A Circular Solution

Architects for this general classroom at N. C. State faced a complex problem in design.

The building needed to incorporate large lecture rooms with smaller classrooms and offices — all arranged for close student-faculty contact. Another consideration was the disadvantage of flat floors in large group instruction, and the problem of corridors and excess floor space presented by sloping floors.

For the engineer, there was the problem presented by the use of both variable strength and variable weight concrete, affecting the moment distribution factors in the pre-cast and poured-in-place composite, continuous pre-stressed structural system. Weak soil conditions demanded that a balanced dead load design be checked on continuous circular and spread footings, to minimize the effect of any differential settlement.

The solution to these problems is imaginative — and effective. Harrelson Hall is designed as a series of stacked "soup plate" forms. Flat outer rims accommodate offices and service corridors, slope center-ward to contain the lecture areas.

Solite lightweight structural concrete was used for the building's frame and for the walls of the center core, which serves as a structural column. Solite lightweight masonry units were used inside the circular partitions.

Beams and columns were kept as slender as possible by using high strength Solite lightweight structural concrete to carry the design loads within the allowable stresses. The reduction in dead load which it affected avoided the use of piles and resulted in substantial savings.

Thus, a combination of imaginative design and versatile materials produced an effective "circular solution" at N. C. State.
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"SHOULD AN ARCHITECT WORK FOR FREE?"

An older lawyer friend of mine standing on the sidewalk one day, was asked by a friend of his, "May I ask your advice about a little personal matter?" The lawyer's reply was, "My advice is worth exactly what you pay me. Maybe we had better go up to my office and discuss this further." Many an architect has been asked this same question by friends and others who do not realize that his opinion, and time are all that he has for sale. The equivalent of about three months out of each year of that time is spent by the average architect in North Carolina traveling from one conference to another, one interview to another, or in traveling from one construction job to another. Like the doctor and the lawyer, time, wisdom and skill are his trade, but few people realize that with the architect, he must have associates capable of carrying out his instructions and for each associate designer or draftsman in his office, the architect may have an accompanying expense of from $200 to $400 per week per man, which includes rent, telephone, travel, printing, and other overhead expense items. Few realize this when they ask the question, "Could I get you to make a little drawing for me?" Neither do they realize that in asking an architect to reduce his fee that there is little he can do to reduce this expense. Any reduction must come out of his actual profit, which is small compared to the liability and responsibility placed upon him.

Keeping the above in mind, is it fair for any public official to ask an architect to make preliminary drawings and studies with the hopes that he may get the job if an appropriation is passed? Also, is it fair for the public official, the school administrator, or others in authority to place themselves under obligation to an architect who has given of his services free of charge? That official may be personally liable for the architectural fee even if the appropriation does not go through.

A minister of a church told me the other day, that several architects with whom he had worked had given his church credit on the fee for the "preliminary plans" prepared by someone in his church or the church architectural department of his denomination. That architect in trying to get the job is both cheating himself and his client on the apprehension that the owner is saving money. In this case he is acting merely as a draftsman for the owner, and little or no time and thought have been put into the design of the project, which is the primary reason for an architect's services. The value of an architect's services are almost in direct proportion to the amount of time, effort and thought put into the project. Peculiarly enough, the most expensive architectural service an owner can obtain is when he does not give the architect time enough to execute those instruments of service, the plans and specifications.

Is it fair to expect an architect to work for nothing? Is an architect fair to himself to give of his time and talent without the assurance of just and equitable compensation for services rendered?

President, N. C. Chapter, A.I.A.
With three floors of banking space and three floors of rentable space, the building is set back twelve feet from the street at the main entrance, to provide planting in the heart of downtown. Parking is at the rear. The public entrance to the elevator lobby leading to rentable space is part of the main banking entrance with open sliding grilles connecting the elevator lobby with the main banking floor.

Construction is of reinforced concrete frame and precast concrete panels with the exception of a base course of polished granite. Prismatic exterior concrete panels add shading effect to deep set windows.

Owner: Wachovia Bank & Trust Co.
Associated Architects:
A. G. Odell, Jr. & Associates
Ballard & McKim
BANK OF FUQUAY
FUQUAY SPRINGS, NORTH CAROLINA

In this small but fast-growing community an additional drive-in facility was needed to augment the main bank. The compact working area is made spacious by the use of glass, an open plaza, effective planting, and wide drives.

Owner: Bank of Fuquay, Fuquay Springs, N. C.
Contractor: A. Y. Hairr
ARCHITECTURE, BANKING — A CHALLENGING FUTURE

By: Harry Gatton, Executive Director
North Carolina Bankers Association

Throughout North Carolina new bank buildings have emerged with increased rapidity. Bank building and remodeling is the vogue, emphasizing convenience and service to the customer.

The architect is a central figure in this activity. He has given impetus to it, has been helpful in meeting the challenge of change that has been at the forefront in the thinking of Tar Heel bankers.

The branch office, the drive-in facility and other innovations are comparatively new. Banks have again kept the customer in mind by establishing offices in the various sections of a city or community. This demanded a special type building, accessible with a maximum consideration for meeting the need for which it was to be used.

There are many observers of change who feel that bank architecture and banks in general have changed more in the past decade or two than ever was imagined by the most resourceful planner. The advent of automation has produced the need, for example, to give special consideration to the installation of very heavy equipment other than the traditional vaults. The modern check-sorting equipment can be cited to illustrate the consideration which must be given in planning a bank building or the remodeling of an existing building. This necessitates professional assistance to see that the pace of automation does not make obsolete overnight what is today considered adequate in bank architecture.

When bank officials are faced with a decision to build, remodel or expand, the architect can be their best friend. This is so because the challenge of present conditions must be met, the needs of the future considered, and quality commensurate with expenditures on the banking house must be realized. Nothing short of this can be acceptable.

Bankers, as men and women worthy of the great trust given to them, have kept step with the fast-changing era. They spend much time in study, in meetings and conferences, in activities of the North Carolina Bankers Association and the American Bankers Association. Emphasis on banker education has increased. In short, today's banker is prepared to successfully handle his responsibility.

This leads to another observation that is certainly valid. Bankers are at the forefront of efforts to develop North Carolina. This is not the place to enumerate the long list of accomplishments. They are proud of the opportunity for leadership in community, area and state-wide development. The fact that every bank in North Carolina is a member of the North Carolina Bankers Association is further evidence of their willingness to cooperate.

There are 670 banking offices in North Carolina today, with total resources of about $3.5 billion. This does not include another $2.5 billion in additional assets in bank trust departments. The responsibility for sound management and wise investment of around $6 billion is a heavy responsibility.

The challenge of change is being met, as stated previously, by better banking facilities. The architect is aware of the keen emphasis that bankers place on facilities, buildings and the physical convenience of customers. Does the architect also realize how much the "image" of banking has changed?

At the North Carolina Bankers Association Convention last May in Pinehurst, the outgoing President of the Association, Mr. J. Ernest Paschall, a Wilson banker, said this:

"The image of banking has changed immensely in my lifetime, particularly during the past two decades. There is no point in talking about the 'good old days of banking' — in the opportunity for expanded service."

He went on to say:

"The strength of banking in this state can most certainly be traced to the diversification of our banks from the small, medium and large. The happy balance produces healthy competition, and the natural result from the happy balance is alertness, efficiency, increased service and sound banking."

This should provide the architect with food for thought. How can he meet the needs of the banker when he turns to him for professional help? Is the architect giving full consideration to the needs of all banks? What is the architect doing to realize that the "image" of the banker has changed, not only the "image" of bank architecture. He is an alert, efficient person who is very much on the scene to help the people continue to be the beneficiaries of modern banking. He is on the move.
DRIVE-IN FACILITY
WACCAMAW
BANK & TRUST CO.
Chadbourn, North Carolina

Owner: Waccamaw Bank & Trust Co.
Whiteville, N. C.

Architect: Leon A. Schute, A.I.A.
High Point, N. C.

Contractor: H. S. Lewis, Inc.
Fairmont, N. C.

To make a small building look large and inviting in a typical East Carolina community the architect designed a large steel umbrella type roof of 1600 square feet to cover a floor area of 400 square feet. Surrounding areas are screened by a six foot high basketweave redwood fence and extensive planting.
Located at a busy intersection in downtown Hendersonville, this new facility provides two floors for use of the Association and one floor for rental office space. The building is 65 feet wide by 100 feet long, two stories with a full basement.

A unique feature of the building is an oval-shaped banking lobby on a diagonal axis. Composite construction of steel beams and concrete slabs were used to span the total width of the building to eliminate all interior columns. The two story entrance lobby contains the elevator and free-standing stairs to all levels.
To create a friendly, yet spacious feeling, the main floor entry is glass walled and accommodates a free standing stairway to the second floor. When one enters the building through this entrance the main banking area is seen straight ahead.

The main banking operations are conducted on the first floor, with bookkeeping facilities, a lounge, and directors room-community room on the second floor.

Two story steel columns enhance the entranceway, as do the attractive cut stone planters. Effective landscaping complements the building.
THE CONWAY NATIONAL BANK, CONWAY, SOUTH CAROLINA

Owner: The Conway National Bank
Conway, S. C.

Architect: Leslie N. Boney
Wilmington, N. C.

Contractor: Boyle Construction Company
Sumter, S. C.
Recently elected President of the State Bankers Association, Neil Vanstory has a long banking experience and background to qualify for the job. Presently serving as Chairman of the Board of the North Carolina National Bank, he began his banking career after graduation from the University of North Carolina Law School, starting out in the bond sales department of the old and staid National City Bank in New York City. Shortly after that he transferred to Chemical Bank’s credit department where he worked until an opening came in his home town of Greensboro. In 1928 he became a junior trust officer in the old American Exchange National Bank. After the economic collapse of the early thirties, Vanstory and several other bankers assumed a share of the leadership in re-organizing North Carolina’s disrupted banking facilities, resulting in the establishment of the Security National Bank, later North Carolina National. Vanstory was named vice president and trust officer and in 1950 he became president. He was made Chairman of the Board in 1960 when Security and American Commercial merged to form North Carolina National.

In 1940 Vanstory interrupted his career with banks to assume the post of assistant treasurer of Burlington Mills, now Burlington Industries. After some six years with Burlington he was named executive director of the Moses H. Cone Memorial Fund, created by the wealthy Greensboro textile manufacturing family. Vanstory has also been elected to four terms on the City Council of Greensboro and served as Mayor during two of these terms.
Featuring a crispness of detail in its faceted eave and column relationship, the steel column and facia are painted white to give a bold contrast to the dark gray insulating glass and chocolate brown brick.

Inside the counters and fixtures are walnut with tops of white domestic marble and floors throughout are white terrazzo with brass divider strips.

Large open areas of floor space allow free movement of the public. One drive-in window is provided adjacent to the tellers area on the west side of the building.

Owner: First Citizens Bank & Trust Company
Architect: Leslie N. Boney
Wilmington, N. C.

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ARCHITECTS REGISTERED

Pictured above are some board members of the N. C. Board of Architecture and architects who were presented their certificates to practice architecture in North Carolina on Saturday, July 22, 1961, at the Salisbury Country Club. These candidates qualified for registration by having successfully passed the standard Junior written examinations of four days duration.

Names, from left to right by faces, are as follows:

John T. Wall; William T. Besser; John Erwin Ramsay, President of Board; Shannon Meriwether, Secretary-Treasurer of Board; Bill B. Glover; Thomas E. Cunningham; James R. Washburn, Jr.; George M. Smart; A. Lewis Polier, Executive Secretary of the Board; William Clyde McGee, Jr.; D. Gene Whittington; S. Porter Graves, Jr., Vice-President of the Board; Robert L. Chalmers; and Thomas P. Turner, Jr.

Archie Royal Davis of Durham, the newly appointed Member of the Board, was the photographer of the group.

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L. E. "Woody" Atkins, Jr. of Charlotte (pictured above) has recently been elected President of the Producers' Council, Carolinas Chapter. James F. Traylor was named Vice President, and Lawrence E. Irvine, Secretary-Treasurer. In order to bring more products knowledge to architects, the Chapter will schedule meetings in Columbia, Greensboro and Raleigh during the fall months. Dates will be announced later.

Mr. Atkins is also an associate member-director representing the entire eastern section of the United States of the Construction Specification Institute.

The Greensboro Registered Architects held their regular meeting at the Maplehouse Restaurant, Greensboro, N. C. on July 27, 1961, to elect new officers for the coming year. The following officers were elected:

President ________________________ Jesse B. Owens, Jr.
Vice President _____________________ Carl F. Andrews
Secretary & Treasurer ____________ Thomas P. Heritage
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