but a few of the basic elements of urban living which are necessary for a mere existence.

The myth of the suburban single family residential development sprawling endlessly and monotonously over the once pleasant countryside surrounding our cities, as a solution to our housing needs is proving to create more problems than it solves.

In the haste and greed which has promoted and exploited this need for housing, there has been a total disregard for long range planning which would provide for a balanced economy; including commercial, industrial and recreational areas, and high density multi-family residential facilities, whose tax dollars would support the services essential for safe and sanitary living.

The tremendous loss of time and money involved in the transportation of these great masses of people to their places of work in private passenger cars over long distances, on choked thoroughfares which cannot keep pace

with the demand, is a waste which we cannot afford indefinitely.

Another, and perhaps greater problem is involved in this haphazard perimeter growth of our cities, and that is the decay of our central city, the physical heart which is the focal point for government, commerce, finance, recreation and culture, whose health is absolutely essential if the other components are to grow and prosper.

We must not let this central core become as a deserted village from five o'clock Friday evening, when the exodus to suburbia begins, until Monday morning when the horde returns to choke its streets and parking facilities for the balance of the week.

This center city is the reception room of the community which the entire world sees and which should set the standard for the entire areas development. Our governmental facilities should be pleasant and convenient for the people they serve. Our hotel, theatre, municipal auditorium and restaurant district should be kept gay, bright, relaxing and easily accessible for our own residents and our many thousands of convention and entertainment guests. Our retail shopping center should be freed of all but essential vehicular traffic and the streets converted to landscaped pedestrian malls, made both safe and exciting for the people they wish to attract. Our public transportation system should be completely revised and expanded to facilitate the rapid and comfortable peak-load movement of people into and out of the central business district. Finally, in order to establish a more stable economy and to effect the creation of an atmosphere of community life, relatively high density multi-family residential neighborhoods, in both the medium and high priced brackets, should be designed to meet the demand of a growing segment of our population who are finding certain advantages and pleasures in living in the heart of a city.

To restate the case briefly, the satellite development of a metropolitan area are dependent upon the central community for their basic economy, for their needed services which include rail, air and river freight and passenger communications, for their health and sanitation facilities, but, more important than all of these, they are dependent upon the city for the cultural and recreational environment which makes of living something more than just a struggle for survival. To mention but a few, there are the museums, the art gallery, the symphony orchestra and the legitimate theatres, major basketball tournaments, major league baseball, the American Royal and all the numerous

concerts, shows and expositions held in the Municipal Auditorium.

If these essential services and accommodations for a full life are to progress in step with the ever growing demands of an expanding population, there must be a growing concern and effort by all the citizens to this end.

Kansas City is fortunate in having several agencies actively engaged in various phases of community planning and in the past few years we have begun to see some tangible results of their efforts.

An Area Planning Commission composed of representatives of five counties which constitute our metropolitan area, has been established within the past two years and is working closely with the technical staff of Community Studies on common, long range problems of the area. The Housing Authority has done an outstanding job in providing low-rent housing and the city enjoys its by-product of eliminating some of our worse slums. The Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority is a most active agency and has already been responsible for the demolition of much obsolete skid-row type districts in the immediate downtown area, making them now available to private investors for orderly and profitable development. Of primary importance, however, is the fact that Kansas City, Missouri, has long had a strong City Plan Commission, which has been most fortunate in being able to maintain an excellent professional and technical staff.

The architects have a fine record of service on the City Plan Commission, the Board of Zoning Adjustment, and the Park Board. Their efforts in 1957 in working with the Plan Commission on a master plan for the Central Business District constituted perhaps the greatest single contribution which any civic or professional group has ever made to the people of Kansas City.

We can look with pride on the past contributions of the architects to the physical and visual well being of the community, but we must face the future with a determination to take an ever greater part in the shaping of our urban environment.

We urge all AIA members to serve on community boards and commissions, even though at times this means certain self-sacrifice, as they must forego serving those boards or commissions as practicing architects. The AIA at all levels and through its committees must work with related design and other professions toward clarification of their various roles in community planning and urban renewal. We should, as a Chapter, take stands on issues regarding community planning, and when architects are to be appointed to civic boards or commissions, their names

should be presented by the AIA Chapter so as to keep them completely free of politics.

Above all, we must emphasize that the major responsibility of the architectural profession and the AIA is to improve civic design. The economists, the sociologists, the engineers and land planners all have vital parts in this problem of renewing our metropolitan areas, but it is the individual and collective role of the Architects to provide the essential design values, without which the new city may be no better than the old. ●



REPORT ON

CLEVELAND CONVENTION

The Cleveland Convention was attended by John Murphy, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Krug, Mr. and Mrs. William Conrad, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Roark, and Dave Miller. Graciously planned by the Cleveland Host Chapter, their efforts were appreciated by all who attended, the Convention is briefly summed up in these three reports.

SEMINARS AND SPEAKERS

Monday

This day being devoted mainly to registration and making contacts with fellow delegates, guests and visiting friends, the features this day were two tours. The Republic Steel Corporation Tour, visiting the open hearth and blast furnaces, was very interesting. However, because of the heavy rain, the sightseeing from our buses was limited. The Nela Park Tour was educational—showing lighting of the future and many applications to present day planning. After the lighting tour we were treated to liquid

refreshments and a grand dinner in the Park picnic shelter house.

Tuesday

This day was the beginning of business sessions, panel discussions and welcoming addresses by national and local dignitaries with the Keynote Address "Are Architects Becoming Technicians," by Vincent G. Kling, A.I.A., Philadelphia. This was a very interesting address, telling the Architects that with the combining of our professional heritage, high standards, and broad sense of service we will be good for another century, at least.

Also a timely address on "Buildings' Chaotic Codes" by William B. Tobler, A.I.A. of New York. His lecture was of very serious nature although he dealt humorously with some of the present day Code requirements and of the many major injustices affecting construction today and he strongly urged the revision of the nation's Building Codes.

One of the afternoon panels was on "New Fields of Architectural Research." While the A.I.A. research staff has carried on many projects, the field has hardly been scratched. A 3-year Client Research Program has been proposed.

Wednesday—Business Session

All the important reports were presented. The report of the Nominating Committee and nominations from the floor with lively balloting for candidates ensued.

One of the highlight speeches at the Convention was by Dr. Margaret Mead, Associate Curator of Ethnology on "The Anthropologist Looks at Architecture." Dr. Mead gave us a timely and forceful lecture on our present day living and its environment and gave us the following definition of the Architect—"I feel that if one defines the architect as a person who is responsible for the relationship between a man-made environment and the values of his society for the fit, out of that will come beauty in the future that is comparable to the beauty that has come out of the most perfectly fitted societies of the past."

One of the afternoon panels on "Working With the Home Build-

er," was very interesting and was forcibly pointed out by A. Quincy Jones, A.I.A. and Royal Barry Wills, F.A.I.A. of the important role the Architect should play in home building industry. Wills pointed out that the architects have failed to meet the challenge and that we should make all efforts to work with the builder on this huge field of home building industry.

Thursday—Business Session

Announcement of balloting with the polls opening at 10:00 A.M. and closing at 5:00 P.M.

The feature item on the agenda which lasted for the entire morning session was the Institute's stand on extension of the East Central portion of the U. S. Capitol Building. The debate reached a high pitch at times, but was orderly and kept in bounds with each faction allotted equal time.

The final analysis was that the A.I.A. reaffirms its opposition to the extension of the U. S. Capitol Building.

Carl Feiss, A.I.A. Washington Consultant, Chairman of the Community Planning and Development Committee, pointed out that there should be more interest shown by the architects in the urban renewal programs, and that funds for Urban Research should be urged.

The Annual Banquet held at the Statler Hotel with all its pomp and dignitaries, the investiture of New Fellows and the presentation of the A.I.A. Gold Medal to John W. Root, F.A.I.A.

Friday—Final Business Session

Continuation of Board's Report.

Report of Resolutions Committee—there were a total of 17 resolutions acted upon. New Officers and Directors were introduced and the Convention was adjourned.

INSTITUTE AND CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Regarding Institute affairs, the agenda seemed to me to be very full—to the point where sometimes I wondered if everything would be done in time to adjourn. In all, 17 Institute resolutions were acted on. The meat of these were:

- (1) to re-establish the committee on fees and contractual relationships.
- (2) to establish a Building Code Committee.
- (3) to ask the Board to reconsider its recent action which eliminated full regional representation on some committees (submitted by the St. Louis Chapter).
- (4) to ask the Board to consider a by-law amendment stating that the Institute could withdraw the membership of any corporate member, without prejudice, when it was found he was mainly engaged in activities other than the practice of Architecture.
- (5) to amend the By-Laws as follows: "The Board shall establish not less than thirteen regional districts, each of which shall comprise the territory of one or more states." (This opened the door for Florida and California to form their own regions.)

Not to be outdone by the Capitol "lobbyists," an almost continuous activity was the button-holing of delegates to muster votes in the contest for Institute officers. The new officers, Richards, Will, Wright, Wilson and Kastendieck are all familiar to us now. And by the time this SKYLINES is printed, I am sure that the other important Institute matters will have been adequately covered by the A.I.A. JOURNAL and other sources.

Perhaps the most interesting single seminar pertaining to the local Chapter was the Chapter Affairs Seminar on Thursday afternoon, conducted by Paul Hunter, National Committee Chairman and Art Holmes, Octagon Director of Chapter Activities. A few of the items of discussion were:

- (1) the recent change in Committee Structure, from vertical committees to smaller general committees—largely due to the expenses necessary to transport all committee members to Washington for meetings. It is generally felt that a smaller committee might meet more often and work more effectively.
- (2) the forthcoming revised Chapter Manual for use as a guide for new officers.
- (3) Documents of the Month—an interesting survey of the material which the Octagon has selected to distribute during the past year (of which October, 1957 SKYLINES was one). The thing emphasized here was that these are being distributed to acquaint the local Chapter with what

other Chapters are doing. These should be passed on beyond the Secretary's file to the people who can benefit most.

- (4) Award Programs—a feeling in general that the public relations value is well worth the effort.
- (5) Chapter Reports—a new effort to compile information on membership, budget, committees, activities, and many other Chapter affairs into one tabulation providing an interesting comparison of Chapters and guide to wider activities. This phase of the program was handled by Ozzie Thorsen, Central States Chapter Affairs Chairman.
- (6) Chapter Attendance—two interesting ideas here, from other Chapters. In Florida, they pre-pay meal tickets by the year, insuring a greater attendance. In another Chapter, they invited the wives to joint meetings for late afternoon social hour, dinner, and then separating for the Business meeting with the wives having a program of their own, such as interior decoration, music, etc. This way the Mrs. puts the bead on Mr. Architect to attend.
- (7) Regional Conferences—generally felt to be of more value, individually, than National Conventions.
- (8) Executive Secretaries—Kansas City fell far short here, for most other Chapters in the room had not only Executive Secretaries,

but other staff members as well. Chicago has 3 phones and are thinking of getting another because of the heavy usage.

In summary, I felt Kansas City stacked up pretty well with other Chapters, except for the few constructive comments above.

The entire Convention was gratifying and I wish to thank the Chapter for making it possible for me to go as Associate Representative. It was most interesting to meet the many people from other parts of the country, many of whom I have corresponded with during my editorship of SKYLINES. It was quite by accident that I happened to meet Ben J. Lubschez of New York on the elevator and because of my Kansas City nametag, had a nice chat about Kansas City and the six years he was President of the Chapter here.

SOCIAL EVENTS

If the national Conventions of the American Institute of Architects were to be judged as a success purely upon the enjoyment offered by the social program, the 1958 Convention in Cleveland would be considered eminently successful. Delegates and their wives during the course of the convention not only were invited to tour, to dine and bend elbows, but also to view the town by boat, to take part in a reception and an exhibit at the Art Center, and attend a Broadway musical in a theater in-the-round.

Monday evening was occupied with a dinner and variety show, "Designs for Mirth," sponsored by the Producer Council, accom-

panying the opening of the Building Products Exhibition.

For the wives, Tuesday brings memories of a fascinating boat trip along the Guyahoga River and out into Lake Erie to view the city's skyline and river front facilities. A gala dinner sponsored by the Host Chapter at the Wade Park Manor Hotel on the fringe of Cleveland's cultural and educational University Circle area was followed by the President's reception at the nearby Cleveland Art Center. Here in the beauty of a garden court of the Art Center, which combines the classicism of the older museum with the well-defined lines of the forceful contemporary addition, delegates and their wives viewed the unclad sculptural works of the artist Maillol, shook the hands of President and Mrs. Chatelain and Director of the Museum Lee and Mrs. Lee, and then as a climax viewed the beautifully prepared exhibit of Award Winners and buildings by members of the Host Chapter.

A reception at the Institute of Art, within walking distance across the street from the Art Center, found conventioners and their wives sipping punch, while viewing the work of students at the Institute.

Wednesday, the ladies were entertained with a luncheon at the Higbee Department Store amid a setting of a sumptuous private dining room having an exquisitely draped ceiling and effective lighting which created a dramatic background for a fashion show by the store, as well as a program of harp selections by two wives of the Host Chapter.

The climax of Wednesday's activities was the performance of

"Annie Get Your Gun," the lively Broadway musical comedy at Cleveland's Musi-carnival. This brilliant production was staged with very few props in a theater-in-the-round, cleverly housed in a huge tent. Following the show, in a large tent erected for this occasion on the parking lot nearby, the Host Chapter entertained the theater-goers with a cocktail party at which members of the cast attended. The evening was concluded at a late hour with an Architect Band playing Dixieland on the Musi-carnival stage for those theater-goers who cared to dance.

Thursday, the wives toured many of the historic buildings on the fringe of Cleveland, the Western Reserve area, gaining an insight into the early history of this area. The highlight of the trip was a visit to the early Episcopal Church, Saint Christopher By-The-River at Gates Mill, typical of the early New England churches, and a visit to Dunham Tavern, which accommodated travelers in stage coach days and is now a museum with items of early Americana. Lunch was served at a nearby country club.

Not to be forgotten as the climax of the Convention was the formal banquet at the Statler ballroom with the investiture of new Fellows and the presentation of the A.I.A. gold medal to John Wellborn Root.

Cleveland and the 1958 Convention will be remembered not only for the excellence, but also for the great variety of social activities in which the delegates and their wives found many enjoyable moments, and take to their homes many pleasant memories.

CHAPTER NEWS

● March 18th and 19th have been selected as the dates of the **Sixth Annual Architects' Conference** at Kansas University. The theme for the conference will be "Facilities for the Aging" and enrollment fee will be \$30.00. The annual event is sponsored jointly by the KU University Extension, the Kansas City Chapter A.I.A., and the Kansas Chapter A.I.A., and in the past has presented many stimulating speakers and discussions. Plan now to attend.

● Bendiner is a good man if he can survive his many National Conventions and still see "Life in a Martini Glass." Your Editor has been through only one and after the martinis, he could hardly see.

● The Head Table at the Cleveland Convention was made brighter by the presence of **Lloyd and Aldene Roark**. An-

other highlight was seeing the investiture of **Ted Griest** of Topeka in the College of Fellows.

● **Evans Folger** has been appointed Program Chairman for the coming year.

● Congratulations to **Joe E. Smay** of the University of Oklahoma on his election as President of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. Also of note was his commendation by the A.I.A. Board for the splendid work of his Committee on Professional Liability Insurance.

● We wish to welcome our new advertiser, Interior Classics, Inc. Watch their ads closely during the next year and visit their showroom at 3415 Prospect to get acquainted. Remember, it is only through the participation of our advertisers that SKYLINES is made possible.

MEMBERSHIP



Kenneth E. Coombs is to be installed as Corporate member at the September meeting. Born in Lewistown, Maine, and holding a B.S. Degree in Architecture from Bensslear Polytechnic Institute of Troy, N. Y., Ken has been a member of the Kansas City Chapter since 1951. With his own practice since January, 1956, Ken recently became a member of the firm of Coombs, Waddington, and Associates.

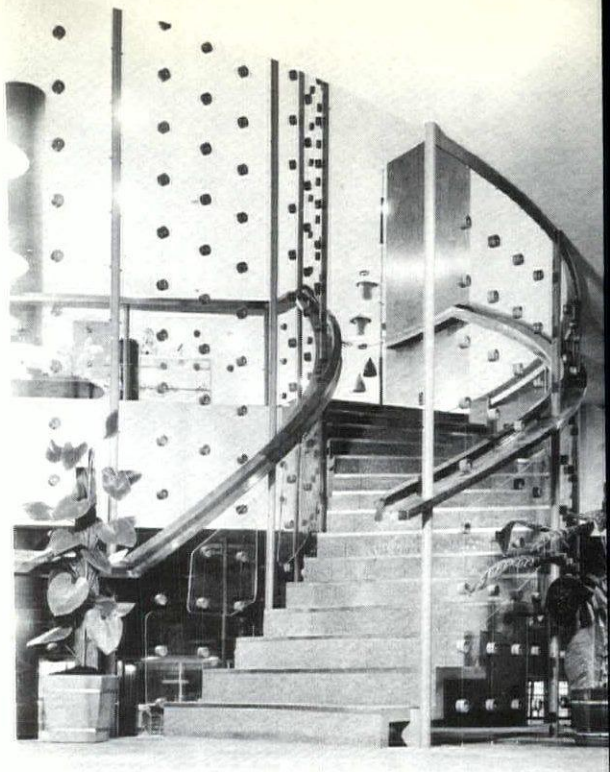


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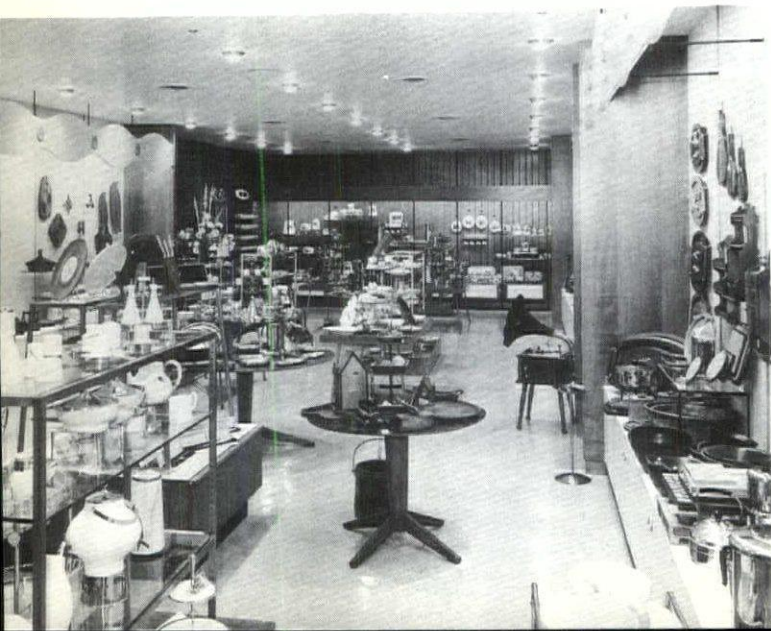
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The Entrance at Night

The Silver Room



REPORT ON PROGRAMS HELD DURING THE PAST YEAR

Conrad J. Curtis, Program Chairman

- SEPTEMBER Program: Jack Morley, 35 mm slides and address on his stay in Denmark.
Remarks: Interesting meeting, well attended. Local talent always good.
- OCTOBER Program: Bernard Frazier, Sculptor-in-Residence, University of Kansas, display and address with 35 mm slides; also KC/80 display.
Guests: Mrs. Frazier and George Beal.
Remarks: Interesting meeting well attended.
- NOVEMBER Program: J. L. McCullough, District Manager of J. M. Sales Corporation. Address on the use of special bitumen in roofing.
Guests: Dick Raining, J. M. Sales Corporation.
Remarks: Interesting meeting with medium attendance.
- DECEMBER Program: Annual Meeting.
- JANUARY Program: Installation Banquet, Joseph Watterson, Editor, A.I.A. JOURNAL. Address re-printed in SKYLINES.
Guests: Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Watterson, Mr. and Mrs. John Rohde, Jr. (Producer's Council), Rev. B. J. Koenig, Mr. Clifford Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Burt Senter.
Remarks: Speaker obtained by Lloyd Roark. Press coverage. Month of Big Snow. Meeting delayed one day; poorly attended.
- FEBRUARY Program: Ed Tanner with slides and commentary on his trip to Greece.
Remarks: Good meeting as always with Ed.
- MARCH Program: Paul K. Garber of Woodward, Clyde and Associates, address on Soils Engineering.
Remarks: Interesting meeting, well attended.
- APRIL Program: Honor Awards Banquet. Thomas K. Fitzpatrick, FAIA, Dean, School of Architecture, University of Virginia, principal speaker.
Guests: George Beal (K.U.), Mr. and Mrs. Don Walker (Executive Secretary of Kansas Chapter), Mr. and Mrs. Bert Senter, Fred Fitzsimmons (K. C. Star), Mr. Guy Mabry (Producer's Council) and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Horttor (Builder's Association).

Remarks: Speaker secured by Honor Awards Committee and Program conducted by them with coordination by Program Committee. Press coverage. Medium attendance.

MAY Program: Photography of Architecture. Four Kansas City Architectural Photographers; L. D. Jones, Wayne Wright, Larry Nicholson and Phillip Lynn, each presented short talks on subjects relating to program.

Guests: From Kansas University and Kansas State.

Remarks: Good meeting, well attended.

JUNE Program: James W. Stephens, First Vice President, Metropolitan Area Planning Council, addressed Chapter on work of the Council.

Remarks: Good meeting, poorly attended.

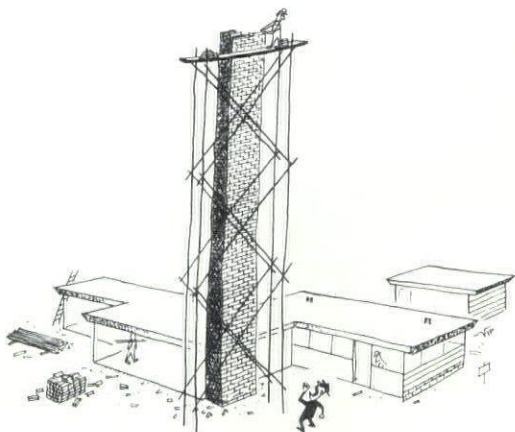
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear SKYLINES Editor,

Mr. Peter Keleti's article on "Parkinson's Law and the Air Force Academy," SKYLINES, June, 1958, is not completely convincing. An equation so contrived which marries military architecture to "sheet rock," if memory recalls more rightly described as "transite," and then protests that high finish, a product of our technology, is per se pompous; is at best, faulty.

Yours very truly,

John W. Sugden, Editor
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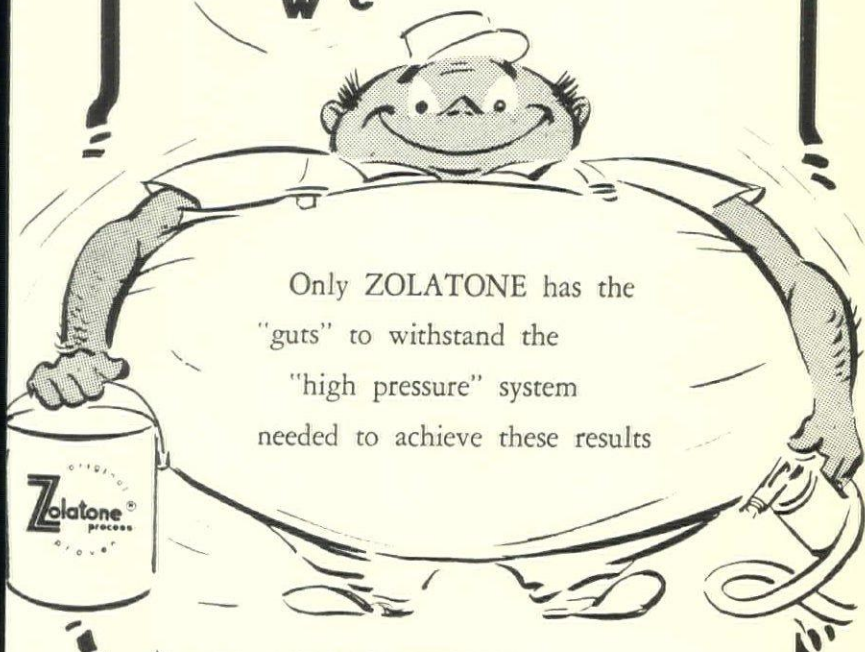
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