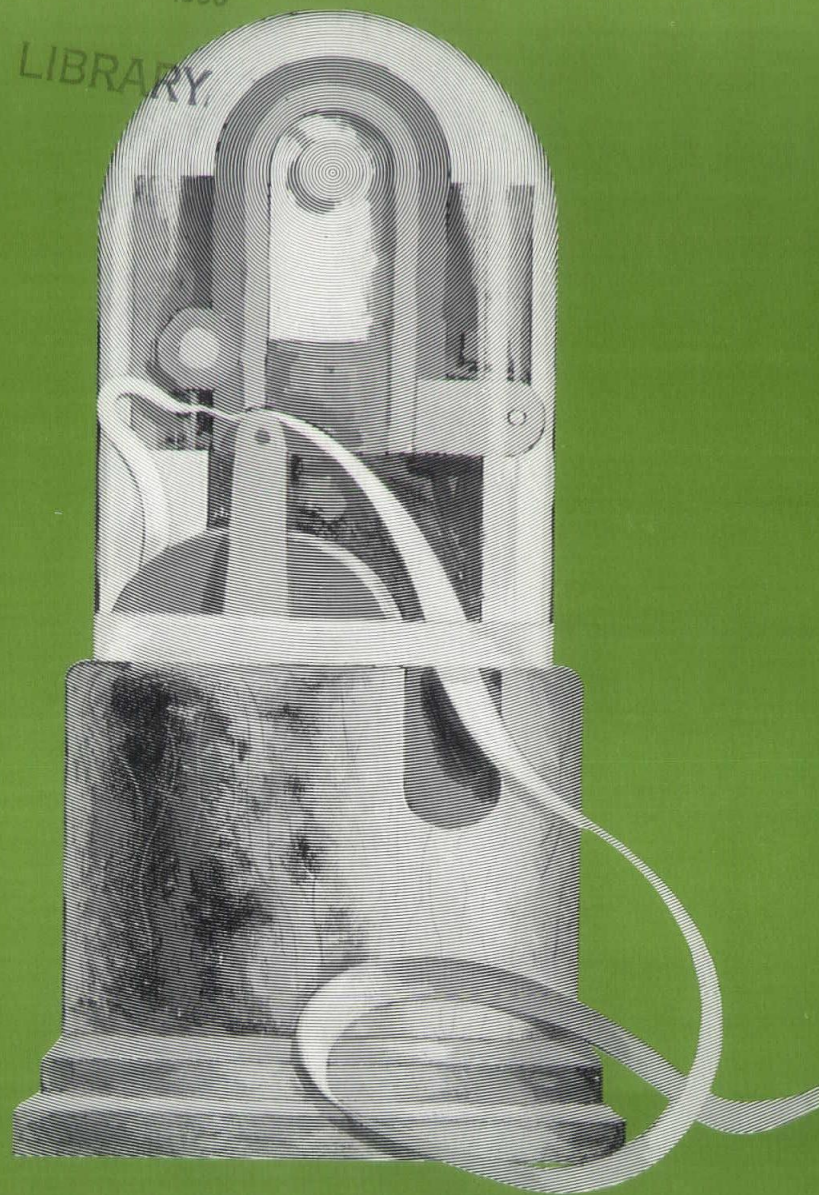


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# The Louisiana Architect

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# Are You Bigger Today?

Many young architects, fresh out of college, have real hopes of building a large firm, and dare to do work that is imaginative, useful and avant'-garde'. But practically all eventually fall into the comfortable trap of doing everything the traditional way, the way they did it the first time. It's always easier. After you've done something a few times you hardly have to think, and look at all the time you save.

It is indeed unfortunate that while we become so proficient in our daily routine that the rest of the world about us is changing, and we become obsolete. We're like the wagon maker who each year, tied to his work shop, made better and better wagons, but was confused as to why his good craftsmanship was not rewarded with greater sales.

I meet architects occasionally who seem to have forgotten that there are other worlds beside the small one revolving around them. They are not venturing into new areas of thinking, they are not meeting new people, hearing new ideas or trying a new approach. They do not have seven days experience in each week, but one day's experience seven times.

For you who have the wisdom to anticipate the future and are willing to sacrifice a few hours away from the board, on October 18 there is an opportunity for expanding your world - for opening new possibilities for learning and growth. This opportunity is called "Form Follows Finance."

I hope you will attend this seminar and not only hear new ideas but put them to use, for it is not in the receiving of ideas (information) that improves our worth, but in the actual experiencing of ideas. The experiencing takes the knowledge of and changes it into ability to. Each time that you have the courage to do, you add to what is the real you a new ability. It is a part of you and you are increased. You are a bigger person.

—THE EDITOR

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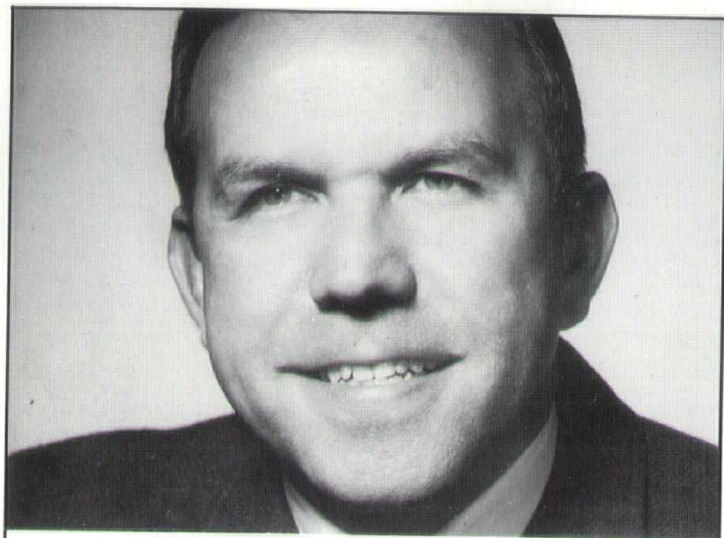
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# HATS IN THE RING



**ERNEST E. VERGES**  
For President

There are several important challenges facing architects now and others which will become even greater in the near future. Some of these will have to be accepted and solved by the individual architect, others can best be met by the LAA.

One of these challenges is the survival of the small office. A large proportion of our LAA members work in small offices. I feel the National AIA is oriented to the large offices and that our LAA should direct more attention to the needs of small offices. We could institute some type of a referral service whereby the larger offices would refer smaller projects which can be more efficiently and economically handled by a small office.

Maybe we should study some method of conducting group practices or means of banding together compatible small offices, preferably with varying specialties or resources, which might be more competitive with the larger offices.

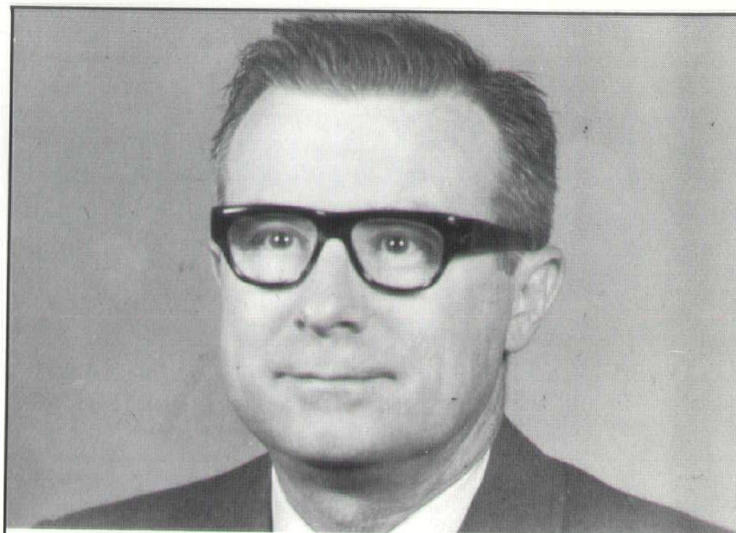
Continuing education in the form of seminars and possibly certain courses at one of our state universities during the summer months would greatly help the small practitioner. Some effort has been made during the past year by the LAA to implement some means of technical assistance such as computerized specification writing which would be beneficial to the small office.

It is also evident from the proposed revisions to the Standards of Practice by the AIA that the architectural profession as we have known it will be changed completely. These changes, once again, are being promoted by the larger offices and will undoubtedly be a detriment to the small offices. Ways and means to protect the small office must be found if we are to survive.

Ernest E. Verges is the principal in his own firm in New Orleans, and is a graduate of L.S.U., with a B.S. degree in Architectural Engineering. He holds NCARB Registration, and is currently licensed in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

He has served several years on the Board of Governors of the LAA and is now serving his second term as vice-president.

Verges, is a major in the U.S. Air Force Reserve and completed an intensive training course at the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology. He has held leadership positions in a long list of community, church and civic organizations.



**P. MURFF O'NEAL, JR.**  
For President

Of the many challenges facing LAA architects today I feel that four should have top priority:

A clarification of the whole broad field of comprehensive services as it relates to the present Standards of Professional Practice and the Proposed Revised Standards. We should be, and in fact, must be, vitally concerned with the proposed changes and their effects on our practice.

A reasonable Statute of Limitations on Building Projects. Our ever rising costs of professional liability insurance and the increasing complexity of buildings, among other things, make this a must.

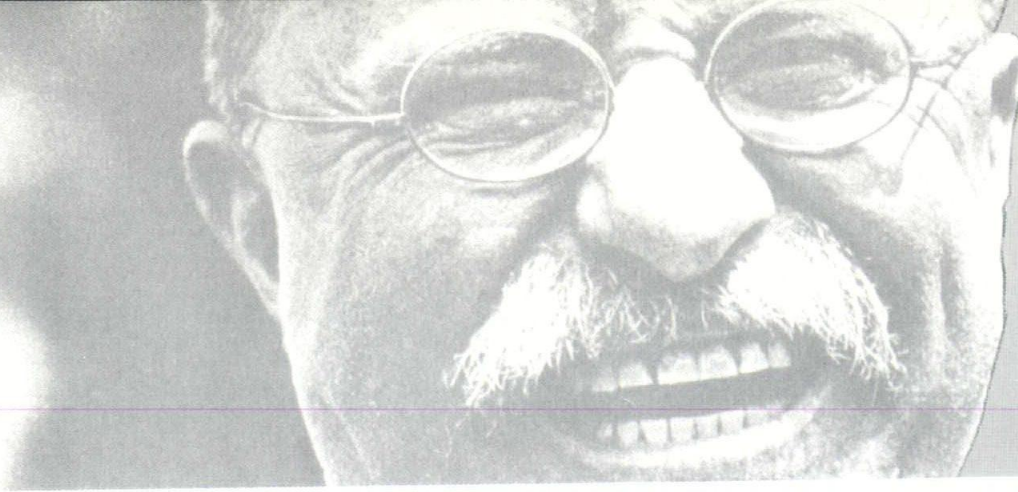
Some methods must be adopted to require qualifications of general contractors on public projects. A contractor's state license, plus ability to post bond, does not necessarily make a contractor qualified to construct any type of building. Qualified contractors are at a disadvantage, the project is penalized, and architectural practice (and profit) suffers.

Both items 2 and 3 will require legislation. Let's get at it.

Of all the professions, Architecture (and Architects) is less known and understood than any other. Our public image is poor. Each of us, and the LAA, must get at the work of telling people what we do, and why we are qualified to do it.

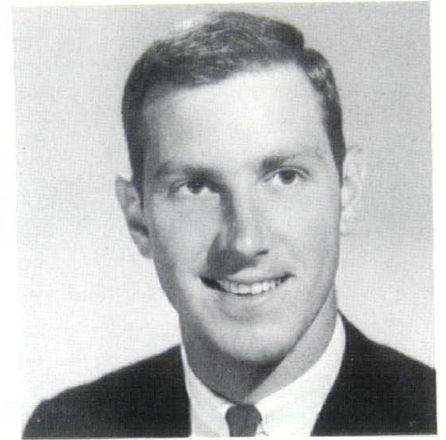
P. Murff O'Neal, Jr., is a partner in the firm of Weiner, Morgan and O'Neal Architects in Shreveport, and is a vice president of the LAA. He attended Centenary College and Tulane University, where as an honor student he received a Bachelor of Architecture degree. He currently holds NCARB Registration and is a member of the Louisiana State Board of Architectural Examiners.

Murff is past president of the Shreveport Chapter, AIA, has served three years on the Board of Governors of the LAA and three years as secretary-treasurer to the Gulf States Regional Council AIA. He is a Technical Assistance Consultant for Division of Rehabilitation Facilities of the Department of Health, Education & Welfare.



**RAYMOND G. POST, JR.**  
For Secretary-Treasurer

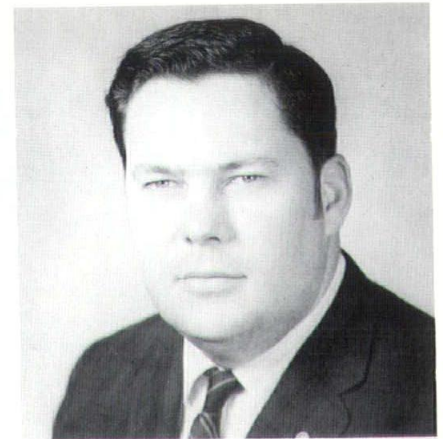
RAYMOND G. POST, JR., is in private practice in his own firm and is currently secretary-treasurer of the LAA. He is also vice-president of the Baton Rouge Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, and formerly held the positions of secretary, program chairman and membership chairman. Skipper is a graduate in architecture from Texas A & M, and has been president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer of the Texas A & M Alumni Association of Baton Rouge. Active in civic and community affairs, he is President of the Baton Rouge Roundtable Club, and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Camp Fire Girls Council.



**JAMES J. COCHRAN**  
For Vice President

JAMES J. COCHRAN is a partner in the firm of Cochran and Fugatt, Architects of Lake Charles, and is currently serving his second year as President of the Southwest Chapter, AIA. He received a B.A. degree in Architecture from Louisiana State University and is the holder of several design honor awards.

Jim is a member of: the Board of Stewarts of the First Methodist Church, a member of the Board of Directors of the Calcasieu - Cameron Chapter American Red Cross, the Calcasieu Kiwanis Club, and the Board of the Salvation Army.



**WILLIAM R. BROCKWAY**  
For Vice President

WILLIAM R. BROCKWAY is in private practice in his own firm in Baton Rouge. He attended Oklahoma University, Southwestern Oklahoma Institute, LSU, University of Cincinnati, Weinhenstepher Technical College in Germany, and Tulane University. He holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Tulane where in 1951 he graduated first in his class. With a total four years on the LAA Board of Governors, Bill is a past secretary-treasurer of the LAA and a past member of the Gulf States Regional Council AIA, and a past president of the Baton Rouge Chapter AIA. Currently he is on the Board of Directors of the Capital Area United Fund.

He holds an AIA School Medal from Tulane and an Alpha Rho Chi Medal. He has produced several TV programs on architecture and for the past 2 years has authored a weekly column on architecture in the Baton Rouge Morning Advocate.



# HATS IN THE RING



**J. BUCHANAN BLITCH**  
For Vice President

J. BUCHANAN BLITCH is the principal in his own firm in New Orleans. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the LAA, is chairman of the Continuing Education Committee, and was the 1968 general chairman of the State Convention and Products Exhibition.

He attended Loyola University, California Polytechnic Institute and holds a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Tulane University. He did undergraduate work in Mexico, France, Belgium and Germany (1937-39).

Jim has held numerous responsible positions in the New Orleans Chapter of the AIA and in the LAA. He is a member of several national honorary architectural societies, and is the holder of numerous awards and citations in architecture.

He is also the author of several published articles on architecture and a visiting lecturer and design critic at Tulane University.



**FERNAND T. PICO**  
For Vice President

FERNAND T. PICO is a partner in the firm of Picou and Weimer Architects, Thibodaux, Louisiana. He has served as vice president of the Coastal Chapter, AIA, and is now serving his second term as president.

Fernand holds a B.S. Degree in Electrical Engineering from L.S.U. and a Master of Fine Arts in Architecture from Princeton University. He was awarded the Butler Prize in Architecture in 1949 and a Fellowship in Architecture from Princeton, 1948-1949.

He has worked with architectural firms in New York City and Baton Rouge and has been in private practice for 20 years. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Thibodaux, the Louisiana Engineering Society and the City Planning Commission of Thibodaux.

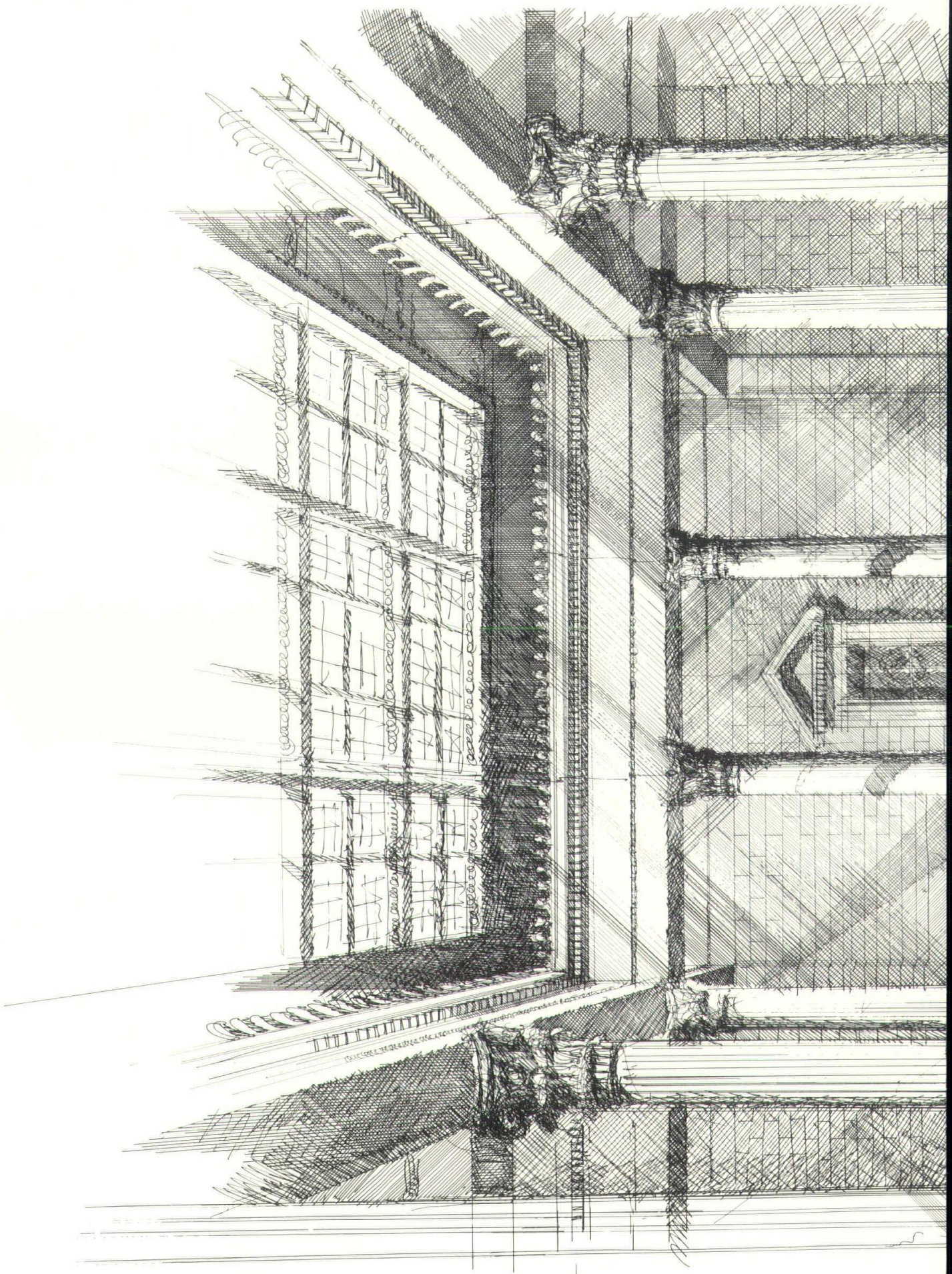


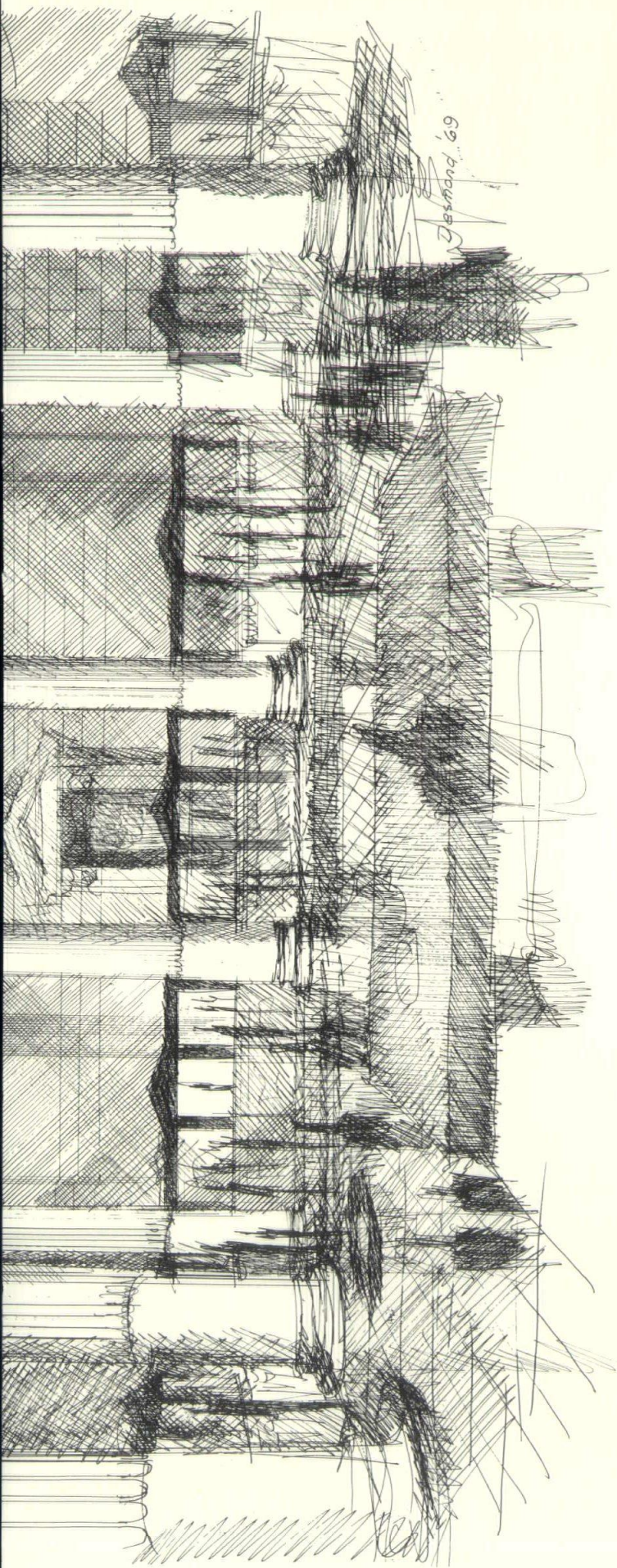
**CLYDE M. WEBB**  
For Vice President

CLYDE M. WEBB is a member of the firm of Johns and Neel, Architects in Monroe. He is a current member of the Board of Governors of the LAA. He is the immediate past president of the Monroe Chapter AIA and has also served as a secretary-treasurer and vice-president.

He is a graduate of the University of Texas in architecture.

Clyde, as Program Chairman for the 1969 Convention, has organized the seminar sessions and arranged for outstanding speakers.





## Marble Hall

### NEW ORLEANS CUSTOMS HOUSE

Inside the huge, ungainly, and impressive granite bulk of the New Orleans Customs House is this splendid commercial hall 128' long x 84' wide x 58' high. It has been called one of the finest Greek Revival interiors in America.

The building was begun in 1849 and its construction lasted through the Civil War. The Architect, A. T. Wood, was otherwise not particularly distinguished.

This hall, although still serving its intended purpose after 100 years with

a grandeur seldom realized in commercial spaces, has been allowed to degenerate sadly in our generation. The great skylight is closed, and the space now lit by incredibly garish mercury vapor lamps, other details and features have been lost but, fortunately, the great space itself and its grand architectural components are intact.

It represents one of Louisiana's architectural misfortunes as well as one of its finest preservation opportunities.

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# PLAZA

The prestigious Citation for Excellence in Community Architecture, a national award of The American Institute of Awards, has been bestowed upon the New Orleans Board of Trade, Limited.

The "Community Citation" will be presented by Arch R. Winter, Director of AIA's Gulf States Region and a member of the national AIA Board of Directors at the annual convention of the Louisiana Association of Architects in Monroe, La., October 18. Receiving the award will be President of the New Orleans Board of Trade, Kent Satterlee, and the architects Richard Koch and Samuel Wilson, Jr.

The citation recognizes "the vision and public responsibility exerted in creating the Board of Trade Plaza for the pleasure of the people of New Orleans." The architects, Richard Koch and Samuel Wilson, Jr., are commended "for their sensitive and imaginative design of a new urban open space in an old and historic setting."

The national AIA recognizes communities or individuals whose efforts produce projects or concepts that bring orderly improvements to the urban scene. Sea Pines Plantation, Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, received the award in 1968. The Tulsa Oklahoma Civic Center was honored in 1967. The New Orleans "Community Citation" is "in recognition of an excellent example of the economic, social, and aesthetic value of urban design encompassing buildings and open space and their harmonious assemblage."

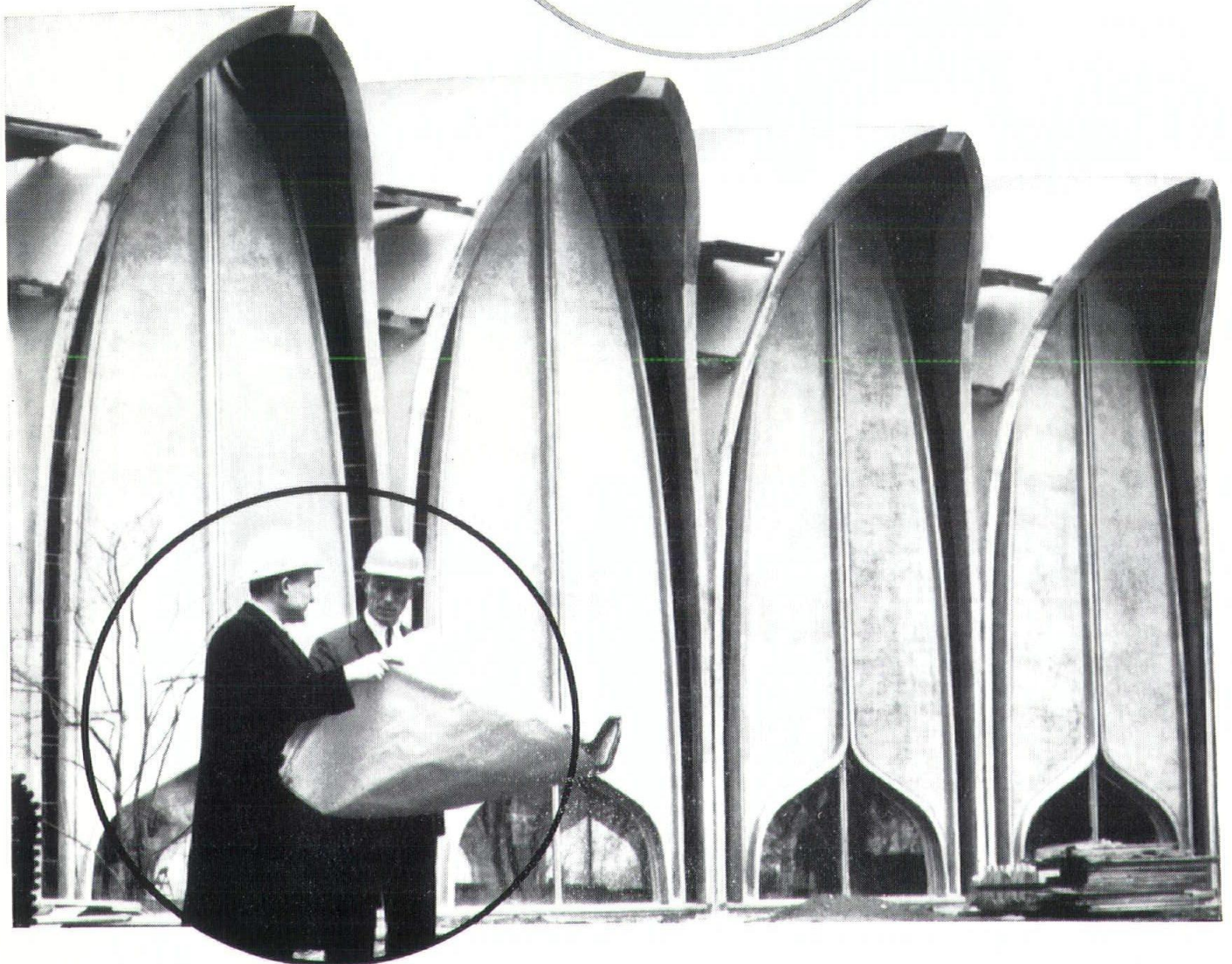
The design acknowledged the need to open up the space between the street and the main Board of Trade building, and keep it in harmony with adjacent buildings. To accommodate the flow of pedestrian traffic between the building and the street, an arcade was placed on one side of the park-plaza. This also created a shaded area for summer use. Plantings, along the wall, old cast iron columns and a fountain add the quiet coolness needed in New Orleans weather. An iron fence and gate allows the plaza to be closed at night but does not shut off the softly-lighted view from the street.

**Richard Koch and Samuel Wilson, Jr., AIA Architects, New Orleans, Louisiana**



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## Court Decisions

### **Architect's Duty of Supervision Does not Extend to Job Site Safety Devices**

A concrete mason employed by the general contractor, was injured when he fell while walking along a wooden form on the outside of a recently poured section of floor slab for the mezzanine of a new airport terminal building. He sued the architect on the basis of the architect's written contract to draw plans and specifications for the construction of the terminal and to supervise construction work.

The concrete mason alleged that the architect had a duty under the contract to insure that the construction work was proceeding in accordance with the requirements of regulatory agencies and that the architect had failed to assure that the floor was guarded by guardrails on all open sides as required by the safety regulations of the Florida Industrial Commission. These regulations required contractors to provide wooden railings and hand rails along the side of such places as the slab from which the concrete mason fell.

The Circuit Court of Palm Beach County Florida, granted the architect's motion for summary judgment holding that an architect is not liable for the contractor's failure to provide safety devices required or recommended by governmental agencies. The case is being appealed. [Case No. 67 C 4445, Circuit Court of Palm Beach County, Florida (January 9, 1969)].

### **Architect Successfully defends Negligence Action**

A bricklayer employed by a contractor on a school construction job sued the architect for injuries sustained when a crane deposited a pallet of bricks on

his scaffold in such a manner that he was thrown to the ground. Foreclosed from suing the contractor because of workman's compensation laws, the bricklayer charged the architect with negligence on his contractually assumed duty to supervise and inspect the construction work. Specifically, the bricklayer alleged that the architect was negligent in failing to require a barrier on the scaffold, failing to prescribe safety precautions, and failing to require compliance with various safety laws and buildings codes.

On May 14, 1969, the judge in the Court of Common Pleas for Butler County, Pennsylvania, directed a verdict for the architect, holding that an architect's duty of supervision does not reach down to safety conditions peculiarly within the contractor's control. [Nicklas v. Dill Construction Co. Decided May 14, 1969].

### **Jury Awards Architect \$85,000 For Copyright Infringement**

In 1964, a California architect designed a 44-unit apartment complex for a realty developer who never initiated construction and later sold out to the defendant. The defendant then used the plaintiff's plans for an apartment project.

The architect sued the defendant charging that the preliminary plans drawn for the first developer were the architect's "unpublished, exclusive and original property" and were subject to common law copyright. A jury in the Alameda County Superior Court found for the plaintiff. They awarded the architect \$20,000 in compensatory damages and \$66,000 in punitive damages. [Goetz v. Dickson, #363989, Alameda County Superior Court, Oakland, Calif., April 1, 1969].

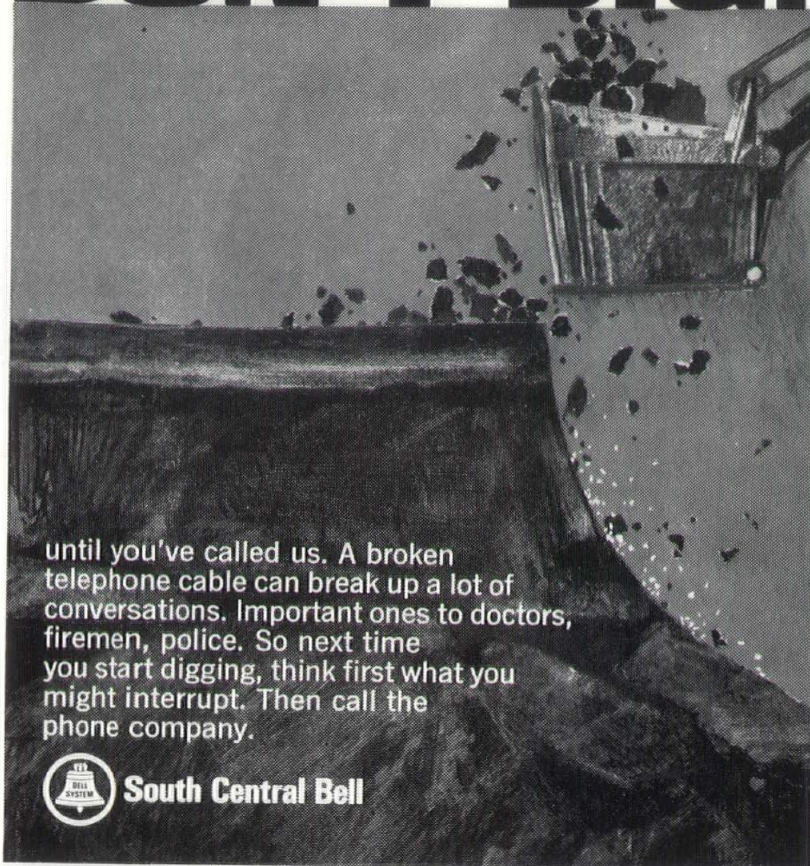
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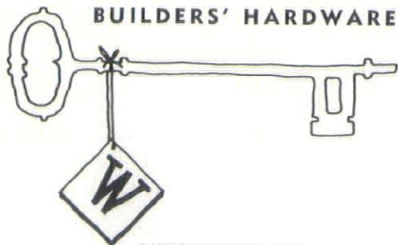


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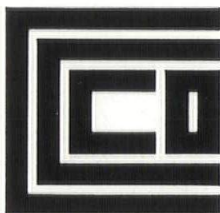
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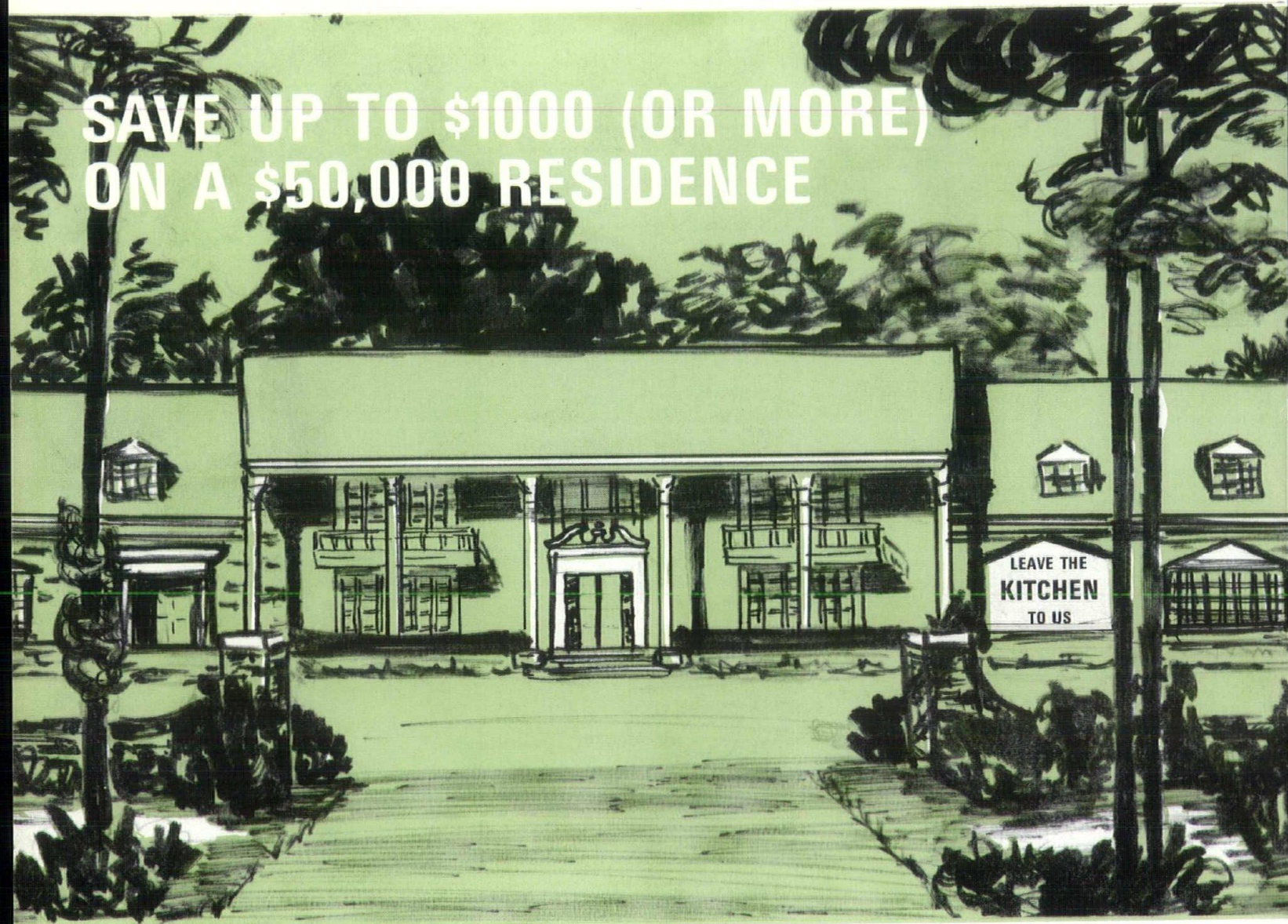
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