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OCTOBER 1956

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ARCHITECTURAL CALENDAR


NOV. 26-30: AIA Board of Directors. Fall Meeting, Shamrock Hotel, Houston, Texas.


DEC. 5: Charlotte Council of Architects. Thackers Restaurant, Charlotte.


DEC. 7: Guilford Council of Architects. Bliss Restaurant, Greensboro.


JAN. 31-FEB. 2: North Carolina Chapter, American Institute of Architects. 43rd Annual Meeting. Carolina Inn, Chapel Hill, N. C.

APRIL 4-6: South Atlantic Regional Conference, AIA. Atlanta, Ga.

MAY 14-17: Centennial Celebration Convention, American Institute of Architects. Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C.
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THE OCTOBER 1956 SOUTHERN ARCHITECT
Southern Architect

Volume 3  October 1956  Number 6

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COVER PHOTO


NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER • THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The work of the Centennial Celebration Committee in planning for 1957 meetings has emphasized anew the debt we owe to all those in previous years who have made unselfish contributions to our professional progress.

Once more we can be thankful for those who looked beyond their immediate personal and private needs and dedicated a portion of their talent and time to the future which became our present. The sharing of experience for the ultimate gain of those we serve and the profession was not always a guiding principle. Now, however, "Feathering your own nest"—and that only, is strictly "for the birds." An achievement must be shared for the greatest satisfaction, and recognition of this will add the essential flavor to a successful professional practice.

The opportunity of participating in the progress of a valuable service to mankind is bestowed on those responsible for the Chapter. We recognize that any accomplishment from our efforts is in great measure based on the work of those who in the past of the American Institute of Architects have faced the difficulties of their time and surmounted them.

The year 1957, one hundred years after, will not be a plateau or a peak, but another step in the continuing progress of our Chapter and the Institute. Some re-organization may occur, some changes will be made but in the years ahead they will be considered as routine developments occasioned by normal and healthy growth. This is never more apparent than when considered in historical perspective.

Your share in determining the ultimate gain may be, for the present, the opportunity of a vote for the right decision. This is dramatized by our current political year. And in our way of life there is nothing more powerful than the united voice of many votes.

Let this be your invitation to speak out and actively participate in all our undertakings.

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AMERICAN INSTITUTE
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LIVE BETTER... ELECTRICALLY!
Multiple problems were faced by Croft & Hammond, AIA, of Asheboro in developing the design for the Lindley Park School of the Asheboro Graded School District.

The Board of Trustees of the school district desired the location of the building on the periphery of the property to permit maximum playground area, while locating the auditorium and cafeteria for community use independent of the classrooms. Uniform lighting for the entire classroom area was also desired.

Economy in initial cost, fireproof building, and minimum maintenance were also requirements. An attractive appearance, with free partitions, and deep classrooms, was also desired. Covered bus loading was specified.

To meet these requirements, the building was located on the northeast corner of the eight-acre site, with a covered bus loading platform adjacent to a side street and the main lobby opening on a principal street.

Two classroom wings allowed the location of the auditorium and cafeteria for community use and keep the administrative unit centrally located for maximum control of the entire plant. To provide uniform lighting in the deep classrooms, a clerestory window bank sloped in a 30 degree angle was located in the center of the rooms.

Exposed structural members maintained an attractive appearance, while complying with economy needs. Precast concrete frame allowed the long span of deep classrooms, provided frames for the clerestory windows, reduced maintenance costs for the future, and still met fireproof requirements.

Roman brick and masonry block walls were used along with a four-inch concrete slab on grade. Fiber glass and gypsum decks were used, while the foundation walls and structural system are of concrete.
COTSWOLD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Charles H. Reed, AIA
Member of the firm of Biberstein, Bowles, AIA, Meacham, AIA, and Reed, AIA
CHARLOTTE, N. C.

The new 11 classroom Cotswold Elementary School of the Mecklenburg County School System opened in September, 1956, for the first time and the growing area is requiring an eight classroom addition, which is being designed by Charles H. Reed, AIA, of the firm of Biberstein, Bowles, AIA, Meacham, AIA and Reed, AIA, of Charlotte.

The new school contains an all-purpose room with a stage, kitchen and storage rooms for the kitchen area, library, teachers room, general office, principal's office, health room, and service and maintenance areas.

The entrance to the building is effected through a lobby with terrazzo floors, with aluminum frame and glass and plexiglass panels. Exterior walls are brick, with exposed solite block interior walls. Floors are asphalt tile except in the corridors and lobby, where terrazzo is used. Ceilings are perlite and acoustical plaster. Windows are double-hung steel. The roof is tar and gravel on steel deck on bar joists. The structural frame is steel.

The building contains 25,600 square feet of floor space.
OFFICE AND SHOP BUILDING
ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C.

Charles C. Davis, AIA
ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C.

The primary problem faced by the architect in designing an office and shop building for the Roanoke Rapids Sanitary District of Roanoke Rapids, N. C., was the development of a design which would conform to the residential area of its location as much as possible.

Charles C. Davis, Jr., AIA, of Roanoke Rapids, the architect, was faced with the fact that most of the residences in the area were substantially Cape Cod cottages in one form or another. Residential property owners at first objected to the location of a public building in the residential area, but its final design overcame these difficulties and the building was erected with general approval of all concerned despite the fact that the flat roof departed from the conventional residential architecture of the neighborhood.

As an experiment against leaking masonry walls, a layer of heavy building paper was placed between the eight-inch block interior wall and the four-inch brick exterior wall, pierced as necessary to fit over the metal ties between block and brick. To date, no leaking has been evident, even over areas where the overhanging roof is cut back flush with brick.

The building was designed larger than necessary at present to meet the future growth of the city.

The load-bearing exterior walls are sand-finished
Norman dark red brick, with solite concrete block interior walls. Concrete slab on grade was used for the shop and heating rooms. Other floor areas are concrete on steel joists, with air conditioning ducts below the floor in the crawl space. Ceilings are plastered on metal lath, covered with acoustical tile. Interior cabinets are birch, with formica tops. Ceramic tile baths were used. Office areas are floored with vinyl tile. Marble front facing was used, with aluminum letters and rail.
COMMERCIAL BUILDING
CHARLOTTE, N. C.

Sloan & Wheatley, AIA
CHARLOTTE, N. C.

A commercial building containing offices, shops, and warehouse area has been designed for the Mitchell Distributing Company of Charlotte by Sloan & Wheatley, AIA, of Charlotte.

The front section of the building contains two floors, with an entrance lobby and offices for the sales, credit, and parts departments and the shop foreman located on the first floor. The second floor contains general offices, a conference room, file room, and vault.

The rear section of the first floor houses the service area, parts department, repair shop, storage area, and a large loading platform.

A block utility building, housing the paint room, track room, and wash room, is located at the rear of the main building.

The exterior of the main building is constructed of Norman brick and block, with exposed block used in the interior. Interior office partitions are birch plywood and glass. Asphalt tile was used for the floors in the office areas, while the warehouse and shop area has concrete floors. Acoustical tile was used for ceilings in the office area, while the shop and warehouse area is exposed frame. The roof is a steel frame built-up roof on metal deck.
1965 CONSTRUCTION MAY REACH $78 BILLION

The nation’s $60 billion construction industry may reach $78 billion a year by 1965, according to a survey recently completed by the Associated General Contractors of America. The report is based upon a continuation of current peace-time conditions.

In a special study of the construction trend for the next 10 years and its probable demands on structural steel and Portland cement supplies, the association estimated that by the end of the decade, increases of nearly one-third over current production of both these materials will be required for construction.

Results of the study were presented to the mid-year meeting of the AGC Governing and Advisory boards where executives of leading construction firms from throughout the country met to consider the various problems facing the industry in carrying out a continually expanding construction volume.

The study was made by a special committee on material supply appointed by AGC President Frank J. Rooney, of Miami, Fla., to examine the current materials supply situation, and to estimate production required to meet probable demands. The committee, headed by Charles B. Solomon, Boston, Mass., is charged with extending the association’s cooperation to the various producers of materials in attacking the problems of providing adequate supplies to meet construction requirements.

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power, and telephone and telegraph projects, are due to increase 14 per cent to $6.4 billion in 1965.

Conservation activity such as flood control, dam, irrigation and dredging projects may reverse its decline of several years and increase substantially to over $1.5 billion a year by 1965.

The construction of sewerage and water projects is expected to almost double in rate to $2.6 billion a year by 1965 as new and expanded communities attempt to meet an estimated $25 billion need in the next 10 years.

The only major category for which the AGC listed a decline was military construction, for which it indicated a gradual drop over the next 10 years to only 40 per cent of the current annual volume barring worsening international complications.

The association predicted a continued slight decline in housing construction through next year, followed by a gradual increase "sparked by new road construction which will provide access to new areas."

**Materials Expansion Needed**

The special committee reported a survey among the AGC members and chapters before the steel strike indicated demand for both cement and structural steel equalled or exceeded available supply, and that "the known requirements for the immediate future exceed the supplies that can be made available, and have resulted in delivery schedules extending through 12 to 18 months in the future."
BOOK REVIEW
ART IN EUROPEAN ARCHITECTURE
By Edward Loewenstein, AIA

Mr. Dadas is a noted architect and architectural writer originally from France. He came to this country to join the design staff of the United Nations Planning Commission, where he was also a permanent correspondent for the French architectural publication "L' Architecture d'Aujourd'hui." He has also been a design critic at Columbia University and has worked in close collaboration with other noted architects, engineers, artists, and sculptors.

The first portion of the book discusses in very general terms, current trends in art and modern architecture, and the historical background for their separation. The last half of the book will probably be of greater value to the reader as it involves artistic theory and practices in various types of modern European buildings, and also ships, gardens, exhibitions, and memorials. Trends in the free European countries are discussed together with various mediums such as the usage of stained glass, stone work, color, murals, painting and sculpting. A sad but timely portion concerns the pictures of the interiors of the ill-fated Italian Liner, "Andrea Doria," presently resting on the ocean bottom, 45 miles off Nantucket.

Old time, but rusty, French students will enjoy the word-for-word French-English translations presented on the same page. Although the English translator has been accused of a free translation which lost the intent of the original French, I feel that the faults of the English language itself are more to blame. A perfectionist might find many conflicts in some of the discussions, but these are certainly understandable and possibly valuable. They show that art can never be relegated to definite lines and must have freedom in every aspect.

There is a wealth of colored, and black-and-white photographs of various motifs pertaining to the aesthetics, ornamentation and decoration of European buildings.

This book is certainly for the semi-professional, the dilettante, or the professional in the field of art, architecture, sculpting, and design. It would be a waste of time for the rank amateur to try to absorb the photographs and written work, which is on too high a plane to be used as a mere reference book or as a test. In your reviewer's opinion it should be only the catalyst which would bring forth fresh ideas at the drafting board or the bar. There can certainly be no value in copying much of that which is shown.

The theme of the book is this: from the earliest times and almost down to the present, architecture and its allied arts were closely associated. Buildings were constructed over long periods of time when architects were also intellectuals, artists, engineers, sculptors, painters and teachers. Modern times have forced great specialization, a need for speed, and in most cases, a complete divorce of the aesthetics in favor...
of efficiency. Only the most wealthy can afford the services of the artist or the sculptor. The author’s unquestioned idol is Le Corbusier, who has done more to merge sculpting and architecture than any other modern designer. Corbu, of course, wrote the preface, which is one of the highlights of the whole book.

Confidently (and this is only for my most intimate friends—! all others please omit) your reviewer has been suffering for many years from the effects of the most vague and generally high-plane statements issued by the internationally famous architectural theorists none of whom are willing to put any of these ideas into actual practice. The time has come after 25 long years of theory, to relate these vague generalities, to actual materials, finances, markets, available techniques, and possibly the client. There is a great deal of value in this book if the reader has the ability and the time to stick with it to the end, allowing the various discussions to really “soak in.”

The busy practitioner in this area today might find it easier to swallow a brick than to wade through and digest all the interrelated facets of architecture and allied arts herein discussed (and I’m not asking for a re-issue of Speltz’s “Book of Ornamentation: Circa 1898”) and so on to the next architectural cliche and back to the ranch house!

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Attends Meeting
Joel E. Thompson of the Hillsman Company of Charlotte recently attended a conference of Kentile distributors in New York City.

Named Director
Frank F. Cook, President of Doco, Inc., Charlotte, concrete floor contractors, has been notified of his election as a Director of the National Small Business Foundation of Oakland, Cal. Mr. Cook has been a Vice-President of the Foundation since May, 1956.

Charlotte Council
The essential skill, courage and vision of local architects will lead to continuing contributions of great social and economic value to the community, Thomas L. Robinson, Publisher of the Charlotte News, told the Charlotte Council of Architects at a recent meeting.

Architects, Mr. Robinson said, have demonstrated a wide range of ability ranging from artistry to engineering.

"From my viewpoint," Robinson added, "I can tell you that you are seen as men who in many ways are contributing liberally to the realization of the ambitions of individuals and enterprises for progress."

Inspection Urged
Reinstatement of a program of electrical inspection in Wake County has been urged by the Raleigh Council of Architects in a resolution adopted at a recent meeting and filed with the Wake County Board of Commissioners.

Wake County recently suspended electrical inspections in non-urban areas of the county.

The resolution reads as follows:
"The Raleigh Council of Architects regrets the suspension of electrical inspections in the non-urban areas of Wake County, and is seriously concerned about the safety of electrical installations which are being made.

"In order to provide for greater safety for buildings and occupants, to insure compliance with applicable electrical codes, to encourage adequate wiring capacity, and to assure owners of the lowest insurance rates, the Raleigh Council of Architects respectfully urges the Wake County Board of Commissioners to reinstate a program of electrical inspection."

Visits Home Office
O. A. Seborg, Manager of the Charlotte sales branch of the Crane Company, recently returned after spending a week in the company's home office in Chicago. Mr. Seborg has been associated with the Crane Company since 1921.

Receives Award
Edwin L. Jones of Charlotte, President of the J. A. Jones Construction Company and a member of the Board of Trustees of Duke University, was recently named winner of the first College of Engineering Alumni Association Award. A member of the Class of 1912, Mr. Jones was President of the College of Engineering Alumni Association in 1946. The award is made annually to the alumnus 'whose personal life, professional achievements, community service, and service to Duke University exemplifies the objectives of the College of Engineering of Duke University.'

Opens Office
M. McDowell Brackett, AIA, has opened offices at 305 Wilder Building in Charlotte for the protection of architecture.

For three years prior to 1952, Mr. Brackett was a partner in the Asheville architectural firm of Brackett & Brackett, AIA, with his brother William E. Brackett, Jr., AIA. Recently, he has been employed by A. G. Odell, Jr., AIA, & Associates.

Brackett
Mr. Brackett is a graduate of Clemson College with the Class of 1942 and served with the United States Army in Europe.
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during World War II and was recalled to duty with a reserve unit in the Korean War.

Mr. Brackett lives with his wife, Miriam, and son, McDowell, Brackett, Jr., at 200 North Laurel Avenue in Charlotte. He is a member of the Charlotte Council of Architects and the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Exhibit Schedule
The 1956 Honor Awards Exhibit of the North Carolina Chapter, American Institute of Architects recently completed exhibition at the School of Design of North Carolina State College in Raleigh and is currently being shown at the Allied Arts Institute in Durham during November.

In December, the exhibit will be on display at the Gallery of Fine Arts in Winston-Salem.

Delaware Speaker
Robert Patten of Charlotte, Managing Director of the Carolinas Branch of the Associated General Contractors of America, was one of the principal speakers at a recent state-wide meeting of the Delaware Branch of AGC. Mr. Patten told contractor members present that contractors must improve their economic thinking or face disaster. General contractors have the skill and technical knowledge to meet the challenge of the atomic age, but their economic thinking is in a tail spin, Mr. Patten said.

Addresses Engineers
Robert J. Rhinehart, President of the National Society of Professional Engineers, was the guest speaker before the Charlotte Engineers Club October 22. Mr. Rhinehart is division superintendent of the Arkansas Power & Light Company in Pine Bluff, Ark.

Opens State Office
Marion J. Foster has been appointed Executive Secretary of the North Carolina Hospital Association and has opened state offices of the group in Raleigh. Mr. Foster has been an attorney for the American Hospital Association. A $30,000 grant was recently made by the Duke Endowment to assist in establishing the state office.
NEW PRODUCTS

A whole new line of combination gas-oil burners for industrial applications has just been announced. Each model of the new line has an integral air register, which eliminates the need for a costly checker floor and reduces installation time a great deal.

The burner section and the air register are shipped as separate units. They may quickly and easily be bolted together on the job. This ease of installation is particularly important on industrial conversion jobs.

The oil burner is the latest model rotary cup burner, designed to fire with No. 6 or lighter oil. Oil burner ratings run from nine to 125 gallons per hour.

The ring-type gas burner has multiple tubular stainless steel jets threaded into the heat-resistant cast iron manifold ring. It may be used with either natural or manufactured gas. Capacities range from 1,650,000 B.t.u. input per hour to 18,750,000 B.t.u. input.

Change-over from one fuel to another is a simple matter of operating a selector switch, or of reliance on automatic controls. No mechanical changes are necessary.

Electronic combustion controls automatically shut down the burner in case some abnormal condition arises. A programming control schedules the sequence of all burner operations. An automatic magnetic starter switch is provided for the oil burner motor.

A factory-wired control panel may be secured as accessory equipment. Iron Fireman Manufacturing Company, Cleveland 11, Ohio.

A completely new glass-reinforced dip tube that is not affected in any way by water temperatures in automatic water heaters, has been developed.

Exhaustive tests at temperatures up to 350 degrees F. show that the glass-reinforced dip tube (which carries incoming cold water to the lower part of the tank) will not collapse, telescope or become deformed; it will not dis- color water and will not impart an odor or taste to water.

The water heater industry has had a problem of non-metallic as well as metallic tubes for service above 180 deg. F. The normal domestic water heater tube will soften under these higher operating temperatures and could even make the heater inoperative.

Laboratory tests of the new tube found that linear deformation after 48 hours in a boiling water bath was zero in all cases. Lateral deflection in no case exceeded one-half inch, well under the proposed standard, and the maximum deflection in flex tests was three-thirty seconds (3/32nds) of an inch, also well under the proposed standard.

No discoloration of water was observed in any case during the same tests; no difference in odor could be detected in any case, and, finally, no differences were noted in water taste. A. O. Smith Corporation, Kankakee, Ill.

For faster, more convenient fastening, the PIN-GRIP, a one-piece masonry anchor has been introduced. By merely driving the pin protruding from the head, flush with the head, a permanent, tight fastening job will result.

To install a PIN-GRIP, drill a hole in masonry (concrete, brick, cement or cinder block, etc.) with a masonry bit or drill and hammer the diameter of the PIN-GRIP. Insert the PIN-GRIP through the fixture into the masonry hole. Drive the pin flush with the anchor head using an ordinary hammer. The stainless steel pin, nested in the bored aluminum body of the PIN-GRIP, forces out four expanding prongs which grip the wall within the masonry hole.

PIN-GRIP masonry anchor is recommended for securing pipe clamps, electrical fixtures, furring strip, insulation board, wood panels, metal signs, awning frames, etc., to any kind of masonry. A wide range of sizes are available to meet every requirement. Star Expansion, 142 Liberty Street, New York 6, N. Y.

The only sofa-bed on the market that operates on an arc mechanism, TURN-A-BED is being utilized by hostleries in solving a space problem that can mean the difference between a substantial net and operating in the red.
Chosen by hotels, motels and apartments throughout the country, TURN-A-BED offers function as well as style. A new type of convertible seating piece, this sofa-bed is unique in opening at any angle into whatever open floor space is available, without disturbing the furniture arrangement. It is also the only corner sectional that allows for the opening of both halves of the sofa without the shifting of one section.

Transforming a conventional hotel, motel or resort bedroom to meet the needs of the modern public does not require costly structural changes or interior alteration. A simple and practical solution is offered through the use of TURN-A-BED sofas, loveseats or sections, to achieve a sitting room look for gracious daytime living as well as luxurious accommodation for night-time comfort. Turn-A-Bed, New York, N. Y.

A new and revolutionary swimming pool filter—so modest in cost and easy to operate that owners of the smallest home pools can enjoy its advantages—is now being marketed.

Modern in design, the FABRO FILTER features several innovations which make it unlike any other swimming pool filter on the market. Its unique underdrain eliminates the need for layers of gravel, making it possible to use only sand in the filter—and no sand can ever wash into the pool. Other features of this filter are its oversized leaf strainer, rust proof filter vessels, pre-assembled valves and fittings, and chlorinator.

The FABRO FILTER can be assembled in less than an hour. Pool owners have proved, in actual operation experience, that it saves hours of drudgery and keeps a pool far healthier than make-shift cleaning methods. Designed by experts in pool maintenance, chemistry and sanitation, the FABRO FILTER provides scientifically controlled chlorine content and assures pool owners of pure and sparkling water.

FABRO FILTERS are available in six sizes for pools ranging up to 150,000 gallons in capacity. Fabro Equipment Corporation, 21 Goodale Circle, New Brunswick, N. J.

A troffer requiring less than one-half the depth of ordinary troffers is the outstanding feature of a new line of three "THIN-LITE troffers" introduced recently. Actually, the fixtures require only 2½ inches above the ceiling line. They are designed to save space for air-conditioning ducts, piping, etc.

The THIN-LITE troffer series offers three types of shielding and diffusing media. The one-piece polystyrene louver panel has cells that are ¾" x 5/8" x 9/16" and the shielding is 42 degrees x 42 degrees. The second medium utilizes the Corning No. 70 low brightness flat glass lens. The third is a formed acrylic diffuser ¼" thick which has outstanding dimensional and color stability. The diffusers are framed and hinged, and are removable from the fixture without the use of tools, for easy servicing.

The THIN-LITE troffers have an unusually clean-cut appearance since there are no exposed hinges, latches, screws or bolt heads to mar the appearance from below. All three models of these luminaries are 48" in length and each is equipped with two 430 M.A. rapid-start four-foot lamps. Lighting Products, Inc., Highland Park, Ill.

A new outdoor color lighting kit for use with the common 75 watt and 150 watt sealed beam projector lamps put out by all major lamp manufacturers, has just been announced by Stonco Electric Products Company. It consists of an aluminum lensholder that slips easily over the lamp to lock in place with stainless steel clips, and four inter-changeable color lenses in red, green, amber and blue.

The color lenses are made of tempered, natural-color glass that is reported to transmit deep, rich colorbeams with a minimum of light loss for color spotlighting and floodlighting indoors or outdoors in any weather. Stonco Electric Products Company, Kenilworth, N. J.
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