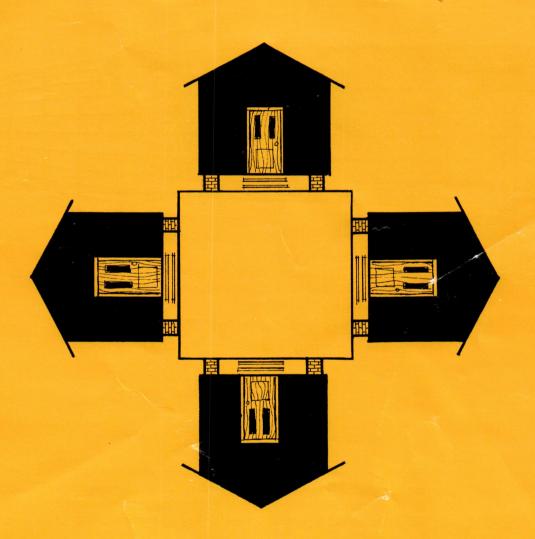
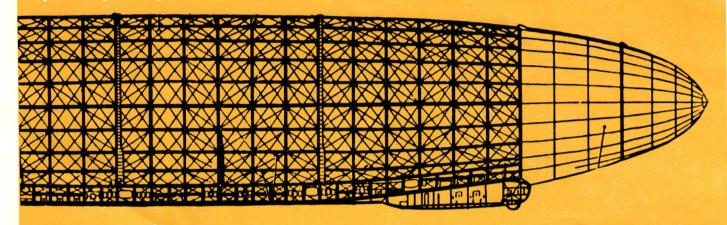
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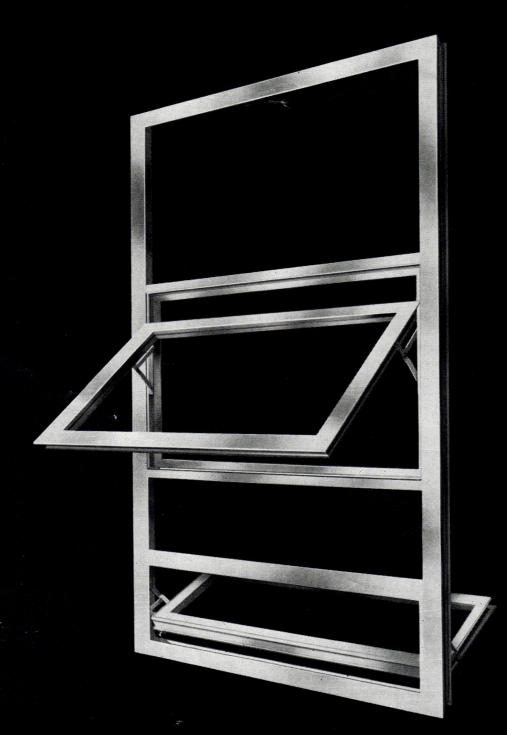
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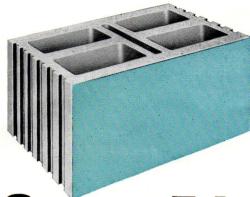




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UNFORTUNATE IMPLICATIONS

Several members have expressed anxiety over implications which may be spawned by one recommendation of the Legislative Investigating Committee currently probing alleged bidding irregularities.

Apprehension stems from announced intentions of the Committee to legislate a penal statute making it a criminal offense for an architect or engineer to specify a product manufactured or sold by a firm in which he has an interest.

Who in the American Institute of Architects could be against such a move? It's hard to imagine anyone in this organization opposing such a law, especially when every member is bound by the AIA Standards of Professional Practice explicitly warning — "AN ARCHITECT SHALL NOT HAVE FINANCIAL OR PERSONAL INTERESTS WHICH MIGHT TEND TO COMPROMISE HIS OBLIGATION TO HIS CLIENT." (We would assume the intent is not to prevent an architect from specifying styrafoam insulation, for instance, if he happens to own two shares of Dow Chemical stock, especially if the architect approves several equals. But that's a detail for the committee to consider.)

The concerned parties are not at all suspect; in fact, they are outstanding, ethical practitioners who worry about publicity implying this practice is rampant among architects. We are convinced this is not the case. To underline this conviction, we invite any evidence of such violations, with assurance to the source that judicial proceedings will be initiated immediately to expel violators from AIA.

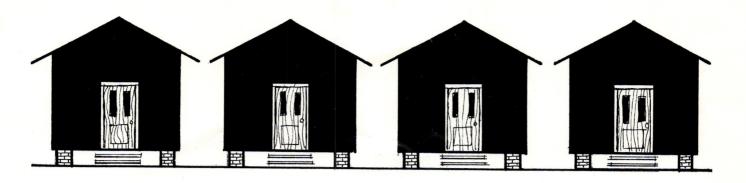
We agree with the vigilant that misleading implications are unfortunate. Yet, this profession gladly accepts its responsibility to the public. Often it is necessary to suffer minor side effects from medicine in the interest of curing or relieving the major ailment.

EDITOR

POST SCRIPT: Just before going to press, the writer met with Senator Duplantier, chairman of the Investigating Committee, to discuss the above-mentioned thoughts. The Senator was most receptive and requested LAA draft a suitable statement emphasizing that evidence does not indicate this practice is common. The statement (already drafted) is to be incorporated in the Committee's final report to the Legislature.

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Statement Concerning Standardization and Stock Plans for School Construction

Baton Rouge, like most communities throughout the country, is searching for ways to buy more school buildings for less money, reduce the time and trouble involved, and get buildings up more quickly. It has been suggested that one area to be explored is the so called "stock plan" system, that is, the creation of a few standard designs that would cover the building of all schools. However sound this might appear superficially, there are numerous underlying considerations that make the premise faulty.

- I. Let it be known first that the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board does standardize wherever possible to provide for lower maintenance and construction costs. Examples are: Gymnasium Floor Systems, Window Types, Wall Materials, Stage Curtains, Hardware, Consumable items such as Light Fixture Lamps and Ballast, Fire Extinguishers, Soap and Tissue Dispensors, quality and type of Chalk-Bulletin Boards, Methods of Termite Treatment, Acoustical Ceiling Tile Systems, Paging Systems, Outdoor Playground Equipment, other Schoolground Equipment such as Bicycle Racks, Flag Poles, Drinking Fountains, Kitchen Equipment and Metal Toilet Partitions.
- II. When stock plan programs have been enthusiastically but mistakenly drawn up in the past, they have usually been formulated on a statewide basis and not at the community level. Even the most ardent stock plan advocates have recognized that a school district must have some choice, so they have usually had drawn up several elementary plans, several junior highs, several high schools, from which districts may choose, according to their needs. A similar wide choice within East Baton Rouge Parish would cost the same as our present plans. For example, New York State Legislature in 1961 authorized \$1 million to prepare a set of nine different school plans: if such a choice were available to Baton Rouge we would be right back at build-

ing individual schools because nine different schools would blanket the area. Thus, a "stock plan" with choice would not be a "stock plan" at all when applied at the community level.

Even at the state level, "stock plans" have, for the most part, proved impractical. "Stock plans" for schools were in relative disfavor as far back as 1951 when a California-based survey showed that these plans were tried and abandoned in 15 states up to that time. Connecticut had had stock plans for 1 and 2 room schools for 35 years . . . and only 2 buildings had been erected according to these plans. Twenty-one states reported that they never had "stock plans" and were not considering them. At that time eight states said they had some stock plans available: three for one-room schools only; two up to two classrooms; two up to four classrooms; one for buildings to house up to 300 students. None of the 45 states reporting recommended stock plans to other states.*

Listed below are reactions in some states where "stock plans" were attempted or contemplated:

Georgia—"They are not up to desired standards for modern school buildings . . . hopelessly obsolete."

Michigan—"There would be no saving to school districts if stock plans were substituted for individually designed projects."

Missouri—"Plans were not complete enough to get good comparative bidding. It is our opinion

(Continued on Page 14)

^{*} Similar statistics are quoted in an editorial in *The School Executive*, Nov. 1955. Title "Is There a Place for Stock Plans?" Conclusion: As we design school buildings for the present and the future in this world of rapid change, let's plan for our children, and our children's children, school buildings which are the best that creative man can produce in his constant search for perfection. In such a conception there is no place for stock plans.



Honor Awards Committee

William R. Allen, Jr., Chairman Charles Barlow Willis T. Guild, Jr. Lloyd K. Grace

Jury for the Awards

Charles M. Nes, Jr., Chairman Thomas L. Bosworth Impre Halaz Henry Millon

Jury Report

The Architects of the Gulf States Region should be complimented for this interesting exhibit of their Architecture. The quality is generally high and expresses a search for a continually improving level of Architecture in the Region. The entries were handsomely presented with some outstanding graphic qualities. The jury was occasionally handicapped somewhat by the lack of sufficient site plans and sections.

Each member of the jury examined, independently, each entry and selected those he felt should receive an award. The result indicated a unanimous selection of four projects for high award. Among these four unanimous selections, the jury felt that one was indeed outstanding and merited singling out for First Award. The remaining three unanimous choices were accorded the Merit Award. Five additional entries were selected by three of the four jurors as deserving of an award. These are the Citation Awards.



Receiving the First Honor Award certificate on behalf of their firms are John Desmond and Earl Mathes. Making the presentation on behalf of the Gulf States Region is William R. Allen, Jr., chairman of the Honor Awards program.

FIRST HONOR AWARD

Louisiana State University Union Building Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Desmond-Miremont & Associates Baton Rouge, Louisiana Chapter, A.I.A. Mathes, Bergman & Associates

Wilson & Sandifer New Orleans, Louisiana Chapter, A.I.A. Shreveport, Louisiana Chapter, A.I.A.

This is an elegant and sophisticated building with a pleasing structural and spatial unity resulting in fine continuity of interior and exterior space. The design uses its regional heritage and the climatic conditions of its location. The major functions of the plan are well placed with the more used areas on the periphery connected by terraces to the site. The jury feels, however, that the auditorium and ballroom components contradict the strong formality of the central building and detract from the clarity of the main theme.

MERIT AWARD

IBM Branch Building, Jackson, Mississippi Curtis and Davis, Architects New Orleans Chapter, A.I.A.

This is a sound, pleasing design and a straightforward use of structure. Particularly noteworthy is the use of the loadbearing precast mullions used as walls. This we believe successfully captures in the contemporary vernacular the characteristics of the past regional architecture.

MERIT AWARD

Residence, Little Rock, Arkansas Cowling and Roark Arkansas Chapter, A.I.A.

This house successfully capitalizes on the difficult site, effectively uses harmonious and indigenous materials to achieve a rich but reserved statement. The major living area, facing the north by necessity, admits the southern sun by the clerestory.

MERIT AWARD

Brothers Residence for Holy Cross School New Orleans, Louisiana J. Buchanan Blitch, Architect New Orleans Chapter, A.I.A.

The slenderness of the exterior elements involved in producing this design reflects a thoughtful awareness of the climate and characteristics as seen in the traditional architectural forms of the region. The plan recognizes the river as the principal organizing element of the site. The result is a handsome and novel contemporary interpretation of monastic life.

CITATION AWARD

Rosedown Plantation Restoration St. Francisville, Louisiana

George M. Leake, Architect New Orleans Chapter, A.I.A.

While this restoration can in no way be considered a statement of contemporary architecture, it is, nevertheless, a sympathetic and thoughtful work of restoration and encourages the reevaluation and preservation of better architectural examples of the past. Particularly commendable is the new site plan which re-sites elements formerly attached to the building. The two small buildings resulting from this re-organization are, in themselves, extremely handsome and simple foils to the studied and mannered character of the main house.

CITATION AWARD

Men's Dormitories, Southern State College Magnolia, Arkansas

Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson, Inc. Arkansas Chapter, A.I.A.

This project has a strong clear plan and a unified architectural expression. The organization of components is skillfully and logically handled and the scheme lends itself easily to future growth.

CITATION AWARD

Municipal Building Huntsville, Alabama

Dickson, Jones & Davis, Architects North Alabama Chapter, A.I.A.

This design is a courageous attempt at a personal statement suitable to a public building. The restrained use of fine materials is appropriate. Evidently much thought was given to the site and to the picturesque relation of the building to the

CITATION AWARD

Heritage Home Helena, Arkansas

Wittenberg, Delony & Davidson, Inc. Arkansas Chapter, A.I.A.

This small incomplete project has an excellent relationship between the public and private areas as shown in the plans and section. Its lack of institutional character is refreshing and should result in a pleasant environment for the chronically ill.

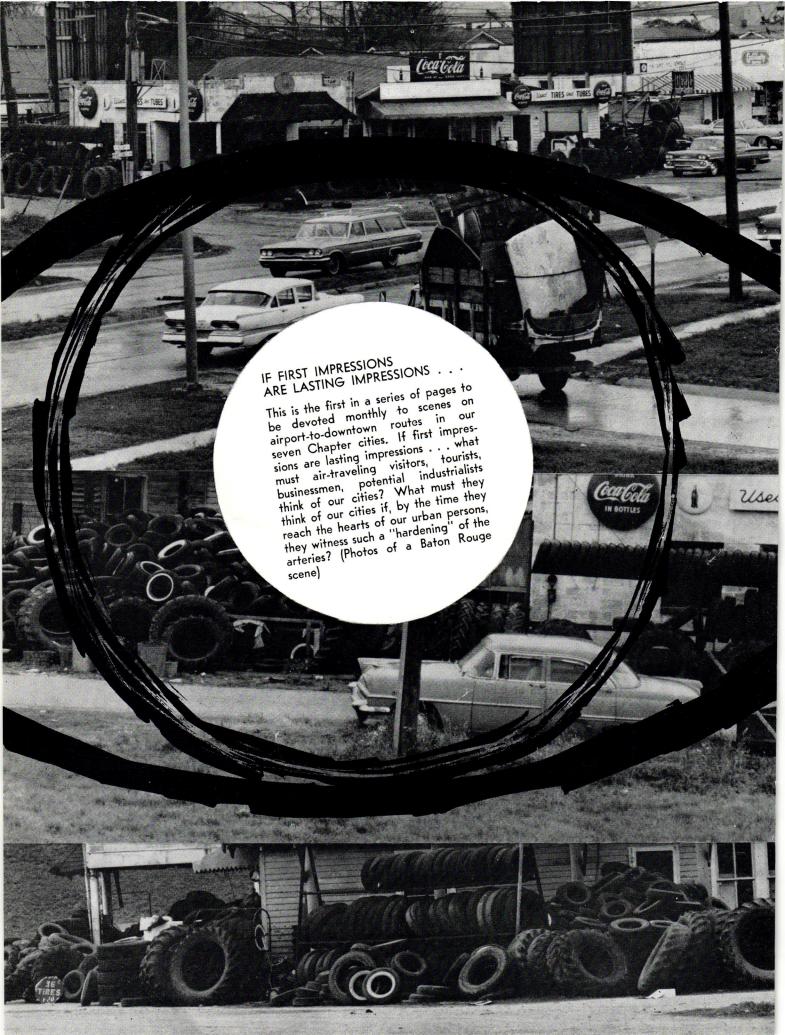
CITATION AWARD

Fire Station #5 Alexandria, Louisiana

Glankler and Broadwell, Architects Central Louisiana Chapter, A.I.A.

This is a direct and straightforward parti resulting in a functional building. However, the elevations seem overly complicated; particularly, in the materials used and result in a somewhat overly active expression.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Louisiana architects received three of the four high awards, and five of the nine awards made.



WASHINGTON, D. C., March 26, 1965—Two American cities of vastly different size qualified this month for the newest, broadest and perhaps most important award of The American Institute of Architects.

The City of Detroit and its citizens and the City of Shreveport, La., and its residents, have been presented the Institute's first citations for excellence in community architecture, an award program established by the AIA board of directors in January, 1965.

Edward Jackson and G. Scott Smitherman, right.



America's architects are now convinced that the great and pressing problem of our age is the growth of urban ugliness and the presence of the public mentality which permits it. It is to this problem that the American Institute of Architects has committed its major programs, budgets and energies.

In the United States tdoay, we are in the midst of the biggest building boom in the history of our, or possibly any other nation. By the end of this century, we are told that we will have to duplicate

Remarks by G. Scott Smitherman, Director Gulf States Region, AIA, at Presentation of Citation to Shreveport - 26 March 1965, Biloxi, Miss.

every structure in our country to house our expanding population and replace worn out structures and neighborhoods. We are, in effect, building a second America. We are doing this in a democracy. The Pharaohs and Kings and Nobles who once made the qualitative decisions about physical environment are gone. For the first time in history the common man is on his own. He bears a unique responsibility for making the qualitative decisions concerning his environment. We have a choice of building a new nation and a new culture to rival ancient Greece and imperial Rome, or to create the most appalling,

frightening and ruinous ugliness the world has ever seen.

The architects, conscious of their responsibility in the area of our visual environment, have declared a war on ugliness. One of the positive efforts being made in this war is to recognize and focus attention on projects which have been undertaken or completed and which stand out as signal accomplishments toward the creation of a more satisfactory aesthetic environment.

The city of Shreveport, Louisiana has undertaken and completed such a project. A distinguished and comprehensive new downtown plan was co-sponsored by the city and by a private organization of property owners and merchants called Downtown Shreveport Unlimited. Our fellow Architect Arch Winter prepared the plan which has been officially adopted and work is underway toward physical accomplishment of the goals as described in the plan.

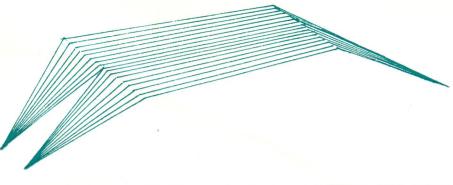
We have with us this evening the dynamic Mr. Edward H. Jackson who was president of Downtown Shreveport Unlimited at the time the plan was authorized. He is here representing that organization and the city of Shreveport. Also we have Arch Winter, the distinguished architect, whose work in city planning is recognized in communities all over our region.

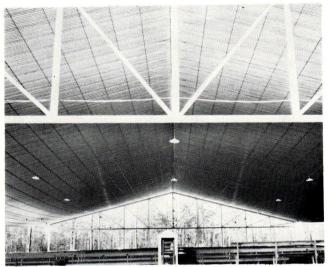
The American Institute of Architects in recognition of a significant accomplishment toward a more orderly and beautiful environment, hereby grants to Shreveport, to Downtown Shreveport Unlimited and to Arch Winter its citation for excellence in community architecture.

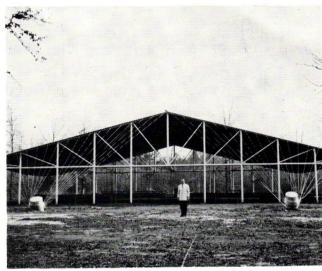
Our congratulations to the city of Shreveport, to you Mr. Jackson and to you Arch Winter.

(Next month, background information on the Downtown Shreveport Plan will be presented in Louisiana Architect.)

PATENT for PATTEN







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Your company's communications system may not be quite up to the needs of a growing business or the increasing complexities of doing business.

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Make an appointment soon for a communications checkup. There's no obligation. Call your telephone business office.



State Representative David I. Patten of Catahoula Parish is a general contractor and inventor. One of his recent accomplishments is receipt of a patent for a unique structure he has devised.

Mr. Patten's building is supported by one continuous cable threaded throughout the roof. As far as safety is concerned, the inventor says the breaking strength of one strand of the cable from stob to stob is 42,000 pounds while the roof weighs only 18,000 pounds. The building has withstood two large storms without any apparent effects, Mr. Patten says.

The building is used as a tabernacle for the Assembly of the Lord Jesus Christ, a Pentecostal Faith, at Olla, Louisiana.

ALEXANDRIA

Your editorial, "Thank You, John McInnis," written for the March issue of the *Louisiana Architect*, is one of the finest tributes to an individual that I have had the pleasure of reading. Everyone connected with the construction industry should have the opportunity to read this article.

The Central Louisiana Chapter, A.G.C., mails a weekly Newsletter containing information on construction projects in our area to over two hundred individuals and business firms. May we have your permission to reprint your March editorial in our Newsletter?

J. W. Williamson Manager, Central Louisiana Chapter, AGC

MINDEN

This is just a short note of appreciation to you for the tribute that you paid me in the March issue of the LOUISIANA ARCHITECT Magazine. The comments you made were very flattering and I am certain that I speak for both Jack Terrill and W. A. McMichael in expressing our thanks to you. We certainly hope that both contractors and architects alike will share some benefit from our joint actions.

J. L. McInnis McInnis Brothers, Inc.

LAFAYETTE

We are seeking another instructor for the fall, possibly an Architectural Engineer to handle the mechanical and structural courses, but no design. If you know of someone with these qualifications please send me his (or their) name(s) or put an ad in the LAA Journal. Any help you can give will be appreciated.

Richard E. Kellogg Section Chairman of Architecture, USL

SHREVEPORT

One of the issues of your publication entitled the "Louisiana Architect" has come to my attention. The sketches of the Louisiana homes are most interesting. I notice there is a series of 12 different homes.

Would it be possible for us to ge the back issues of the "Louisiana Architect" that contain pictures of these homes? We would like to use them in conjunction with our studies of Louisiana history.

If you can supply us with back issues we will be glad to pay whatever fee there might be.

Your attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Stanley Powell, Principal Oak Terrace Junior High School

WWW News, Notes, Zip Coders WWW



AT REGIONAL CONFERENCE — Dan Cowling Jr. of Little Rock, right, nominated for a three-year-term as Gulf States AIA Regional Director, is congratulated by the president of the Arkansas Chapter, Robert Mobley.



Left to right, E. Harding Flair, president of the Shreveport Chapter, visits with Tennesseans Dick Awsumb and Joe Watson in the exhibit area.



Outgoing Regional Director G. Scott Smitherman of Shreveport, left, chats with Thomas Biggs, FAIA, of the Mississippi Chapter.



Left to right, Mrs. Joseph Brocato, Mrs. P. Murff "Queen Mother" O'Neal and Joseph Myron Brocato pose 'candiedly' in the lobby of the Buena Vista.



(Continued from Page 7)

that buildings should be designed to satisfy the needs of the community."

Wisconsin—"We recognized long before we discontinued the service that it is almost impossible to plan a good structure without some definite knowledge as to the site and some understanding of the people and their community. Furthermore, it became apparent to us at once the contractors discovered the fact that we did not supervise the actual construction, they built pretty much as they pleased, even to the point that some of the buildings were unrecognizable when checked against the original plan. In this way and in others, the district frequently lost all, and in some cases more than, the supposed saving in architectural fees."

Virginia recently has been disillusioned about stock plans. Here is a quote from an Associated Press story from Richmond, Virginia, January 6, 1953, which was printed in the Washington, D. C., Star under the heading: "Costly 'Boner' Seen in Virginia as School Plans Gather Dust":

"Three years ago," the Associated Press story reads, "when Virginia was in the midst of a tremendous school building program, the Legislature passed a bill which many lawmakers believed would reduce some of the construction costs.

"By the bill, a committee was named to work with the State Education Department in devising blueprintes for school buildings. The blueprints would be kept on file in the education department, available for any locality which wished them in building a new school.

"Two sets of plans, costing some \$40,000, were drawn up and placed in the files.

"Two plans are still there. As yet there have been no takers."

California has had stock school plans for some years, and they are still available. There are three plans for one-classrooom buildings, which have been used in 76 school districts. However, they had to be changed in 42, and the Department of Education's Office of School Planning explains "this number would probably have

been as great as the total number of districts served, if it had not been for the office requirements in some cases that, if used at all, the plan would have to be followed as it was." During the 1930's, the Department prepared eight special sets of plans for various school districts, and expected they would be used by other districts. Seven sets have never been re-used. One has been re-used three times, in nearly 20 years.

California State authorities have found stock plans undesirable and usually uneconomical. State Architect Anson Boyd has said "a stock plan is a stock plan only once." Costly changes to distort the plan to fit the local site and local problems have been found to nullify any savings, and the result is an unsatisfactory building.

A 1957 study by the Massachusetts Legislature Research Council that found stock plans in use in only six states and only for schools of four classrooms or fewer.

The Massachusetts report cited some advantages to the stock plan idea, particularly possible savings in planning time. But it added that "unfortunate results frequently flow from the hasty planning which are promoted by their use." And it offered a list of potential economies in school planning and construction that included this recommendation. "Avoid stock plans." That viewpoint was taken in May, 1961, in a report by the Educational Facilities Laboratories, Inc., 477 Madison Avenue, set up by the Ford Foundation in 1958 to help schools and colleges solve building and space problems.

The E. F. L. report said stock plans should be resisted, and "in the long run it will cost you money to order a school through the mail." Stock *parts*, the study said, are a far better solution than stock *plans*. And stock parts are a part and parcel of your EBR Parish school planning.

III. Just why have states, foundations, legislative groups all rejected stock plans? First, "Stock plans" tend to freeze designs, limit function, and thwart progress. School methods and school requirements are changing year by year. Thus, a set of standard plans becomes obsolete with every new development in curricula. Methods of teaching themselves are constantly being revised. Remember how the "sit and learn" concept was replaced by the "learn by doing" concept, and how this demanded changes in style to provide more room for a freer flow of movement in the classroom and in the school? Similar changes are taking place in this decade. Progress does not come to a level and stop. A sound educational program is in constant flux in order to find better ways of doing things and since this is true, changes are inevitable. The school of today becomes obsolete in the world of tomorrow with the advent of closed circuit TV and the teaching machine. The school built today must be flexible enough to be able to adapt to tomorrow's changing educational requirements. Schools today are equipped with science laboratories little dreamed of before the nuclear age. Are we so static that we can believe similar changes will not be necessary in the future? Of course not. So stock plans do not allow for changes in teaching methods or curricula. Some examples of recent changes in curricula which result in changes in physical areas are:

- 1. Science Laboratories and Equipment with emphasis on nuclear work.
- 2. Visual Education Needs.
- 3. The new idea of the need of a Library in Elementary School plants.
- 4. Location and type of toilet facilities in Elementary School Plants.
- 5. Changes in thinking for the multi-purpose use in Play Rooms in Elementary Schools.
- 6. Accent on vocational studies to offset high drop-out rate of today.
- Completely air conditioned school buildings.
- 8. Closed Circuit T-V systems for teaching.

IV. Second, stock plans tend to freeze materials and/ or supplies and cut competition. When competition is limited to a chosen few, suspicion and dissent can be seen in a controversy presently being aired in this state about bidding irregularities in the construction of a college building and the subsequent charge that many of the supplies needed in the appointing of this structure could be acquired from only one supplier in the entire state. It is not our intention to determine whether or not this was intended or just happened, but it does show that when competition is limited, someone is going to wonder why. Further, limited competition can lead to unlimited cost. Charles D. Gibson, chief of the California State Bureau of School Planning, in a 1964 article entitled "Why Standard Plans Don't Work" said point blank, "By forcing many component manufacturers out of the bidding (due to standardization of design and specifications) standard plans are obviously likely to increase costs enormously by limiting competition." This freezing of materials and/or suppliers becomes more serious in view of the fact that the school physical plant itself changes from year to year as new building methods and materials become economical. New methods of communications within the school, new advances

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in heating and air conditioning, new insulation materials, new floor, wall and ceiling materials appear in the market each year . . . and new materials often affect basic structure. These are only a few examples of material changes that make the "stock plan" of today inadequate for the needs of tomorrow. Again quoting Gibson, chief of the California State Bureau of Planning. "Freezing of materials and construction methods precludes incorporation of new and improved products and construction techniques. Standard plans halt progress." (Emphasis ours.)

The following are some examples of recent changes in materials and systems for the construction of school buildings:

- 1. Widespread use of vinyl-asbestos flooring material in recent years. This material has proven to be the best value for money spent.
- Use of less glass in Air Conditioned School buildings and development of heat absorbing glass.
- 3. Dead level roofs are now being rejected by roofing manufacturers because of poor experience in bonding them.
- 4. Lighting level of illumination has increased from last program to the proposed program from a level of 30 foot candles to 70 foot candles. This higher level of illumination is possible because of development of light fixtures which minimize glare. Glare factors did not permit such a high level of illumination only five years ago.
- 5. In 1963 a new steel designated as A-36 which is 50% greater in strength replaced the old A-7 specification. Had a building been designed using the A-7 steel and in later years, when the new A-36 steel became available and the same structural members were used with the new steel, the use of unnecessary tonnage of steel in the structure would result. Also, approximately one year ago, U. S. Steel developed and placed on the market their Cor-Ten Steel which is a non-corroding steel.
- 6. There are any number of possibilities in the development and use of plastics. Each

year more and more plastic is used in construction.

Perhaps the most important consideration militating against "stock plans" is the community itself. It should be realized that within the community, educational programs differ from one school to another, and this is only fitting if they are to meet the needs of the people they serve. In one neighborhood there may be a great demand for vocational training while in another neighborhood a college prep program with more art, more science, more math, and more music may be desired. It can be readily seen that the same type of school building will not answer the needs of both.

- V. Third, the site for a school presents a myriad of individual considerations. No two sites within a community are exactly alike. Here are some important site considerations which require major modifications in a stock plan. Affecting building orientation on the site differing size, differing shape, differing street and traffic patterns, differing conditions of light; affecting foundation, grade, and drainage structures differing topography and differing subsoil conditions; affecting the utilities core; differing utilities access on each site. The following are a few examples of site conditions within our own parish:
 - 1. Eden Park School has an elevated Class Room design because of lack of site area. This design of course was more expensive than it would have if adequate play area had been provided and the floor of the building had been placed on grade. If this were a stock plan would you build it on a site with ample play area?
 - 2. If a stock plan had been developed for a relatively level site, could the same school building be built on a site such as Woodlawn, Capitol, Magnolia Woods or Lee High?
 - 3. If a stock plan had been developed for a school with an electrical service entrance approximately 50 feet from the power line on the street in front of the building, and the next site on which this same school was to be built required service from the opposite side of the site, this would add the length of the building unnecessarily to the electrical cost of the project at approximately \$75.00 per linear foot for underground service, or require that a fee be paid the electrical engineer to re-design the electrical distribution system within the building.
 - 4. Could an air conditioned building which was designed for an east or north exposure of class room areas be placed on a site

where these class rooms would be located on the west or south side? The answer is NO. In the majority of cases, the air conditioning system would have to be redesigned to fit the particular orientation of the site.

These are only some of the considerations. It becomes evident that to create a single school plan that will serve efficiently and economically in all cases is impossible. All these differing conditions make it mandatory to design each particular school building in accordance with its particular environment. "Stock plans" forbid this, or else require costly changes which may use up all the savings, and give a less efficient structure after all.

IV. Since the saving of money seems to be the primary reason for using "stock plans," let us examine the record to see if any such savings exist in reality. With a stock plan there is an initial heavy investment, that of commissioning an architectural firm to design the school building desired. Because the plan must be adoptable in many circumstances the cost will be more than for an one school plan. The investment can supposedly be recovered after the plans are used over and over again. Assuming a suitable stock plan is readied for a school board, the community has three choices. It can remain satisfied with the original plans and reuse these plans down through the years, closing its collective eyes to changing times and future needs, saving money and using behind-the-times schools. Can this be termed "savings"? The second choice is to change the "stock plans" themselves, two, three or five years later. This reduces the chances of ever recovering the initial investment in the "stock plans" and may cost more, depending on what changes are needed. The afore-referred-to Charles Gibson stated at a 1960 FORUM roundtables: "Stock plans represent the lazy, insufficient, and expensive way to provide school housing. The facts are as plain as the nose on my face. It never has worked in the fashion in which we have tried to make them

work. It is not less expensive. Nobody has ever recovered his original investment in the preparation of these things — Nobody."

A report issued August 21, 1963 in Rome, New York shows that the Rome School district saved one million, eighty thousand dollars on the building of three schools by NOT using the state "stock plans."

The third choice is that taken in district after district which has had access to stock plans; leave the old plans on the shelf, and build for today and tomorrow, not for yesterday.

The first 25% of the architect's fee is for preliminary investigation and no school can be built without this first step. The investigation includes examining the site, topography, subsoil and other physical features, making decisions about orientation of the building on the site and, if there are stock plans, then adapting the stock plans to the site. Major adaptations may easily use up the full 25% or more.

Another 25% is for the supervision of the actual construction, supervision made mandatory by law. There are no savings possible in this area.

Fifty percent is for the laborious work of preparing the working drawings and specifications; herein lies the only area where savings *might* be made. But "might" is the key word. What happens when changes have to be made for any one or several of the reasons we have listed above? Naturally, new specifications and new working drawings are needed, and this eats into that 50%. If enough changes have to be made, these apparent savings disappear and, in fact, additional outlay may be necessary to get the job done right.

VII. Taking all the above arguments against "stock plans" and laying them aside for the moment, let us simply consider a city where all homes, churches, cars, clothes, games, books, toys and schools are stock. If one school is the same as the next, then one pupil will be just like the next. Individual abilities will be overlooked in



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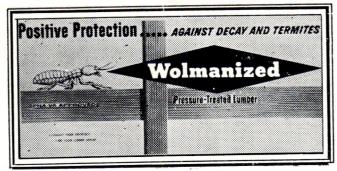
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the crush of conformity. One expression will be the expression of all. The child's success will not be measured on what talents he possesses but rather on how close to the norm he can come. All schools become minimum schools . . . and the child learns what is taught and that is all. There is no room for him to expand because there is no expansion. He is a copy with no individual freedoms or dignity. Sound socialistic? Well, it is. Exaggerated? It is not. Most totalitarian states have this type of educational system. President Johnson in his inaugural address described our American way of life as not "the ordered changeless and sterile battalion of the ants," but "the excitement of becoming — always becoming, trying, probing . . . resting and trying again . . . and always gaining." Thus should it be with teachers, teaching systems and schools.

Finally, the concept that "it was good enough for me, so it's good enough for my children" is reactionary and narrow. What was good yesterday is not good enough for today. If you build a new home, you don't follow plans used for homes ten or even five years ago. If you buy a new car, buy a new car with the most modern features, features that make the car of 5 years ago, or even one year ago, only second rate. Education and schools are the same. Better educational methods require schools where these methods can be practiced. Schools modeled after stock plans can be classified as second rate. They are not standard schools but minimum schools. Do you want your children to just get by with the minimum? Of course not. You want the best!

As we design schools for the present and the future in this ever changing world, let us not stop with the Convention Street School design, or the Baton Rouge High design, or the Istrouma High design or the Southdowns school design. Let us construct school buildings year by year which are best that creative men can produce without unnecesary extravagance, but with all the things needed to educate our young as they should be educated, so they may progress rather then wallow in stagnant mediocrity. There is no room for "stock plans" in this conception of progress.

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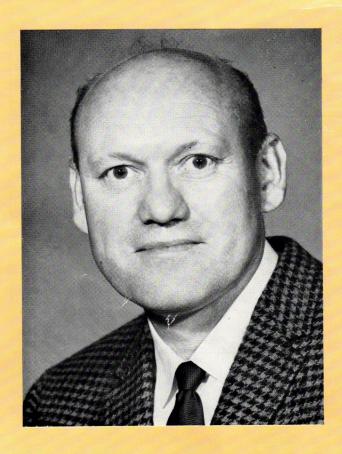


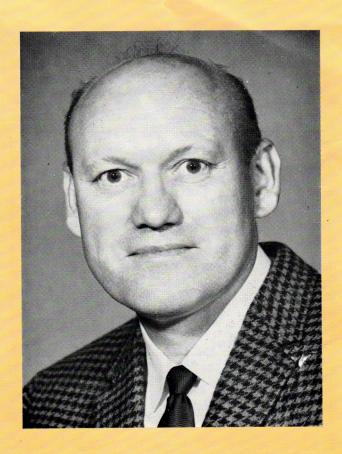
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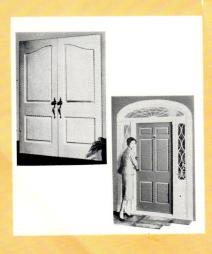
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