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Volume 4 May 1957 Number 5

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COVER


NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER • THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

We have noticed with some concern the invasion of our professional field by the so called package dealer. This type of organization offers a building service on a non-professional basis, including financing, site selection, planning, construction, supervision, equipment, etc. On the surface this sounds good to a certain type of client who is planning to build, but experience has shown many pitfalls, some of which I will list here.

Of utmost importance to a client is the professional attitude of an architect in his relations both with the owner and with all parts of the construction industry. A complete financial non-involvement with manufacturers of materials, building contractors and sub-contractors is essential to protect the client’s best interests. It is obvious that selection of materials and contractors might be influenced by financial interest to the client’s disadvantage. The code of ethics of the American Institute of Architects protects the client from such hazards.

Most people and organizations who have had building operations in the past will recognize the money saving potential in competitive bidding. With the package deal this advantage is lost. Sometimes it is not to the owner’s best interest to award contracts to the lowest bidder, and the architect’s experience and unbiased judgment at such time is invaluable.

In the matter of supervision of construction the package dealer is in the position of judging his own work. He is financially involved, and it might not be easy to order compliance with specifications to his financial disadvantage. The architect, on the other hand has no interest other than that of seeing that the owner gets what he has contracted for.

We as architects must always be alert to methods of improving our service to the public. If we can find ways to increase our usefulness, and at the same time maintain our professional regard for our client’s interests, we should make every effort to do so.

Let me urge again all of our members who can, to make reservations for our summer meeting at Atlantic Beach. The business meetings will be restricted to the mornings to allow lots of time for beach and recreational activity. Come and bring the whole family.

W. R. James, Jr.
President, NCAIA

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

The American Institute of Architects has notified us that Albert C. Woodruff of Greensboro has been elected to membership. Also, since publishing the Membership Roster in our April 1957 issue there have been several changes. Corporate Member Stephen Charles Wilbur, Jr. advises that his Charlotte address is 1411 Johnston Building. Corporate Member Thomas Edmund Whitmore has listed his Asheveille address as 246 Charlotte Street. Corporate Member J. Norman Pease, Jr. has changed his Charlotte box number to Box 10336. Associate Member Frank DePasquale has notified us that he is no longer in Southern Pines but has returned to Durham with mailing address Box 1692. Associate Member Peter Norris has as his present address 358 Harvard Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts. In addition to these changes we wish to call attention to and apologize for the error which listed the addresses of John Coleman Knight and Charles F. Knott in reverse. Also, A.I.A. has notified us that James G. Watson of Greensboro has tendered his resignation. Those who retained the roster are asked to please note these revisions.

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Completed last December at a cost of $75,000, this church features exposed brick and natural finished fir. The main window at the front presents a pleasing facade with the colored glass panels accenting the white cross, particularly at night.
Much interest has been aroused by the unique design of a thin shell dome for the auditorium of Teamsters Local Union #391, to be built along with an office wing in Winston-Salem for 1958 occupancy. It is to be situated on a plot with 400' frontage and 200' depth. The problems which faced the architect and the architect's solution to those problems were as follows:
It was required that the auditorium be attached to the union's office building but designed in such a manner so that the office portion could be closed off leaving the lobby and auditorium available for the public. The office wing and auditorium are joined by a common lobby with toilet facilities designed to accommodate the auditorium. These facilities will also serve the office wing. An excavated utility room will be below the lobby that will house the heating and air conditioning equipment and toilet areas.

The owners requested an auditorium that would serve a multiple purpose since it is their intention to make the auditorium available to civic groups in addition to their own needs for a meeting hall. The auditorium and lobby area can be closed off from the office wing for night use by civic groups. A round plan was chosen for the auditorium, and a new concept in thin shell concrete dome construction is being used. The twelve circular concrete columns are being employed to support the thin shell dome, that will be cast on a prepared mound of earth and lifted using the lift-slab principle. It is understood that this will be the first thin shelled dome constructed in such a manner. Since shoring and form work will be eliminated, it is expected that considerable savings will be accomplished. The dome will have rigid insulation and the underside of the dome will have a sprayed on acoustical finish. The base of the drum shaped auditorium has been set in, and aligns with the columns. This leaves a raised portion around the perimeter that will be used for fixed spectator seats and the projected stage. The exterior of the drum shaped auditorium will have precast mosaic panels insulated on the interior side. It was desirable to have a conference room for small meetings in the office wing. This conference room has been designed for private communication between the secretary-treasurer's office and the private secretary's office.

Porcelain enameled window walls, and enameled interior partitions will be used for the office portion of this building. All floors of the office wing and auditorium will be terrazzo. The conference room and the raised perimeter of the auditorium will be carpeted. The lobby area will have a cut slate flooring.
THE FUNCTION OF THE SURETY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The following talk, made before the Western Council of Architects April 12 by Mr. Robert J. Bellrose of Greensboro, is reprinted by request. Mr. Bellrose is a special agent for the Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company's Fidelity and Surety Department.

"The architect, contractor, surety, banker and supplier are all important segments of the construction industry. We are all familiar with our own scope of operation but unfortunately many times we know too little about the contributions and functions of the other members of the industry. It is hoped that this discussion will give you a better understanding of the part played by surety companies.

The accomplishments of the construction industry are a continual source of amazement to surety men. Contractors as a group are independent and self-reliant men. They have confidence in their ability and must of necessity be optimists.

The contractor must be able to evaluate the following factors when he bids on a job:

a. Physical hazards in the job.
b. Effect of weather on cost.
c. Adaptability of equipment.
d. Availability of skilled labor and its productive capacity.
e. Problems of organization, supervision and financing.
f. Co-ordination of sub-contractors.
g. Interpretation of specifications.

After completing his bid the contractor is betting, not only what the job will cost him today, but six or 12 months later.

When a surety is requested to handle the bonding requirements, of what to it is a new contract account, it will carefully develop the following information:

a. Background and experience of the organization and key personnel involved.
b. Equipment of organization.
c. Type and size of several of the largest jobs performed.
d. Maximum Work program carried on at any one time.
e. Detailed financial statement.
f. Trade payment record.

The contractor's primary concern usually is with pricing, organization and equipment. The surety is interested, not only in these items, but also in the contractor's plans for financing the particular job in question and the over-all work program.

Contractors will not usually concede that they are undertaking what may be a losing job, but surety, somewhat more realistically, wishes to assure itself that the contractor is capable of financing a losing job. It is for that reason that his loss absorption power is carefully evaluated by the surety. Is he able to absorb a reasonable loss on any contract that he undertakes thus guaranteeing, as far as possible, that no single job will bankrupt him?

The surety company does not wish to encourage the contractor to undertake a contract in which the chance of failure is disproportionately large.

It should be borne in mind that a surety bond is not an insurance policy. Let us now define exactly what a contract bond is. It is a three party contract in which the surety guarantees the performance of the contractor (principal) to the owner (Obligee). The bond in itself is nothing. It guarantees the conditions of another written contract which is incorporated into and made a part of the bond. The contractor (principal) receives no protection under the bond from the surety company. The surety pays the owner (obligee) only when the contractor (principal) is unable to fulfill his obligation. In effect the surety is granting an extension of credit and is acting as the endorser of the contractor. The bond premium is the charge for this extension of credit and the surety expects to suffer no loss when it issues a bond. The surety has the right of recovery against the principal under the bond for any payment which it makes. This is a major distinction between suretyship and insurance.

In requiring a bond, the owner is assured that should circumstances arise, which make it impossible for the contractor to fulfill his obligation, corporate surety is available to guarantee that his contract will be completed. When an owner requires a bond, he is not indicating lack of faith but is just following sound business procedure.

The Surety Association of America is a rate making organization, which is the medium for the promulgation and filing of bond premium rates for use by its membership. Among its records are exhibits indicating that over a period of time 87½% of the bonds written were on contractors, the penalty of which was under $100,000. At the time of the preparation of such exhibits these bonds produced some 26.6% of the total contract bond premium of the membership, but 61% of all the claims. It must here be noted that under the reduced rates in effect since July 1955, bonds on these smaller contracts would be closer to producing between 33% to 35% of the total contract bond premiums of the membership. In either event, the figures indicate that from the surety standpoint the risk and exposure is greatest in contracts of $100,000 or less.

Common causes of contract failure are inexperience, insufficient financial resources, inadequate bids, excessive work on hand, purchase of expensive equipment, inability to secure materials, failure of unbonded subcontractors, delays and penalties, strikes or labor troubles, unusual working conditions, inefficiencies in contractor's organization and recalling of bank loans.

In case of loss the surety may inject capital and come to the aid of the contractor if conditions justify such a course of action in its opinion. It may take over the job and have another contractor complete the work or sometimes it may have the owner reoffer the job for bids and pay the difference between the new bid and the original bid. Surety companies are mindful of their obligations and stand ready to fulfill them. The surety is always prepared to take over when the contractor is in financial difficulties or in default, but not prior to that time. However, on occasion a disagreement may arise between the contractor and the owner on a matter on which the specifications are silent.

(Continued on page 27)
The 400 sq. ft. Waccamaw Bank and Trust Company's new drive-in branch was built at a cost of $14,000 including paving, utilities and repairs to walls of adjacent buildings. It is on a lot with a 48 foot frontage on the main street by 58' on the side street, and the other sides of the lot are surrounded by walls 20 feet high.

The architect was asked to provide two drive-in windows and a forward looking and colorful building which would stimulate interest in a building and speak subtly of the confidence in the future of the bank. The nature and size of the site dictated to automobile traffic around three sides of the building. The plan of the building was considered rectangular, circular, and the final solution became a diamond in order to adjust corners to the best traffic pattern.

There are only two employees needed to serve the vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Slim automatic drive in windows are protected with overhangs adjusted to small trucks. The long point of the diamond plan extends toward the main street and contains the pedestrian entrance and small lobby with teller facilities. Also included are toilet facilities for the personnel, drinking fountain, heating and air conditioning unit, storage closet and movable safe, two small desks, and the tellers counter.

The roof structure is made up of two rigid frame bents across the short axis with a cantilever beam at the center. The roof deck is wood covered with standing seam copper. Exterior and interior trim is redwood. Glare reducing glass is used on all elevations. The floors are asphalt tile and flagstone. Lighting fixtures were chosen for utility and for a diversified and dramatic eye appeal at night.
THE MAY 1957 SOUTHERN ARCHITECT
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This cafeteria addition, finished last year, has a novel feature in its two serving lines which do not cross. Costing $113,000 the 8,622 square foot structure seats 320 and can feed 1,000. The entire floor system was raised off the ground to allow pipe accessibility.
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Currently under construction and costing over $375,000 this unusual church has 26 classrooms and 2 assembly rooms, the sanctuary seating 600 and a chapel seating 120. Dominant architectural feature is the sanctuary roof of which wood beams, low at the entrance and rising high above the altar, form two hyperbolas covered with copper. Providing backdrop to the altar is a great multi-colored glass window extending to the roof, with an outdoor altar on the other side.
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NCAIA’S N. C. STATE COLLEGE STUDENT CHAPTER

During the year 1956-57 the American Institute of Architects Student Chapter at N. C. State College, shown above, has had an active program. The Chapter adviser is George Matsumoto, AIA of Raleigh. Its officers are Robert H. Tucker, President; Karl D. Stuart, Treasurer; Sidney Swidler, Corresponding Secretary, and Robert Chagnon, Recording Secretary.

Climaxing the year the N. C. Chapter made its annual award of $25 in books to the senior judged by fifth year professor Horacio Caminos as the outstanding student in design. This year the award was divided among three students, in that their accomplishments were so near equal. The three, all from North Carolina, who will receive their award May 26 during Commencement exercises from NCAIA President James are Edwin Freeland Harris, Jr. of Elkin, James Russel Washburn, Jr. of Lake Lure, and Robert Paschal Burns, Jr. of Roxboro.

In addition to the regular monthly meetings they maintain a continuing job-placement service, and entertainment of visiting lecturers and guests. They present an annual dance, an annual picnic, and arrange trips in the eastern part of the country when feasible.

At their monthly meetings they handle the business of the organization, plan activities, and present guest speakers. These speakers present subjects of architectural interest, historical talks, business practice, slide programs, and professional registration requirements.

This year they have sent members of the Executive Committee to the annual American Institute of Architects, N.A.S.A. convention in Washington, D. C. and to the N. C. Chapter A.I.A. meeting in Chapel Hill.

This spring, a traveling exhibition explaining an architect’s services was given as a problem for a class of freshman students at the School of Design, North Carolina State College. In addition to investigation of the feasibility of such an exhibition, this project was planned to acquaint the students with the standards of the architectural profession and to introduce them to the integration of simple structures, graphic design, and functional requirements.

After studying the “Standards of Architectural Services” of the North Carolina Chapter, A.I.A., each student designed a series of panels, photographs, and models which would effectively inform laymen of the profession’s scope. In order that the exhibition could be easily installed at home shows, galleries, conventions, etc., it was required to be free-standing and demountable. For shipping, all parts of the exhibition had to fit into a standard station wagon.

Drawings and models of their designs were prepared by the students under the direction of Charles M. Sappenfield, Instructor in Architecture, and are shown on the page on the right.
A single box, containing support, panels and models, opens into the exhibition designed by W. R. Bray, Goldsboro, N. C.

A bolted framework of steel angles permits a varied arrangement of panels hung on leather straps. Frederick Grieger, New York City.

A simple folding panel which can be arranged in different exhibition spaces was submitted by Paul Tokarz, Cooleemee, N. C.

Exhibition units hung on a system of aluminum tubes and joining blocks were designed by Jerry V. Edwards, Spring Hope, N. C.

A series of unfolding panels made rigid by the insertion of thin steel rods was the entry of William L. Ballenger, Concord, N. C.
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THE MAY 1957 SOUTHERN ARCHITECT
Solar House Architectural Competition

An International Architectural Competition for the Design of a Residence on the theme "Living With The Sun" has been announced. Sponsored by the Association for Applied Solar Energy and with the approval of the American Institute of Architects and the Union Internationale des Architects, the first prize will be a cash award of $2,500 and a contract for full architectural services for the residence at a 10 per cent fee. In addition, a second award of $1,500, a third award of $1,000, and a fourth and fifth award of $500 each will be made at the discretion of the jury.

This competition is for the design of a residence which will control, adapt, store, and utilize directly and indirectly the sun's energy to create a livable and pleasant climate for man's domestic activities. The residence, of 2,000 sq. ft. enclosed space, will be constructed on a one acre tract of land northeast of Phoenix, Arizona as soon as possible after the judgment of the jury.

The jury which will meet September 14-15 to consider entries and will announce winners within 10 days thereafter, is composed of Pietro Belluschi, F.A.I.A., Dean of Architecture and Planning at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Carlos Conrades, Hon. F.A.I.A., Architect and Planner of Mexico City; Thomas A. Creighton, A.I.A., Editor of Progressive Architecture; Nathaniel Owings, F.A.I.A., Architect of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill; and James Elmore, A.I.A., Professor of Architecture, Arizona State College.

The Competition closes August 15, 1957. Prospective competitors should apply before June 1 to Professional Advisor James M. Hunter, F.A.I.A., 1126 Spruce Street, Boulder, Colorado.

The competitor is not expected to "invent" a solar collecting or heating device, but to adapt and utilize the findings of researchers and scientists in the field in an imaginative and practical way and to create a design for a residence which, by its form, texture, shape, parts, and mass, will contribute to the over-all control and "Harnessing" of solar energy so that man may learn to "LIVE WITH THE SUN."

The Association for Applied Solar Energy is dedicated to the fostering of scientific solar research, the dissemination of solar knowledge on a world-wide basis, and the encouragement of the practical applications of solar energy. It seeks to encourage the Architectural Profession and others involved in the creation of man's physical environment to explore and experiment with the potentials of solar energy in the design of buildings to better man's living conditions.

HELP WANTED

We have been asked by the Library at Duke University to furnish them with a copy of our July 1954 issue to complete their file. And the University of North Carolina Library desires November and December 1955 issues. We would most appreciate anyone having any of these copies kindly sending them to Southern Architect, P. O. Box 408, Raleigh.

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ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS IN THE NEWS

Mr. Peter J. Verna, Vice-President of Concrete Materials, Inc. of Charlotte, presented a paper "Prestressed Concrete" at the regular May meeting of the Charlotte Council of Architects. Verna will attend the Prestressed Concrete Institute’s Annual Meeting July 29th through August 2nd in San Francisco, California. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the First World Conference on prestressed concrete. Mr. Verna, a director, will present a paper on "Pretensioned Fabrication Plants in the United States of America." — James W. Fitzgibbon, AIA of Raleigh, and his wife sailed in May on the S.S. Constitution for Algeciras, Spain. Fitzgibbon, who is Vice President of Geodesics, Inc. will assist in setting up a pavilion at the U. S. Trade Fair in Casablanca. — Vernon D. Goode of Charlotte, Vice President of Goode Construction Co., was recently elected Chairman of the Advisory Committee of N. C. State College’s Industrial Experiment Program. — Louise Hall, AIA of Durham, spoke to the Raleigh Council of Architects at its April meeting on "The Development of 19th Century Architectural Practice." Miss Hall explained the characteristics of the profession in Europe and the United States, and the early practices of Architects in North Carolina.

"THE SURETY"

(Continued from page 13)

Perhaps the disagreement stems from a difference in interpretation of the specifications. At this point the owner may contact the surety and ask the surety to take over. Perhaps no provision has been included for settling such differences by arbitration when the contractor is solvent. The owner has called upon the surety to take over but the surety has a contractor who is financially able to respond, but who does not feel that he is required under the terms of the contract to do what the owner is insisting upon. It may very well be that the contractor’s interpretation is the correct one and the fact that a bond has been furnished certainly does not deprive him of any of his rights under the contract. An honest difference of opinion exists —and this is what makes horse races.”
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THE MAY 1957 SOUTHERN ARCHITECT
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**ARCHITECTURAL CALENDAR**

- **MAY 14-17**: Centennial Celebration Convention, American Institute of Architects. Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D. C.
- **MAY 26**: School of Design Commencement, N. C. State College, Raleigh.
- **MAY 31**: Eastern Council of Architects, New Bern.
- **JUNE 5**: Charlotte Council of Architects. Chez Montet, Charlotte.
- **JUNE 5, 12, 19, 26**: Architects Guild of High Point, High Point.
- **JUNE 20-22**: N. C. Chapter AIA, Atlantic Beach Hotel, Atlantic Beach, N. C.
- **JULY 12**: Western Council of Architects, Johnny's Steak House, Lenoir.

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