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The knowledge business
Cover:
An anything-but-pedestrian shopping and office complex. Jackson architects Barlow and Plunkett’s designing for Phase III of Highland Village features an expanse of light and fluidity of line and space.

When in Rome, study the architecture of Rome: Dean William McMinn assumes the prestigious Mid-Career Fellowship at the American Academy in Rome.

Excellence is its own reward. Editor Ivy salutes to ongoing efforts of Mississippi architects who are enlivening our landscape from Horn Lake to Pass Christian.

New Construction in Mississippi: A Pictorial Celebration of the recent work of Mississippi architects.

For your information! Pella hosts open house. A look at South Central Bell’s Dimension PBX System.

The Way We Used to Look. Linda Sanders discusses the “new/old” look for the New Capitol in Jackson.
New buildings are being built in Mississippi. Although the national economy and construction have slowed to a shuffling pace, piles are still being driven, earth is being moved, and steel is rising from the ground. Look at downtown Jackson, where the landscape is undergoing dramatic alteration, from low scale renovation to high rise building, or along the bypasses and entryways into our state's larger towns.

We are delighted to welcome previously unpublished buildings by Mississippi architects to our pages this month. All members of the Mississippi Chapter, A.I.A. were invited to submit examples of recent new construction for publication. You may have visited these buildings as a shopper, a patient, a client. You may have remarked on the ease of entry of the building you visited, or have found a moment's rest in its courtyard, been cheered by its colors, or shaded by its walkways.

While most of these structures have not won formal honors yet, they are all candidates for recognition, and several may indeed be recognized in later competitions. But awards are not the point, for most structures by Mississippi architects never achieve Honor Award status. Instead they face the universally demanding criteria of economy, of function, of strength and stability, and of long term aesthetic appeal from an increasingly sophisticated clientele.

The architects of Mississippi have already presented the public with the fine structures illustrated in this issue. You, the jury, are deliberating. One decision is clear, however, Mississippi architects as a body are capable of producing fine work from Horn Lake to Pass Christian. In a dynamic building environment of shaky economies and waffling priorities, the bricks and mortar we illustrate in this issue offer tangible proof of one stable credo, one goal achieved, the one best advertisement and hope for our profession — EXCELLENCE.
Dean William McMinn moved quietly from Starkville March 1, and the effects of that move will be profound. Although McMinn has joined a community of architects, artists, and scholars at Rome, he has promised to return.

McMinn, Dean of the Mississippi State School of Architecture in Starkville since 1973, assumed a Mid-Career Fellowship at the American Academy at Rome, the prestigious institution that brings together America's brightest hopes in scholarship and the arts, and gives them a period of assured peace. In McMinn's case, the hope has borne fruit, for McMinn has seen the Mississippi State Architecture program grow from a promise to an accredited, acclaimed institution with several graduating classes under its belt.

"After eight years of intensive effort," state McMinn, who is a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects and a National Director of the National Architectural Accrediting Board, "this was an excellent opportunity for an uninterrupted break." For six months, March 1 through September 1, he will live in Rome in a villa supplied by the academy, studying the Palladian antecedents of antebellum architecture. According to McMinn, the intellectual and artistic changes wrought in the Renaissance and Baroque periods have affected our world for hundreds of years since, and he will focus on the direct built links between the old world and the new by studying in a three dimensional laboratory.

Furthermore, he plans to visit Italian architects and architectural schools while in Rome. "Their ideas take root five years later in building form," he said. He will lecture as a representative of the United States State Department of Corfu, Sardinia, and Budapest.

What led him to the American Academy? The American Academy at Rome seems to be an ideal place for architects. Housed in an immense villa designed by the Academy's founder, the distinguished American architect Charles McKim, the Academy is a privately funded institution which has fostered artistic and scholastic growth, both for the Fellows, the Mid-Career Fellows, the visiting lecturers and dignitaries.

McMinn was individually honored for his personal accomplishment at Mississippi State, but the implications of the award are far reaching. The recognition extends to the state as a whole while extending our own horizons to the larger world of national accomplishment and international ideas.

While McMinn has moved, his trip is not a permanent departure. He will return to Starkville in May for graduation and to set next year's budget. When September 1 comes, he resumes his position at the School of Architecture with a portfolio of drawings and experiences to share with us.
NEW CONSTRUCTION
IN MISSISSIPPI

The buildings featured in this special section are all recent works by Mississippi architects. None has been previously published by The Mississippi Architect Magazine or other regional or national architectural publications. Residences, churches, office and other commercial buildings, public buildings ... all are Mississippi-born and bred and all are worthy of closer inspection by our profession and by our clients.

Offices for
Hildebrandt-Shafer, AIA

Location: Starkville, Mississippi
Architect: Hildebrandt-Shafer, Architects
The Morrison Residence

**Location:** Jackson, Mississippi

**Architect:** Canizaro Trigiani Architects
First Presbyterian Church

Location: Columbus, Mississippi
Architect: Samuel H. Kaye, AIA
Yazoo Library
Location: Yazoo City, Mississippi
Architect: John E. DeCell, III. AIA
Corporate Office
Building for
Columbia Nitrogen Corporation

Location: Augusta, Georgia
Architect: Architects Plus,
The Hathorn Tyson Warrington Group, Ltd.
Warren County
Vicksburg Library

Location: Vicksburg, Mississippi
Architect: Cook-Douglas-Farr, Ltd.

Coast Coliseum and Convention Center

Location: Biloxi, Mississippi
Architect: Fountain & Proffer, Joint Venture
Pella hosts open house

An open house for business friends and associates was held at the new facility of Pella Windows and Doors on Interstate 220 in Lakeover. On hand were Lakeover Developer J. W. (Bill) Underwood; and representatives of Pella Windows and Doors — Mississippi and Louisiana, J. Frank Day, III, President, and Bill Luke, Manager.

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Capitol’s New Look is the Old One

By
Linda Sanders
The Clarion-Ledger

Success of the New Capitol restoration means "when we get through it will look just as it did when we started," says James Chastain, director of the state Building Commission.

Along with project interior designer Berle Smith, Chastain recently led Mississippi chapter members of the American Institute of Architects through the historic capitol, completed in 1903. Construction had begun Jan. 1, 1901.

One of the few noticeable changes in the public areas may be the corridor radiators replaced by fan coil units for heating and cooling. On the whole, the Capitol will look much like it has, only cleaned and refurnished.

The Capitol is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Interior designer for the Governor’s Mansion restoration, Smith said his goal was to have the Beaux Arts Capitol look much as architect

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Theodore Link originally planned. "It was mighty fortunate the state didn't have the money to ruin the building."

Smith and supervising architect W.W. Easley have had the German-born architect's blueprints as well as archives photographs, some taken by Link, to follow.

Easley and Lewis Eaton are project architects for the restoration. General contract is a joint venture between Nickles-Wells and Mid State Construction Co.

In the few instances where the state did spend the money, the results have been mixed at best. Actually only a few areas of the massive building, such as the governor's ceremonial office, have been "modernized." The governor's office is being restored as much as possible — both the ornate ceiling and tile floor had been obscured since the 1930s with acoustical tile and carpeting.

Smith said his work, done with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, divided the building into the historic and functional sections. Designated historic areas, restored as much and changed as little as possible, are the corridors, governor's office, the ground floor hall of history and what originally was the Supreme Court chambers directly above the hall.

Interesting enough, Smith said during restoration the Department of Archives requested new work be clearly seen as so. For example, when new doors are used in the office areas, they are modern with metal frames. This was done, he explained, so later historians will know what is original and was done in the early 1980s.

Functional areas are the various offices, committee rooms, mechanical areas and food facility. Mezzanine areas with upper decks were added in some of the converted office space for additional clerical area.

Work is now in the painting and finishing stages and should be finished by October 1982, Smith said. In November the legislative staff will begin occupying the building. Dedication will be June 1983, exactly 80 years after the original dedication.

Link built the Capitol, then on the northern edge of Jackson, for $1 million. Even by turn-of-the-century standards this was cheap. New York State's new capitol was finished in 1898 at a cost of $22 million.
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Chastain said in an earlier interview estimates are it would cost $200 million to replace Mississippi's Capitol at today's prices.

Current restoration is costing the state $19.3 million — $17.9 for construction, $.29 million for landscaping and $1 million for furniture and equipment. Fees are included in the figures.

A St. Louis architect before moving to Mississippi, Link was known both as a master of beaux arts architecture and of deception, making a building appear more sumptuous than it actually was. Beaux Arts, the reigning institutional style of his time, was dominant from the late 1800s until 1920, when it was replaced by the simpler art deco look.

According to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, the new Capitol is an excellent example of this beaux arts classicism. It is characterized by large and grandiose composition, much detail and variety of stone finishes. Highlights of the style are projecting faces with colossal columns, enriched moldings, pronounced cornices and attic stories.

Historian William Seale said Link was well known for lavish interiors at minimum costs. Particularly notable as a cost-cutting measure was his use of scagliola, painting a surface to resemble marble.

The process is now a lost art, Smith told the architects, but a New Orleans craftsman traveled to Tuscany, Italy to learn the vanishing technique from an old man. The lost art is crucial to Capitol restoration because little actual marble was used in the building.

The architect's two-hour night tour of the building concentrated on this lavish interior, with members studying renovation work from floor to floor.

Early in the renovation/restoration phase the exterior had been cleaned with water, not sandblasted and the copper roof repaired.

The grand marble staircase, with its scrollwork, is typical of beaux arts buildings, according to the archives. Smith said blue stained glass windows on the landing are believed to be made by Tiffany, although no verification can be found.

Two new stairwells have been cut out — one at each the Senate and House sides — from the fourth floor floor down as a fire safety precaution. Railings here are period...
reproductions.

The third floor leads to the upper level visitors' galleries on both the house and senate sides. Smith said the floor has glass blocks, used as early as Pompeii, because the ceilings above and below contained stained glass. Marble is used along the walls of this floor.

Frosted glass on this floor was made by mixing horsehide with glue, applying it to the glass and firing, the interior designer said.

The Senate side, on the east, is the smaller of the two chambers. The original snow-flaked patterned tile in each chamber had been ruined and covered for years by linoleum and carpet, Smith said. However, during restoration the pattern has been copied for carpet for both chambers. Unlike the white tile, the carpet will be a gold background, he added.

The chambers are entered from the second floor. What appears to be gold leaf in both chambers is actually, "Dutch metal," a simple painted surface containing no gold, Smith explained. The domes above the chambers are plaster at the lower levels, then thin copper. Gilt light bulb receptacles, original to the building, encircle the domes and have been restored.

Brass roses decorating the chamber ceilings had been painted over for years and are being cleaned and restored, he added. Stained glass windows have also been restored. The polychromatic (painted) ceiling details will be redone.

A range of colors will be used for these ceiling details, a departure from the predominant gray, beige, brown and blue color scheme.

Iron grillwork over the elevators is also being repaired and restored after having been covered up for years. Originally simple cages, the elevators will now be glassed in so decorative tiles and stained glass inside the shafts are visible. (Caged elevators do not meet contemporary safety codes.)

One manual elevator, to be run by an operator, will be used.

Perhaps the most obscured area was the governor's office, now being restored to Link's ornate style. Originally the governor's rectangular reception room had a barrel vault ceiling with heavy ornamentation and two marble mantels (now lost). Windows were stained glass with a bright Mediterranean tile floor.

Ornate griffins, winged animals, were added on two lowered sections.
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during Theodore G. Bilbo's administration. The controversial former governor's bronze statue is now crated up and stored in the governor's office. (This week, Easley said the statue, placed in the Capitol by order of the Legislature, can only be moved or relocated by Legislative order.)

During the first modernization, in the 1930s, the tile was covered. Some tiles were also broken and cracked when wiring was installed. When a dropped ceiling was installed, workers partially destroyed the decorative interior frieze and knocked holes in the original ceiling. Some of the ornate "rib" work in the ceiling was also damaged and lost.

Smith said as early as 1965 he knew the elaborate ceiling was there, when he did the interior for Gov. Paul B. Johnson, Jr. Although parts of the ceiling are gone, it is being restored by having casts made of missing elements.

Corinthian capitals, the fluted and decorative tops of columns, are now being recast.

Original door knobs on the floor are ornate brass on the exterior, seen by the public and plain black metal on the door's inside to save money, Smith said. A number of the knobs have been lost through the years but copies have been made.

On the main floor, the front entrance foyer will be little changed, although the marble ceiling had to be removed to install wiring and plumbing on the floor above, Smith said. The terrazzo floor, mosaic with small bits of marble or granite, is intact.

Entry from this front foyer is into the main rotunda, which was originally plain white plaster. Although color and gilt were added later, they are retained in the restoration.

New arched oak doors are being used on the floor to replace swinging saloon type doors.

What originally was the Supreme Court is on the east end of this floor. It is being restored as a joint committee room, Smith said, and is directly above the "hall of history."

The ground floor was "in years past the state museum," Smith said. Walls now have new white tile and the floor's tile duplicates the original.

The north entrance on this floor, much used, Smith said, has been restored with a copper ceiling, copying the original.
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