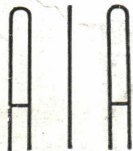


# SOUTHERN ARCHITECT

DECEMBER 1959

THE  
CONTEMPORARY  
HOUSE

Official Publication  
North Carolina Chapter



American Institute  
of Architects



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An exquisite chancel provides the focal point of beauty for worshippers in the Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hickory, North Carolina. Equally significant is the harmonious seating that sustains the spirit of worship in this beautiful Gothic interior.

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# SOUTHERN ARCHITECT



December 1959

Volume 5

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CLEMMER

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another calendar year has almost passed. In another month we will be in the midst of or very near our forty-sixth annual meeting. Perhaps this is a good time to take a look at ourselves in the light of the passage of time.

Within a span of six years we have grown from a total membership of approximately 150 to approximately 300. (Approximations must be used because of constant fluctuations.) Numerically, our Chapter is now the ninth largest in the Institute, out of a total of 130 Chapters. In 1953 we were thirteenth in size. The scope and magnitude of our activities have increased correspondingly. On most fronts we have kept apace with our growth. Our progress is something we can be proud of. Yet there is at least one area where we probably have allowed our growth and progress to outdistance us.

Specific reference is made to the need for some changes with respect to longer range planning in the scheduling of our conventions and the election of officers. The time and place of our conventions should be established at least one year in advance and our officers should be elected possibly six months before their scheduled time for assuming office. The necessity and advantages are obvious and need no elaboration here.

At our meeting in January we will probably accomplish the former since it is unlikely that we will have a summer meeting in 1960 because of the Regional Conference in Winston-Salem in May. As for the latter it is our opinion that we should give the thought some serious consideration now and be prepared to discuss possible implementation of it at the January meeting.

Another thought we would like to advance is one concerning the election of a new Chapter President each year. There have been good reasons why

some Presidents in the past have been called upon to serve two years in succession. Undoubtedly there will be times in the future when similar circumstances dictate a second term. Therefore, we do not advocate any change in our by-laws limiting the term of office, but we do feel that consideration should be given to the idea of electing a new President each succeeding year whenever current conditions warrant it. One of our reasons is the fact that we have an Executive Secretary and an administrative office. The other is the fact that more of our membership would be afforded the honor and privilege of serving in the leadership of our Chapter. These ideas are not advanced for the purpose of initiating any movement toward reforms. They are suggested merely to provoke thought and discussion. It would be beneficial to know how others feel about them.

No Chapter member should fail to attend one of the three School Planning Conferences either in Asheville, Winston-Salem or Goldsboro the second week in January. You have received several mailings giving full information. The dates and places have been established to make attendance the most convenient possible for everyone. If, for some good reason, you find it is not possible to attend the one scheduled in your area you should, by all means, make arrangements to attend either one of the other two. These Conferences are invaluable to Architects and school officials alike. In 1958 the Superintendents out-numbered the Architects in attendance. We should reverse that situation during the 1960 Conferences.

Also if you have not already made reservations and plans to be in Raleigh January 28, 29 and 30 you should do so at once. The Raleigh Council has a great convention in store for us developed on the theme "Design and Engineering Relationships". We hope you will not miss it.

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



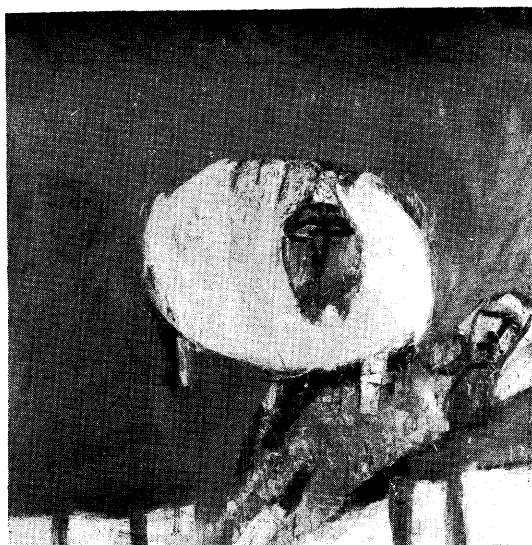


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1

# 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL NORTH CAROLINA ARTISTS' COMPETITION 1959

Five North Carolina painters were picked December 2 to share the \$1000 purchase awards given each year by the State Art Society. A sixth, Bailey Dwiggins, a student at Richmond Professional Institute, received the scholarship award given by the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs. His painting, "Blue Table" is shown below. The six winners and 43 other works, selected by a jury composed of Ad Reinhardt and Theodoros Stamos, New York painters, and Willis Woods, director of the Norton gallery in West Palm Beach, will be on exhibit at the N. C. Museum of Art through January 3.

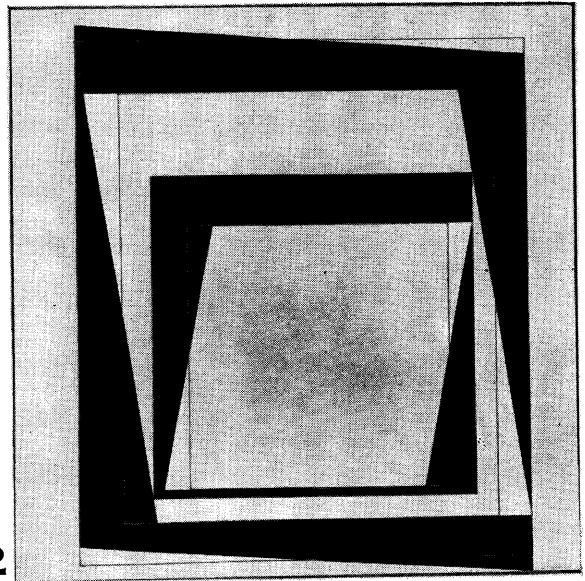
JURY



BLUE TABLE



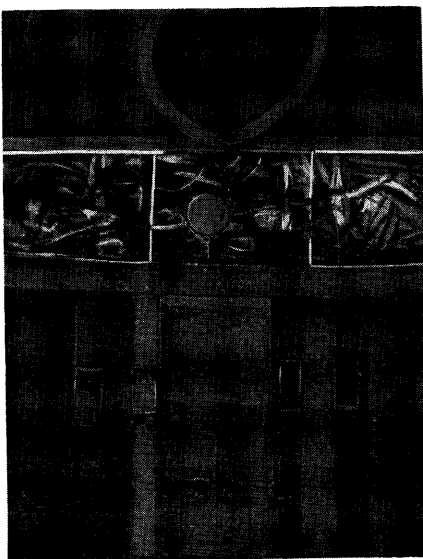




2

- 1 James Bumgardner, Richmond, Va.: **Owling Table**
- 2 Duncan Stuart, Raleigh: **Concentric, One**
- 3 Robert Broderson, Durham: **Fish Sink**
- 4 Rachel Chester Roth, Durham: **The City**
- 5 Robert Partin, Greensboro: **Looming** (not pictured)

3



4



# BEGINNING

JANUARY 1960

in the

## Southern Architect

a

## DIRECTORY

of

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*The idea of THE CONTEMPORARY HOUSE is not new.*

*In 1806, Asher Benjamin, Architect and Carpenter, and Daniel Raynard, Architect and Stucco Worker, wrote a book called "The American Builder's Companion" in which they said, "The first thing to do in planning a house is to know the wants of the person who is to occupy it; the next, to know the situation of the ground it is to cover; then, to take into consideration the number, size, and height of the rooms wanted . . . Strength, convenience and beauty are the principle things to be attended to . . ." This could be a description of the method of designing the two houses and the garden shown on pages 13 thru 20. But the idea of a functional house is even older. As you will see from the article on the following page, the Greeks had several words for it . . .*



## WHAT IT IS?

---

# THE CONTEMPORARY HOUSE

---

## AND WHY?

The pioneer farmhouse was a simple building in an early American society which was clearing the land and had no leisure time. In appearance, it often copied the previous architecture of Europe.

Inside, it was simply four rooms and a chimney that held up the roof. The chimney contained three or four fireplaces that faced into the rooms. One of these served as the kitchen stove. But what it had is not nearly so startling today as what it lacked.

*There was no inside water, no insulation, no washing machine, no dryer, no ironer, no electric lights, no airconditioning, no interior plumbing, no garage, no vacuum cleaner, no furnace, and no garbage disposal. If we built it today, as it was then, it would cost about 25 per cent of what we now spend for a house.*

Yet, curiously enough, many Americans are still buying and living in houses that are little more than slightly rearranged copies of this ancient structure with a host of appliances jammed into it. They are, to put it another way, adapting their living habits to fit the house, rather than vice versa.

Millions of other Americans, however, are living in what, for lack of a better term, we call *the contemporary house*. The contemporary house, unlike the modern edition of the old pioneer dwelling, is not a style. Its difference cannot be measured in terms of materials used or the forest of shiny appliances that fill our homes. The real difference lies in a philosophy of architectural design which finds its form and planning of spaces in the needs, living patterns, and habits of today's people.



*Today's house represents the difference between the drudgery of the past and the emancipation of today's housewife. It is the difference between having a shelter to totter into after dawn-to-dark labor and enjoying the leisure time which is a hallmark of man's social advancement. We have untold resources today to provide better living for ourselves. The average family enjoys a luxurious selection of materials and devices which even the wealthiest kings and potentates of not long ago were unable to buy for their comfort.*

The question then arises — are we taking full advantage of what today's architecture and building technology can offer us? And, if the contemporary house does take advantage of both better planning and building, how can it be identified?

*A good starting point is to consider why our houses have taken the oddly contrasting forms we still see around us. In the average American community you will still find huge, ornate structures that are hybrid copies of massive Gothic and Renaissance churches and castles of Europe. They are so patently out of date that they draw little or nothing on the market today. More current in time, if not in space, are the still-graceful imitations of the Georgian architecture we imported from England and called Colonial.*

*However, the old Colonial is less charming inside — in terms of comfortable living — than it seems outside. Many such dwellings are still being built in imitation of the days when people had servants who lived in. On a small lot, this generally means a postage-stamp house with a tiny hall, a tiny living room, a tiny dining room, a tiny kitchen, and a tiny den.*

In contrast, the contemporary house faces the facts of servantless living and takes account of the inconvenience and burden — psychological as well as physical — of small boxed-in spaces with too many doors and exhausting, unnecessary stairways. As costs have risen, architects have sought better ways to make the maximum use of available living space, arranging this space to keep it flexible in use, and providing an additional *feeling* of extra space even when this quality cannot be measured with a yardstick.

*This search for design suited to present living needs first leveled the house to a single-story structure, unless a sloping lot made it both desirable and feasible to wrap the building along the contour of the land in several gently-rising levels. (This is in contrast to the practice of digging a hole in a level tract and sinking a "split-level" into it.) There are still cases, of course, when a contemporary two-story design is the best solution to a given problem.*

Because of simpler heating systems, the basement has disappeared and has been supplanted by a small, enclosed heating plant. Some of the partitions have disappeared, too. For example, a separate dining room is used less than 10 per cent of the family's waking hours. This means the space is unused and therefore wasted 90 per cent of the time. The solution, in cases where space is at a premium, is to create a large multi-purpose living space in which the design provides a *feeling* of separation for the dining area without the creation of an artificial barrier.

*Thus, additional space is created within the same square footage of the older plan. A feeling of still more space is created in the contemporary house when the underside of the roof serves as the ceiling. But good design demands quality of space as well as quantity. Architects find it desirable to separate the sleeping areas, which require quiet, from the noisier living areas. Too, the contemporary house, as designed by an architect, plans the interior space so as to avoid the old-fashioned traffic pattern in which children are constantly running across the feet of their helpless elders.*



*In the suburbs, the contemporary house is oriented to rear-living which provides privacy from the neighbors and, at the same time, extends the living area outdoors to a shielded patio through sliding glass walls and makes maximum use of the property. This is the antithesis of front-living that brings every passing truck into view through a barren picture window.*

These are big conveniences, keyed to contemporary living. There are smaller ones, too. For example, wide roof overhangs keep out both glare and rain even when the windows are open. Furniture is often built-in and shelving may be designed into non-loadbearing partitions to provide convenience with minimum clutter and save valuable space. Materials are kept simple and allowed to express themselves without homely and unnecessary disguise.

*Changes in both social needs and technology provide new architectural thinking.* For example, windows are undergoing a reappraisal in many instances today. In some cases, the same rectangular area formed by four walls with window holes punched into them is transformed into one in which three walls are solid and the fourth is clear glass with sliding sections. This adds to rather than detracts from the overall feeling of space and provides ready access to the outdoors.

Architectural notice is also taken of the family's need to have privacy from more than the outside. "Togetherness" is a laudable principle but, as recognized by the contemporary designer, the members of any family have an occasional need for privacy from each other. How this can be achieved is described by one leading architect:

*"We are building houses which have a great living-recreation-dining room as the core of the house. In this room there is a large fireplace, sofa, chairs for reclining as well as dining, television, and, tucked around the corner, the kitchen equipment. Then there is a quiet room, also preferably with a fireplace and with a door that shuts and locks to block out the noise of the big room. Then, bedrooms and baths to taste."*

Outside, meanwhile, the contemporary house makes the most intelligent use of its surroundings, rather than merely turning a cosmetic, well-shuttered face to its neighbors. Another prominent architect remarks that "... the site development should be incorporated into the design to create a happy arrangement of existing trees, rocks, topography, and other natural assets. If the site is blessed with large trees, I would normally think of incorporating such features in areas planned for quiet meditation, possibly including a reflecting pool and shade plant material. The areas I speak of need not be expensive or large in size to be usable."

*In summary, the contemporary house has certain identifiable characteristics and benefits, but no single style or look.* Modern architecture, in fact, is just that: the freedom to solve a problem in design without forcing the result into a certain "look." The best of today's planning uses the best of today's technology to satisfy today's needs, still drawing upon the past for what can gainfully be used from yesterday's experience.

Some of this experience dates back to antiquity. Thus we still attentively weigh the words of Socrates, who, according to Xenophon, asked his listeners: "Should a house be a pleasant place to live in and a safe place to store one's belongings?" When they agreed, he asked, "Well then, should a house be cool in the summer and warm in the winter?" They agreed again.

"Well then," the philosopher declared, "if you build the north side low and the porticos high and facing south, the building will be protected from the cold in the winter and, in the summer when the sun is high, it will cast shade and it will be cool but in the winter when the sun is low, warm. If, then, these are desirable characteristics, this is the way to build a house."





THE CONTEMPORARY HOUSE

1

TRADITIONAL SYMMETRY IN MOUNT AIRY

owner:  
MR. & MRS. BEN K. GRAVES  
mount airy

architect:  
CECIL D. ELLIOTT, AIA  
raleigh

associate architect:  
MARVIN R. A. JOHNSON, AIA  
raleigh

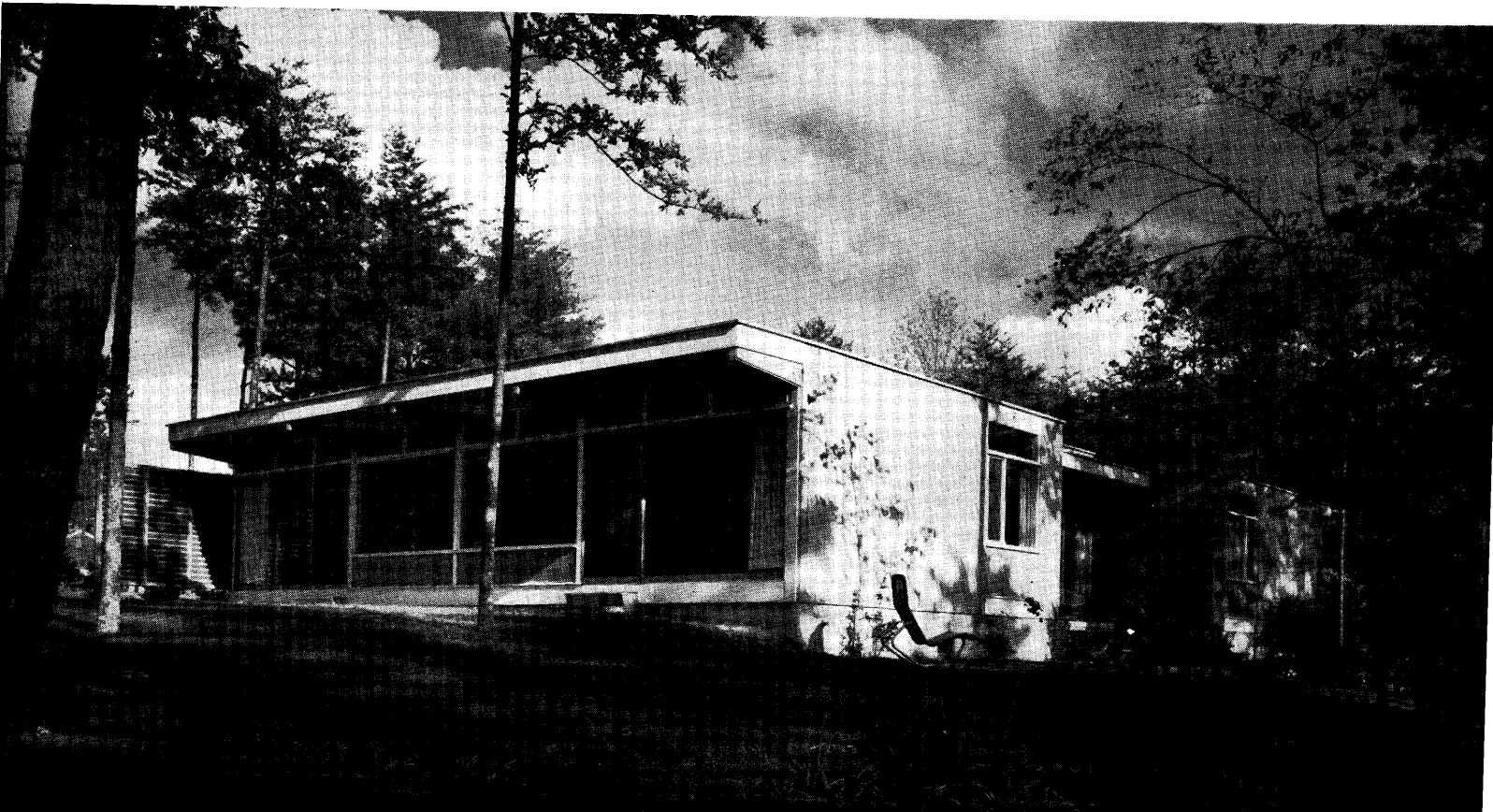
mechanical engineer:  
T. C. BROWN  
raleigh

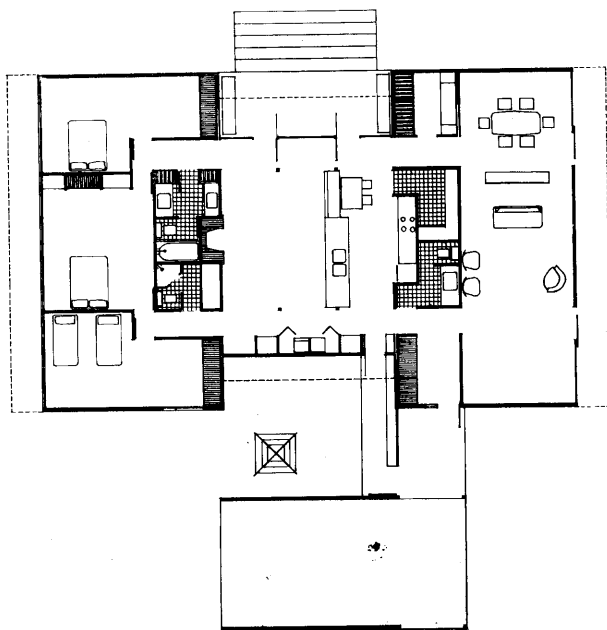
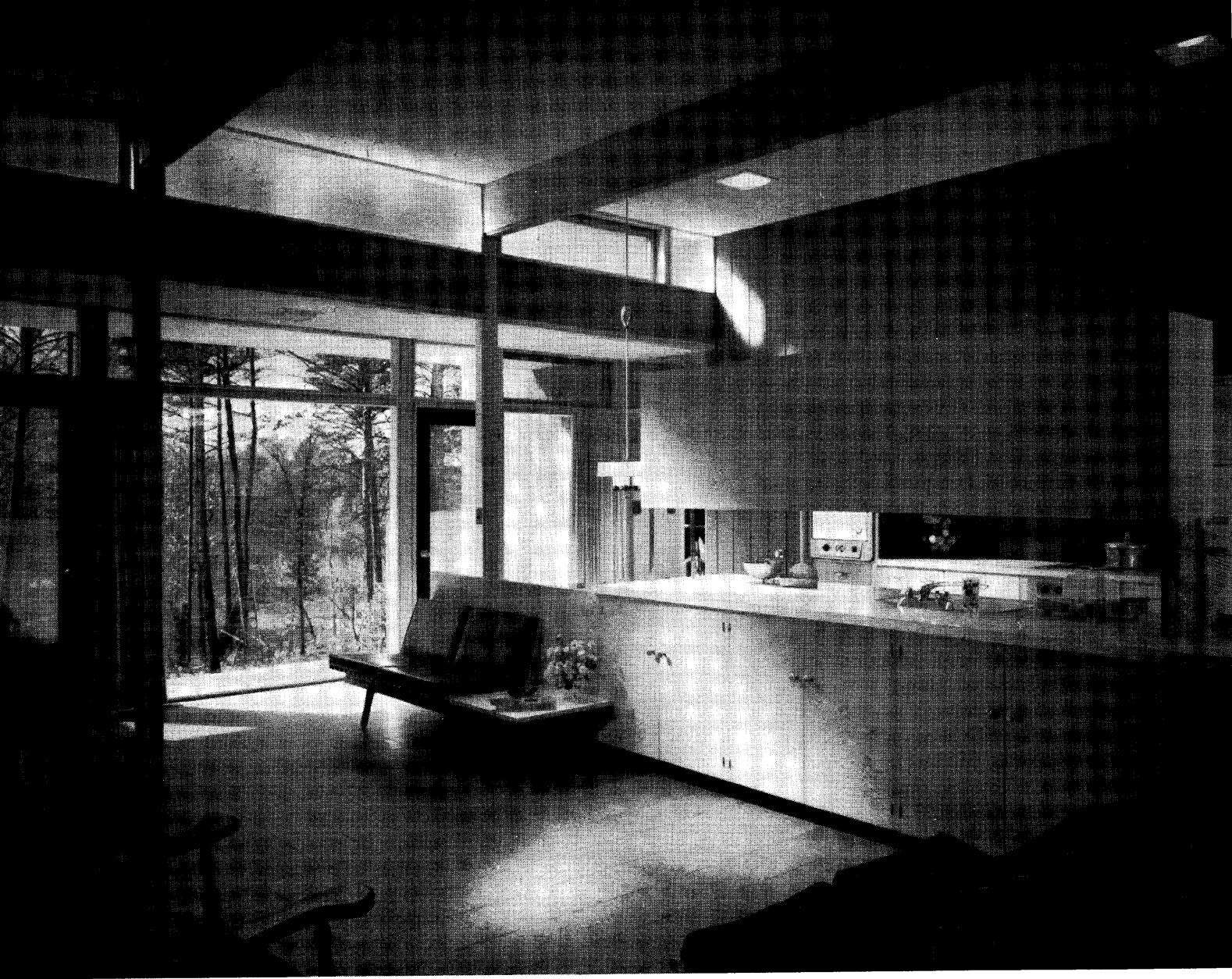
contractor:  
NICHOLS & SNYDER  
mount airy

As in other parts of the country, many architects in the South are reconsidering the stand against absolute symmetry in design. The new approach, sometimes called another neo-classic revival, tends to create a certain repose and formality, and to purposefully set the house apart as an entity, rather than blend it with the countryside. The results, however, are thoroughly contemporary. There is little resemblance to the earlier, and disavowed, practice of pasting a balanced classic facade willy-nilly over any type of plan. Beginning with a concept of separate wings for bedrooms and living quarters, the plan which finally developed has three zones: One for sleeping, one for guests and entertainment, separated by a central zone for family-living. With this arrangement, each block has its own "garden front," special view and separate heat control.

The plan takes full advantage of the site. The street side (north-east) is used for entrance, carport and service yard. The south-east has a protected bedroom view toward a wooded stream, access to a basement for boat and general storage and heating. The south-west side provides a dining terrace and children's play yard off family room and kitchen. The north-west affords a living room view of a pleasant valley with mountains as a backdrop.

The owners are a couple with three tiny children. They say, "The open plan is very good for casual, contemporary living — the family room is our favorite. And the house lends itself well to entertaining, whether small, informal get-togethers or special-event dinner parties with all the stops open."

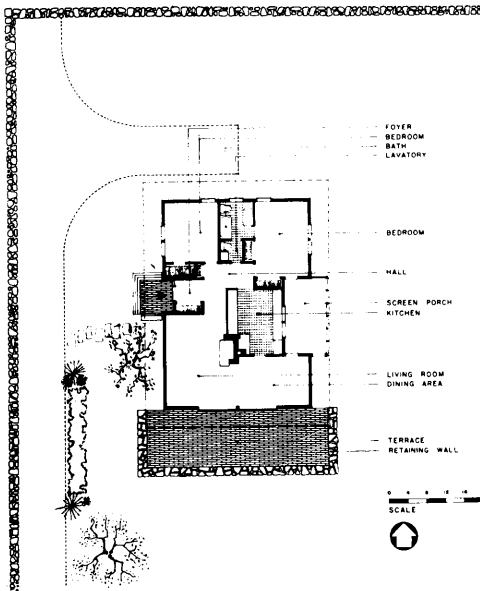




STREET







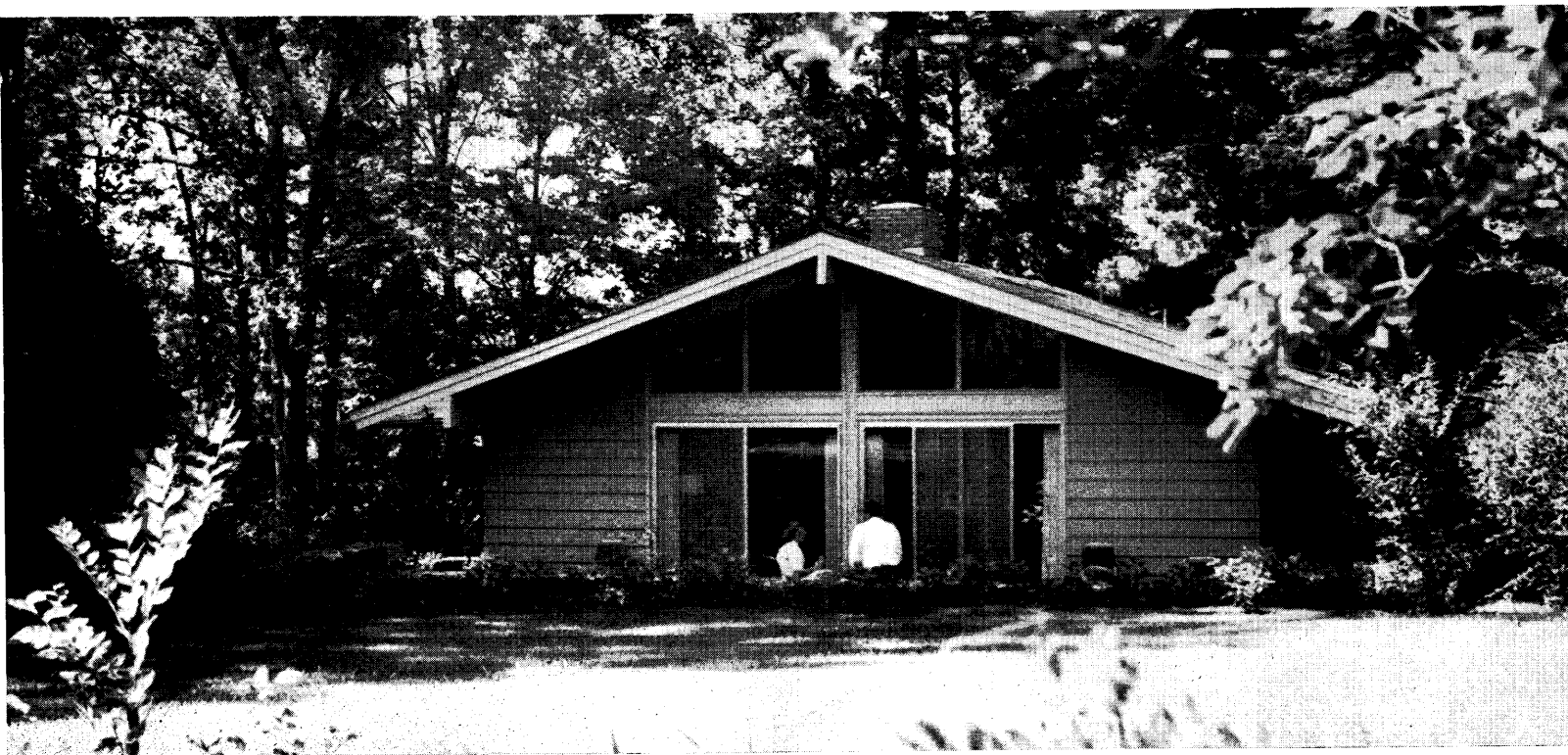
Built in the garden of the owner's family home, this house for a single lady is filled with fine antiques, family treasures and objects d' art from the older house and proves that the contemporary house CAN live with the past. The house was tucked into the mature garden without disturbing the existing trees and flowering shrubs. Since the owner enjoys cooking and informal entertaining, the kitchen became very important and even has its own fireplace. The terrace, designed for outdoor entertaining opens off of the dining and living areas. A guest bedroom was built with its door near the main entrance so that it might be rented if necessary.

## A CONTEMPORARY HOUSE FULL OF ANTIQUES

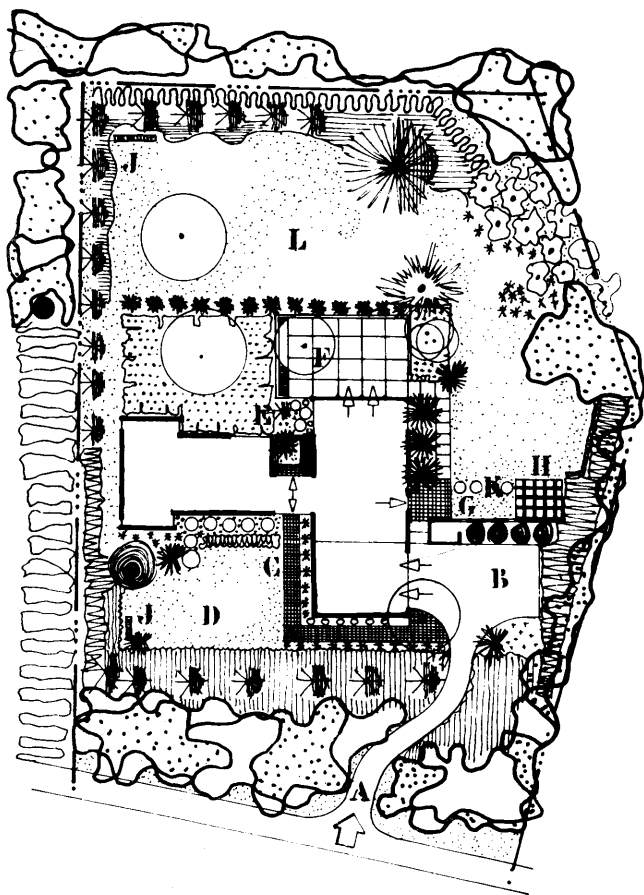
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chapel hill

architects:  
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durham  
KENNETH McCOY SCOTT, AIA  
partner-in-charge

contractor:  
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raleigh







# 3

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MR. AND MRS. C. M. HAZLEHURST  
southern pines

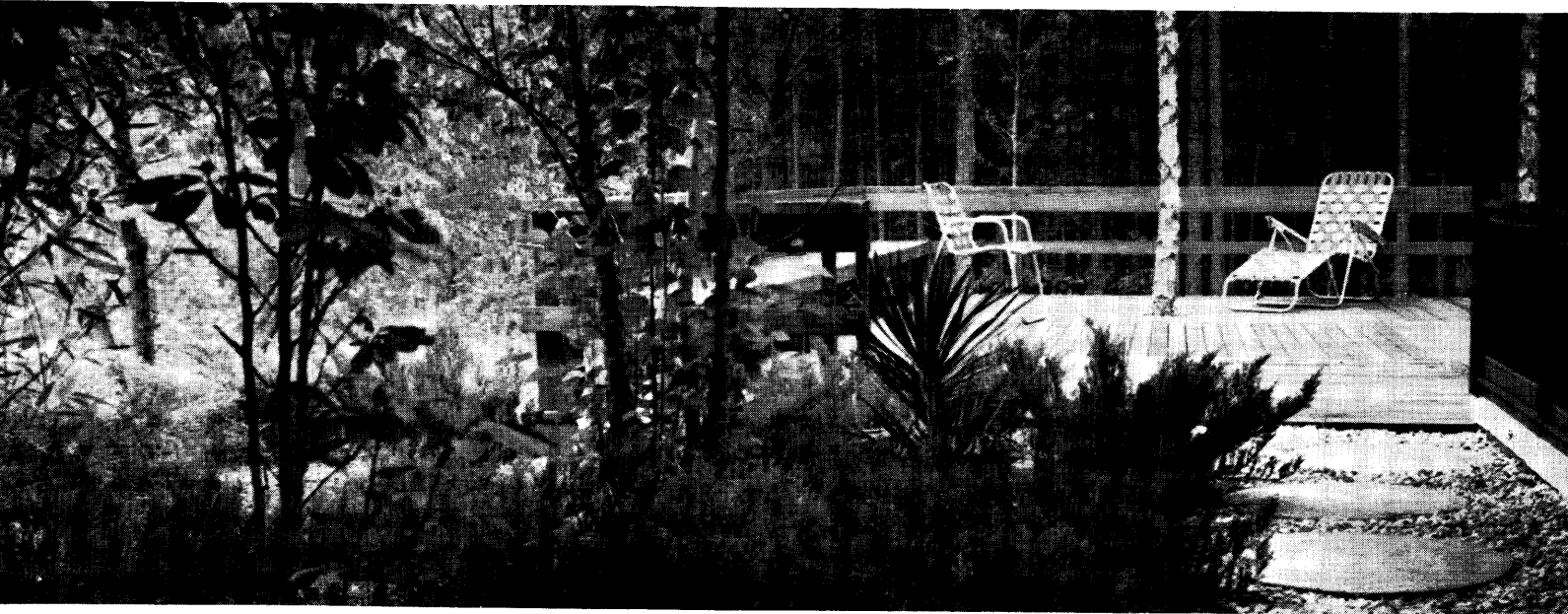
landscape architect:  
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architect:  
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southern pines

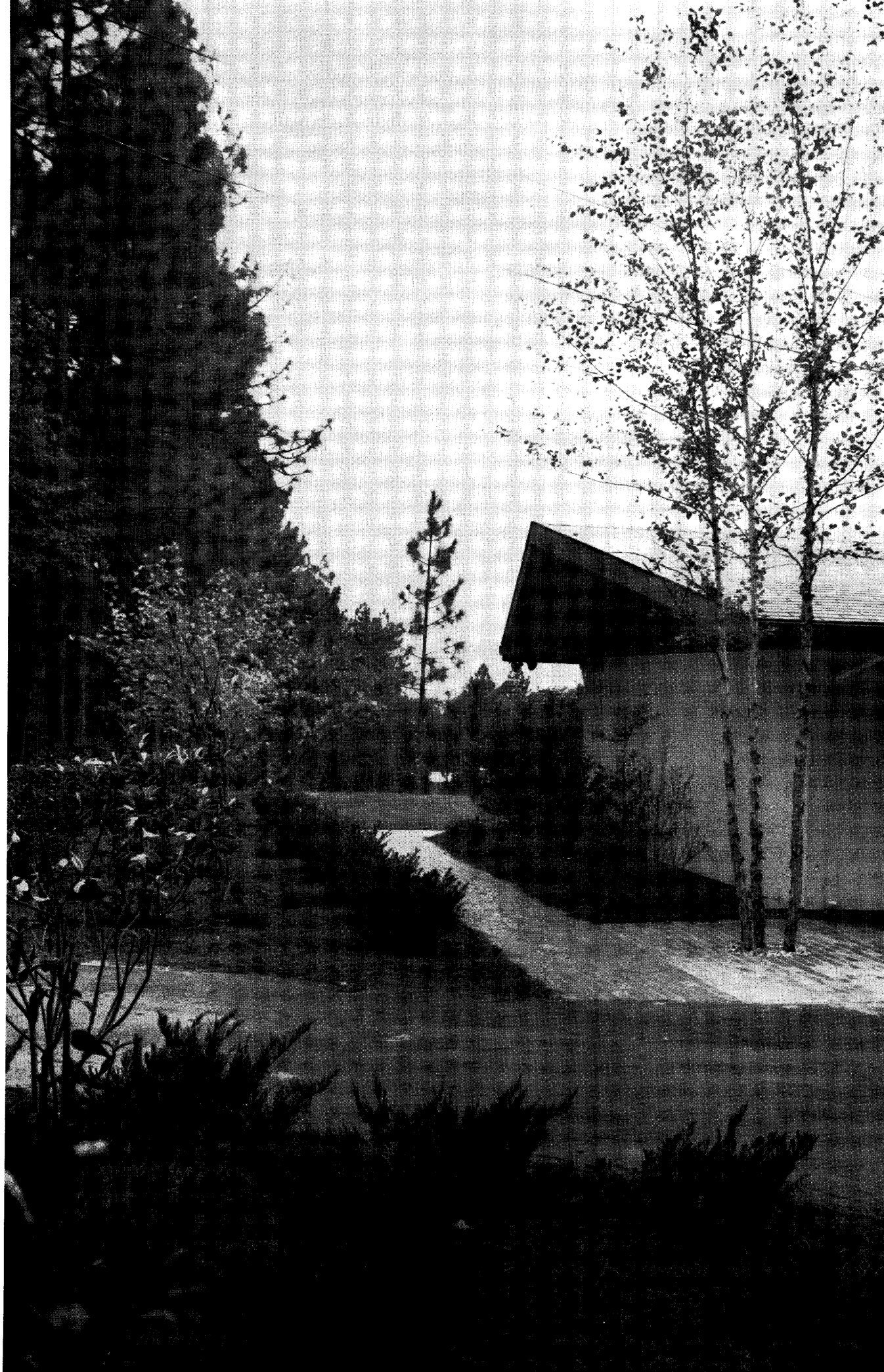
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raleigh

- A. Drive
- B. Guest parking
- C. Guest entrance
- D. Entrance garden
- E. Entrance patio
- F. Wood deck
- G. Dining terrace
- H. Loggia
- I. Screen
- J. Seat
- K. Discs
- L. Lawn

## SMALL GARDEN DESIGN FOR A CONTEMPORARY HOUSE









#### **SMALL GARDEN DESIGN (Cont.)**

##### **THE SITE —**

Falls approximately 14' from front to rear, and is situated in an old disused golf course fairway. Originally no planting existed on the site except for pine growth on the fairway edges, and a few isolated trees.

##### **PLANTS —**

The atmosphere, and character of the garden is primarily derived from the use of plants, and plant associations to facilitate maintenance problems. All watering is done automatically in early morning by time clock controlled irrigation systems.

##### **NOTE —**

The clients intend using the garden in retirement. A wood deck was built to provide immediate access to the outside from the living room. A dining terrace is located off the kitchen area in the loggia garden, and the entrance lobby overlooks a small entrance patio.

##### **DATE —**

Planting was carried out in late spring 1959, and although not yet in maturity illustrates even at this time a well established stage of growth.



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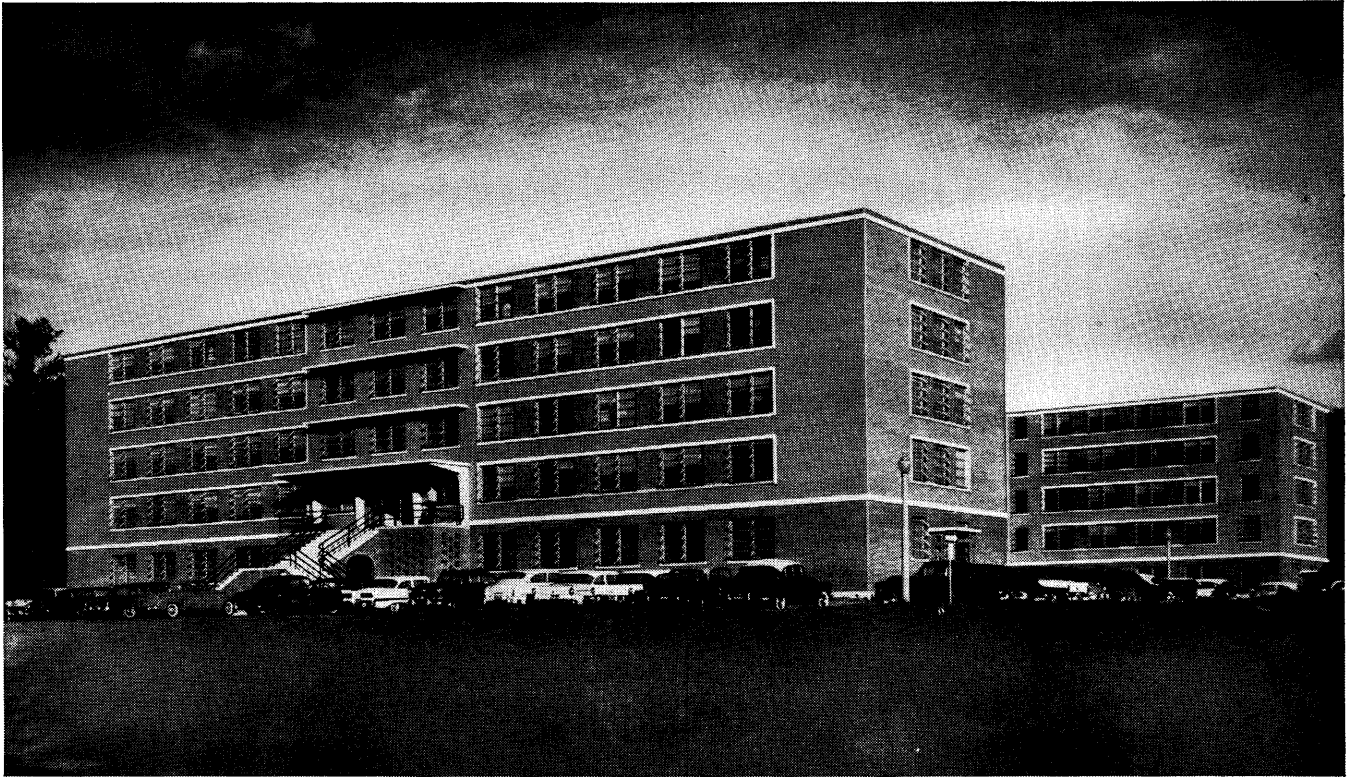
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## NCAIA ANNUAL MEETING PROGRAM ANNOUNCED

Stanley Fishel, President of the Raleigh Council of Architects, who will act as host for the N. C. Chapter American Institute of Architects at their Annual Meeting in Raleigh January 28-30, has announced the tentative program for the meeting. Several outstanding speakers have accepted the invitation to attend, and their talks will be around the theme "Architectural Engineering Relationships." In addition AIA President John Noble Richards of Toledo, Ohio, will be present and speak. North Carolina Governor Luther Hodges is also being invited, and it is hoped that he can attend.

The meeting will open Thursday afternoon in the Hotel Sir Walter, where most of the functions will be held. The first session, a business meeting, will be followed by a social hour and that evening by the dinner meeting of Council officers and officers of the N. C. Chapter. On Friday morning Albert Bush-Brown, Associate Professor of Architecture at M.I.T., will speak on the subject "Architecture" as the first speaker. He will be followed by Charles H. Kahn of Raleigh, a member of the Chapter and also of the Professional Engineers of North Carolina, and an instructor on the faculty at N. C. State College, who will speak on "Structural Engineering." On Friday afternoon the annual business meeting will be held, at which there will be induction of new members and election of officers for 1960. Simultaneously judges will study the Chapters Fifth Annual Awards program preparatory to announcing their winners at the social hour and dance which will be held that evening at the Raleigh Shrine Club. On Saturday morning Charles S. Leipold, prominent Consulting Engineer of Philadelphia, will speak on "Mechanical Engineering" and Joseph Hudnut, retired Dean of the Graduate School of Design of Harvard and lecturer, from Dover, Massachusetts, will sum up the conference. The luncheon Saturday will feature the addresses of AIA President Richards and Governor Hodges if he is able to attend. Saturday afternoon will be left open for committee meetings, viewing the awards or relaxation time. A basketball game between N. C. State and Clemson is scheduled that afternoon in Raleigh. The banquet Saturday evening will feature installation of officers, presentation of awards, and a speaker as yet unnamed. The meeting will conclude with a dance following the banquet.

Members are urged to make room reservations direct with the hotel or motel of their choice as soon as possible. The Chapter is to invite to the meeting members of the faculty and students of the School of Design at N. C. State College, and also practicing engineers, in addition to other special guests.



## AGC CRUISE



Pictured aboard the MS Burgensford, during the Carolinas Branch Associated General Contractors of America Annual Meeting cruise to the West Indies, are left to right: A. Hugh Chapman, Jr., of Spartanburg, President of the S. C. Chapter A.I.A.; Mrs. Robert L. Clemmer of Hickory; Arthur E. Nutter, AIA of Houston, Texas, guest at the meeting; Robert L. Clemmer of Hickory, President of the N. C. Chapter A.I.A.; Ruth Sale of Charlotte and S. C. Austin of Raleigh with AGC; and Sam P. Marshall of Raleigh of Plastics and Fiberglass Co.

## 1960 SCHOOL PLANNING CONFERENCES

ASHEVILLE: JANUARY 11-12

WINSTON-SALEM: JANUARY 12-13

GOLDSBORO: JANUARY 14-15

The NCAIA Schools Committee, chairmanned by Vice-President Leslie N. Boney, Jr. of Wilmington, has announced the dates for the 1960 School Planning Conferences. There will be three meetings, each consisting of an evening session followed by an all day meeting. The first will be held in Asheville the evening of Monday, January 11 and all day Tuesday the 12th. The second will be in Winston-Salem the evening of Tuesday, January 12th and all day Wednesday, the 13th. The third will be in Goldsboro the evening of Thursday, January 14th and all day Friday the 15th. Speaker at the evening meetings in Asheville and Winston-Salem will be Dr. Shirley Cooper, Associate Secretary of the American Association of School Administrators, from Washington, D. C. Speaker at the evening meeting in Goldsboro will be Dr. W. B. McClurkin, Executive Secretary of the National Council on School House Construction, of Nashville, Tennessee. Some of the topics to be discussed during the day conferences are "Inspection and Supervision", "Planning Mechanical Services", "Educational Planning", "Site Development", "Building Cost", and others. These will be led by architects, school administrators, and invited guests. Sponsors for the Conferences, first held in 1958, are the Division of Superintendents of the N. C. Education Association, the N. C. Chapter The American Institute of Architects, and the Division of School Planning of the N. C. Department of Public Instruction.

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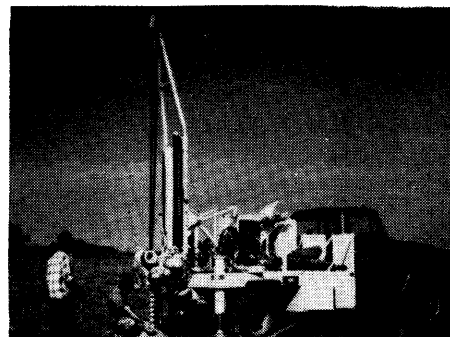


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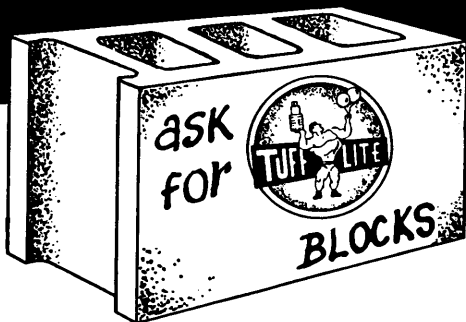
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## CONFERENCE ON MATERIALS HELD

On Friday, December 11, the N. C. State College School of Design sponsored a conference on Materials in Architecture. This was a contribution of the School of Design to the American Institute of Architects' activities in continuing education of the practicing architect.

Principal speakers were three prominent American architects, Raphael Soriano, AIA, of San Francisco; George Matsumoto, AIA, and Professor of Architecture at the School of Design; and O'Neil Ford, AIA, of San Antonio, Texas. Each discussed how the selection of building materials and methods of construction influences the architectural design of buildings at an early stage in their conception. The conference brought out the problem of the control of quality as it appears in the specifications and seeing that such is maintained on the job itself so that the finished product reflects the original design intentions of the architect.

The program opened at 10:00 A.M. in the College Union Theater on the State College campus. The morning lecture was given by Mr. Soriano, followed by an informal seminar discussion. There was a luncheon in the College Union during the noon hours. The afternoon sessions featured lectures by Mr. Matsumoto and Mr. Ford on component design in the creation of their buildings using some examples of their work. The conference closed after dinner with a panel discussion between the three speakers and the conference audience.

## NCAIA HONOR AWARDS PROGRAM

The North Carolina Chapter A.I.A. 6th Annual Honor Awards program will be judged during the Chapter's Annual Meeting in Raleigh January 29th. The purpose of the program is "To encourage the appreciation of excellence in architects and to afford recognition of exceptional merit in buildings." Entries must be by a registered architect practicing professionally in North Carolina who is a member of the N. C. Chapter AIA, or by architects who are Corporate members of the American Institute of Architects residing elsewhere in the United States. The building or group of related buildings must have been completed since January 1, 1949, and not have previously received Chapter, Regional or National AIA awards. The jury, of three prominent people in architecture or related fields, which is yet to be announced, will give equal attention to entries in all classifications. The notice of entry and a \$5.00 fee for registration and handling each mount submitted must be received by Exhibitions Chairman Alvis Owen George, Jr., AIA of 420 North Boylan Avenue in Raleigh, by January 15, 1960. Entries shipped or personally delivered must be at the Hotel Sir Walter in Raleigh by noon January 28th. Judging will be the following afternoon simultaneous with the third session of the Chapter meeting, and awards will be announced later during the meeting. Certificates will be presented to architects and owners of all buildings receiving awards.

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## ARCHITECTURAL CALENDAR

DECEMBER 28-31: Winter Series Examinations by the N. C. Board of Architecture, at N. C. State College School of Design.

JANUARY 3: Durham Council of Architects, Harvey's.

JANUARY 4: Charlotte Council of Architects, Chez Montet, Charlotte.

JANUARY 4, 11, 18, 25: Architects Guild of High Point, K & W Restaurant.

JANUARY 5, 19: Raleigh Council of Architects, S & W Cafeteria.

JANUARY 11-12: School Planning Conference, Asheville.

JANUARY 12-13: School Planning Conference, Winston-Salem.

JANUARY 14-15: School Planning Conference, Goldsboro.

JANUARY 15: Deadline for submissions in AIA 1960 Honor Awards Program and 1960 Homes For Better Living Awards.

JANUARY 17: Winston-Salem Council of Architects, Y. W. C. A.

JANUARY 28-30: N. C. Chapter American Institute of Architects Annual Meeting, Hotel Sir Walter, Raleigh.

JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 3: N. C. Board of Architecture Meeting, Raleigh.

FEBRUARY 16: Producers Council Seminar on Roofing, Charlotte.

MARCH 15-16: Exhibit of Church Designs, Nashville, Tenn.

APRIL 19-20: AIA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California.

MAY 3-5: Conference on Church Architecture, Minneapolis, Minn.

MAY 12-14: South Atlantic District AIA Conference, Winston-Salem.

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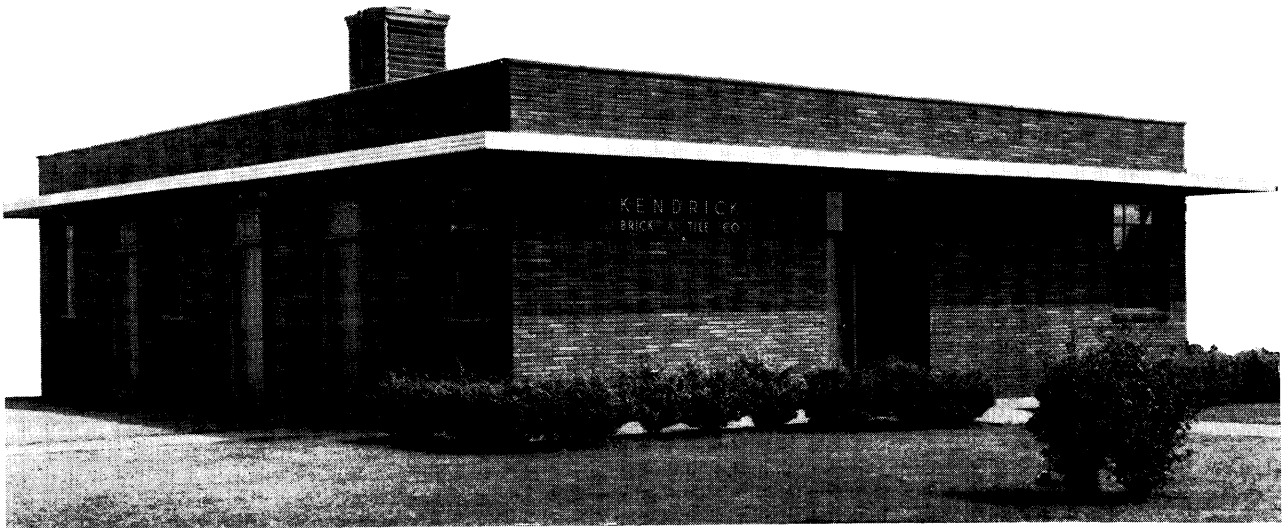
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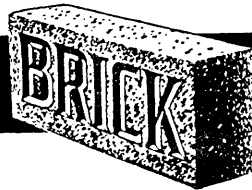


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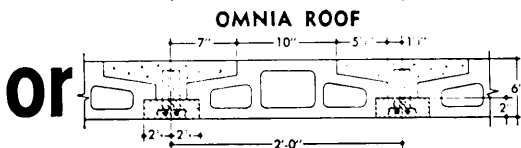
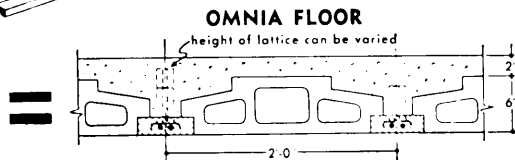
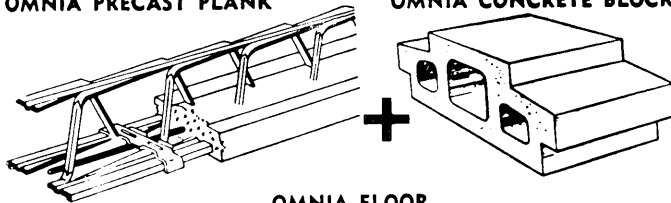
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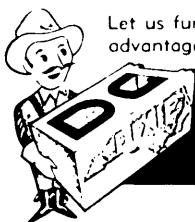
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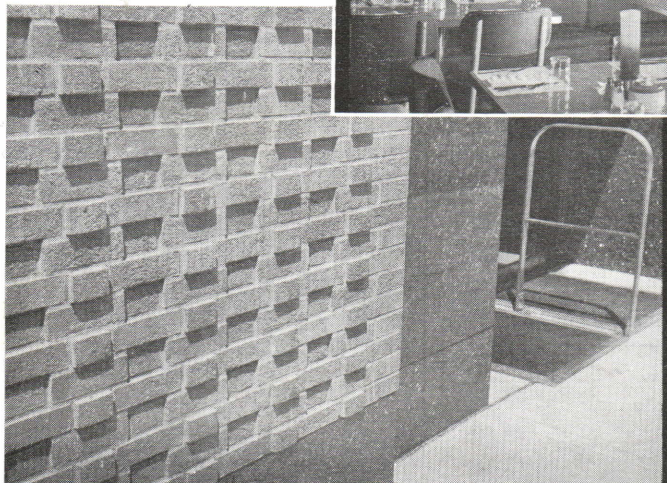
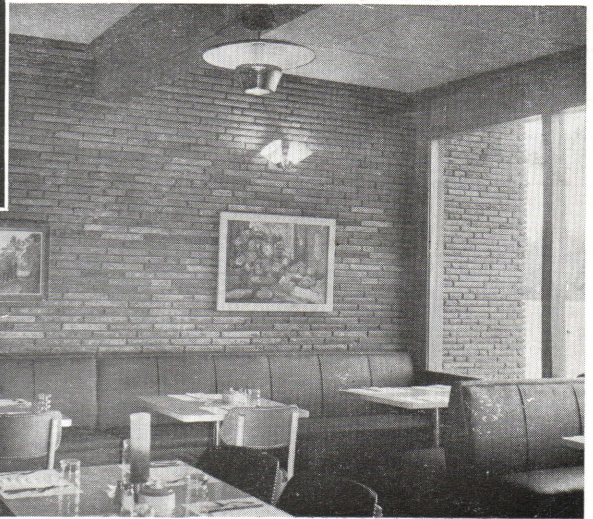
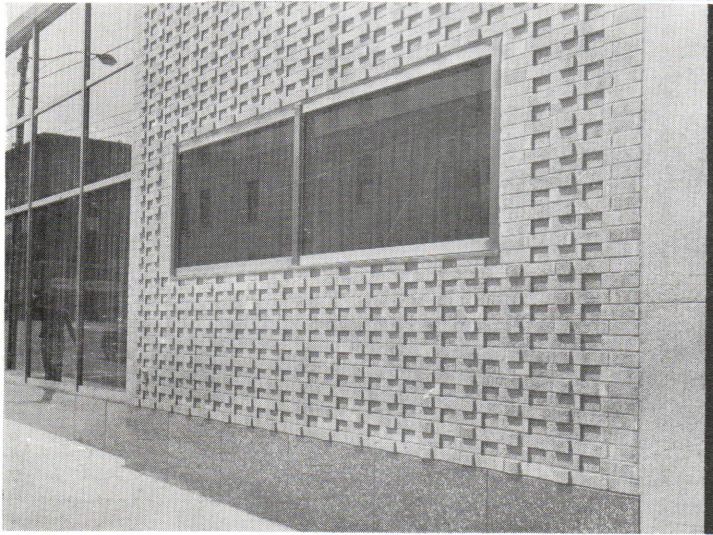
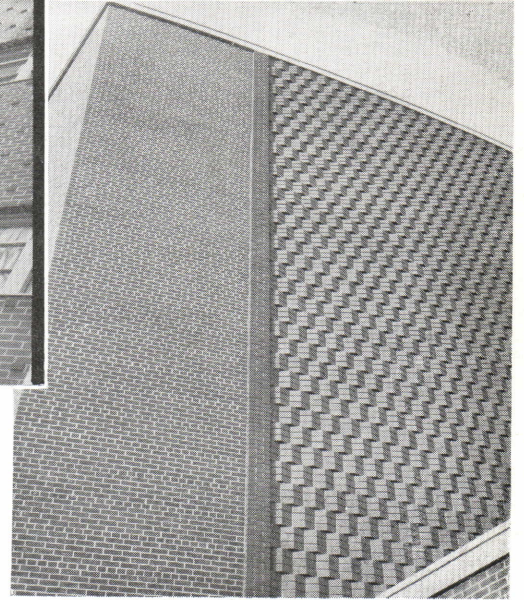
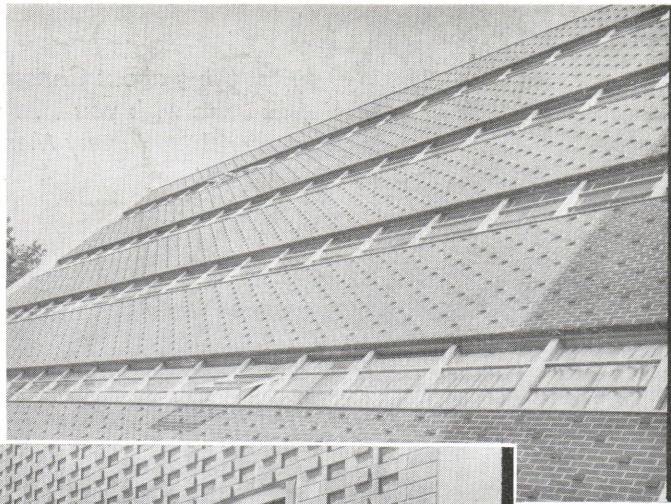


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