



# THE KENTUCKY ARCHITECT

### Volume VII, Number 6

June, 1968

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## **CONTENTS:**

### KENTUCKY STATE PARKS

Within the last twenty years and particularly the last tèn years, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has effected great strides in building a superb state park system. The Department of Parks, in providing comprehensive recreational facilities, has demanded the caliber of design which could be compared by Kentuckians and out-of-state guests to any other park system in the United States. How well Kentucky Architects have passed that test is answered by the thousands of letters received by the Department of Parks since the massive renovation and building program of 1960. This issue attempts to illustrate the variety of recreational parks which currently delight all who visit them. A special note of thanks is hereby expressed to Tom Nelson, Department of Parks, Keith Ashby, AIA, Department of Finance, Sara Goins, Department of Public Information, James Host, Department of Public Information and Arnold Judd, AIA.

COVER PHOTO Rough River State Park Lodge (Page 4)

### THE KENTUCKY ARCHITECT

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The performance of Kentucky State Parks has attracted the attention of the nation. Americans, now more vacation minded than ever, are coming to Kentucky in vastly increasing numbers with each passing year. As a result, out-of-state-tourists are now supplying a dramatic addition to the gross state revenue enjoyed by all Kentuckians. A key ingredient in Kentucky's success story is the contributions of its architects.

## KENTUCKY ARCHITECTS DESIGN A WINNER

by Quentin D. Allen, Editor



Lure Lodge, Lake Cumberland State Park, McCulloch & Bickel, AIA, of Louisville, Kentucky\*.

Until the Kentucky State Park system experienced a wholesale renovation and construction program which began in the early 1960's, the Bluegrass suffered from a "Brand X" vacation image. "Beautiful state but no vacation facilities" described Kentucky's vacation facilities. Then, a series of events occurred which created a new image for the Bluegrass State.

A bond issue with \$90 million for roads and \$10 million for parks was one of the key points. With a new outlay of state money matching federal expenditures for a national system of turnpikes, there was the assurance of Kentucky sharing the country's superhighway system. With the anticipation of an active road building era and the possession a state already bequeathed with natural beauty, Kentuckians began a dynamic focus upon state park recreational complexes as both an index to the livibility of Kentucky and also an attraction to out-of-state guests.

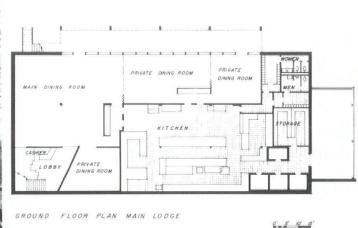
From the early 1960's to the present, Kentuckians have rediscovered a beauty and in awe of their own state. From the opinions of out-of-state tourists, Kentuckians have discovered anew the state's immense importance in its central location near the metropolitan areas of the country, its dramatic cross roads history, its varied and abundant mineral resources and its wonderous range of visual plenty in natural beauty. If the magic inherent to the name of Kentucky was ever tarnished, it is not so today. With wise investment in roads and state parks, Kentuckians have received a dollar-wise and recreation-rich state park system.

The Kentucky State Park system's reputation for excellence has received attention from the nation's magazines and newspapers. Numerous awards have been won by the Kentucky State Park System and its principal outlet of news, the State Department of Public In-



New Executive Cottage at Kentucky Dam Village State Park, by Peck and Peck Associates, AIA, Paducah, Kentucky





formation and the Division of Travel. While handsome brochures have flooded eager requestees over the nation, the philosophy "selling" Kentucky parks has been the theme "you've got to see Kentucky Parks to believe them".

Kentucky Architects comprise a major ingredient in the state park success story. The very idea of recreation is honored at Kentucky State Parks. The marriage of physical facilities to the offerings of thirteen different sites manages to produce as much recreational return as possible from the environment. The importance of the lodge cannot be overstated. It is the center of activities, which tones and colors the zest and flavor Rough River State Park Lodge, Sweet & Judd, AIA\*, Louisville, Kentucky

of its other facilities.

Recreation is many things. It is aloneness, silence, romance, card parties, meeting new people, communion with nature, meditation, undisturbed reading, lazy television days, active sports as golf, swimming, hiking, boating, fishing, tennis (among many other offerings), maid service, sun fun, tasty food, and many other alluring facets of Kentucky State Parks.

The above comprises a partial list of why people insist on breaking attendance records at Kentucky State Parks on an annual basis. These great magnetic points have drawn an astounding number of out-of-state tourists. From the zestful nature of guests who visit Kentucky parks, it seems logical to conclude that guests leave our parks satisfied, refreshed and rewarded for the experience of a Kentucky vacation.

Individuality of design has aided the Kentucky park system. Kentucky Architects have approached their design problems from the standpoint of linking each lodge with the distinct characteristics of it's respective location. Hence, we find at Kentucky state park lodges that the traditions and history of each area have been respected and observed. The geographic distribution of the 13 major state parks represent all sections of Kentucky. It is expected that two additional major state parks shall soon be



Lodge at Natural Bridge State Park, Brock, Johnson and Romanowitz, AIA, Lexington, Kentucky

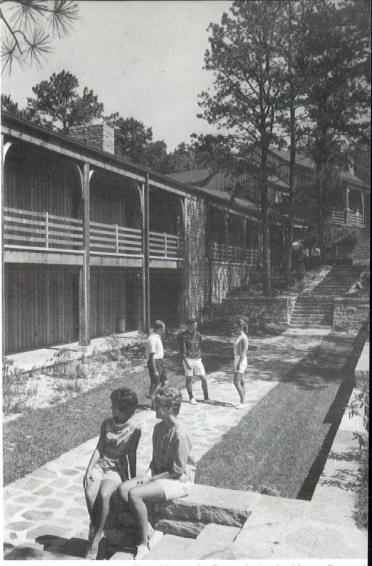


Addition to Pennyrile State Park, Sweet & Judd, AIA,\* Louisville, Kentucky

Caveland Lodge, Carter Caves State Park, Harry Holman, AIA, Ashland, Kentucky

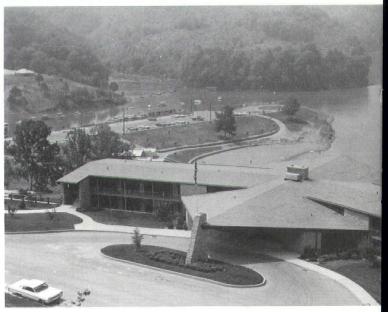


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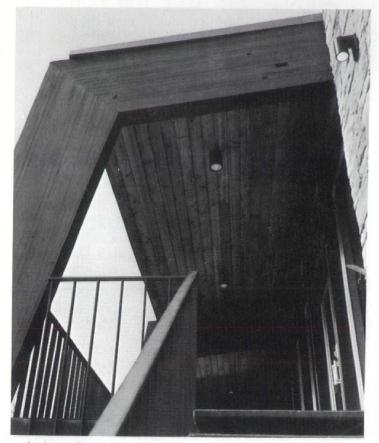


Addition to Lodge at Pine Mountain State Park, Architect, Robert M McMeekin, AIA, Lexington, Kentucky.

Lodge at Buckhorn Lake State Park, original building, Gillig-Chrisman & Mi Chrisman & Miller, AIA, Lexington, Kentucky.

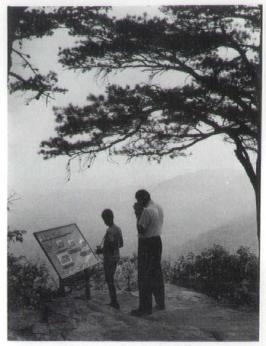


A lodestone of vacation plenty has been struck in Kentucky. The amazing range of recreational return offered by the variety of scenic settings in the shadow of stately mountains, sparkling lakes and verdant forests have intrigued vacation seekers over the nation. The quality of Kentucky's recreational facilities have transformed its natural panoramas of scenic beauty into tangible cash profits for all Kentuckians.



Lodge at Rough River State Park, original building, Sweet & Judd, AIA,\*Louisville, Kentucky, addition to Rough River State Park Lodge, Arrasmith, Judd, Rapp and Associates, AIA, Louisville, Kentucky.

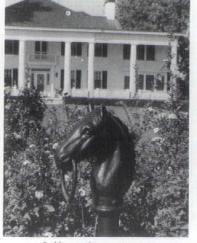
Lexington, Kentucky; addition,



A view at Cumberland Gap



Carter Caves State Park

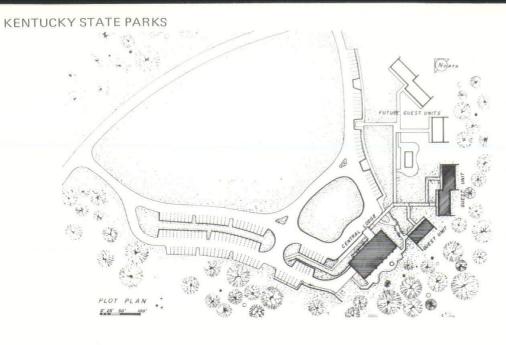


A Kentucky trademark

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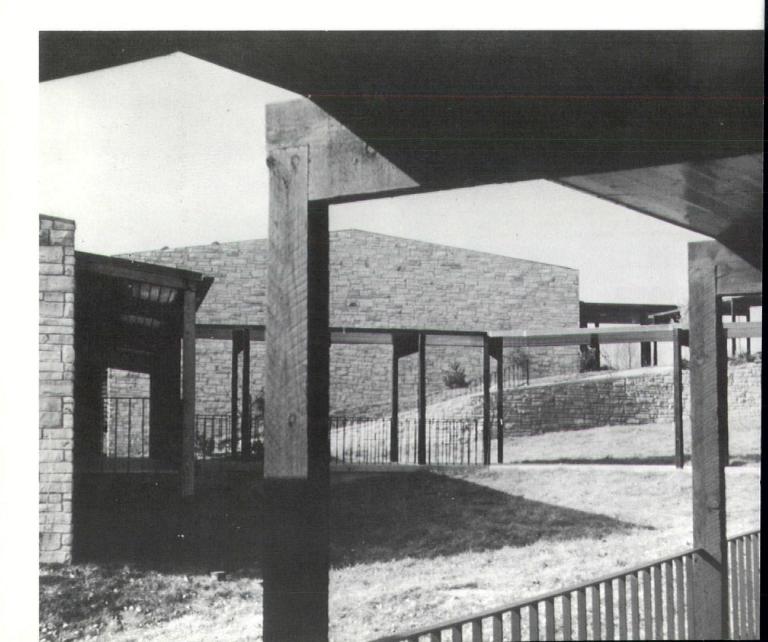
May Lodge, Jenny Wiley State Park, original building, Jack T. Hatcher, AIA, Pikeville, deceased; lodge addition, Chrisman & Miller, AIA, Lexington, Kentucky



Lodge Buildings Rough River State Park Falls of the Rough, Kentucky Sweet and Judd, A. I. A.\* Louisville, Kentucky

A. M. Judd, Designer and Partner in Charge – now Senior Partner of Arrasmith, Judd, Rapp and Associates, A. I. A. Louisville, Kentucky

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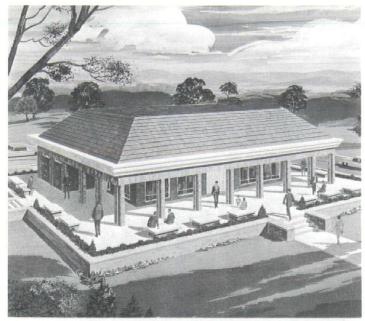


Village Inn Kentucky Dam State Park Gilbertsville, Kentucky Sweet and Judd, A. I. A.

### Firm now dissolved

A. M. Judd, Designer and Partner in charge – now Senior Partner of Arrasmith, Judd, Rapp and Associates, A. I. A. Louisville, Kentucky LOOSE mit LOOSE

\*Firm now reorganized into separate practices Other states, wishing to initiate a state park system with the style and zest of the Kentucky example, have examined all aspects of the total design package which has been so pleasing to in-state and out-of-state-tourists who affirm their approval of Kentucky State Park facilities by their repeat business. While enjoying a superior position in the matter of state parks, Kentucky is not looking backward to relish its past laurels but to plan further improvement.



Tourist Information Center, Prestonsburg, Caruthers A. Coleman, Jr., AIA, Lexington, Kentucky.



Lodge at Lake Barkley State Park, Architect, Edward D. Stone, of New Associate Architect, Lee Potter Smith & Associates of Paducah, Kentucky



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### KENTUCKY STATE PARKS, A NATIONAL ATTRACTION

ready at Barkley Lake and Greenbo. It is easily seen that recreational complexes of the size and nature of Kentucky state parks also lend to the generation of additional jobs, and, in many cases, the attraction of industrial plants.

Individuality in the design of lodging units has been observed throughout the Kentucky State Park system. Individual verandas opening onto vistas of mountain ranges, forests and lakes present thrilling spectacles. Individual enjoyment of these visual adornments dramatize the benefits of the verandas. The rooms-or-units reflect a decor peculiar to the region and is individualized in motif as separate and different from the remainder of the state park system. Thick rugs, tasteful fixtures, paintings, furniture and accessories, make the interior as visually acceptable as the scenic qualities of Kentucky water and landscapes.

A notable amount of success has been scored by Kentucky Architects in designing to supplement and not artifically replace what each site has to offer. In some cases this has meant rennovation and the merging of a new structure into the lines of an older one. In some locales of new impoundments there has been the need to stamp the area with a distinctive recreation characteristic.

Success has been achieved. Thousands of letters to the State Department of Parks have said so. Cynical "show me" travel writers of national magazines and newspapers have said so. A boom in travel related receipts of \$135 million in 1954 to \$295 million in 1966 from out-of-state tourists has said so. And it all says that the Kentucky Architect—State of Kentucky client relationship has been an immense success.



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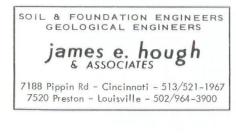
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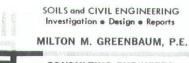
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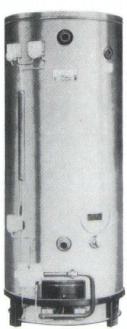
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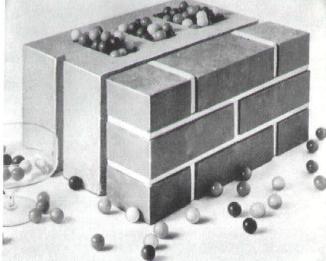
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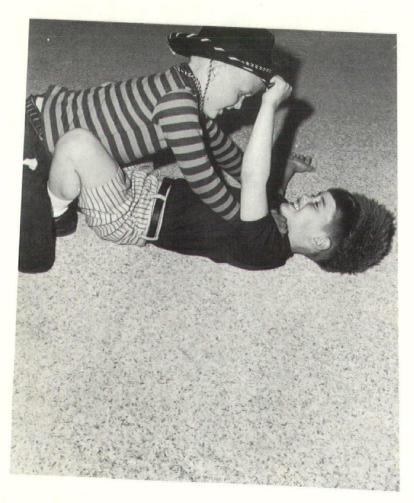


American College of Surgeons' Administration Building. Architects-Engineers: Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Chicago, Illinois. Terrazzo Contractor: Roman & Co., Chicago General Contractor: Turner Construction Company, Chicago

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