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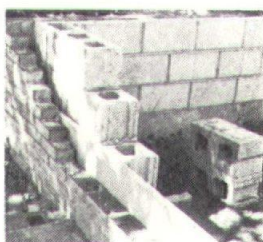
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**The Kentucky Architect**

Volume VI, Number 9

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The Kentucky Architect





REBIRTH OF A VILLAGE...



SIGMUND BLUM...

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## A LOOK AT URBAN AFFAIRS

By SIGMUND BLUM

Sigmund Blum, of Smith, Hinchman & Gryllis Associates, Inc., Detroit, Mich., was the speaker at the July meeting of the Western Chapter of the Kentucky Society of Architects. Blum, who had recently traveled around the globe, presented a speech involving the myriad roles of the architect in today's society. Following his speech, Blum presented choice slides of the world's most fascinating architecture. For an amateur photographer whose camera technique was limited only by recognizing the "clicker," Blum exposed some film rivaling National Geographic photographers. Blum's speech is reported in its entirety.

One of the major problems facing the nation is our expanding urban centers. The architectural profession's answer to the over-population of our cities, the transportation

snarls, the filth of our air, the pollution of our waterways, the uninhabitable conditions of our streets is of real concern to everyone. I wonder, however, what is the architect's answer to urban chaos?

Lewis Mumford, the great urban historian says, "The process of metropolitan extension has gone on steadily in New York, London, Paris, and Tokyo without producing anything except congestion, blight and urban decay; and the fact that the same processes are now at work in some 41 other metropolitan areas in the United States does not improve the prospects for urban living or architecture. Only machines can prosper in the environment we are now mechanically creating." We must face the

fact that modern man has failed to build adequate cities.

Obviously we know the problem to be of fantastic proportions and really the architect or the planner can only play part of the role. It will take many kinds of people with many kinds of disciplines to do the job. Possibly the most significant movement toward better cities can only come after the people of this country reapraise their standards of values and return to the less materialistic way of life. But even at that, the architect can play a significant, even a leading role if he is properly prepared.

I remember hearing a few years ago a talk on the subject by George Nelson. He chided the architects for

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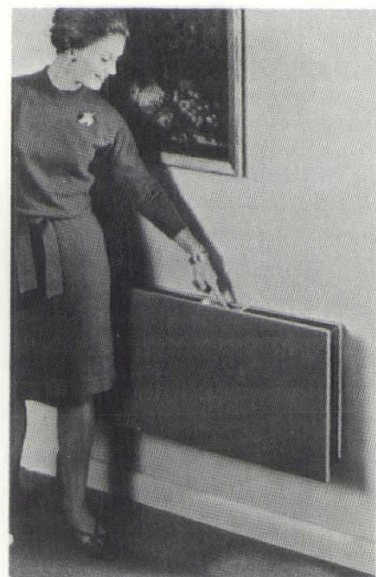
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## Urban Affairs

not being able to see beyond the unimportant details of their facade treatments, and suggested that soon there would be men who would ascent to this planet and take over the job from the architects and planners. These men would have the enriched insight and knowledge to make the overall decisions that must be made in order to develop a reasonable urban environment. These men would be able to tell us where to put our highways, where to place a certain kind of building, where to recapture nature with a park, and soon all our problems would be solved. I personally can't hold much hope for too many of these individuals arriving on the scene in time.

It might be interesting to go back a few years and see what all this chaotic urbanization has meant to the architectural profession. After World War II, it became apparent to many people that something had to be done to our cities. Maybe it was because many GI's, even during the war in Europe, were able to grasp the beauties of the cities of the past. Probably it was because of our advancing technology which contrived to build up a technological oriented environment which has disrupted the balance between man's environment and nature, or possibly it was the awareness of the population explosion that made us think of our housing, transportation and social needs. At any rate, whatever the cause, the architectural profession was more interested in another job and turned the urban problem over to a profession that we call Planning.

With the blessing of the American Institute of Architects the fate of cities was entrusted to "specialists," who, with the zeal of bureaucrats, organized immediately a professional association, airtight against any architectural membership. The "Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science (Planning)" of a highly respected Graduate School lists "liberal arts, engineering, landscape architecture, law, public administration, and the social sciences" as undergraduate background for its applicants. After attaining his "master's" the engineering, law, or administration major is let loose on a

living architectural organism of buildings, streets and public plazas.

What then did the planners do? We found them attending urban design conferences whose sole purpose is restating the hopeless mess of the urban morgue and the suburban sprawl, after which the participating planners pile into their automobiles and drive to their suburban homes over bridges and freeways eagerly approved by them to bring more cars into the city and induce more families to live in anti-urban fringe developments. Some 20 years after this movement toward city improvement through planning started, the affect of this new profession on human environment is evident. Traffic is worse. Not a single instance is known to me where planners have solved the problems of congestion or any other aspect of urban life. City planning is a profession and an influence that has been a resounding and frequently a tragic and destructive failure. City planning became a monster when it was separated from architectural design.

So, recently the architectural profession has risen to the challenge. The in-thing today among architects is urban design. About every architectural school offers courses in urban design. The premise is that these institutions are going to develop the kind of individual that Nelson has talked about. I am not too sure. Of course, I am not against urban design - it is like being against motherhood. What's beginning to take place is that our universities are producing young men with little or no experience in building design, to take the lead in dealing with those broad problems of urban design. It seems to me you should be able to walk before you run!

The broad approach had to come. But I can't see architects trying to become better psychologists than psychologists, better sociologists than sociologists, better economists than economists or better scientists than scientists. I can only see architects becoming better architects, with the appreciation for, and the ability to work with, other disciplines.

Let us consider urban design for a moment. Urban designers work

with everyone, from bankers to bakers. It is particularly important that this kind of architect have a broad base of practical experience. Tomorrow calls for more, better and many kinds of architects, not the soft kind who spread themselves too thin, but the hard kind who achieve depth. The popular, spread-out, soft curricula with resulting superficialities must give way to hard curricula. A "little dab here and a little dab there" has to go.

The new concept of architect urban design education, which leads to the development of the broad conceptual thinker without the mental discipline of solving individual detailed problems is going to lead up another blind alley. Not only are we going to deplete ourselves of building designers who we so badly need but we are going to begin again to realize the reputation that we have so diligently tried to discourage - that of being the "pretty picture" boys who really don't get down to reality. The pretty picture approach is doomed to the same fate as the so called planning profession. Working on the individual building, solving its design problem, (economics, engineering, people) involves the same creative process and sound thinking as does the urban problem. The only difference besides size is that the building problem requires strong discipline. But urban design also requires discipline to make it a reality. Economics, engineering and people play as great a role in urban design as in building design.

I have found in my limited experience that many so called planners and urban designers working on the city don't really appreciate the real problem. Obviously the design of a city is more than logistic problems or the projecting of great dreams for the future based on exhaustive census taking. In the end, urban design is really the process of working a large scale architectural composition with all its ramifications. The composition is complex and composed of many elements but the design thinking process is still the same.

In building real design architecture it becomes evident after all that the practical problems have been

(Continued on page 12)

The Kentucky Architect



# KSA NEWS NOTES

The American Institute of Architects — its many state chapters and 23,000 members — will "resist any attempt to weaken Taft-Hartley Act prohibitions against secondary boycotts at construction sites," Donald S. Johnson, Jr. told a group of construction industry representatives assembled at the Willard Hotel for the second annual "Ban the Boycott" conference.

Johnson, a practicing architect from Rockville, Md., said the Institute is opposed to the enactment of H.R. 100, legislation sponsored by Rep. Thompson (D-N, J.) to legalize secondary boycotts at construction sites, because such an amendment to the Taft-Hartley Act would "materially interfere with the orderly construction process."

"If the bill became law," Johnson said, "an architect would be well advised to select only those building materials (e.g., union made) which would not incite a labor union to 'refuse to perform services' at the building site. This would have the undesirable effect of tending to deprive an architect of his free choice in the selection of building materials."

AIA's spokesman said he thought the Taft-Hartley law should be strengthened to prohibit product boycotts of the type ruled permissible by the Supreme Court in the recent "Philadelphia door" case.

Johnson noted that legislation to legalize secondary boycotts at construction sites is the only labor sponsored legislation that the Institute has taken a position on.

He predicted that H.R. 100, if enacted, would lead to the "closed shop" in the construction industry. "If this happens," Johnson said, "the owner, the public, the architect, the contractor and even the government will have little or not control over the construction industry..."

— o —

Dean Charles P. Graves of the University of Kentucky School of Architecture has been appointed to the Urban Studies Fellowship Advisory Board of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Vice-President of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, Dean Graves this year conferred with the administration of the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras, outlining methods of establishing and accreditation of a school of architecture.

— o —

Chairman C. A. Coleman, Jr., Chairman of The Kentucky Society of Architects' Honor Awards Committee, announced September 18 that 14 architectural firms and individual architects have entered 41 buildings into the 1967 competition for distinguished accomplishments in architecture by an architecture licensed to practice in Kentucky. The contest entrants are architects whose offices are in the state of Kentucky and for any building in the United States, or abroad, substantially completed since January 1, 1964, and prior to August 1, 1967.

September 15 was the entry slips and fee deadline, according to Coleman. Other deadlines are: deadline for shipment of submission in brochure form, October 15; judgment date not yet determined but will occur between November 1 and November 15; disposition of material between November 15 and December 1; dates of proposed Exhibit Winners will be announced later; publicity announcements of winners will occur between November 15 and December 1.

— o —

Dr. John Heer, Dean of Civil Engineering at the University of Louisville, is now associated with Milton M. Greenbaum & Associates, Incorporated, consulting engineers of Louisville in the field of Soils Engineering. The company has expanded its field of practice to encompass the entire field of Soils Investigation and Foundation Engineering as well as Civil Engineering. Dr. Heer is continuing in his position of Dean at the University of Louisville.

— o —

Read these comments from the Louisville Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America, entitled AIA Document A-201 and ap-

proved at the June 22-23 meeting, of the recommendations of the AGC side of the AIA-AGC Liaison Commission:

"The AIA-AGC Liaison Commission has completed discussion of the revisions to the Tenth Edition of AIA document A-201 dated September 1966 that were proposed by the members and chapters, and the AGC members of this Commission respectfully request that the Executive Committee take two actions:

"1) Endorse the immediate printing of A-201 with all the revisions agreed to up to June 16, 1967, and recommend that AGC chapters and members use this revised document.

"2) Establish a new committee of five AGC members to meet regularly with the 5-man Committee on Documents Review. This committee will continue to work under the policy; 'that the architect is fully responsible for his professional services which include his designs, drawings, specifications, decisions, instructions and approvals' and 'that the contractor is fully responsible for construction operations and safety procedures until final completion' to the end that future editions of documents affecting contractors are workable, equitable, and clearly understandable to all parties involved."

This action followed a series of AIA-AGC meetings. The result of these meetings was revision of thirty-five articles of A-201, the last group of which is described in the attachment.

A new edition of A-201, which will include all revisions, is now being printed by AIA with a September 1967 date and scheduled to be ready in August.

Analysis of changes to AIA Document A-201, 1966 edition, as approved by the AIA-AGC Liaison Commission, April 29, 1967, and subsequently as developed by AIA and AGC legal counsel.

Some of the major revisions now being included in the document (other than those changes previously announced) provide the following:

- Clarification of the time for demanding arbitration (Article 2.2, 10)

- Provision that the contractor is not to do any work without necessary interpretations, as well as drawings

(Continued on page 11)





## REBIRTH OF A VILLAGE

By QUENTIN D. ALLEN, Editor

**A** village is being reborn in Kentucky. Shakertown, once the home of a flourishing religious cult, has been officially "dead" since 1910. It is being restored not only for its historical significance but to serve in the future as an adult educational center.

Renovation (and rebirth) may be likened to the Williamsburg, Virginia, restoration, although it does not need to be so extensive. At present, the village proper and the original farm have been acquired so that restoration will accurately represent Shaker life and culture of a century ago. At the same time, a varied program of cultural, educational and recreational activities will be instituted.

Shakertown is the product of the frenzied evangelical spirit which swept over America during the great religious movement of the 18th century. An outcast Quaker, called Mother Ann Lee, founded the Shaker sect, more properly known as the United Believers in the Second Appearance of Christ.

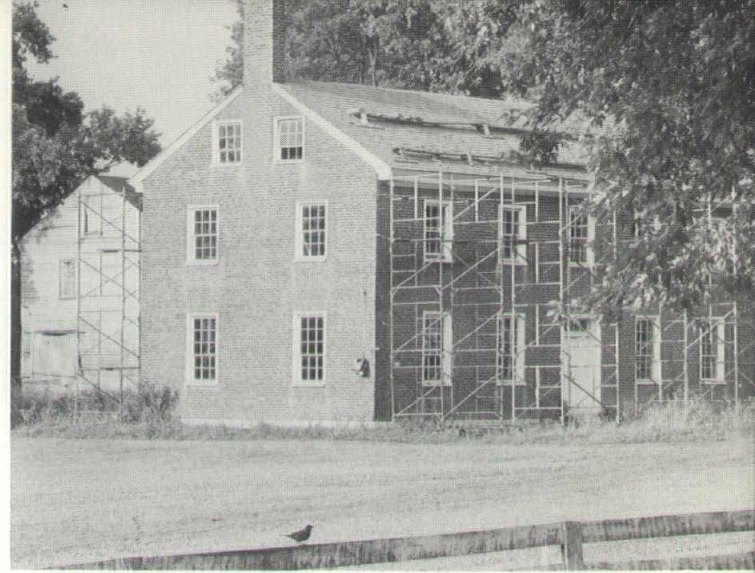
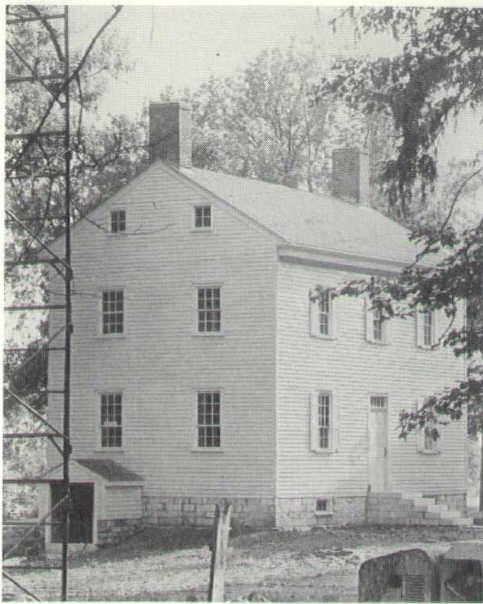
Established in 1806 by the mother settlement of New York, Shakertown at Pleasant Hill (22 miles from Lexington and 7 miles from Harrodsburg on U.S. 68) is a symbol of the conflicts and passions of the early 1800s. Standing alone as a monument to the religious and intellectual devotion of the Believers, Shakertown confers

to present day visitors an appreciation of beauty, learning and service. In this day of urban difficulties, Shakertown, representing one of history's many attempts at a Utopian community, speaks to lay citizen and architect alike in the beauty and practicality of the self-contained community. While the Shaker religious extremists were not successful in implanting their hybrid theology proclaiming Christ's Second Coming, their way of life, as intellectually alive men and women, remains vibrant and moving.

**I**t was their odd tenets of faith which brought their downfall. Those tenets bleached ordinary human passion from the daily experiences of the followers. Celibacy, belief in community property, separation from the world, and a stern regimen of religious activity made the model Shaker communities difficult for the ordinary Believer. On the cynical side, it might be said that life in the 1800s, just removed from the days of an untamed frontier, may have made the model Shaker communities attractive to people who were less than devout in their religious beliefs. Yet, the evangelical craze which swept the land also convinced thousands of people that the Second Coming was at hand.

The Kentucky Architect





A charismatic personality such as Mother Ann Lee was the spark which lead people into Shaker communities over the United States. Their acceptance of the stern Shaker life speaks of the conditions of life in that day. With life so stern, it was difficult for people not to believe in the fiery hell of religion rather than the nearness of heaven. In their numbers were talented persons representing all crafts and professions. There were men and women from every walk of life. They turned no one aside, and, at one time, had a total of 4500 people in their 18 communities.

While the bright flame of their faith burned bright in the nation's communities, the talent attracted to the faith, consecrated and richly endowed, produced a fabulous number of inventions and improvements on existing inventions. From their number was created excellent art, literature, theology, architecture, practical suggestions on social reform, furniture making, and agriculture. As a community separated from the world, the Shakers had time to pause and consider the events of society. Possessing the atmosphere dedicated to helpful service, the Shakers became innovative thinkers which, along with their difficult religious practices, spurred them along the road damning Shakerism. While their thought clarified the murky waters of many areas, it was this energized intellectual (liberalism?) amid an anachronistic religious setting that strikes us as odd and so difficult to easily and briefly understand.

Yet, it is the Shakers who were reported as declaring they had held vividly interesting conversations with George Washington and other persons from the "other" world. They emphasized that the George Washington in question was the George Washington who served as the first president of the United States. They claimed to know a way to span reality beyond the confines of a blood and flesh world. Their names as Shakers was de-

rived from their belief that they held they could literally "shake" sins from their bodies. What did a bystander think, when, on a cold and blustery night, he rode near the Shaker settlement and heard the moaning voices and the clack of heels as they "shook" free of sins? It was observers who carried tales of their dancing to the outside that accounted for the "world" calling Believers as the Shakers.

Additionally, the thought that a cult so infused with broad, adaptive talents could actually believe their ranks would be replenished by orphans and converts is unreasonable as we look from this point in time. But the impress of the times was written in the blindness of the Shakers in adhering to such a stern way of life. However, if they truly believed in the Second Coming, was it unreasonable that reproduction by natural methods not be shunned? They truly expected to witness the Second Coming. They lived by a plan to be applied to the lives of each person, and, in seeing none for naturally produced children, they condemned producing such. Moreover, they believed in Mother Ann Lee with a fervency which would do credit to any current trendists or cultists. Her disappointing marriage and tragic child-bearing experiences left her an emotionally disturbed person. Almost illiterate, she nonetheless contained the personality of an inspired leader.

In a way, the Shaker voices are still heard at Shakerstown, where their sharply defined buildings present a complex of beautiful buildings to the world. Even though the builders expected the Second Coming within their lifetimes, the craftsmanship of the Shakers assured a long and enduring existence for their handsome homes. Because they so believed in celibacy and realized the weaknesses of the flesh, the Shakers de-



**T**he mystique of the Shakers is not simply a Kentucky thing. There is magic in the name which graced their village. There is, for instance, a new fascination with Shaker furniture in its simple but beautiful lines. And, even for the real estate man, there is the magnetizing power of the Shaker image. A Saturday Review ad reads: "Moving to Cleveland? Learn the advantages of The Shaker Communities--stable, integrated neighborhoods in a city where 95% of high school graduates go to college. Less than 20 minutes from University Circle educational--cultural complex and downtown. Fine recreational facilities. Modern homes."





signed their "dormitories" as duplexes which contained separate entrances for men and women. So suspect were they that spies were posted at religious ceremonies to prevent any romancing. This was done despite the segregated seating of men and women. If couples were found guilty of behavior contrary to the rules of conduct of the Believers became a spiritual hangnail. As times changed, there was less reason for itinerants to seek the Shaker villages as havens; the burning rage of the sweeping evangelical age lost its heat as the frontier life lost its bite.

As the Shaker settlements approached the latter portion of the nineteenth century, serious crisis broke out among the intellectuals and conservatives of the Society. Many issues, too numerous for mention here, evoked crucial debates. Such an issue was the belief that children were taught to be perpetual children, and were disposed to teach the same to orphans brought to Shaker villages. Separation from the world was another such issue. Liberals favored closer relations with the world and active social reform while conservatives sought to maintain a historically pure Society.

**S**o strict were the tenets of behavior that ordinary friendship between the sexes was considered as the consummation of marriage. Since a living religion must speak in the language of the times, Shakerism, when it became no longer applicable to the needs of society, tolled the bells of its own death in unrelenting tenets of faith. By 1910, the few remaining Shakers officially announced that the United Believers were defunct as an organization. If adjustment in their central creeds were impossible and fatal to the Shaker religion, as it has been for thousands of organizations and movements, it is only fair that one de-emphasize their strict tenets of faith but be appreciative of their craftsmanship and learning. When the Shakers at Pleasant Hill were in their heyday, their research in agriculture was considered so advanced that it was, in effect, the unofficial agricultural experimental farm of Kentucky. Their devotion to excellence, doubtlessly a sublimation of other energies, was relentless in compiling a treasure house of useful implements. From their richly endowed hands came the housewife's clothes pins and the metal writing pen. Of course, they made improvements on a wide assortment of implements. But, out of their inventive minds came items as the propeller, Babbit metal, a rotary harrow, an automatic spring, a turbine water wheel, a threshing machine, the circular saw, cut nails, a pipe machine, a pea-sheller, a self acting cheese press, a butter worker, the first reeling machine, a revolving oven, a machine for paring, coring and quartering apples and flat brooms, among many other devices.

Their completeness as a self-contained community is evidenced in the sweet fruits from their orchards, the purebred cattle and the fine sheep they introduced into their respective areas, the silk, brooms, medicines, preserves and jellies they made and sold. They built a grist mill, made furniture, boots, clothing, carpets, established the earliest water works in Kentucky and carried on extensive trade to the South.

Of these unusual people, State Senator Wickliffe, on the floor of the State Senate in 1837, said:

"Let a stranger visit your country and enquire... for your best specimens of agriculture, mechanics and architecture, and sir, he is directed to visit the Society of Shakers at Pleasant Hill.

Last year, 19,682 visitors were so directed and attracted to Shakertown. They represented 49 states and 39 foreign countries, thus attesting to the universality of the Shakertown appeal. They found that Shakertown lies atop a gently sloping plateau overlooking the limestone pallisades of the Kentucky River. It is surrounded by meadows, woods and fields and enclosed by 20 miles of rustic stone fences.

If it were not for valiant efforts on the part of the Blue Grass Trust for Historical Preservation, it is possible that Shakertown would now be committed only to memory. However, the officials of the Blue Grass Trust for Historical Preservation, began their efforts to save Shakertown from the ravages of time and the intrusion of modern man in 1957 following a meeting at Pleasant Hill. From this meeting came the idea of the Shaker-town project.

In August of 1960 a group of interested citizens heard Dr. Raymond F. McLain, president of the American University of Cairo, Egypt, state that the restoration of Shakertown must be based on more than mere preservation.

Thus the group's concern for proper usefulness coincides with the Shaker diligence in seeking to be of the greatest possible use in service to humanity. The interchange of Shaker purpose and the enthusiasm of the contemporary renovators have complimented each other in the formulation of program possibilities which concentrate on the beauty, the simplicity and functional history of the Shaker village. There are plans for the Shaker village of long ago to be again a place where learning and truth are loved, and will endow its many visitors with the legacy of beauty so evident in the present Shakertown buildings, furnishings and setting. Future plans at Shakertown are:

An inn, an exhibit on Shaker life and culture; a revival of certain Shaker industries such as preserves, garden seeds, brooms and copperware; a center for continuing education patterned after those so successful in England and recreational facilities, so that people will find stimulation, inspiration and pleasure at Pleasant Hill.

**I**n walking the streets of the Shaker community now reaching toward its former grandeur, one can gather a philosophical calm that man has always been deeply disturbed with his imperfections and has endeavored to restructure society into an utopian unit where life would be perfect and the after-life a certainty. In building apart from society and adrift from the conventional rules of that society, the Shakers designed unique structures true to the spiritual meanings of their beliefs. For anyone who finds fascination in the geniuses who were religious extremists, a slow, leisurely visit to Shakertown is an annual visit to be savored and contemplated.

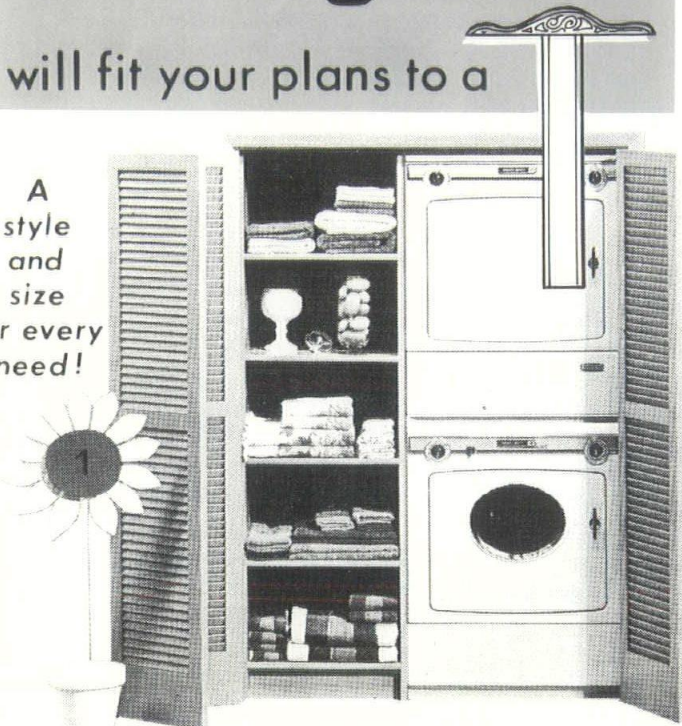


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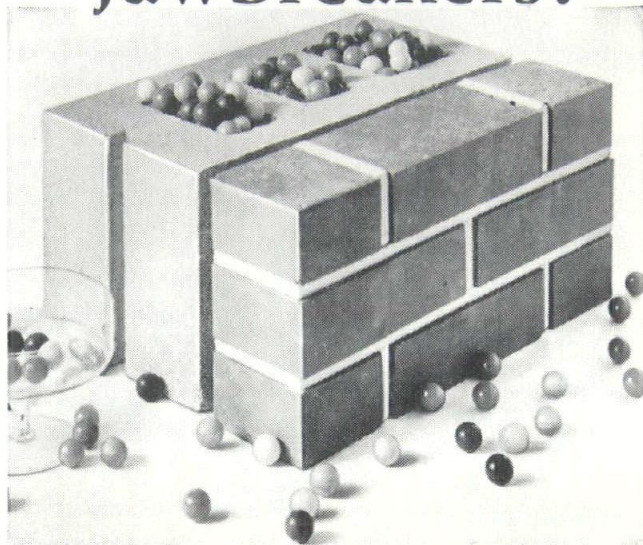
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## KSA News Notes

(Continued from page 5)

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- o Limitation only to the owner of the contractor's responsibility for those performing the work at least insofar as this contract provision is concerned (Article 4.10.1)

- o Provision that the contractor's estimated progress schedule is for the work itself unless otherwise provided in the contract documents and that such a progress schedule shall be revised as conditions warrant (Article 4.11.1)

- o Provision that the contractor will submit a "as-built" drawings to the owner following completion and a clarification of the scope of shop drawings (Article 4.12.1 and 4.13.8)

- o Limitation of the contractor's responsibility to report to the architect only apparent discrepancies or defects in work of separate contractors (Article 6.2.2)

- o Clarification that the contractor is responsible only for those matters actually included in the contract documents (Article 6.3.1)

- o Clarification that the contractor is only responsible for laws and ordinances associated with his performance of the work and not those laws and ordinances bearing on the work itself (Article 7.8.2)

- o Clarification that the requirement for interest on any unpaid mon- eys applies only when due to either party to the contract (Article 7.9.1)

- o Assurance that a continuing cause of delay on a project can be covered by one claim only (Article 8.3.2)

- o Clarification of language re- garding items included in the sched- ule of values, and assurance that this schedule shall be used only as a ba- sis for applications for payment (Article 9.2.1)

- o Assurance that the contractor receives a copy of the architect's certificate of payment to the owner (Article 9.4.1)

- o Assurance that all parties may be knowledgeable regarding the ex- tension of contract time by inserting references to the proper paragraphs (Article 9.7.1)

- o Realization of the required

proof of payment of liens, etc., at time for final payment, so that the contractor need submit only his af- fidavit and consent of surety, if any, unless the owner requires addition- al data establishing payment (Arti- cle 9.7.3)

- o Assurance that changes in the work may be ordered only within the scope of the contract (Article 12.1.1); and

- o Provision that the contractor receives a copy of any authorization by the owner to the architect that the latter may order changes in the work without the owner's written concu- rrence (Article 12.1.2)

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## Urban Affairs

(Continued from page 4)

solved. In urban design after traffic congestion, growth, utility distribution, social need, all those myriad functional aspects have been solved, then it is on to the architecture of exterior space—that is urban design. And then what is the great city? It's

simple. It is composed of great outdoor spaces formed by architectural monuments and landscaping schemes which create the character of the space. What would Rome be like without its great architectural compositions controlling and supporting its wonderful urban spaces?

I am convinced that great cities cannot be plans alone, wonderful

planning concepts composed of background non-descript buildings will never satisfy the real human need. Cities without great focal points, great architecture are dead cities. There are many planners who miss this message and consider the architect as the guy who puts the frosting on the cake. He, the planner, is the real thinker and doer. For me I

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know that the facade of every building, no matter what its size, is important. It helps to give definition, character to the urban environment. Without it our cities would be devoid of personality and substance. Every small piece well done helps to make the large composition great.

One other point I would like to make and that is in my opinion the individual building can be at times, even more inspirational than the large city composition. Who can deny the great power of the interior of a Gothic Cathedral, or the majesty of the facade of the Parthenon? Design of individual buildings offers the greatest of challenges and should not be relegated to a lower position on our scale of values. In my mind only through excellent individual examples, can man become aware of the bigger problem and have the desire for supporting and creating a new urban world.

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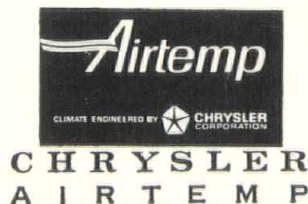
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