



THE KENTUCKY ARCHITECT

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Mass housing at Kentucky Universities

August, 1968

COVER PHOTO

Alumni Towers, Morehead State University; Arrasmith, Judd, Rapp & Associates, AIA, Louisville, Ky.

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THE

T ake a long range look at today's Universe and the city around it. The contrast betwee the skyline of the University and downto buildings is a distinct story of two cities. One d is languishing and the other, studded by are tectural creations constructed according to w laid, long-range plans, reflects an amazing affluer Which one is blooming, downtown or the Universe

Taking into consideration the dry-rot affect the core city, only a cursory glance can decisiv determine that the cheeks of the university h the bloom and rosiness of good looks and you Although some university alumni resent the placement of "their" academic buildings dormitories as the epitome of a ruthless and d administrative heart, the schools invariably h better and function better, too. Of course, downtown area, entrepreneurs not supported 100% government guaranteed bonds, find lo much more difficult in arranging. Dormitories for themselves, and, in some instances, arrangeme between private developers and a university made for additional dorms. The bond guaran on dorms and the subsidizing of academic build pertinent to national priorities have formed kin circumstances for expanding campuses. Kentu architects have had a big hand casting the n for Kentucky university forms.

SECOND CITY

The baby boom following World War II demanded more than wet-nursing and potty-training. Those wailing babies are today demanding college educations. An Excedrin headache of monumental proportions has been the task of providing places for those babies – now young men and women. Where, oh where, many a college president, has wailed, can I put those darned freshmen? Constructive worry and nervous tension finally won out. Rone - weary HEW officials, governors, finance figures, sick of the constant badgering from college and university presidents and officials, formulated Federal programs subsidizing and backing university housing problems.

The problems of higher education are many and are far removed from an era of peaceful solutions. American education has the ability to manufacture new crises for any fiscal occasion. Whatever the function a university purports, it needs money for that responsibility. The most distinguished higher education system in America, that of California, when cut back by Gov. Ronald Reagan, promptly bogged down. A system known for its fabulous faculty started to bleed. The penny-pinching Reagan is currently renigging on his "save the buck" goal. But perhaps Gov. Reagan is right in his approach, for many of our universities are operating on a deficit basis. It is probably true that universities are not structured for showing profits. What business could afford to lose 70 per cent of its new customers each four years and keep going? Unfortunately for college and university presidents, higher education is such a strange business that the majority of the public understands almost nothing about it but that it (higher education) is a necessity for their offspring. A Lou Harris poll taken two years ago revealed that 99 per cent of American parents wish their offspring to have college training. With that kind of public opinion going for our institutions of higher education, one can expect that funds be made available for dormitories and other educational buildings.

Does this imply that only the surface has been scratched as far as college and university dormitories are concerned? Partially. The word from several Kentucky universities indicates that their plans are still being formulated although a leveling off period is in sight.

Kentucky architects are producing a campus example of orderly planning and execution of building construction in such a way that choatic environments become the esthetic pathways for a functional and practical process of education.

Now, what is complex about a college dormitory? Countless officials have found that the provision of places for hordes of new students to eat, sleep,







Men's Dormitory No. 8, Western Kentucky University Frank D. Cain, AIA, Bowling Green



Men's Dormitory No. 2, Kentucky State College Luckett & Farley, AIA, Louisville





The Second City



South Dormitory Complex for Men Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond



Men's Dormitories Nos. 6 & 7, Western Kentucky University Arrasmith, Judd, Rapp & Associates, AIA, Louisville







Women's Dormitory No. 3 Murray State University Lee Potter Smith & Associates, AIA Paducah





Women's Dorm No. 5, Eastern Kentucky University Watkins & Burrows & Associates, AIA, Lexington



Alumni Tower, Morehead State University Arrasmith, Judd, Rapp & Associates, AIA, Louisville

The Second City

study and learn is no simple task. Thousands of schedules demands a fluidity and speed in pathways for quick access from dormitory to main campus. This is accomplished despite the fact main campuses are filling up with teaching and research buildings, which make it necessary for dormitorties to be located in some relatively remote positions from the campus. Hence, the architect must be concerned with time spent in cafeterias, walkway capacities and distances from classrooms, elevator speed in high rises, all in relation to the degree of difficulty involving the essential "mix" and dialogue which a dynamic university must foster.

The building is a functional part of a university cosmopolitan setting. It is a setting of freedom. It is a setting of questions, some uncomfortable and shocking to the older and more sedate generation. It is a setting which encourages boy-girl acquaintanceships in more responsible and liberal settings. It is a setting which brings the student from rural environs and the city together, or the foreign student into contact with the girl or boy whose horizons are provincial in nature. Dormitories assume larger responsibilities than those of the past. It has often been said that the activities outside the classroom assume larger roles in educating the student than the lectures of the teacher. Hence, those planned spaces of Kentucky's dormitories have been designed with a look into the academic future. The past has little to do with the future, but the present, properly projected, colors the needs and desires of our institutions.

Are we making too much fuss about our institutions? The president of the Ford Foundation, McGeorge Bundy, says no.

"Our colleges and Universities, over the last 20 years, have experienced an expansion that is without precedent – in buildings and in budgets, in students and in professors, in reputation and in rewards – in power and pride and in deserved prestige. As we try to tell our countrymen that we are faced with imminent bankruptcy, we confront the painful fact that in the eyes of the American people - and I think also in the eyes of disinterested observers abroad - we are a triumphant success. The observers seem to believe - and I believe myself - that the American campus ranks with the American corporation among the handful of firstclass contributions which our civilization has made to the annals of human institutions. We come before the country to plead financial emergency at a time when our public standing has never been higher. It is at the least an unhappy accident of timing."

The American educational system, as well as most of our institutions, are operated in reaction to current crisis rather than on the basis of long-range planning. Planning has not been that sophisticated. In only recent years have institutions began to plan fifteen to twenty years ahead. American educators - or at least a small crop of brave prognosticators - warned officialdom and the public decades ago of the coming stampede of students. They were ignored like mystic Gypsy palm readers. And that stampede came to pass with all the complexes attendent to today's educational problems.

Mass housing complexes have been designed for Eastern and Western Kentucky universities. Kentucky architects are now designing structures fitting the specifications for the master design. There are, of course, many factors which may be in mind. The rate of change in classroom techniques is a prime consideration. Teaching methods, now on the edge of a technical revolution of its own, will some day have students using their "home" dorm for classroom purposes. There has been a movement to level off university campuses by separation across the United States. Many universities now tend to splinter the campus into unrelated fragments. When and if television and other audio-visual devices become appropriate, there will be tutoring courses piped into individual rooms by central video-tape and/or film centers. The designer of today's dorms does his work in a risk age of transition when change accelerates so rapidly that obsolescence is a constant fear.

Efforts made by Kentucky architects in designing university campus dorms are participating in a noble effort. This effort concerns the lifeblood of America, the educated American, whose importance cannot be overstressed. American know-how, not its dollars, is respected over the world. J.-J. Servan-Schreiber, in the July issue of Harper's Magazine, warns that European industry, within fifteen years, will merely be known as American industry in Europe. The techniques which have stimulated this new dimension of an industrial revolution is a "cross-fertilization" which fuses the talents of governmental agencies, corporations and universities. The knowledge "manufacturers," not our armed might, is respected over the world.

Thus, one cannot underestimate the importance of the planning and designing of our campus housing resources of generous and humane spaces. These are the spaces which should stimulate and protect young people in the increasingly complex task of gaining an education. Certainly, the rapid response of officials in the Kentucky Department of Finance, and, in particular, its Design Division, in collaboration with Kentucky universities and architects, have provided quick, reasonable and efficient facilities on short notice. In expending such dedicated energies, the emergency which threatened to engulf our campuses in mere numbers has been averted. The provision of additional places for young Kentuckians will provide the Commonwealth with new and vigorous leadership. Such opportunities are traced to Kentucky Architects who have performed their design tasks with zeal and dedication. For further information regarding architectural firms supplying services to Kentucky universities, write Design Division, Department of Finance, Capitol Annex, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

K.S.A. News Notes

C. Julian Oberwarth, FAIA, Executive-Secretary of the State Board of Examiners and Registration, of Kentucky has announced the following persons to be eligible for the September 9-12 examination. Those eligible are:

David C. Banks, Frankfort, Donald L. Barth, Lexington, Hugh H. Bennett, Lexington, Alex L. Black, Madisonville, Kenith H. Bostic, Erlanger, Harold W. Cox, Louisville, Davie G. Crawley, Owensboro, Frederick A. DeSanto, Louisville, H. Clay Downing, II, Frankfort, Frank H. Dries, Lexington, Carl N. Elliott, Lexington, William G. Finley, Paducah, John B. Flanary, Jr., Lexington, James L. Gibson, Louisville, Richard N. Grimes, Louisville, John J. Heltzel, Frankfort, Paul D. Justice, Lexington, J. Patrick Kerr, Paducah, Kenneth J. Kolbrook, Louisville, Forrest G. McCloskey, Lexington, Gayle R. McGregor, Benton, John D. Meyers, Lexington, Clifford E. Myers, Pikeville, James A. Ross, Lexington, Thomas M. Thompson, Lexington, Ernest A. Weill, III, Owensboro, John Preston White, III, Paducah, William M. Wilkins, Bowling Green, and Joseph F. Williams, Lexington.

The Examination will be held at the University of Kentucky School of Architecture, Pence Hall, Lexington, Kentucky.

The examination schedule was changed during the last meeting to the State Board of Examiners and Registration of Kentucky, according to Mr. Oberwarth. Mr. Oberwarth indicated that while the September examinations of this year would be held in the normal routine, the examinations of 1969 will be subject to re-scheduling. In 1969, the testing dates will be in the months of June and December with the time limit for application to each testing month not later than April 1 and October 1, respectively.

"Urban design must either develop a more comprehensive understanding of its role or else relate its existing role to a more comprehensive structure. The realization of an ideal society, whatever that may be, is not to be understood as to goal of this comprehensive role or structure. No deductive goals are required. The problem-solving process must be understood as a continuing activity that allows for the introduction of all influences, not a limited, debilitating concern with only those aspects of problems that conform to preconceptions and intuitions." By W. Barry Graham, Louisiana State University, Recipient of First Annual Eaton Yale and Towne Urban Design Fellowship.

"The bleak picture of our nation's housing "mess" can in some small way be relieved, however, by one fact: wethe architectural and other design

C. Julian Oberwarth, FAIA, has announced a successful conclusion to two cases having special significance to Kentucky architects.

Mr. Oberwarth, Executive Director of the State Board of Examiners and Registration of Architects, said a person without an architectural license entered a suit in the Jefferson Circuit Court in which this person was denied recovery of fees from his client on the basis of having signed a contract to furnish architectural services when he was not an architect. The second case was a suit by the State Board of Examiners and Registration of Architects of Kentucky in which the Franklin Circuit Court held that the person on trial be enjoined from any further actions conveying the impression that he is an architect.

The counsel acting in behalf of the Board expressed the opinion that the decisions in the case would form a valuable precedent for further action and a strong deterrent to other unlicensed persons, Mr. Oberwarth reported. professions, and to a degree the American public -- have learned something from the experiences of the past two decades. We have rediscovered something which was well known to the people who first settled and built this nation -- that there is a vital difference between a house and a home: we have rediscovered the necessity of community." By Robert L. Durham, FAIA, President, The American Institute of Architects. (From The Louisiana Architect)

... Paragraphs

"Phrases like 'the urban crisis,' the 'castrophe of the cities,' 'the metrogalopolis,' abounded in the papers which were read by distinguished architects at that conference. It remained, of course, for Lewis Mumford, today's best known critic on man's environment, to put his finger on the root cause of the uglification of American -- man's slavery to his slave, the machine. 'One component of the New World promise, the machine,' he said, 'has become dominant, and has replaced human choice, variety, autonomy and cultural complexity with its own kind of uniformity and automation. The result is an urban environment that is both biologically and culturally deficient. And he made this devastating comment about our ugly cities: Only one thing need be said about such cities: those who have a free economic choice are constantly moving out of them, although they must sacrifice the social facilities of the city in order to ensure -- all too temporarily --- a better biological environment." By Clare Boothe Luce at the Fourteenth Annual Conference, Western Mountain Region, AIA. (From the Louisiana Architect)

"I think that (developments in science and technology with effects on politics) has produced an extraordinary change in our lives. I think this is an age when we concentrate more and more on means, and less and less on ends. more and more on processes, less on purposes. It's a curious paradox that while the miracles or conjuring tricks of science are gaining these daily, almost hourly victories -- conquering the skies, bridging the seas, broadcasting knowledge, defeating pain, almost defeating death -- we men have not become any more virtuous or any more civilized than we were before. In fact, during my lifetime I should say that civilization had reeled backwards. If in my childhood or youth I'd been told that I should live to see things like concentration camps, torture chambers, forced confessions, gas ovens, I should have dismissed them as a nightmare from which I should soon wake up . . . I'm often reminded of a story I heard about a distinguished Indian called Sir Benegal Rau. He was out in the jungle on a hunting expedition and after they'd traveled about three days, the Indian bearers laid down their burdens. Sir Benegal asked them if they were tired. 'No,' they said, 'we're not the least tired. But we must wait here at least twenty-four hours until our souls catch up with our bodies.' I sometimes wonder whether we ought not perhaps to do the same." Lady Violet Astor, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Science and Public Affairs, February, 1968.

Just what are the changes that are reshaping the world? What are their causes? In a somewhat restricted sense, the answer to the latter question is short and simple: science and technolo-It requires only a moment's gy. reflection to realize how much these have changed life within our own memory. The automobile has transformed living patterns, making possible the rise of the suburb and the decline of the city as it was thought of for centuries; the airplane has shrunk the globe and has transformed war; nuclear weapons and missiles have lifted general war from the category of rational policy; chemistry and genetics are transforming agriculture; modern medicine and public health are decreasing death rates and are increasing world population; automation is transforming the job spectrum from production to service; television has added a new

dimension to politics, and to entertainment, if that is the right word. Robert Gomer, Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Science and Public Affairs, February, 1968.

What a chimera is man: What a novelty, what a monster, what a chaos, what a contradiction, what a prodigy: Judge of all things, and feeble worm of the earth; depository of truth, and sewer of error and doubt; the glory and shame of the universe. What shall unravel this confusion? Blaise Pascal

Until the public attitude builds as a strong force visual pollution, we have only imperfect tools to help retard its progress. One of these tools is the zoning ordinance. No new commercial districts should be permitted to grow without adequate zoning laws. Most communities have such laws, but they are usually easily circumvented and often it is possible to obey the law to its letter while violating it in spirit. What we need are laws which define the spirit and allow for creative economic and aesthetic solutions. We need sign control laws which impose a limitation of size and number. Such laws will work to the advantage of the merchant by imposing the same restrictions on his competitors. Restraint is also needed by our cities in erecting lights and signs. Montreal, Boston, and Baltimore have sought the aid of design groups and the results of their efforts are now becoming apparent. The International Committee for Breaking the Language Barrier, an organization of travel, tourist, and business groups, is seeking to universalize sign practices throughout the world. This organization is competent to assist any city desiring to clean up its clutter of signs and markers. We also need a cooperative effort on the part of the government, the public, and the utility companies toward the eventual installation of underground wires. Properly designed underground conduits can be a functional aid to the utility companies and a great boom to the aesthetic appearance of the city. By Walter B. Kromm, Winter Issue, 1968, Washington University Magazine, St. Louis.



John Whisman, state regional representative on the Appalachian Regional Commission, has made a proposal that would turn Kentucky into a vast pilot project for the solution of the nation's ills.

Highly critcal of the "War on Poverty" as it is now being run, Mr. Whisman said Kentucky is the most ideally suited regional area for such a vast project.

His proposal included turning Eastern Kentucky into a large semi-urban area which would have all the advantages of the city and none of the disadvantages. Such a design, he said, would include the building of urban centers of 20,000 to 30,000 population within commutting distance of Lexington and other major metropolitan areas around Eastern Kentucky.

Such a program would be considerably more apt to succeed in alleviating the problems of poverty urbanization and overpopulation than the present plans to pur millions of dollars into our urban ghettos, he said.

"We must build a city," he continued, "as much like the country as possible."

Last Opportunity

This year may be the last opportunity for such a program, he said, because in the next election the president and Congress will be chosen by a metropolitan nation and Kentucky is not Metropolitan.

The Major problem with the "War" on Poverty, "according to Mr. Whisman, is the idea that the "poorest of the poor" are capable of designing a solution to the major problems of our time.

"It is a tragic mistake." he said, "all done in the name of involvement."

Mr. Whisman said that the involvement of the people must be designed into the project from the beginning, but the poor are not

F.Y.I. (Continued)

capable of designing in a time of instantaneous technological change.

If we do not design the changes which will take place in Kentucky in the next decade, he said, those changes will destroy us.

Sexy Planning Needed

Mr. Whisman told the group that designers need to put "Sex" into planning. "What is creative, productive, and popular," he asked. Sex is, he said, but planning is not.

Designers must learn to deal with the environment of the future which will involve a situation in which we don't need half the population to produce what the whole population needs.

"One of the most dramatic facts of our age," he said, "is that there are as many people alive in the world today as there have been living persons up to today."

This means, he continued, that there is as much energy and knowledge available today as the sum of all human energy and knowledge of history.

No Machinery

These factors, he said, pose a vast opportunity for designers in Kentucky, but right now we do not have the machinery to deal with the situation.

Louisville, Kentucky 40204

Mr. Whisman prefaced his remarks by pointing out that

there is no university in the country today which offers a degree in comprehensive designing.

The answer lies, he concluded, in a triumvirate of planning. In the first place, he said, is the designer, who because of his professional training is able to design comprehensively for the future. In the second place is the "decision maker," composed of industry, politicians and the "doers of society."

The base of the program, he said, is the people. If they don't like the plan it won't work.





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