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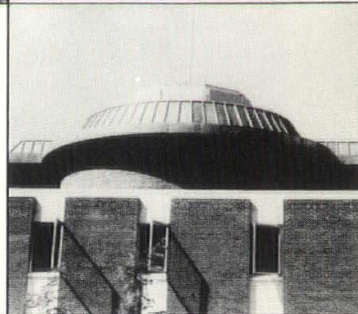
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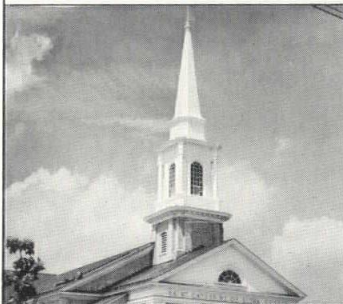
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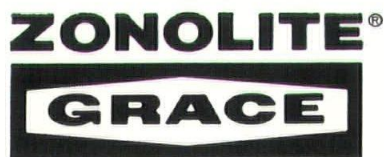
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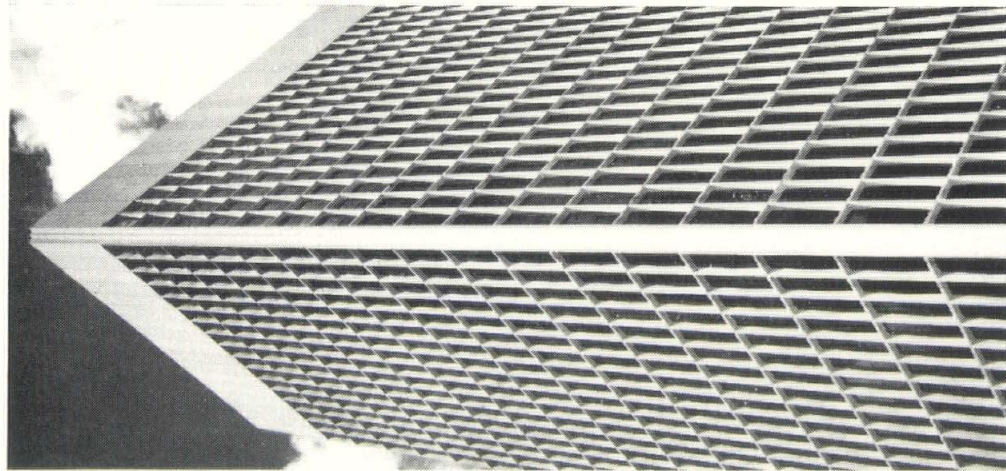
Concrete curtain wall joints

Prepared as an industry service by Portland Cement Association
clip along dotted line

The joints of all exterior walls are generally subject to the same forces and considerations and have certain specific prerequisites. Two important considerations for joints in concrete curtain walls are (1) understanding the volume changes which occur before and after the erection of concrete units and (2) establishing functions for the joint.

Like most materials, concrete expands as temperature rises and contracts as temperature falls. Concrete also expands and contracts with gain or loss in moisture. However, the contraction of concrete due to moisture loss while drying is usually greater than any subsequent expansion. Since concrete exposed to the atmosphere loses some of its original water, it normally exists in a somewhat contracted state compared to its original dimensions.

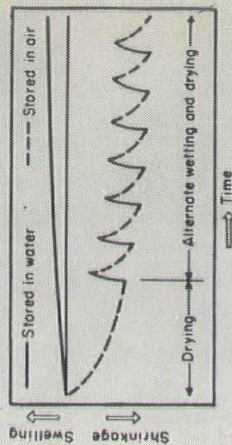
This is an important consideration when designing joints for concrete components. If the joint design relies entirely on a positive bond between panels to waterproof the wall, then the joint sealer must be capable of expansion and contraction as well. For this reason, the elastic sealants such as polysulfide and silicone rubber have been satisfactory for panels of all sizes. Such flexible sealants (even if applied over mortar joints which act as setting beds) can absorb movement in a joint due to volume changes of panels.



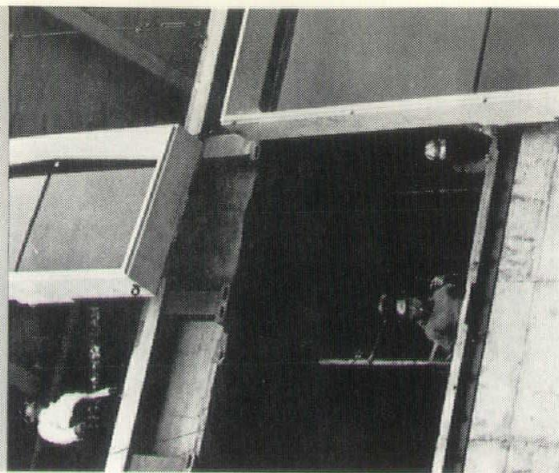
500 Jefferson Building, Houston, Texas.
Architect: Walton Becket & Assoc., Los Angeles, Calif.

To minimize volume changes in concrete wall panels, the following construction methods are effective:

1. Limit the water content of concrete to the minimum required for proper placement.
 2. Avoid conditions that increase the water demand of concrete such as high slumps and high concrete temperatures.
 3. Use the largest total amount of aggregate in the mix that is practical.
 4. Use the largest maximum size coarse aggregate to fit the job conditions.
 5. Use fine and coarse aggregates that exhibit low shrinkage characteristics when used in concrete.
 6. Avoid use of aggregates that contain an excessive amount of clay.
 7. Provide a period of air drying before placing units in a wall.
- The production of concrete panels should always be scheduled well ahead of erection and should include ample time for thorough curing, air drying and inspection. For additional technical data, write for free literature.



Schematic illustration of moisture movements in concrete. If concrete is kept continuously wet, a slight expansion occurs. However, drying usually takes place, causing shrinkage. Further wetting and drying causes alternate swelling and shrinkage.



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New Goals New Policies

Because nothing improves without change and since architects are a forward thinking and creative type not commonly found in the general run of society, it is most appropriate for them to re-evaluate the goals and policies of their professional associations.

The LAA Board of Governors has under consideration a careful analysis of the problems which architects currently face and the problems which are to be expected in the future. These leaders are looking inward to understand how architects run their business, what they think about their own profession and especially how they relate to each other. They're concerned with the continuing education of practicing architects as well as attracting new talent into the profession. The analysis is outward too, to rediscover and relate anew to the changing world about us.

They're asking questions like: "Can architects approach the residential market with a new philosophy that will enable them to profitably produce good homes for the average income family? Since the private building market will obviously not change to conform to the traditional services of architects, can the architects modernize their services to meet contemporary client needs? Will local and state governmental bodies support legislation to insure the public safety, preserve historic structures and eliminate community ugliness?"

Hopefully the results of this inquiry and analysis will produce clear cut LAA goals and policies that will gain real and important assets for Louisiana's AIA architects, and the public. Certainly this encouraging step forward by the LAA Board of Governors offers real prospects that someday architects may achieve their rightful recognition as the leaders in man's environmental planning and development.

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WHAT'S AN "A.I.A."?

BY WILLIAM R. BROCKWAY, A.I.A.

Frequently, you will see an architect's name written with the initials "A.I.A." immediately following, much in the same way that certain doctoral diplomates (Ph.D., M.D.) and holders of military and heraldic honors (D.S.C., V.C.) decorate their names with the initials of their own particular credentials. Just what do these curious alphabetic appendages mean?

The initials "A.I.A.," following an architect's name, are simply an indication to the public that the holder is a fully accredited member of the American Institute of Architects.

The American Institute of Architects is the professional society of the architectural profession and, as such, is roughly comparable to the American Medical Association for doctors or the American Bar Association for lawyers.

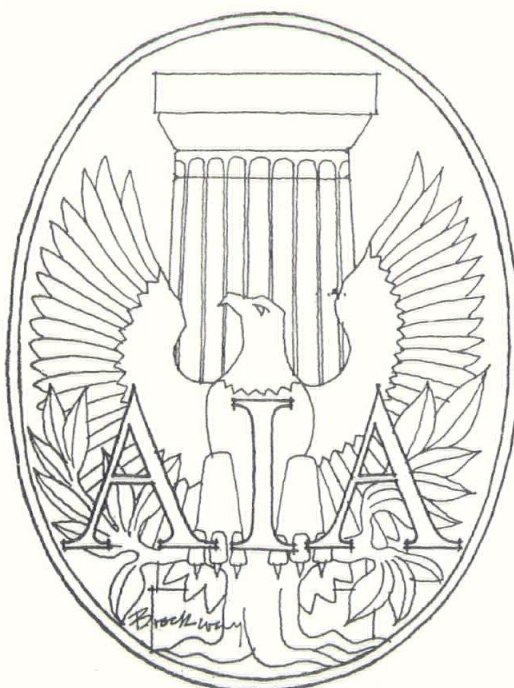
The A.I.A. was founded in 1857, just ten years after the American Medical Association and eighteen years before the American Bar Association. As professional societies go, it is one of the oldest.

Until early in the nineteenth century, there were not too many professional architects in the United States, although the profession had flourished in other countries for thousands of years. Most of our earlier buildings were designed by amateur architects who were also something else. The classic example is Thomas Jefferson, who was architect for the University of Virginia, several plantation homes and contributed designs for the State House in Richmond, Va., and the National Capitol in Washington, all in addition to his regular job as a statesman.

Needless to say, not all the early American designers were men of Mr. Jefferson's awesome proportion and, by the time the A.I.A. was founded, there was a very real need in this country for the establish-

ment of standards of practice for the profession. This the A.I.A. did. The Institute, then and now, requires of its membership the highest standards of professional competence, moral duty and human character any profession can devise. Its activities encompass many fields.

The A.I.A. has been largely responsible for the writing of architectural licensing laws in each of



the fifty states, which require every applicant to demonstrate his knowledge and competence before he can practice architecture.

Today, there are more than sixty schools of architecture in the United States. The A.I.A. has assisted in the formulation of curriculum, standards of accreditation and maintains an office of Educational Programs which answers about two thousand career guidance inquiries each year. In addition, the A.I.A. administers a larger number of scholarship and fellowship funds

for deserving students, involving more than \$50,000 per year.

Probably the largest single service performed by this multifaceted organization has been the establishment of ethical standards of practice for architects: No member of the A.I.A. will—

Render professional service without compensation.

Knowingly compete with another architect on the basis of fees.

Offer his services in a competition, except a formally A.I.A. authorized competition.

Knowingly injure the professional reputation of another architect.

Undertake a commission for which he knows another architect has been employed.

Use paid advertising or misleading publicity.

The net effect of these mandatory standards of practice has been, over the years, not only to elevate the profession, but to protect the public, which is more important.

In addition to its activities in licensing, education and ethical practice, the Institute constantly has committees at work on such diverse problems as construction research, urban design, school and hospital design, human safety, housing, historic building and other areas affecting the general welfare.

Under the Imprimatur of the A.I.A., any architect who bears the initials "A.I.A." after his name contributes to and is guided by the high principles of this organization and is a better architect for it.

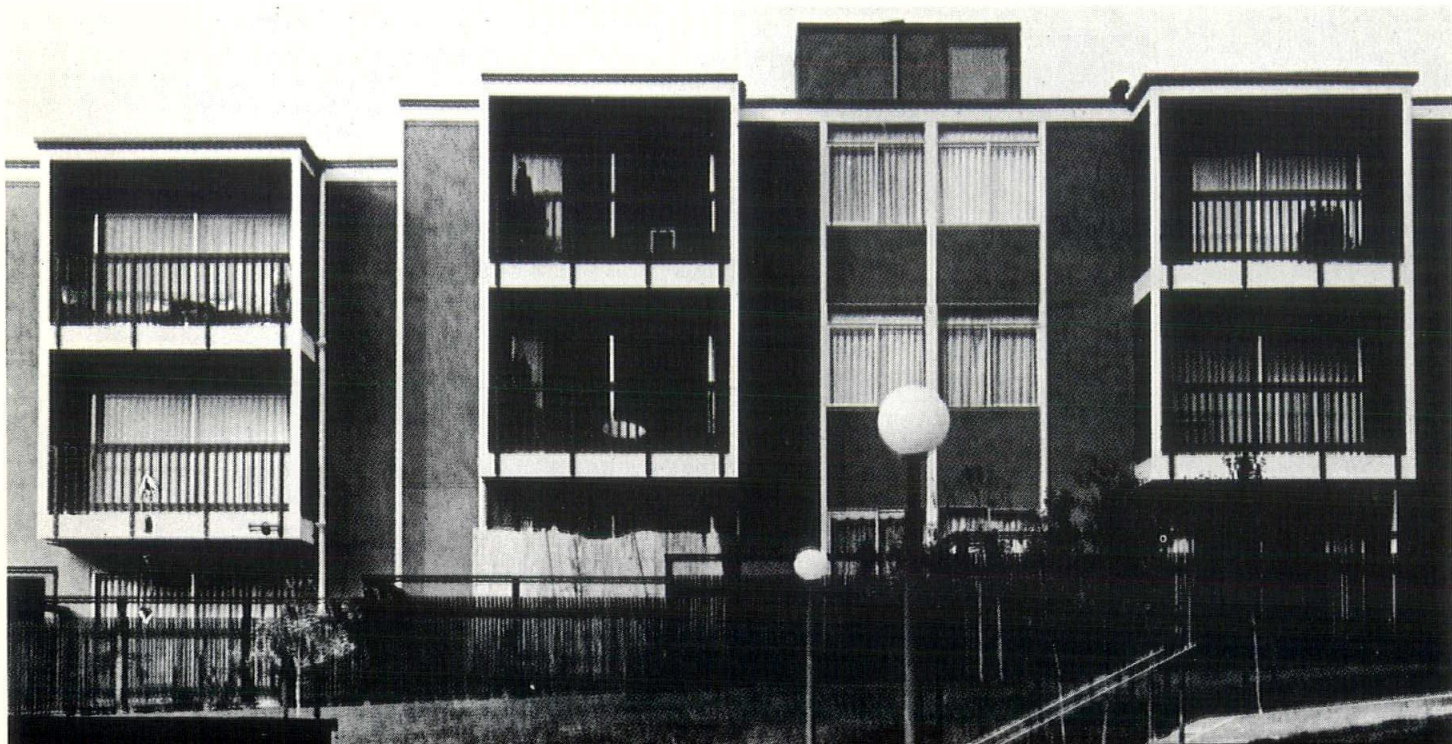
SHOULD LOUISIANA HAVE URBAN RENEWAL?

BY J. RUSSELL DOIRON

Baton Rouge Realtor

*Chairman of the "Build America Better" Committee,
National Association of Real Estate Boards*

(Reprinted from The Savings & Loan DIVIDEND)



Space limitation for discussion of this topic hardly permits more than a firm, positive and definite statement to the effect that the State of Louisiana should have Urban Renewal. My positive assumption is not based on the fact that we are number one. Yes, number one! The State of Louisiana is the only State in the Union that does not have the enabling legislation to permit Federal Urban Renewal.

Briefly, the following fully warrant and justify my opinion.

Many, many years ago city officials around the country discovered that run-down neighborhoods are expensive to maintain. It is an established fact resulting from a study published by the Urban Renewal Division of Sears Roebuck, that substandard neighborhoods account for 20 per cent of the cities and residential areas and contain 33 per cent of the population. The survey indicates that 45 per cent of the major crimes, 55 per cent of the juvenile delinquency, 50 per cent of the arrests, 60 per cent of the tuberculosis victims, 50 per cent of

the disease and 35 per cent of the fires are located in these substandard neighborhoods. Further study indicates that these areas swallow up \$0.45 of every tax dollar despite the fact that they actually pay only \$0.06 in taxes.

The cleaning up and the elimination of these areas result in a city saving itself plenty of money. Urban Renewal can bring a decrease in expenditures for police and fire protection and welfare services. Likewise, hand in hand with this decrease in expenses there is an increase in taxes. When this cycle of deterioration is stopped, then property values are stabilized, new construction begins to appear, and tax revenues are increased. Urban Renewal is a good investment because the city spends less and gets back more.

Your question could be "But where does the investment come from?" Always remember that Urban Renewal is a local program and a city need not use federal funds to finance the project. However, most cities, and in my opinion, the cities

in Louisiana are no exception, cannot finance Urban Renewal on their own. The metropolitan areas of Louisiana are finding it increasingly difficult to raise money for necessary metropolitan services. Tax rates are high and taxpayers will do everything in their power to keep taxes from going higher. It is a known and established fact that cities would be trapped into maintaining expensive slums and deteriorating neighborhoods because they lack the funds to invest in renewals.

Space does not permit me to go into detail of how inexpensive at the local level Urban Renewal can be. The maximum cost to a city is a one-third share of the total cost. However, this one-third can be paid by "non-cash credits," such as parks, schools and other public improvements. It has been repeatedly found that non-cash credits are normally public improvements which the city needed to make regardless of whether there was an Urban Renewal project. There are many methods of evaluating the economic success of Urban Renewal. One is by comparing the assessed valuation which indicates how much taxes the city receives from the redevelopment program. I am familiar with a city where there are five projects now in action and they will result in raising the assessed valuation of the property involved from 2.65 million dollars to 6.04 million dollars. This represents an increase of 2½ times the original assessment.

Other methods used to measure the return on the Urban Renewal investment include "site improvements." Included among site improvements are such things as streets, sewers and sidewalks. In my opinion, other benefits—increased tax yield, reduction of the cost of social services, improved housing, and rebirth of neighborhood pride—are additional bonuses. Urban Renewal provides a method of assembling land for many public projects otherwise not obtained because of inflated land costs.

Urban Renewal plays a vitally important part in the overall economy of any community. Considerable amounts of money are invested in the local community through the services of appraisers, contractors,

lawyers, brokers, real estate agents, exterminators and other miscellaneous firms. In addition, the citizens of a local community benefit economically from the increased employment opportunities brought about either directly or indirectly through Urban Renewal. Both business and industry spruces itself up and thus increases employment. It has also been found that there can be anticipated increased opportunities for employment in the fields of real estate, construction, banking, building materials and other related fields.

I consider these economic benefits as "hidden savings" for the entire community. Urban Renewal eases the individual tax burden by increased tax revenue from other sources. Taxpayers benefit because they are no longer subsidizing conditions which foster crime, disease and disastrous fires. Also, the redeveloped property significantly increases the tax valuation of the land. Property owners benefit because Urban Renewal stabilizes property values, both within the project and in the peripheral areas near the project. In a sense, Urban Renewal is an insurance against tax increases throughout the city. Particularly since Renewal can be responsible for persuading business and residents to stay within a city when they otherwise might have left the deteriorating neighborhood and possibly the community.

I might say that economics is only one of the ways in which to measure the value of Urban Renewal. A very significant method of valuing Urban Renewal is social. Urban Renewal was designed to remove blight from the lives of people and these economic benefits only measure the bonuses from a good investment.

Yes, it is my personal opinion that Louisiana should have Urban Renewal. The following brief statistics indicate what Urban Renewal has meant to other cities around the country. Pardon the statistics, but it is the only way that I can briefly in the space allotted give you the necessary facts.

1. Since 1949, through federal assistance to local public agencies authorized to carry out Urban Renewal project activities, the federal government has attacked the prob-



lem of slum and blight at the local level with the local people with increasing force. First, grant reservation totaling over 5.2 billion dollars had been made to 842 localities to assist in the financing of 1994 projects, by June 30, 1966.

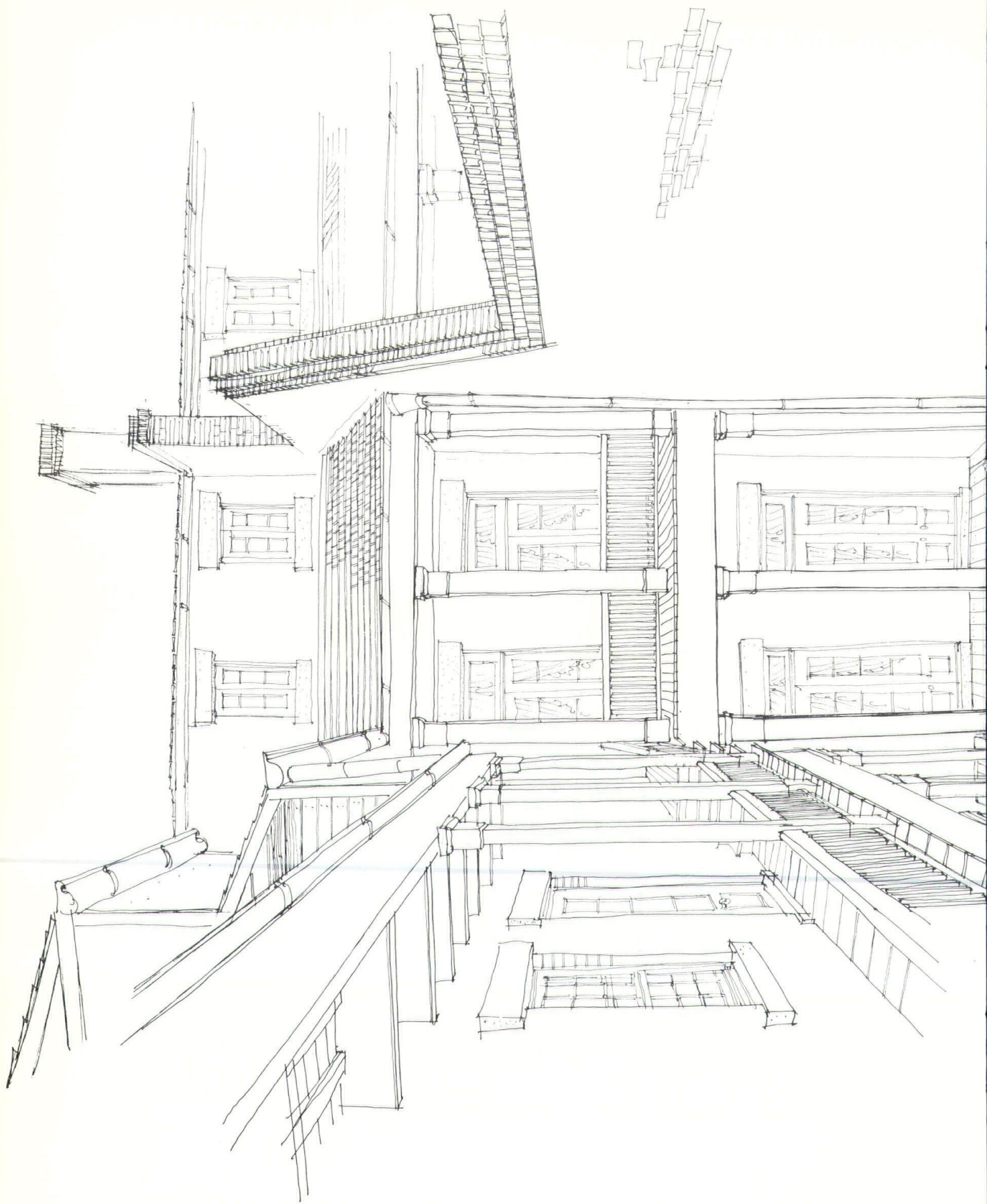
2. Renewal areas approved through the year end 1965 represented about 42,000 acres of land, more than 31,000 acres of which had been acquired. Redevelopment had been completed on approximately 8,800 acres and construction was under way on another 3,100 acres.

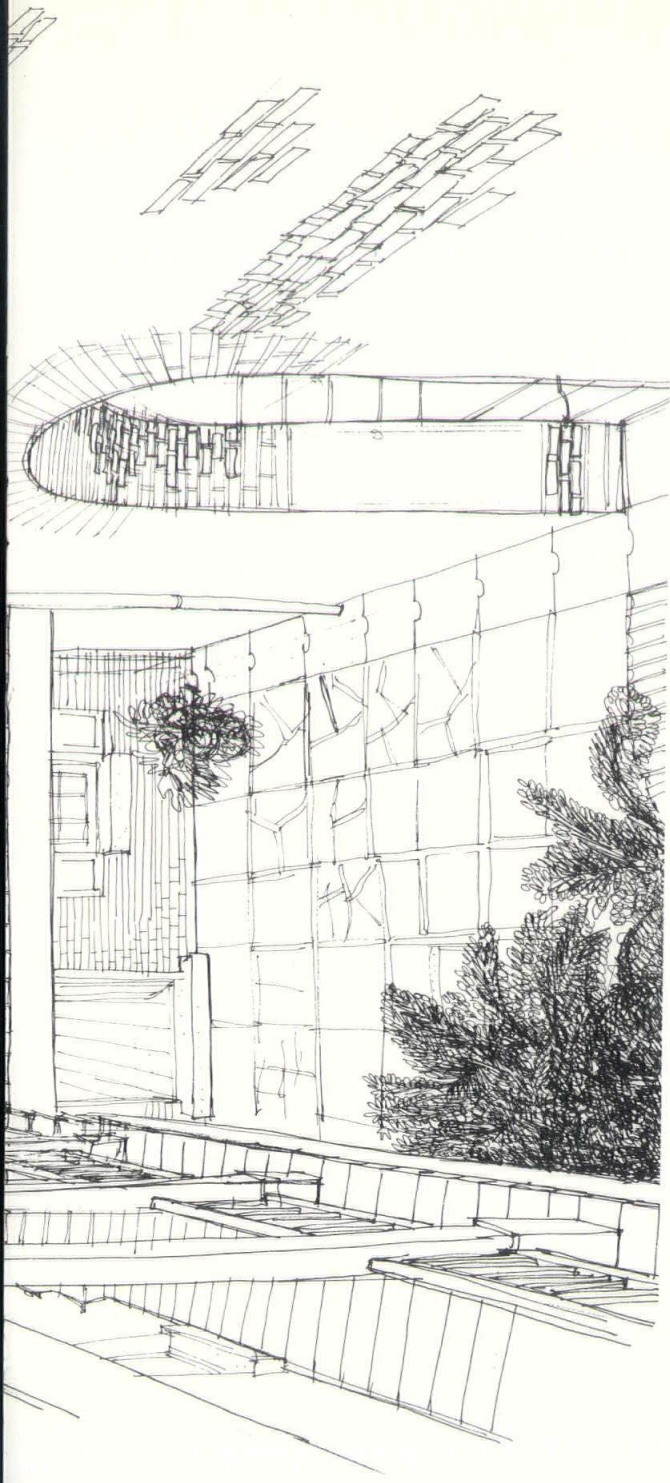
3. 84,000 new dwelling units had been completed on Urban Renewal sites by the close of 1965. Of these, about 8,600 were FHA Section 221 D3 units for low and moderate income families.

4. The value of redevelopment underway at the end of 1965 was over 1.5 billion dollars for residential, about 1.2 billion dollars for commercial, 169 million dollars for industrial and over 1 billion for institutional construction—a total of more than 3.9 billion dollars.

5. 349 cities were carrying out 522 renewal projects involving conservation and rehabilitation activities at the year end 1965.

Yes, we are number one. We have contributed our proportionate share to this sum total of 3.9 billion dollars helping 349 cities around the country do something about their own internal problems. Not one dime has yet been spent in Louisiana.





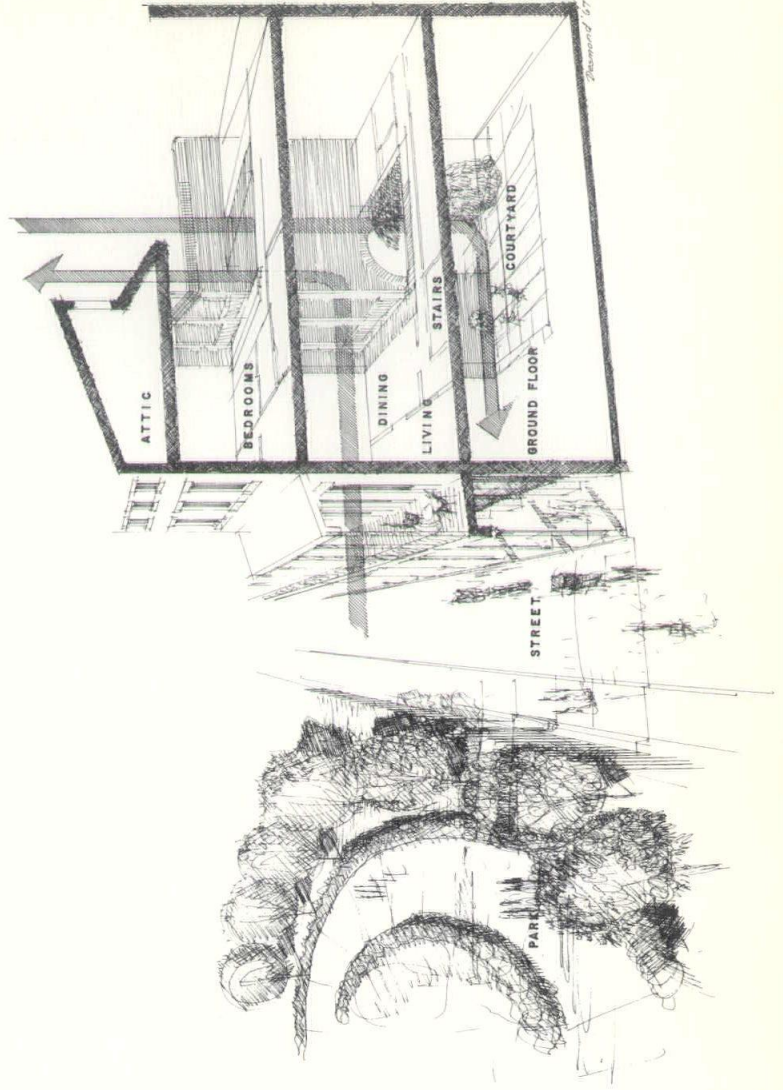
Desmond '67

The Pontalba Apartment Buildings, which form two sides of New Orleans' now threatened Jackson Square, not only contributed to one of America's most urban settings but were in themselves sophisticated urban town houses—ingeniously planned for this semi-tropical weather.

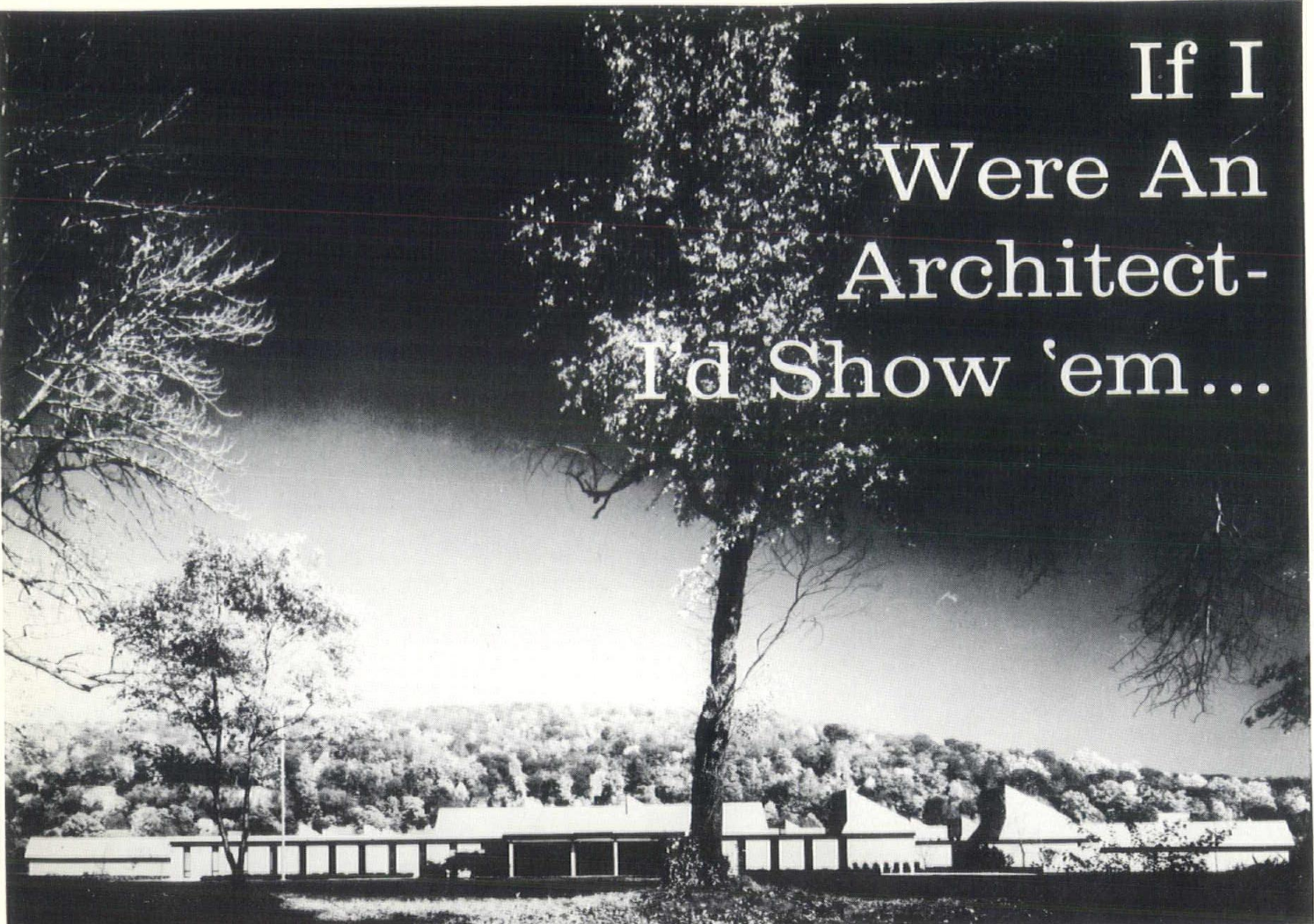
They were built as a speculative venture by the lively Baroness Pontalba. Her speculative efforts however had a larger purpose—that was to recreate the urban qualities found in the Palais Royal and other attractive squares of her native France.

She enlisted the help of New Orleans' best known architect, the Irish immigrant, James Gallier. Evidently Gallier is mostly responsible—no doubt with considerable help from his client—for the planning of the building. They were later finished by Architect Henry Howard of New Orleans.

The section above indicates some of the qualities which have made these buildings so successful. Living quarters are on the second floor, removed from street noise and dangers—and looking directly from the balcony into the garden square. In this manner living rooms and balconies at tree top level partake directly of the park amenities without the intervention of street traffic. Bedrooms are above. All rooms are arranged so that a cross ventilation is achieved between park and interior court. The interior courts—a vertical shaft of space—complete the ingenious system of natural ventilation, combining their natural convection currents to induce the horizontal ventilation through the living quarters. The courts are deep and narrow allowing little direct sunlight into their lower sections which become a repository for cool air in the summer months. This drawing at left shows the view down into this courtyard.



If I Were An Architect- I'd Show 'em...



BY MYRON TASSIN
Associate Editor

A grocery store near my home also cooks and sells fried chicken, baked hams, barbecue, potato salad et cetera. The place is small, unimposing, not particularly clean—but you have to concentrate on the perpetual crowd very intently to insure against loss of limb. The volume of business is unbelievable.

In view of the uninviting, non-motivating conditions, you wonder why. Simple. They've got about the best fried chicken, baked hams, barbecue, potato salad et cetera that can be bought. Business hasn't always been that good although the food always has. It took a carefully planned and executed advertising and promotion campaign to create the impact which is attracting customers in droves.

So? What does this anecdote have to do with architects who, in con-

formance with their mandatory standards of professional practice, cannot advertise? It has much to do with architects.

A practitioner can work with his AIA Chapter, State Association and National Society to win a place of prominence in the social and economic structure for his profession as a whole. But, the individual architect must initiate a program of his own to attract individual attention.

Your next question might be: "If all architects were to indulge in extensive, sophisticated public relations campaigns, wouldn't their efforts negate each other as do the clusters of neon signs which shine out in vain on Main Street U.S.A.?" This might very well be the case if an architect were vying only with other architects for attention. Not

so—he is competing with a multitude of products and services which shower a steady rain of impressions upon prospects . . . impressions emitting constantly from radio speaker, video tube, newsstand, billboard, loud speaker, display and every medium imaginable during every waking hour.

He's fighting to win the minds of men just as the rabbi, minister or priest is. The architect must compete for a share of attention with unbelievable bargains like seven minute cigarettes, motorbikes where you meet the nicest people, toothpastes that give your mouth sex appeal, a white tornado for every kitchen, a tiger for every tank, even scented toilet tissue.

If I were an architect, I'd show 'em what I know, how I learned it, what

I've done, what I'm doing, what I will be doing and how I will do it.

If I were an architect, I'd show 'em by developing an outstanding brochure which would do as many of the above as possible. No one can tell you which format will work best—there are too many variables. (His audience may not be your audience.) But your brochure should be impressive enough to continue to sell the prospect after you've gone.

If I were an architect, I'd show 'em by being the best civic worker around. Baton Rouge Chapter members are all too familiar with just such a member in their midst. An outstanding community leader, he's usually on any organization's board within a year after he joins. He is an officer in two years, and president in three. Fellow members in any group see him in action, recognize his ability to organize, to be creative, to inspire men to work together with him. He sows the selfless seeds of community service and reaps a prolific crop of recognition. His co-workers put two and two together to deduce that W. J. E. must be a pretty sharp architect if his service to their organization is any indication.

I would get involved in politics with time and effort (and contributions if possible.) In this day of big government, I would want to be influential in this, the largest business in America . . . I would seek to make the business of government MY business as it truly should be.

If I were an architect, I'd adhere to the "publish or perish" theory prevalent on the university campus. You reach more people with an interesting article in a well-read journal than by making the civic club (green peas and broiled chicken) circuit, although this is another good area for exposure especially if you have interesting presentation replete with visual aids.

I would enter meritorious architectural work in honor awards competitions. When your fellows judge your work as outstanding, the public is impressed, so I would make sure the public heard about any such honors through the public press.

I would work with the press to explain my projects to the public from preliminary plans, through the construction phase, to completion. (See "The Architect: PR Man's Assistant," August issue, Louisiana Ar-

chitect.) The public is most curious. It deserves and wants to know what you and the owner are adding to their skyline or countryside.

These are some of the available avenues I would take to attract attention, if I really felt I deserved it. Coca Cola Bottling Company doesn't use billboards only. It employs a wide variety of media to assure a barrage of impressions from every conceivable angle. This very same product could cease advertising altogether and coast on its laurels for years to come. But its management knows, (like mature religious leaders know) that an idea, service, product must be sold everyday.

Above all I'd show 'em by creating the best architecture possible. I dare say the little grocery store which attracts good customers through good promotion wouldn't be doing half as well without also having good food. A good architect can attract good clients by creating good architecture, but it takes much longer if he relies solely on word-of-mouth to spread the message. Why not show 'em?

Enjoy Outdoor Living

with the natural elegance of exposed wood . . .

protect this elegance with

**LIFE TIME
PENTA
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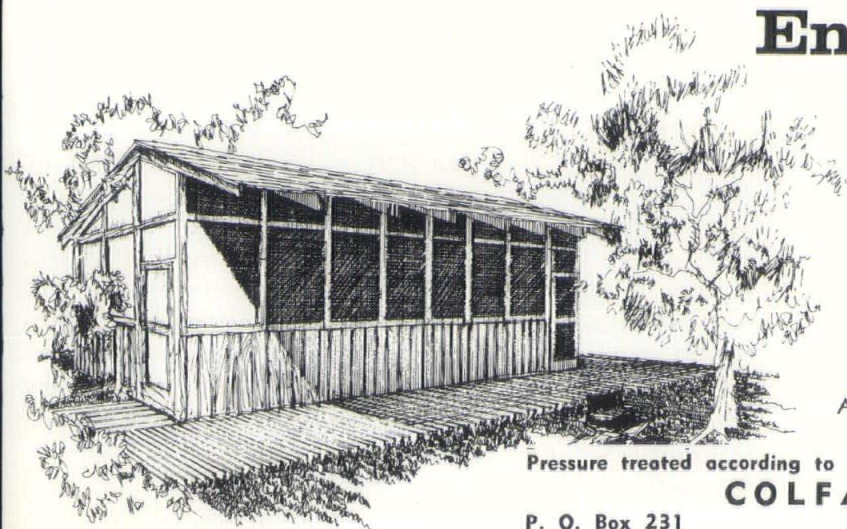
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This building is located in the city of St. Martinville, Louisiana; a small and quaint community with a very flavorful historical background.

The citizens are rightfully proud of their heritage and of the several buildings of historical significance which are to be found within the area.

The Board of Directors were desirous of erecting a bank building which would blend into the general atmosphere of the community, yet afford complete and up to date banking facilities. Because of the prominent location of the building, the directors likewise felt that good public relations might be fostered by providing space for community activity. Attention is directed to the large exhibition area provided on the mezzanine floor, and to the spacious board room which is available for civic group meetings, having been so located to afford access to this area within entering the actual banking area.

The directors were confident that such facilities would result in the rapid growth of deposits, and all facilities were designed for future expansion.

Selected for presentation in Louisiana Architect by the Coastal Chapter, A.I.A.



Gordon Kean Talks About Materials, Permits and Zoning

An interesting point being raised more and more is the problem of acceptance of new materials within the framework of established building regulations. So far as decided cases go, if the specific material or method required by the building code regulations is in the public interest and can reasonably be complied with, then the requirement is reasonable. In this state of the law, no one can expect to obtain a court decision that a new product, however safe and structurally sound, must be permitted, contrary to the building code, unless the existing regulation is per se unreasonable or arbitrary. *McCrea vs. City of Chicago*, 292 Ill. 60, 126 N.E. 557. To some extent, this is not a real problem so long as building regulations keep pace with changes in material and construction, but where these regulations lag, it can be most difficult to secure approval of new methods, particularly where officials are dedicated to the old ones.

Another interesting area of inquiry involves the right of the municipality or the building official to refuse a building permit. This question most often arises where opposition develops to the construction of a proposed building, and no zoning ordinance exists which might otherwise restrict the commercial location. In *State vs. Viator*, 46 So. 2d 256, the plaintiffs sought to obtain a building permit to construct a commercial building, meeting all requirements of the building code. In the absence of a zoning ordinance (even though one was contemplated at the time), the Court held that the mayor was under a ministerial duty to issue the permit, citing, among other things, the provisions of R.S. 33:4744 to the effect that such a permit "shall never be refused" when the applicant meets all requirements of the ordinance. On the other hand, where zoning is involved, the mere fact that there is pending before the adoption of a zoning ordinance or a zoning change, an application for a build-

ing permit, does not give the applicant any vested right to the permit. In *Shaver vs. Mayor and Councilmen of Coushatta*, 196 So. 388, the Court went so far as to hold that a prohibition against the issuance of a building permit pending advertisement of the zoning amendment was valid. And in *State vs. Kees*, 110 So.2d 172, the Court sanctioned the revocation of a permit previously issued, on the ground that the permit was issued in violation of the zoning ordinance and that the issuance vel non of a building permit is an exercise of the po-



lice power and creates no vested right. Under these circumstances, certain general rules emerge:

1. If there is no zoning ordinance and the application for a building permit meets all requirements, the issuance of a permit is a ministerial duty on the part of those charged with code enforcement.

2. A mere application for a permit does not create any vested right. Therefore, where a zoning or building regulation change occurs while the application is pending, the applicant must comply with the changed regulations and enjoys no benefit by virtue of the fact that an

application was made prior to that change.

3. Even though an application for a permit may be pending, the governing authority may prohibit issuance of the permit in order to complete proceedings leading to a change in the regulations which would, in effect, result in a denial of the permit.

4. The mere issuance of a building permit creates no vested right. Therefore, unless the holder of that permit had incurred cost and expense in reliance upon the permit, the general rule is that it may be rescinded in the exercise of the police power.

While there are no Louisiana cases precisely in point, a doctrine of "equitable estoppel" has been applied in cases where the permit is sought to be rescinded after costs and expenses have been incurred. For example, in *City of Gainesville vs. Bishop*, 174 So.2d 100, a permit was issued; thereafter a zoning change occurred, and the municipality sought to rescind the permit. The Court found that subsequent to the issuance of the permit, the applicant had obligated himself to buy property, had negotiated for the sale of the property, and had arranged for mortgage loans, had incurred substantial obligations and expended substantial sums of money, and had otherwise acted in reliance on the building permit which had been issued. Under these circumstances, the Court held that there was a clear case of "equitable estoppel" which prohibited the municipality from revoking and rescinding the permit in question.

Another interesting point which often arises, at least the question is often raised, is whether or not zoning regulations override subdivision regulations. For example, if lots in a subdivision are restricted to residential uses, and one of these lots

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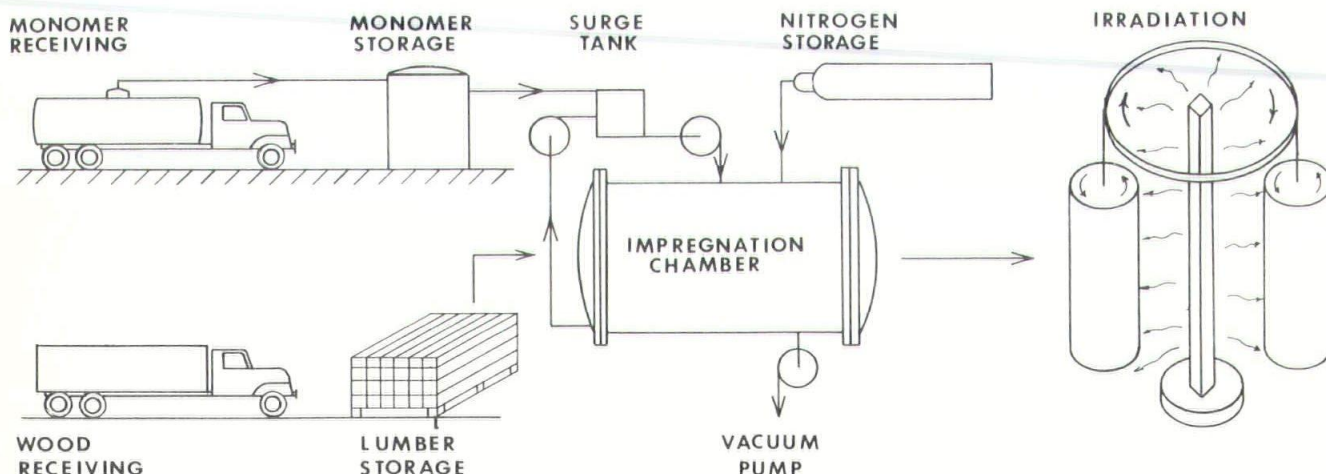
This interesting new product is the ambition of Louisiana Radiant, Incorporated. This company was organized by a number of prominent Louisiana businessmen to develop nuclear industry in Louisiana. The company is in the process of securing funds to finance a twelve (12) month development program at Louisiana State University to develop sufficient technical and economic data to design a full scale operation. This product, wood-plastic combination, is commonly known as WPC. WPC was pioneered by the Atomic Energy Commission in their effort to find peaceful uses for atomic energy. The process involves saturating wood with a monomer, or liquid plastic, and then polymerizing, or hardening, this plastic by radiation. In this case the radiation source will be Cobalt 60.

The plastic, in this case is similar to plexiglas or lucite, and penetrates all through the wood. WPC can be machined with standard wood working tools; however, carbide tipped tools give better performance. The finished product has the appearance of wood finish with clear satin varnish. Dies can be added to the plastic before impregnation to give hues and tints in many colors. The Atomic Energy Commission's report "Technical and Economic Considerations for an Irradiated Wood-Plastic Material" states: "We believe that *finishing*, *refinishing*, and maintenance will be facilitated by the presence of the polymer in the wood. Perhaps refinishing can be accomplished by simply burnishing the surface and melting the thermoplastic polymer to form a continuous surface."

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Louisiana's first Atomic Energy Industry may give the architectural community a new world in wood. Such items as floor tiles, thresholds, doors, handrails, solar screens, stair treads, stadium seating and siding—to name only a few, may be available.



FLOW DIAGRAM OF PROCESS FOR IRRADIATED WOOD PLASTIC COMBINATIONS

GORDON KEAN—

(Continued from Page 15)

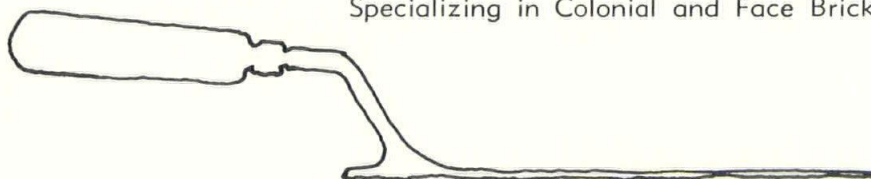
is subsequently zoned commercial, does the zoning provision prevail over subdivision restrictions? Without going into detail, it suffices to say that the adoption of a city ordinance zoning a particular area to commercial uses does not nullify a general plan of development as set forth in restrictions inserted in deeds to property in such area. In effect, the restrictions constitute rights vested in the property owners which cannot be affected by zoning change. *Alfortich vs. Wagner*, 7 So.2d 708.

Finally, I think it pertinent to mention the provisions of R.S. 9:5625, which provide that civil or criminal actions for violations of zoning ordinance are prescribed after two

years from the date the governing authorities knew of the violation. In view of the provisions of this statute, it is incumbent upon building officials who enforce zoning regulations to take prompt action with respect to violations. All too often, building officials are prone to overlook violations or to permit their correction to lag, simply because it is not always the most popular thing to do when one requires the correction of ordinance violations. Nonetheless, if a zoning violation is permitted to continue for a period of two years, the right to require a correction of that violation is lost, and this should always be kept in mind where zoning law enforcement is involved.

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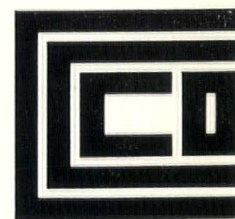
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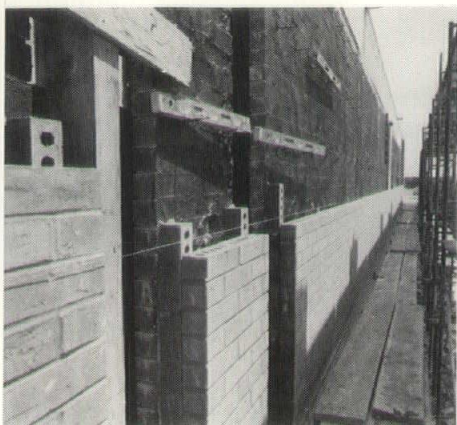
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Concrete Without Cracks

Texas Industries, Inc., has announced a new type of cement designed to eliminate drying shrinkage cracks in concrete.

The new cement causes concrete to expand slightly during the first few days of curing to offset the drying shrinkage that follows with other types of concrete.

L. D. Fain, of Alexandria, regional vice president, said the product, named "4-C" for chemically controlled compensating cement, will be distributed throughout Louisiana by Louisiana Industries, a division of Texas Industries, Inc., with offices in Alexandria, Shreveport, Monroe and New Orleans.

Ralph B. Rogers, president of Texas Industries, called the new cement the first breakthrough in cement chemistry in 100 years and predicted it can make possible an era of new concretes.

He said the most important advantage of the new cement is its ability to reduce long-term maintenance by providing concrete that resists cracking. "In roofs and floors, it reduces the necessity for sealing, coating and filling cracks during and after construction; and in highways containing steel bars or mesh, it can substantially reduce the number of contraction joints needed," he said.

"An important advantage for contractors is that they may now make large continuous pours of concrete instead of pouring smaller alternate sections and waiting for drying shrinkage to occur."

Rogers noted that for more than a century builders have tried to eliminate shrinkage cracks in concrete. Seventy years ago a French researcher discovered a clue for a possible solution. It was the expansive effect in concrete of calcium sulfoaluminate. But until now, scientists have never been able consistently to control this expansive effect.

Texas Industries' 4-C cement goes much farther than any of these predecessors, Rogers said. A key factor is the use of reinforcing members to restrain and convert the expansive forces into residual internal compressive forces.

This stored energy is then gradually released over the drying period until practically all compressive force has been relieved. Thus the compressive force from restrained expansion offsets the tensile stresses from drying shrinkage, and in this way reduces crack formation.

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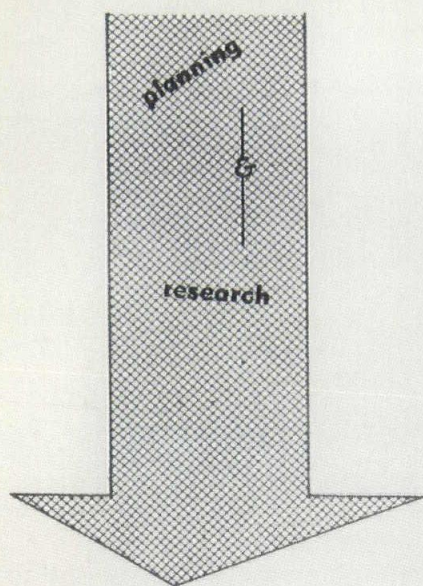
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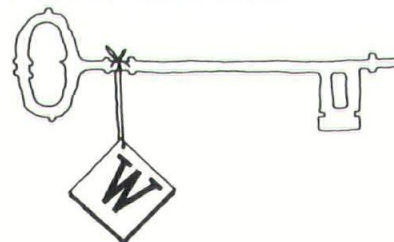
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