

# SOUTHERN ARCHITECT

**JULY 1959**

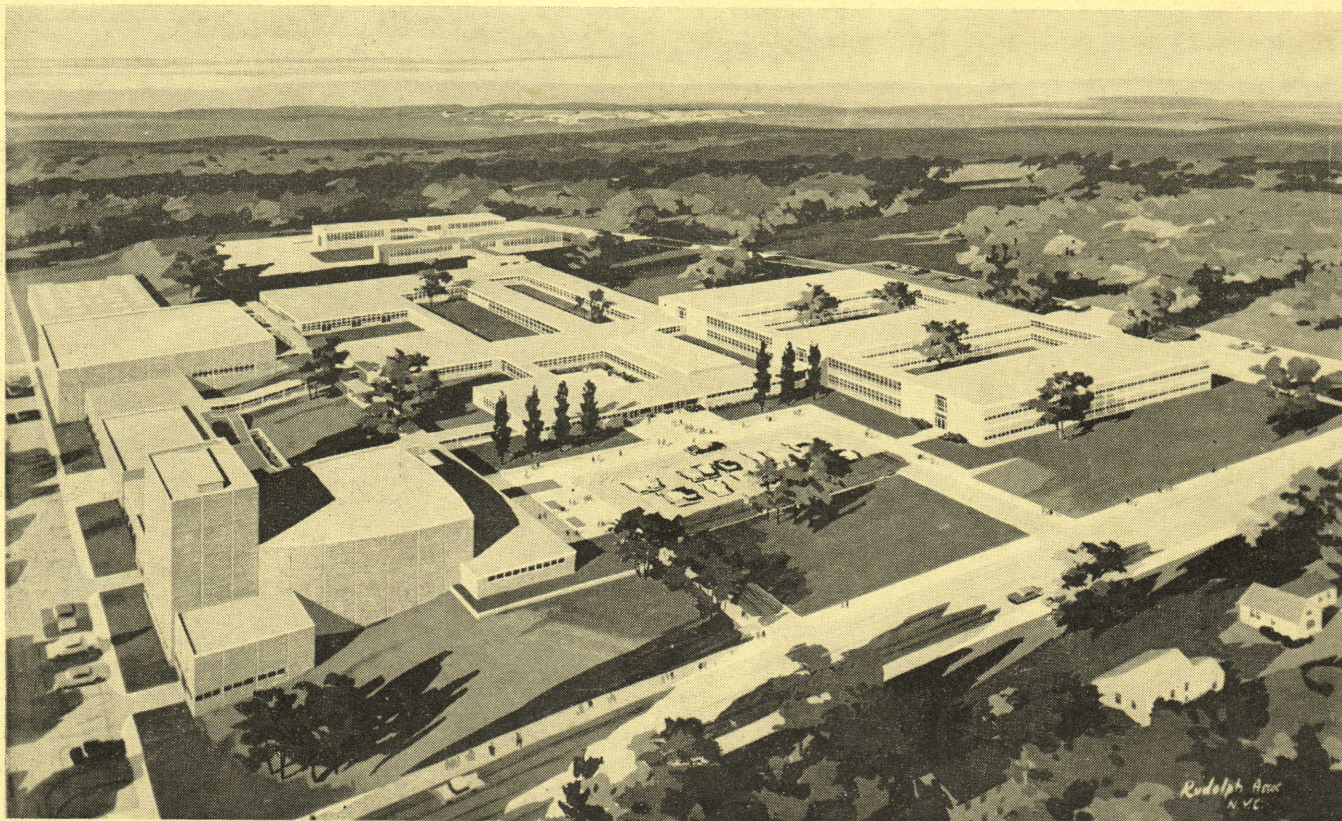
**SUMMER MEETING  
ISSUE**

Official Publication  
North Carolina Chapter



American Institute  
of Architects





*Spartanburg High School, Spartanburg, S. C.*

*RAY LILLARD, A.I.A., of HAROLD WOODWARD ASSOC., Spartanburg, S. C., Architect; RAYMOND J. GAUGER, Augusta, Ga., Structural Engineer; FISKE-CARTER CONSTRUCTION CO., Spartanburg, S. C., Contractors.*



## CITATION for Design

Spartanburg High was among 29 schools to receive a recent AASA\* citation for design. 250 schools exhibited.

The crisply designed buildings of Spartanburg High are divided into functional units, related for over-all efficiency. They separate various activities, eliminate the traffic and noise of a single, big school building.

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Another good reason for selecting Solite

was interesting *texture*. Solite masonry units provided a natural beauty perfectly in keeping with the indoor-outdoor plan of low buildings and grassy courtyards. Still another reason was Solite's *natural resistance to fire*—a vital factor with parents and educators.

Quiet, beautiful and safe, Solite is playing an increasingly important role in such thoughtful, modern designs as this. In fact, Solite's many natural advantages . . . its compatability with all building materials and techniques . . . makes it the *logical* choice for outstanding projects.

\*American Association of School Administrators

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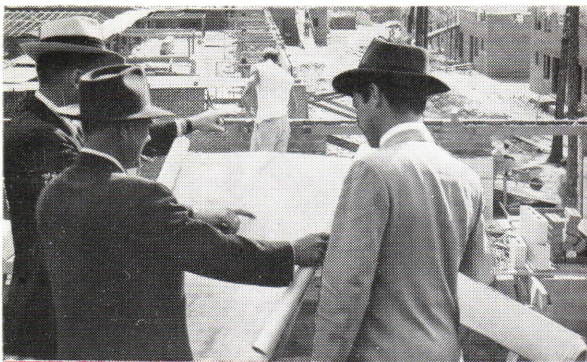
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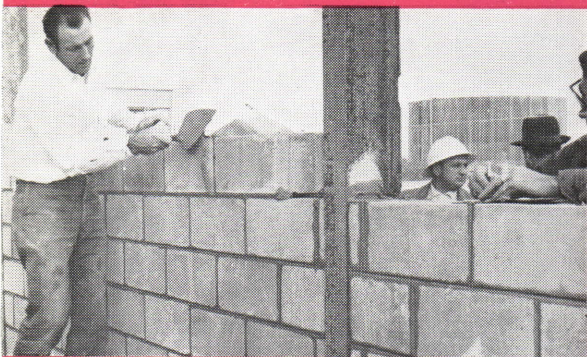
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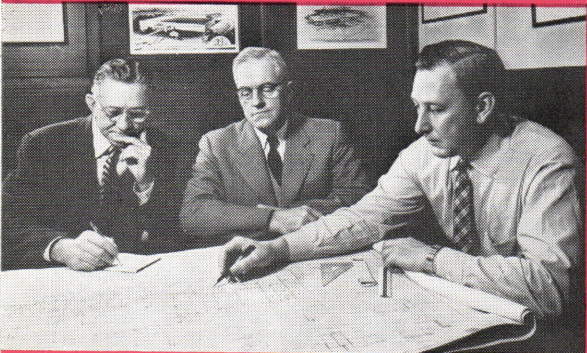




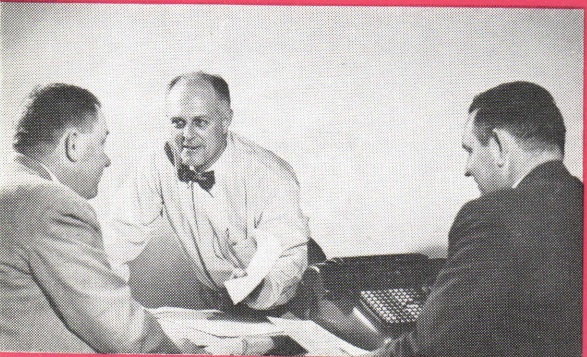
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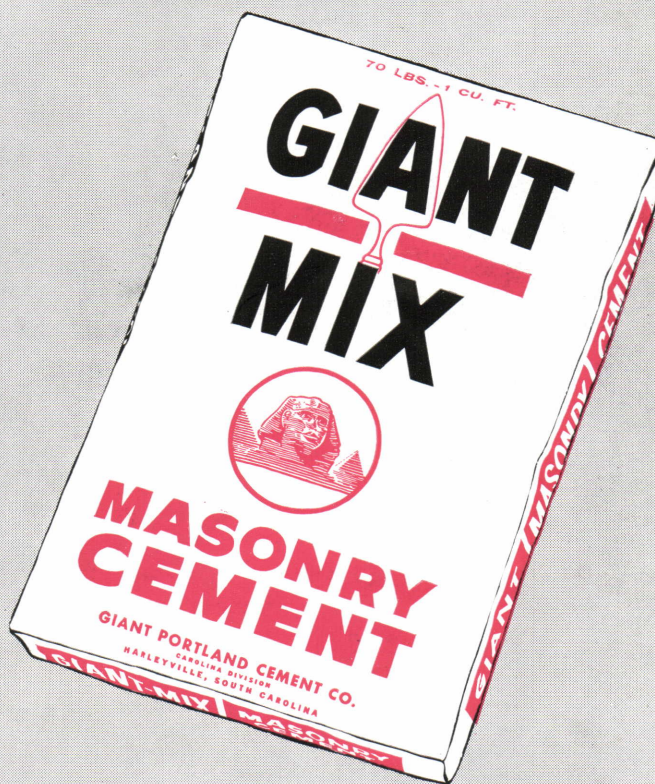
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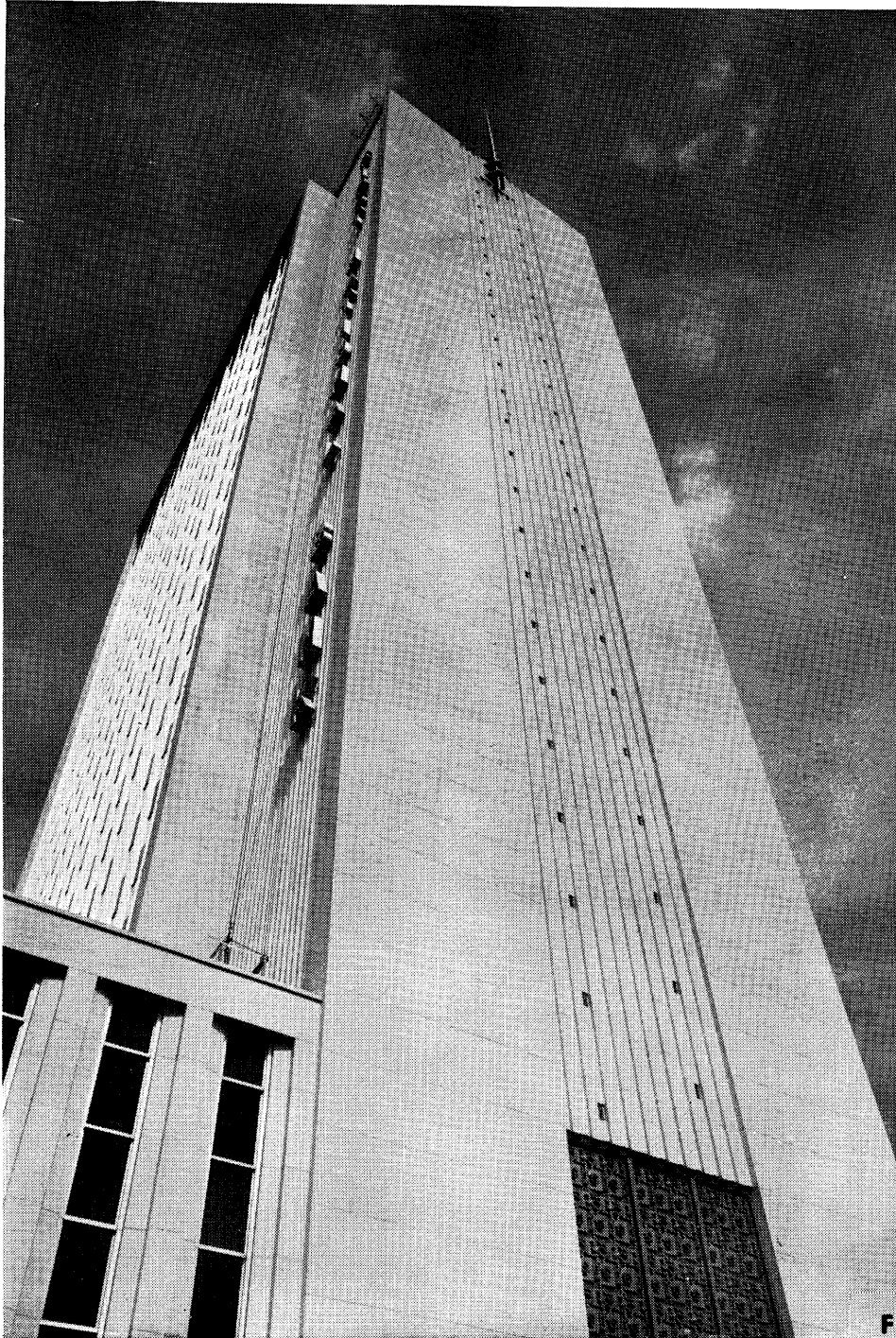
**GIANT PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY**  
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*Denver's First National Bank...*

## **precast concrete panels give these curtain walls their clean, modern look**

**WHEN AMERICA BUILDS FOR BEAUTY...IT BUILDS WITH CONCRETE**



With its tower rising 28 stories, the new First National Bank building, Denver, Colorado, is one more example of concrete's importance as a modern curtain wall material.

Large precast concrete panels, both ribbed and flat, are combined to give the tower its strong and dramatically simple vertical lines. White quartz aggregate, ground smooth, was used to face the panels.

Panels, most of which are 5'6" x 6' x 2", were fastened directly to the structural frame with no back-up needed. The walls are weather-tight, noise- and fire-resistant.

Architects everywhere are finding that concrete is the one completely versatile building material for structures of every size and kind.

*Architect: Raymond Harry Erwin & Associates, Denver, Colorado*

*Consulting and Structural Engineers: Phillips-Carter-Osborn, Inc. and Rhuel A. Andersen. Denver, Colorado*

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*A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete*

**FOR STRUCTURES...**

**MODERN**

**concrete**



# Superior seating sustains serenity

Concordia Lutheran Church,  
Conover, North Carolina

Architect: A. G. Odell Jr. and Associates  
Charlotte, North Carolina

When the annals of 20th Century architecture are written, the transition in church design may be the most colorful and dramatic chapter. In Concordia, A. G. Odell Jr. has expressed man's aspiration toward God with strikingly different forms — yet created an interior of calm serenity. Dignified simplicity distinguishes his design for seating . . . skillfully wrought by craftsmen of Southern Desk Company. For a half century Southern Desk Company has designed and created church furniture to harmonize intimately with architecture and to sustain the religious mood of the worshippers.



**Southern  
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July 1959  
Volume 6  
Number 7

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# Southern Architect

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Cover  
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## RAMSAY REAPPOINTED

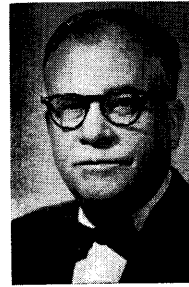
On June 18 Governor Hodges reappointed John Edwin Ramsay, AIA of Salisbury, above photo, for a five year (to 1964) term to the North Carolina Board of Architecture. This past year Ramsay has served as Chairman, and he was re-elected along with all officers at a meeting of the Board last month. When Ramsay was appointed in 1954 he was the youngest architect ever to be appointed to the Board. Other officers re-elected are Leon McMinn, left below, AIA of Greensboro, as Vice-President, and James Griffith, center below, AIA of Greenville, as Secretary, Treasurer. Lewis Polier, right below, AIA of Raleigh, was re-elected Executive Secretary.



## ODELL ELECTED DIRECTOR

Arthur Gould Odell, Jr., FAIA of Charlotte, was elected Regional Director of the South Atlantic Region of the American Institute of Architects during the Annual Meeting of the organization in New Orleans June 22-26. David M. Mackintosh, Jr., AIA of Charlotte, was elected Secretary-Treasurer. The two were nominated at the Regional meeting, held April 13-17 during a cruise on the M. S. Italia from Charleston to Nassau, and were unopposed for election at the National Convention. Odell succeeds Clinton Gamble, AIA of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in the three year term. He is the third North Carolinian to serve as Regional Director. Others were William Henry Lord, FAIA of Asheville, in 1927-30, and Ross Edward Shumaker, AIA of Raleigh, in 1948-51.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



CLEMMER

The national convention just ended in New Orleans was quite impressive. The theme of the convention was "Design". Either the theme was a popular one, the participants were well selected or the locale of the meeting was appealing because the attendance was unusually good. We are inclined to believe this was due in some measure to all three factors. Unofficially, there were more than 1800 registrations of Architects, their guests and associates in addition to exhibitors and staff members. A capacity audience attended practically every session. Standing room only was available at several sessions.

The theme was developed in an outstanding manner by speakers Edward D. Stone and Paul Thiry and impressively summarized by Samuel T. Hurst. Possibly the highlight of the program was the panel discussion "Individual Theories of Design" chaired by Philip C. Johnson and participated in by William L. Pereira, Minoru Yamasaki and Charles E. Pratt. The audience was most receptive and responsive to each of these distinguished men.

This was a new venture in conventions to the extent that no planned evening social functions were scheduled. This departure from previous custom apparently proved to be very successful and quite popular. It was predicted that it might even set the pattern for future conventions. The local hospitality was excellent and there was an adequate amount of local architecture, both new and old, to be viewed by those who had the time. Eleven Architects from our Chapter were registered. As usual we came away impressed by the number of qualified and talented people in our leadership who are devoting so much of their precious time to problems that concern us all.

A warm welcome is extended to all who will be in attendance at our Summer Meeting in Asheville, including our guests. Our thanks go to our hosts for a well-planned program of education, relaxation and entertainment.

Robert L. Clemmer, President  
N. C. Chapter A. I. A.



## NCAIA NEWS

### KAMPHOEFNER ELECTED SCHOOLS OFFICER

Henry L. Kamphoefner, FAIA of Raleigh, was elected on June 22nd as Treasurer of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. The election came during the Annual meeting of the Association at Tulane University. The organization is the association of all schools teaching architecture, accredited or not, in the United States, Canada and Mexico. The meeting was held in connection with the 1959 annual convention of the American Institute of Architects, and also of the National Association of Students of Architecture, which met in the same city. Dean Kamphoefner addressed the students on "Values, Ethics and The Professional Attitude".

### CLOSE OFFICE

James B. Lynch and O. G. Foard, AIA's of Wilmington, announced on June 12 the closing of their office. Mr. Foard's address will be 114 North 7th Street, and Mr. Lynch's 701 North 13th Street in that city.

### RICE ELECTED

Richard L. Rice, AIA of Raleigh, was elected June 25 as President of the North Carolina State College Alumni Association. Rice, a 1941 graduate of the College's School of Architecture, is a native of Raleigh. He succeeds Mose Kiser of Greensboro and took office on July 1. Last year Rice was Publications Committee Chairman for NCAIA of "Southern Architect". Leslie N. Boney, Jr., AIA of Wilmington, is retiring Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Charles H. Wheatley, AIA of Charlotte, is a Director.

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### SOLITE VIRGINIA WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Eight senior students of architecture at the University of Virginia and Virginia Polytechnic Institute have won cash prizes totalling \$1,500 in the sixth annual "Solite Competition Award" contest, it was announced today by A. Cabell Ford, director of sales for Southern Lightweight Aggregate Corporation. First place winner in the University of Virginia competition was Irvin Michael Kroskin of Norfolk, Va. Robert Karn of Rockville, Md., was first place winner at VPI.

At the University of Virginia students competed in the design of a city hall for Harrisonburg, Va.. The VPI competition was for the design of a convention center. Award winners received an expense paid trip to the annual meeting of the Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects held in Charlottesville recently.

## AIA NEWS

### N. C. ARCHITECT READMITTED

On June 19 The American Institute of Architects readmitted to active membership Cicero Franklin Branan, Jr., of Raleigh, who was Vice President of the Florida Chapter in 1951 and has been Associate Member of the N. C. Chapter since 1956.

### DETROIT DOCUMENT CHOSEN

The Document-of-the-Month of June, chosen by the AIA Committee on Chapter Affairs, is Occupational Guide Number 21, entitled "Architect", edited and published by the Michigan Employment Security Commission from an original manuscript prepared by the Detroit Chapter A.I.A. The Committee had the following to say "While it may seem somewhat elemental in its handling of the subject, it must be realized that it is directed to a pre-college audience. The Committee believes that comparable cooperation in other states between our architectural organization and the state government might be beneficially productive."

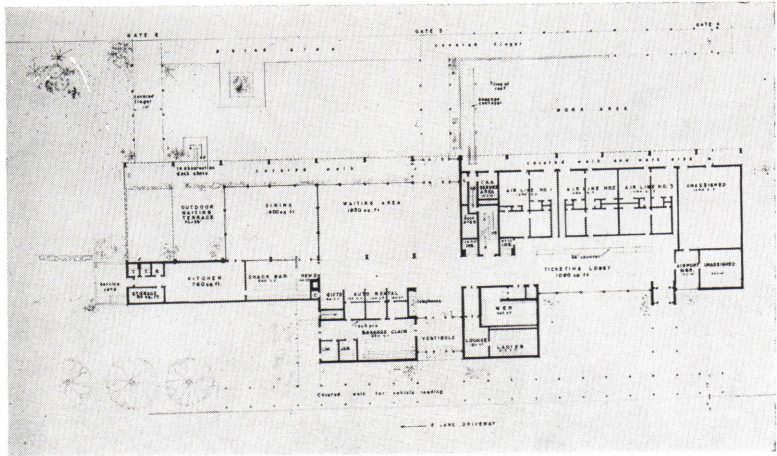
### LITERATURE COMPETITION ANNOUNCED

AIA has announced the 1960 Building Products Literature Competition. Four classes of literature may be nominated by members, chapters, associations of manufacturers or advertising agencies. A jury of five architects appointed by the Institute will judge product literature and space advertising published subsequent to December 31, 1957 except class 1 of current literature (building product literature concerned primarily with basic technical information). Entries in duplicate must be received not later than January 15, 1960 accompanied with a \$10.00 check at the Producers Council, Inc., 2029 K Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Nominations should be made to the AIA Department of Education and Research, 1735 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

### HOSPITAL EXHIBITION ANNOUNCED

The 61st Annual Convention of the American Hospital Association in New York August 24-27 will again have as one of its highlights the Architectural Exhibition of Hospitals, which annually has been viewed by over 12,000 persons. No more than three entries per architect or firm of jobs erected or actually under construction since January 1, 1954 may be submitted. Entries must be shipped to the American Hospital Association Architectural Exhibition (3rd floor Coliseum, Columbus Circule, New York, New York marked "for delivery August 18-20". Entry fees are \$25.00 for single mounts, \$40.00 for double mounts and \$30.00 for models. The jury, appointed by the American Hospital Association, shall consist of at least three members of the A. I. A. and three hospital administrators.

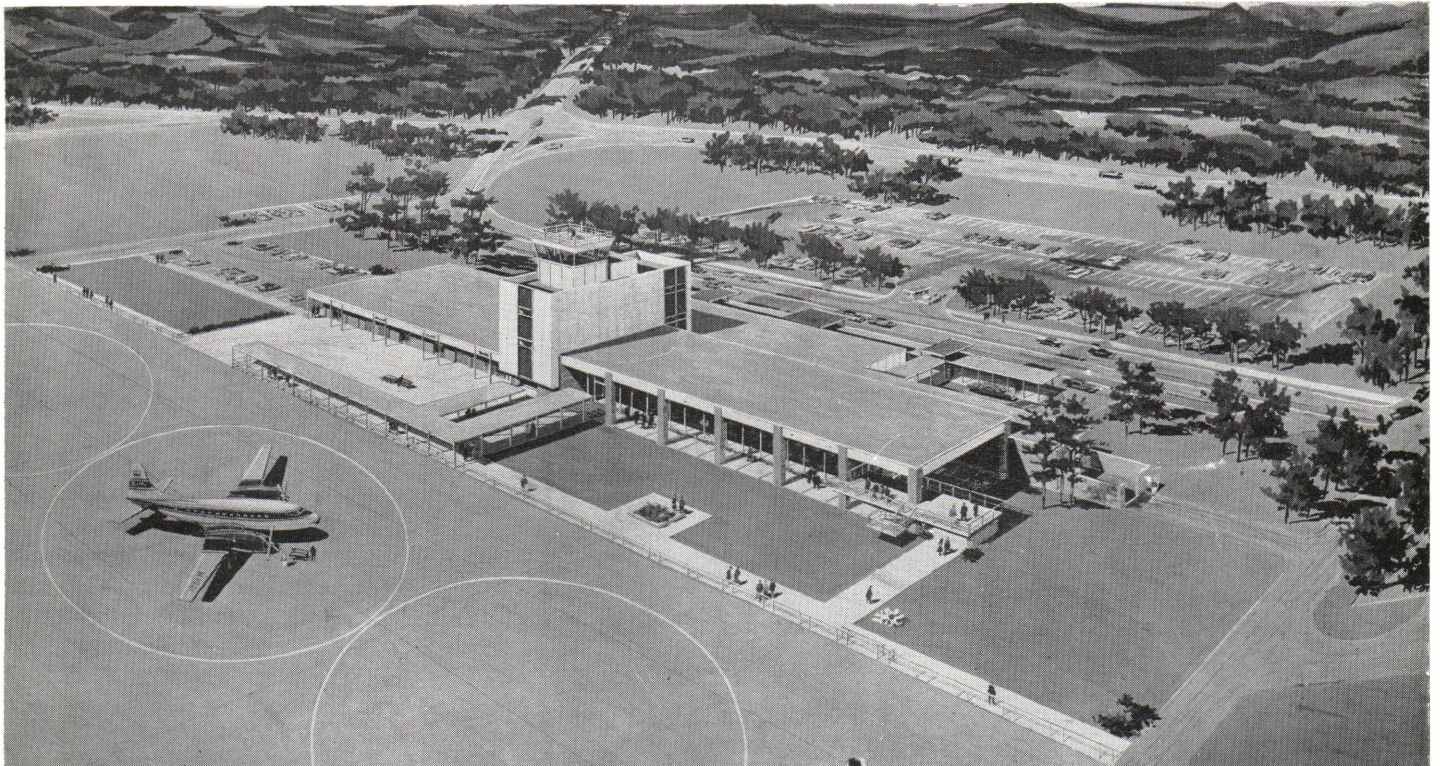




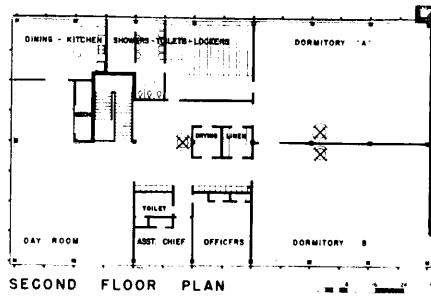
Four miles West of the airport in Asheville a new airport is 70% complete. This terminal to be let this summer is expected to cost approximately one-half million dollars. It will contain space for four airlines, an observation deck, dining rooms, concessions, etc., and will be completely air-conditioned. The exterior will be gray crab-orchard stone and pre-cast concrete panels. The interior will be marble, terrazo, wood paneling and acoustical tile, and it will have tinted glass. One of the features will be a baggage conveyor system going under the building from plane to car loading areas.

## air terminal building asheville, n. c.

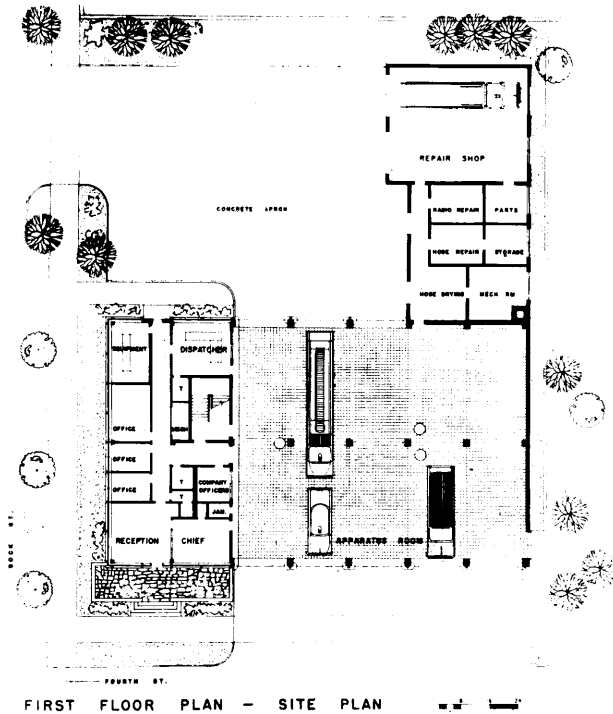
Earl G. Stillwell, FAIA  
Anthony Lord, FAIA  
Stewart Rogers, AIA  
Henry Irven Gaines, AIA  
Asheville, N. C.







## fire station wilmington, n. c.



Leslie N. Boney, AIA  
Wilmington, N. C.

R. E. Haynes, General Contractor  
Wilmington, N. C.

Built in 1956 on a downtown corner replacing an old station, this main headquarters building for the Wilmington Fire Department cost approximately \$1¼ million. It has 18,540 square feet and is completely air-conditioned. Of steel frame construction the exterior is of mosaic stone and windows are aluminum awning. One of its features is a drive through to eliminate backing of trucks and increase efficiency.





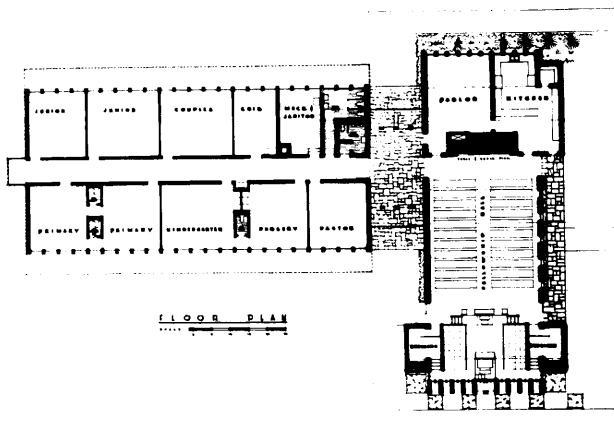




## crestwood presbyterian church high point, n. c.

Mays and Parks, Associates, A. I. A.  
High Point, North Carolina

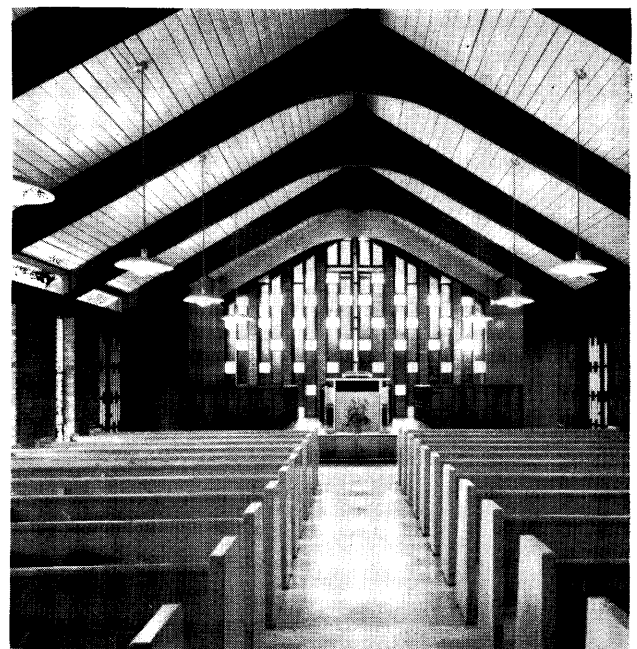
J. R. Graham & Son, Inc., General Contractor  
High Point, North Carolina



This building of approximately 8000 square feet comprises the first stage of a multi-stage construction program. In later stages, the present sanctuary will become the Fellowship Hall and the Pastor's Study will be relocated. Certain partitions are removable for allocation of Sunday School spaces.

All floors are concrete slab-on-grade. Interior finishes are face brick, redwood panelling and vinyl tile floor. The roof of the Fellowship Hall Wing is supported on 3" wood deck over laminated wood arches which rest on load-bearing masonry walls.

The Sunday School roof system is sloping wood beams 4'-0" o. c. bearing on masonry piers at the exterior wall and continuous masonry interior corridor walls. Inverted beams over the corridor form a mechanical space for future air conditioning ducts, and at the same time provide a symmetrical 2-way sloped ceiling in each class room. Interior finishes are painted concrete masonry block walls, acoustical tile ceilings, asphalt tile floors.





## REGIONAL SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

*This report was presented at the Conference of the South Atlantic Region, AIA, and was prepared by Leslie N. Boney, Jr., AIA, Wilmington, N. C., Committee Chairman . . .*

Schools are receiving more public recognition than ever before. The people are more conscious of the schools value and are becoming increasingly interested in all aspects of the problem.

Estimates for 1959 show that the national expenditure for schools will be 2.9 billion and during the next 10 years approximately the same average or a 30 billion dollar total is probable.

While the building picture in some southern states is complicated by threats to abolish the public school system it is certainly likely that the field will continue to be a busy one. There will obviously be spots of inactivity developing from time to time.

The great emphasis for the present in North Carolina is for more larger high schools. It is expected that the community college will receive more and more attention in the future.

A junior college planning conference was planned in March under the co-sponsorship of the Florida Association of Architects, The State Education Office and the Architectural School of the University of Florida at Gainesville.

The North Carolina Chapter Schools Committee has under consideration an other School Planning Conference during the Winter 1959-60. Co-sponsored by North Carolina AIA, the Division of School Superintendents of NCNEA, and the State Division of School Planning, a similar meeting held in February 1958 was well attended and highly successful both as an educational medium and also as a public relations project.

Participation by the architectural profession in joint endeavors with the various educational groups is highly recommended. It is through such cooperative efforts that school conditions are ultimately improved and also the architect and his position are better understood and appreciated.

It is a fact that we as architects have no better friends than the public school administrators. As a group they have intimate knowledge of our work and its value. When the cost of our services are questioned, or the stock plan idea is presented as an answer to reducing the cost of construction, or the

buildings are attacked as extravagant palaces, the answer by an informed and experienced educator can be the most convincing and best possible reply to the critic.

As architects we can render the educator, and the schools, a service if we are better informed about their problems and are willing to support them in their many worthwhile educational endeavors.

In connection with planning of various meetings and conferences the National Committee on School Buildings and Educational Facilities (CSBEF) is attempting to assemble a 35 MM colored slide library which can be made available for various local and regional groups. Slides should be mailed by all architects who will participate to:

John M. Morse, AIA  
1602 Tower Building  
Seattle 4, Washington

Mr. Morse, a Northwestern regional representative, is in charge of this nationwide project for the CSBEF.

It should be noted that when Florida becomes a region later in the year this southern area will receive an additional representative on the National CSBEF.

Because I feel that the activities of our national group would be of some interest to you, I am offering the following comments on some of their recent operations:

**NATIONAL COMMITTEE**—Since the reorganization of the National Committees last year the Schools Committee has changed its name to Committee for School Buildings and Educational Facilities in order that the title be more inclusive and indicate the professions interest in other than the public schools. The new five man committee met in Washington, D. C., in November 1958. The committee was later enlarged to 12 men and again gave full representation to each district. Generally meeting twice a year for two to three days, the group has found that one of its finest public relations activities has been developed by holding one of its meetings with the



American Association of School Administrators at their national convention. Gathering in Atlantic City February 14 through 18 the Committee participated as speakers and panelists in eight different convention programs relating to the design and maintenance of school buildings.

One of the drawing cards for the 25,000 educators who attend the AASA meeting is the architectural exhibit featuring the country's latest school plant designs. The CSBEF and AASA have jointly sponsored this exhibition for a number of years. The screening jury, consisting of three architects and three educators met in Washington for three days in November to evaluate the submissions. There was a very high quality of design evidenced by the buildings displayed. Some 254 school buildings were chosen and presented on 475 individual panels. A small number of representative schools were selected for subsequent display in Washington at the National Education Association and AIA Headquarters. It is contemplated that these schools will be exhibited at several embassies both here and abroad.

**FIRE SAFETY**—The Committee has considered the jury report on the Lady of Angels Parochial School fire in Chicago and noted the extensive recommendations contained therein. The report which has received nationwide distribution lays great stress on the protection of property and recommends a most extensive upgrading of all construction with what is considered an unnecessary and out of proportion expense over and above that necessary for the adequate protection of life. This was an old building of brick and frame construction and was understaffed and woefully overcrowded. The fire was a tragic loss, but beyond the protection of life the cost of saving such old buildings from destruction requires a careful weighing of values.

It might be noted that as a result of a deadly fire in North Carolina in 1957, the legislature enacted some stringent monthly electrical inspection rules for schools. This somewhat hasty action of the moment points up the difficulty of objective thinking on the heels of a tragedy with such an emotional

appeal. It is considered likely that the 1959 Legislature will modify and relax the rules to make them more practical.

**CODES**—Consideration was given to the nationwide variations in fire and construction codes and the desirability of analyzing and revaluing them with the end in view of achieving more practical national standards.

The educational Facilities Laboratories of the Ford Foundation has been contacted with the hope that they may be able to undertake such a national study.

In this regard, the 23 March issue of the AIA MEMO comments in part as follows:

"A call for a national conference on school safety (to be held at the Octagon) was issued by the AIA Board of Directors at the beginning of its recent annual meeting in Washington. Purpose of the conference is to help architects, engineers, fire marshals, educators and local building authorities intensify the search for fire-safe school building designs.

"In a public statement, the Board said, 'The recent school fire tragedies at Chicago and near Little Rock, Arkansas, make a national conference on school safety imperative. All of us who share in the responsibility for school safety must pool and coordinate our experiences and findings.

'It is a gratifying fact that there has been no report of any fire in a recently completed building,' the statement continued. 'The buildings in Chicago and the Arkansas reform school were among the far too many obsolescent school plants which should have been modernized or replaced long ago.

'There must be an order approach to the improvement of local fire codes which differ radically in different communities. While some are far too lax, others tend to be over-zealous and set back recent advances in school design and school building economy. Our aim must be not to interfere with progress but to assure the maximum amount of fire safety for our children. In the hope of advancing this aim,'



the Board stated, 'The AIA would welcome a national conference on school safety.' "

**ENVIRONMENT**—While we feel certain that the environment has a great impact on the teachers and the pupils there are few measurable standards or values for these opinions. An overall study of the effect of the total environment on the learning process is therefore being considered by the National CSBEF. It is noted that there are many national organizations now engaged in education research.

**SCHOOL PLANT STUDIES**—School plant studies continue to be an important project of the SBEF Committee. Thirty-six studies have been published to date and reprint distribution is approaching a quarter of a million. It is now an established fact that these school plant studies are an important means of communication both within the profession and within education groups. It is felt that these studies have contributed to the up-grading of school building design throughout the country.

**LIGHTING**—The project of rewriting the *American Standards Association School Lighting Code* is now in its sixth year. This project was originated by the CSB to update and express in simple language a school lighting code which since 1948 has been misinterpreted and misused by lighting fixture manufacturers, public utilities, illuminating engineers, and school administrators, causing architects no end of trouble in solving lighting problems as well as excessive expenditures on lighting fixtures without proper results.

The four AIA members of the task committee together with the members of the National Council on School House Construction have held firm that the code should be an objective guide rather than a specification code which will only increase lighting intensities and costs with questionable results.

The CSBEF is currently working with the American Association of School Librarians, the American Education Theatre Association, the American Vocational Association, Inc., in the preparation of documents which affect these allied professions. In each case

an attempt is being made to encourage standards of performance and not standard plans or rules.

**SQUARE FOOTAGE STANDARDS**—The Committee has noted that the American Standards Association, without approval of the AIA, has published a document on the method of measuring square footage and it contains variations from the more universally accepted system as published in AIA document D-101. The AIA document is recommended for the continued use of the profession.

CSBEF has continuing liaison with the many national organizations who have a direct connection with and vital interest in school buildings. A partial list of these organizations includes: The Association for Higher Education, Council of Chief State School Officers, Department of Audio-Visual Instruction, National Facilities Laboratories, Inc., National Council on Schoolhouse Construction, National Education Association of the U. S., and its affiliated organizations, National School Board Association, Inc., The School Facilities Council of Architecture in Industry, Building Research Institute, and U. S. Office of Education.

Liaison with some groups is on a continuous basis; with others it is intermittent depending on projects or individual group activity. In all cases this liaison is one of the finest and most active public relations programs for the Institute. As evidence of the progress of this close working relationship, many of the educational groups have requested the CSBEF to provide a panel or speaker for their national conventions, and have come to the committee for assistance and direction on matters pertaining to school buildings. In all cases we have not achieved the maximum understanding and cooperation, but this is our objective and we are getting closer to this goal.

**ARCHITECT'S CONTRIBUTION**—We feel that the best contribution which we can make as a profession is to continue to serve the public just as ably as we possibly can and attempt to bring new vigor, insight and skill and understanding to solve each problem to the very best of our ability.



One of the highlight of the North Carolina Chapter, The American Institute of Architects Summer meeting will be a panel discussion on Friday morning on.

This is a sequel to the Urban Renewal theme of last Winter's meeting. Moderating the panel will be Barclay Jones, top right, and thirty minute talks will be made by each of the others shown.



Barclay Gibbs Jones, Assistant Professor of City Planning of the University of California at Berkeley, currently engaged in a Rockefeller Foundation research project investigating how best to use existing architectural forms in city design. Living in Chapel Hill he is a registered architect in North Carolina, Associate AIA member of the Philadelphia Chapter, and an Associate member of the American Institute of Planners. He received his Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Architecture degrees at the University of Pennsylvania and Master of Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina.



Philip Hammer, President of Hammer and Company Associates, an economics and research firm, with offices in Atlanta, Washington and Frankfort (Kentucky), was educated at the University of North Carolina and did graduate work in Economics at Harvard. He took out three years from his private work to set up and direct the Metropolitan Planning Commission of Atlanta between 1950-53. He still lives and is active in that city. His company has led the country in studies on marketability and reuse of central areas under the Urban Renewal Program.



Werner K. Sensbach, Senior Planner with the Department of City Planning of Columbia, South Carolina, was born in Germany, has a degree of Architecture from Karlsruhe, worked in architectural offices in Switzerland, Germany and Syracuse, New York before studying at the University of North Carolina in 1955-57 in the Department of City and Regional Planning. His work here has included a study for a governmental, cultural and educational center to be published this summer.



George M. Stephens, Jr., Regional Planner with the N. C. State Highway Commission, is a native of Asheville, and received degrees from the University of North Carolina in 1952 in Economics and in 1958 as Master of Regional Planning. In between he served four years in the Navy as a Submarine officer. He is an Associate member of the Raleigh Council of Architects, and a member of the American Institute of Regional Planners.



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program**

1959 SUMMER MEETING  
NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

GROVE PARK INN  
ASHEVILLE, N. C.



All activities at the Grove Park Inn except as noted

\* See Activities Schedule

## thursday

july 16

1:30 P.M.

Registration Begins—Lobby

2:30 P.M.

Executive Committee Meeting—Sunset Room

\*

8:00 P.M.

Committee Meetings

8:00 P.M.

Meeting of Methodist Church Bishops Committee on Rural Church Architecture —Sunset Room. Mr. R. E. Dumont, Treasurer, Duke Endowment, Presiding.

\*

## friday

july 17

9:00 A.M.

Registration Continues—Lobby

10:00 A.M.

Opening Session of Meeting—Laurel Room  
President Robert L. Clemmer, AIA, Presiding

Invocation—E. H. Blanchard, First Methodist Church, Pastor

Greetings—Earl Eller, Mayor of Asheville

Announcements

Panel Discussion—"Factors Influencing Town Planning"

Werner Sensbach, George Stephens, Philip Hammer and Barclay Jones, Moderator.

1:00 P.M.

Recess

\*



# saturday

july 18

James L. Brandt, Raleigh  
John Angelo Forlidas, Charlotte

9:00 A.M.

10:00 A.M.

11:45 A.M.

12:30 P.M.

1:00 P.M.



Registration Continues—Lobby

Business Session—Laurel Room

Vice President Leslie N. Boney, Jr., AIA, Presiding

Discussion of Committee Reports

Special Committee Reports

Conventions

Archie R. Davis, AIA, Chairman

Office Practice

Luther S. Lashmit, AIA, Chairman

Fees and Contracts

James A. Stenhouse, AIA, Chairman

Public Relations

Robert W. Etheredge, Jr., AIA, Chairman

Government Relations

Wm. Henley Deitrick, AIA, Chairman

Construction Industry Relations

Walter D. Toy, AIA, Chairman

Education

Edward Loewenstein, AIA, Chairman

Collaboration of Design Professions

S. Porter Graves, AIA, Chairman

School Buildings

Leslie N. Boney, Jr., AIA, Chairman

Home Building Industry

Kenneth M. Scott, AIA, Chairman

Hospitals and Public Health

Walter W. Hook, FAIA, Chairman

Urban Redevelopment

James A. Malcolm, AIA, Chairman

Research

David M. Mackintosh, Jr., AIA, Chairman

Preservation of Historic Buildings

James A. Stenhouse, Jr., AIA, Chairman

Exhibitions

Alvis O. George, Jr., AIA, Chairman

Building Codes

Eccles D. Everhart, AIA, Chairman

Legal Affairs

Albert L. Haskins, Jr., AIA, Chairman

Chapter Publications

James L. Brandt, AIA, Chairman

Institute Fellowship

Anthony Lord, FAIA, Chairman

Chapter Manual

Cyrill H. Pfohl, AIA, Chairman

A. I. A.—Producer's Council Relations

Albert B. Cameron, AIA, Chairman

Membership

Arthur C. Jenkins, Jr., AIA, Chairman

Induction of New Members

Arthur C. Jenkins, Jr., AIA

Corporate Membership

Talk—"A Tax Deductible Retirement Program"

G. T. Lumpkin, Jr., Winston-Salem

A. I. A. Film "Buildings for Business" and U. S. Steel Co.

Film "Plan for Learning"

Recess



# \* activities

## \* thursday

2:30 P.M. Golf, Tennis, Swimming,  
Shopping, etc.

5:30 P.M. Cocktails—N. C. Concrete  
Masonry Association, Host.  
Sunset Terrace.

7:30 P.M. Western Council Honor  
Awards Dinner - Dance —  
Green Room.

8:00 P.M. Dinner on your own

9:30 P.M. Dance — Ladies Night,  
Western Council, Host —  
Laurel Room

## \* friday

2:30 P.M. Visit to Biltmore Estate and  
House — F. Graham Wil-  
liams Co., Host.

5:30 P.M. Cocktails — Arnold Stone  
Company, Host — Sunset  
Terrace.

7:00 P.M. Chapter Banquet—Planta-  
tion Room.

8:30 P.M. Dance — Cabaret Style —  
Main Lobby

## \* saturday

2:30 P.M. Golf, Tennis, Swimming,  
Shopping, etc.

5:30 P.M. Cocktails—The Mabie-Bell  
Company, Host — Sunset  
Terrace.

7:30 P.M. "Cook-Out" — Charcoal  
Terrace

8:30 P.M. Dancing as guests of the  
Inn



# are we still designing firetraps?

DAVID ALLISON

Reprinted by permission by Time, Inc., from the Feb. 1959 "Architectural Forum". Editors Note: Sketches and photos and some copy omitted to conserve space.

Challenging architects, building owners, and officials, this article reports on the work of the AIA Committee on Human Safety toward safer buildings. . .

During the next decade, building design must undergo an important change. Rather than attempt to make all building "fireproof" as in the past—a virtually impossible undertaking—architects will design for fire safety, i.e., buildings will still be vulnerable to fire, but will be better designed for rapid exit and better equipped for early fire detection. To say that contemporary design recognizes the hazards of fire is dangerous complacency, for too much of it is literally of the firetrap variety, albeit "pretty" firetrap or "firetrap modern."

This inglorious era of the so-called fireproof building must end. During this period past, which reaches back more than 20 years, building has experienced the introduction of more fire-resistant materials than ever before and it has seen a great strengthening of building codes, often made outlandishly rigid, in efforts to make buildings more fire-resistant. But for all the effort, the cost of fire in both human and dollar loss has mounted steadily: since the mid-thirties, the annual cost of fire, measured in building and contents losses, has quadrupled, with not the slightest indication of a downward trend. Measured in constant dollars, the annual U. S. fire loss has doubled over the past 20 years. In 1958, for the second consecutive year, the people of the U. S. lost more than a billion dollars in building fires: \$1,095,000,000. And immeasurably more costly was the loss of life: 7,000 Americans, including 2,100 children, were killed last year in building fires. Indeed, the nation has not sustained such tragedy and waste since the early years of the century, when whole cities, constructed in wood, went up in flame. Such destructiveness—more than flood, drought, or hurricane—demands an intensified program against fire, and a greater effort to understand its complex and ephemeral behavior and

thereby, perhaps, to reduce its danger and cost. First must come building design, for as one scientist puts it, fire prevention and protection must begin on the drafting board.

## *Fire and the architect*

According to the AIA, "many architects have been rather thoughtless about fire." But this is hardly surprising, for others with equal responsibility for human life are just as thoughtless, including some of the most dedicated members of school boards, church vestries, and industrial enterprises. The fact is that fire will probably never happen "here" and, further, that fire safety, to most people, is a terrible bore, like hygiene or the national debt. But when fire does strike, as it did so tragically in Chicago in December, killing 90 children and three adults in Our Lady of the Angels school, such thoughtlessness is revealed. A report on this fire by the National Fire Protection Association's engineers concludes, despairingly: "It is obvious that there are no new lessons to be learned from this fire, just old lessons tragically re-emphasized."

Over the past six years, the AIA Committee on Human Safety has studied hundreds of fires and has issued four reports, including scores of recommendations to architects for improving fire safety in building. "The architect," says John C. Thornton, the committee's chairman, "can do more to protect lives in fire than any other person, because he is at the seat of the fire first, before it occurs." Included here, and in the sketches on the following pages, are summations of the AIA's major recommendations, all of which are aimed at the saving of life.

Ventilators, which, by prearranged and directional control, allow smoke and the gases of combustion to be exhausted from a building, should be considered at the design stage in every structure, particularly



where people sleep or congregate in large numbers. If not properly vented, smoke collects quickly in a burning building, preventing both escape and fire-fighting. And the gases, which are the great killer in fire, may build up and explode if ventilation is inadequate.

Air conditioning, if improperly designed, will help spread fire and smoke through a building. After many years and many deaths, open stairways were eliminated in certain kinds of new buildings, e.g., hotels, but today, air-conditioning systems are sometimes more dangerous than open stairs ever were. In some high buildings, the automatic dampers in air ducts have been omitted. In such structures, which are often tightly sealed, with fixed windows, the air ducts will pull the gases and smoke from the fire location and sent it into every room. Even today, some new buildings do not have automatic devices which turn off the fans when smoke is present in the air ducts, or which reroute the smoke to outdoors. In many buildings, the janitors must actually go to the penthouse to turn off the system. Many sound-absorbing materials are unsuitable as acoustical linings in air ducts, because of their combustibility.

Exits must lead outdoors, or to enclosed fire escapes in the case of tall buildings, if a structure is to be firesafe. In some buildings, notably hotels, exit signs are a farce, for these exits lead into the lobby or, more often, become open stairs at the floor above the lobby. In case of fire in the basement or first floor, the lobby is likely to be filled with smoke and thus an impossible exit. Such buildings, including office buildings, should be designed with enclosed fire escapes which exit to the street, not to the first-floor lobby. Modern codes require at least two exits, remote from one another.

Windows are often the only means of escape or rescue. In modern schools, with walls of glass or glass block and window ventilators beneath the glass, the ventilators are often too small for escape or rescue. Designers of such sash give no thought to escape in fire. Windowless buildings present a special hazard, permitting no chance, in many instances, for firemen to reach the fire and limited chance of rescue. False fronts on renovated buildings, usually windowless, offer the same hazard as well as providing a new means for fire to travel and putting an added strain on the wall, which introduces still another hazard in fire. In all buildings, every room without an outside door should have one window that can be opened and used for escape.

Panic is a great danger in fire, and often when there is only the mistaken fear that a fire exists. Panic may not be eliminated, but the architect can design to give a sense of security, e.g., if avenues of escape are made as prominent as entrances are. If the building's occupants sense that it is easy to exit, if occupants feel that there is little combustible material present, or if they can see sprinkler heads, there will be less danger of panic. The architect who conceals the sprinklers or, as was the case in a museum building which burned in New York in 1958, "disguises" the fire alarm boxes, lest they clash with his decor, is threatening human safety for highly questionable esthetic pleasure. These are safety considerations which the architect can make in his design. An, indeed, according to the AIA, such safety factors as these are gaining adoption within the design profession.

#### *Illusory safety*

Perhaps because we are so inept at controlling fire, we have fallen back on two convenient, if illusory, devices for convincing ourselves that we are really its master. One is regulatory, expressed



through the building codes, and its objective is simply to make fires illegal. The other is mere semantics, e.g., if a material is capable of burning or failing structurally, but only on exposure to intense heat, call it fire-retardant; if it smokes and smolders, but does not go up in flame, call it flame-retardant or flame-resistive, or perhaps even flame-proof. Neither device can make us safe from fire; we only feel safe.

Regarding code regulations, and granting their necessity, Chief Engineer Horatio Bond, of the National Fire Protection Association (the U. S. clearing house on the causes of fires and the means for protection), says: "Safety cannot be dependent on law; it must depend on people's understanding of the hazard and doing something about it." Furthermore, although standards for fire protection and prevention, such as NFPA's, are under constant revision, individual communities are often slow to adopt them. As Thornton of AIA emphasizes, the architect must think beyond the codes as he designs, foresee what will happen in case of fire in the building he is creating and how the occupants will act.

With regard to the meaningless euphemisms which have been cropping up, such as fire-resistant and flame-retardant, outdated codes are often responsible for these as well. The result of loose usage and free interchange of such terms, says Research Director Mathew Braidech, of the National Board of Fire Underwriters, is confusion and a false sense of security. Says Braidech: "No material is totally immune to fire."

#### *Dangerous euphemisms*

According to A. J. Steiner, managing engineer of the Fire Protection Department of the Underwriters' Laboratories, the use of such euphemistic terms, which he believes is increasing, is inspired by the

development of new fire-test procedures, "promulgated by groups not primarily interested in fire protection, but whose prime interest is to demonstrate comparative behavior of materials as used in buildings under fire exposure conditions." Publication of such test results, says Steiner, causes much uncertainty in the field, because materials carrying identical fire classifications are often classified by entirely different test methods. Warns Steiner: "Do not be misled by results obtained in fire tests which have no relation to fire conditions with which you are concerned. When the results of tests are presented, and you are ready to accept them on a fire-protection engineering basis, assure yourself that the materials to be used on the job are the same as those tested and installed as tested." Architects should note that the fire resistance of a building element is accurately definable in terms of specified conditions as measured by NFPA's widely recognized Standard Method of Fire Test of Building Construction and Materials.

Thornton and the AIA Committee on Human Safety advocate a further step to guard against the use of potentially dangerous materials: Make it mandatory that manufacturers label all building materials with surface flame spread characteristics, i.e., how rapidly fire will spread over the surface of a material. This, says Thornton, would produce two results: architects and the public would know what they are using, and such labeling would provide an incentive to improve the fire-safety characteristics of building products. The National Bureau of Standards is testing a flame-spread test which might be used for this purpose. Seven other organizations, including materials manufacturers and testing laboratories, are cooperating in this test and measuring flame-spread of unknown materials, using Bureau



of Standards-type equipment. Their results will be submitted to the Bureau for comparison of test results. If adopted, this test would not become a substitute for the more rigorous and widely accepted tunnel testing procedure of Underwriters' Laboratory, but it could become valuable in checking manufacturers' claims on products, as well as in research and production control.

*Are fires really necessary?*

Man is a foe of fire, notwithstanding such cynics as the Roman Emperor Nero and the American Economist Thorstein Veblen (Veblen is said to have pointed to fires and funerals as the two greatest forces for human progress). But in terms of a scientific approach to its cause and the means of fire's control, there has never been an effective fight against it. There are, to be sure, several outstanding organizations engaged in specific areas of fire research including the nonprofit Underwriters' Laboratories, in Chicago, which is the largest independent organization in the U. S. with a program of standardizing and testing all sorts of equipment related to fire and other hazards, the insurance company-supported Factory Mutual Laboratories, in Norwood, Massachusetts, which tests materials and fire detection devices for industry, and the U. S. National Bureau of Standards, in Washington, which has done important work in the field of combustion, including testing of materials, for many years, e.g., some two-thirds of the 600 materials classifications of the National Board of Fire Underwriters' list of resistant ratings are based on tests of the Bureau of Standards.

A number of scientists and engineers in the U. S., alarmed at the large year-to-year losses from fires and the threat of the H-bomb, warn us that basic research on fire had been too small and neglected.

In 1955, under the chairmanship of Hoyt C. Hottel, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a Committee of Fire Research was set up by the National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council; its objective is to formulate a research program addressed toward the broad problem of the nature of fires and their control.

Some of the areas the committee considers worthy of investigation are these: (1) research in the fundamental natural laws involving the origin and spread of fires, (2) investigations of methods to improve the use of water as an extinguishing agent, (3) models for the study of large fires, (4) wind and weather factors involved in fire development and fire spread, (5) new and unconventional methods of fire control and prevention.

At present, the committee's work in stimulating fire research is supported with an annual budget of \$50,000 by the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Agriculture, through its Forest Service. The hope is that some \$3 million a year can be made available from interested government agencies to begin specific research projects, probably in university or independent laboratories, in order to speed the scientific advances in fire research. Says Hottel: "There have been phenomenal advances in fluid mechanics in the last two decades (i.e., the behavior of liquids and gases) and equally impressive growth in fundamental combustion studies. These provide the research worker with the necessary tools for a more scientific approach to the fire problem, and now offer the promise of good progress in describing fire, and later of controlling it."

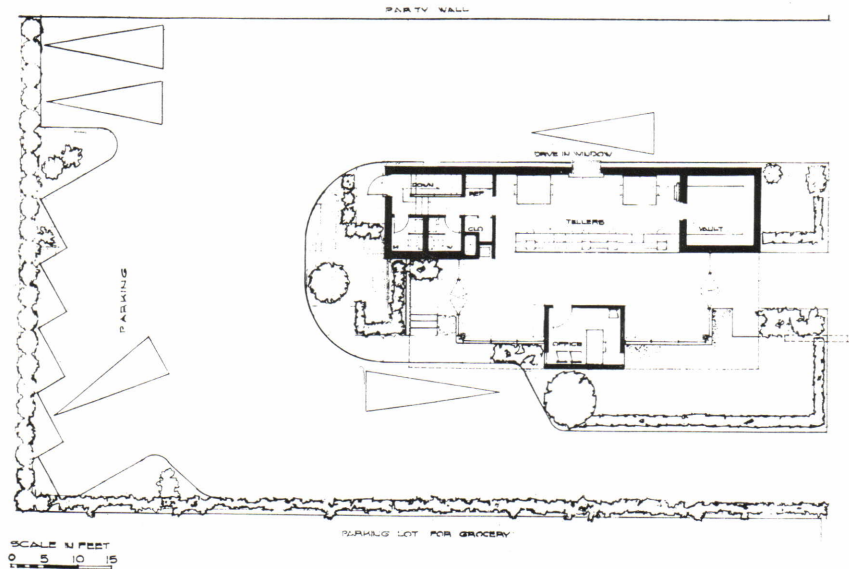
Since space did not permit re-printing this report in its entirety, we recommend the Forum's article.



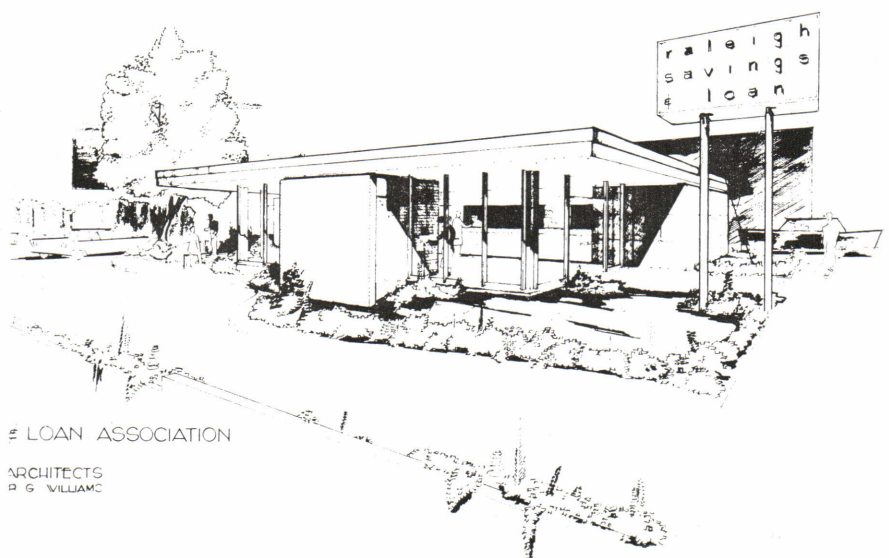
## savings & loan raleigh, n. c.

F. Carter Williams, AIA  
Raleigh, N. C.

Davidson & Jones—Gen. Contrs.  
Raleigh, N. C.



Contracts were recently let on construction of the Raleigh Savings and Loan Association branch office at Fuquay-Varina. The building is constructed of brick and block with steel joist and concrete slab, fire-resistant type. The building is located in the center of the town with a drive-in window on one side and parking facilities provided at the rear. Landscaping provisions are also incorporated. The structure is typical of the efforts being made to provide such facilities in many other communities throughout the state.

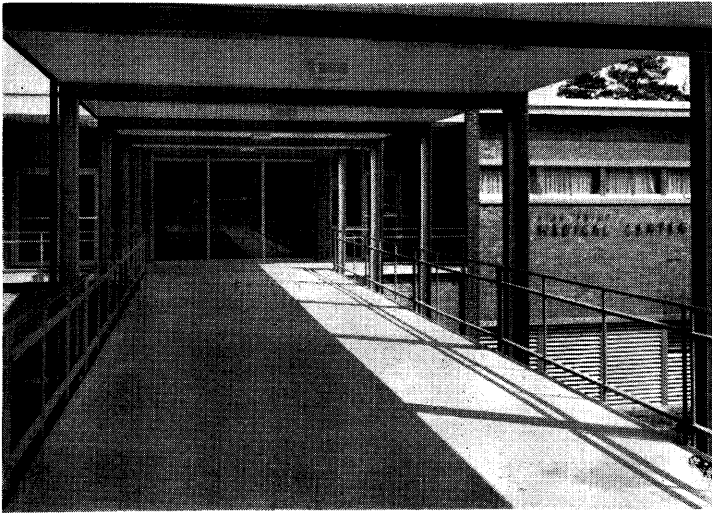


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F. C. WILLIAMS



# medical center high point, n. c.



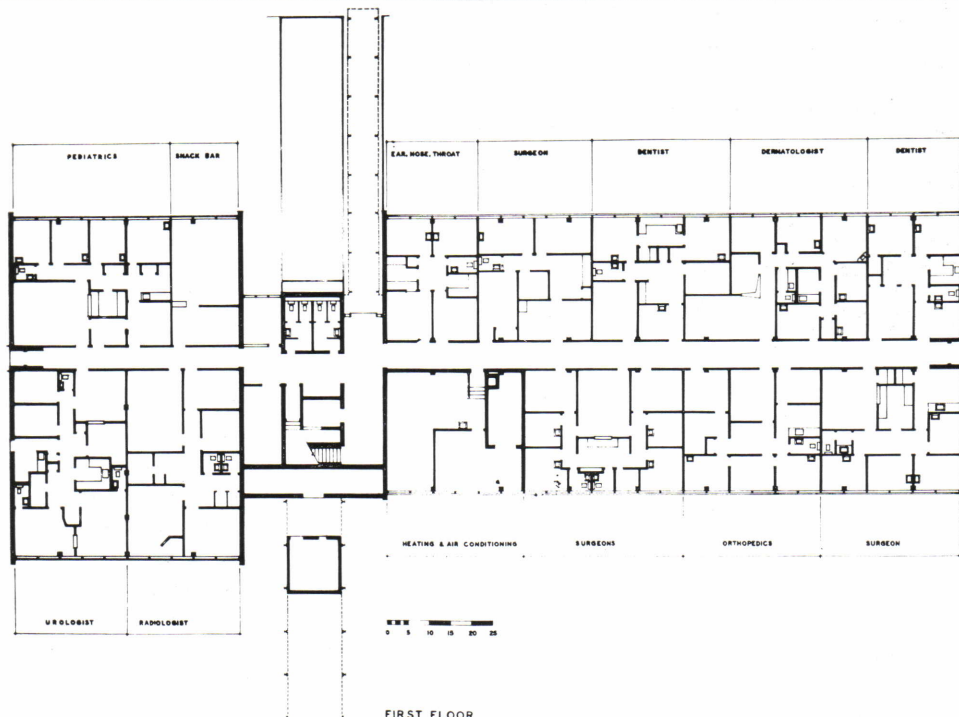
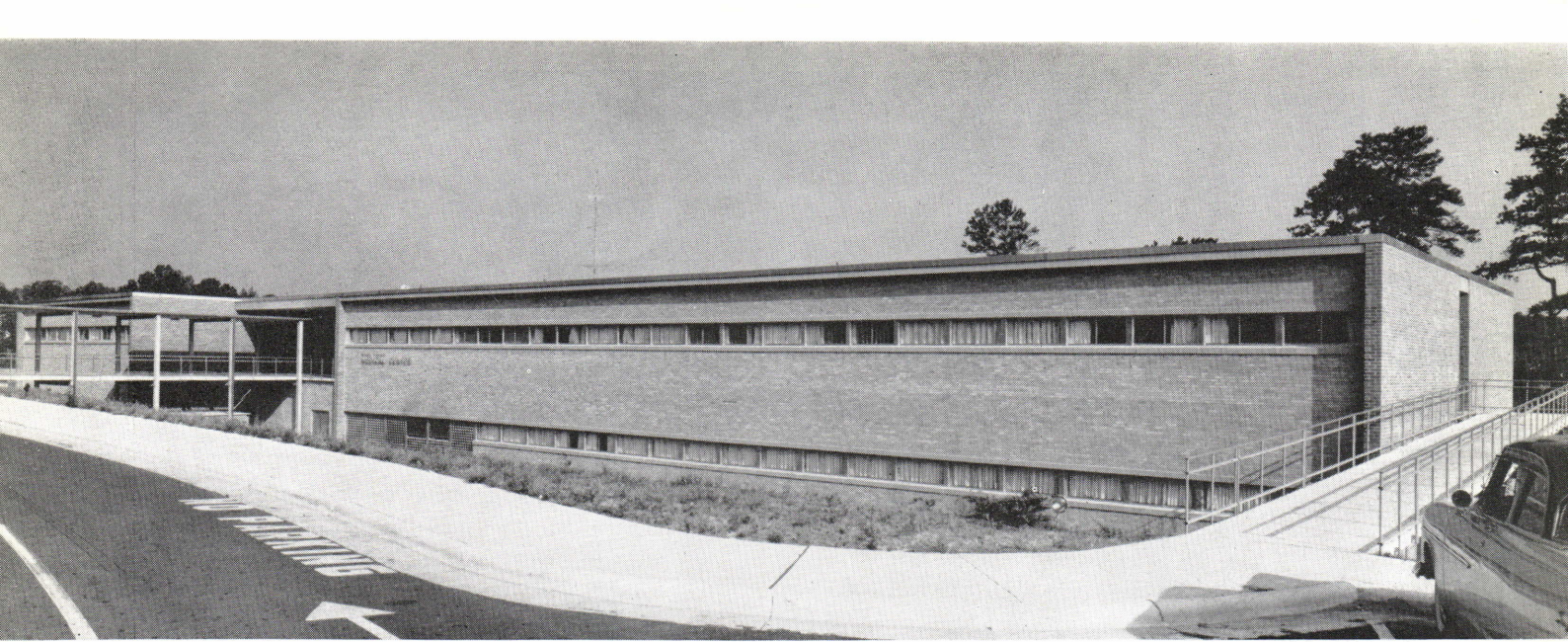
**Voorhees & Everhart, A. I. A.,  
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**R. K. Stewart & Son, General Contractors,  
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Completed late in 1956 this 27,600 square foot building contains 20 suites of offices, laboratory, snack bar, and general office for business manager. It is constructed on a steep slope which required considerable cut and fill. Advantage of the slope was taken to provide ground level entrances to each of the two floor levels by walks or ramps so that there are no steps except at the interior stair. An elevator serves both floors.

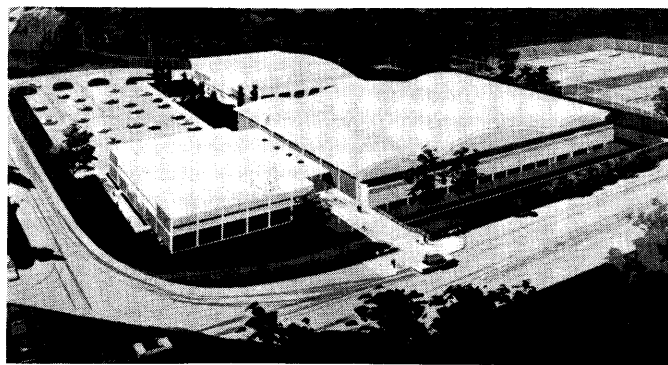
The construction consists of a steel frame with steel joists and concrete slabs; exterior or brick cavity walls; interior walls of steel studs, plastered. Ceilings are acoustical plaster. Flooring is vinyl tile generally. The building is supplied with heated and cooled air from a central system. Heat is supplied from a gas fired hot water boiler. Cooling is by compressors and evaporative condenser.





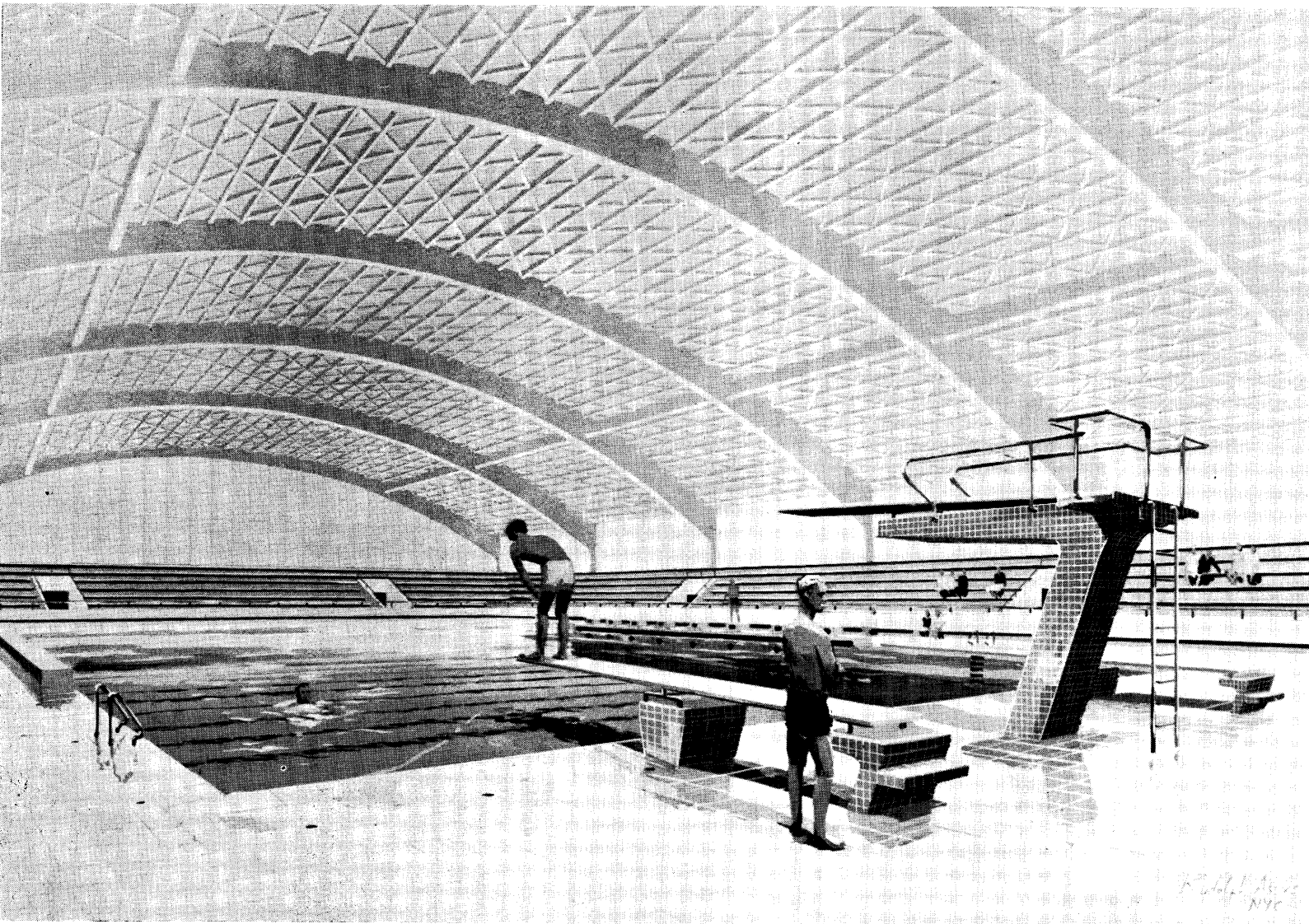


# physical education building raleigh, n. c.



McMinn, Norfleet & Wicker, AIA  
Greensboro, N. C.

Rea Construction Co.—Gen. Con.  
Charlotte, N. C.



This 206,296 square foot gymnasium, currently under construction on the N. C. State College campus to the rear of the Coliseum, will cost approximately \$21½ million. Of three buildings the administration building will have on the upper floor level six classrooms, general office, directors office, intramural office, 24 instructor's offices, conference room, library and lobby, with a small-games area on the mezzanine, and on the lower level 10 handball courts and 6 squash courts. The gym will have on its upper floor 7 basketball courts and a gymnastics area, and on its lower level wrestling and boxing

rooms, weight lifting room, golf room, corrective exercise room and men and women lockers. The pool building will have the pool located on the upper level, along with spectators seating area, observation decks and coaches offices, and its lower area will have mechanical equipment and toilets.

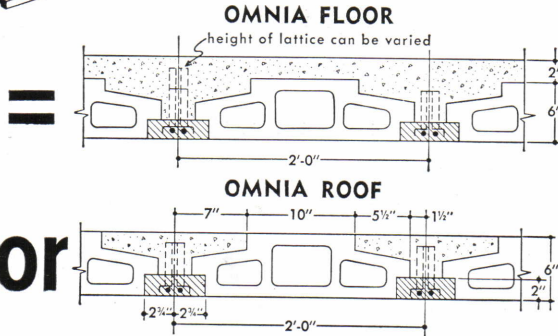
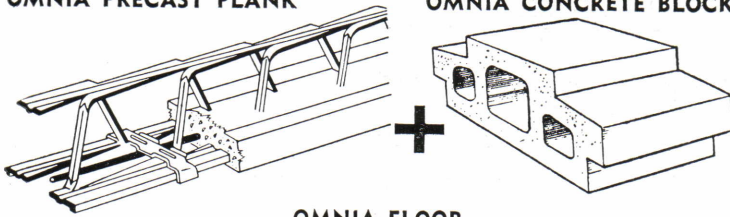
All will have foundations of concrete piles and concrete grade beams, brick exteriors and concrete roof decks with 1½ inches rigid insulation. The gym and pool will have ceiling of concrete arches with pre-cast concrete roof panels between. All areas are heated and ventilated by air.



## OMNIA FLOOR AND ROOF SYSTEM

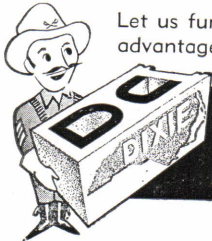
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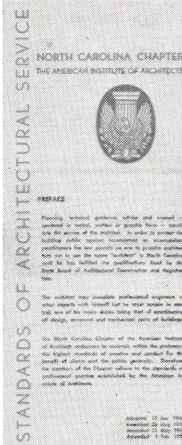
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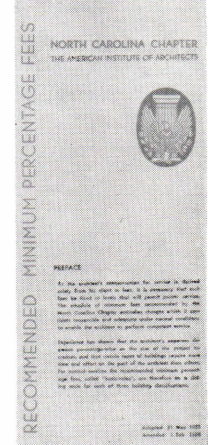
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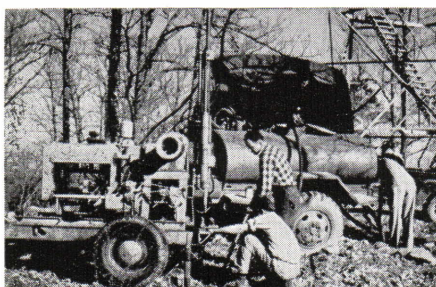


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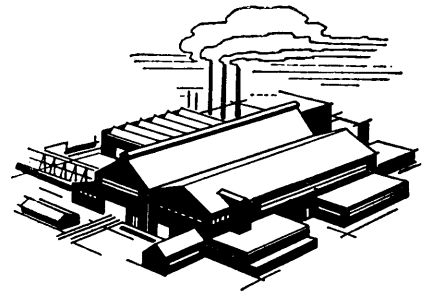
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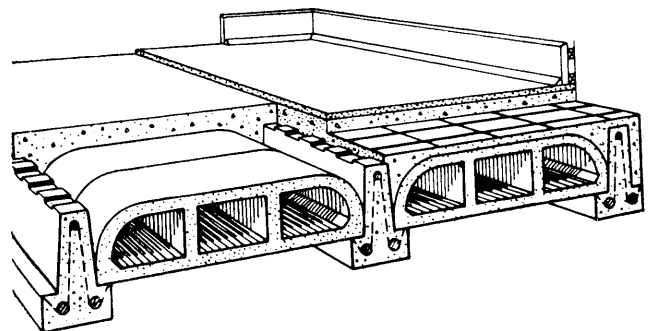
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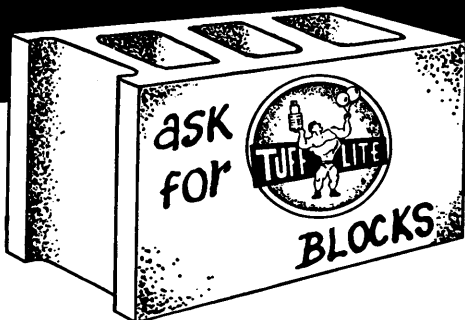


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## ARCHITECTURAL CALENDAR

**JULY 1:** Charlotte Council of Architects, Chez Montet, Charlotte.

**JULY 1, 8, 15, 22, 29:** Archiects Guild of High Point, K & W Resturant.

**JULY 2:** Raleigh Council of Architetcs, S & W Cafeteria.

**JULY 7:** Durham Council of Architects, Harvey's.

**JULY 15:** N. C. Building Code Council, County Courthouse, Asheville.

**JULY 16:** Western Council of Architects, Asheville.

**JULY 16:** Weseern Council of Architects, Grove Park Inn, Asheville.

**JULY 16-18:** N. C. Chapter American Institute of Architects Annual Meeting, Grove Park Inn, Asheville.

**JULY 18:** N. C. Board of Architecture, Grove Park Inn, Asheville.

**JULY 21:** Winston-Salem Council of Architects, Y. W. C. A.

**AUGUST 1:** Deadline for items for this publication's next issue

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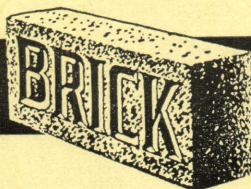
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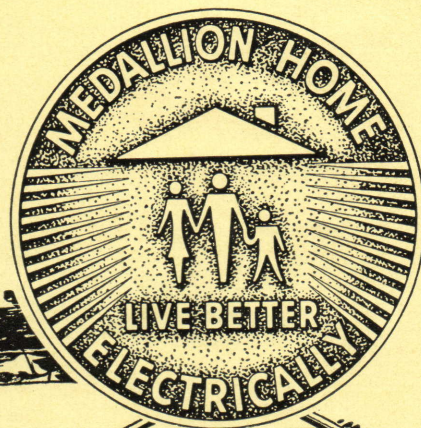
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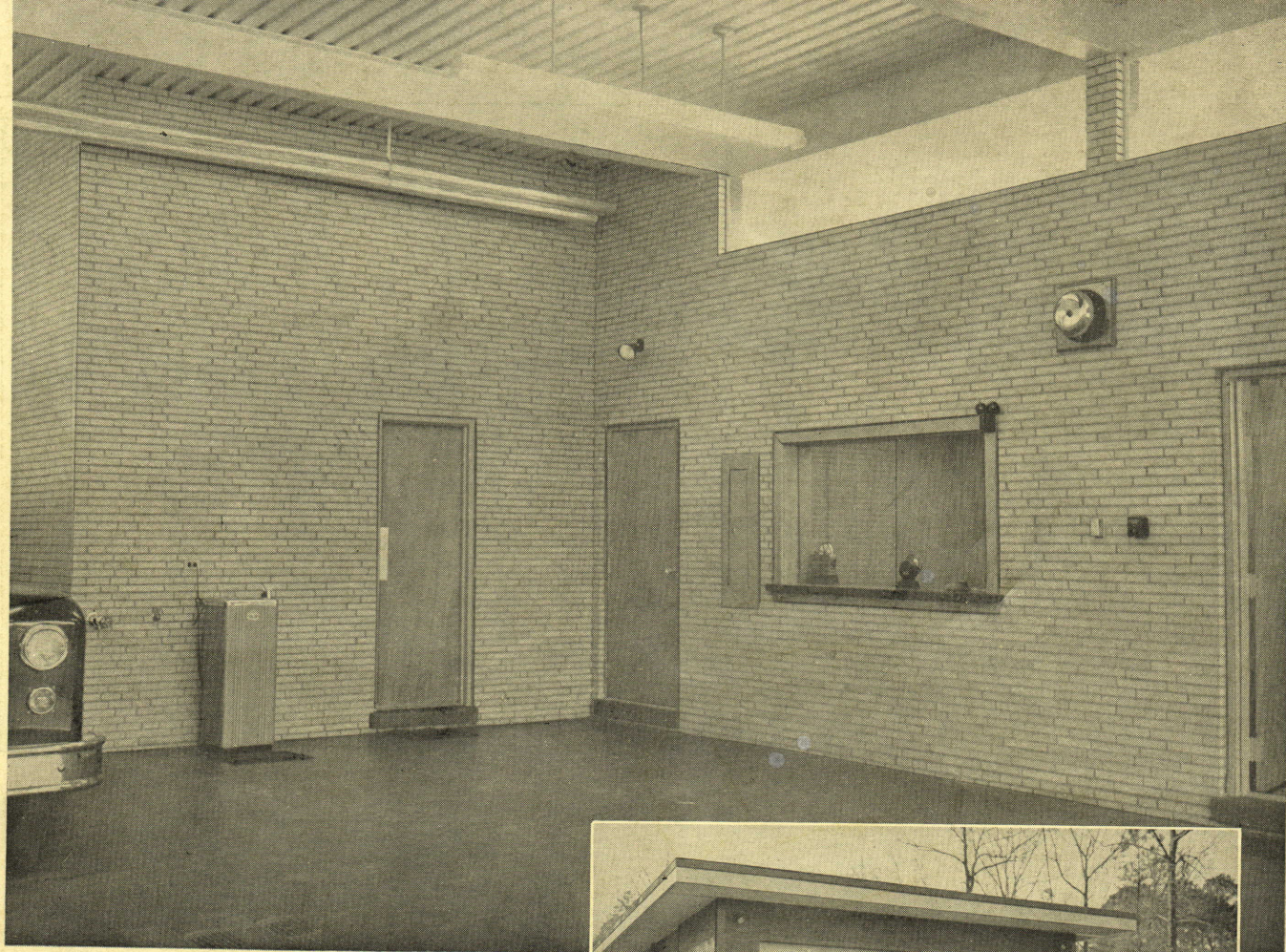
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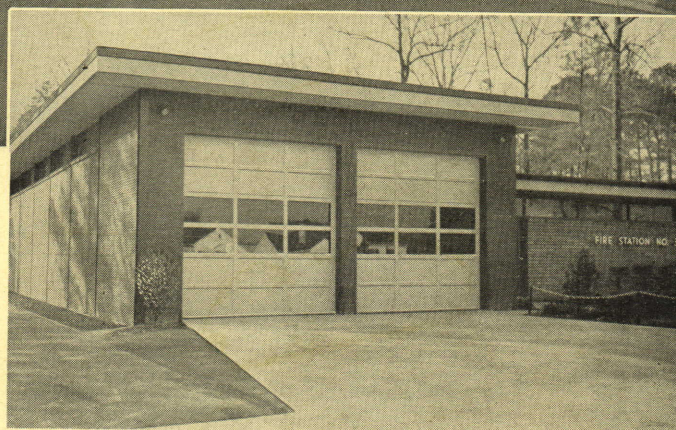




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