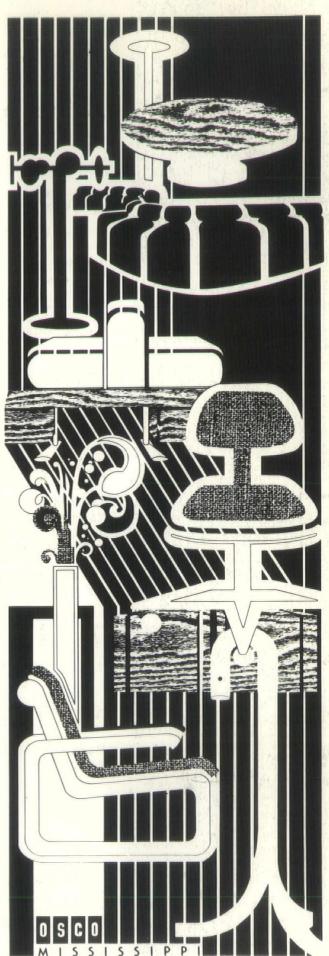
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# HONOR AWARDS



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# the mississippi architect

## COVER

Dramatic night scene of the Jordan House by Chris Richer, architect, won an Honor Citation.

# TWO

Orchids and Onions, an editorial by Paul Roberson, Editor.

# FOUR

Photo-spread of Honor Award structure, the School of Architecture at Mississippi State University. Architects Evans/Eley received the award for the renovation project working with a minimum budget.

### SIX

Unusual shapes and materials combine in the A.J. Jordan residence, designed by architect Chris Richer, to make the structure worthy of an Honor Citation.

# EIGHT

Chris Richer again with the Honor Citation structure — the Meridian Police Facility. The Citation was awarded for the building as "an excellent example of civic architecture for a small city and scale that relates well to its environment.

The awards were presented by the members of the Mississippi Chapter, AIA at the 1977 Biloxi Convention for excellence in architectural design.

## TEN

R/UDAT . . . A Process To Improve Your Neighborhood, Town or City.

## SIXTEEN

Report on the AIA Regional Government Seminar held in Biloxi.

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# Orchids And Onions

#### by Paul Roberson, AIA

Suggestions that the Mississippi Chapter of the AIA follow the lead of some other Chapters in honoring not only excellent examples of their members' work, but also handing out booby prizes for not so admirable efforts are with us again. Whether such a program is conducted for fun or not, it ignores one of the more unfortunate aspects of the architect's professional plight — the production of successful architecture is not always under his total control. Unlike other artists, writers, painters, whose success or failure depends entirely on their skill at arranging the elements within their art, most architects work in a world in which they have little to say about many of their activities.

Architectural criticism is difficult at best because to be fair you should also judge the conditions under which the work was produced. While some architects are more adept at handling adverse conditions and un-cooperative clients than others, none of us are above creating an aesthetic clinker or "non-architecture" from time to time.

So, how do you point the fickle finger at someone else's misfortune without appearing hypocritical?

Very carefully.

#### CORRECTION:

We apologize to both Walter Gropius and Mies van der Rohe for misspelling their names (typographical error) in the last issue of THE MISSISSIPPI ARCHITECT. At first we thought we might let it go hoping that our readers would think that we were referring to two obscure Greek architects, but decided that too many people would wonder how two Greeks got into the Bauhaus.

So, we're sorry Walter and Mies (alias Istopius and Ixies), forgive us.

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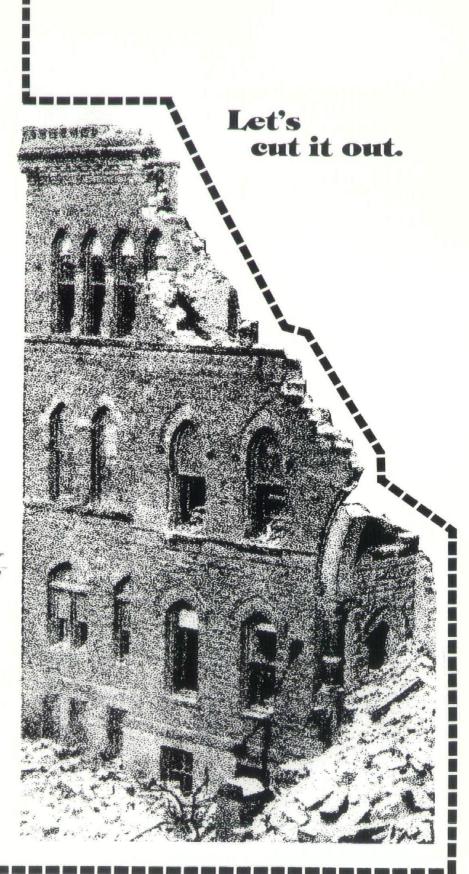
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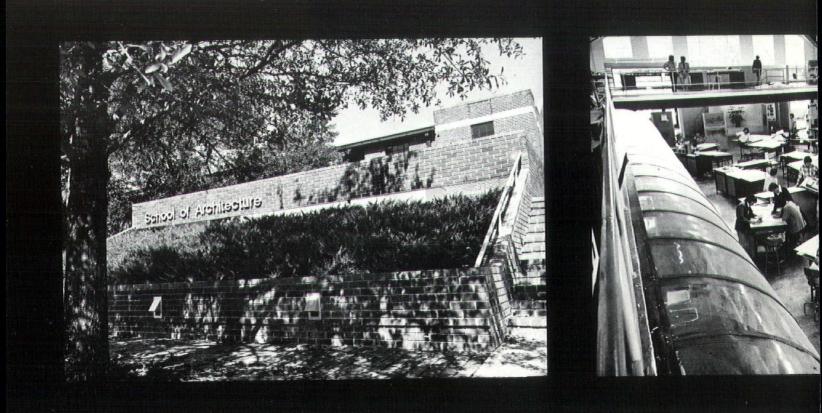
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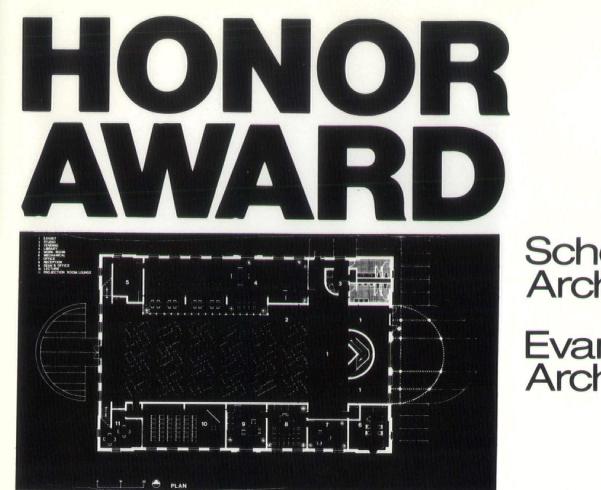
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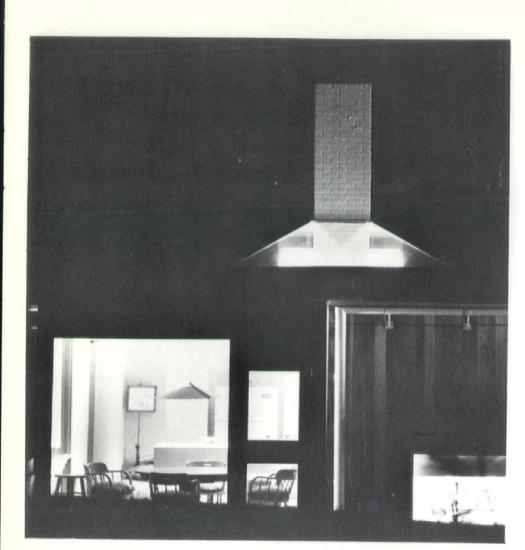
## School of Architecture

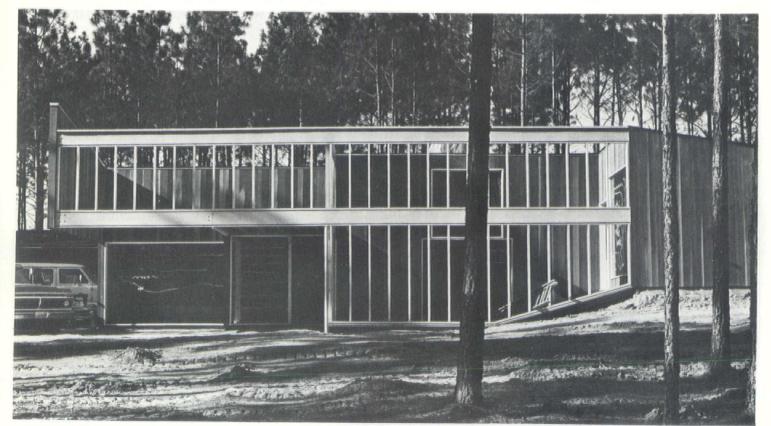
Evans/Eley Architects



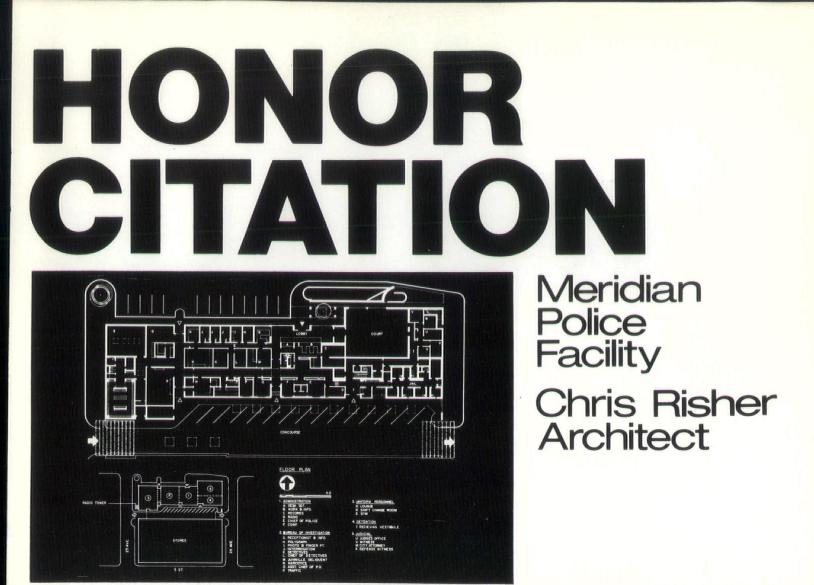


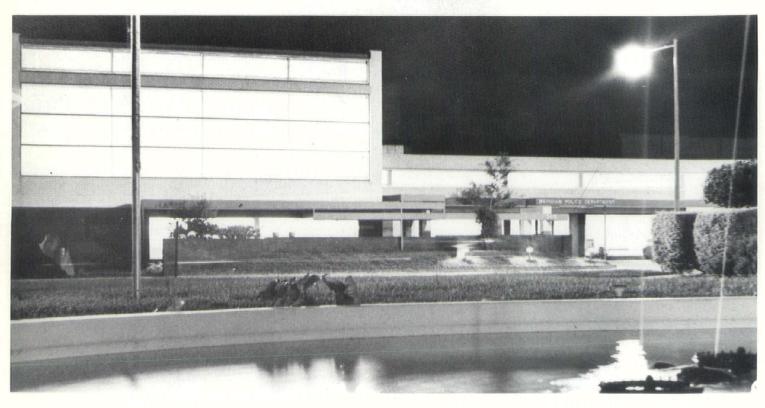












# R/UDAT... A Process To Improve Your Neighborhood, Town Or City.

This article was prepared by the Urban Planning and Design Committee of the AIA.

Most Americans live in urban areas. Many have moved in from rural sections. Some of us are here by choice. Others by necessity.

We don't need to be told that this growth creates a lot of new problems, and compounds some of the old ones. Suburban sprawl removes huge areas from agriculture and blurs the distinction between urban and rural living. Abandonment of downtowns encourages poverty and crime. Population shifts produce traffic congestion. The environment deteriorates. Opportunities are missed to provide much needed housing, sound commercial development, and life-giving community services. Citizens are threatened by corrosive forces they don't know how to control. The litany is familiar and frightening.

Some alarmed communities have enacted no-growth statutes,

and some of these are being tested in the courts. Others feel it's better to mold and direct growth than to legislate it out of existence. In almost every town and city in the nation people are awakening to the quality and beauty of tradition, as they have in Savannah, Ga., for example. Indeed most urban regions have many valuable qualities. But citizens frequently don't know how to build on their assets.

That's where the R/UDAT (Regional/Urban Design Assistance Teams) program comes in.

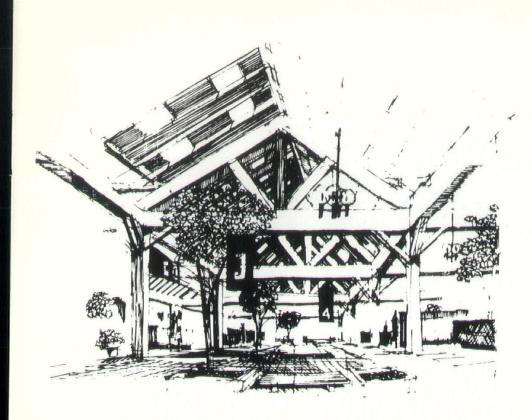
For a decade the AIA has been sending these assistance teams to American communities that have called for help. Cities with a combined population of more than 10 million citizens have been served and professional services valued in excess of \$2 million have been donated.

Teams are selected for their capacity to respond to the particular problems of each community. They are made up of people who are tops in their fields: urban designers, economists, sociologists, growth management experts, political scientists, and lawyers, as well as architects. They volunteer their time because they believe in the urgent cause of our cities. Although their traveling and living expenses are reimbursed, they agree not to accept commissions resulting from the study.

The team chairman visits the community well in advance of the R/UDAT to meet with its citizens, leaders, planning officials, and the AIA chapter. A packet of maps, statistics and information is prepared, together with a statement of the problems to be confronted. Each R/UDAT member gets a copy to study prior to leaving home.

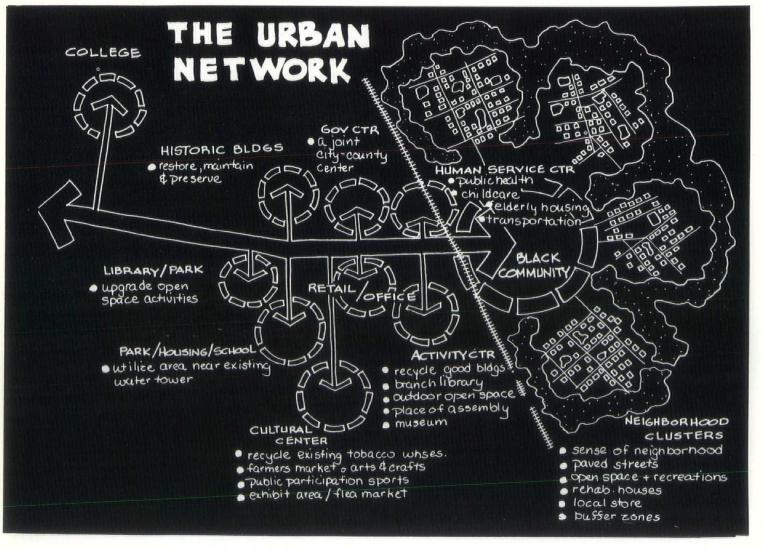
The team's visit is about four days, generally an extended weekend, and is coordinated by the local AIA chapter. Often the team is assisted by students from a school of architecture or planning in the region.

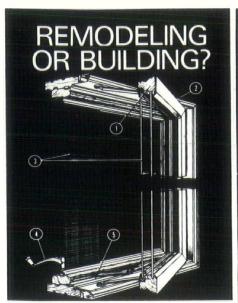
The team meets with



WILSON, NORTH CAROLINA. R/UDAT's proposals for Wilson were aimed at its changing role in relationship to the regional setting, its downtown core area and its people. The potential impacts of the connection to the Interstate highway system and the development of a more diversified base will provide a news perspective and an opportunity to deal with Wilson's changing social and economic needs.

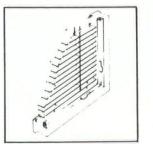
By adopting and re-using such structures as the existing tobacco warehouses (at left) for new activities, such as a market for local produce, the existing core and neighborhoods could be strengthened.





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Pella-Mid South in Memphis Serving Greenville to Columbus and North 901/362-6652 Pella of Mississippi in Jackson 601/981-4325 community groups and gets acquainted with local conditions at first hand by means of site visits and tours. A public hearing is held and the team listens. Then team members closet themselves for intensive sessions, calling on local resource people as needed, to define problems, establish strategies and develop and synthesize courses of action. Finally, the team's recommendations are presented to the community at a public meeting.

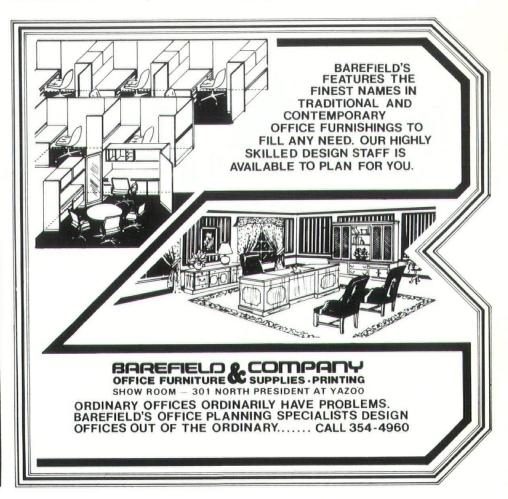
The team follows long-recognized principles of urban design.

Urban design is not simply large-scale architecture. It speaks to all scales — urban region, central city, district, community, neighborhood — and to all activity areas — commercial and industrial, cultural, civic and educational. It is a process for evaluating community assets, analyzing needs and proposing action.

An urban design plan provides an outline for development of a community, not a blueprint for its completion. While the design of a single building is influenced by the needs of a particular client, urban design must resolve a varied and sometimes conflicting set of public and private priorities.

The impact of R/UDATs is varied and important. Sometimes R/UDAT results in a substantial commitment to long-range planning. After a R/UDAT visit to McMinnville, one of Oregon's smaller communities, money was appropriated in the city's budget for planning — for the first time ever. The R/UDAT recommendations formed the basis for the downtown plan, which has now been officially adopted and is in the process of being implemented.

Sometimes R/UDAT can get battling factions to talk and work together. Fairfax County, Virginia, is a suburban area, near Washington, D.C., that had initially encouraged growth. Then the problems engendered by growth created a backlash, and



an anti-growth contingent was head-to-head with people who had vested interest in the country's continued development. The recommendations of the Fairfax R/UDAT - save open spaces, use a balance of transportation modes as one means of controlling new development. develop new centers of employment - have influenced the county's planning and policies. Perhaps more important, by stating the problems in objective terms, the team was able to bring polarized citizens together to discuss their goals and resolve their problems constructively.

R/UDAT can become a catalyst for dramatic action. Following a R/UDAT in Honolulu, the Hawaii legislature passed a resolution to implement certain team recommendations immediately, among them a specific proposal to convert a city dump into a park.

R/UDAT sometimes speeds up the implementation of existing plans. The team's

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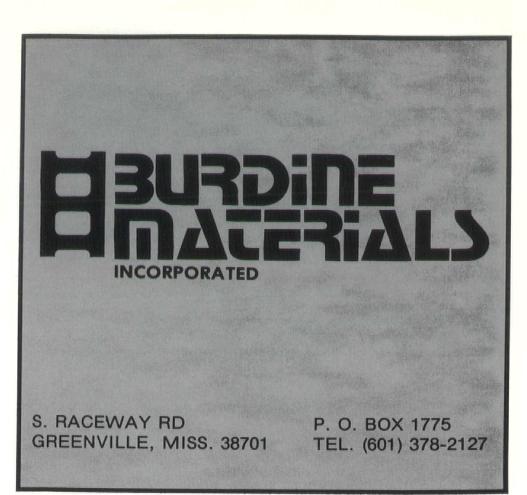
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recommendations at Shreveport, Louisiana, resulted in the formation of a nonprofit downtown development corporation within a month of the team's visit.

R/UDAT has indeed helped many cities. It is not a panacea for all conflicts and crises, but it does provide an opportunity to review ubran problems with a group of people who have dealt with similar problems before, and who are willing to share the benefits of their experience and skills with others.

The printed report which the team leaves behind can only fix the starting point for a long and continuing effort by the community. The city's own people must organize for an effective program of implementation, and R/UDAT maintains contact with the community to assist it in taking action. This combination of public and private effort, with continuing professional guidance, can result in better urban areas and a better quality of

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The involvement and commitment of your local AIA chapter is very valuable. Its members play important roles in organization, problem identification, information gathering, team liaison, and most of all - follow-up. The local AIA chapter joins with other local citizens and leaders in evaluating the R/UDAT's recommendations, and in determining programs for immediate action. R/UDAT in turn assists the community in every way possible to achieve its goals.

If you feel that a R/UDAT visit might be useful to your community, get in touch with your local AIA chapter or the Director of Urban Programs, AIA, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 (202-785-7363). Reports of previous R/UDATs are available as well as films on some specific visits. JACKSON Ready-Mixed concrete CONCRETE MASONRY PRODUCTS

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# GSR Is Coming Soon

The Biloxi Hilton is the site, Thursday, April 13th through 16th, of the 25th Annual Gulf States Regional (GSR) Convention. We hope all of you are planning to attend.

Mississippi AIA chapter members will have a chance to practice their famed hospitality with collegues from Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Louisiana at the three-day event. According to estimates based on attendence at the last regional convention in Birmingham, more than 200 members are expected in Biloxi next April.

There will be product exhibits, Honor Awards, special guest speakers, workshops and excitement galore. Notices are scheduled to be mailed during the coming months.

Potential exhibitors have already been contacted once and the mailing was so successful that only a few booths remain. A second notice is scheduled for early December mailing to fill the remaining booths. Larry Bouchillon, of Bouchillon & Harris Architects in Jackson, is the product exhibits chairman.

Get ready to enter your work in the competition for Honor Awards early next year. By January 9th, the first notice with submission details will be in the mail to the general membership according to William McMinn, of the MSU School of Architecture, who is Honor Awards Chairman.

Program coordination for the entire event-filled convention is being finalized for a February

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Other chapter members assisting General Chairman David Trigiani (and 1978 chapter president) are co-chairman, Mona Murphree; registration, Kathy Jackson; finance committee, James Chastain; publicity, Jim Patterson; facilities and activities, Arthur Godfrey and George Peenstra; ladies activities, Gloria Fountain; and graphics committee, Joe Weilenman and Noel Workman (of the Delta Design Group).

As always, workers are welcome and sorely needed. Contact one of the committee members to donate your time and energy to help make this an extraordinary meeting, one which Gulf States architects will long remember!

#### AIA NEWS RELEASE REGIONAL SEMINAR

BILOXI, MS — State Senator Nap Cassiby and Mr. E.J. Lacoste, Director of the Mississippi State Building Commission, addressed the American Institute of Architects Regional Government Seminar here recently.

The seminar, held at the Biloxi Hilton October 5th and 6th, focused on the various ways architects contribute to, participate in, and influence state governments.

Architect/delegates from as far away as Indiana and Puerto Rico attended workshops conducted in the areas of energy, registration laws and licensing, architect selection by state agencies, liability claims, and state building codes.

The seminar was sponsored by the Mississippi chapter of the AIA, headquartered in Jackson, and hosted by the Gulf Coast Section. Biloxi architects Thomas Compton and Henry Fountain and Pascagoula architect Robert Slaughter represented the State of Mississippi at the seminar.