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Alabama Civic Center Design Competition

A $25 million civic center, consisting of a 17,000-seat arena, a 3,000-seat concert hall, and a theater seating 1,000 will be completed in Birmingham in 1970. The civic center project will be constructed and operated by the Civic Center Authority of the Cities and County of Jefferson County, Ala.

The act which created the Authority requires that the architect for the Civic Center be selected pursuant to an architectural competition approved by the American Institute of Architects. The Authority has appointed William A. Briggs, AIA, P. O. Box 16038, Richmond, Va., 23222, to act as professional adviser in connection with the competition. The national competition is expected to be announced formally in about three months.

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This facility consists of 20 two-story apartment units sited in a wooded area approximately one quarter mile from the main campus.

The circular form of the building takes advantage of the natural contours while providing an excellent view of the valley and creek beyond.

The entry court is planned as a year-around play area for children. The building serves as a windbreak, making this area usable except on extremely cold or wet days. The Laundry Building has been placed adjacent to the play court in order for parents to supervise the play yard while doing their laundry.
The objective of the building program was to provide the maximum possible rentable space consistent with economy. The final design was largely determined by the following zoning restrictions and site limitations: first, the zoning ordinance required a fixed ratio of parking to rental space; second, the elevation of the water table limited the depth to which an underground parking garage could extend. The result was a garage restricted to three levels. The number of parking spaces thus obtained (170) determined the size of the office structure.

The roof of the garage is treated as a plaza with the building set back on all sides. The structure is exposed poured-in place concrete. The upper floors have deep concrete vertical members on a ten foot module and each module is further subdivided by vertical fins of glare-reducing acrylic plastic for additional sun control.
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SECTION

March/1966
ARCHITECT:
Caruthers A. Coleman, Jr., AIA
Lexington

DESIGNERS:
Caruthers A. Coleman, Jr., AIA
James B. Tune, AIA
Lexington

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS:
White, Walker and McReynolds
Lexington

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS:
Staggs and Fischer
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RENDERING:
Thomas W. Ventulett, AIA
Atlanta, Georgia

tories, lecture facilities and faculty offices for the Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The first floor is devoted to two large lecture theaters, seating 312 each, and smaller lecture and classrooms. The second and third floors house the various laboratories and the faculty offices.

The basic module of the building is 9'4'', which is the spacing of counters and equipment in the laboratories. This module was found to be appropriate throughout the building except in the faculty offices. There the partitions are spaced so that the width of three offices equals four of the 9'4'' modules, or 37'4''. The treatment of the front elevation is derived from superimposing these two different but related modules.

The structure is reinforced concrete which, where exposed, will be stained to complement the exterior brick.
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Precast, Prestressed Concrete for Lexington Continental Inn

Lexington's 202 spacious room Continental Inn recently was dedicated. This modern, spacious inn is a welcome contribution to superior accommodations for Kentucky's rapidly increasing tourist industry.

Versatility and superior performance of Dolt and Dew precast concrete products keep these materials in the foreground of Kentucky's rapidly progressing construction economy. Nashville designer J. B. Gooch used precast concrete to advantage in this structure.

Floor, roof and balcony areas are of four-inch thick precast, prestressed concrete slab in all rental areas (110,113 sq. ft.). In commercial areas (meeting rooms, restaurant, cocktail lounge) are 38,452 sq. ft. of precast, prestressed double-tee units. Prestressed concrete beams, numbering 66, were precast in various sizes.

Yes, once again, Dolt and Dew precast concrete products have provided designed structural strength with character and modern purpose.

March/1966
Architecture in the Mid-Sixties is perhaps more dynamic than ever before. The cultural and technological sophistication of this decade more and more is finding expression in modern structure. The same technology that creates in man the need for greater self expression and individuality is at once producing materials and methods which will satisfy these needs. This article describes one of the results of this modern technology.

There have been many attempts to provide textured surfaces by conventional methods either performed in a plant as part of a manufacturing operation or at the job site as part of a field operation. Floor and ceiling tile as well as fabricated wall covering materials are being produced to give an interesting texture. Pre-cast, exposed aggregate concrete, structural elements have recently found a wide acceptance, providing both structure and several textured effects. Poured concrete may be inhibited and washed, sandblasted, or scarified to produce a textured three dimensional effect. All of these have been tried and have been found acceptable, therefore establishing a need for textured surfaces.

Research within the chemical industry dating to the early 1920's culminated in the mid-forties with the development of a family of polymeric materials which were essentially liquids at room temp-


Materials that could be cured at room temperature but could be cured at room temperature in relatively thick films which would yield unusual physical characteristics. These materials were tough, durable and resistant to very strong corrosive elements. As these materials evolved, they became widely accepted as standards for corrosion protection. In the past five years, these thermosetting materials have been widely used as coatings to simulate tile. Today, they are...
There are many proprietary names and constituents, but most of the commercially available compounds for field application are based on these essential resin types:

1. Bisphenol A Epichlorhydrin Condensates (Epoxy Resins)
2. Polyhydric Alcohol-Dibasic Acid (Polyesters)
3. Polyether Isocyanate Compounds (Urethane)

Most of these systems are based on a basic resin compound and a curing agent which are mixed together just prior to their application. Some formulations have a third constituent which consists of a filler or extender pigment. When mixed, a highly reactive, heavy paste is formed which is immediately trowelled on to the surface to be coated at a thickness of from 1/16" to 1/4". The thickness of the matrix is determined by the aggregate size:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Aggregate Size</th>
<th>Matrix Thickness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#00 - #1 Chips</td>
<td>to 1/16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2 &amp; 3 Chips</td>
<td>to 1/8&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4 &amp; 5 Chips</td>
<td>to 3/16&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#6 &amp; 9 Chips</td>
<td>to 1/4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>over #9 Chips</td>
<td>Pre-fabricated on Cement Asbestos Board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These values are approximate. Precise thickness is determined by the type surface to be coated.

During the wall life (the time elapsed from mixing after the matrix is trowelled on the surface), the aggregate is seeded in the uncured matrix. This may be done by hand, grouting, trowel, hopper, or spray. Normally in four to twelve hours the matrix cures, bonding each aggregate particle firmly to the matrix, exposing from two thirds to three quarters of each particle. Various decorative chips of different color and size and background matrixes of varied colors can produce a variety of effects. By using regular masking methods, designs, motifs, trademarks, and symbols can be affected.

The vast majority of jobs to date have made use of epoxy ma-
Reporting a volume in excess of three million (3,000,000) square feet in the United States and Canada. The author has first hand knowledge of several high rise apartments and hospitals using this method on spandrels, columns, and fascia. Matrix systems based on any of the generic types mentioned will provide excellent results; however, each system has advantages and disadvantages. Several factors which should be considered in choosing the matrix material are:

- Adhesion (both substrate and aggregate)
- Ultraviolet Resistance
- Ozone Resistance
- Chalking Resistance
- Flexibility and elongation (resistance to tensile stress resulting from different thermal coefficients of expansion)
- Cost

Each manufacturer can furnish specific data as indicated in this article, but the architect must know in general cost versus coating life. A claim by one manufacturer states the "coating life is related to the life of the building." The fact is that if you assume a building life is forty years, there is no empirical data available indicating these coatings will endure forty years because the basic resins have been in commercial production for only twenty-five years. However, some of these resin types, particularly the epoxies, have been in service as floor toppings in tough corrosive environments in excess of ten years and are still serviceable; one may reasonably assume in a relatively non-corrosive, non-abusive environment such as a wall matrix, the coating life may well endure over forty years. Accelerated weathering tests also by inference put a well formulated epoxy coating life in excess of forty years.

Probably the most economical building unit is the lightweight concrete block. In order to provide some comparative cost and other information the following chart compares light weight block coated with an exposed aggregate coating versus exposed aggregate pre-cast concrete:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>COATED BLOCK</th>
<th>PRE-CAST CONCRETE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost Block in place</td>
<td>$2.50-$3.50 psf</td>
<td>$1.50 psf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost Coating in place</td>
<td>$1.50 psf</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durability Indefinite</td>
<td>Indefinite</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maintenance None to small</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>White or grey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matrix Any color</td>
<td>White or grey</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Protective Excellent | Excellent |%
| Coating protection | None |%
| Application Trowel Crane | Crane |%

These matrix materials may be applied at the job site, after erection of the structure or built as pre-fabricated panels over cement asbestos board.

Although they are normally applied over concrete block or poured concrete, they may be used over any dimensionally stable substrate. It is apparent that these methods and materials will find an ever increasing use in the years to come, providing a colorful, decorative texture to many modern buildings.

Ky. Society-Sponsored HB 303 Fails to Pass

House Bill 303, the Kentucky Society of Architects-sponsored proposed legislation relating to the practice of architecture in Kentucky, was defeated earlier this month.

Letters and other communications from the society to legislators sought to assure them that HB 303 would not raise construction costs or drive industry from the state.

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