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The Louisiana Architect
The Saga of H138 by DICK THEVENOT

June 8, 1967—House Bill 138 died today the victim of a deadly arrow from the bow of the Associated General Contractors. It was laid to rest on the Senate calendar.

HI38 was designed by the LAA and the State Fire Marshal's Office to help prevent dangerous accidents such as the collapse of the Governor's House Motel in New Orleans, and also to tighten control over illegal plan stampers whose thievery and whoresnash defile the building industry.

The bill would have amended the Fire Marshals Act to require an affidavit from architects or engineers testifying their plans sent to the Fire Marshal were either drawn by them or under their direct supervision. The Fire Marshal would have been empowered to reject plans which are in violation of the Architects Licensing Law.

Owners of buildings of public accommodation, already covered by the Architects Licensing Law and the Fire Marshals Law, would have been required to have an architect or engineer or someone under their personal supervision inspect their building periodically during construction to insure reasonable compliance with the plans approved by the Fire Marshal. At the completion of the project the owner would have been required to certify to the Fire Marshal that the building was indeed inspected and complied reasonably in accordance with the plans and specifications.

Our bill faced the specter of death from the first day. Only by its apparent merit was it saved from the axe that killed most non-fiscal measures. The Affairs of the House Committee having declared the bill fiscal sent it without opposition to the second hurdle, Judiciary "B" Committee, which was cleared with a bound.

By Monday of the second week the oil industry lobby began to worry about the effect of this legislation on offshore oil structures. A series of conferences with these opponents produced an amendment excluding buildings other than those of public accommodation. Having calmed the troubled waters HI38 passed the House of Representatives 92 to 5.

LAA spokesmen in a meeting with the Construction Industry Association of New Orleans the following Monday agreed to an amendment permitting any architect or engineer to perform the inspection called for in the bill. But the CIA voted to oppose the bill unless it were amended to exempt all areas with building code enforcement authorities. They persuaded the New Orleans Chamber of Commerce to support their opposition. The LAA felt that this amendment would have defeated the purpose of the bill.

(Continued on Page 16)
Good Education Gets Better . . .

Elementary Libraries and Kindergartens

C. L. Perry
Superintendent, Caddo Parish School Board

Jimmy Stockard, Jr.
Supervisor of Instructional Materials

The schools shown in this article are Judson Elementary School, by Frey Assoc. — Shoemaker, Colbert, Broadnax Architects-Engineers; Newton Smith Elementary School, by Huddleston, Emerson, Stiller-Architects, Shreveport, Louisiana.

Pupils at Judson Elementary School use the library conference room to explore geography through a variety of media.

Not often does one find curriculum ideas on which practically all educators can agree. But sometimes it is possible. Recently, the Caddo Parish School Board in Shreveport found not one but two curriculum ideas that were agreeable to all: (1) centralized library service for the elementary schools and (2) public kindergartens in the elementary schools.

Renowned elementary specialists from throughout the United States have for some time championed the advantages of the centralized elementary library. Not only are early experiences provided in using library tools, such as the card catalog and the Dewey decimal system, but a larger, more appropriate book collection is available because of the elimination of needless duplication so often found in schools with only classroom collections. A centralized library in an elementary school is a virtual resource center for every kind of learning media. Pupils not only have opportunities to check out and use books, encyclopedias, and magazines, but there are study carrels where disc and tape recordings can be monitored through headsets, filmstrip and slide previewers for individual viewing, and glass enclosed conference rooms for planning, practicing (speech, etc.), and small group activities. Henry J. Otto, respected professor and educational writer from the Uni-
University of Texas, has said, “Schools that have good library service usually have better instructional programs than those without library service.”

First grade teachers have always expected to deal with individual differences among the children who enter their classes each September. Too, they have even been able to predict that one of the major differences would be the fact that some children went to kindergarten and some did not.

Generally speaking, children who have had good kindergarten experiences are better prepared to begin school than those who have not attended kindergarten. But even another variable enters the picture. All the kindergarten experiences are not of the same quality. Since none of the private kindergartens are affiliated with the public schools, philosophies of educating children sometimes lack coordination. For example, a child may have attended a kindergarten where the idea of kindergarten was a “shoved-down” first grade. Although this rarely occurs, it is disastrous for the child involved when it does.

So, with this background, it is easy to see that there evolved two goals as far as kindergartens are concerned: (1) that everyone be given the opportunity of attending kindergarten and (2) that the philosophy of the kindergarten and the public school be consistent.

Two committees were established in Caddo Parish during the 1964-65 school year to explore the potential that centralized elementary libraries and public kindergartens might have for the school system. Both committees made extensive studies that led to very positive recommendations.

The committee studying libraries heartily recommended that centralized elementary library facilities be established as early as possible in the elementary schools of the system. A part of this committee’s study had included the observation of two pilot elementary libraries which were initiated during the 1965-66 school session, and a great deal of enthusiasm was generated...
from the successes of these pilot programs.

A major project of the kindergarten committee was the compilation of a research bulletin about the needs of pre-school children. Discovering that the kindergarten experience can be planned to fulfill the specific needs of young children and that the kindergarten can assist young children in making the transition from home to home and school, the committee recommended the establishment of kindergartens in the schools of the system. Unlike the regular school program, kindergarten is non-compulsory.

Plans were made to house the proposed libraries and kindergartens in new facilities on each campus partly because none of the existing buildings had adequate or appropriate space and specifically because of the unique structural requirements of libraries and kindergartens.

Each elementary library needs approximately 2,400 square feet of space plus glass enclosed conference rooms and work areas. Shelving must be adequate for some 9,000-12,000 books and include specialized large shelves for picture books. The workroom-storage area should include cabinets and shelves for audio-visual equipment plus a sink and formica-topped work space. Many electrical outlets are needed throughout the library so that pupils can take advantage of the many audio-visual devices that require electricity.

Two kindergarten rooms were required in most schools. It was proposed that these rooms be included in the same new facilities as the centralized libraries. Although similar in some ways to regular classrooms, the kindergarten room, by the active nature of the kindergarten program, is different. The chalkboards are lower, the furniture smaller, and there are less books than in typical classrooms. Instructional materials take the form of giant building blocks, wooden puzzles, huge magnifying-glasses, models of farms, animals, and people; pint-sized (but lifelike) kitchens, banks, and grocery stores; and folding partitions between the rooms so that the classes can use the space of both rooms for special activities such as marching, singing, play-acting, or film viewing. Also, a child’s toilet facility is a needed part of each kindergarten room.

Bids were let, contracts signed, and the construction of some twenty-seven air-conditioned facilities was begun in early 1966 in preparation for the school year 1966-67. Now, at the end of this initial year in which centralized library and kindergarten services were offered in Caddo’s elementary schools, we are convinced more than ever that these services are contributing in a major way to the continuing improvement of our instructional program. Already we are anticipating the opening of centralized libraries and kindergartens in sixteen additional elementary schools next year, and we are confident that in years to come our boys and girls will reflect the benefits that have been theirs because of early kindergarten and library experiences.
Three New Fellows in Louisiana

At the 1967 Annual Convention of the American Institute of Architects in New York City in May, three outstanding Louisiana Architects were called to stand before hundreds of delegates from across the nation to receive the medals and ribbons that distinguish them with the coveted title "Fellow of the American Institute of Architects." The membership of the Louisiana Architects Association takes pleasure in saluting these who have brought honor to the profession.

W. J. "Red" Evans, FAIA
Fellowship for Service to the Profession and Public Service

Mr. Evans is the proprietor of his own firm in Baton Rouge. He holds a B.S. in Architectural Engineering and a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Louisiana State University and is licensed both as an architect and a civil engineer.

Few architects have served their profession as well. Since 1949 he has been a member of the Baton Rouge Chapter of the AIA, while Chapter President in 1959 he wrote and published the first regular monthly bulletin, which received the AIA document of the month award. He also established the Chapter's Women's Auxiliary and was host to the state convention. In 1961 Red Evans was elected President of the Louisiana Architects Association. He instituted the Louisiana Architect as a monthly magazine and served until 1965 as editorial advisor. From 1958-62 he served as a member of the AIA National Committee on Chapter Affairs.

From 1955-58 as a member and later chairman of the Baton Rouge Planning and Zoning Commission, Red Evans helped initiate and institute a Master Sewage Plan; Master Plan for Schools and Parks; Master Plan for Railroads and New Subdivision Development requirements.

His service with the Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce since 1956 includes membership on several committees, three years on the Board of Directors and two years as Vice President. In the Downtown Kiwanis Club, Mr. Evans has, since 1952, been Chairman of five committees; member of the Board of Directors from 1958-59, Vice President in 1959 and President in 1960. Faithful service of his Alma Mater has won for him the honor of president-elect of the LSU Alumni Federation.

Lester C. Haas, FAIA
Fellowship for Public Service

Mr. Haas is a partner in the Shreveport, Louisiana Firm of Haas - Massey and Associates, Architects. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from John Hopkins University and a Bachelor of Architecture Degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He also attended the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, New York; the Ecol Des Beaux Arts American, Fontainbleau, France; and the American Academy in Rome.

His list of public service activities is most impressive and testifies to an unselfish dedication to his community which has respect for both him and his profession. He has served on the Board of Directors of both the Shreveport and the Louisiana Junior Chamber of Commerce. In 1948 he was a committee chairman for the Greater Shreveport Improvement Program and in 1949 was chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Greater Shreveport Municipal Airport.

Among the many civic and community boards of directors on which Lester Haas has served are: the Shreveport USO, Caddo-Bossier Safety Council, Salvation Army, Caddo-Bossier Community Council, Caddo-Bossier Association for Mentally Retarded Children, Shreveport Chamber of Commerce, American Red Cross, Congregation of the Daughters of the Cross, and the Air Space Zoning Appeals Board.

Lester Haas is currently vice president of the Caddo Foundation for Exceptional Children; a member of the Board of Trustees and president-elect of the B'nai Zion Congregation.

These are but a few of the services of Lester Haas. The full record is much longer and will be longer yet as he continues to serve his community.

John Desmond, FAIA
Fellowship in Design

Mr. Desmond is a partner in the firm of Desmond-Miremont & Associates, Architects and Engineers, Baton Rouge and Hammond, Louisiana.

He holds a Bachelor of Architecture Degree from Tulane University, a Masters in Architecture from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an AIA Medal. He has taught at Tulane and served as visiting critic at LSU. Included in his writings are "The National Trust Summer School," AIA Journal, and "Modern Architecture and Christian Liturgical Reform," The American Institute of Architects Journal. His excellent record of outstanding design ability has become widely recognized. During 10 years of practice John Desmond and his associates have won 12 regional AIA awards, including 8 honor awards. They have won three National AIA awards and awards from the Housing and Home Finance Agency, National Library Association and Time-Life.
Honor Award

Cimini and Merc and Associates

Project
Saint Anthony Roman Catholic Church
Gretna, Louisiana

Owner
Congregation of St. Anthony Roman Catholic Church

Jury Comments:
"...Simple—carefully detailed, rich character in windows and altar area."

Solution
The building is a Roman Catholic Church located in Gretna, Louisiana, across the river from New Orleans — ground floor square footage is 11,000 square feet — seating capacity at ground floor is approximately 700 persons — seating capacity at choir is approximately 50 persons. Building is 100 feet x 110 feet — all walls, interior and exterior, are concrete finished with exposed white polar quartz aggregate — walls are sloped inward with a graceful concave taper upward becoming vertical at a point approximately 17 feet above the ground — sloped walls have reverse tapered wing walls at interior side forming several niches for display of statuary, etc., around the periphery of the nave of the church — at the southeast corner of the property three towers topped by three crosses of COR-TEN steel rise from their 3 foot wide bases and taper to 2 feet, to a height of approximately 98 feet — building has three altars — main altar is a single pedestal solid marble structure designed to be a permanent consecrated altar. Main altar is at the center of the
building along the north-south axis in a direct line with the main entrance and 8 foot center aisle — an 8 foot high x 5 foot wide mirror finished stainless steel roman cross is suspended directly over the main altar, highlighted with concealed flood and spot lights. This cross is back-dropped by a 20 foot high x 50 foot wide blue/green imported glass mosaic wall—side altars are marble on cantilever supports recessed in 5 foot semi-circular niches aligned with each of the two side aisles at quarter points in the width of the building — all public spaces in the building are carpeted. Carpet is blue/green of the same hues as mosaic wall behind altar — the stations of the cross designed by sculptor George Rice of New Iberia, Louisiana, are of black epoxy resin with embedded iron ore chips. These are placed 7 on the east side and 7 on the west side, and 14 niches of white quartz aggregate concrete and highlighted with directional colored spotlights recessed into coffers in the ceiling 23 feet above the floor — all major lighting is flush incandescent recessed into coffers of the ceiling — structural system supporting main roof consists of 8 concrete columns and a clear span of 100 feet from north to south — the only other columns in the building are for support of the choir platform which is freestanding above the narthex — pews are of solid oak stained weathered grey — stained glass windows from floor to ceiling separate the Stations of the Cross and complete the interior walls. Stained glass was designed by Ludwig Schermer — the church is mechanically air-conditioned year-round—there are three confessionals.
Evaluation Center for State Mental Hospital.

The objective of the Forensic Division Hospital is to determine, in a relatively short period of time, if a patient is criminally insane and the degree of mental disorder. The patient will usually remain at the hospital for two or three weeks before being transferred to some other part of the institution or discharged.
Student Honor Award
Kenneth W. Caswell, Louisiana State University

Project
Evaluation Center for State Mental Hospital

Instructor
Ross Murrell

Jury Comments:
... Good understanding of requirements solved a functionally difficult program extremely well both in plan and architectural expression.
... In spite of questions concerning program requirements, the spaces created are pleasant, the building expressive of the separation.
... Presentation good and descriptive, concept good.
... Good control, excellent circulation, visual comfort for patients with security. This building should perform its job very well.

Solution Comments:
The administration will serve not only this hospital, but will also control other departments in the criminal colony. The professional staff of doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, and social workers are to be non-resident and on a part-time basis. Therefore, individual office space can be minimal.
The new administrative office will demand prominence on the site on which exists 3, two and one-half story concrete and brick units, a one story cafeteria and other supporting facilities. Choice of materials for the new hospital was a response to those used on the existing buildings.
The male nurse has the problem of constant visual control over all activities and must be in a position to protect himself or escape. However, the patient should not feel as though he is in a corrective institution or prison. The Hospital was kept as open as possible so complete visual control could be maintained to all areas and the patient would not feel restricted.
It was suggested that materials, which can easily be made into a weapon, be used discreetly. A minimum amount of glass was used and placed out of the reach of the patient. Furniture was built in to prevent movement.
The hospital ward was divided into six groups of three patients and two seclusion areas, (total 20 patients). The threeman group shares a common bed space and a small interior sitting court so some identity with the surroundings can be maintained. Common daytime activities such as recreation, dining and lounging are centralized near the nurse's station so the nurse can carry on his duties without the problem of checking many decentralized areas.
Type of construction: Poured in place concrete frame for administration office. Hospital ward is brick bearing walls poured in place spanning concrete elements.
Mechanical equipment: Forced air-conditioning system, gas fired heat and air cooled condensing unit.

| Sq. Footage: | 8,820 |
| Cubage:     | 6,920 |
| Estimated cost: | $225,000.00 |

June, 1967
"World Change and Architectural Purpose"... the second in a series of excerpts from a presentation by

Phillip H. Hiss
President, Florida Arts Council
Southeastern Correspondent,
Architectural Forum Arts Columnist,
The Tampa Tribune

It is plain that creative people are a damned nuisance! I consider myself creative, and I've been introduced several times in Florida as "Vice President in Charge of Revolution." School teachers have a terrible time with creative kids, (but so far the teachers are ahead; most of them manage to knock the creativity out of the kids before they reach the eighth grade). Mayors and county commissioners and school board members and college presidents—even Presidents of the United States—find it extremely embarrassing and infinitely more difficult to deal with people who have ideas, especially radical ideas (all new ideas are considered radical). It's a lot easier to do the same old thing in the same old way, with perhaps some minor improvements, than it is to dump the tea into Boston Harbor (apologies to Sir Anthony Part) and start with a new drink called coffee.

Regrettably, creativity is usually the last thing considered in any case, professional competence being the penultimate consideration. In Florida, for example, our last Governor simply picked the architects for state universities from among his supporters. What could be more simple? The present Governor hasn't had time to work things out, or if he has, I haven't heard about it.

In New York City, not so many years ago, architects commissioned to do city schools, had to agree to hire the right lawyer and specify the right materials. However, I suspect that downright dishonesty is far less of a problem in most places than ignorance or ennui, or an unwillingness to become "involved" in a fight for a principle which is neither clearly understood nor believed in.

It appears to me that if any substantial progress is to be made in the planning of cities and in architecture that several things are going to have to happen, probably simultaneously:

1. It is essential that the public be better educated in matters relating to esthetics, architectural design, the importance of environment, the preservation of natural beauty, and the like. The long range solution is education in all of these areas at all levels from kindergarten through graduate school. I do not say "better education," because in many geographical areas no such education presently exists. We probably are one of the few countries where it is possible to get an A.B. degree without ever having any substantial exposure to the Fine Arts.

Parenthetically, Marshall McLuhan, whom I have little difficulty ignoring most of the time, insists that all most schools do is to temporarily interrupt a child's education. As a former school board chairman, I am inclined to agree, though I am less optimistic about the results being temporary: I have one cousin who never entirely recovered from four years at Harvard. And Clark Kerr once suggested to me that not having been to college could be a great advantage; he ought to know!

2. It is equally important to improve education in architectural schools and schools of environmental design...

3. The mass media have a responsibility to educate the public, which is seldom discharged. At the very least, they should inform their readers and prod bureaucrats to constructive action. Unfortunately, there are less than a dozen competent architectural critics on American papers, and it is disconcerting to discover that some papers wouldn't take a competent critic as a gift. The reasons are all predictable: Criticism can be offensive to corporations whose buildings may be criticized, or to city and county officials, or to school board members, and this in turn affects advertising revenues and is hard on friendships. "We can't fight on all fronts at the same time" is the com-
mon statement. There is some justification for it, but if the mass media don't fight on this front, there shortly will be nothing to fight for.

4. I have tried to analyze the position of the AIA in all this—both its present position and the ideal. I can't get over the feeling that as the most important organization representing the profession it should assume a position of leadership. On the other hand, it is a membership organization and therefore owes something to its members. On balance, professional concern should win out.

The very least that the AIA could do would be to refrain from putting its Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval on underserving buildings.

5. The public unquestionably gets the politicians it deserves, but this can be tough on individuals and minorities who may know better and seek more. In the end everything comes down to the individual, no matter how many committees or how many computers are used in the process. Thank God for that.

If I have any wisdom to impart on this subject it is that it is not enough to elect a public official and then leave him to his problems for the next two, four, or six years; public business must be a continuing and constructive public concern.

I believe too, that the public and the mass media will have to take a more enlightened attitude toward public officials—"public servants" as they are more aptly called. We probably will never reach the millennium envisioned by John Kenneth Galbraith in an article in the *New York Times Magazine* several years ago, in which he suggested that any public official who commissioned a building which was not controversial ought to be thrown out of office, but we should allow our public officials to make a reasonable number of mistakes, otherwise there will be no progress.

The American Ambassador in Holland once assured me that I was unlikely to get very far in the diplomatic service if I continued to do things without any thought to consequences. "There is one inflexible rule in the State Department," he assured me, "and that is you must never make a mistake, it will go against your record." I looked him in the eye and said: "The only way to do that, Sir, is never to do anything at all." "At least you catch on fast!" was his jaundiced reply. This is the sort of thing that must be stopped; we should reward courage and creativity rather than penalize them.

I am through, but perhaps you will indulge me one more minute. Since I conceive of architecture first as an art, second as a profession, third as a science, and lastly, if at all, as a business, I have often considered how the artist-architect can maintain his integrity and still manage to survive. I simply don't know the answer; (Ernie Kump and Chuck Colbert may) a few outstanding men have managed to accomplish it and even to raise a family in the process. But I do have a rather interesting story which relates to a quite remarkable painter of Czechoslovakian ancestry: William Pachner. Pachner is Jewish, and sixty of his family were liquidated at the

(Continued on Page 16)
World Change . . .

continued

beginning of World War II; he was in this country and survived. It was a horrifying experience and he has relived it many times in his painting. He is almost fanatically concerned with the integrity of his work and is determined not to be influenced by fashions in painting or the whims of dealers or the buying public, consequently, he has never counted on a penny made from the sale of his paintings for his living.

How then does he support his wife and children? Very simply: by teaching.

But he has also been concerned that teaching might make so many demands on his time and energies if he allowed himself to be drawn too deeply into it, (as he well could be, as a professor in some university or as the founder of an art school) that he has deliberately limited himself to a type of teaching which provides the money but which does not interfere with his painting.

I find it difficult to relate this to architecture, but I am deeply concerned with this matter of integrity and dedication.

To recapitulate, if purpose and integrity are there, technology will follow. The architect must have an increased awareness of people; and he must not try to solve all the problems of the world by himself. He will increasingly find himself a partner with government; let us hope that both parties are enlightened.

THE SAGA OF H138

(Continued from Page 5)

On Tuesday A.M., Senate Judiciary C heard the bill and took it under advisement pending suggested amendments from opposition forces. Passage looked dim. Tuesday P.M., we were forced to compromise with the opposition to exclude commercial buildings. In a 20-second hearing the amendment and bill were passed and the Committee dismissed. Counsel for the AGC reported at this time he had no objection. All were surprised by an AFL-CIO request for a re-hearing and objection to the amendments. The Committee again took the bill under advisement and promised a re-hearing Wednesday A.M. The LAA again offered amendments exempting only commercial buildings of one-story and less than 6,000 square feet floor space. We received tacit support from the AFL-CIO.

By Wednesday A.M., the counsel for the AGC Chapter reported objections to the bill and we again asked the Committee for a delay in the hearing until we could attempt to settle these objections. The LAA agreed to three amendments, but the AGC Chapters would not permit their counsel even to discuss the amendments with the LAA. The opposition and strong AGC ties with the Committee spelled death to the bill until the AFL-CIO threw strong support behind the LAA and breathed new life into the struggle.

Thursday morning, June 1, marked the fourth meeting of Senate Judiciary C. The AGC counsel offered an amendment which would outlaw any “hold harmless” agreement in the AIA General Conditions and make the architect or engineer solely responsible for any of their acts which may result in injury to persons or damage to property on the job. The contractor in such case would not share in the liability for joint negligence in which he may have been involved with an architect or engineer. Senate Judiciary C hurriedly pushed through the amendment and passed the bill on to the Senate, refusing to hear further argument by the LAA.

Faced with a bill that now produced more harm to the profession than good, the LAA agreed with J. D. DeBlieux, Senate Author, to permit the good to succumb with the evil and let the bill die on the Senate calendar. Thus ends the saga of H138 and a valiant effort to assure safety in buildings of public accommodation. Perhaps 1968 will bring forth a spirit of cooperation for this cause from all the construction industry.

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