

the mississippi architect

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# the mississippi architect

Volume 11, Number 1  
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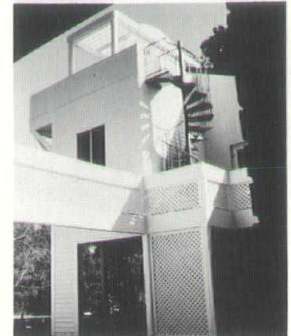
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The interplay of darkness and light on the mass wall of Christ Community Church, Presbyterian US, in Clinton, MS illustrates the drama suggested in the design of this 1981 Design Honor Award winner.

**2** And they didn't even have a debate. The Mississippi Chapter of the American Institute of Architects elected a new roster of officers for 1981 at the annual Natchez meeting. Look to find out who's what.

**3** Just off the wires . . . News of the two Gulf States Region Design Award winners from Mississippi is generating a good deal of excitement. The winners and their designs are discussed.

**3** Paul Roberson discusses energy conservation, a problem that concerns us all. It will be of special concern to AIA as it enters the "Energy Year." Roberson signs off with this issue and welcomes incoming editor Robert Ivy of Tupelo.

**4** Nobody does it better. The annual Fall Brawl in Natchez is a tour non pareil of architectural restorations arranged by the inimitable Weeta Colebank. See why it is becoming a perennial favorite with Mississippi architects.

**6** A Mississippi Architect first! Full-color photographs of the 1980 Design Honor Award winners. For a listing of this year's award-winning designs complete with jury comments.

**16** At last, a creative approach to budgeting energy retrofitting. See why the "life-cycle" cost approach is a sensible means for meeting present, and more importantly, future energy requirements.

**20** Patricia A. Spencer, Director of Administrative Services for JH&H Partnership of Jackson receives national recognition from the Architectural Secretaries Association.

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## 1981 AIA Officers Elected

The Mississippi Chapter of the American Institute of Architects elected officers for 1981 at the ninth annual Natchez meeting and Fall Brawl in September, according to William V. Lack, Jr., AIA, president ex officio of Jackson.

Paul Roberson, AIA, of Greenville, Ms. was elected president. Dan Evans, AIA, a principal in the Jackson firm Evans/Eley, Architects, was named first vice-president (president-elect) and Frederick R. Frank, AIA, of Frank Architects of Starkville, was named second vice-president. John Hester, AIA, a principal in the Jackson firm Hester & Brady, was elected secretary-treasurer. Directors are Robert E. Farr, II, AIA, of Cooke-Douglas-Farr, Ltd of Jackson; Robert H. Canizaro, AIA, a principal of the Jackson firm Canizaro Trigiani; and William A. Lack, Jr., AIA, president ex officio, of the Jackson firm Design Collective. The officers, elected for a term of one year, will assume their respective positions with the Mississippi Chapter of AIA January 1, 1981.

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## Gulf States Region Honor Awards

Two Mississippi architectural firms were among seven recipients of the Gulf State Region AIA Award of Excellence in Architecture, according to Knoxville architect Max Robinson, chairman of the Gulf States Region Honor Awards Committee.

The Jackson firm Goodman & Mockbee (Samuel Mockbee, AIA and Tommy Goodman, AIA, principals) and Robert MacDonald Ford, AIA, in association with Donlyn A. Lynd FAIA, were two of the seven recipients of the awards selected from 85 entries from Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Tennessee. The formal announcement was made at the Gulf States Region annual meeting hosted by the East Tennessee Society of Architects in Knoxville October 10.

Goodman & Mockbee received the regional honor award for their design of the Christ Community Church, Presbyterian US, in Clinton, Ms. The project had recently been named a Design Honor Award winner by the Mississippi Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The design for the home of Dr. and Mrs. W.H. Collins, Jr., in Starkville by Donlyn A. Lyndon, Jr., professor at the University of California School of Architecture at Berkeley, in collaboration with Robert MacDonald Ford, AIA, professor at the Mississippi State University School of Architecture.

Jurors for the Gulf States Region competition were Robert Geddes, Dean of the School of Architecture at Princeton University and a principal in the Princeton, JR firm of Geddes, Brecher, Qualls & Cunningham (recipients of the 1979 AIA Firm Award) and Wolf von Eckardt, Architectural Critic for the Washington Post.

## Energy Year: A Time to Grow Up.

Paul Roberson, AIA  
Editor

The American Institute of Architects has designated 1981 as "Energy Year" in which the architectural profession will focus its attention on the growing energy problems facing this nation. It makes sense to start the decade bearing down on what promises to be the crucial issue of the 1980's. The architect's role in reversing the increasing consumption and waste of energy to heat, cool, and light buildings can be ignored no longer.

The new approaches to design made necessary by this problem will probably at first appear awkward, unfamiliar and strange, but an understanding of the discipline and logic involved in creating new forms must dominate our priorities. The luxury of turning away from an energy inspired esthetic in favor of preconceived illusions can be no longer afforded.

The 80's will see a lot of experimental activity — some of it good, some of it not so good. Good or bad, it must start now.

A great many architects will grow up during this decade.

*With this issue, I complete my tenure as editor of The Mississippi Architect. I would like to thank all of you for your help and support of my efforts these past six years. Special thanks to Kathy Jackson with the Jackson AIA office and everyone at Delta Design Group in Greenville, without whom the successful completion of each issue would have been impossible. My best wishes are extended to Robert Ivy of Tupelo as he assumes his new role with The Mississippi Architect with the first issue of 1981. Thanks again.*





# NATCHEZ FALL-BRAWL

By James E. Anderson

It began nine years ago as the "Spring Fling." When it became an autumn gathering three years ago, it was rechristened the "Fall Brawl . . ." Throughout its short history, the spirit and intent of the meeting has remained the same: it is the annual gathering of Mississippi architects and their families to observe outstanding examples of architectural restoration and renovation in the historic town of Natchez, Mississippi.

This annual tour, however, transcends the standard fare of stately antebellum showcases included on Pilgrimage tours available to the general public. Of the nearly 600 potential sites in Natchez, over 100 have been or are in the process of being restored. The Fall Brawl affords participants access to lesser known examples of antebellum architecture, many of them private residences.

The idea for the Fall Brawl came about one evening at a party in the home of Natchez Mayor Tony Byrne. A group of area architects and interested citizens

wanted to give architects across the state a chance to view the significant work in restoration of historical buildings being done in the Natchez area. The excellent tours offered by the town's two garden clubs were one thing. But to get an in-depth look at work being done on a smaller scale was quite another.

It would take a person of considerable energy and creativity with an intimate knowledge of the history of Natchez to arrange such a tour. The guests at Mayor Byrne's party were agreed that there was only one person with the requisite savvy and ability to mastermind the project: Weeta Colebank.

The effervescent Ms. Colebank readily accepted the challenge to arrange the Natchez meeting when contacted by area architects. Her years of experience with the State A & I Board established her as a tour guide par excellence. And she was acknowledged by Natchez residents as a walking compendium of fascinating stories from the wealth of folklore

about this intriguing river town in southwest Mississippi.

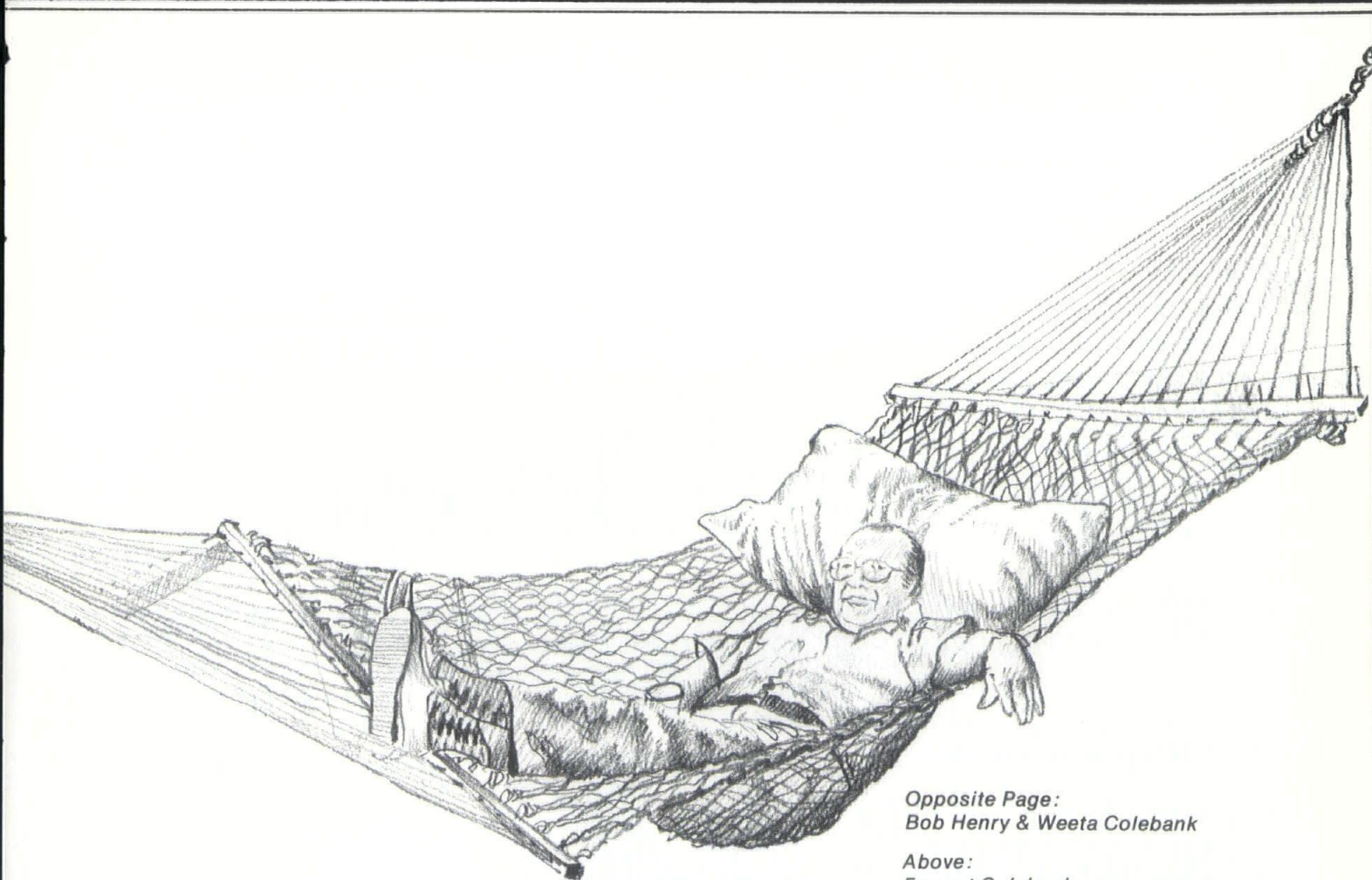
Each year Ms. Colebank assisted by Jackson architect Bob Henry, AIA, plans a tour of Natchez homes and historical sites. Henry candidly admits, "the very reason we are able to get into renovated private residences is Weeta's clout with Natchez residents. She personalizes every tour and adds a touch of local color with her uncanny ability to recount stories about the homes we see."

Conducting the tour with wit, aplomb and the graciousness indigenous to Natchez, Ms. Colebank admits that "it's no small feat to select the homes and buildings to be included on the tour. The architecture in this area is highly subjective and we want our guests to see these homes not as museum pieces but as a meaningful part of our way of life."

This year's tour included the Biggs House, home of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Biggs; the Hollingsworth house, home of

*Continued on Page 15*

*"Nothing could be sweeter . . . than a tour planned by Ms. Weeta!"*



*Opposite Page:  
Bob Henry & Weeta Colebank*

*Above:  
Forrest Colebank  
succumbs to Morpheus' Spell at Rosemont.*

# DESIGN

## **AWARDS 1980**

The 1980 Design Awards Jury met on August 1 in Memphis, Tennessee. The distinguished panel consisted of:

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**Mel O'Brien, AIA**  
O'Brien & Associates  
Memphis, Tennessee

**Zeno Yeates, AIA**  
Yeates & Gaskill  
Memphis, Tennessee

The jury reviewed entries intently for the entire afternoon and into the early evening. The unanimous decision of the jury included six awards . . . two Honor Awards, one Honor Citation and three Special Citations.

As a general review of the entries for 1980, the jury was exceedingly pleased with the overall high quality of the work submitted. The entries showed a good sense of design and overall planning. The caliber was greatly improved from past years.

The concerns posed by the jury included the profound influence of mannerisms displayed in the projects, and the challenge of breaking free to form new relevant concepts based upon vernaculars.

The School of Architecture's role was discussed as was the Chapter's commitment to it. The jury saw a direct connection between the high caliber of the submissions and the close relationship of the school and AIA.



## ***SPECIAL CITATION***

ADAPTIVE USE

### **C & G Railroad Depot Complex**

#### **Jury Comments:**

Especially well deserved . . . special recognition should be made of the restraint shown with this project. The sensitive handling of the existing building fabric enhanced the original structure. This created a pleasant atmosphere for work and pleasure. An excellent example of the potential in our existing environment.

**Location:** Greenville, Mississippi

**Architect:** Weilenman Associates

**Contractor:** Shelter, Inc.

**Client:** C&G Depot, Ltd.





## ***SPECIAL CITATION***

*INTERIOR DESIGN*

### **Trinity Presbyterian Church**

**Jury Comments:**

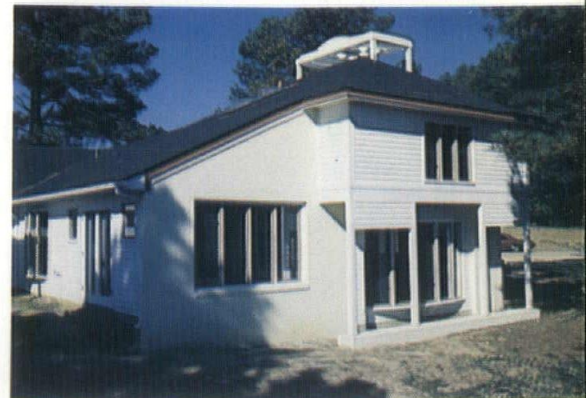
We felt that the interior of the main sanctuary was excellent. The use of light to create form, and simple controlled color gave the space a sensitive direct statement. A clear concept of light modulating form is evident. These elements create a pleasing reverent space for the expressed function.

**Location:** Starkville, Mississippi

**Architect:** Barker and Ruth, AIA

**Contractor:** Perry Construction Co.

**Client:** Trinity Church



## ***HONOR CITATION***

### **Collins Residence**

#### **Jury Comments:**

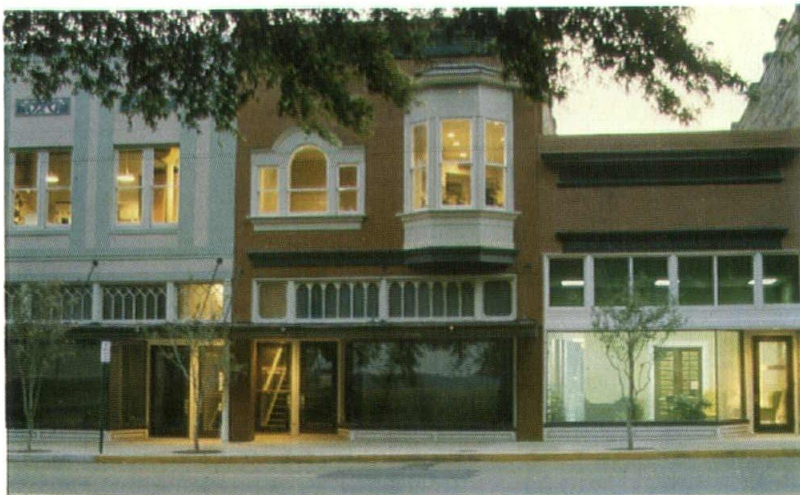
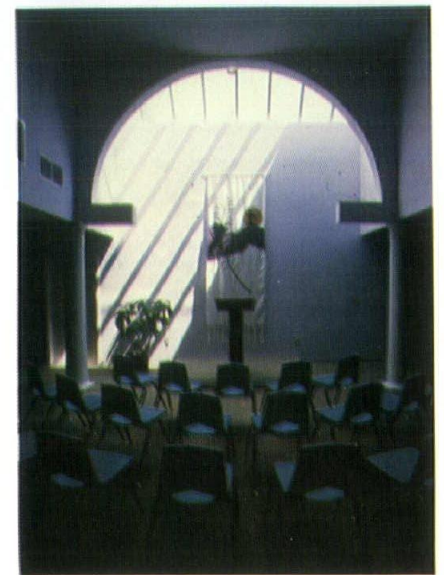
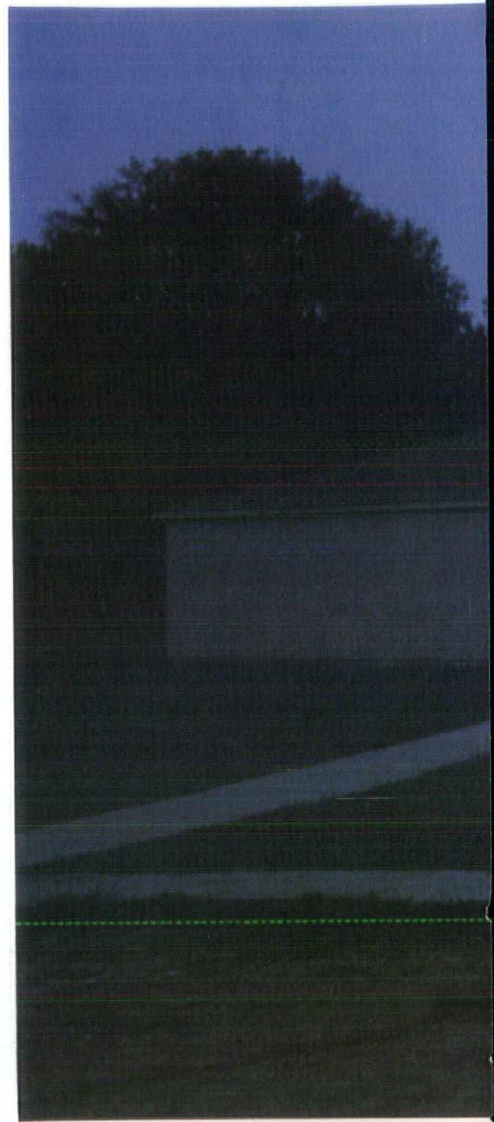
We feel this project exhibits a good sense of design. It is a unique interpretation of an ordinary three bedroom house. The use of color and form are successful as is the utilization of natural light . . . shows the impact of contemporary mannerism upon design.

**Location:** Starkville, Mississippi

**Architect:** Robert MacDonald Ford, AIA - In association with Donlyn A. Lyndon, FAIA

**Contractor:** VanLandingham Lumber Co.

**Client:** Dr. and Mrs. M.W.H. Collins, Jr.





## ***HONOR AWARD***

### **Tucker Printing Buildings Renovations**

#### **Jury Comments:**

Restraint in the use of the original facade is very successful. The time and thought involved with historical research and analysis provides a sensitive design solution to a complex problem . . . a wonderful statement about the future of rehabilitation. The use of color is probably the most successful single element . . . the interiors are very pleasant and fun places in which to work.

**Location:** Jackson, Mississippi

**Architect:** Goodman and Mockbee, AIA

**Contractor:** Wise Construction Co.

**Client:** Doty, McLaurin and Taylor

## ***HONOR AWARD***

### **Christ Community Church**

#### **Jury Comments:**

The clarity of plan and form emphasizes the idea of arriving and of participation. The entire project expresses a pleasant sensation of peace. The simple use of the mass wall reinforces the plan. This project exhibits a growing design concept executed in a sensitive manner.

**Location:** Clinton, Mississippi

**Architect:** Goodman and Mockbee, AIA

**Contractor:** Busbee/Ross Builders

**Client:** Christ Community Church, Presbyterian, US



## ***SPECIAL CITATION***

*URBAN DESIGN*

### **Mississippi Arts Center & Planetarium**

**Jury Comments:**

We were impressed by the bold statement that the center created on the city fabric. The design decision to span the street with a strong form proved the soundness of the basic design concept.

**Location:** Jackson, Mississippi

**Architect:** Virden, Fields, and Alexander

**Contractor:** Rouse Construction, Inc.

**Client:** City of Jackson



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Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hollingsworth; Choctaw, owned by the Natchez Art Association; a group of store front restorations (with living quarters upstairs) in the downtown area and the recently begun restoration of the Eola Hotel by Norman and Forrest Germany; the Briars, a deck with two gazebos extending over the bluff overlooking the Mississippi River; Sargossa, home of the Smith family and the Cliffs, home of Mr. and Mrs. Meade Hufford.

An added attraction and a Fall Brawl first was the "Weeta Special," a surprise excursion planned by the grande dame of spontaneity who refers to herself as the Den Mother of the assemblage of architects. After officers were elected at the Cliffs, the group drove to nearby Woodville, south of Natchez on Highway 61.

After a leisurely lunch at Rosemont, the home of Jefferson Davis, guests went to the secluded ruins of Bolling Green Plantation, once the home of a local farmer, legislator and railroad magnate. Seated on benches beneath moss-laden live oak trees, guests listened to a dramatic recording recounting the pillaging and burning of the antebellum mansion by Union soldiers.

A dinner party in the home of Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Sharp brought the two day gathering to a grand close. A combo, ably assisted by vocalist Charles Jackson (husband of AIA executive secretary Kathy Jackson) provided entertainment while guests tripped the light fantastic late into the evening.

The result of months of planning and research, the Natchez Fall Brawl could well be renamed the Weeta Special. Her untiring efforts to vividly and accurately represent the town she loves give this annual excursion its singular character. Not to be experienced vicariously, the Fall Brawl is an artful mixture of the personalities and places that made this gathering a favorite with architects across the state. ■

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## A Novel Slant On Energy Retrofitting

Reality often falls upon us with a heavy thud. For many of us reality has been most oppressive in areas related to our consumption of energy. Life styles and priorities based on unlimited supplies of energy are now undergoing drastic revisions, due to constricted supply. As our current habits experience change, so do our plans for the future.

With our newly heightened awareness of energy scarcity, it is easy to design and build structures which will make good use of tomorrow's reserves. Building designs currently under consideration offer a fascinating variety of innovative ways to conserve energy.

But what of the structures already in place? How efficient are the structures built before the "energy crunch" of the 1970s? Well, the answer is that most older buildings are considered "energy intensive" by today's (and tomorrow's) standards. That is, their heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) systems are woefully inefficient. In the past, say the 1950s and 1960s, the usual priority when building a structure was for a "low first-cost," since energy for the HVAC systems was taken pretty much for granted.

But now a new set of priorities has taken over. Energy costs have risen in increments disproportionate with the rest of the economy. We are running out of space in which to build new structures, so attention is turning to the restoration of old buildings. Owning and operating costs have replaced building expenses as priority considerations. And by these new standards, many existing buildings are becoming effectively obsolete. We simply cannot afford to continue operating them at their present rates of consumption.

As is often the case when economics becomes the

determining factor, a lot of thought has been given to the most efficient way to redress our past mistakes. And a lot of creativity has been called into play. One of the results is a theory of budgeting energy retrofitting projects which applies an overall, "life-cycle" cost approach to produce the optimum solution. In the simplest terms, this approach balances initial investment costs with potential savings over the expected life cycle of a project. In other words, rather than just aiming at the lowest initial cost, which may incur additional expenses later on, this approach may reveal that spending a bit more up front will later avoid costly repairs or replacement or refitting. There is a certain amount of prognostication involved.

For example, one formula for estimating the life-cycle costs of a building's HVAC system computes the annual cost of maintenance, utilities, interest, principal, replacement cost, and property taxes (over the life of the

*Continued on Next Page*

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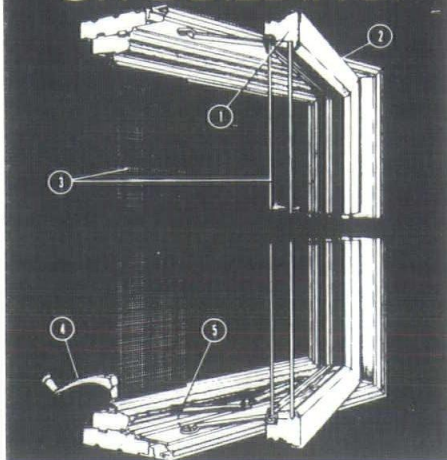
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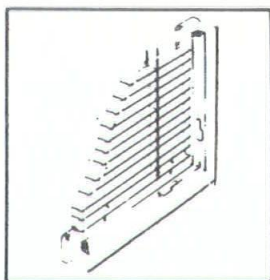
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project) and divides that total by the mortgage life. The result is an annual average owning and operating cost.

One interesting factor to keep in mind is that the optimum solution may not always call for the absolute lowest energy consumption or cost. The true "bottom line" may well be the annual average owning and operating cost. With certain minimum standards that must be maintained, lowest may not always be best.

In HVAC systems, for instance, a building's efficiency can be improved by using a more sophisticated system — even if it is initially more expensive — if the annual energy savings accrued by the system compensate for the extra purchase/installation cost over the expected life of the system.

Ultimately, such an approach is speculative, of course, since a lot of variables and guesses are used in the computation. The main goal is cost-efficiency, with a slightly broader definition of cost than was heretofore applied. But



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another, very relevant, goal for today's (and tomorrow's) builders is the establishment of energy efficiency goals for individual buildings. Using a long-term, goal-oriented approach to this problem, rather than a short-sighted, prescriptive approach, offers the greatest potential for creative applications of new technologies.

This idea of life-cycle cost analysis is gaining momentum across the country, in part due to a boost from the federal government. To set a useful example for the private sector, the Department of Energy has proposed requiring the use of life-cycle cost analysis in new or retrofitting projects in federal buildings. In new buildings, this approach would be applied early in the design and planning to determine which energy-saving investment to use. In existing buildings, retrofitting projects would be ranked by their cost-saving potential.

The new approach is also being used to determine the "payback time" for solar demonstration projects when compared with conventional, nonsolar alternative systems.

And in some regions of the country, regulations are being drafted which will adapt this process to specific geographic and climatic peculiarities for building codes.

The life-cycle approach to cost analysis merits wider consideration and application to new projects. Particularly in the field of energy retrofitting, it can cushion some of the shock associated with future costs, since neither fuels nor materials are likely to get any cheaper. ■

*Every artist, scientist, and philosopher in the history of mankind has pointed to the laws of nature as his greatest inspiration. Without the presence of nature undisturbed, there would have been no Leonardo, no Ruskin, no Nervi, no Frank Lloyd Wright. In destroying our landscape we are destroying the future of civilization in America. — Peter Blake*



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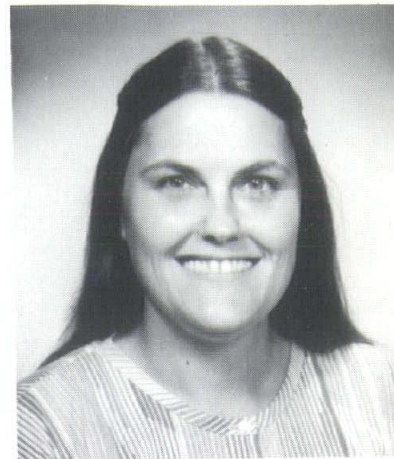


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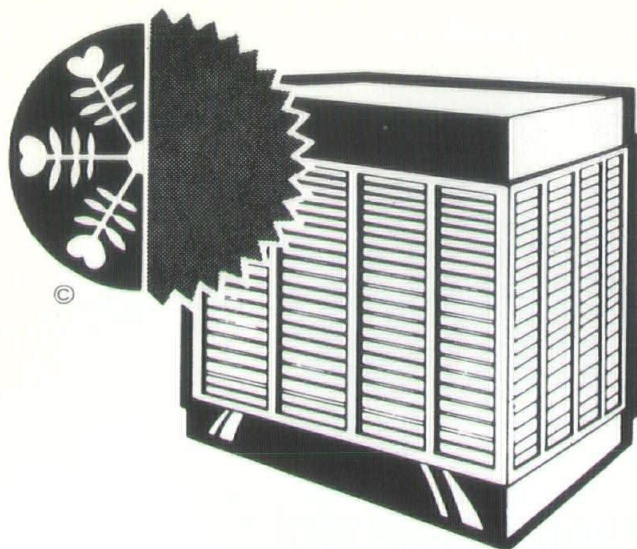
## Spencer Achieves National Recognition



Patricia A. Spencer, Director of Administrative Services for JH & H Partnership, Architects-Engineers-Planners, a Jackson firm, is among the first four architectural secretaries in the nation to achieve Level I of the Professional Architectural Certification Program. Ms. Spencer's achievement was announced during the Architectural Secretaries Association's Convention held in Cincinnati, Ohio, the first week in June.

The Architectural Secretaries Association is an affiliate of the American Institute of Architects and Ms. Spencer is a member of the Mississippi Chapter ASA. A Charter President of the Mississippi Chapter at its inception in 1973, Ms. Spencer served as Vice President of the National ASA in 1976.

The Professional Architectural Secretary Certification Program was established in 1978. To obtain Level I Certification, candidates must meet requirements in four areas — education, employment, professional activities and membership activities in the Architectural Secretaries Association. Level II, the examination portion, is currently being developed. ■



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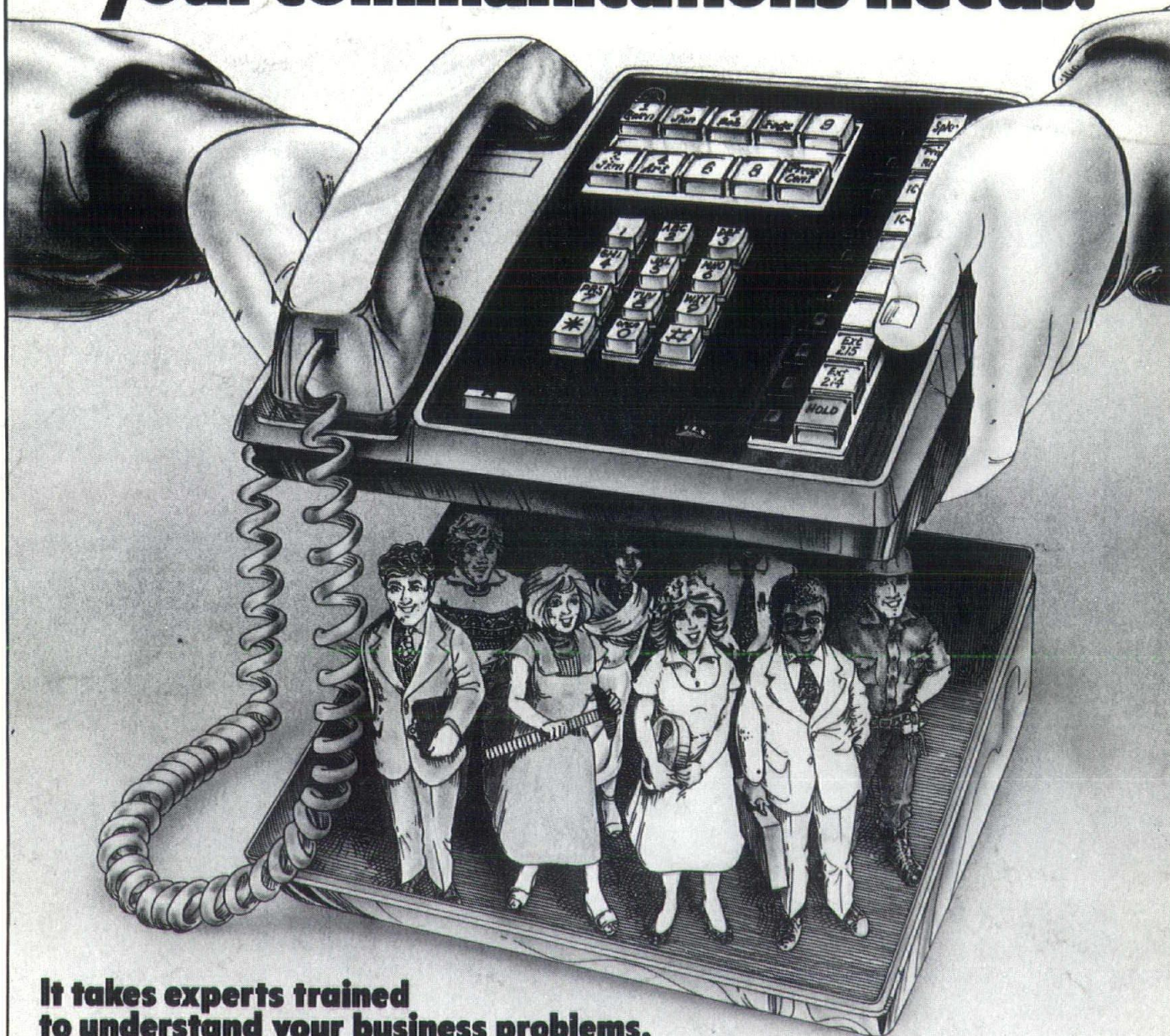
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