

LOUISIANA ARCHITECT

OCTOBER

1964

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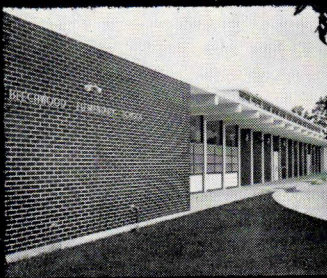
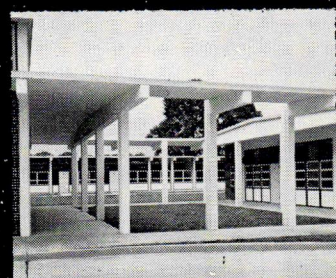
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Printed by Franklin Press, Inc.

Editorial Advisors—W. J. Evans, W. R. Brockway

Editor—Myron Tassin

Publisher—Louisiana Architects Association

Consulting Art Director — John H. Schaeffer.

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Meet Mr. H. D. Ruffin



Affability is probably his dominant trait. Easy to approach and to talk to, Ruffin is endowed with a generous measure of unadulterated North Louisiana friendliness.

Cooperation? In a mild emergency he received the LAA Executive Committee on ten-minute notice. He not only listened sympathetically to the problem, he promptly offered the auspices of his office in seeking a solution.

Action? During the conference, he telephoned sources of information and dictated letters to pertinent people. He's a doer . . . constantly on the go.

Ruffin was born near Laurel, Mississippi, November 12, 1921. His parents moved to Tensas Parish, where he first attended public school in Waterproof. His parents now reside in Bastrop.

He is a member of the VFW, DAV, and the First Baptist Church in Bastrop.

He served 38 months in the U. S. Air Force.

Ruffin was Governor John McKeithen's assistant for 6½ years, while the Governor was Public Service Commissioner from the 3rd Public Service Commission District, which includes 28 North Louisiana Parishes, and was very active in Commissioner McKeithen's campaign for the Governorship.

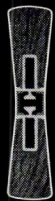
Ruffin is married to the former Goldia Evelyn Knight of Fort Smith, Arkansas, and the Ruffins have two sons, Nicholas Charles, who is a senior, and Russell David, who is a junior in Bastrop High School.

This is H. D. Ruffin, the new Director of the Department of Occupational Standards, the administrative arm of the State Board of Architectural Examiners.

COVER: Defenders against Hurricane Hilda's fury became designers all. Only, in this case, the medium of expression was masking tape on glass. By John H. Schaeffer, whose 20 fallen oaks couldn't have been helped with tape.

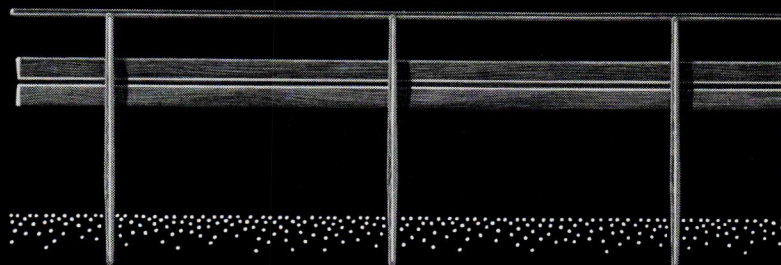
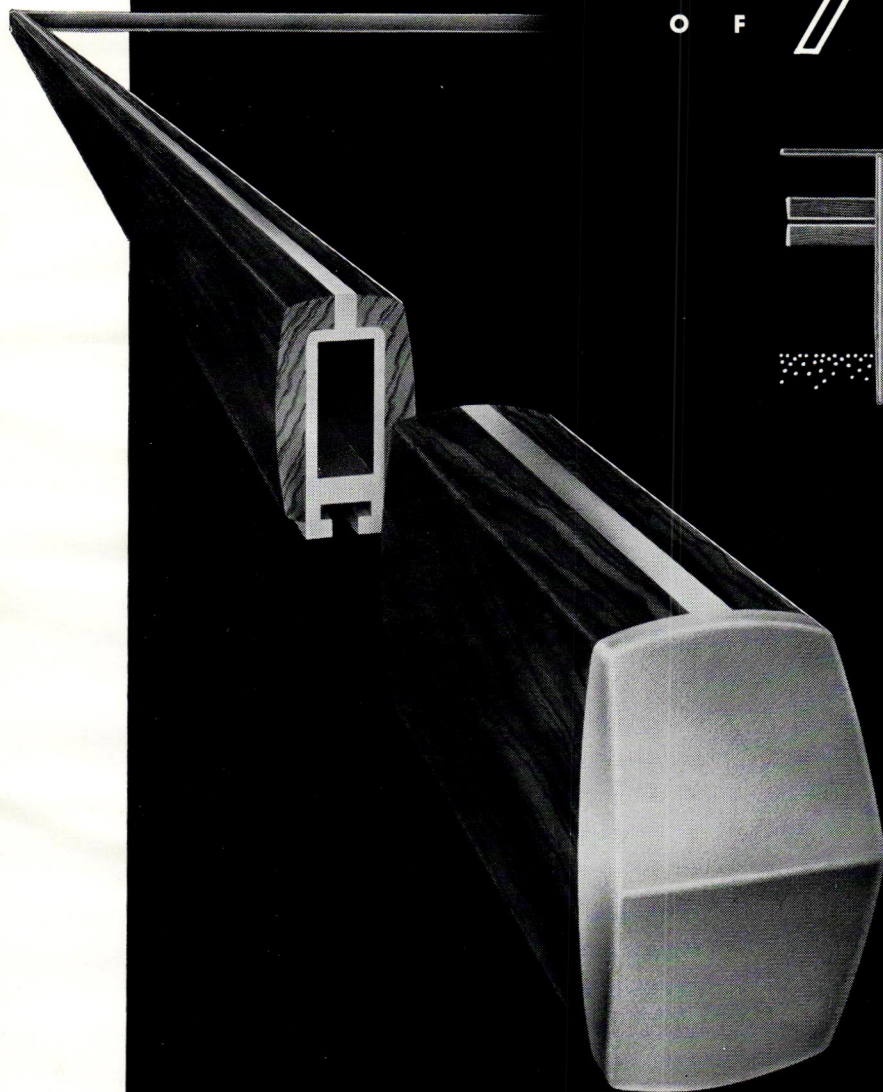
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NEW CONTRACTORS' LICENSING LAW

By H. C. "TOT" MENUET

Executive Director, State Licensing Board for Contractors



H. C. "TOT" MENUET

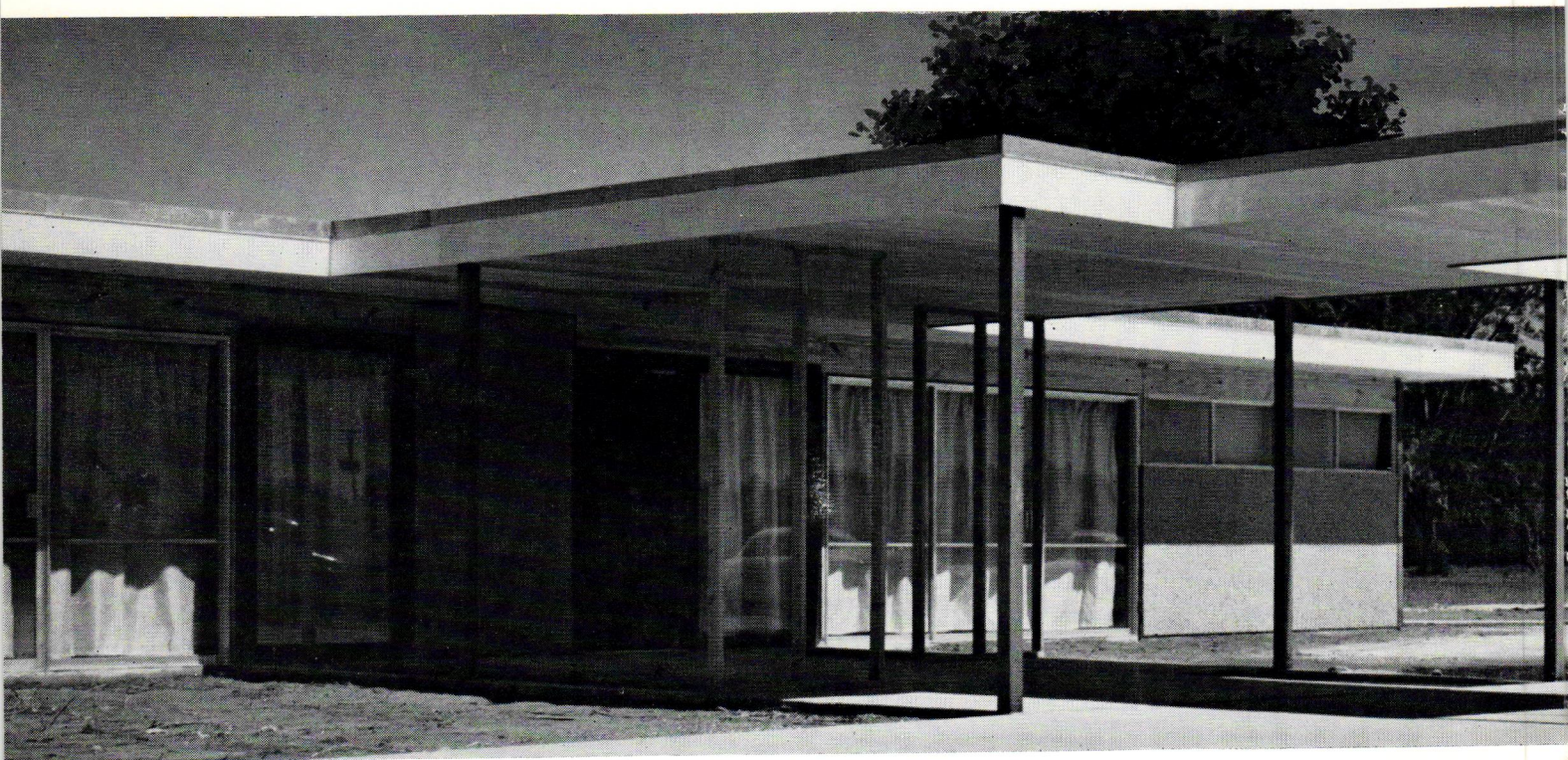
The 1964 Legislature made drastic changes in the Louisiana Contractors Law (R.S. 37: 2151 through 2163) at the last regular session. Senate Bill 270 by Senator Spencer Myrick which became Act 113 of the Regular session of 1964 completely replaced the prior law by repealing the prior Act.

Senate Bill 270 was the creation of the combined efforts of committees representing the State Council of A. G. C. Chapters, the Construction Industry Association of New Orleans, Inc., Sub-Contractor Associations and Legislators who believed that a new contractors licensing law should place the regulation of the construction industry in a well balanced, experienced and dedicated Board which would administer the law with full information as to its activities to the public and citizens of Louisiana. Through the co-operation of Governor John J. McKeithen, Act 113 became a reality and is now the law.

One of the major changes is the composition and method of selecting the Board which is authorized to administer the Act. Under the old law the Board consisted of

seven members appointed by the Governor, from any section of the State—two from the field of highway, two experienced as primary contractors, and one as a primary contractor in the field of public utility, industrial or mechanical construction. The new law provides for nine members and there shall be a board member from each Congressional District and one member-at-large. Each member shall have had 10 years prior experience in the general construction classification that he represents. The Governor makes the appointments, and terms shall be concurrent with that of the Governor. Three Board members shall be from the field of building construction; three from the field of highway and street construction; and one as a sub-contractor from the field of electrical construction; one a sub-contractor from the field of mechanical construction; and one a sub-contractor in the construction industry in a field other than electrical or mechanical.

So that the Governor may be assisted in selecting experienced and competent men, the various chartered construction trade associations of the State directly concerned with the various phases of the construction industry shall submit recommended names to the Secretary of State who shall maintain a list of recommended and



Expanding to Serve a Growing Demand

This is a view of the soon-to-be-completed facilities of Grant-Lehr Corporation, producers of personalized panels for particular projects. Located near Denham Springs, just outside of Baton Rouge, the new plant

and office building promise to be a boon to expanding production, fast and efficient service and materials of the highest quality.

qualified persons from which the Governor shall appoint the Board members.

The Board continues to have the authority to make its own By-laws and Rules in regulating the administration of the Act, however, under the new law any such by-laws, rules or regulations enacted by the Board must be published in the official Journal of the State of Louisiana within seven days after their enactment by the Board.

The new law requires the Board to meet once each month. Although the board has the authority to call special meetings, applications can only be acted upon at the regular meeting. One important change in regard to new applications is the requirement that a 60-day period elapse between the date the application is received and the date the license is issued.

Another change to help inform the public and contractors is the requirement that after each Board meeting the copy of the minutes of the meeting shall be made available to each Board Member and the public.

Another safeguard enacted into the new law is the requirement that each 90 days or calendar quarter a complete and detailed statement of all transactions, receipts

and expenditures of the Board, for the previous three months, be submitted to the Governor and filed with the Secretary of State. In addition to this requirement, a full and complete financial statement must be filed at the end of each year with the Governor and Secretary of State. Within 60 days from the end of any calendar year, the financial records of the Board shall be audited by the State Official charged with the auditing of public records.

The previous law allowed the Board to set the annual license fee without limitation other than approval of the Governor. Under Act 113, a maximum fee of \$100.00 is set by law for the basic license. The fee for additional classifications shall be such lesser amount or may be set by the Board.

The portion of the old act affecting architects as outlined in Section 2163-A and B remains the same.

Under the old law architects were exempt from the definition as a contractor when only a fee for the preparing of plans, specifications and supervision were received; however, when

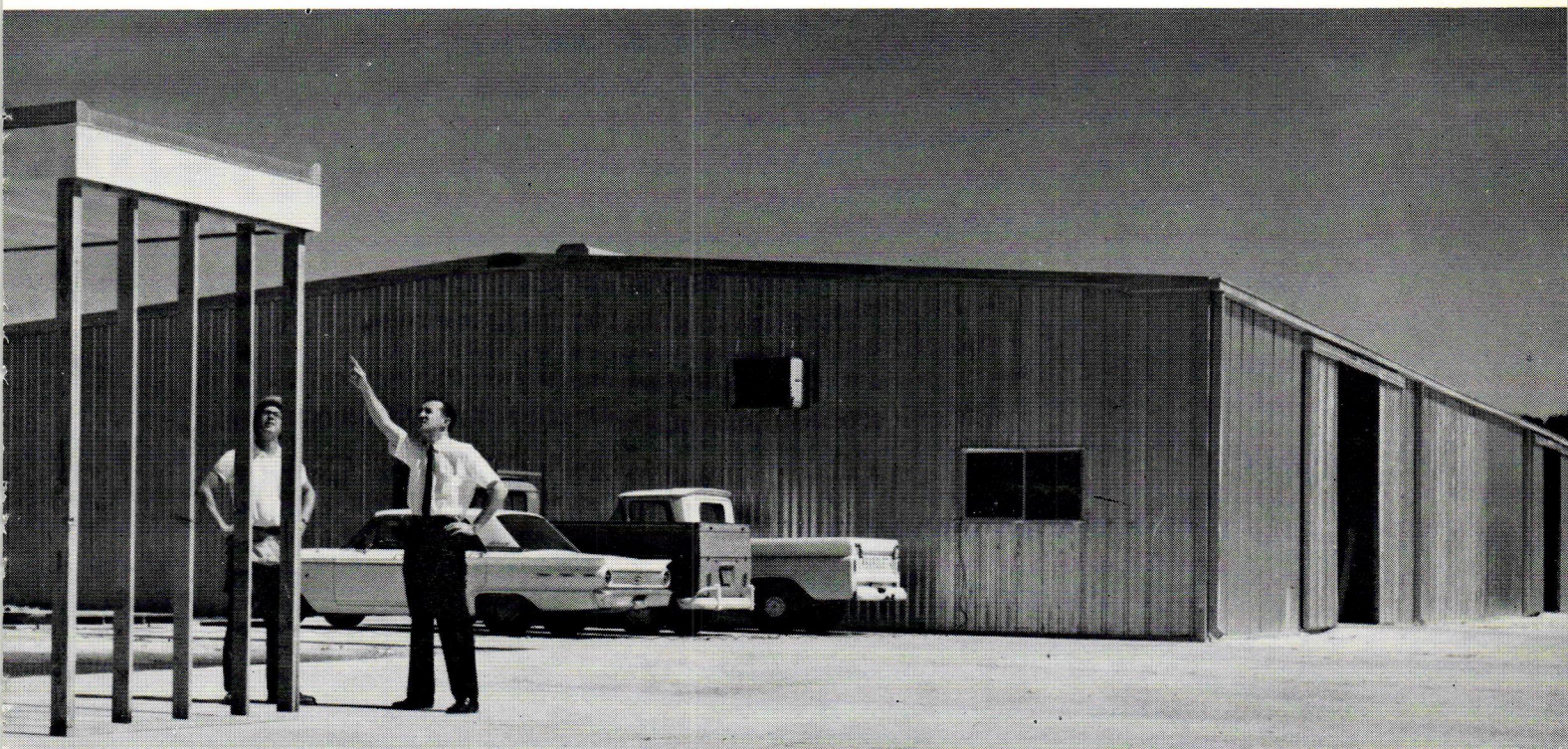
an architect receives an additional fee for employment and direction of labor, purchase of material and subletting parts of the undertaking, he was considered a contractor within the purview of the act, provided that this definition did not include civil engineers. Under Act 113, Civil Engineers are included in the same definition as the Architects.

All other definitions, penalties, etc., remain the same as in the old law.

In conclusion it appears that with the enactment of Act 113, much progress has been made toward a better law to help regulate the construction industry in Louisiana.

The Board and its staff will do everything within their power and authority to help carry out the new law in a manner that the Legislature, contractors, architects, engineers and the public will be proud.

We offer our full and complete co-operation to the architects and to the Louisiana Architects Association.



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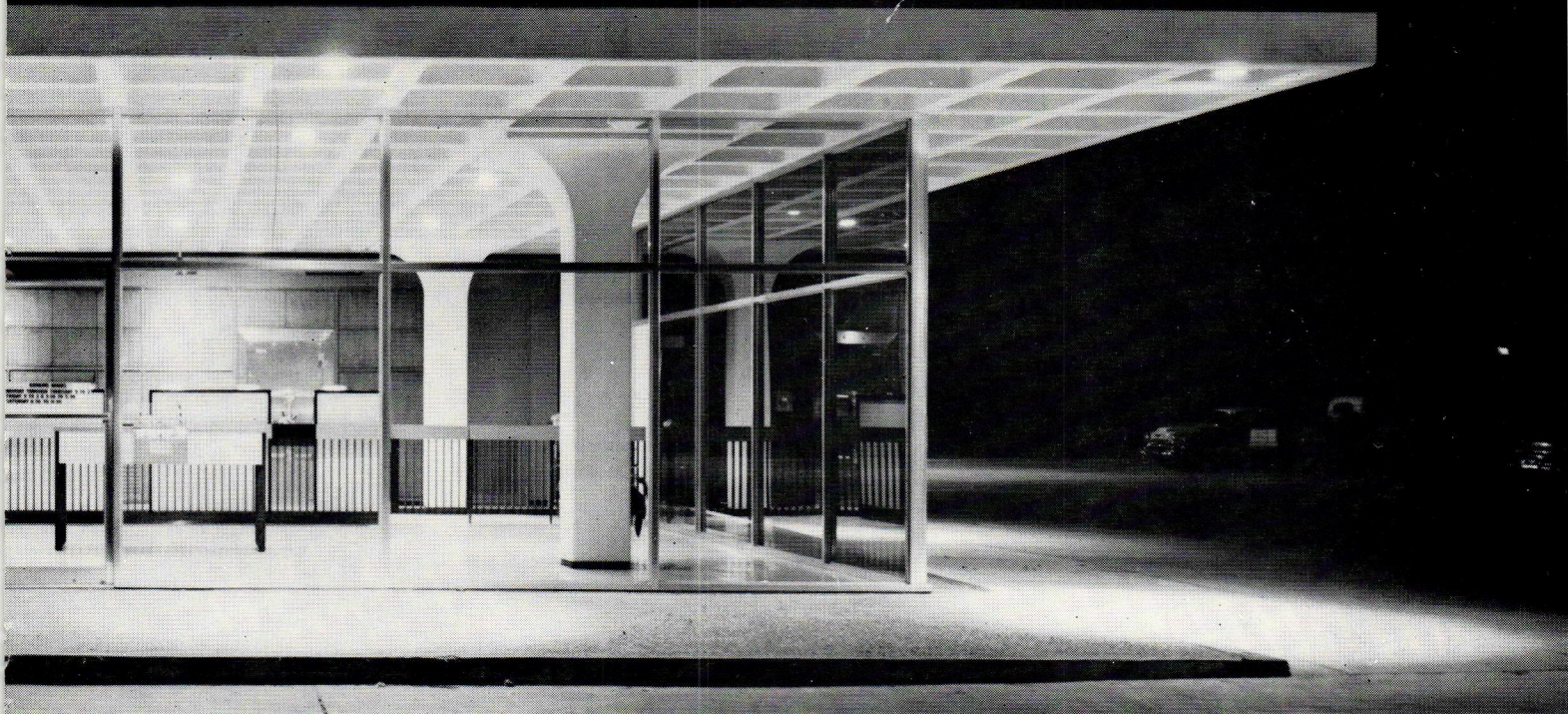
JURY'S COMMENTS—On this project, because of the obvious faith and confidence placed in the architect, the jury felt the owner should be particularly commended. The goal of "advertising" the bank achieved in a forceful yet dignified way, capturing the feeling of security more often associated with traditional bank designs. Could not "fault" it on any point whatsoever.

This branch bank serves a growing community and is located adjacent to a shopping center. The building presently provides space for four tellers, one drive-in window and a manager. It is anticipated that future growth will require two additional tellers, one drive-in window and an officers' platform. The vault accommodates routine banking requirements with up to 200 safety deposit boxes. A meeting room is available to any interested group of the community. This room is so located as not to interfere with the banking procedures and may be used along with restroom facilities independent of the banking area. On-site parking is provided for forty cars.

Construction consists of concrete bell bottom footings, concrete columns, exposed concrete waffle slab on a 27' x 30' column spacing with a 12' cantilever on all four sides. Floor finish is terrazzo throughout with ceramic tile in the toilet rooms. Exterior walls are constructed of aluminum store front sections, glazed with 1/4" gray polished plate glass and 7/8" white translucent Alabama marble. Interior partitions have natural finished hardwood plywood and vinyl wall covering over sheetrock.

The building has year-round air conditioning with separate units for the banking facilities and the community room.

The bank fixtures were designed by the architects and all other furnishing likewise selected by the architects.



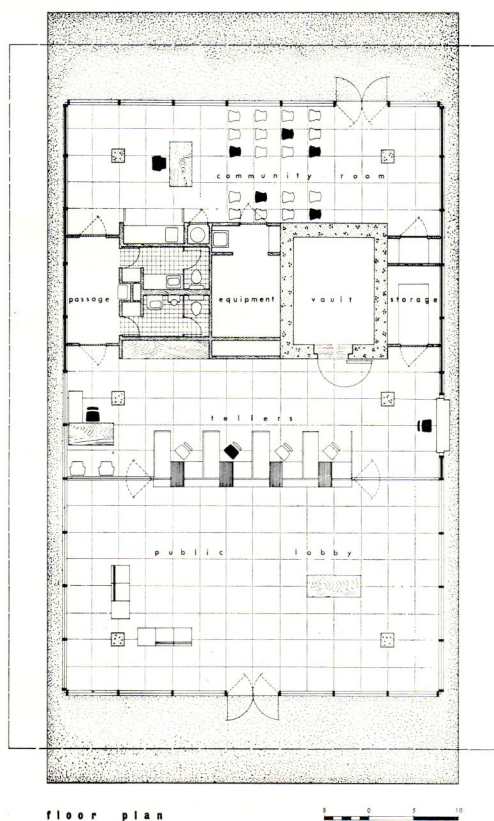
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Contractor

Frank Lotz Miller, Photography



THE PRODUCERS COUNCIL AND THE AIA

Excerpts from an address by Arthur Gould Odell, Jr., FAIA, President of The American Institute of Architects Before the 43rd Annual Meeting of The Producers' Council, September 24, 1964, New Orleans.

As President of The American Institute of Architects, I am pleased to meet with you today to discuss the goals, accomplishments and problems of our two organizations. This meeting is taking place at a particularly significant time in our history. It is a time when both organizations are re-examining their programs and activities in the hard light of present-day realities. It is a time when our traditional concepts of architect-producer relationships are being scrutinized, questioned, challenged and bombarded from all sides. It is a time, in fact, when the very foundations of the AIA-PC structure are being shaken.

I do not deplore this situation, I think it ultimately will prove to be a healthy one. Complacency is the greatest deterrent to progress, and we certainly have no reason to be complacent. We have problems which must be defined and attacked, all in a spirit of mutual cooperation and trust, keeping in mind that we have much to gain from each other, and more important, that together we have much to contribute toward a better human environment.

What are some of these problems. . . . There are still too many cases in which literature is not giving the architect what he needs. There is still too much selling and not enough facts. In short, it should give the architect as complete and detailed description as possible of what he can and cannot expect from the product.

Another major problem—and this one is becoming acute—is that of difficulties encountered when we try to define standards for production performance.

The question of legal responsibility for product performance poses another vitally serious problem.

Another task which confronts us is that of research in building products.

Another area that deserves serious study and action by Producers' Council is that of wider industry representation.



AIA LEADERS—Photographed at the Producers' Council Regional Convention Banquet on September 24 in New Orleans were (left to right) LAA President, Murvan M. Maxwell; AIA President, Arthur Gould Odell, Jr., FAIA; New Orleans Chapter President, William E. Bergman, and Morris Ketchum, Jr., FAIA, AIA First Vice President.

I have stated only a few of the problems that confront us. There are many others, such as the need for better manufacturer's exhibits at conventions; for more and better maintenance literature; for more accurate comparative installed cost information; for upgrading the competence of manufacturers' representatives; for uniform, adequate and realistic test procedures; for a better understanding and definition of the division of responsibility between the design professions and the manufacturers.

I pledge to you the full support of The American Institute of Architects, and I ask of you the same kind of support. Together, and with our other colleagues throughout the building industry, we can open up a new era of understanding and achievement in building the America of tomorrow.

Stock Plans

FALSE ECONOMY

Construction of stock schools can result in "freezing" the curriculum to conform to outmoded facilities, declares an article in the September AIA JOURNAL, official magazine of The American Institute of Architects.

Data assembled by the AIA Committee on School and College Architecture indicates conclusively that stock schools are a false economy, the article states. To effect any savings, "stock" or standard plans must be re-used repeatedly, and the local district is therefore unable to incorporate into its buildings any advances in building technology, or to accommodate new teaching techniques and equipment.

Other disadvantages, in addition to the sacrifice of flexibility, may include difficulty in adapting the school to a site for which it was not designed; the problem of fixing responsibility for any errors or omissions, and the possibility that standard plans may provide space which cannot be used effectively in one community's educational program, while robbing another of facilities it needs.

NEWS, NOTES, ZIP CODERS

NEW ORLEANS—

On September 24, 1964, the City Council of the City of New Orleans approved the following appointment, made by Mayor Victor H. Schiro, to that City's Board of Building Standards and Appeals, generally referred to as the Building Code Appeal Board:

Murvan M. Maxwell, A.I.A., for a five-year term ending June 20, 1969. This is a reappointment, Maxwell having just completed his third consecutive five-year term as a member of this Board. He is a member of the architectural firm of Maxwell & LeBreton, is immediate past president of the New Orleans Chapter A.I.A., is current president of the Louisiana Architects Association and is a member of the A.I.A.'s National Committee on Building Codes and Disaster Studies.

An ordinance is pending before the New Orleans City Council to appropriate funds for a comprehensive revision of the New Orleans Building Code. Included in the proposed ordinance is authority to engage a building code consultant—which consultant must be a Louisiana Registered Architect or Louisiana Registered Civil Engineer. Council action on this proposal is expected prior to the end of 1964.

CROWLEY:

Just recently, I have had the opportunity and pleasure of reading the monthly "Louisiana Architect" and thoroughly enjoy every page of it. The thesis projects of the 1964 graduating classes of different colleges are especially interesting and educational.

I would sincerely appreciate your placing my name on your mailing list for this monthly publication.

Thank you and continue the fine work on an excellent magazine.

ABC Builders, Inc.
FRANCIS L. GRADO

NEW YORK:

Thank you so much for your letter, it was very good hearing from you. We have become fully acclimated to New York now and love it.

I will be happy to have an article prepared for Louisiana Architect magazine concerning the International Trade Mart in New Orleans. We also have several photographs of the model which should reproduce very well.

We now have a writing expert in our organization and he would like to see the last several issues of your magazine, if you have these, in order to get a sense of space; he suggests an article of about 2,000 words—how does this sound?

Sincerely yours,

WM. BAILEY SMITH

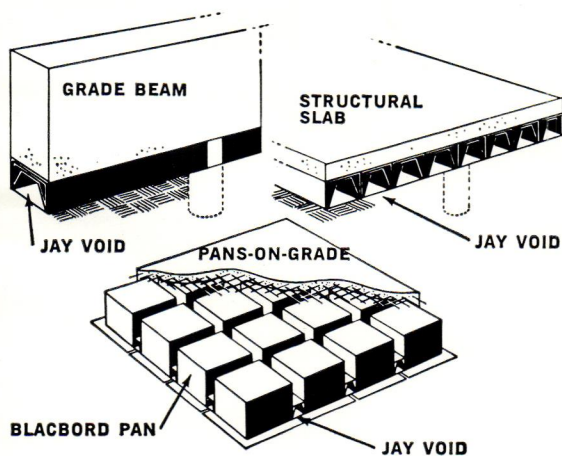
M. J. Dauphin, an architectural draftsman, died recently at his home in New Orleans after a brief illness. He was 53.

He was educated at St. Aloysius High School and the Delgado Trades and Technical Institute. At the time of his death, he was employed by Parham and Labouisse, an LAA architectural firm.

He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Marquette Council No. 1437; the Holy Name Society of the Sacred Heart Church, and was a projectionist for the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

Mr. Dauphin is survived by his wife, the former Frances Reitmeyer; seven sons, Marion, Harold, Donald, Derbes, Dennis, Edward and David; three daughters, Brenda, Doris and Marie Adel; and one sister, Mrs. Mariam LeBlanc of Biloxi, Miss.

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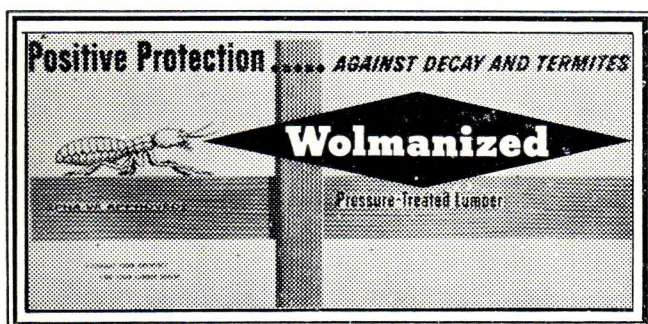
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Louisiana's First Lady — When Fox McKeithen, the Governor's son, saw a pencil sketch of his father, executed by John Bergeron for the May cover of LOUISIANA ARCHITECT, he said he knew his mother would like it. When the Governor saw it, he suggested to the editor that he present it in person to the first lady. The presentation took place at the Mansion, on October 7, much to Mrs. McKeithen's surprise and pleasure.

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ZIP CODERS . . . Continued

ALEXANDRIA:

I would like to call to your attention a problem that continues to plague our industry, to the extent that ill will, distrust, disbelief and even hatred arises between contractor and architect.

If this problem could be reduced to a single phrase, it might be defined as a "Lack of Communication." It can be said that there is a reluctance, in some instances, to communicate. Sometimes, the parties involved lack the ability to communicate. And yet, I think, in the vast majority of cases, there is an unwillingness to speak frankly, truthfully and sincerely.

If there are some architects who prefer not to work with some contractors, why should they be reluctant to tell them so? Contractors have the choice of refusing to figure work for those architects with whom they have difficulty getting along. If pressed for a reason, most of them will quite frankly admit to the architect that they cannot profitably complete his work. There are architects, on the other hand, who just will not tell a contractor that they would prefer that he not bid their work.

Time and again, contractors put forth time, effort and finances to figure a project, only to be low bidder and have the architect negotiate with someone else. This practice has become entirely too widespread.

On a public project, the architects have no choice as to which contractors bid their work; however, it is the private work to which I refer. In some instances, the low bidder was personally requested to bid by the architect, in order that he could make a better showing for the owner by having a large number of bidders. When the bids were opened, however, the architect immediately began negotiations with one of the other contractors.

According to the Suggested Guide To Bidding Procedure, which was approved by the AIA as well as the AGC, when the bids are opened, the architect should recommend the award of the contract, the rejection of all bids, or negotiating with the LOW BIDDER. Why, then, can't we be men enough to live up to the suggested rules that we, jointly, have established?

I would greatly appreciate any circulation of this information to your members which you feel might assist in bringing this problem into focus, and ultimately eliminating it.

Sincerely,

Central Louisiana Chapter, AGC
J. W. WILLIAMSON
Manager

LAFAYETTE:

We enjoy very much each month reading the issue of your fine magazine. This month's copy is especially interesting in that you feature our own boys here from USL, and, the Guidry gent happens to be a nephew of Mr. Broussard presently serving military time at Ft. Polk.

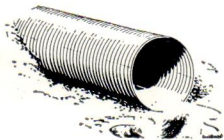
Is it possible to obtain 2 or 3 extra copies? We would like to keep those as souvenirs to say the least.

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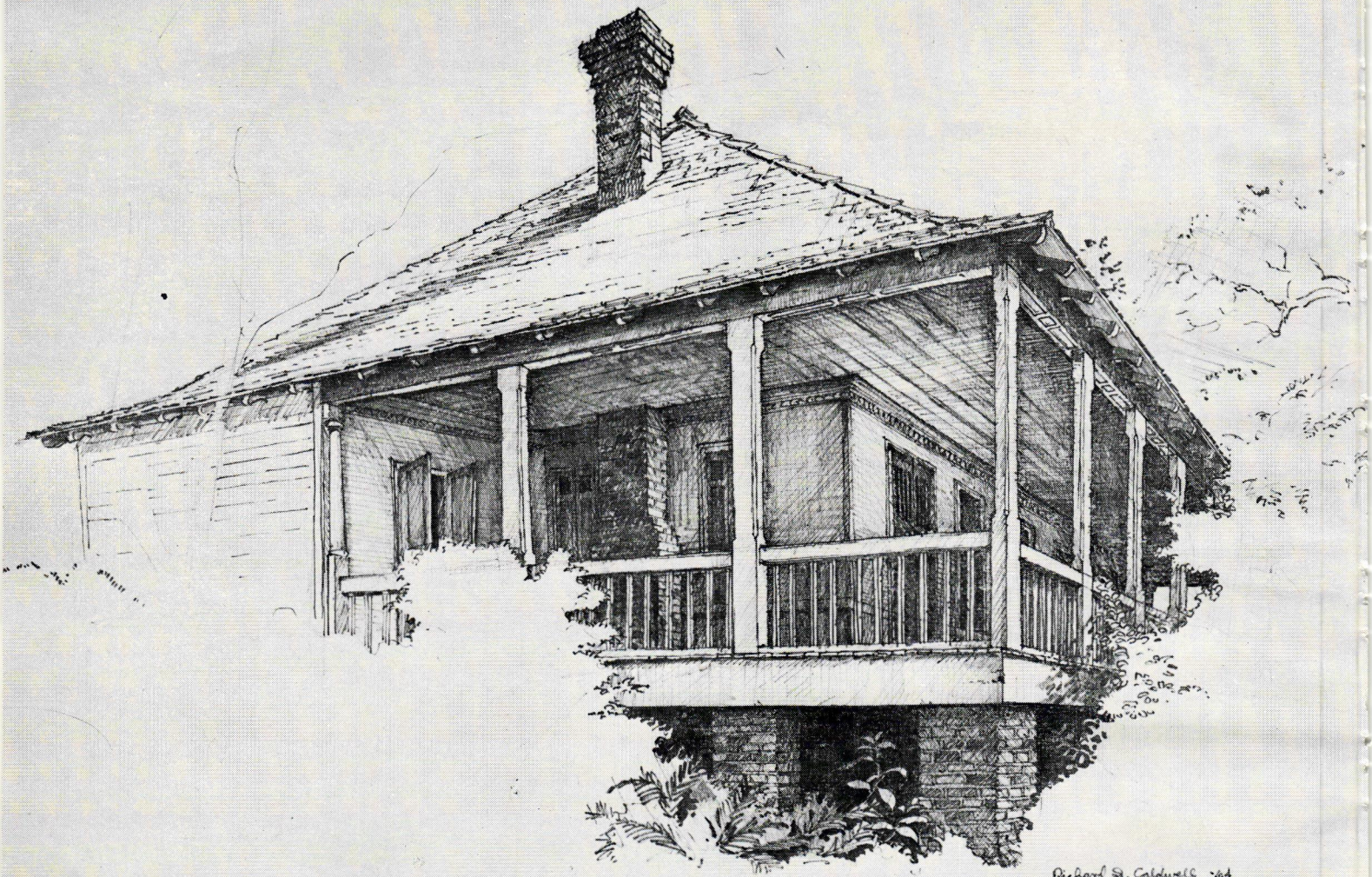
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PRINCE MURAT HOUSE—c. 1780—Nicholson Drive, Baton Rouge. Although this one story raised house is very early it exhibits some fine details and embellishments. Mud and moss are the infill for the notched and pegged wood frame. This refined house is typical of the Louisiana house before the arrival of the Greeks.

This sketch by Richard S. Caldwell, architect, is the eighth in a 12-part series to be featured in LOUISIANA ARCHITECT. The drawings are part of a large collection to be presented in a forthcoming book illustrating the basic form of Louisiana architecture.

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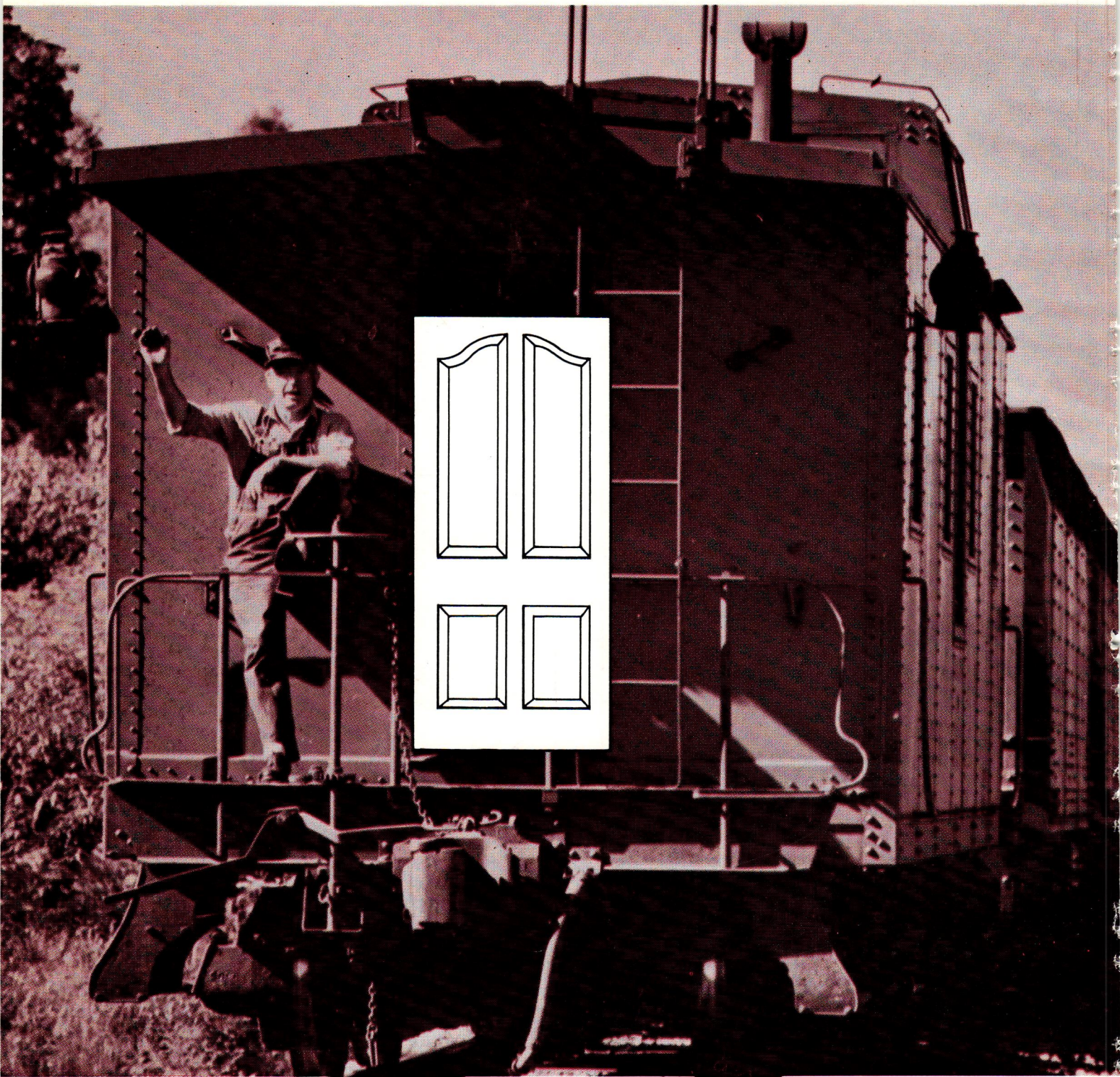
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