

THE MISSISSIPPI ARCHITECT

Harris

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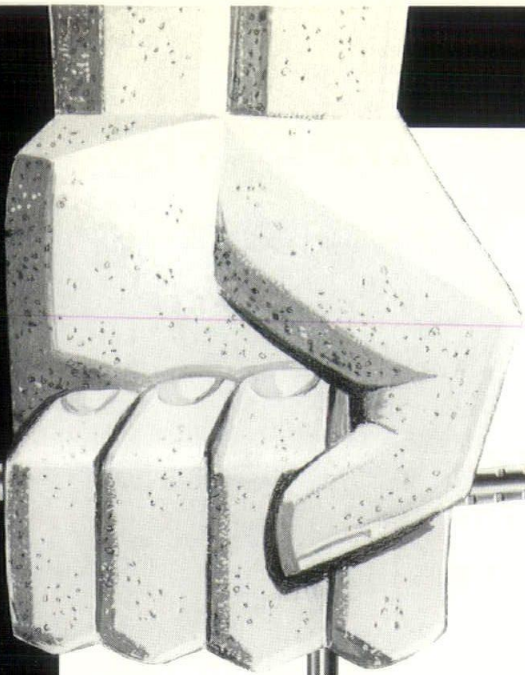
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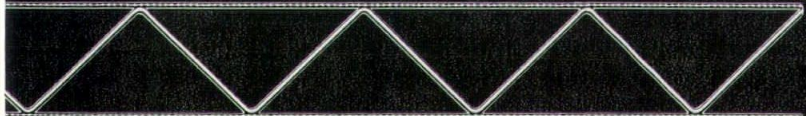
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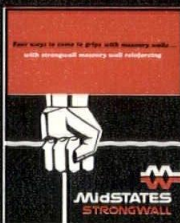
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THE MISSISSIPPI ARCHITECT

Volume 2 Number 3

The Third of 1971

The Mississippi Architect is the official publication of the Mississippi Chapter, The American Institute of Architects and is published quarterly.

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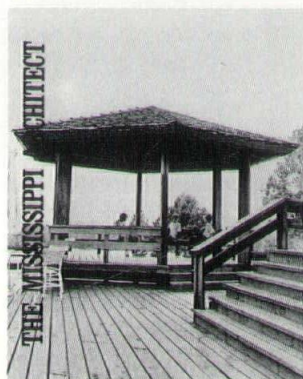
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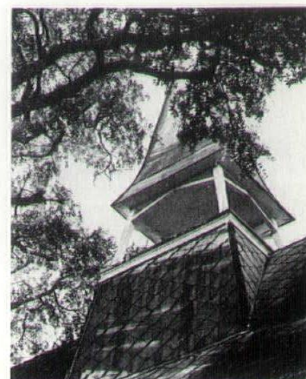
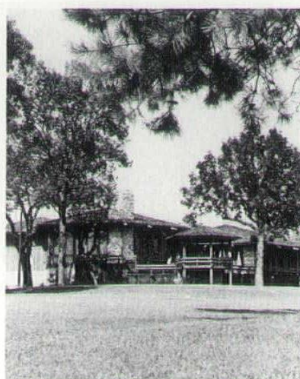
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Associate editor Noel Workman's photograph of part of the award winning Northwood Country Club in Meridian.



4 The best of 1971 . . . Winners in the First Annual Design Awards program of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

8 Death and Taxes and the Need for Tax Reform. Contributing editor Bill Gill AIA of Jackson discusses a system which rewards a property owner for letting his property deteriorate.

10 A photographic look at the winning display boards from the 1971 Gulf States Regional Convention.

14 AIA president-elect Max O. Urbahn FAIA told architects attending the Gulf States Convention that this is A Time for Faith, Hope . . . and Action!"

15 Bill Gill's traveling Europe sketchbook this time showcases Brussels.

16 The Wright-Sullivan houses at Ocean Springs. The Mississippi Architect Magazine provide some visual clues in the long-standing "whodunit" on the Coast.

18 Mississippi Chapter members are honored by the Gulf States Region and by the Mississippi Pine Manufacturers Association.

Don't Waste...Recycle

by Joe N. Weilenman AIA

Buildings do not have to be new to contribute to the quality of our man-made environment. To the non-architect reader, this may seem to be an obvious, yet curious statement to be volunteered by builders of new buildings.

First, I am not reflecting upon the significance, opportunity and need for new structures; secondly, I am not suggesting that a building's age should determine its cultural worth. My intent is to generate awareness of the rapid disappearance of restorable, non-historic, but representative structures which reflect the culture, economy and tastes of another time. It is usually easier or less worrisome to raze an old building than to apply creative renovation and imaginative new uses, but these are challenges architects should encourage owners and developers to accept.

The urban fabric can be improved by this kind of effort, especially in transitional areas subject

to blight generated by creeping commercial zoning. Some architects have located their offices in such renovated structures with great success; I can think of several in our capital city.

Our "bulldozer" approach to "progress" and "throw-away" merchandising philosophies need reconsidering. This is especially true and realistic as you consider the short span of Mississippi's history and architectural heritage compared with the incredible development and transmission rate of events and ideas of today—a phenomenon which produces the contradiction of exciting variety and non-indigenous sameness across the entire nation.

Do you remember the old Archer house that used to be on South Broadway? It's hard to find buildings with workmanship, scale and art nouveau detailing like that. Substitute your names, your streets and your town, and you've got the idea.

Letters to the Editor

To the Editors:

Fortunately, I am on the mailing list for The Mississippi Architect, and I want to commend you and your associates for an excellent publication. I was particularly interested in the article in the most recent issue entitled "The New Environment of The South." I am circulating it among the members of my staff.

Mendell M. Davis CCE
Executive Vice President
Jackson Chamber of Commerce
Jackson, Miss.

To the Editors:

Thanks for the issue of the magazine which is certainly a good job and a quality job. I was particularly interested in Gus Staub's article.

Jack R. Reed
Tupelo, Miss.

To the Editors:

Accept our sincere appreciation for placing us on your mailing list to

receive The Mississippi Architect. Because of our cultural background and eternal association with the historical old Natchez Trace, we here in Kosciusko have a special appreciation for your excellent coverage of the many fine old Mississippi homes which so well reflect our traditions and heritage.

Harold W. Reid
Executive Director
Kosciusko-Attala Chamber of
Commerce and Industrial
Development Corporation
Kosciusko, Miss.

To the Editor:

I am a member of the Rodney Foundation, Inc., and the photography and story on the Presbyterian Church there is superb (Vol. 1, No. 1).

I have been interested in the preservation of Fort Massachusetts and the Lighthouse on Ship Island. Henry Fountain of Biloxi has been a

moving spirit in this direction.

M. James Stevens
2300 Beach Drive
Gulfport, Miss.

To the Editor:

Thank you for the excellent write up in the magazine. The R & D Center staff joins me in congratulations on an excellent magazine.

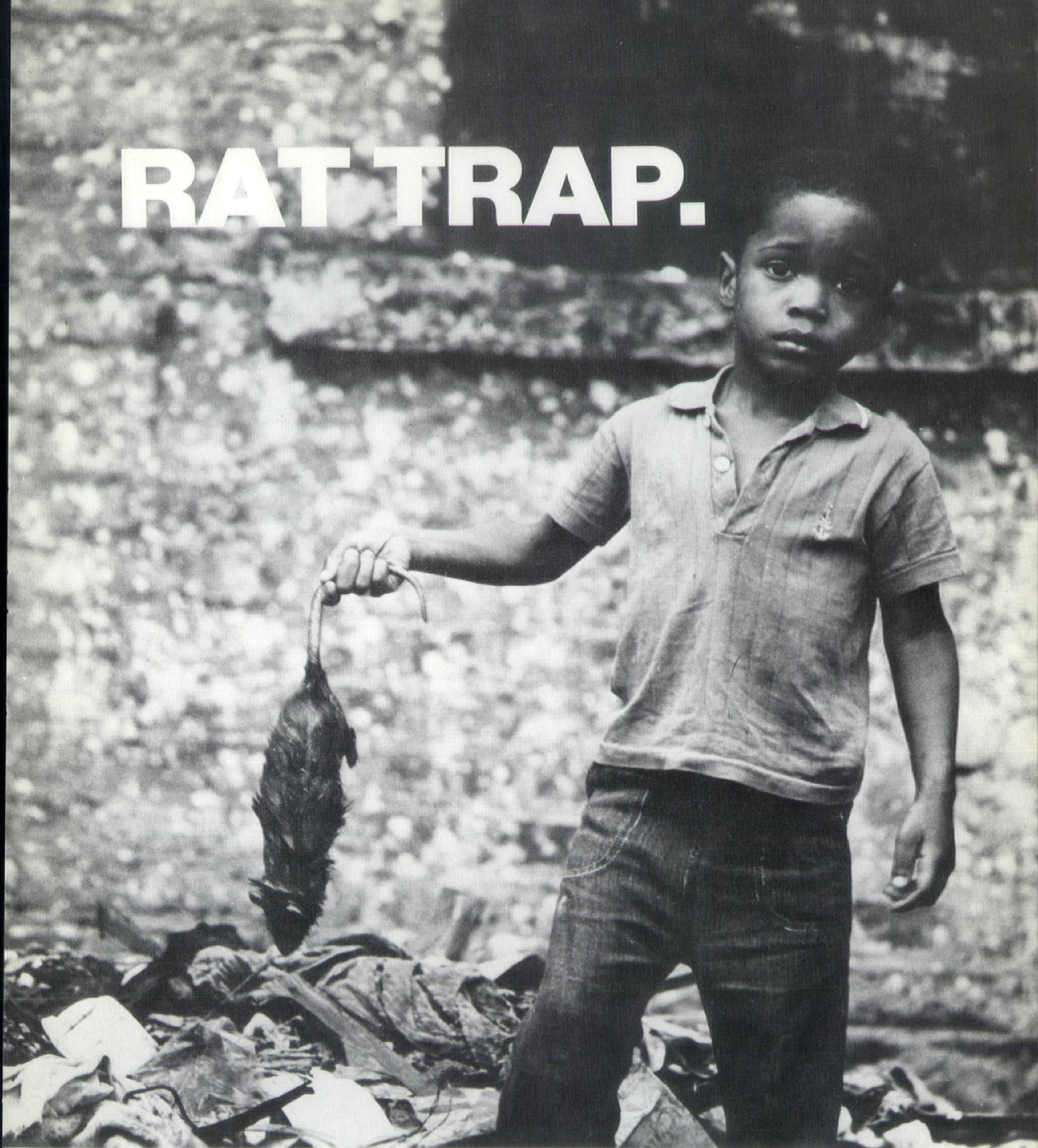
Mrs. Lucy Morrison
Office of Communications
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Center
Jackson, Miss.

To the Editors:

Everyone here is favorably impressed with the first issues of The Mississippi Architect and echoes my statement that we want to help in any way we can.

Nicholas D. Davis AIA
School of Architecture
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama

RAT TRAP.



When you have to live in one as a kid, you learn a lot. About killing. And about violence. Not that you ever get used to sleeping in the same room with rats.

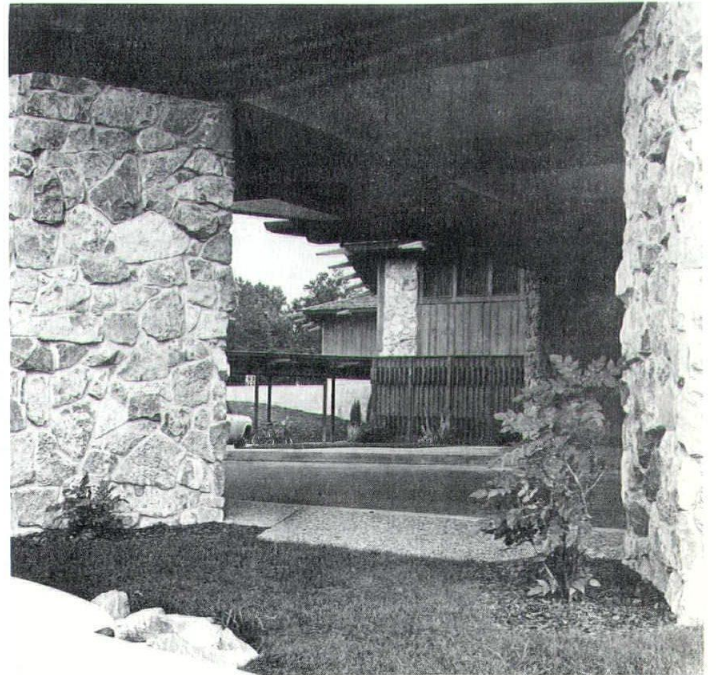
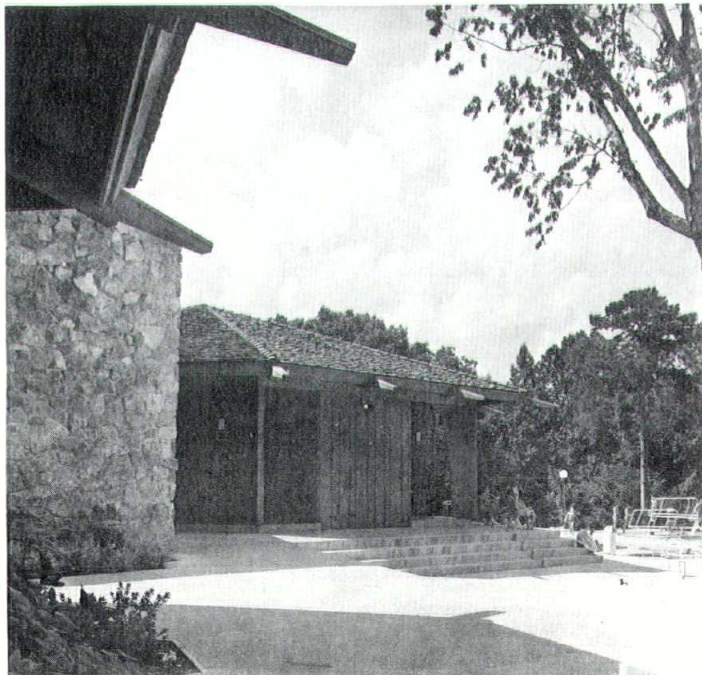
America, the beautiful. Our America. The crisis isn't in our cities; the crisis is in our hearts. With a change of heart, we can change the picture.

AIA/American Institute of Architects

Send this page to your Congressman and ask him to support decent housing for our poor.



DELTA DESIGN GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOEL WORKMAN



1971 MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER HONOR AWARDS.

Five Mississippi buildings and their designers were honored by the Mississippi chapter of the American Institute of Architects at the chapter's first annual convention Aug. 14 in Biloxi.

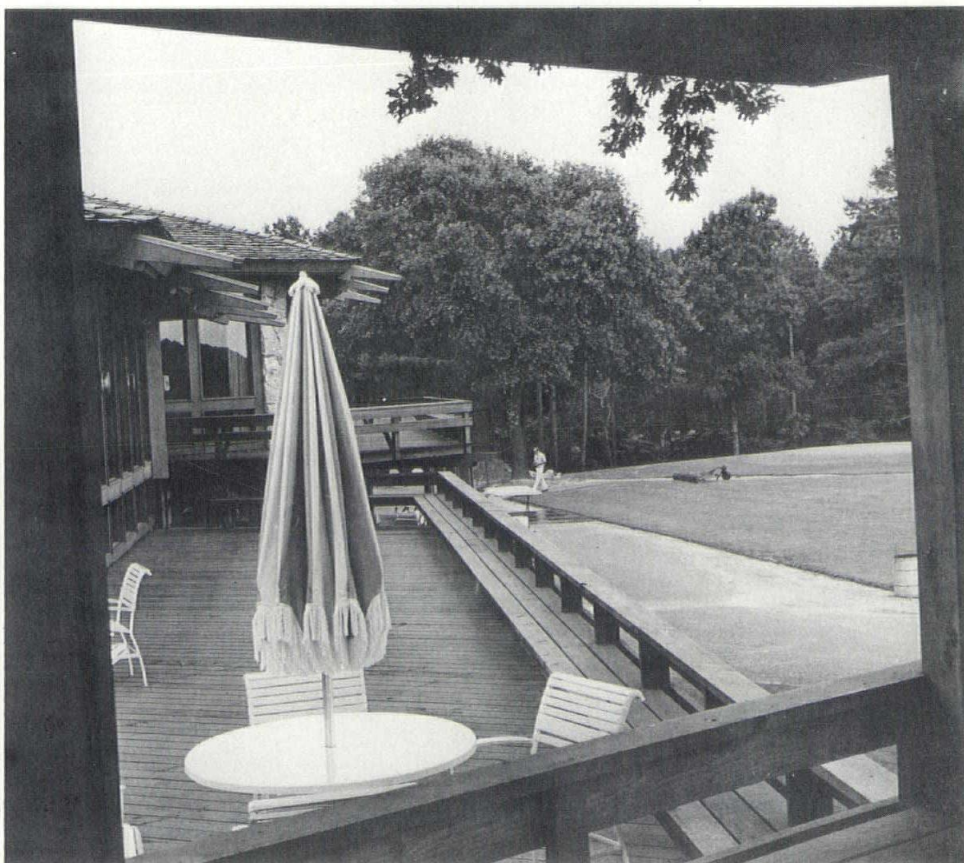
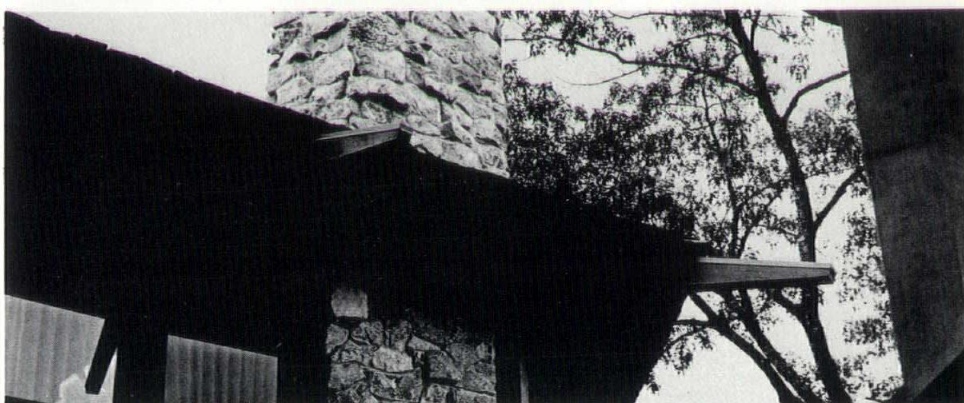
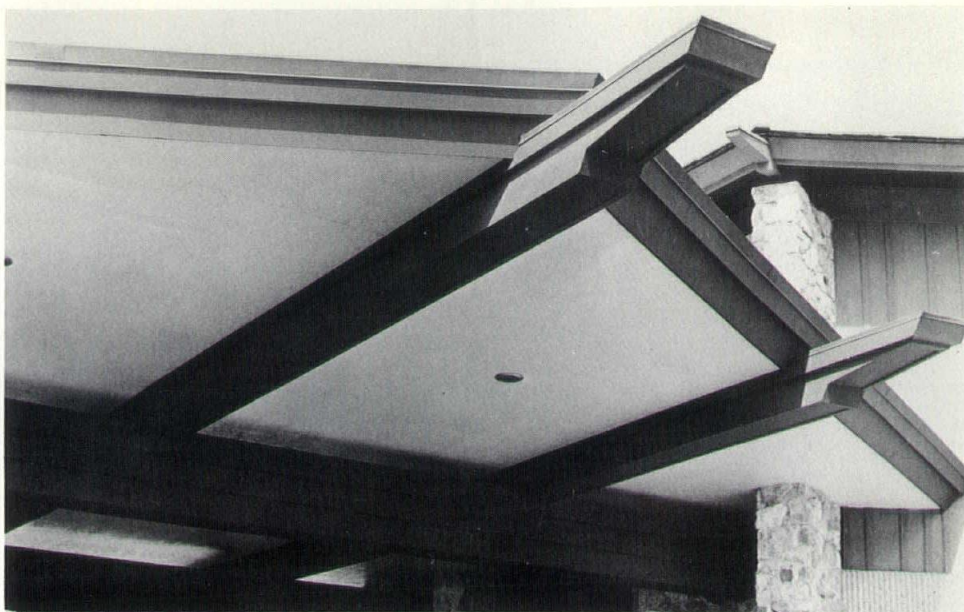
Receiving top honors from the chapter's honor awards committee was Jackson architect, John L. Turner, and his design of the Northwood Country Club in Meridian. The award was presented by Jackson architect, Charles Craig, chairman of the committee.

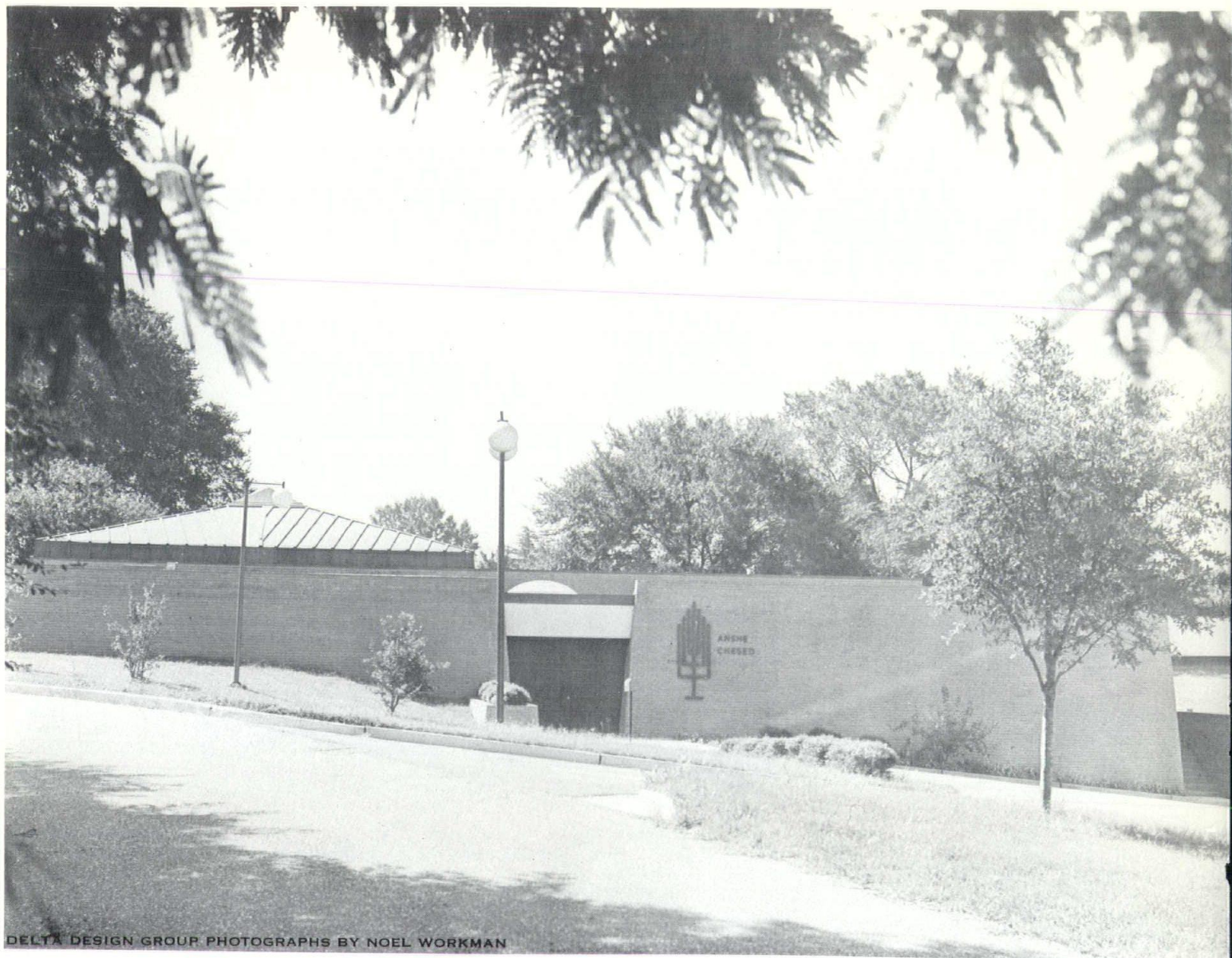
Receiving Design Awards were the Jackson firm of Godfrey, Bassett, Pitts, and Tuminello for its design of the Anshe Chesed Congregation Temple in Vicksburg and to the Jackson firm of Brumfield and Craig for their design of the Modern Dixie Building in Jackson.

The design jury also awarded Honorable Mention Awards to the Gulfport firm of Guild and Grace for its design of the Supply Operations Facility at Gulfport and to the Jackson firm of Perkins & Mattingly for its design for the Bailey & Bailey Office Park in Jackson.

NORTHWOOD COUNTRY CLUB
MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

JOHN L. TURNER
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI

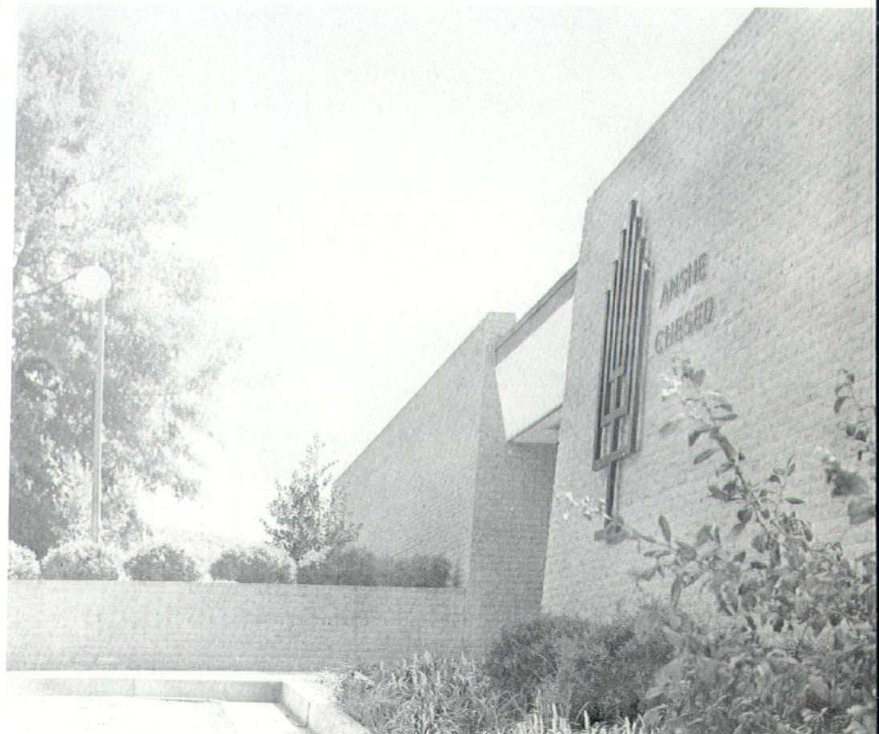


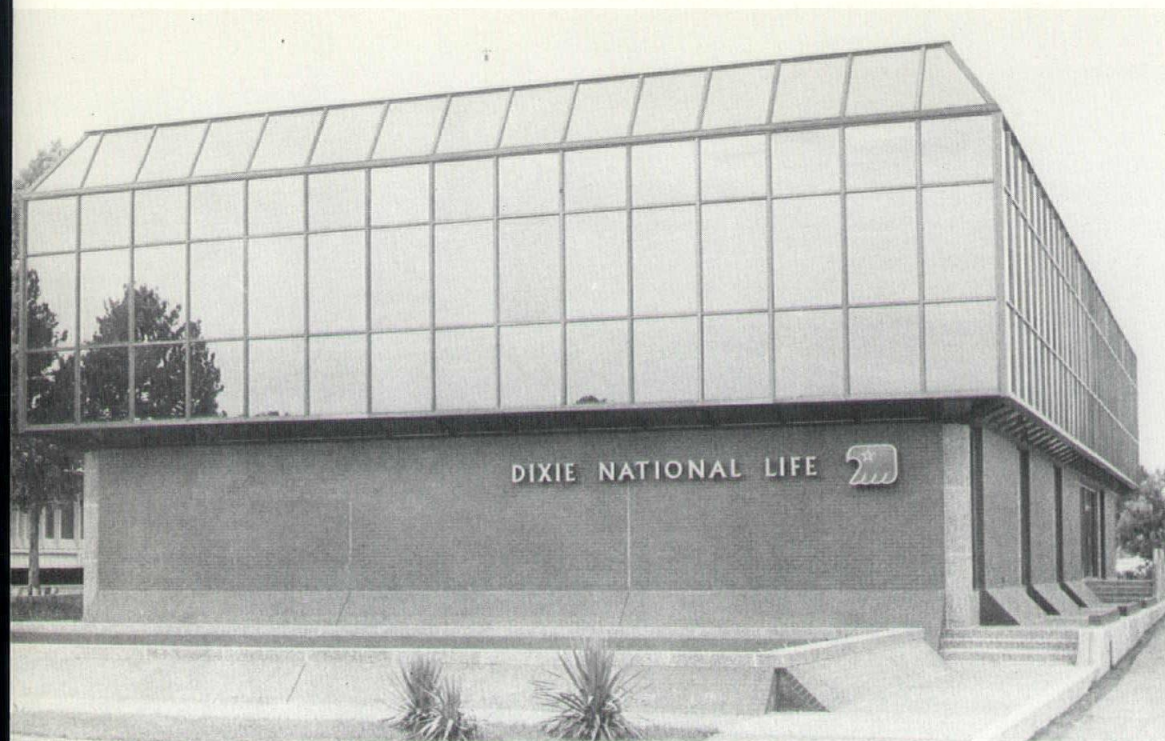


DELTA DESIGN GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOEL WORKMAN

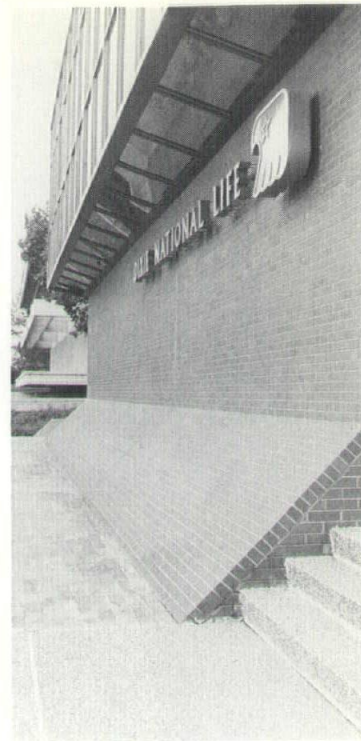
ANSHE CHESED CONGREGATION TEMPLE
VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI

GODFREY, BASSETT, PITTS & TUMINELLO
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI





DIXIE NATIONAL LIFE BUILDING
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
RUMFIELD & CRAIG
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI



BAILEY & BAILEY OFFICE PARK
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
PERKINS & MATTINGLY
JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI



PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOE WEILENMAN AIA



PHOTOGRAPH BY JOE WEILENMAN



Death and Taxes and the Need

or Tax Reform

by William Lampton Gill, A.I.A.

There are two inevitable facts of life which we are loathe to bring up except in prayer or profanity. We curse them loudly and pray about them a little. About taxes our praying and cursing are seldom directed toward improvements other than reductions. Reductions occupy our minds to the exclusion of constructive thoughts on the subject.

History has much to teach us on the subject. Most of the lessons of history are similar to the words of the man about to be hanged who said "This will be a lesson to me".

History is telling us now that our present system of property taxation is inadequate for the needs of our urban development. There are numerous inequities due largely to the impossibility of establishing a true value of the real estate itself and of the improvements or lack of improvements. Even a continuous re-appraisal could not consider all the

ramifications of true value.

Under the present system of taxation it is desirable to depress the value of a piece of property until, instead of value to the land, it poses a liability to the land. Ownership can thus be maintained at a very low tax cost. In truth, a property that is a liability to public health, fire and police protection and a general overload to municipal services consumes an inordinate share of the tax revenue.

We are now faced with making some far reaching decisions related to the future of our cities, all of which depend on a workable tax structure to produce sufficient revenue to finance necessary and desirable municipal services and to provide an equitable distribution of the tax burden. These two requirements are basic to the success of any political system and especially incumbent upon a democratic society.

We, the people, must establish the amount of municipal services we require for our domestic tranquility, economic security, health and the pursuit of happiness. Unfortunately, under our present system of imposing taxes, our requirements have become the tail that wags the dog.

We have permitted our city income (after collection costs and graft) to be distributed to the noisiest segment of our population regardless of where it was needed. A planned scheme of total municipal services with a careful cost estimate and a final public accounting could result in a much more efficient use of our tax dollars.

A further benefit of a total municipal service plan would be the ability of the cities to cope with their obligations that have no direct association to the ownership of a specific parcel of property. These are such problems as flood control, made necessary by the urbanization of water shed areas, fluctuating population densities with resulting demands on existing sewerage and water treatment systems, and municipal transit systems. These and many others could fit well into an overall municipal service plan.

There are many observers of the municipal scene who advocate starting all over by bulldozing the present cities. This would not solve the problem. It would simply bury it deeper into the vitals of the

organism that we call a city. Regardless of what we do, sooner or later we will have to face the fact that our present system of taxation has produced decay of the central city, urban sprawl, dirty fringes of depressed property and an impasse in the production of low income housing.

We are watching our tax revenue escape by business moving out of the city, by the tax dodge of the shopping center and the funneling of large amounts of our tax revenue into the pockets of the legal profession. Urban sprawl has destroyed our public transit systems and we are reaping a whirlwind of foul air produced by the inefficiency of private transportation systems.

Without a doubt, the most distressing product of our failure is the dirty fringes of our cities composed of a belt of tax strangled property used as a dumping ground for municipal refuse, garbage, junked autos, quasi-leecherous business and all the other manifestations of urban failure.

It is obvious that the appraised value (ad-valorem) is a self defeating basis for taxation. Value is a debatable issue. What is dear to one man is worthless to another. The courts have not only permitted, they have actively encouraged the adjudication of appraisals. This has become one of the most lucrative fields in the practice of law. The property owner who can afford to pay taxes can also afford to adjudicate the appraisal of his property.

Thus a sizable percentage of the municipal budget winds up in the pockets of the lawyers and the people who should be bearing the principal tax burden pay little or no taxes.

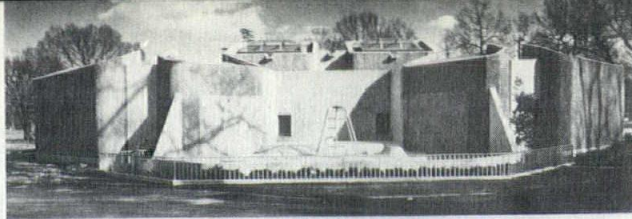
In view of these conditions, it seems reasonable to look for a tax base that is not a matter of opinion or dispute. There are many things about property that are undisputable. Such as area, which can be an exact measurement; the street frontage; and the employment of property (that is, how it is used). This usage of property should be considered in the same light as an insurance risk, that is the better the use the less the risk.

For example, in the case of the three acre lot with two hundred

Continued on Page 22



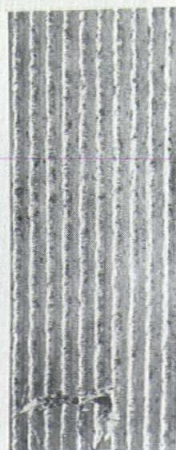
communicate, you and I



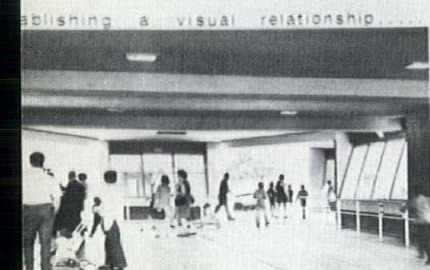
presentation of a setting...



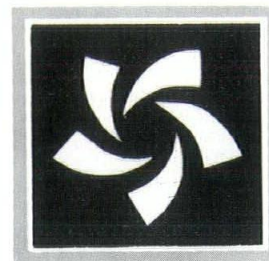
invitation to a show...



light on texture



establishing a visual relationship...

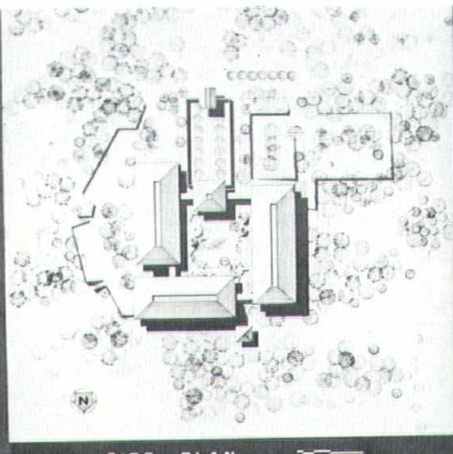
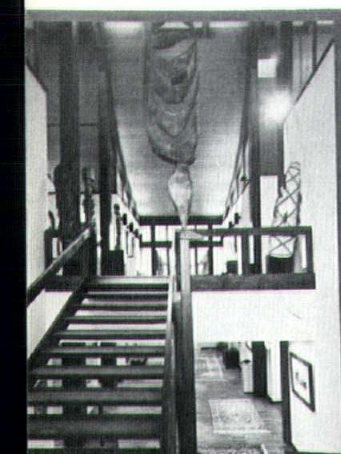


AIA GULF STATES 20th ANNUAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE

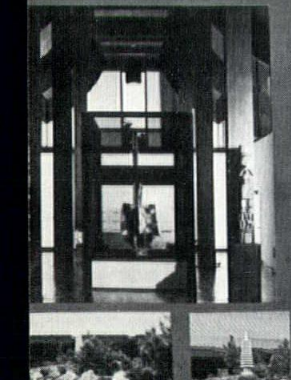
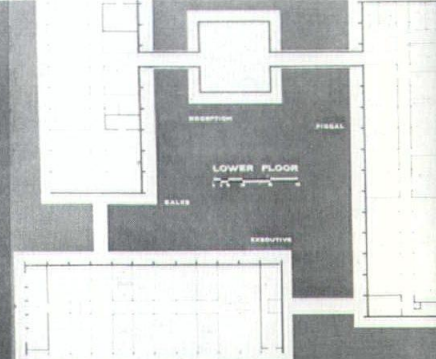
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GULF STATES PAPER CORPORATION
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ALEXANDER, ROTHSCHILD & JOYCE
IN ASSOCIATION WITH FINCH,
ALEXANDER, BARNES, ROTHSCHILD &
PASCHAL
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

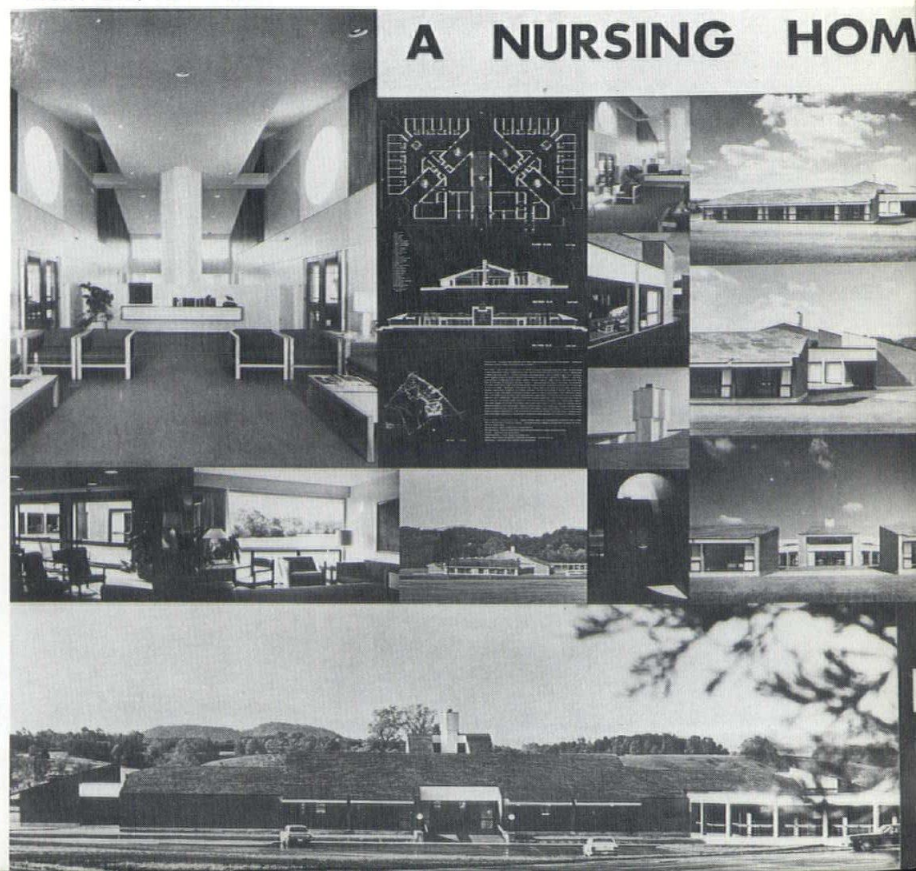
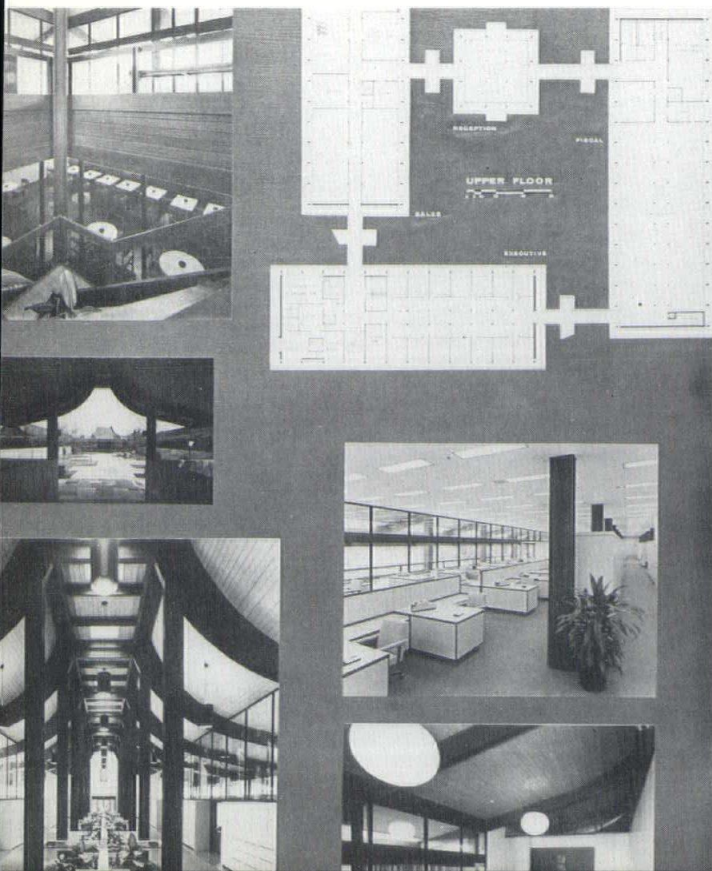
THE PRIMATE HOUSE
OVERTON PARK ZOO
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
DEAN E. HILL & ASSOCIATES
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE



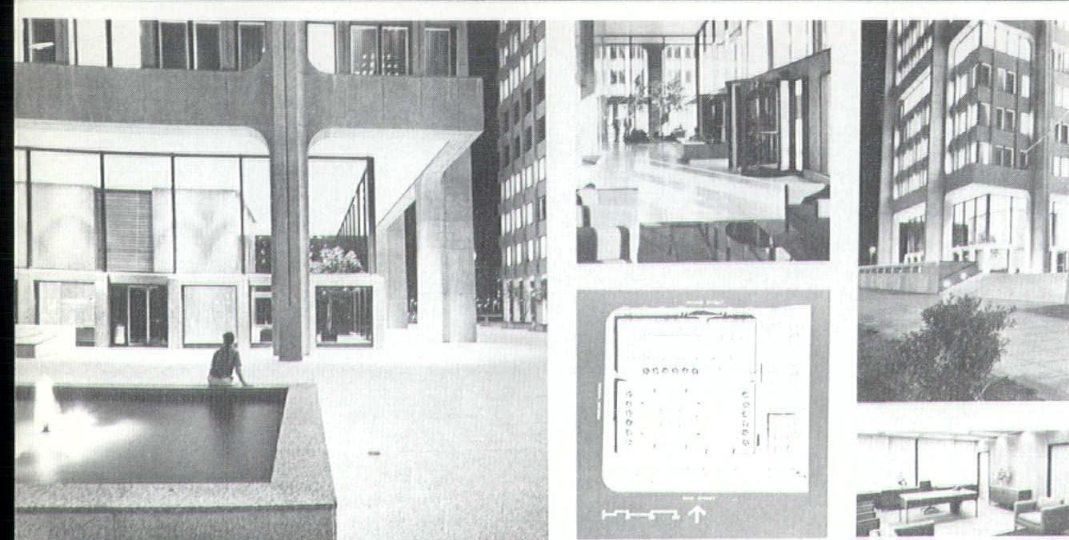
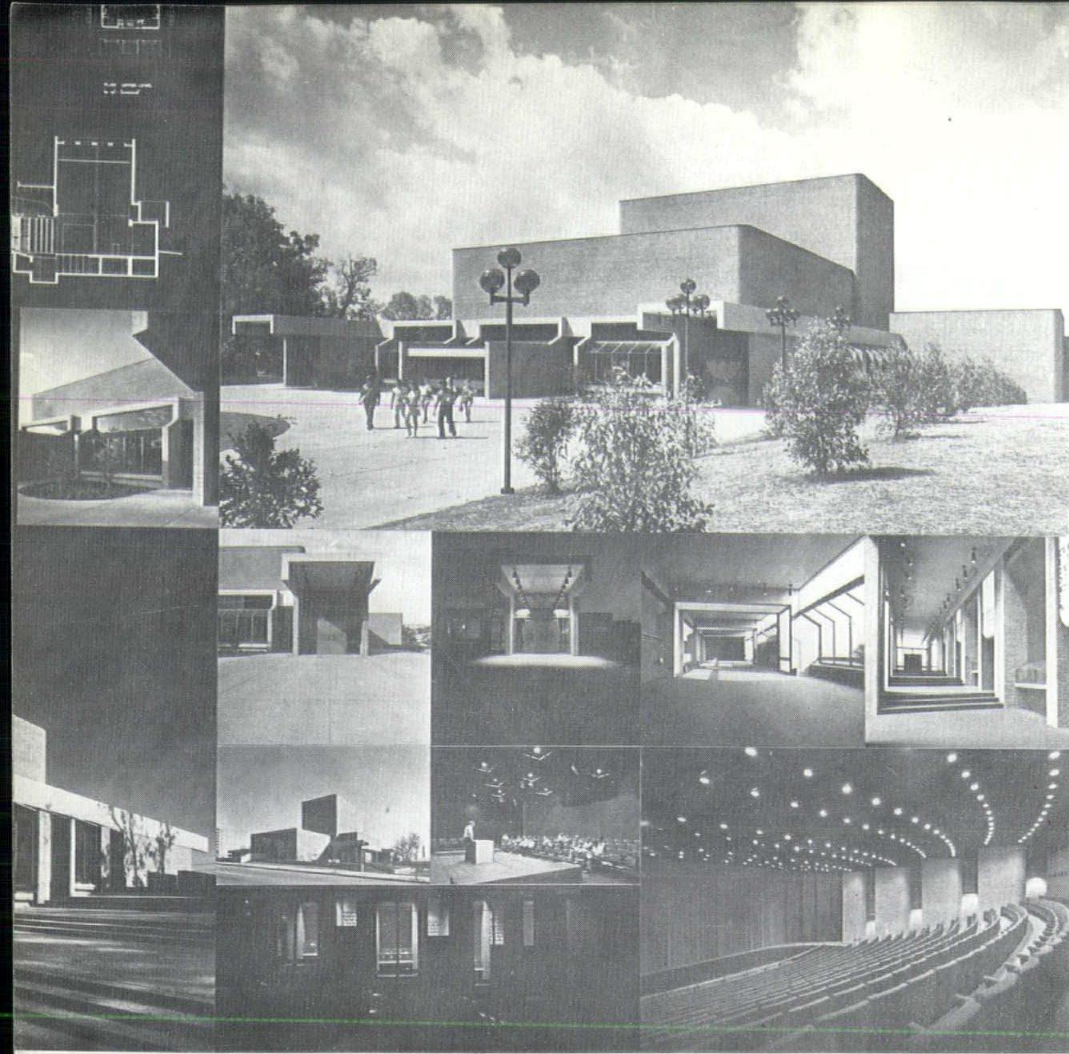
SITE PLAN



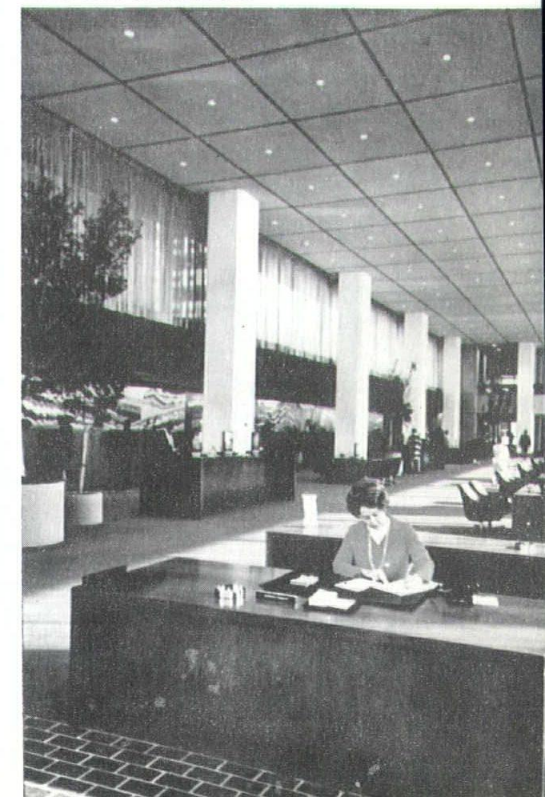
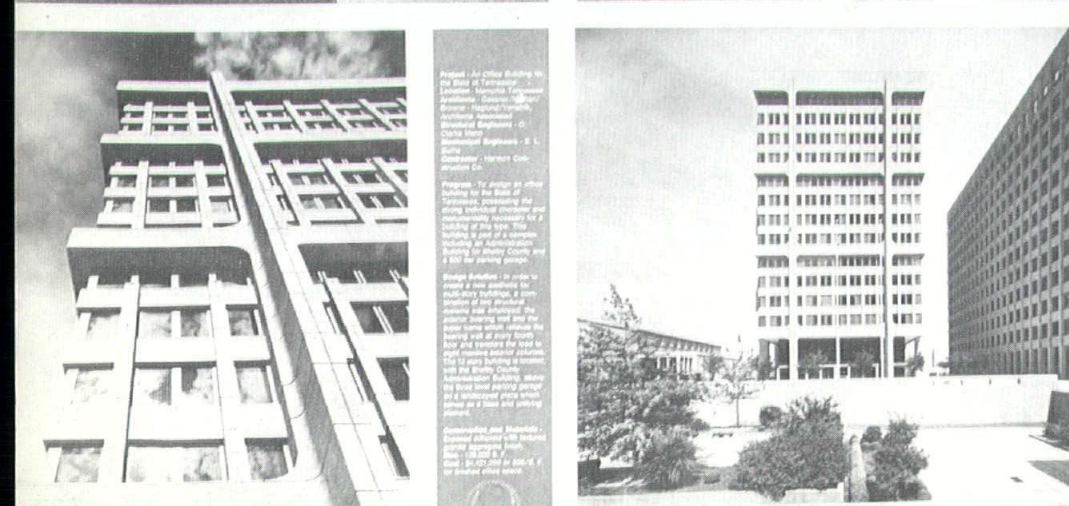
SEVIER COUNTY NURSING HOME
SEVIERVILLE, TENNESSEE
McCARTY, BULLOCK, CHURCH, HOLSAPLE
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

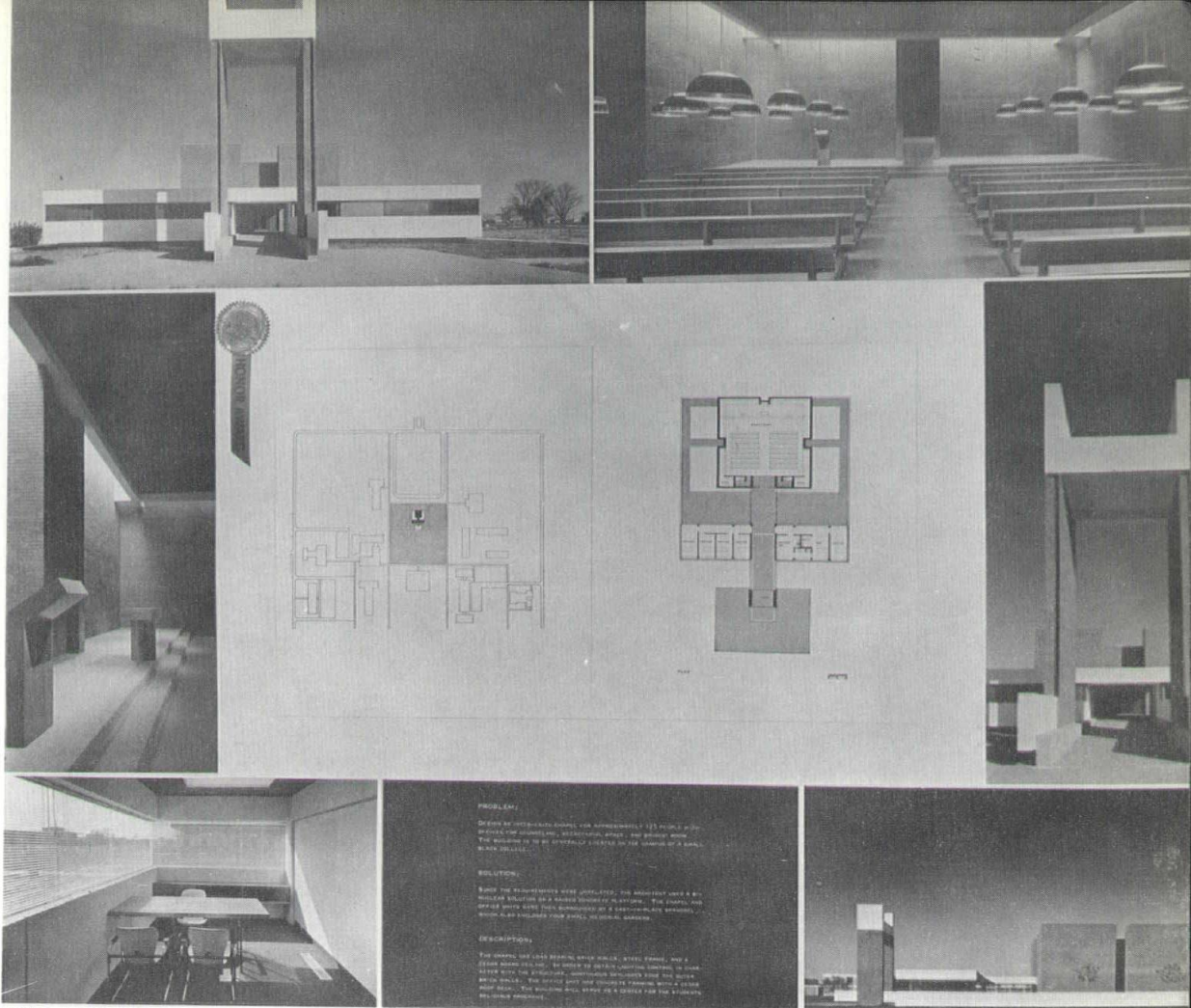


CLARENCE BROWN THEATRE
UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
McCARTY, BULLOCK, CHURCH, HOLSAPLE
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE



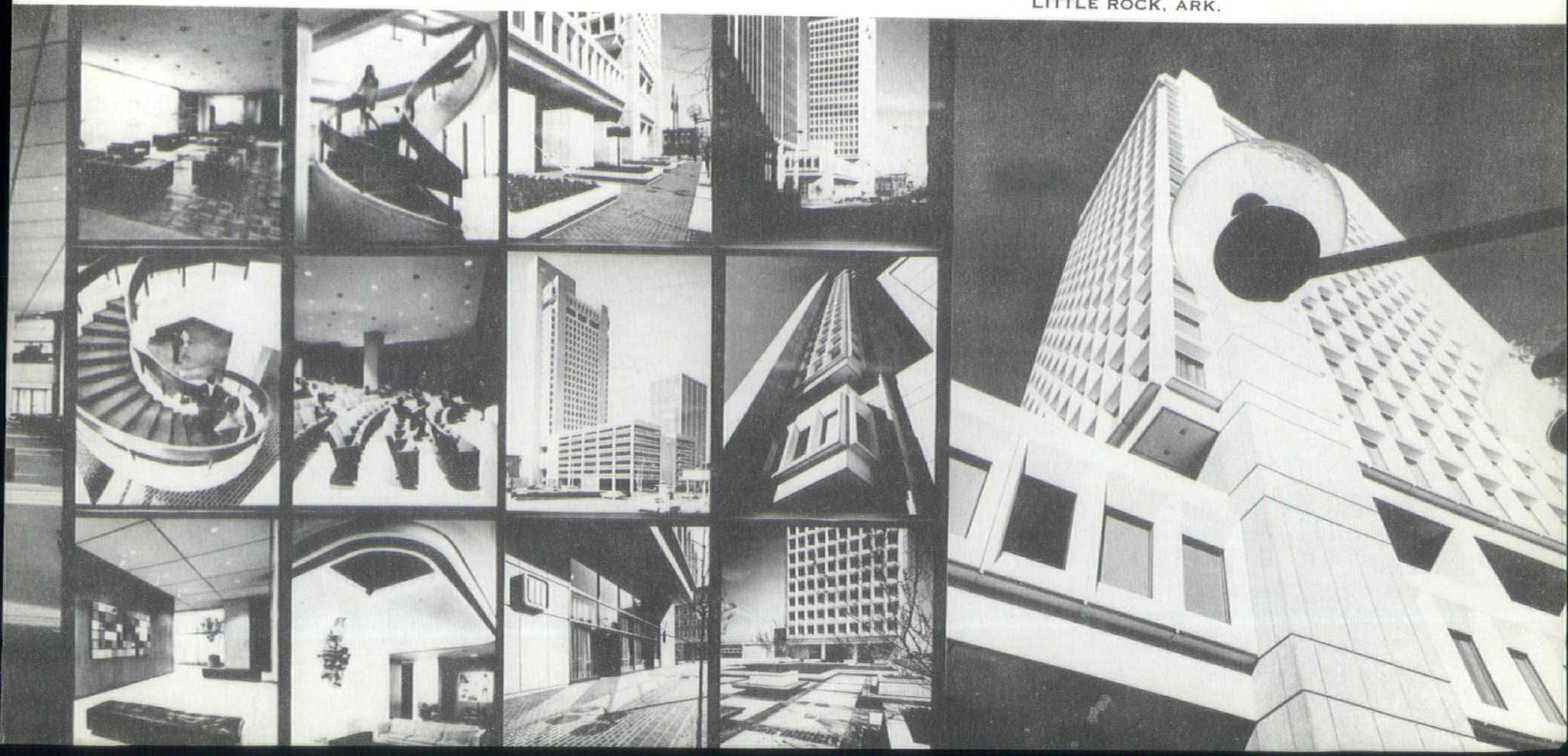
OFFICE BUILDING FOR THE
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MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
GASSNER/NATHAN/BROWNE
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GREENVILLE, MISSISSIPPI

WORTHEN BANK BUILDING
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
ERHART, EICHENBAUM, RAUCH & BLASS
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.



A Time for Faith, Hope... and Action!

by Max O. Urbahn FAIA

Mississippi participants in the recent annual conference of the Gulf States Region, AIA, in Hot Springs, Ark., heard a call to action from the president-elect of the American Institute of Architects. This article was excerpted from Mr. Urbahn's comments.

I find myself looking to the future with more faith than skepticism, more hope than fear, and with real confidence that we will find ways to work with all of our fellow citizens toward the restoration of those qualities of American life, in **all** their variety, that can provide a context for the pursuit of happiness **as well as** protection of life and liberty.

Human beings have needs other than physical, and that great nations have needs beyond the political and economic. While we work to provide for the physical needs for food and shelter, education and health care and recreation of all of our citizens: and while we work to restore political confidence and economic stability in our country: at the same time we must become ombudsmen for environmental **quality**. And we must **insist** upon the possibility of beauty as well as utility, of amenity as well as economy. We must help to put technology to work on the right problems, and we must help to identify those problems. As **we** all **know**, technology has a "how-to-do-it" capability; it cannot solve the problem of **what** to do.

It is time for us to recognize and accept our responsibility for exercising public leadership on all of the issues relating to the "designed"—that is to say, the man-made—environment. It is true that we do not have all the answers; but it is also true that, as the generalists of environmental design, we are better equipped by training, experience—and, perhaps, by instinct—to ask the right questions than are the politicians, or the economists, or the scientific specialists, or the technical specialists.

It is time for us to understand that environmental leadership is not a **privilege**, but a **responsibility**, and that, as architects and citizens, we are **ducking** if we do not assume it. Architects are by nature and by education and by working necessity self-critical. And, as professionals, we know what we know, and we know what we don't know. In our public communication, we therefore too often focus on our failings and on our self-doubts rather than on our capabilities and on our potential.

It is a kind of **mea culpa** complex; and it causes us to acknowledge responsibility for all kinds of things we have not, in fact, had the responsibility **for**, and at the same time to

evade responsibility we should, in fact, be assuming. Thus we may lament our "failure" to design cities that are both humane and truly urbane, when we have not, in truth, been designing cities at all. Political and economic and social processes over which we have neither exercised nor effectively **tried** to exercise any kind of control have been "designing" cities. And thus we may lament our "failure" to solve the housing problem, when, in truth, the role of architecture in the housing industry has always been both subordinate and suspect. And while we are accepting responsibility for a world we never made, we fail to communicate, to a public which desperately needs to know, the truth about how its physical environment happens. The physical environment in this country as of now **is** a "happening": it is a canard on design to call it "designed."

You may remember one of the more famous pronouncements of Frank Lloyd Wright (an architect who did know how to communicate). "Honest arrogance," he said, "is to be preferred to hypocritical humility." I think it is time for the architectural profession to abandon "hypocritical humility" for "honest arrogance." It is time for the architectural profession to lead the public debate on those great environmental issues on which it is qualified, or can qualify itself, to testify.

It is a time for action. And the American Institute of Architects, responding to the clear need for public leadership, has launched a major new effort to provide it. Early this year, we established a Task Force on National Policy and gave it the specific mission of making an intensive study of U.S. land use, settlement patterns, growth prospects and housing and community needs.

The task force is headed by Archibald Rogers of the Baltimore architectural firm of Rogers, Kostritsky, Taliaferro and Lamb, and its professional consultant is the noted sociologist-planner Paul Ylvisaker, at Princeton University and former director of the Bureau of Community Affairs of the State of New Jersey. Its members include AIA Executive Vice President William L. Slayton of New York; architects I. M. Pei of New York, Jaquelin Robertson, director of the New York City Planning Commis-

Continued on Page 23

Italian Sketchbook

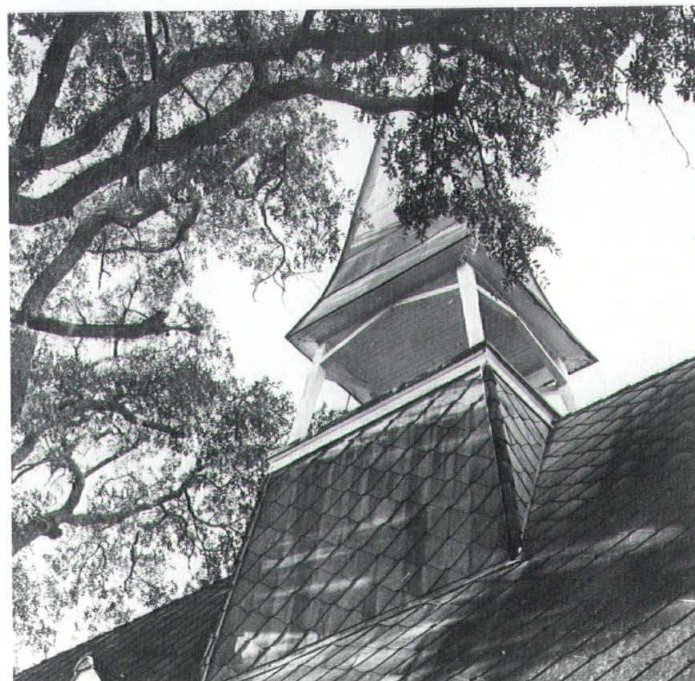
SKETCH BY WILLIAM L. GILL AIA



The charm and unique style of these buildings will soon be lost to the world. The wrecker's ball is slated to demolish these old houses and shops in Brussels, Belgium, to make room for new construction which is part of an urban renewal project. It is a tragic truth that often

fine old examples of a bygone architectural style must be sacrificed to the demands of modern living. Architects have the obligation, whenever possible, to preserve such buildings and to find new ways to utilize them to prevent their decay and loss.—Bill Gill

Wright and Sullivan on th

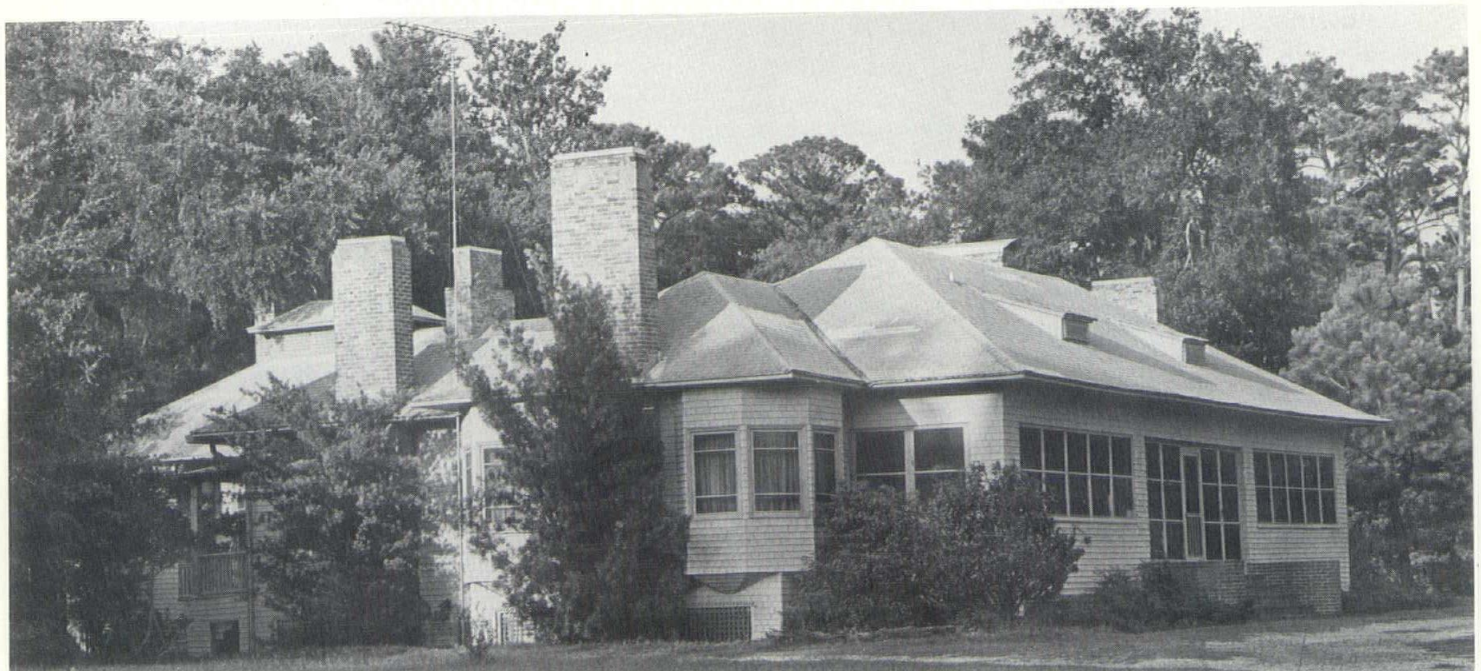
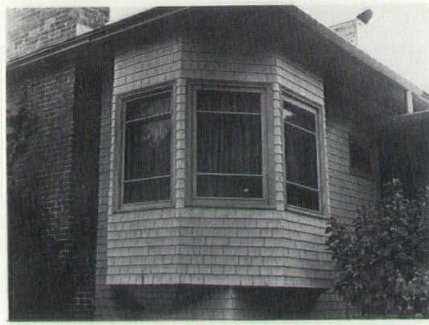


Tradition dies hard in Mississippi and the Ocean Springs tradition that architectural giants Frank Lloyd

Wright and Louis Sullivan participated in the design of several buildings is one which will probably

never be either legitimized . . . or discarded. Sullivan was a com-

e Mississippi Gulf Coast?



DELTA DESIGN GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS BY NOEL WORKMAN

municant of St. John's Episcopal Church . . . but did he design the church pictured on page 16? The

neighboring houses on the facing page are pointed to by Ocean Springs residents as works of Wright

and/or Sullivan. What's your opinion?

Mississippi Chapter News and Views



MISSISSIPPI CHAPTER PRESIDENT TERENCE O. YOUNG (RIGHT) PRESENTED H. F. FOUNTAIN WITH A PLAQUE AT THE CHAPTER'S FIRST ANNUAL MEETING FOR FOUNTAIN'S CONTRIBUTIONS AS 1970 CHAPTER PRESIDENT.

Biloxi architect H. F. Fountain received the 1971 Architects Award of the Mississippi Pine Manufacturers Association at that group's recent annual convention in Biloxi.

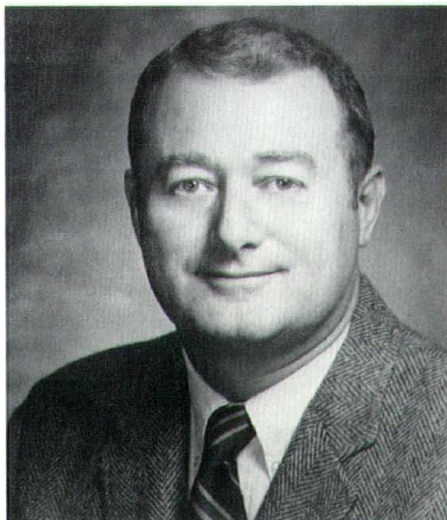
Fountain received the award for his design of a 4000 square foot house located on a bayou in Ocean Springs and featuring southern pine lumber. Presenting the award to him was MPMA president Vernon Hood.

Fountain described the winning design as "a residence constructed on an eight foot module with post and beam, laminated beams and three by six double tongue and groove deck for the second floor and roof. All ceilings and beams are exposed and are stained or natural finish. The house, at 1210 Iola Road, Davidson Hills, in Ocean Springs, has seven bedrooms, four baths, living room, dining room, kitchen-breakfast area, recreation room, laundry, sun deck, terrace and study.

"The lower room is masonry and the upper floor is Juniper "V" joint siding on stained pine studs," he said.

Fountain, a past president of the

Mississippi A Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, heads the Biloxi architectural firm of H. F. Fountain, Jr. & Associates.



Greenville architect Matt Virden III has been elected regional director of Gulf States region of the American Institute of Architects at the recent regional convention in Hot Springs, Ark.

Virden is president of Virden & Roberson, Ltd., of Greenville and

AIA Calendar

SEPTEMBER

2

AIA Regional Workshop on State Government Relations, Continuing Education, and Public Relations, Nashville, Tenn.

6-10

Tokyo Conference on Urban Transportation, Tokyo, Japan

23

Chapter Meeting, Mississippi AIA, Jackson, Miss.

OCTOBER

21

AIA Regional Workshop on State Government Relations, Continuing Education, and Public Relations, New Orleans, La.

NOVEMBER

Chapter Meeting and Elections, Mississippi AIA, Jackson, Miss.

29-30

Second Annual Architects/Engineers Conference on Federal Agency Construction Programs, St. Louis, Mo.

JANUARY

24-27

Eighth Annual AIA Architect-Researchers Conference, University of California at Los Angeles

also has an architectural office in Pine Bluff, Ark. He succeeds Arch Winter FAIA of Mobile, Ala., to the three year position. Virden will represent Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Alabama and Tennessee on the 18 member policy making board of the AIA.

He is a past president of the Mississippi Chapter and is currently serving on the national Housing committee of the National Housing Committee of the AIA. He is a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology and is married and the father of eight children.

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Building Investment Problems Impose Demands on Architects

Is the architect a professional man or a business man? He has to be both, says The American Institute of Architects. In today's marketplace, where buildings compete for the investment dollar along with scores of financial opportunities, you can't be one without being the other.

The time has long since passed, AIA notes, when architects were likely to be self-employed lone wolves without offices, staffs, or overhead. Many of today's architects are principals in, or employees of, architectural concerns that employ scores or hundreds of people and use computers and modern management techniques to estimate costs and explore alternative design decisions.

In addition, modern architects must make decisions and plans that can cost, or save, millions of dollars for their clients. Architects today have to be as sensitive about building economics as their clients. Meeting the client's budget is an im-

portant function of the architectural profession, and to do it, the architect must know about such things as taxes, depreciation, inflation, labor and materials costs, and bidding practices.

What all this means, says AIA, is that today's architect must be an expert business counselor to stay alive professionally. To help master the intricacies of office management and building economics, the AIA recently sponsored a pioneering research project from which have come two books—The Economics of Architectural Practice and a handbook, Profit Planning in Architectural Practice.

Both books, AIA declares, are designed to help architects add to their business knowledge, and, by so doing, to make them better professionals in architecture.

"He couldn't design a cathedral without it looking like the First Supernatural Bank!"—Eugene O'Neill (1926)

Uniquely-Styled House Not Suited To Everyone

Should everybody live in a home that has been individually designed by an architect? The American Institute of Architects says no.

For one thing, there simply aren't enough architects to give every American family a uniquely-designed home. For another, the housing needs of many families can best be met in other ways.

AIA points out that an architect will not necessarily be able to give you a bigger house with more space, or a house with better or more modern equipment. If space is your biggest requirement, you might consider buying an older home with numerous and big rooms. And mass home builders may be able to provide a maximum of space together with the most up-to-date kitchen and laundry equipment and heating-cooling systems.

However, if you want something extra in a home—an expression of yourself, a home that is individually



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designed to fit in one special place, or a home that will enhance your family's particular style of living and provide a setting of continuing pleasure—then an architect is your answer.

Value the architect for what he, and no one else, can give you, AIA says. Don't expect him to compete with mass builders on kitchen equipment, but do expect him to regard your need for a home as an individual, unique design problem, and to come up with a solution to the problem that will be yours alone.

Meantime, a hopeful blending of mass building methods and better design is taking place. Leading builders, anxious to meet increasing consumer demands, are retaining architects to help them design not only houses, but also play areas, community facilities, and the sites themselves for compact new villages and towns.

"A man that has a taste of music, painting, or architecture is like one that has another sense, when compared with such as have no relish of those arts."—Joseph Addison (1711)

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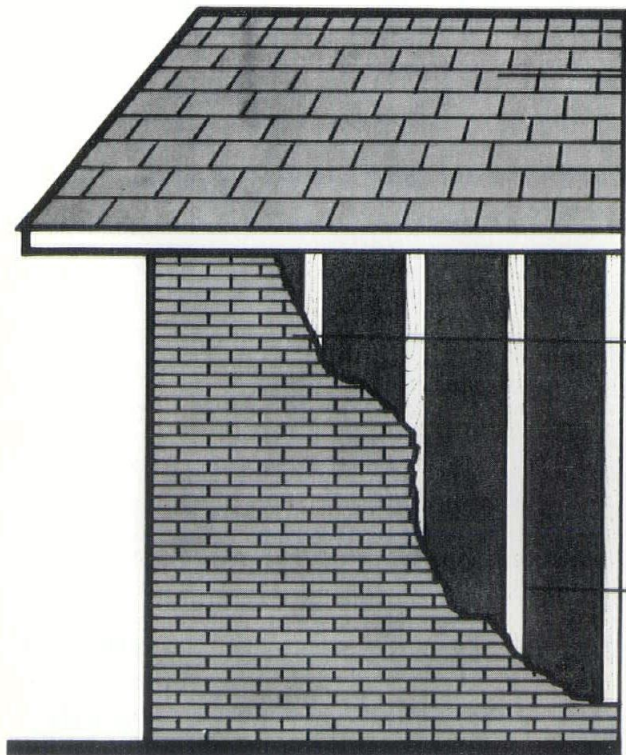
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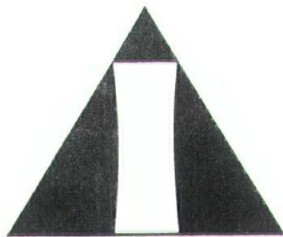
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Continued from Page 8

feet of street frontage, if the true cost of maintaining the street frontage were used as the basis of taxation, urban sprawl would soon be a thing of the past. If the true cost of fire protection were applied to the usual developer house we would soon eliminate many of the fly-by-night builders. We would no longer be tied to "minimum standards". Degenerate and unsightly slum property requiring inordinate amounts of police supervision, fire protection and health surveillance would no longer be profitable to own.

Over and above the usual property taxes, business could be taxed on the gross income, so there would be no advantage to moving out of the business district. Traffic generators could be taxed to support the public transit systems. Included as traffic generators are private automobiles, parking lots, drive-ins, and shopping centers.

In all probability taxes based on the physical facts of property and the use of land would not only produce an equitable distribution of the tax burden it would also encourage an optimum use of the land. The future is full of uncertainties, but one thing is certain. History will measure us not on the size of our cities or dimensions of our highways, but on how well we used our land. Diseased cities are not evidence of good land use.

In Mississippi we are in the enviable position of being able to do something about urban decay. The solution is not in catastrophic Federal money, Federal courts, more taxes or cursing the darkness.

The answer lies in lighting the candle of cooperation toward an honest search for solutions to the problems of the urban development of our land. If we attempt to maintain the status quo and keeping the old inequities of taxation and misuse our land at the expense of seeking wise corrective measures, we are doomed to travel the same road as our more densely populated neighbors. We can have great cities in the future but we must start now before it is too late.

"We look at the present through a rear-view mirror. We march backwards into the future."—Marshall McLuhan (1965)

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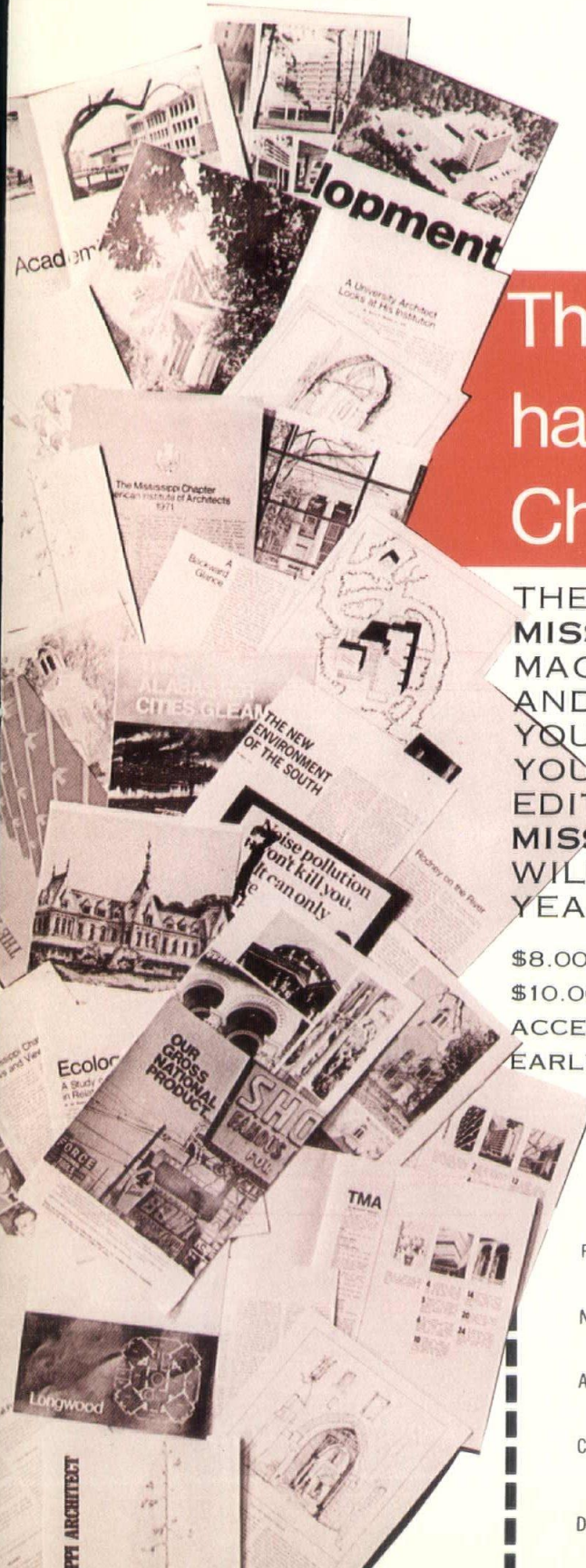
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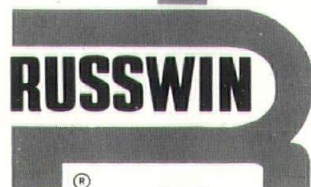
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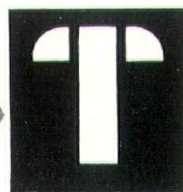


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