



SKYLINES

OCTOBER NOVEMBER 1967 CONTENTS

ANNUAL ARCHITECTURAL RESTORATION ISSUE John A. Huffman, Feature Editor

Restoration Issue Feature Editor's Historical Archaeology The Research Historian......10 Architectural Investigation

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Coming in the December January issue:

Cover: Detail drawings from the Historic American

Buildings Survey of the Wornall House, 146 West 61st

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

J. David Miller AIA President Kansas City Chapter American Institute of Architects

CAUSE TO PRESERVE

Our country has approximately 45 people per square mile compared to nearly 500 people per square mile in Europe. If our population were as crowded as theirs, could you imagine the fantastic value that would be placed on land, or imagine the care and thought that would go into the design, planning and upkeep of each building Our country is still young, our economy is still dynamic, and these assets are at the same time our pitfalls. Compare the grade of the average building in America with its counterpart in Europe. Look behind the philosophies of many buildings today, and you will find a policy of planned obsolescence. When building maintenance can be easily budgeted out of operating funds, what use is there in spending more initially for soundness and permanence? As our population increases, and as our rural reserve disappears, we rapidly approach the point of total confusion.

There are several ways of creating order out of urban confusion. One, of course, is to plan thoughtfully for the human being, and to design for peace of mind in the midst of activity and movement. The Architect is doing this with increasing skill in the new urban setting. Another important way of creating order and continuity in our environment is to set aside and preserve historic milestones. Preservation is vital to the "sense of place" in a Community, for it calms and adds meaning to a constantly shifting skyline. A truly good building that is worthy of preservation can stabilize and add authority and value to its setting.

The steps to Preservation are difficult:

(a) In authoritative selection of worthy buildings,

(b) In the enactment of proper legislation to control encroachment, and

(c) In securing the necessary interest and funds to substantiate the cost.

The philosophy of Preservation is a little like putting money in savings when you still have bills to pay. There will always be bills, but the savings account won't grow unless it is added to. The Municipal Art Society in New York took six years to select 300 buildings to save. By the time the list was complete, 20% were already demolished!

In Kansas City, our Chapter has completed a list of significant buildings, and has worked jointly with the Municipal Art Commission to recommend a Landmarks Commission Ordinance. Enactment by the City Council will put a local program in action and preserve for future generations an irretrievable inheritance.

Dave Hiller



John A. Hutfman Feature Editor



ANNUAL ARCHITECTURAL RESTORATION ISSUE This issue is the second annual look at restoration ... both from a physical standpoint local

as it is approached by the various professions and interested civic groups involved.

As evidenced by experience, the disciplines of the archaeologist, the historian and the architect must be joined to document the authenticity of a building fabric and its function at a specific point in time. In Kansas City these three professions have, and are collaborating on the Wornall House, a Greek Revival structure built in 1858.

The following articles have been contributed by people active in the work:

HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND RESTORATION by Melvin Edward Farris and Professor Osmund Overby. Department of Art History and Archaeology, University of Missouri at Columbia.

THE RESEARCH HISTORIAN by Mrs. Katherine Taggart, Historian, Jackson County Historical Society.

ARCHITECTURAL INVESTIGATION FOR RESTORATION by Gary Engel, Department of Architecture and Architectural Engineering, University of Kansas.

PRESERVATION NEWS AND NOTES by contributors active and interested in restoration.

HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND RESTORATION

The authenticity of a restoration depends upon the accuracy and completeness of the facts assembled. It is this painstaking and methodical search for historical facts in restoration work that replaces the design phase of normal architectural work. The facts that will finally reveal the physical history of a building come in many different forms, and the

Excavating the cisterns at the Wornall House, Kansas City, Missouri



search for them requires the joint efforts of not only the architect and the historian, but also the archaeologist. Archaeology has been defined as the study of the physical remains of the past as they are revealed in the ground. Ordinarily we think of archaeologists as studying prehistoric periods, but even in historical periods, as in a restoration project, they have much to contribute.

The archaeologist at a restoration project can turn up kinds of evidence that would otherwise go undiscovered, such as related outbuildings that have been demolished, or parts of an original building that have been removed. Roads, paths, and landscaping features of a site can often be discovered. Architectural details lost from the original building might be recovered. The archaeologist can also further our historical knowledge of a building by helping to determine important dates more exactly, and helping to determine historical uses of different parts of a building through the recovery of artifacts.

Historical archaeology is a demanding science, and unless it is done by someone with adequate training and experience, more evidence will be destroyed than will be discovered and correctly interpreted. The archaeologist must be thoroughly familiar with field techniques, and he must also have a detailed familiarity with the artifacts of the period of the project. This intimate knowledge of artifacts is extremely difficult to acquire, but without it one cannot interpret the material discovered.

Historical archaeology is a rapidly growing field in this country, along with the preservation movement. Though we think first, perhaps, of some of the wellknown sites in the East such as Jamestown or Independence Park, it is by no means confined to the East, and we can point to several exemplary projects here in Missouri. Robert T. Bray, Director of the Lyman Archaeological Research Center of the University of Missouri has undertaken historical archaeBY MELVIN FARRIS AND PROFESSOR OSMUND OVERBY, DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI AT COLUMBIA

ology for the Missouri State Park Board at the Civil War Battle of Lexington State Park, the Booneslick State Park, and the First Missouri State Capital, for the National Park Service at Wilson's Creek Battlefield National Park, and for the Jackson County Historical Society at the Wornall House in Kansas City. Professor Bray worked at the Wornall House during the summers of 1965 and 1966. Here important information about the landscaping, the construction of the porch, and the elaborate system of cisterns was discovered (see photograph).

A project in historical archaeology is part of the syllabus of the summer school field program in archaeological methods conducted by the Lyman Archaeological Research Center. The project this past summer was the Sites Gunshop at Arrow Rock. The Arrow Rock excavation had two goals: (1) to excavate the powder magazine (see photograph) at the rear of the shop; (2) and to find indications of occupation between 1842 and 1902 when the building was used by the gunsmith, Mr. Sites.

A concrete floor was uncovered by removing debris within the magazine area. On this floor was a dime, dating from about 1941 and other material, such as bottles and miscellaneous glass, dating from about 1902-05. Material proving that the structure had actually been used as a powder magazine was not found, however, nor was any material relating to guns. Below the concrete floor a rock floor of undetermined date but possibly relating to Mr. Sites' occupation was found. Often, as here, more questions are raised than are answered, but this is part of the process of establishing historical authenticity.

South of the gunshop a five foot square grid was laid out and additional excavation performed. Both this and excavation of the powder magazine did produce a number of artifacts which could be useful as display material to help convey the feeling of the time and the function of the shop. The excavations also uncovered a number of architectural details which suggest the previous appearance of the shop. Archaeology can contribute much to the integrity of a restoration if the facts it brings to light, along with other historical information, are intelligently incorporated into the project. The restoration architect must know when to call on the archaeologist, and how to benefit from his help.

The powder magazine under excavation, Sites Gunshop, Arrow Rock, Missouri



THE RESEARCH HISTORIAN

BY MRS. KATHERINE N. TAGGART, HISTORIAN, JACKSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

The task of the research historian is to locate and organize information which will give reason and meaning to the restoration. Ideally his work precedes, accompanies and completes the activities and findings of the archaeologist and architect. On his diligence and open-mindedness depend much of the accuracy and significance of all the work.

The materials with which the historian deals have been classified as primary, secondary and peripheral. The closeness of their relationship with the restored building or the owners and inhabitants thereof determines their importance to the project.

Primary sources available to researchers usually are in the form of unpublished material. They frequently include deeds of property, land grants, title abstracts, wills, letters, diaries, and journals. When they can be found, bills, orders, trademen's daybooks, etc., can add meaningful details concerning either original construction or later additions or changes. The Wornall House in Kansas City is an excellent example of a restoration which is enriched immeasurably by its primary source materials. Family papers include the land grants originally issued to Isaac and John C. McCoy, deeds from the McCoys to Richard Wornall, and transfers of acreage to John Wornall from his father and stepmother, Richard and Polly Wor-nall. Directly related to the house itself are receipted bills from the carpenters, Bright & Royster, outlining a list of extras to raise their total bill for work on the house to \$981.39. Other receipts cover laths and shingles, brackets, guttering, a cistern and a pump and stove. Bills for furnishings, household and farm supplies, as well as for food and clothing round out the picture of domestic life in the country south of Westport over one hundred years ago. (See

illustration.) In a day when banks were few, barter and exchange frequently took the place of cash transactions. Many of the Wornall bills were paid in pork, sides of bacon, or quarters of beef. Surplus brick left after building the house was used to pay a doctor! Secondary source material is made up of published accounts concerning the building or its owners. County, state and city histories, genealogies, historical society annals, census reports, and back files of newspapers sometimes yield rich lodes of information, but their secondary nature must be remembered, and frequent inaccuracies challenged. The attribution of the architecture of the Wornall House to Asa B. Cross is an inaccuracy which has been repeated from one book to another. Recent studies make it clear that the house which this important Kansas City architect built for John B. Wornall was at 910 Locust Street, not south of Westport. The house designed by Cross was later sold to John S. Emery.

Still further removed from the immediate house or owner under consideration are the peripheral sources. Architectural histories are a valuable help in placing an individual structure in its proper stylistic classification. Many volumes on Greek Revival and on Kentucky architecture have added to the understanding of why John Wornall chose to build as he did. Builders' manuals and "carpenter's assistants", as well as the books by A. J. Downing and others, throw light on much nineteenth century work in America. Trade journals, newspaper advertisements, and the early magazines such as the Western Journal and Civilian or Godey's Magazine illustrate both the theoretic and the practical sides of building. The Godeys of circa 1850 contain not only house plans, furniture and curtain designs, but articles on carpet manufacture, how to care for linens, or how to set a table for tea. The Westport Border Star and Kansas City papers of the same period show cuts of cooking stoves (New Era or Golden Era), Empire type furniture and Victorian sofas, as well as advertisements for carpenters and joiners, plasterers, and for a city architect and "measurer".

Where sufficient materials are available, the researcher's job seems almost endless, and is, in fact, never finished. Fortunately where confusion seems to exist or the pattern is not clear, the investigations of either archaeologist or architect may then answer a question decisively. Only by working as a team can they even hope to arrive at an approximation of the truth.



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Receipted bill from carpenter outlining extras raising the total original construction cost of the Wornall House built in 1858.

ARCHITECTURAL INVESTIGATION FOR RESTORATION

BY MR. GARY W. ENGEL, DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING, UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Buildings typically undergo numerous changes through the years for maintenance, expansion, change of use, or simply for "modernization". Each of these stages in its evolution is part of the story of an historic building, yet only one can be presented in a restoration. It should be determined early in the project which period is the most valuable to depict. After the date is selected, the changes occurring both before and after that time should be established.

One of the avenues of research available is an architectural investigation of the structure. A surprising number of indications of the modifications which have occurred over the life of a building remain imprinted upon its fabric. Although careful observation alone would reveal many of these, a systematic method of *collection, organization* and *evaluation* of information is necessary to insure that it is accurately interpreted and that other, more obscure "clues" are brought to light.

The first step is collection of data on the building exactly as it exists at the time of investigation. This information includes: 1. a set of measured sketch plans, elevations and sections; 2. notes and sketches of structural and finish details; 3. accurate and full scale profiles of finish elements; and 4. notes on techniques of construction and on materials that are not adequately explained in the first three. An extensive set of photographs, both interior and exterior, should also be prepared.

The next step is to organize the data collected. This is often quite revealing. Simply tabulating the properties of related items, such as making a door schedule, will make immediately apparent similarities and variations that might be missed were the properties of each item studied singly.

Once the material is organized, it is ready for evaluation. This step is by far the most complex and requires both discipline and imagination. It also requires a familiarity with the results of related architectural, historical and archeological studies. A cursory examination of all the information should yield a score of facts. Even more it will suggest questions, e.g., Why are there two types of window casing in that back bedroom?; or, Why don't the beam bearing

points on the gallery align with the present column locations? These "odd" conditions suggest possible modifications. They also certainly suggest further study. Explanations are generated for all these "unknowns" and these explanations are used for programming further investigations. This involves a reapplication of the three steps: collection, organization and evaluation, until the unknowns are erased or until all sources are exhausted. Unfortunately, a structure will not always "tell all".

The system outlined above produced some intriguing information about the stair hall doors in the Wornall House (see Figure 1), and raised some questions which are yet to be completely resolved. The initial collection of data on all doors in the house included notes and sketches of door and frame types, fullscale panel profiles, overall measurements and some general notes on construction. The information relevant to the stair hall doors appeared somewhat as shown on page 13.







FIGURE 2: FRAME AND DOOR TYPES

The evaluation stage was aided by an architectural study of the house done about 1930. A study of doors done at that time showed none of the above types, but did show each of the panel profiles. These profiles were on four-panel doors equivalent to doubles of each of the above types. In addition, although the circa 1930 study didn't key most of the door types to the plan, it did show a single swing door at each of the stair hall openings.

It was theorized that each of the four doors was modified some time after 1930, possibly in the early forties when the kitchen and baths are known to have been remodeled, and that each extant door leaf was sawn from single swing doors existing at that time. To check this hypothesis, the jambs were studied for old hinge and lockset locations and the construction and measurements of each door were carefully observed. Markings of appropriate hinge and lockset locations were found at the lower level but not the upper. The doors at location 112 and 209 were indeed found to be sawn from one or more older doors. The doors at 202 were found to be sawn from a door type that would exactly match one known to exist in the kitchen in 1930. The doors at 102 were found to be of modern construction fabricated to match the doors at 112.

Why are there distinct door types, leading from a very important space, in a house designed with symmetry as the paramount design criterion An explanation was developed which assumed that: 1. The doors at the lower level originally matched and were four-panel single swing doors similar to Type I; 2. The doors at the upper level originally matched and were similar to Type II; 3. The doors at locaton 112 were fabricated from the hinge halves of the original doors at 102 and 112, the lockset halves being discarded because of damage to the stile caused by the lockset installation; 4. The doors at 102 were fabricated to match their mates at 112; 5. The doors at 209 were fabricated from the hinge halves of the original doors at 202 and 209; and 6. The doors at 202 were fabricated from a single door removed from the kitchen.

The important assumptions here are numbers 1 and

2; as the original door types are what need to be established!

The collection of additional data, a repeat of the first step in architectural research, was initiated to test the validity of all assumptions, and an original lockset location was discovered in one leaf of the door at 209 proving assumption number 5 false. All other assumptions stood the test of repeated collection, organization and evaluation.

If, as seems possible, only one door was used to fabricate the leaves in opening 209, where then is the original door for opening 202? Here lies the frustration and the fascination of architectural research—trying to coax a mute object to divulge its secrets. Hope is not yet lost; these doors are related to many other aspects of the structure and perhaps further research will yet reveal the missing clue.

Traces of original balusters and handrail on beam supporting upper gallery floor in the Wornall House.



PRESERVATION NEWS AND NOTES

AN ORDINANCE to establish a Landmarks Commission is currently before the Plans and Zoning Committee of the City Council of Kansas City. Passage of the ordinance, which might occur as early as November 3, would establish a commission of six members that would act to designate those sites and monuments important to depict the heritage of Kansas City.

The commission could ultimately be empowered to create "historic district" or site zoning after public hearing, and to acquire, operate, maintain and dispose of properties in order to safeguard their preservation.

CHARLES A. KERR, Historical Curator of the Jackson County Park System, reports that the Riffie House at Missouri Town - 1885, Lake Jacomo has been converted into a Visitors Information Center. The house, which has not been altered structurally or in exterior appearance, now contains a small lecture hall, office, projection room, dioramas, and wall displays. Detail models and drawings of different types of pioneer construction will be displayed.

As an interpretive feature, the entire east end of the Riffie House has been left unfinished so that all of the construction details, from foundation to rough sawn rafters are visible. A display window and a series of push buttons have been installed. The visitor can read a short descriptive label and press the adjoining button. A spotlight then comes on and highlights the construction detail described in the label.



KENTUCKY STYLE COUNTRY MANSION will soon be added to Missouri Town - 1885. Shown in this sketch by Sidney Moore, Artist, the house is typical of the period with its open gallery. The house was donated by Mayor and Mrs. Beryl Webb, Oak Grove, Missouri.

AN EXHIBITION OF MISSOURI ARCHITECTURE, prepared by W. Philip Cotton, Jr., A.I.A., for the Missouri State Council on the Arts was shown for the first time at the annual meeting of the National Trust for Historic Preservation held in St. Louis October 19-24. The exhibition, which is intended to travel throughout the

SKYLINES

4

state, contains photographs, plans, sections, and details of important Missouri buildings and sites.

Illustrations were chosen for architectural merit and interest and include not only individual structures but groups of buildings such as distinguished campuses, squares, and streets from early French times to the present.



WORK CONTINUES at Watkins Mill State Park. B. H. Rucker, Curator, states that emphasis this year has been on reconstructing the engine room and dye house which adjoined the mill on the southeast corner. The shed-like structure was originally built of native timbers and served as an enclosure for the steam engine and boiler. In addition, it held a series of wooden and metal vats used for the various processes of dyeing woolens and the scouring of fleece. All lumber used in the reconstruction was cut from within the park, and the building was put together with mortise and tenon pegged joints to duplicate the original.

Other recent work at the State park includes the completion of HABS drawings on the Mt. Vernon Church (1870) and the Franklin School (1854), both of which constitute a part of the Watkins complex. Contracts have been let and actual restoration work will begin on the Mt. Vernon Church in the near future.

THE RECENTLY FORMED Missouri Valley Chapter of the Society of the Architectural Historians, E. F. Corwin, A.I.A. president, met on the UMKC campus Monday evening, October 9 to hear Professor Osmund Overby, talk on the background and current projects of the Historic American Building Survey. Professor Overby, Chairman of the department of Art History and Archeology, University of Missouri at Columbia, was associated with the HABS during the College Hill historic district study in Providence Rhode Island and will spend next summer in the Virgin Islands completing an HABS special research project.

Recently elected Missouri Valley SAH chapter officers are: E. F. Corwin, Jr., architect for the Parks and Recreation department, president; Ralph T. Coe,

assistant director of the Nelson Gallery, vice-president; Donald Hoffman, The Star's art editor, secretary-treasurer; Osmund Overby, chairman of the art history and archaeology department of the University of Missouri at Columbia, and Curtis Besinger of the school of architecture at the University of Kansas at Lawrence, directors.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Society of Architectural Historians will be held in St. Louis, late in January 1968.

THE NATIVE SONS of Kansas City have recently made another thoughtful, generous and worthwhile contribution to the preservation of Kansas City's historic heritage by voting the sum of \$4,000.00 as a gift to the Jackson County Historical Society for use in restoring the galleries on the South side of the Wornall House.

PROFESSOR CURTIS BESINGER, Department of Architecture and Architectural Engineering, University of Kansas forwarded the following from Lawrence:

The Capitol Federal Building in Topeka, designed by George Elmslie, is scheduled for destruction in the near future, but the Courthouse in Cottonwood Falls, Kansas, damaged in an early summer storm, has been repaired and painted and is now quite handsome.

Also, a photographic record of significant Lawrence residences, begun by visiting instructor George Langdon, will be completed by the University Photo Bureau and Bret Waller of the Museum of Art. Students enrolled in a new course in architectural photography taught by Fred Stephenson will contribute to the effort which will be brought together as a traveling exhibit.

REDEVELOPMENT THREATENS MAJORS HOUSE.

The Leawood City Council recently agreed to postpone for one year any rezoning of property in Kansas which would encroach on the Alexander P. Majors house. The postponement was granted to allow persons interested in preserving the house and adjoining grounds as an historic site time to prepare an alternate proposal.

The house stands in Missouri on State Line Road near 83rd Street, but in this area, the road and some land east of it rests entirely in Kansas. Thus developers seeking rezoning east of State Line Road must apply both to the City of Leawood in Kansas and the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

The Majors house was built in 1856 by one of the founders of Russell Majors and Waddell, a trading firm active in the mid 1800's. It was from this very site that wagon trains were made up for the over one-hundred day trip to Santa Fe. Apart from the freighting firm, the size of which was once estimated at 6,250 wagons, 75,000 oxen and 5,000 men, the firm also founded and operated the Pony Express and various stage lines to the West.

a.i.a. notes

METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COLLEGE COURSES FOR ARCHITECTS. Courses offered this coming spring semester: Architecture, 17, STATICS FOR ARCHITECTS. Vectors, resultants of force systems, centroids and centers of gravity, equilibrium of force systems stresses in members of simple trusses, friction and moments of inertia. Both algebraic and graphical methods are employed including string polygons and Maxwell's diagrams. Prequisite: Algebra two hours. Architecture 23, BUILDING MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION I. A study of materials in buildings, their properties, uses and application in building construction. Special emphasis on typical masonry, wood and light steel construction for one and two story buildings. Lectures, reading and laboratory, five hours per week, three hours credit. For more information contact MJC. Costs for residents of MJC district are \$4.00 per credit hour; for Missouri non-residents, \$12.00; and for out of state residents \$22.00. METROPOLITAN JUNIOR COLLEGE COURSES FOR ARCHITECTS.



KIVETT AND MYERS VS MARSHALL AND BROWN The First Annual Stupor The First Annual Stupor Bowl Game was played October 28 at the Swope Park Rugby Field with Kivett & Myers bowing to Marshall & Brown with a score of 25-12. The two architectural firms got together after the game for a picnictype celebration with the Kivett & Myers team footing the keg cost as a penalty for losing.

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION INSTALL 1967-68 OFFICERS.



Bill Wunsch designed

trophy to Ed Kinney.

New officers for the Kansas City Chapter of Women in Construction were installed at the were installed at the October 2 meeting held at the Wishbone Restau-rant. Dorothy Harris, outgoing President, and Bonnie Granger, Region 6 Director, conducted the installation ceremony. Th following officers and directors were installed. isowski (Dutoit Con-The

Jeanne Plisowski

- President: Jeanne Plisowski (Dutoit Con-struction Co.)
- Vice President: Ethel Parry (Missouri Portland Cement Co.
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- Construction Co.) Corresponding Secretary: Dixie Osborn (Owens-Corning Fiberglas) Treasurer: Eileen Younger (B-D-R Engineering)
- Board of Directors:
 Leona Stuenkel (Builders' Association of K.C.)
 Genevieve Kierl (National Electrical Con-tractors Association Inc.)
- Elaine Green (Ace Contracting Co., Inc.) Martha Blunt (Sheet Metal & Air Conditioning Contractors Association) Two additional members were elected to the

Board of Directors:

Board of Directors: Jessie Lewis, (Charles E. Mullin, Jr., Arch.) Mary Brown, (Wm. S. Rawlings Co.) Mr. Frank Mivens, who is retiring from Construction Products Armco Steel Corporation on October 31 after 32 years with the Company, was the guest speaker. His subject was on "41 Years in the Construction Business." Mr. Nivens has been an enthusiastic booster for WIC since Kansas City has had a chapter and it was most appropriate that he was present.





Producers' Council notes



Charles F. Nelson

CHUCK NELSON ELECTED MAYOR OF COUNTRYSIDE, KANSAS.

Charles F. (Chuck) Nelson of Azrock Floor Products was sworn in as Mayor of Countryside, Kansas, this summer. Chuck has been a long time member of the Kansas City Chapter of Producers' Council and recently served as Chairman and was one of the founders of the Architectural Library at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. This Library is a joint venture of the Kansas City Chapters of the American Institute of Architects and the Producers' Council. Though active in the political field, this is still a part time job, and Chuck will continue to actively promote Azrock Floor Products in the Kansas City area.

PRODUCERS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COCKTAIL PARTY.

The Producers' Council annual Christmas Cocktail Party for Architects and Engineers will be held Wednesday, December 20, at 5:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. in the Continental Hotel Ballroom.

MEDICAL FACILITIES DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SEMINAR.

The local Producers' Council Chapter, in conjunction with the national organization, will sponsor The Medical Facilities Design and Construction Seminar at the President Hotel April 24, 1968. This Seminar is planned to expose quality products and new product concepts related to construction and design of medical facilities to architects, engineers, medical facilities' planners, and administrators. Simultaneously, the seminar sponsors will receive the current thinking of these professions regarding latest trends.

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index of advertisers

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Buildex, Inc. Expanded Shale Aggregate	20
Building And Masonry Advancement Program	22
Carter-Waters Construction Materials	17
City Block And Products Company	21
Glen O'Brien Movable Partition Co., Inc.	2
Great Western/Morris Paints	
Herbert V. Jones & Company	19
Modern Center	4
New Blue Print Inc	19
Surface Paints	16

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Architect: John Lawrence Daw & Associates; General Contractor: J. E. Dunn Construction Company; Photography: Joel Strasser.

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