Michigan Society of Architects

September 1975

$1.00
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THE MONTHLY BULLETIN IS PUBLISHED BY THE MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS TO ADVANCE THE PROFESSION OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE STATE OF MICHIGAN.

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THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME.
The Building of a Court House

The Iron County Courthouse in Crystal Falls, Michigan, an imposing castle-like structure built in 1890, stands at the head of Superior Street commanding a view of the main street of the city and the scenic panorama of the valley at its feet. On a clear day one can stand on the tower balcony and see neighboring Iron Mountain across the hills some 20 miles away. The brick structure, described as "to the Queen's taste" and "the finest building Northwest of Milwaukee or Detroit" in 1891, has just been named to the Nation Register of Historic Places, the first such site to be named in the Iron County area.

The building, characteristic of the Romanesque revival period with its high-pitched roof, high windows and deeply-arched doorways, and exterior ornamentation, was designed by J.C. Clancy, an architect of national reputation who at the time was living in Antigo, Wisconsin. He later moved to Iron Mountain as he designed many buildings in this part of the peninsula. Prior to designing the Iron County Courthouse, he designed the courthouse in Florence, Florence County, Wisconsin—later he also designed the one at Oconto, the city hall of Iron Mountain, Michigan and a number of other buildings in Crystal Falls, among them the Max Berlowitz home at the corner of Michigan and Fifth, the Bank of Crystal Falls located west of the old Lockwood Hotel site, and a building on the Southeast corner of Superior and First. His influence extended as far west as the Gogebic range also, as he contracted to design 14 cottages for the National Investment Company of Detroit at the cost of $400-$500 each.

The contractor for the building was Louis A. Webber of Menasha, whose low bid of $26,470 (less $600 for changing plate glass to plain glass and $850 for changing red oak to pine trim), was accepted by the board. He also worked with Clancy on the Florence Courthouse—Clancy preferring to do only contracting and designing. Webber had some problems in completing his contract, due to personal illness, and later the County Board was to call in another contractor to complete the work on schedule. The total cost in round figures rose to about $40,000.

The land on which the building was erected was obtained for $2700 and was previously owned by C.T. Crandall, an early prosecuting attorney.

Daniel Lee, veteran stone mason, a '49er in the California gold rush, the Calumet County Wisconsin sheriff and later a legislator from his district to the State Legislature in Madison, Wisconsin, was the most colorful character of the construction crew. Gottlieb Urban, an 1880 pioneer of Crystal Falls, was also one of the bricklayers.

The bids for the building were let in June of 1890 and work started in early July. The corner stone was laid and dedicated in September by the Masonic fraternity. By November, walls were erected as high as the ceiling of the second story and part of the roof was on. In February 1891, plastering and the installing of the wainscoting of Black Oak were in progress. By May the old road around the building was changed and Mike Bengson, road contractor, was building a new road. The tower was near completion and the 17 foot high statues of Law, Mercy, and Justice were placed in position.

The clock in the tower was not added until some time later, the funds being raised by public subscription. It was wound weekly by a succession of local jewelers. The clock, made by one of the finest clock companies in the United States, the Howard Company, has four faces, and according to one jeweler, one of the biggest problems is keeping the hands on all sides synchronized. The weights, wound by a windlass, took fifteen to twenty minutes to wind. The largest weight for the striker weighs about a half ton. Beneath the clock on a balcony is a huge bell, which on a clear day can be heard over four miles away. The hammer, which strikes the bell, weighs over fifty pounds. The bell is hung on 8 by 8 timbers which were just replaced this past year. During World War II, the balcony was used for air watches by the Civilian Defense.

At the time of subscription for the clock, money was also raised to erect a flagpole on the top of the tower. This, however, was removed after it was struck by lightening several times.

Many of the materials for the building are of Upper Peninsula origin. It is believed that the yellow clay bricks were probably kilned along the Superior or Lake Michigan shores. The gray rock basement walls are of local stone. Of particular interest, however, are the diorite columns which flank the imposing main entrance. They were quarried from the outcroppings on the bluff side of the Paint river. Of reddish cast, compact, and susceptible to high polish, the stone seemed an appropriate choice for the new building. Carved out in December of 1890, they were sent South, probably to Chicago, for polishing. In June of the following year, there was some interest from an Ohio investor in developing a quarry.

This was never to occur, however, iron ore mining dominating the country instead. The columns, six in number originally, following the polishing, were to remain in their crates for some time. As late as March 1892 the board was goading Mr. Clancy to get this work done. Since this was a very difficult piece of work, he was insistant upon doing it himself.

The courtroom was considered the interior masterpiece and at the time was the largest auditorium in the Upper Peninsula. The ceiling, which is dome shaped and of metallic composition, is the most outstanding characteristic. The slow arrival of the embossed trim was to delay the opening of the courtroom.

In December 1891 an elegant marble drinking fountain with silver trimmings was placed in the center of the corridor in front of the main entrance. This has since been removed. At the same time as the installation of the fountain, lavatories "of modern design with elegant plate mirrors and nickle fixtures" were installed.
The 1975 MSA Annual Convention will "happen" at the new Kalamazoo Center on October 8, 9 and 10. This newest demonstration of how to keep a downtown healthy will house all of the events of the Convention other than the tours planned for the ladies. Located on the Kalamazoo Mall and connected via a skyway to a municipal parking deck, the Center, in addition to complete convention facilities, provides a 288 room hotel, a restaurant, a coffee shop, a discotheque, a health club and will eventually contain some 30 or more shops. The entrance is a three story space with an exciting interaction of movement and activity. The MSA Convention will be one of the first full blown affairs to enjoy the facilities.

The program, with the theme of "Dollars and Change", will be highlighted by a two-day seminar on "How to Market Professional Design Services" presented by Building Industry Development Services (BIDS). A more complete description of the workshop content appears elsewhere. Other professional program topics appear in the program schedule. A super calendar of events has been established for the ladies attending the convention. Outstanding events include tours to interesting buildings and homes in the Kalamazoo area, an afternoon luncheon and Jacobson's Fashion Show complete with prizes held at the Kalamazoo Country Club and a cooking demonstration by Cordon Bleu, a graduate of Ann Rays. A complete description of the dates and events can be found elsewhere in the convention section.

Arrangements are underway with Amtrak to provide a special car for the conventioneers along the Detroit to Kalamazoo run, on Wednesday and return. Regular train schedules are very accommodating to the program and the Kalamazoo terminal is only two blocks from the Center. This is being billed as "Train West", a very social event to start the "doins". It may be worth it for members to drive to Detroit just to share in the fun. Upon arrival, a party with the Exhibitors will keep things moving with wine supplied by Warner Vineyards of nearby Paw Paw.

If that isn't a way to start, the Host Chapter Party on Thursday may be the livin' end. A dinner and theater party in the Center ballroom will feature the highly acclaimed New Vic, a cabaret-styled theatre that has entertained Kalamazoo audiences for almost a decade.

The fully-staged musical comedy will be selected from Pippen or Oh, Coward depending upon availability of rights at the time. Pippen, with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz and book by Roger Hirson takes place in A.D. 780, when Charlemange was building an empire, but the attitudes and
The Kalamazoo Happening!

behavior are definitely 1970's. Pippen, the emperor's son, is a medieval hippie with big ideas, and his quest for self-fulfillment becomes an expression of exciting theatricality and exurbanating entertainment. Oh, Coward, devised by Roderick Cook from the plays and songs of Noel Coward, is a revue-styled evening of songs and patter from Coward's inimitable world of blissful delight. Life, according to Coward, is one long amusing party with bizarre people, and madcap goings-on, taking place in a world shielded with no taint of reality, headlines or ordinary problems. The most marvelous party in town, according to Time.

Adding to an exciting theatre experience will be an excellent dinner prepared by Paul Schreick who comes to the Kalamazoo Center after serving as executive chef at Chicago's prestigious Pump Room. If that isn't enough, the price for the entire evening will be only $10.00 per person.

So don't miss the excitement — join us for the 60th MSA Annual Convention — The Kalamazoo Happening!

Ladies Program

Wednesday, October 8
Special Hospitality Suite

Thursday, October 9
Morning:
Tour of The Kalamazoo Art Center designed by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, The Nature Center designed by Alden Dow and a visit to the Episcopal Cathedral by Ike Colburn.

Exhibitors

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### 60th Annual Convention - October 8, 9, 10, 1971

#### Wednesday

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<td>MSA Board Meeting</td>
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- **Design To Conserve Energy**
- **Employment Practices Modern**
- **The Kalamazoo Center**
- **What AIA Is Doing For You**
- **Pension Portability**
- **Fee Schedule**
- **Insurance Errors & Omissions**
- **Wives Program**

- **Legal Cases For Architects**
- **Registration Laws**
- **A Case Study Interior Design/Behavior**
- **User Requirements In Buildings**
- **Production of Documents The Overlay Technique**
- **Roundtable Changes In The Profession**
- **Producers Meeting**
- **Design For The Handicap Convert To The Metric System**
- **Wives Program**

- **Host Chapter Party**
- **Awards Banquet**
Michigan Heart Association Picks Tower As Board Chief

Michigan Society of Architects president, Robert Tower, has been elected chairman of the board of the Michigan Heart Association for 1976.

Tower, a partner in the architectural firm of Stapert, Pratt, Sprou, Tower and Associates, is a former president of the Kalamazoo County heart unit and a former board member and officer of many committees of the statewide unit.

In 1973, Tower was named "Volunteer of the Year" by the state heart association. His efforts as an executive committee member and president of the group's delegate assembly were instrumental in turning the association's emphasis toward making the local volunteers and local heart units throughout Michigan an operational arm of the organization.

Michigan Man to Head North Carolina School

John Loss has been appointed Director of the Architecture Program and Professor of Design and Architecture, School of Design, North Carolina State University, effective July 1, 1975. Loss will be responsible for the education program and faculty of approximately four hundred architecture students in the undergraduate and graduate programs in the School of Design.

Loss has been the former Acting Dean of the School of Architecture of the University of Detroit and has most recently been the Director of the Graduate Program at University of Detroit. He came to Detroit in 1960 to assist in the development of the new School of Architecture at the University of Detroit. Prior to 1960 he had taught at the School of Architecture, University of Michigan.

The architectural firm of John Loss and Associates will be closed in Michigan. Professor Loss has designed several housing projects in Ohio and Michigan, and has just completed the Aldersgate project in Oscoda for the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. He will continue an architectural design and consulting practice in North Carolina.

While in Detroit, Professor Loss has assisted many community organizations and local governmental agencies such as serving as a member of former Governor Romney's Commission on Urban Problems, advisor to Mayor Cavanaugh, consultant to Woodward East Project, Inc. and Virginia Park.

Bell Named Chairman of Bay Regional Planners

Robert G. Bell was named chairman of the Traverse Bay Regional Planning Commission at the group's annual meeting.

Bell succeeds Dawn Cooper and had been vice president. Cooper continues on the commission as immediate past president.

"If regional Planning had a symbol or logo," Bell said, "it'd be an umbrella under which we can gather to discuss and solve common problems. We will continue to assist all members in finding appropriate answers."

Regional Planning formed in 1969, it's 25 members represent Elmwood Township in Leelanau County, 11 of the 13 townships in Grand Traverse County, Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, and the villages of Fife Lake and Kingsley.

Bell, who moved to Traverse City in 1962, is executive vice president of Graheck, Bell, Kline and Brown, Architects and Engineers with offices in Traverse City and Marquette. He is also chairman of the board of zoning appeals for Peninsula Township.

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Monthly Bulletin / 11
The Oakland County Law Enforcement-Jail Complex provides administration and technical space for the Oakland County Sheriff's Department, Civil Defense, Medical Examiner as well as housing space for 470 inmates with expansion capabilities for 800. In designing a building which operates 24 hours per day, 365 days per year, cleanliness, maintenance and durability are key factors. Flooring — TERRAZZO a natural!

Architect: Giffels Associates, Inc.

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The first Highrise in the Chrysler Realty Corporation Office and Commercial complex in Northfield Hills is scheduled to open in September of this year, less than 18 months after the start of construction. Design by Minoru Yamasaki and Associates, the building will be owned by the Chrysler Insurance Company. General Contractor for the project is A.J. Etkin Construction Co.

SH&G Establishes New R & D Group

William C. Louie, a Vice President and Corporate Director of Mechanical Engineering has been appointed to the new position of Director of Research and Development Environmental Engineering at SH&G. In this position, he will correlate scientific and technical advances in environmental engineering with the specific problems posed by various SH&G projects.

AHA To Hold Institute On Hospital Interior Design October 20-21

The American Hospital Association and sponsor an Institute on Hospital Interior Design October 20-21 to help hospital administrators humanize their institutional environments. The two-day program will be held in the AHA Headquarters in Chicago.

Participants in the institute will study practical ways of humanizing health facility interiors, which will contribute to the well-being of those being treated as well as those providing treatment or just visiting.

Talks given by outstanding professionals in the fields of hospital interior design and architecture will cover the psychological effects of design, color, lighting and space; graphics and sign systems; and furnishings and materials from the standpoints of safety, durability and maintenance. Informal study sessions will be devoted to design of intensive and coronary care units, public and outpatient areas, and ideas for recycling existing space for better use. In addition, there will be a design problem workshop.

The program is primarily for hospital administrators, department heads and other health facilities personnel such as executive housekeepers and purchasing agents. It also is open to interior designers, architects and other interested professionals.

Faculty for the Institute are drawn from leading interior design and architectural firms. Special guest speaker will be Norman de Haan, chairman of the board of directors of the American Society of Interior Designers.

Registration fee, which covers two luncheons, is $90. For further information or a registration form, contact Institute coordinator, Susanne Batko, Division of Design and Construction, American Hospital Association, 840 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60611. Telephone 312/645-9578.

Waterborne Transportation Seminar and Workshop

A three-day conference on all phases of waterborne transportation will be held on October 16-18, 1975 at Dutch Inn, Lake Buena Vista (Orlando), Florida under the auspices of the Metropolitan Association of Urban Designers and Environmental Planners (MAUDEP).

Co-sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers-Urban Transportation Division, The St. John's University Transportation Program, New York City Department of Marine and Aviation and other transportation-related groups. The conference will be conducted in a workshop format with opportunities for interchange of individual views among scheduled speakers and other attendees.

The Conference, the first of its kind in this country will coincide with the one-hundred and fiftieth anniversary of
the official opening of the Erie Canal; perhaps the greatest transportation development in this nation's history. Representatives of labor, industry, and all levels of government both domestic and international have been invited to participate.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Role of government (Legislation, regulation, Jones Act, subsidy, federal programs, funding, safety, classification, problems, solutions, private vs. public, marketing, demonstrations)

High Speed Waterborne Transportation (Surface effect ships, hovercraft, hydrofoils, other, Europe, United States, Canada, Orient)

Planning and Designing Waterborne Transportation Systems (Multimodal approach, commuter, locational criteria, air pollution, noise, other environmental aspects, energy crisis, data collection, systems approach, terminal, vehicle design, traffic flow, elderly, handicapped, economic aspects)

Case studies, Systems Planning (New York, Miami, San Francisco)

Systems Management (Labor, unions, containerization, goods movement, ports and harbor, revitalizing canal system, recreation, Gateway)

Municipal Maritime Passenger Operations, Case Studies (San Francisco, Tennessee, New Orleans, Maine, Long Island Sound, New York, Canada)

Role of Waterborne Transportation in Today's Environment (Industry view, international experience, craft selection, climate, getting the job done, pedestrian view)

Nuts and Bolts of Waterborne Facilities (Construction, maintenance, implementation, insurance, pricing, economics, safety)

Waterfront Development and Redevelopment (Land use implications, zoning, architectural barriers, planning for people, joint development, transportation interface)

Research and New Technology (Power systems, navigation, Q Fan, ice breaking, cycloidal, wave measuring, obstacle detection, Bell Vouyageur, Vosper Thornycroft, British Hovercraft, Hovermarine, Boeing Jetfoil, Enfield Marine, Surface Effect Ships, Russian Hydrofoil, Italian Hydrofoil, conventional craft, etc.)

Films and Slide Presentations (Ferry Systems, new craft, products)

Exhibits (Designs, products, information)

Field Trip and Demonstration Ride (Hovermarine, HM-2)

Birkerts Authors New Book

Gunnar Birkerts has adapted a proposed plan of underground conduits containing transit systems and industries, for the city of Detroit and surrounding areas.

This regional adaptation is one feature of his new book, "Subterranean Urban Systems," published by the Industrial Development Division of the U-M institute of Science and Technology.

A professor at the U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Birkerts has designed such buildings as the Federal Reserve Bank in Minneapolis, the Visitor Reception Center of the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, the IBM Corporate Computer Center in New York, and many others.

Under a grant from the Graham Foundation for Advance Studies in the Fine Arts, Birkerts and several U-M architecture students have been investigating underground systems as a means of beautifying the urban landscape and making cities more liveable.
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For those who have followed Wright's career over the years, this book will revive fond memories and inspire new insights. For architects to whom Wright is a legendary—almost forgotten—figure, it promises the delight of discovering a genius at work. Beautifully produced in an oversized format and containing a vast number of drawings and rare photographs—among them a sensitive photo-essay on Wright and his disciples at Taliesin West—In the Cause of Architecture is sure to gratify all who are dedicated to the profession—and to the art.

Published by McGraw Hill
1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10020

Barrier Free Design Graphics
Graphic illustrations of the Michigan Construction Code Commission “General Rules” applicable to making facilities accessible for use by the physically handicapped and aged are now available. This publication has been prepared by Robert A.L. Williams, AIA for the Michigan Commission on Employment of the Handicapped, Committee for a Barrier Free Environment, Michigan Department of Labor, and printed by League for the Handicapped-Goodwill Industries, Inc.

This fifty page document includes graphics illustrating each section of the code requirements, reference design dimensions, and copies of other current Michigan legislation and promulgated standards.

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Syllabus—Into The Mainstream

A syllabus for a barrier free environment has been published under a joint grant by the Rehabilitation Services Administration of HEW and the American Institute of Architects, Stephen A. Kliment, author.

The introduction by Chick Marshall notes that “sooner or later nearly everyone will experience a disability that denies him or her unassisted access to and the use of building...” “The architect is the key professional obligated to design buildings without barriers...” “As a storehouse of facts, figures background and trends, this syllabus will help launch the architect and his entire team towards that crucial goal; to bring every handicapped person into the mainstream of daily living.”
This Syllabus is for all those who through concern or legal obligation care about a barrier-free environment and are prepared to do something about it.

It is intended especially to guide and encourage those whose concern is recent. If you are:

(a) an administrator, counselor, physician, facility specialist, therapist or one in another role involving the delivery of vocational services to handicapped individuals.

(b) an architect, builder, public official or planner who because of personal concern and the growing pressure of laws and codes need a basic treatise as a base for more in-depth inquiry.

(c) an owner, developer, administrator of facilities (whether of a college, department store, apartment or theater) concerned about access to your facility by the handicapped but feel you don't really know enough about the legal and technical sides of the barrier free issue to proceed. or

(d) one of the large family of private citizens, community workers, handicapped as well as able-bodied, who want to know what to do and how to start to bring local buildings and sites to a barrier-free level of access, then Into the Mainstream is ready to provide answers to many of your questions and tell you where to find the rest.

This syllabus on barriers is also aimed for use by administrators and seasoned workers in the rehabilitation services field, as well as those newly graduated, because their professional journals do not usually give great coverage to these issues. It is not aimed at providing the architectural designer working at his drafting table on a specific project with all the technical information he needs to make the building accessible; for that he is best served by existing graphic guides, as listed later in this Syllabus.

Into the Mainstream is designed to open up vistas to those who are new to the issues and who are eager to get on

A Lesson from the Ancient Phoenix

Decaying areas within Michigan communities may be able, at last, to rise to redevelopment under their own power.

This hope is attributed to the successful passage in the Michigan Legislature of the "Downtown Development Authority" bill sponsored by State Senator Harry A. DeMaso of Battle Creek.

The new Downtown Development Authority legislation would enable city councils to pass an ordinance creating a special Authority with the power to levy a special assessment of two mills on real and personal property within designated development districts to finance special projects aimed at stopping urban deterioration.

The specially-created Authority also could issue revenue bonds and borrow money from other sources. In addition to preventing urban decay, the Authority could build multiple family projects and preserve buildings for their historical value.

All of this comes as good news because the all-important decisions needed to "turn around" declining urban areas will be made by the "people" from those areas, not by some far-removed governmental bureaucracy that knows little or nothing about true local problems.

Under the Downtown Development Authority measure, Michigan cities, both large and small, can conduct public hearings on the establishment of their own Authority and on the determination and creation of their own development district. Each city could create its own nine-member authority to administer downtown development.

What is significant about this legislation is that it recognizes that true redevelopment must come from "within" the community, not imposed from the "outside."

Many Michigan communities have, over the years, arrived at comprehensive plans to combat urban decay, but, until the Downtown Development Authority legislation came along, lacked the means to finance such plans.

If administered properly, it is this columnist's belief that the new Downtown Development Authority measure will excite considerable people-oriented redevelopment project within Michigan's cities.

A real opportunity now exists for dying urban areas in our state to become young Phoenixes, rising from the ashes of inattention, and, toward a brighter tomorrow.
with the job of making sure our man-built environment is accessible to all Americans.

This Syllabus is your tool for opening doors to a lot of practical information you will need as you work for a barrier-free environment in your community.

The first chapter provides a useful account of what has happened in the United States in the past generation to make buildings and spaces accessible to handicapped persons. This background will give you the perspective against which to measure current activity, and will allow you to build on it as you make your own contribution. Special attention should be paid to the review of the most recent laws, codes and standards that prescribe the accessibility of our buildings.

The second chapter describes the basic barrier conditions, both physical and procedural, which the handicapped face and which must be resolved.

In the third chapter, you will find solutions to the removal of barriers, including drawings that illustrate some of the most common conditions. You will also find techniques for organizing barrier-free action groups in your community and methods for evaluating compliance with applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations.

The fourth and final chapter offers supplementary sources of information to explore as you move further into the field. The first part consists of published sources. For your convenience, these are arranged under nine headings: general; design guides; legal and legislative; codes, ordinances and regulations; compliance and advocacy; product design; travel and transportation; periodicals and information services; and films. Also included is a sample questionnaire for use in evaluating accessibility of buildings in your community.

The second part of the chapter is a listing of important public and private (voluntary) agencies whose staffs can help in more detail with guidance in particular areas.

This Syllabus may be obtained from:

Michigan Society of Architects
28 West Adams
Detroit, MI 48226
(313) 965-4100

Obituary

James H. Livingston, AIA, 52 died May 23, in Clearwater Florida. Livingston, a graduate of U of M practiced in Ann Arbor and Florida. He designed schools, Cathedral Terraces in Detroit, Lurie Terrace in Ann Arbor, the Hilton & Hyatt Hotels throughout the country and condominium complexes in Michigan and Florida.

He is survived by his wife Jean, five sons, 2 sisters and a brother and his mother.

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