

November, 1969

# The Louisiana Architect



*The Tangipahoa Parish Courthouse*



**There are places where the thought  
of investor-owned, free enterprise companies is hardly appreciated.**

The very idea of investor-owned companies would rattle quite a few bricks on the walls of the Kremlin. Anybody who suggested that it'd be a good idea for ordinary citizens to own shares in electric companies (like they do in investor-owned electric companies in Louisiana) would find themselves on the next non-stop freight to Siberia with the door locked.

No matter if the electric companies do have the incentive to work continually to expand and upgrade services. No matter if it does make for a better, more rewarding life. It's the principle that bothers them.

For some people, investor-owned power companies smack too much of Americanism. But ideas that taste of free enterprise and investor-owned companies have made Louisiana and this country great . . . and have kept them free.

Your Louisiana Investor-Owned Electric Companies are Central Louisiana Electric Company, Gulf States Utilities Company, Louisiana Power & Light Company, New Orleans Public Service Inc. and Southwestern Electric Power Company.

Public Service through free enterprise.

***Louisiana Investor-Owned Electric Companies***

# The Louisiana Architect

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Number 11

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## EDITORIAL

Even though architects are better qualified than most of their fellow citizens to participate in local decisions affecting our environment, all too often they are passed over when time comes for official appointments to committees, commissions and advisory groups which deal with environmental problems.

Architects are trained to understand, co-ordinate and create order out of the interacting and often conflicting needs and demands for public buildings, zoning, public housing, city planning, parks, mass transportation, traffic flow, building safety standards, drainage, parking, utilities, city beautification, etc. But in many Louisiana towns and cities political preference puts farmers, service station attendants, insurance salesman and teachers in positions they are not qualified to fill, while the valuable talents of architects lie untapped.

Now is always the best time to begin changing errors of the past. I therefore recommend to LAA member architects that they personally and through AIA Chapters seek to fill the roles of environmental decision making in cities, neighboring rural towns and parishes.

Leadership is not likely to be thrust upon the retiring wall flower. Leaders are usually those who are confident of their ability and willing to stand up, step out and assume responsibility.

THE EDITOR—

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## The Tangipahoa Parish Courthouse

AMITE, LOUISIANA

The Tangipahoa Parish Courthouse "has substantial public character and dignity," according to a jury of regional architects who awarded a Louisiana Architects Association honor award to Desmond-Miremont-Burks, architects for the project.

Located in Amite, the new courthouse has been honored previously with a national Honor Award from the Defense Department in a competition conducted by the American

Institute of Architects. The courthouse was one of only seven winners in the national competition.

The awards jury for the LAA competition submitted the following comments on the project: "The principal functions of the courthouse have been disposed in the plan with clarity that comes through effectively in the exterior. The building is bold, but not coarse. It has substantial public character and dignity."



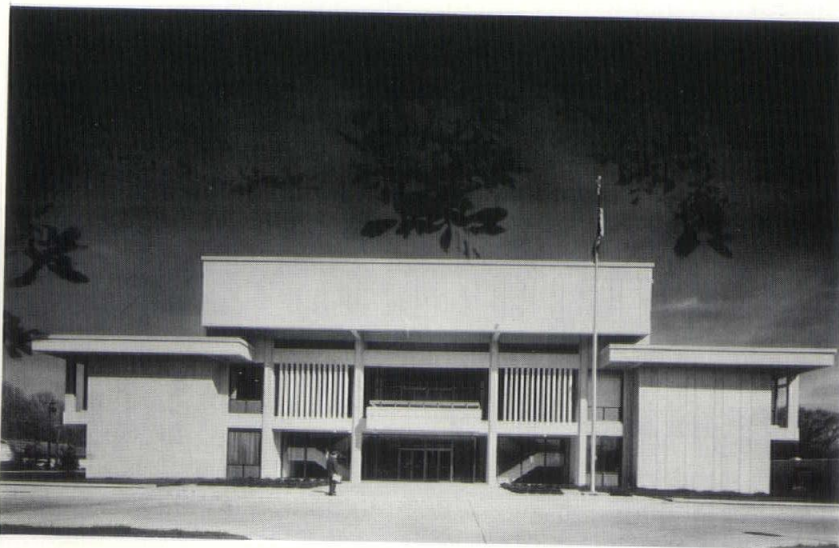
GENERAL CONTRACTOR — POLK CONSTRUCTION CO., Columbia, Mississippi

## Program

The program for this Courthouse to serve a civil parish in Louisiana called for housing all parish functions;— offices for public officials, judicial spaces and jail facilities.

The architectural decisions were as follows:

1. To organize the floor plans so that the main offices requiring public access were on the main floor immediately accessible from the entrance lobby.
2. To place all judicial functions and their attendant offices on the second floor generally with offices open to views on north, east and south, and with the courts a centralized space doubling as shelter for hurricanes and fallout. The lower floor vault and clerk's offices serve the same purpose.
3. To place all jail facilities and jury quarters on the third floor set back on the window sides to avoid prisoner and jury having vocal contact with the public.
4. The structure of reinforced concrete is exposed on the exterior, and distinguished from the limestone facing. The perimeter windows are shielded from direct sun vertically by overhanging the second floor and the roof planes and horizontally by vertical lime-stone fins.
5. The massing is an attempt to express directly these three main elements - perimeter offices, judicial core - and third floor jail facilities, all composing a strong form to symbolize justice, law, and order in this sometimes lawless parish known as "bloody Tangipahoa."



Frank Lotz Miller, Photography

***Congratulations to***  
**THE CITIZENS OF TANGIPAHOA PARISH**  
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**and**  
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**ARCHITECTS and ENGINEERS**  
***for the***  
***Award Winning Tangipahoa Parish Courthouse***



*Frank Lotz Miller*

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Baton Rouge, Louisiana

**PROGRAM:** This year the approved program for the students, as originated by the participating schools, posed the problem of their giving expression in the form of a place or thing where "you can do what you really want to do" . . . . a giving of physical form to their aspirations, with no limitations as to the manner of the presentation.

*Mr. Randolph's comments concerning his project . . . .*

**Can You Be You?**

I can't be me, for I'm unable to grasp your ideas. You've encountered similar difficulties clinging to mine. Needless to say, we can't live successfully as separate entities. If so, we tend to become a community, a city, a state, a nation, moreover a world of existentialists. Thus perging chaos and unrest, parents of revolution.

I would hope that you, the viewers, not limit translation of the work to that defined by me. I resolve that you transcend. After all, a piece of art can boast no worth, until accepted under the terms of its critics.

**"About The Sculpture"**

The base, a question mark, portrays in terms of population and power, two

distinctive races — black and white. The balls denotes our individual cultures. Learned; inherited; etc.

Note that the balls are the same sizes — meaning that the cultural contributions equal in magnitude and worth. Although not explicitly stated, I contemplated extensively on music, language, and moral-values. The reason being, they are the most readily accepted facts of either culture.

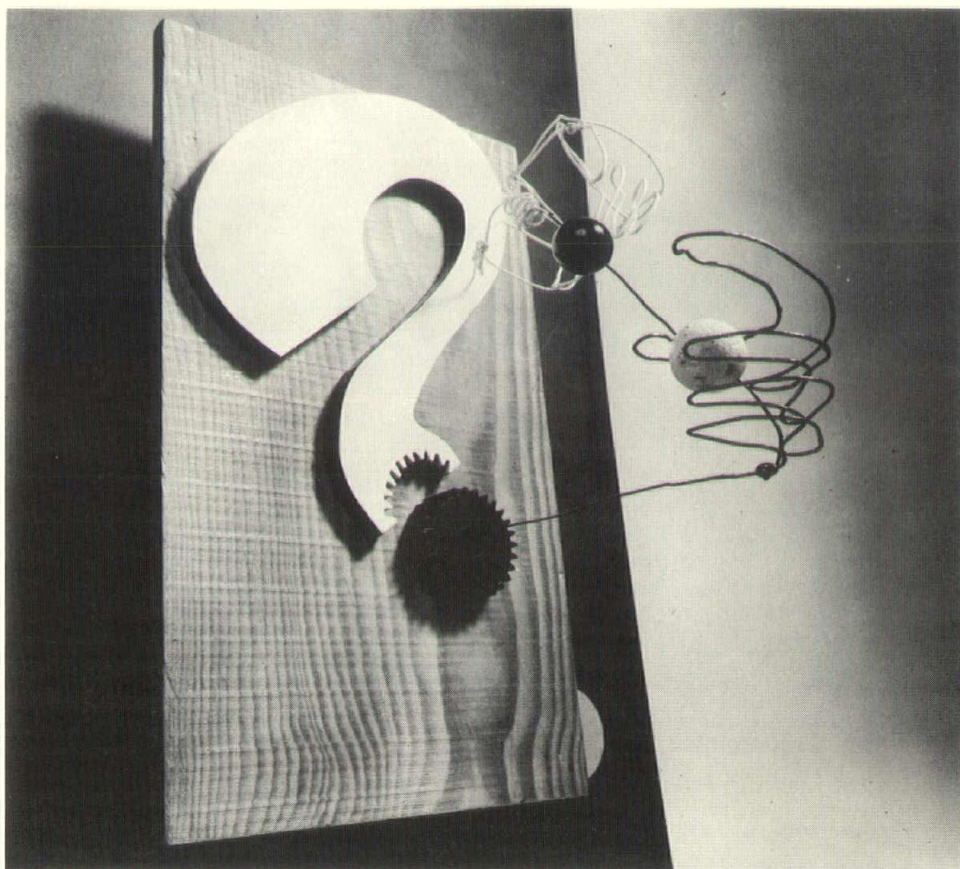
Blacks have in the past, accepted without question the white idea. There was no other conceivable means of successfully moving into the mainstream, at least that's what they thought. For this reason the white ball was placed in the grasp of the black entity. The black entity is elevated above the white one. (Our unceasing efforts)

The white entity is placed away from the major conservative source, in a position which depicts its willingness to cooperate today as opposed to yesterday. The black ball, positioned just within the grasp of the white's entity, indicated a possible consideration for me and my people's contributions.

The grooved connection of the question mark dictates a relation geared to progress, when and if we're able to abandon mediocre obstacles - conservatism, hate, fear, etc.

As it stands now, the blacks are on the outside looking in. This is presented by the black sides of the question mark. Can you really be you ? ? ? ?

Not likely, for we of champion personalities, bearers and potential users of humane thoughts and actions, have to this day, FAILED.



*Gleason Photography*





## Rosedown

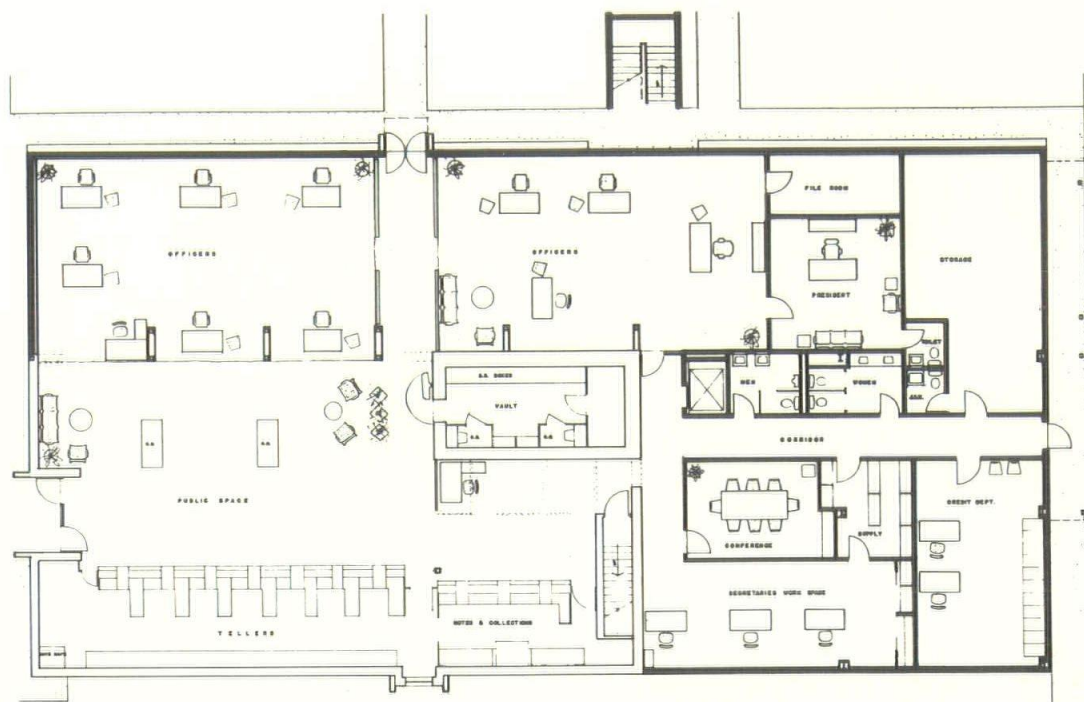
ST. FRANCISVILLE

In Louisiana there is no setting for architecture such as there is at Rose-down. Here in the rolling Felicianas, in the height of the prosperous early nineteenth century, Daniel and Martha Turnbull began what is now Louisiana's most magnificent and mature alley of live oaks surrounded by acres of flowering gardens, all climaxed in the formal setting of this house. In addition to the main house a series of secondary buildings, all wonderfully different as formed by their unique functions, still exist. These include a milk shed (shown to the right), a doctor's office, a kitchen, wood sheds, barns and garden structures.

The main house itself is different in many ways from the usual Louisiana style, one of its most unique features being the Greek Revival extensions at each end and seen here in the foreground. The building was built in 1835 and was lived in until 1956 by descendants of the Turnbells. It was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Milton Underwood and all of the gardens, the house and secondary buildings were excellently restored under the direction of George Leake, architect.

JOHN DESMOND, FAIA

*I Enjoyed Designing - - - Guaranty Bank and Trust*  
GRETNNA, LA.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN





### PROGRAM

Increase the banking facilities of a fast growing bank which had outgrown its present space and to provide a design which would be representative of the banks progressive ideas and new position in a rapidly developing parish.

### DESIGN SOLUTION

In arriving at a solution for this bank, the major concern was to unite the new addition with the existing building in a design which would give the appearance of a totally new structure. This was accomplished by covering both with the same exterior finish.

The interior has been unified by the arrangement of spaces which flow from one to the other as shown in the relationships of the public space to the officers' area. This is carried out further by the careful selection of colors, floor and wall materials, and furniture throughout the bank.

Another concern in the design of this bank was the construction of the addition and renovation of the existing building without interruption of service to the bank customers. This was accomplished by eighty percent completion of the addition before removing existing masonry walls separating the two areas. The employees were then moved to their new offices while renovation work was completed in the existing building.

The location of the board room near the exterior stair enables the bank to allow outside groups to use the room after banking hours.

The site which is bounded by three streets provides easy access to the parking areas and the drive-up windows which are located to the rear of the main banking facility and connected by a covered walk.

Of particular note but not visible is the pneumatic air tube system which shuttles a courier canister from the drive-up teller's window to the secretaries' work space in the main banking area.

### CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIAL

The structural system of the addition is structural steel columns and beams with corruforn and concrete fill on the second floor and roof. Exterior walls are exposed marble and quartz aggregate plaster on concrete block and on existing brick walls. Interior walls are gypsum board, plaster, wood paneling, vinyl fabric and ceramic tile. Floors are terrazzo, carpeting, vinyl asbestos and ceramic tiles. Ceilings are acoustic tile throughout.

The building has year round air conditioning with the new and old system integrated to condition different areas.

*Frank Lotz Miller, Photography*



# STUDENTSTUDE NTSTUDENTSTU DENTSTUDENTS

From North Georgia to San Francisco Bay, American cities are getting help from a new source—architectural students. Students are moving out of the nation's 92 architectural schools into the field "where the real problems are". Architectural students, before they graduate, always had to design buildings that could be constructed. This was called studio work, because it took place at school. Students designed model homes, schools, city halls, etc., sometimes for design competitions. The ideas they uncovered often popped up later as they practiced their profession. Laboratory work is different because it occurs in the market place of opinion where ideas clash. The student must consult with the general public, users, as well as the men and institutions that will pay the bill. He may become an advocate like medical and legal students who uncover human needs when they operate clinics in the city. Students have to spend time in the neighborhood, perhaps live there. Part of their job is to advise what should not be built.

Adequate housing and a resulting boost in civic pride could keep the young and better educated black and white in smaller cities. Now smaller cities lose much of their future leadership because the young migrate to big cities. Around 10 million Americans moved from rural areas and smaller cities to metropolitan regions from 1950 to 1960, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census. Many did not find improved living conditions and their frustrations added to urban unrest. Many would prefer a less congested setting if jobs and housing are available.

At Gainesville, Georgia, 14 Georgia Institute of Technology students have just designed a bright future for a 139-acre poverty pocket, with new kinds of housing, a projected highway relocated, stores, and a community center to build neighborhood pride. The Georgia Tech students had to go to the people and translate needs of black citizens

in Gainesville into a design. A Tech sociologist helped write a questionnaire students used to interview families in the neighborhood. Questions covered space needs inside houses, where people met, distance to churches and jobs, incomes and other matters. The students will never be the same again, now they are much more concerned about what physical plans can do to people and how they harm or help. The Georgia Tech crew is urging that a planned new highway be re-routed so it will not split the neighborhood. Other key student findings for the area include:

- More people, not less, should be housed in the 139 acres because of Gainesville's acute housing shortage, high cost of lots, and blocks to Negro ownership elsewhere.
- A systems approach to housing is needed and possible. Prefabricated concrete or wood components should be brought to the site and assembled like building blocks, providing from two-to five-bedroom homes.
- Trailer manufacturers in Georgia could make the prefab parts.
- Pedestrian paths could link the neighborhood's 800 homes and apartments and underpasses would avoid automobiles.
- Gainesville should modify its zoning ordinances and make other adjustments to cut costs so the citizens could own their homes. This would help stabilize the neighborhood, meet the city's 1,000 to 1,500 shortage of workers, and promote better home maintenance.
- A small shopping center and a community center next to an existing elementary school would give focus and identity which builds pride.

University of Kansas students are at work on both sides of the Missouri River, 34 miles from their campus, in the two Kansas Cities. From patch-up to rehabilitation and entirely new buildings, half of the university's 400 architecture students will take part in the work, some of which is underway in Kansas City, Kansas' Model Cities area. "We have tried very carefully," explained Dean Charles H. Kahn, AIA. "It's ticklish for outsiders to come in and try to take over di-

rection. We have to work through existing community organizations."

Sometimes, students feel they must help start the community organizations and get involved in local politics. That has happened at Cambridge, Massachusetts where students from Harvard's Graduate School of Design are providing data and leadership for tenant groups seeking rent control. Charles Morrow, a Negro educator who lives in the Model Cities neighborhood of dirt streets, trees and scenic vistas, who is vice chairman of the advisory Model Cities committee, said he backs the student findings.

However, he pointed out the root problem in most U.S. cities is the powerlessness of the poor and minorities. Physical design alone cannot overcome this, he said. Cambridge is under tremendous pressure at the moment, from highways, real estate investors and speculators, from Harvard and M.I.T. and from offices and research operations that are spinoffs now from a major university. Students—who have a personal stake in the future of the Boston suburb since they must hunt for housing—cast their lot with local residents. They are battling an Inner Belt Freeway that would remove homes for poor whites and blacks and students. And they are supplying ammunition for obtaining rent control. In Boston, M.I.T. and Harvard students helped "awaken citizen awareness" to save an eight-block neighborhood in South Boston from urban renewal demolition. They also presented physical plans "showing what could be done in this neighborhood."

A warning on the new student surge comes from Harvard Prof. Reginald R. Isaacs, who fears "Crocodile tears" and "amateur sociology". Work in the field based on demands by citizens and politicians, can result in compromise built on top of compromise. The student should be engaged in both studio projects and laboratory projects. Otherwise there is danger of peanut planning and peanut architecture. There has to be equilibrium. We've been cursed with the super ego architect too long. This could be a new chapter.

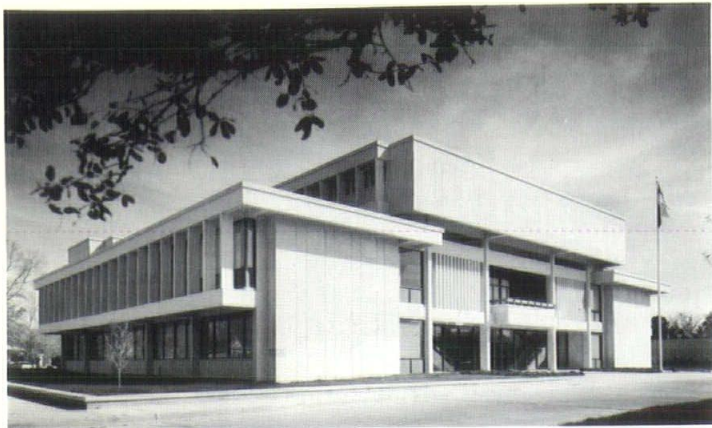
From the people themselves one begins to get an understanding of what the people want. Students at University of Detroit School of Architecture found out. The student writes the program but only after thorough investigation on the scene. Detroit students have already helped rehabilitate

houses in two parts of that clamorous city. Detroit Chapter AIA co-operated. Students are also at work on the analysis of Highland Park, an incorporated city of 40,000 inside Detroit and near the school.

Oklahoma State University at Stillwater is reaching 75 miles east to open a field office in Tulsa's Model Cities neighborhood. Under a \$62,000 grant from the Model Cities agency, the School of Architecture will have five to seven students working in the black district. Working with the Tulsa Chapter, American Institute of Architecture, the OSU team will use black professionals, and advise on rehabilitation and the design of new buildings such as a community center to replace one in an old gas station that burned down. Stanford's architecture department has gradually shifted from designing "more beautiful and functional" downtown urban renewal in California to solving garbage disposal for the affluent mid-San Francisco Peninsula, and even thornier civic issues. Two years ago the department's community planning laboratory—which now includes law students and others—advised the tiny and stubborn bay port town of Alviso to join booming San Jose (pop. 450,000).

Alviso was sinking and even though San Jose had helped the sinking by pumping water from beneath the port town, citizens reluctantly did vote to annex. Students found two sides, the grass roots against incorporation and the landowners for it which made them aware of problems they will encounter. Next fall, Stanford will attack housing problems in Metro San Jose which has a vacancy rate of around one per cent and soaring housing prices. They will confront tax and land use problems as well as design.

Students, of course, don't have to pay for their solutions or even suggest how to finance them. At Michigan City, Indiana in 1962, twelve Notre Dame students proposed "dramatic" downtown rebirth including a shopping mall, highrise building and other uplift. "Grandiose" was the reaction of some skeptical officials. A law suit and other complications stalled Michigan City urban renewal. Finally a new outlying shopping center forced landowners to form a development corporation which now plans to vacate part of the main street and erect "the first downtown shopping mall in Indiana." "You know, those student plans are strangely coming true," says Robert A. Bailey, executive director of the city urban renewal department. □



*Frank Lotz Miller*

## Architects choose Natural Limestone for facing of TANGIPAHOA PARISH COURTHOUSE

We are proud and pleased that architects Desmond, Miremont and Burks chose to use Buff Lueders Limestone for this outstanding building. The harmonious effect achieved through the use of limestone with concrete, glass and other building materials stamps this project as being one which is truly worthy of recognition. Not only did the use of limestone enhance the beauty of this fine building but also enabled the architects to provide their client with a building which will pay future dividends because of low maintenance cost.

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## New Products, Ideas and Information

**Plumbing code officials** can now write building codes permitting the use of vinyl pipe for both hot and cold water distribution systems, thanks to action by the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM). The society has granted a "system specification," designated ASTM D2846-69T, for water distribution piping made from hi-temp Geon CPVC (Chlorinated polyvinyl chloride) material. This specification is the first to be issued for any nonmetallic pressure pipe in service conditions above room temperature (73 degrees F.) Dept. 1A, Public Relations Department, B. F. Goodrich Chemical Co., 3135 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44115.

**An environmental control window unit** that produces year-round thermal regulation through a combination of electrically heated glass, double glazing and a heat-reflective coating has been developed by PPG Industries. A transparent, electrically conductive coating applied to the air space surface of the interior pane is the unit's most unusual feature. A thermostat controls the flow of electrical current through the coating to maintain indoor glass surface temperature within the desired range. The air space surface of the unit's exterior pane is coated with Solarban, said to repel the sun's heat rays, making buildings more comfortable and less expensive to air condition in summer. The Solarban coating also minimizes conducted heat loss through the window in winter. The unit was designed primarily for use in exterior walls of office buildings, computer centers, hospitals, restaurants and other commercial structures where precise temperature and humidity control is important. Dept. 1A, PPG Industries, One Gateway Center, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222.

**Store fixture covered in new spec.** Architects and other designers concerned with store design are required to be, simultaneously, creative artists, merchandising experts and highly exacting technicians. For this reason, the National Association of Store Fixture Manufacturers has created, and recently revised a set of detailed standard specifications for store fixture construction.

These specifications are set forth in a comprehensive book, titled "Specifications for the Manufacture of Store Fixtures," which could be of value in the design of store facilities. It is available from the National Association of Store Fixture Manufacturers, 53 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

**New grout developed by tile council.** Mastic Grout, an "instant" grouting compound designed especially for use with dry-set glazed wall tile, is the latest development of the Tile Council of American's Research Center.

(Continued on Page 17)

*The Louisiana Architect*

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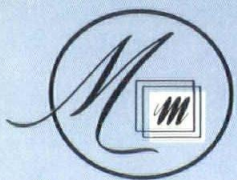
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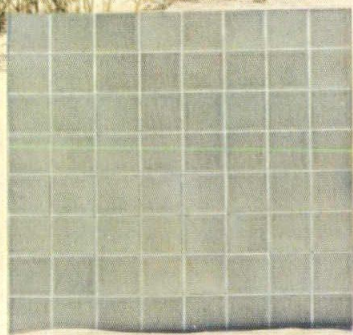
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# Naturally

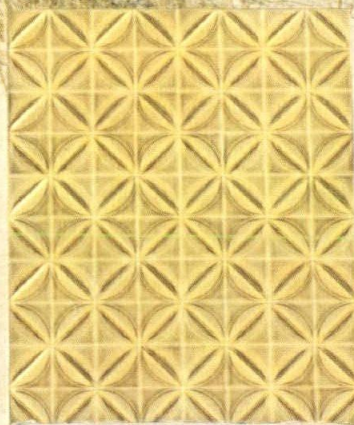
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Technical details can be obtained from the Council at 800 2nd Ave., New York, N. Y. 10017.

Four \$3,000 graduate study fellowships will be awarded next year by the American Institute of Steel Construction to graduate civil or architectural engineering students pursuing degrees in a graduate program related to fabricated structural steel. Fellowships will be awarded on the basis of the applicants' choice of graduate study, scholastic achievement, and recommendation by college authorities. Applications are available through college, civil or architectural engineering departments. The deadline is February 10. Announcement of successful candidates will be made by March.

# frank lotz miller

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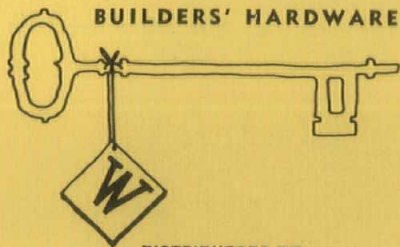
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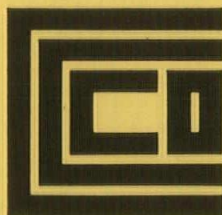
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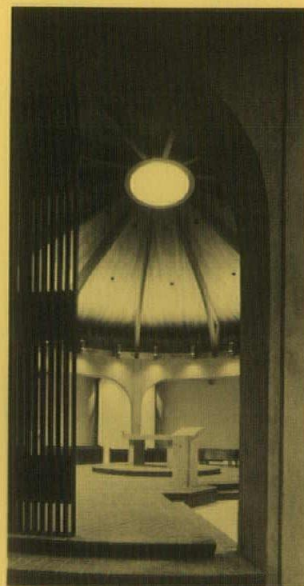


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## GIVE ANTE-BELLUM SKETCHES for Christmas

Now, you can buy sets of John Desmond sketches which have been featured in centerspreads of Louisiana Architect magazine. These unusual, ready-to-frame, 11" x 17" sketches (printed on rich, textured paper and enclosed in an attractive folio) include Parlange, San Francisco, Oak Alley, Oakley, The Shadows on the Teche, Grace Episcopal Church, Magnolia Mound Plantation House, Evergreen, the Hermitage, the Houmas House, the Warden's House and Asphodel.

When you give these for Christmas presents, you not only promote appreciation of our indigenous Southern architecture, you also help support LAA'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

Retail price for the twelve sketches is \$9.95, but if you order directly, the cost is \$6.95 plus 50 cents per set for packaging and postage.

You may also purchase 20" x 26" enlargements of the following four sketches at \$2.95 each: Parlange, San Francisco, The Shadows on the Teche, Magnolia Mound Plantation House.



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#### ANTE-BELLUM SKETCHES

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