

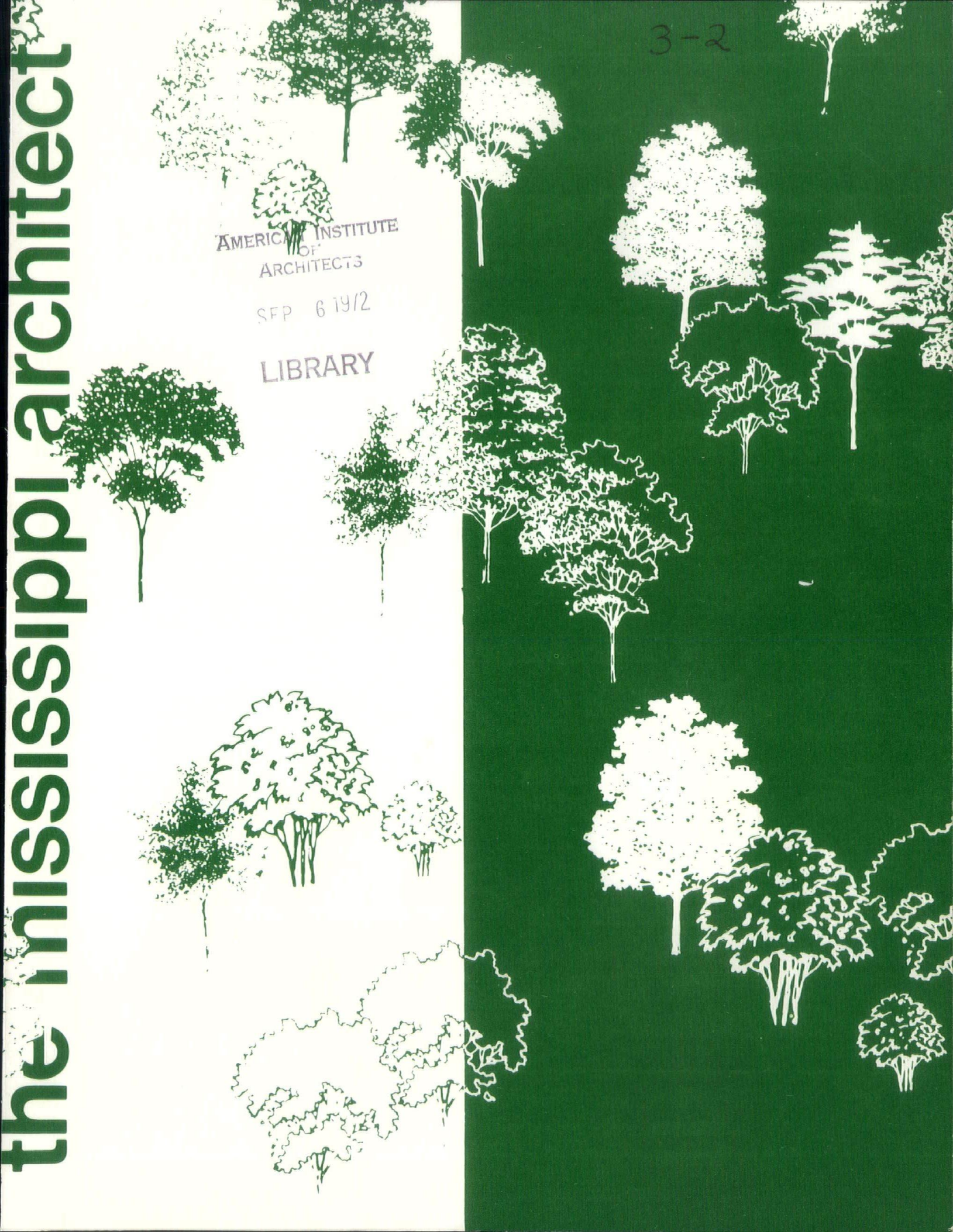
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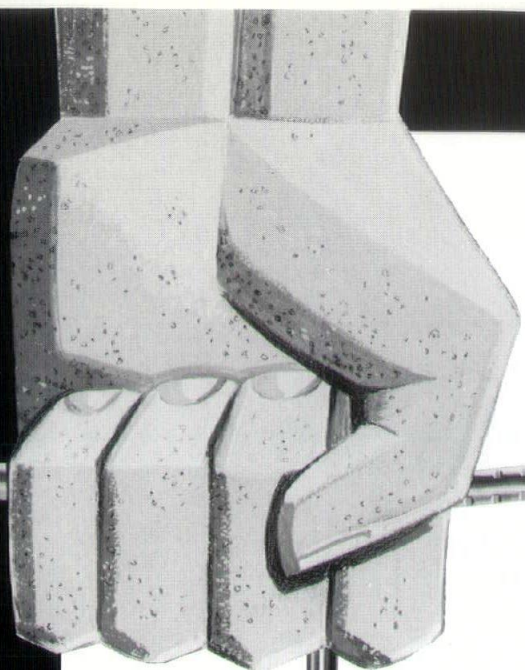
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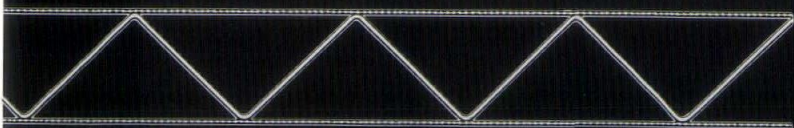
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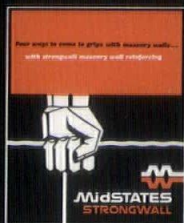
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Volume 3      Number 2  
The Second of 1972

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Bettye Batson

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Maury McGough

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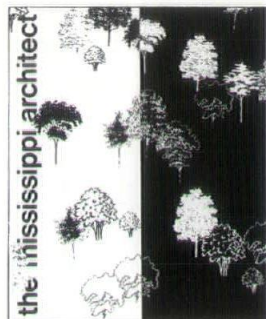
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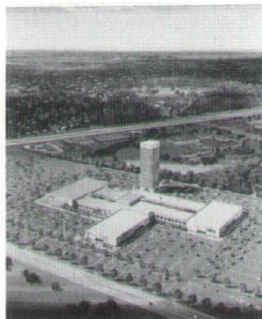
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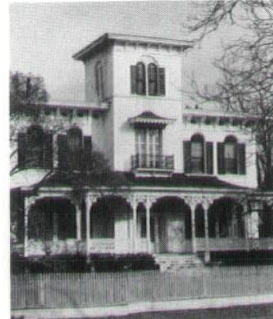
Art director Bettye Batson looks at the positive and negative aspects of parklands.



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The Mississippi Architect is the official publication of the Mississippi Chapter, American Institute of Architects and is published quarterly. Annual subscription rate is \$4.00; single copy \$1.00. Advertising rates and subscriptions available from Delta Design Group, Box 112, Greenville, Miss. 38701. Phone (601) 332-5141. Appearance of products or services in editorial or advertising copy does not constitute endorsement. Opinions expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the chapter.



# Perhaps Next Time

by Joe N. Weilenman

Much has been said and written regarding the changing role of the architect. Most deals with the nature of services, relation to other disciplines, computerization, and the like. These considerations are, of course, important and they affect some architects, sometimes, more or less.

One aspect of the changing role of the architect that is more fundamental, therefore more significant. It has to do with the architect as he sees himself in relation to society and his art.

Architecture through history has evolved from a "necessary art" related to man's basic shelter needs, to the jurisdiction of those privileged to physically shape empires in their own images, to the more recent technologic preoccupation which seemed to feel that "what we build will be best for our clients and the unenlightened can build as they see fit." If they don't want our expertise "to hell with them."

Our present position is much different, however, and has as its foundation the knowledge and experience of all the preceding evolutionary steps. We, as expressed by the national AIA in adopting the "National Growth Policy," realize our own concern and leadership responsibility for our physical environment, national and community development and in fact the life styles and conditions of all mankind.

We are involved in the Stockholm-UN Conference on the Environment and back home in Mississippi the state chapter AIA officially endorsed a citizens committee action aimed at preventing the destruction of a park, preventing a major revision of Jackson traffic patterns, and preventing an extreme neighborhood character change.

Perhaps next time the AIA will initiate the action and a citizens committee will endorse us.

## Letters to the Editor

To the editor:

I left in Washington at the National Trust for Historic Preservation a copy of your magazine containing the article by Mrs. Lackner on Overton Park.

I quote from a reply: "I am most impressed with The Mississippi Architect and with its very able articles on Overton Park, Belmont and the restored Governor's house. Tennessee will have to regroup its forces if it is to keep up with one of its sister states."

If I keep showing your magazine when I talk of the citation and award which Helen Hayes gave to Citizens to Preserve Overton Park, you will soon run out of copies. Publicity was sent by the National Trust to the Commercial Appeal, TV stations and the Press Scimitar. The Press put it on the back page with the death notices. I wrote that wonderful and able actress, Miss Hayes, that at least we were among the dead. Wash-

ington papers gave it almost a full page.

Thank you for Mrs. Lackner's good article.

Mary Evelyn Deupree  
1730 Glenwood Place  
Memphis, Tennessee

To the Editors:

The issue of "The Mississippi Architect" containing Martha Lackner's article on the proposed interstate highway through Overton Park is of much interest in Memphis and is very timely for Mississippi. I recently sent a copy of this issue to a very dear friend in Mississippi emphasizing the need for architects to be in on the decision-making process of locating the new roads for Mississippi so that they will not be disruptive to valuable areas of the state.

Mississippi will be very fortunate if it can devise an urban concept team to work with the highway department if the roads are intended to penetrate the cities,

where humanistic values are considered as well as statistical values.

Mrs. John C. Hines  
1396 Carr Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee

To the Editor:

Your most recent issue of The Mississippi Architect was very good and I am proud of you for telling the Memphis Overton Park story like it was. Surely this will be an encouragement to all like minded people to be on guard against such bulldozer tactics in the future.

Just plain ordinary citizens have been knocked around and overlooked for so long that they have almost lost their will or ability to fight back against the government agencies that completely overpower them.

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# Citizens' Action Forces Sear

by Elsie May Chambers

"At the present time I would have to say that Sears has no plans for expansion in Jackson, Miss.," Dave Rozier, manager of Sears Roebuck and Co., said recently. "We are just going to stay here at 300 North State Street, and that's it."

On the surface that statement would appear to indicate a victory for the Citizens for Saving Public Lands, a rather small group of serious-minded residents of Jackson intensely interested in preserving the environment and ecology of the Jackson area.

But it may not be that simple.

Mr. Rozier's statement had reference to a \$30 million proposed regional shopping center which Sears wanted to build on a plot of city-owned land at Interstate 55 and Lakeland Drive which in-

cludes a recreational area of about 75 acres known as Riverside Park. The development would have included a multi-story office building and a Sears Class A store similar to its New Orleans and Memphis stores), numerous other shops and businesses, and parking for about 6,500 vehicles.

Earl Keyes, an attorney for Sears, explains that the economy of Jackson would have received a tremendous boost from the project and adds that the transaction once made would have generated some \$500,000, maybe \$800,000, in ad valorem taxes almost immediately for the city which always needs money. Keyes says it was estimated, also, that the sales and excise taxes from this huge project would have produced \$2½ million annually.

And Mr. Keyes adds, "Sears is

a good citizen of Jackson and Mississippi, a proven citizen. They buy \$318 million worth of Mississippi products. They put much more money in the state than they get out of it."

Sears came to Jackson in 1934 in the midst of the Great Depression. At that time everybody wanted to be on Capitol Street, and Sears obtained a location next to Deposit Guaranty Bank and Trust where more recently the H. L. Green store was located. Sears stayed there until the late 1940s when the Jackson store became one of the first Sears stores to move outside the perimeter of a city's downtown area. That was the move to the present North State Street location.

Now the shopping habits of the population have changed, and Sears finds it necessary to go to the big shopping center type of development. Three years ago Sears brought its own research team to Jackson to look for a new location. They settled on the Riverside Park area. Then Sears brought in an independent team to hunt a suitable location. Without knowing what the Sears researchers had chosen, the independent team settled on Riverside Park. Sears is convinced that is the only place suitable for their expansion plans.

Perhaps no one would admit it now, but it is possible that the Sears organization was a little slow in planning for its future development. The City of Jackson was growing in all directions, particularly toward the north. It appeared that everybody wanted to get in the vicinity of Interstate 55, and by the time Sears decided to make the move, most of the land in a plot as large as they needed was gone. Riverside Park lands was about all that was left.

The City of Jackson had purchased the Riverside Park acreage along with some other lands the state owned many years ago in





# to Reconsider Plan

1943. The land was a part of the grounds of the old Mississippi Insane Asylum and farm located in the city before the hospital was moved to Whitfield in Rankin County.

Up until now the acreage sold off this tract of state land has gone to public institutions like the Mississippi Medical Center, Murrah High School, the Veterans Administration Hospital and St. Dominic Hospital and the American Red Cross. No appreciable protest was ever made on these dispositions.

But Sears was strictly business, strictly commercial, and thereby hangs the difference.

Back in the 1940s the Junior Auxiliary (now the Junior League of Jackson) had to have a civic project. The organization of young ladies decided, working with the city, to promote and insure a park

for all time for Northeast Jackson on some of the state-owned land in the area.

The Mississippi legislature of that time was not inclined to give away any land or let it go easily, and it required considerable persuasion to accomplish the sale to the city. It was only accomplished because at the insistence of the Junior Auxiliary, who was assisted by Attorney Henry M. Kendall, and some legislators a reverter clause with written into the deed which stated that if the land later to become Riverside Park was ever used for anything besides park and recreational purposes, it was to revert to the state.

The Jackson City Council composed of Mayor Russell Davis and Commissioners Ed Cates and Tom Kelly were willing to sell the park

At its June 9 meeting, the board of directors of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Institute of Architects resolved to support the "Citizens to Save Public Land" and their efforts, and particularly their efforts to prevent the sale of Riverside Park at I-55 and Lakeland Drive for commercial development.

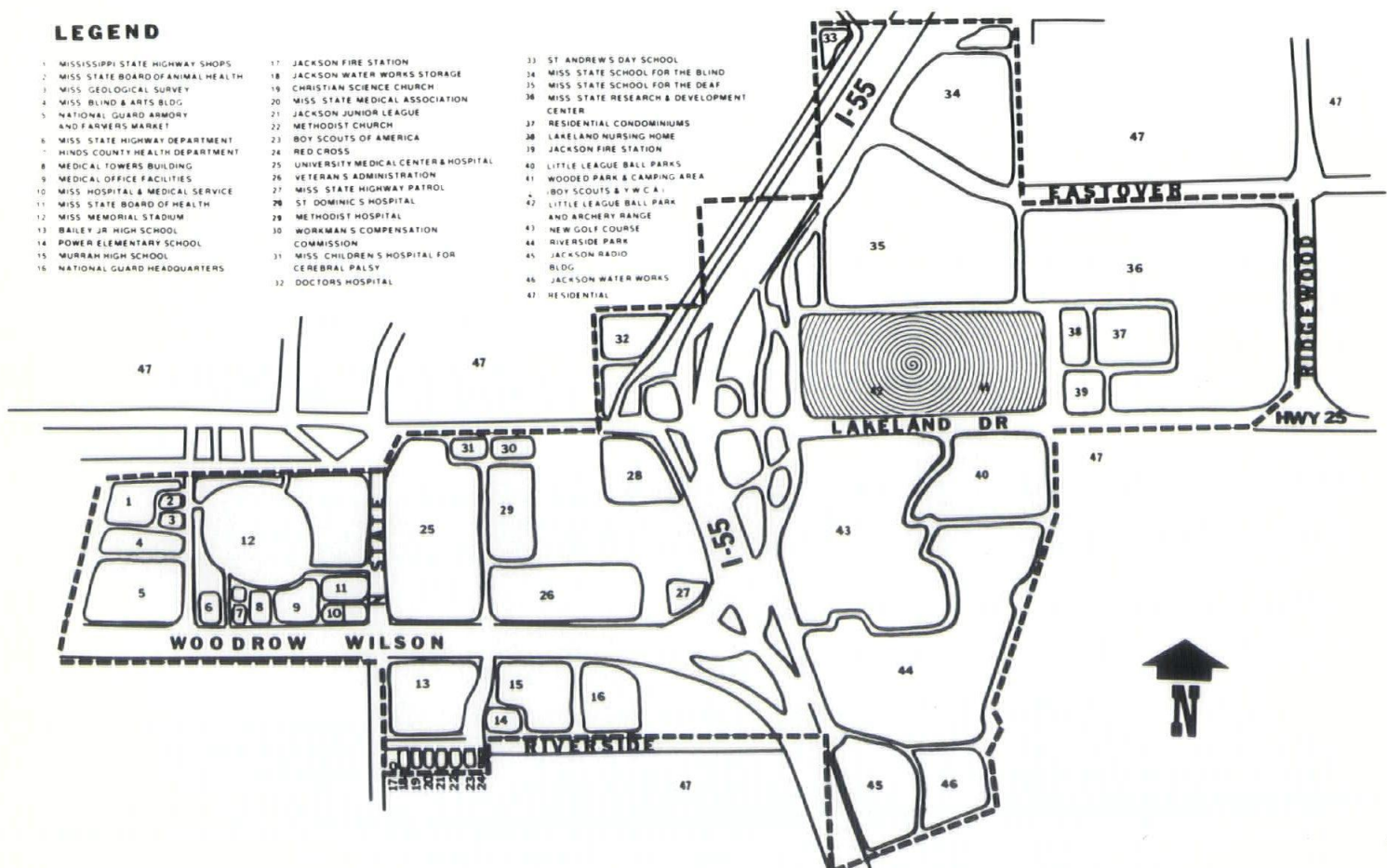
site. They said other sites could be obtained and developed as parks, and there was a lot of support for the huge project.

Morris Williams, a Jackson realtor, discounted possible traffic problems. Without traffic, he declared, Jackson would be "a cemetery with street lights." He called the Sears center "a progressive movement . . . one link in the chain of progress in Jackson." Richard McRae, president of McRae's Department Stores, said he was excited about it. "I think it is great for a big piece of property to get on the tax rolls," he said. Henry Bodet, president of the Citizens National Bank, said "this is a

Continued on Page 18

## LEGEND

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# 19th CENTURY REVISITED BY

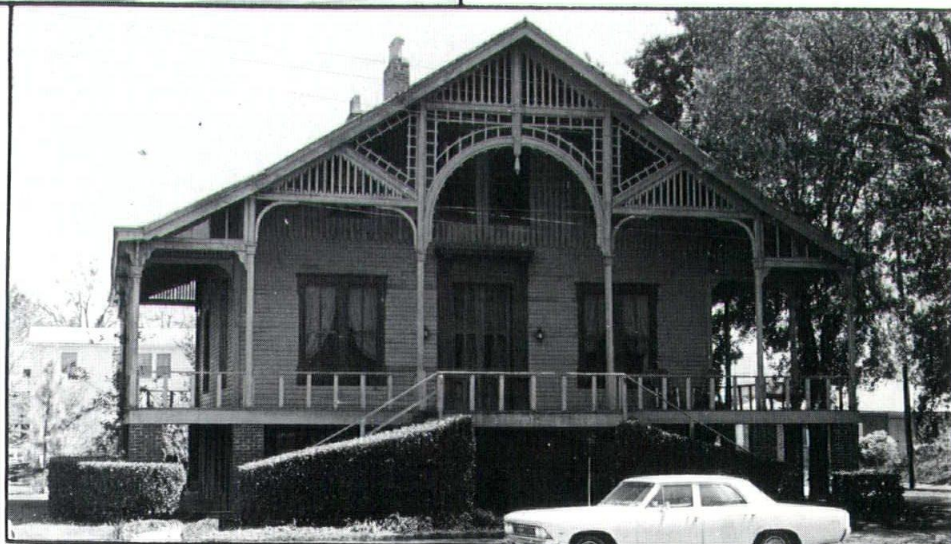
*Members of the Natchez Architectural Pilgrimage arrive at one of the antebellum homes.*



More than 90 architects and their wives participated in the Mississippi chapter's Natchez Pilgrimage for Architects. The two-day event was sponsored by the Mississippi chapter and drew participants from this state, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Alabama.

New Orleans architect Samuel Wilson served as tour guide for the group. Wilson has long been a student of Natchez antebellum

*Freestanding circular hall stair at Auburn, one of the 12 antebellum structures toured April 8 and 9 by more than 90 architects and their wives.*



*The Natchez Victorian home of an old river boat captain (circa 1870).*



# 20th CENTURY ARCHITECTS



architecture.

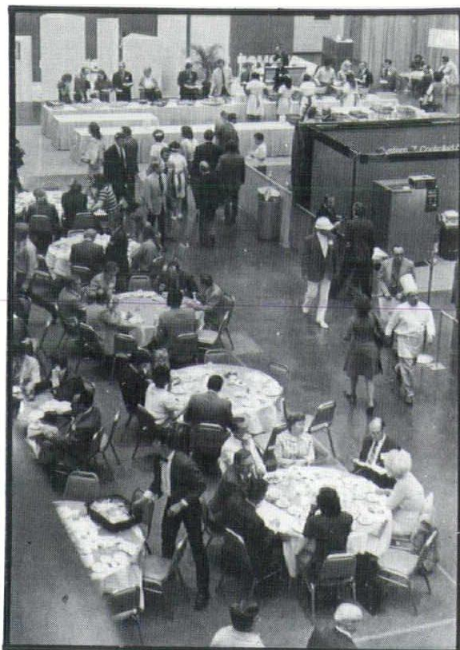
The architects' group toured Cherokee, Connelly's Tavern, the First Presbyterian Church, Christ Episcopal Church, Holly Hedges, Rosalie, d'Evereaux, Linden, Melrose, Auburn, Gloucester, and Longwood.

According to Mississippi chapter president Watts Clark of Jackson, a similar tour is planned for next spring.



*Architects from Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee and Alabama are briefed by "tour guide" Samuel Wilson AIA of New Orleans.*





As conventions go, the 1972 convention was a good one. It was well organized and operated smoothly in spite of a wet and rainy start. It does pay to have a good convention center and Houston has that. The exhibition spaces are generous and meeting spaces are available to cover everything from the meeting of a couple of friends to a few thousand people.

The official acts of the convention are now a matter of history and will be rehashed until the next convention—so I won't go over them, but will attempt to give some impressions of the city of Houston and that part of the convention not considered *Official Acts*.



# IMPRESSIONS OF HOUSTON

by William Lampton Gill, A.I.A.

The Houston airport reminds one on the old Irish expression—"Look what money can do." As I was standing in rapt awe of the terminals (one of several), the traffic representative said that he wished the architect had his arthritis rubbed in this drafty air conditioning from now on. Oh well, they had problems with the pyramids too.

Airports in general (and this one in particular) are built beyond the limits of urban development. They start with a good setting from which one must penetrate the monuments to our failures in land use planning to get to the city. The route always runs the gauntlet of a cacophony of signs with frightening overtones of a Tower of Babel and through the junk of planned obsolescence. Arrival in any American city is a depressing event, especially when it is raining.

Sunday morning the convention was pinned down in a downpour. With sightseeing out of the question, we went to church. I later found out it was the oldest church in Houston (1871). Perhaps that's the reason it showed little of the changes brought about by Vatican II.

Sunday night the Dodge/Sweets party. This is always quite an event. Tradition has it that even the weather is provided for the occasion. It stopped raining just in time. The place (Busch Gardens) is a really beautiful setting for a brewery. Every thing from polar bears to tigers, all very cooperative, even the polar bears seemed to have a rousing time. This party is a tradition of the convention and McGraw-Hill, through its Information Services Division, contributes a good start.

Sunday afternoon the convention was officially opened by Rabbi Dr. Hyman Judah Schactel of the Congregation Beth Israel. He made a beautiful prayer which I

hope will be published in the Journal. AIA President Max Urbahn introduced Dr. Rene' Dubos, the keynote speaker. He spoke of Dr. Dubos as one of the group which advocates creative stewardship of the earth. The work of Dr. Dubos in the field of microbiology, genetics and pathology has made an immeasurable contribution to man's understanding of himself. In 1969 his book "So Human an Animal" received the Pulitzer prize.

Dr. Dubos expressed concern over the ecological preoccupation with the problems of pollution and the harmful by-products of technology. He did not minimize these considerations, but said that unless we become concerned with and cultivate positive environmental values, we shall reap a dull and spiritless world.

He spoke of the cradle of the human race and placed it somewhere on the planes of East Africa about a hundred thousand years ago. Here he said man experienced the limitless sky and horizon of the savannah, but at the same time he also had the protection of a cave or rude shelter against those things that rain down from the cosmos. These dual experiences have remained with man since that time.

The Sumarians created the first urban civilization for which there are extensive records. They studied the movements of heavenly bodies from the summits of their temples and built houses with atriums for privacy.

Both of these are retained by modern man as genetic requirements. Dr. Dubos said that modern man both biologically and psychologically needs open horizons and enclosed shelters. If deprived of either of them, he imagines fanciful walls as substitutes for reality. Ancient man lived in an uncluttered environment. He located his buildings to maintain



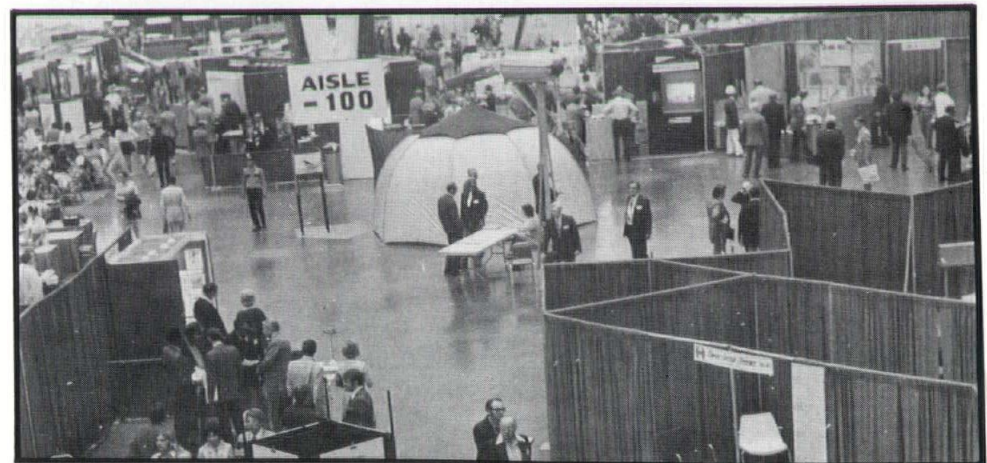
visual contact with his natural surroundings and to deal with the cosmos as a whole. He said that one of the supreme achievements of the past was the skill with which ancient men placed their monuments. If you have ever driven up to Stonehenge or across the planes of France toward Chartres you are aware of this phenomenon of the past.

Dr. Dubos said that ancient men worked with in the constraints of climate, topography, tradition and with the limits of local resources. Thus their cities fit their needs. There was truly great diversity in these cities due to the imposition of local solutions on the requirements of man.

Modern technology has freed the designer of the limits of local conditions and at the same time has made him a victim of constraints of style producing a uniformity of plan and detail degenerating often to the level of banality. His words here bring to mind all of the miserable clichés under which we labor—the mansard—Southern Colonial—Cathedral ceilings, and all gadgets that are called “design.”

Dr. Dubos discussed the failures of urban planning and urban renewal. He mentioned how the grandiose plans of the designer have largely a dehumanizing effect on the occupants. He told of the failure of Brasilia where the residents have chosen to live in the slums that were built for the construction workers rather than suffer the dehumanizing effect of the great mass housing of Brasilia. He told of the early pictures and plans of great cities which show monuments, piazzas and avenues all carefully composed within the hills, valleys and streams of the surrounding countryside. Something went wrong with these plans and residential buildings filled in the open spaces and generally cluttered up the countryside. Population growth accounted for some of this, but the major cause has been the movement of more prosperous people attempting to create a rural setting in the city thus living of the city, but not in the city. This he said is the primary source of urban sprawl.

In conclusion, Dr. Dubos said that throughout history architects



and planners have been successful in providing for the social, economic and political needs of man. Religious concerns of faith, exaggerated nationalism, the preoccupation with grandeur and the public display of wealth have been some of the social forces that

generated nationalism, the preoccupation with grandeur and the public display of wealth have been some of the social forces that



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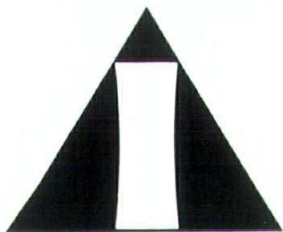
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have created lasting and pleasant diversity in urban environment. However in the case of the biological and psychological needs of man, architects and planners have not been very successful primarily because these needs have never been clearly defined. He suggested that man may be able to adapt to the biological changes in his environment. However, he feels that the psychological inadequacies of environment may lead to dangerous consequences, even to self destruction.

There are three things essential for the success of an urban setting based upon the historic genetic constitution of man. First, he must have privacy as an individual. Second, he must have a community of peers that he can relate to, including all of the diversity inherent in the ancient tribe. And last, he must have the horizon of a larger stage or setting for his aspirations and upon which he can act out his maximum role in life.

Here again I hope the AIA Journal will publish the full text of Dr. Duboses address as it will take many readings to get the full import of his words.

The seminars were well handled, besides the usual on "care, feeding and fleesing people" the committees of the AIA were given an opportunity to discuss their work. My own committee (CAAR) aired our report on week-end recreation and a preliminary on the film that we will present at Varna, Bulgaria, at the meeting of the UIA in October.

I am always impressed by the work of the students, not only on paper but at considerable labor built in place. The products exhibition was full of all kinds of goodies—a power operated drawing board that could amuse draftsmen by the hour; a computer service to tell you how to build a building. All you do is send them the commission and return you a set of computer printouts that tell you where to look in the catalogs for the proper stuff. Oh well, maybe I'm old fashioned and think architects should know how to build buildings.

*The joy is in creating, not in maintaining.—Vince Lombardi*

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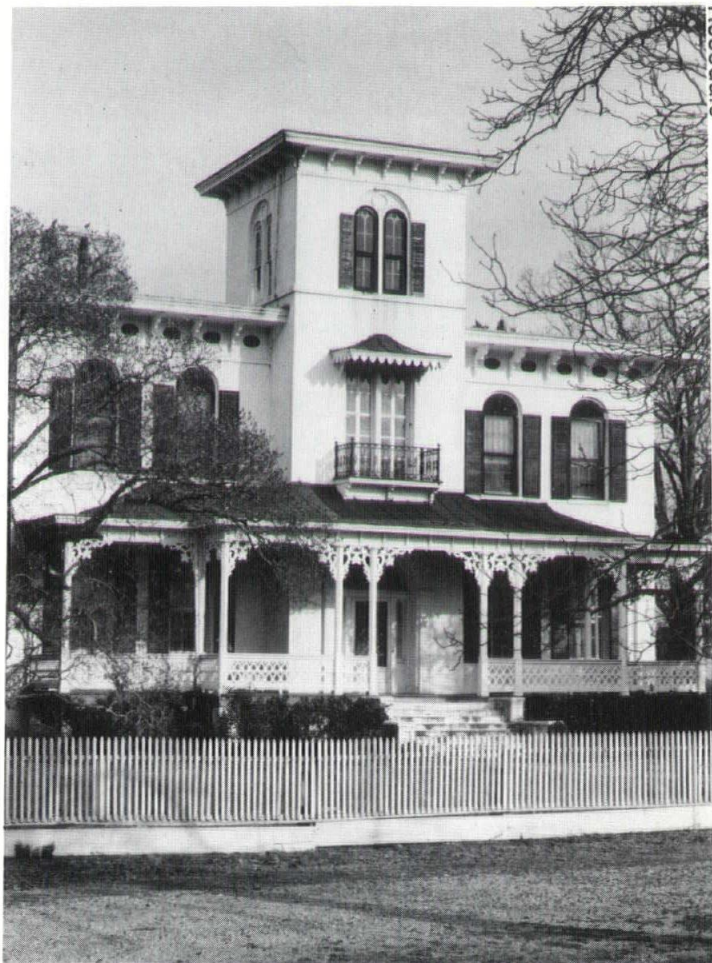
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White Arches



Rosedale



# ITALIANATE MANSIONS

BY MARY WALLACE CROCKER

Columbus, a northeast Mississippi town situated on the banks of the Tombigbee river, has many fine antebellum houses with the Greek Revival style predominating. Columbus also has two excellent examples of Italianate design in Rosedale and White Arches. Some typical Italianate features incorporated into both houses are rounded arches, a flat roof, a tower (reminiscent of a campanile), slender octagonal colonettes, canopies supported by curved rafters, and balconies with iron grille work.

Other Italianate features are used in Rosedale with each side of the third floor tower containing a Venetian-arch window, brackets underneath the wide eaves, a can-

opy projecting over the balcony and decorative wooden tracery.

Rosedale, constructed of brick and then stuccoed, was build for Dr. William Topp around 1855. The architectural beauty can easily be appreciated as the house is located in a pastoral setting. The trees around Rosedale attest to Andrew Downing's belief that "A building in this style will be greatly heightened in effect by being well

supported by trees, the irregular forms of which will harmonize with the character of the architecture."

White Arches has several features that give the house individuality. The facade is dominated by an octagonal tower that rises for three stories and is then capped with a belvedere. Th tower contains two stairways to make the ascent to the belvedere possible. The tower is supported by four substantial pillars that may appear paneled from a distance. Upon closer examination, however, one notices that the pillars are a cluster of four octagonal posts. The slender colonettes that support the canopy repeat the octagonal form.

Another unusual feature found

*Mary Wallace Crocker is an Assistant Profesor of Housing and Home Furnishings at Mississippi State College for Women. Dr. Crocker is writing a book on Historic Houses in Mississippi to be published in 1973 by the University and College Press of Mississippi.*



in White Arches is the number and design of the doors. There are seven exterior door openings on the first floor and eight on the second level. Most of the doors are double doors with glass panes and decorative sidelights of etched stain or satin glass. For a safety feature, the double doors that open onto the galleries and balconies have a door knob only on the interior side of the door. The galleries are outlined with decorative wood while the balconies are accented with iron. Brass finials are used at the corners of the iron rails.

The floor plan of White Arches includes a center hallway with the parlor and dining room to the right. These rooms contain matching white marble mantels, decorative plaster cornices and ceiling medallions. Sliding doors can be used to separate the rooms. To the left of the center hall is a library with elegant built-in walnut bookcases. This room also has a marble mantel, etched frosted glass sidelights, plaster ceiling rosette and random width pine floors with

each board running the full length of the room. The library is separated from the bedroom by a cross hall that leads from a side entrance into the center hall. The center hall contains the main staircase, made of mahogany, while a back stairway is located in the small hall behind the center hall. This back stair, which has a graceful curve, makes the four bedrooms on the upper floor more accessible from service areas. The bedrooms house yet another unusual feature for a 19th century house—closets.

Behind the house are located brick buildings that were used for the kitchen, laundry room and storage area. A carriage house, now gone, was on the rear of the block.

White Arches was planned in 1857 for Jephtha Vining Harris, a Georgian, who came to Mississippi shortly after he had married Mary Oliver Banks in 1840. His family had been active in politics in Georgia and by 1856 he was a member of the Mississippi legislature. Ultimately he became a wealthy planter and a Brigadier

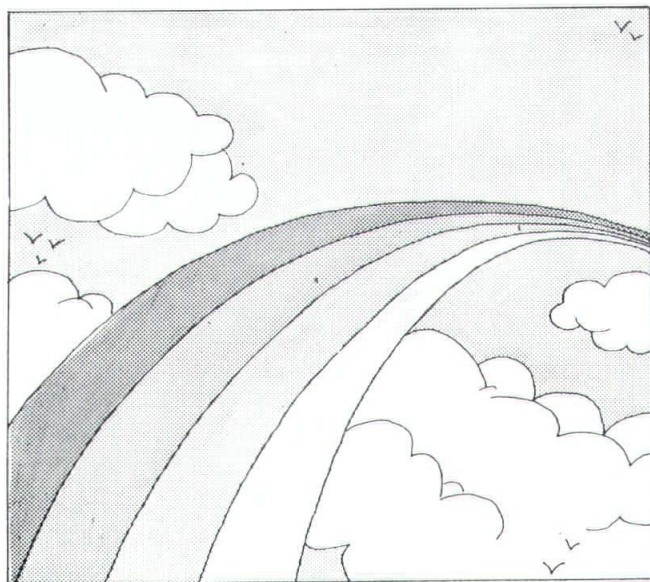
General in the Confederate Army.

The Harrises hosted one of the last of the old time parties at White Arches when they had a debut party for their daughter, Miss Mary Oliver Harris. The party was held the night before the Columbus riflemen left for war. White Arches could easily accommodate a large scale party with its spacious halls, the parlor and dining room opened into a forty foot length and the double doors opened onto the galleries for additional space.

The Harris family occupied White Arches until 1873 when Harris sold the house to his brother-in-law, Dr. James Oliver Banks who married a daughter of Col. George Hampton Young of Waverly. The house remained in the Banks family until 1968. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Ned Hardin, open White Arches each spring for the annual Columbus pilgrimage of historic houses. The house is also open year around by appointment.

The Italianate style is well represented in Columbus by these two structures.

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# Architects to Meet in Biloxi

The second annual convention of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Institute of Architects will be held Aug. 17-19 at the Holiday Inn in Biloxi.

Three nationally recognized architectural experts will highlight the three day program, according to Jackson architect Arthur J. Godfrey, convention chairman. Speaking to the Mississippi architects will be Louis de Moll FAIA and Weld Coxe, both of Philadelphia, and David Dibner AIA of Newark, N. J.

Mr. de Moll is currently a vice president of the American Institute of Architects and a partner (in charge of design) of The Ballinger Company, architects and engineers. He will talk with Mississippi architects about construction management.

Mr. Coxe heads the firm of Weld Coxe Associates, consultants in Communications management. He will discuss marketing architectural services at the Biloxi meeting.

Mr. Dibner is a partner in the firm of The Grad Partnership, architects, engineers and planners. He is the author of a recent McGraw-Hill book entitled "Joint Ventures for Architects and Engineers" and will discuss this area at the August meeting.

Honor awards for the chapter's 1972 design competition will be presented at the convention banquet Friday evening and a Saturday afternoon trip to Ship Island is also planned.

*There is certainly no purpose in remaining in the dark except long enough to clear from the mind the illusion of having ever been in the light.*

—T. S. Eliot

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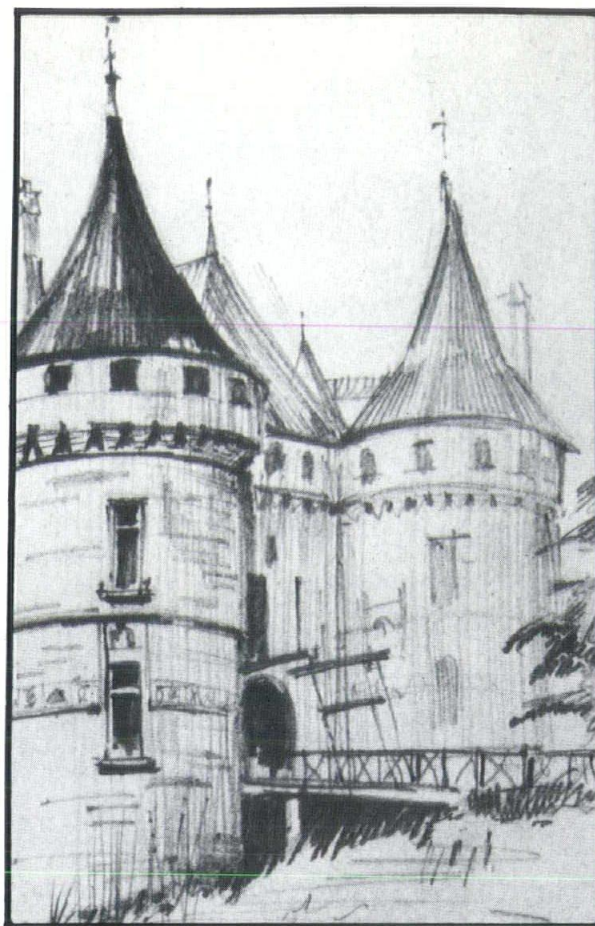
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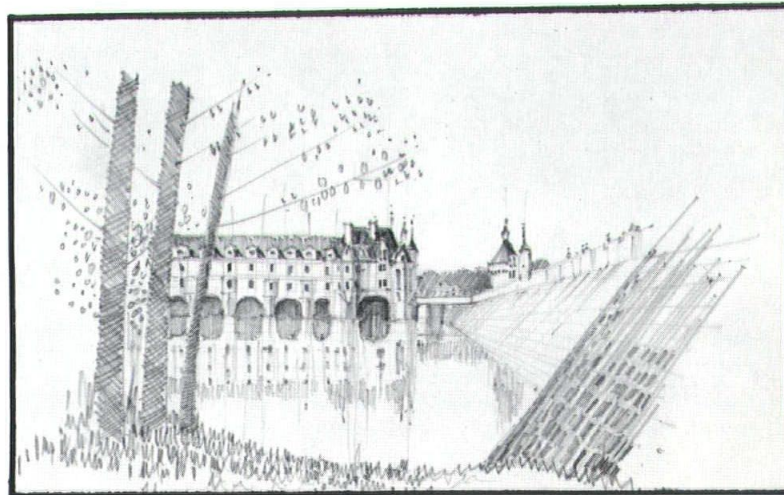
**CHAUMONT-SUR-LOIRE** — 15th and 16th Centuries

*A ten-minute walk through a beautiful park takes us to the drawbridge flanked by towers with walls six feet thick. The entry is richly carved with the emblems of its builders, Charles d'Amboise and Diane de Poitiers, and leads to a broad terrace bounded on three sides by wings of the castle and on the fourth by a sweeping view of the Loire Valley. The name Chaumont translates as "volcano," and at night, when the chateau is illuminated, the view from down at the river has the power of this name.*

**CHENONCEAU** — 16th Century

*The tower at far right is all that remains of an earlier fortified castle. The central portion with towers at the corners was built in 1515 on the foundations of an old mill. Diane de Poitiers became the owner in the middle of the 16th Century and had the bridge built to the right bank of the River Cher. The galleries on the bridge followed 20 years later.*

*The chateau lies at the end of a half-mile-long axis of huge plane-trees. Go there in October and walk this axis when the trees are golden. Climb the ancient tower stairs, visit the chapel and the gallery and be sure to notice the big trout in the cool green water.*



# French Chateau Sketchbook

by Nicholas D. Davis, AIA

The Loire Valley of Central France is a long, lazy basin of sunny slopes, peaceful villages and clear streams. Punctuating this landscape and often forming the nuclei of the villages are a wealth of fortified castles and chateaus with architectural styles spanning seven centuries. White limestone towers rise from deep moats in great clusters carved with crests of kings, penetrated by stained glass windows and culminating in forests of battlements, spires, dormers and chimneys, all piercing jet-back slate roofs.

These were the country homes of French kings . . . the Camelots which later inspired Ludwig II of Bavaria, the Vanderbilts of North Carolina and Walt Disney.

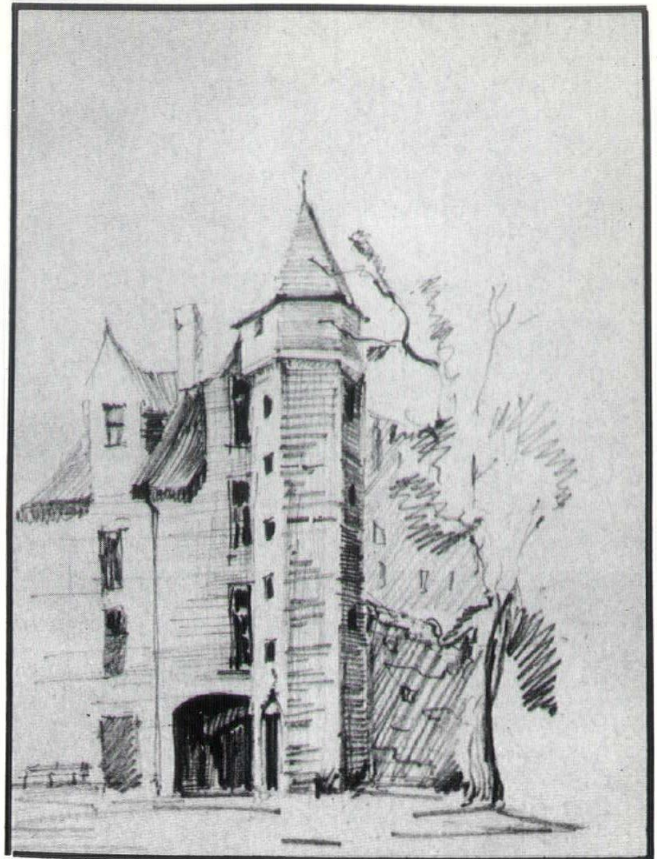
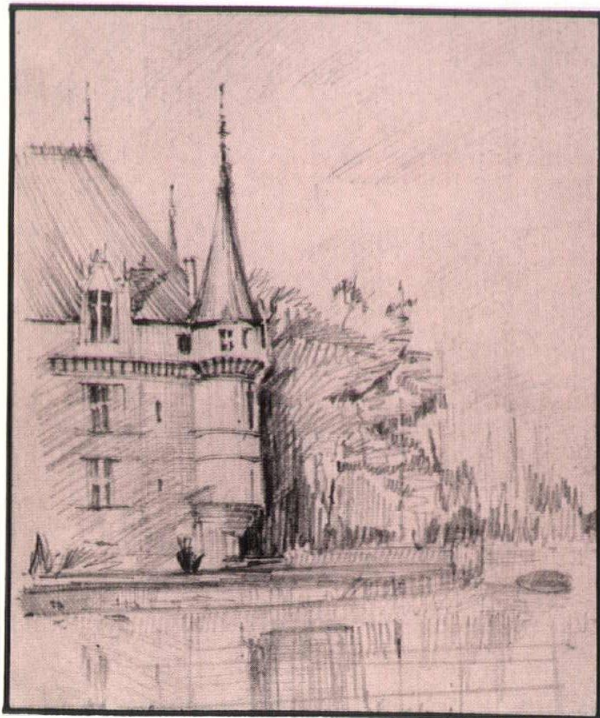
Perhaps we all have our dreams of personal Camelots and like Horace Walpole would love to try our hand at falconry, boar hunting, and feasting in great halls lit by torches and gigantic fireplaces. For whatever reason, this traveler found it deeply satisfying to wander through this quiet land with sketchpad and pencil, rebuilding, as it were, these records of life from past centuries.



**MONTREUIL-BELLAY — 11th-15th Centuries**

*This is one of several buildings opening onto an elevated fortified terrace high above the River Thouet.*

*Even though the problems of defense necessitated both massiveness and height, the architect handled human scale and an expressive hierarchy of geometries and openings in a relaxed, natural style.*



**AZAY-LE-RIDEAU — 16th Century**

*A French financier built the chateau on a small island in the Indre River where it reflects in the clear water like a ship at anchor. The massive round towers and slit windows of medieval strongholds have here become the graceful turrets and large stained glass windows typical of this period.*

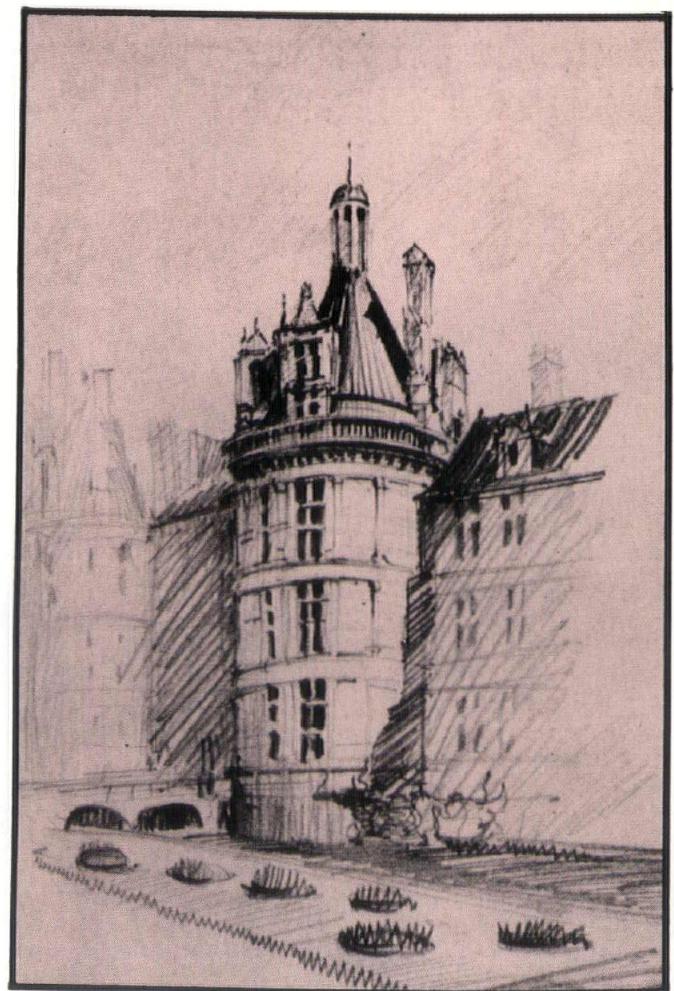
*The French Government now owns the chateau and maintains it as a museum of Renaissance tapestries, paintings and furniture.*

*In the early morning, when mists are rising from the water, and at night, when the building is illuminated, the visual effects are magnificent.*

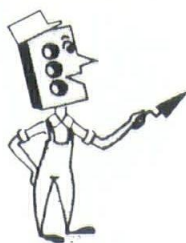
**CHAMBORD — 16th Century**

*This is the largest of the Loire chateaus, with 440 rooms, the famous double spiral staircase and the feudal plan of a towered central keep surrounded on three sides by lower wings. The overall size of the complex is roughly 500 feet by 400 feet.*

*In addition to being a grandiose expression of power for its builder, Francis I, it was a paradise for hunters in the game-filled forest of Boulogne.*







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Continued from Page 7

sign of progress and that's what we want." Russ Johnson, president of Deposit Guaranty National Bank, said the project would "benefit all Jacksonians."

The Citizens for Saving Public Lands did not think so, and, headed by Wirt A. Yerger Jr., they went to work to save this particular site.

In order to sell the property, the City Council passed a resolution asking the Mississippi legislature for an enabling act to permit the sale. The same resolution also asked the Mississippi Highway Department to plan and develop constructive measures to eliminate traffic burdens on I-55.

In the days that followed this action earlier this year there were torrid sessions at city council meetings at which both opponents and proponents had their say. One of the leaders of the opposition, Mrs. Karleen Cooper Neill called the development a "concrete cancer," and said the people all over the country were waking up to the fact that "we must use our land wisely." She said that public land all across the country



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had been sacrificed because people were "mesmerized" by money.

From the City Council the fight went to the legislative chambers where hearings were held before the Senate Public Property Committee.

The Citizens for Saving Public Land did a lot of both public and private work. They created a sentiment against the bill in the legislature that would have allowed the sale of the land. As a result the House Committee voted the bill out of committee, but the deadline for considering the bill passed, and it was never brought to the floor of the House or the Senate.

"There was no sentiment for the bill," Mr. Kendall declared in retrospect. This was the second time around for the Citizens for Saving Public Land. A similar fight had occurred last year.

After it was all over Mendel Davis, executive director of the Jackson Chamber of Commerce, explained: "We have encouraged Sears to put a Class A regional shopping center here, but we have never advised a shopping center developer on locations, and we made no recommendations on the sale of public land. It is not the Chamber's policy to become involved in locations. We want Sears to do everything they can to put the center here. We recognize their drawing power and the advantages of having such a center."

Is the project dead?

Mr. Rozier has said the Riverside Park site is the only site suitable, the only site Sears is interested in and since it is not available "we have no plans for expansion."

Mr. Yerger says, "We believe it will come up again. When you have a powerful bank, the city fathers, our elected officials, all ready to do it, we think it will come up again. We shouldn't have to fight continuously, but we may have to. We are thankful that reverter clause was in there, and we won't go to sleep."

*Few things in life are as important as pride of craftsmanship, at whatever level it may occur; the pride in a job well done, the feeling of having a horse one can ride. — Brooke Allen*

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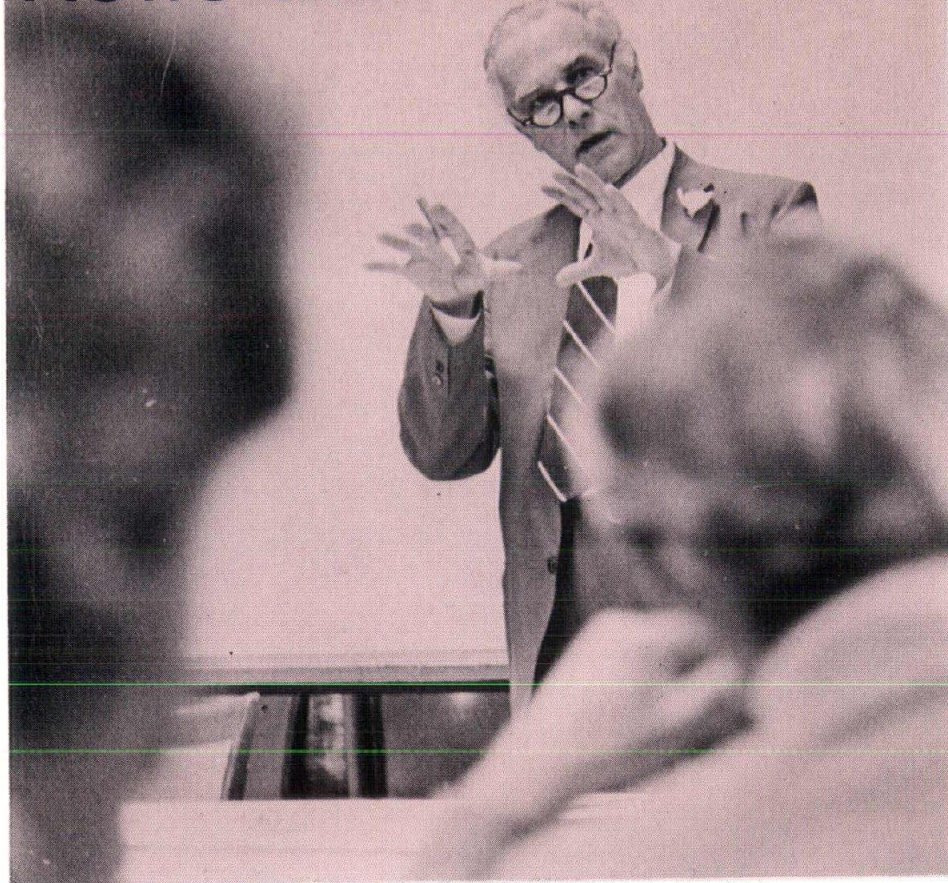
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# Mississippi Chapter News and Views



*Arch Rogers FAIA of Baltimore illustrates a point at the recent Mid-South Regional meeting in Greenville, Miss.*

Architects from five states met in Greenville April 22 to hear a report which called for the creation of a national policy designed to enable America to shape its growth and improve the quality of its community life.

The plan, created by the American Institute of Architects National Policy Task Force, was explained by Baltimore architect and planner, Archibald Rogers, at a two-day meeting of AIA Gulf States Region officers.

AIA members from Mississippi, Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana and Alabama compose the Gulf States Region with Greenville architect Matt Virden III, as regional director.

Rogers, Task Force chairman, was laying groundwork toward getting the Task Force's report ratified at the 1972 AIA national convention. The AIA board of di-

rectors has already unanimously approved the policies proposed in the report.

Briefly, the report urges changes be made in the "ground rules," such as tax policy and governmental organization, which presently shape the development of American communities. It also recommends creation of a new neighborhood scale for planning and building in urban areas and suggests that federal, state and local government—in partnership—set the pace and standards for growth policy through a special impact program affecting 60 key urban centers between now and the year 2,000.

"We have a strategic objective, not too different from our national goal of getting a man on the moon by 1970," Rogers said. "We're saying we need a national goal related to our environment."

Rogers described the report's "strategic objectives" as a mosaic of community architecture — both new and rebuilt—to be put in place by 2,000.

"These are two criteria in the policies. First, each piece should be in equilibrium with its natural setting, and second, each piece of new environment should be in sympathetic relationship with its using society," he said.

The first would involve building designs which would aid the natural environment by reducing power consumption and utilizing many kinds of building materials. "Also, each piece would be designed in ways to at least reduce pollution," Rogers said.

The second criterion would require a recognition of "the psychological concepts between humans and their shelters. We really don't know too much about them now," he said.

Implementing the policies prescribed in the task force's report would require massive legislation, both nationally and on state and local levels, he said.

"You have to be optimistic. We're facing a real national crisis which has a lot to do with governmental institutions we have that are obsolete," Rogers said.

"Even if we don't build this high quality environment by 2,000, it would be a good thing if we fostered new institutions. We're not recommending a new form of government, but new governmental institutions," he said.

Response to the report has "by and large been very favorable from architects across the country," Rogers said. He said the report's most controversial issues appeared to be the procedures of releasing the report to the public before its adoption at the AIA convention, differences of opinion about future growth, the public control of land development and the future role of government in implementing the report—particularly its recommendation for a shift of local powers to the state level.

Rogers said architects "as a profession" could put the proposed policies forward as "a goal for our yet young nation. Perhaps the greatest contributions we can make to the world today is to put our own environmental house in order," he said.