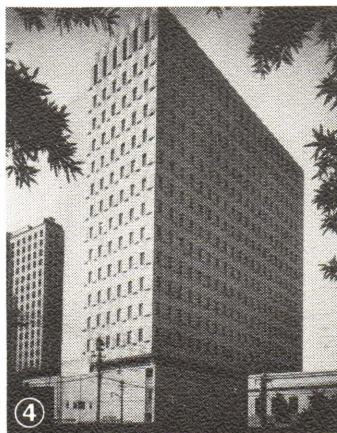
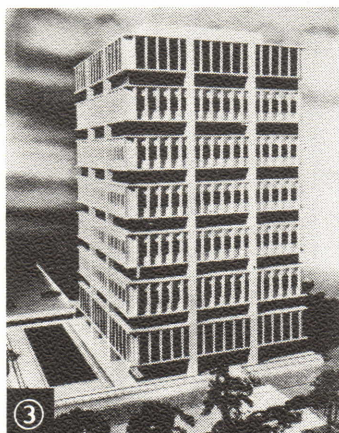
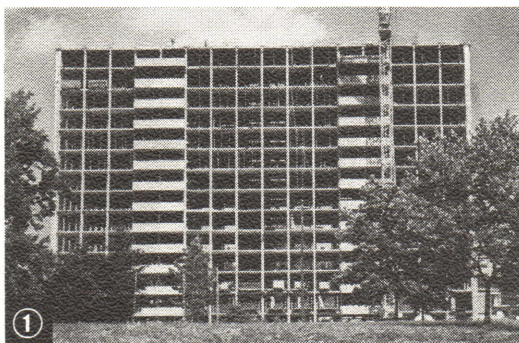


APRIL, 1966

NORTH CAROLINA
ARCHITECT



PUBLISHED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS



- ① **Greensboro Towers**, apartment building, Greensboro. Builder: Little Construction Co., Charlotte, N.C. Architect: Conrad Taylor, AIA, Charlotte, N.C. Designer: Charles Bates, Charlotte, N.C. Structural Engineer: Carver Hunt, Atlanta, Ga.
- ② **The Kimberlee**, apartment building, Charlotte. Owner-builder: Godley Construction Co., Charlotte, N.C. Architect: Charles Morrison Grier, AIA, Charlotte, N.C.
- ③ **North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance**, Durham. Architects and Engineers: Welton, Becket & Associates, Los Angeles, Calif.
- ④ **Wachovia Bank**, Charlotte. Contractor: J. A. Jones Construction Co., Charlotte, N.C. Architects and Engineers: Harrison & Abramovitz, New York, N.Y. and A. G. Odell, Jr. & Associates, Charlotte, N.C.
- ⑤ **Northwestern Bank**, Asheville. Builder: Little Construction Co., Charlotte, N.C. Architect: Gene Whittington, AIA, Charlotte, N.C. Structural Engineer: Carver Hunt, Atlanta, Ga.
- ⑥ **Wachovia Bank**, Wilmington. Contractor: T. A. Loving & Co., Goldsboro, N.C. Architect: A. G. Odell, Jr. & Associates, Charlotte, N.C. Structural Engineer: Gardner & Associates, Durham, N.C.

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NORTH CAROLINA ARCHITECT



APRIL 1966, VOL. 13, NO. 4

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North Carolina Architect is published by the North Carolina Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, Mrs. Betty W. Silver, Executive Secretary, 115 W. Morgan Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601. Advertising rates on request.

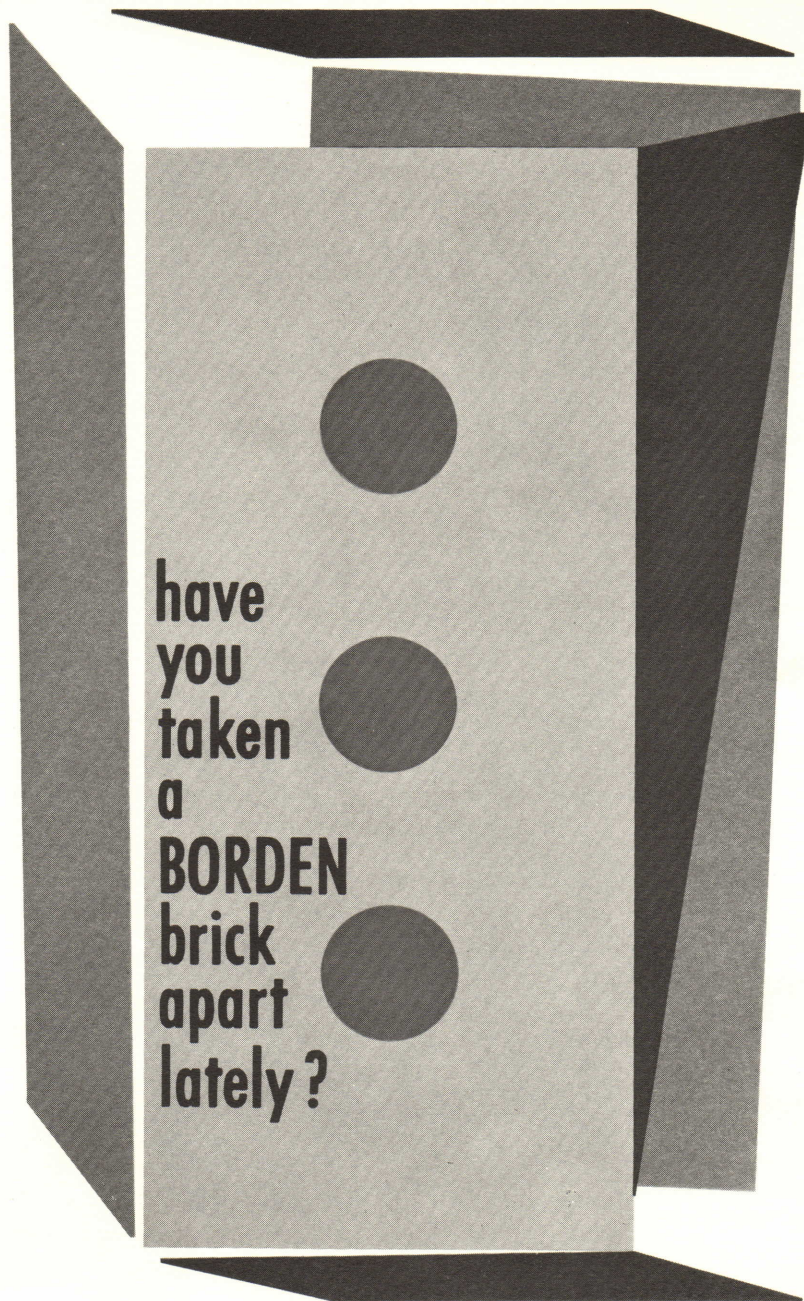
North Carolina Architect was formerly published as Southern Architect, Volume I, No. 1, through Volume XI, No. 11, 1954-1964.

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Lithographed by Theo. Davis Sons, Inc., Zebulon, N. C.

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Report on The Schur-Lee Post Office Construction Investigation

By R. Mayne Albright

Attorney for N. C. Chapter AIA & N. C. Board of Architects

How could it happen in North Carolina?

A New Jersey promoter and realty corporation—

—although not meeting the legal requirements for doing business as a corporation in North Carolina;

—although not licensed as a general contractor in North Carolina;

—although using plans signed by an architect not licensed to practice in North Carolina;

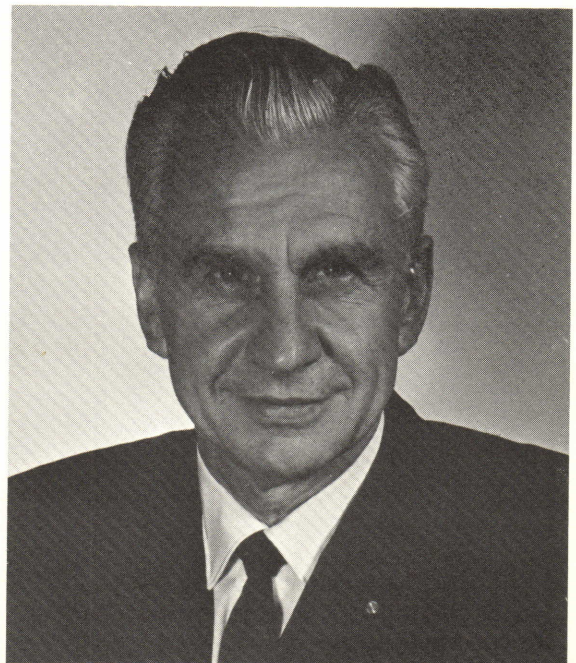
—nevertheless succeeds in obtaining Federal Government contracts and local building permits to construct Post Office buildings in Goldsboro, Asheboro, Sanford and Shelby?

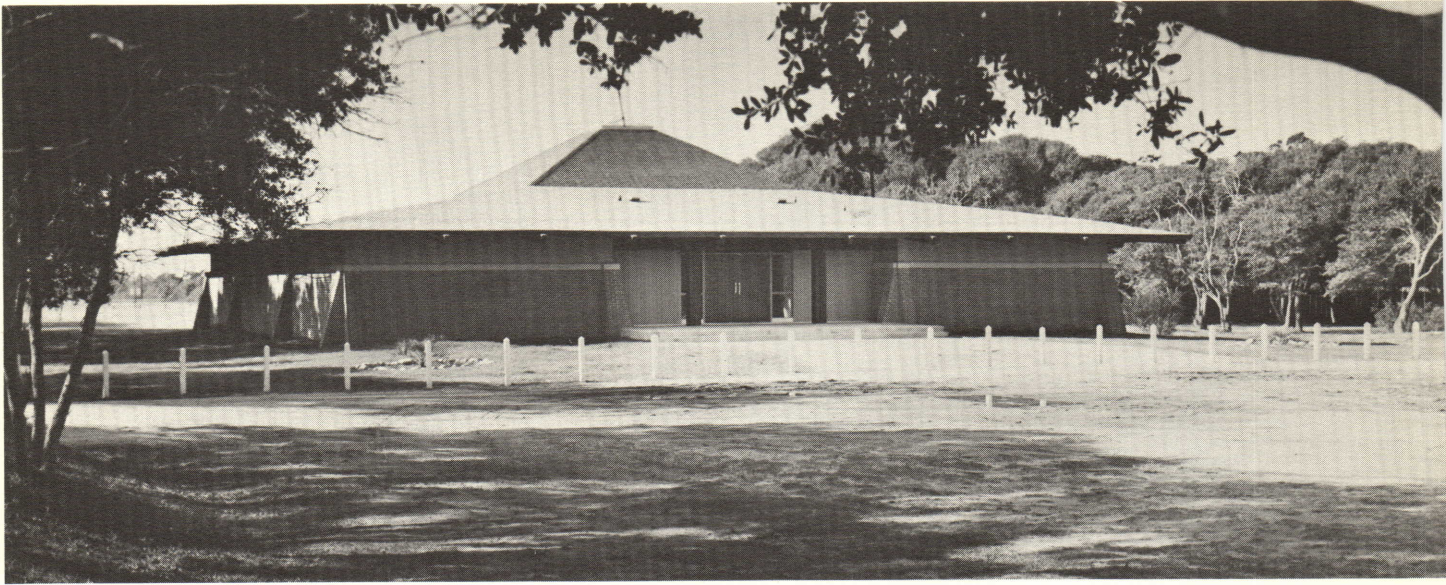
The Schur-Lee Realty Corporation of Hackensack, New Jersey, now under investigation by Federal, State and local authorities in both North Carolina and New Jersey, not only obtained such contracts and building permits, but proceeded with construction of three of these four Post Office buildings, in spite of all the corporation laws, licensing acts, building codes and building permit requirements of North Carolina.

The Post Office projects were completed in Goldsboro and Asheboro, but in Sanford, on January 14, 1966, the Schur-Lee permit was revoked by the city manager and building inspector on grounds of failure to comply with contract specifications, failure to meet licensing act requirements and the filing of liens totaling \$19,572.88 by sub-contractors and material men on the Asheboro project. The Sanford building inspector also condemned the existing foundation work as structurally unsound and unsafe and not in conformity with either contract specifications or building code requirements. The Post Office Department cancelled the Sanford contract.

In Shelby, the city manager denied the Schur-Lee building permit and prohibited construction on grounds of failure to comply with licensing acts, failure to comply with the building code, and misrepresentation of a \$300,000.00 project as \$100,000.00.

Continued on page 14





architect:

BALLARD, McKIM & SAWYER, AIA
wilmington

general contractor:

Reagan Construction Company
wilmington

engineer:

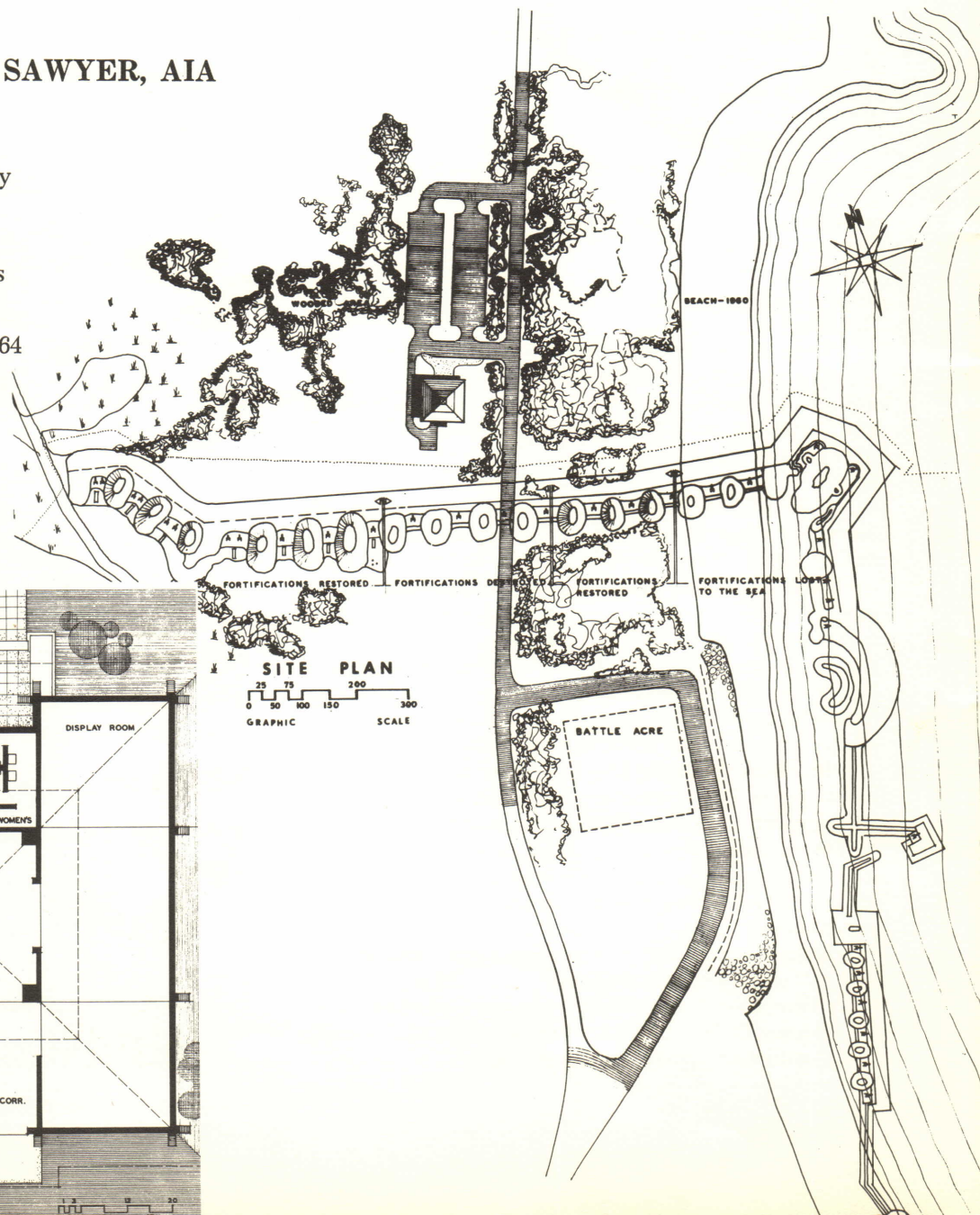
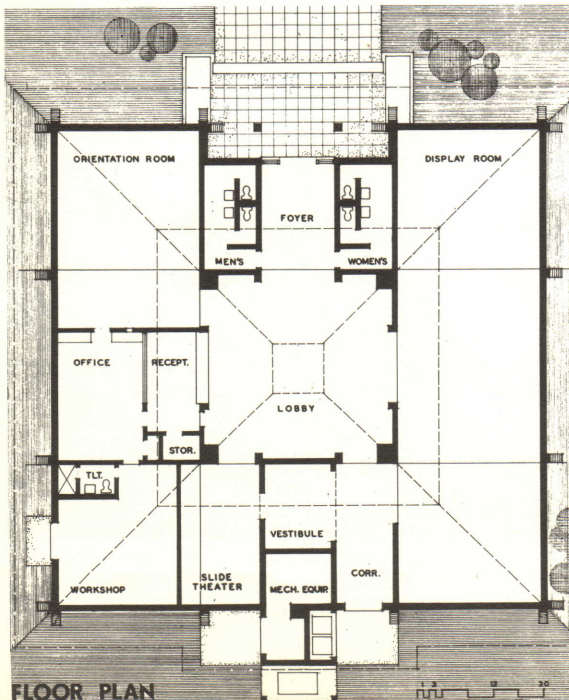
Henry Von Oesen & Associates
wilmington

ground broken: November, 1964

completed: June, 1965



1966



VISITOR CENTER-MUSEUM

fort fisher

owner:

Department of Archives and History,
State of North Carolina

raleigh

Location: To the north of the land face of the fort on the present airstrip. If the museum can be located near the west edge of the airstrip in the oaks, they can be used to subdue the building, rather than having it appear so prominent. The museum should face east or possibly northeast.

Visitors will visit the museum, become oriented through displays, slide program, etc., and tour the restored areas of the fort by foot from the museum. After the walking tour they will return to their cars for a tour of Battle Acre and the remainder of the site.

Parking Lot: The parking lot should be located on the airstrip to the north of the museum.

Building Materials: Brick should be used for the primary construction with large wooden beams worked in wherever possible as a motif, and for variety in texture.

Reception and Merchandising Area: This area should contain benches, chairs, a receptionist booth (adjacent to the projection booth), a counter for selling souvenirs, with a glass display case for such items beneath the counter.

Refreshment Area for Drink Dispensers: This area is located outside the building proper, but under the overhang of the roof.

Orientation Room: This room should seat approximately 100 people for a slide program. The area around the walls could be used for storage space for files, artifacts, etc. The projection booth in the rear of this room should be accessible from the receptionist booth.

Fort Fisher Display Area: This room need not have any windows since the lighting will come from the displays. The displays will be designed so they can sit in the room. Ten displays, three by eight feet in size, can be used, or more if the size of the display is reduced to three by five feet. The arrangement of the displays will be varied from time to time, so outlets in the floor are needed with a plug to seal the hole when not in use. Benches should be provided to allow one to sit and study the displays if desired.

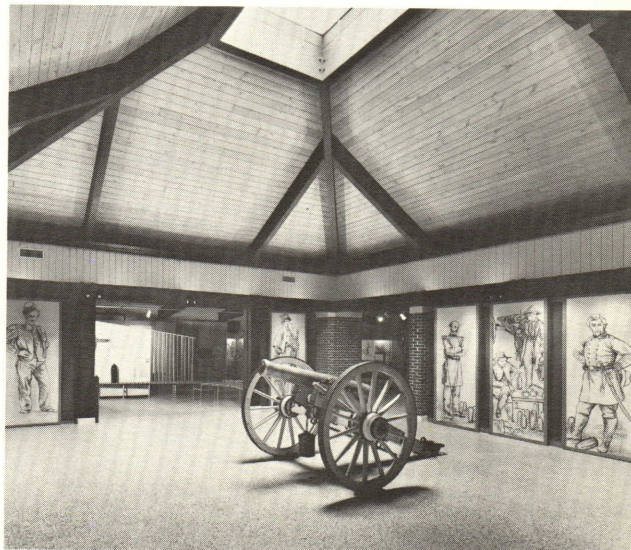
Blockade Running Display Area: Similar requirements as for Fort Fisher display. Heavy chain, rope, and wooden beams can be used as motif in this room.

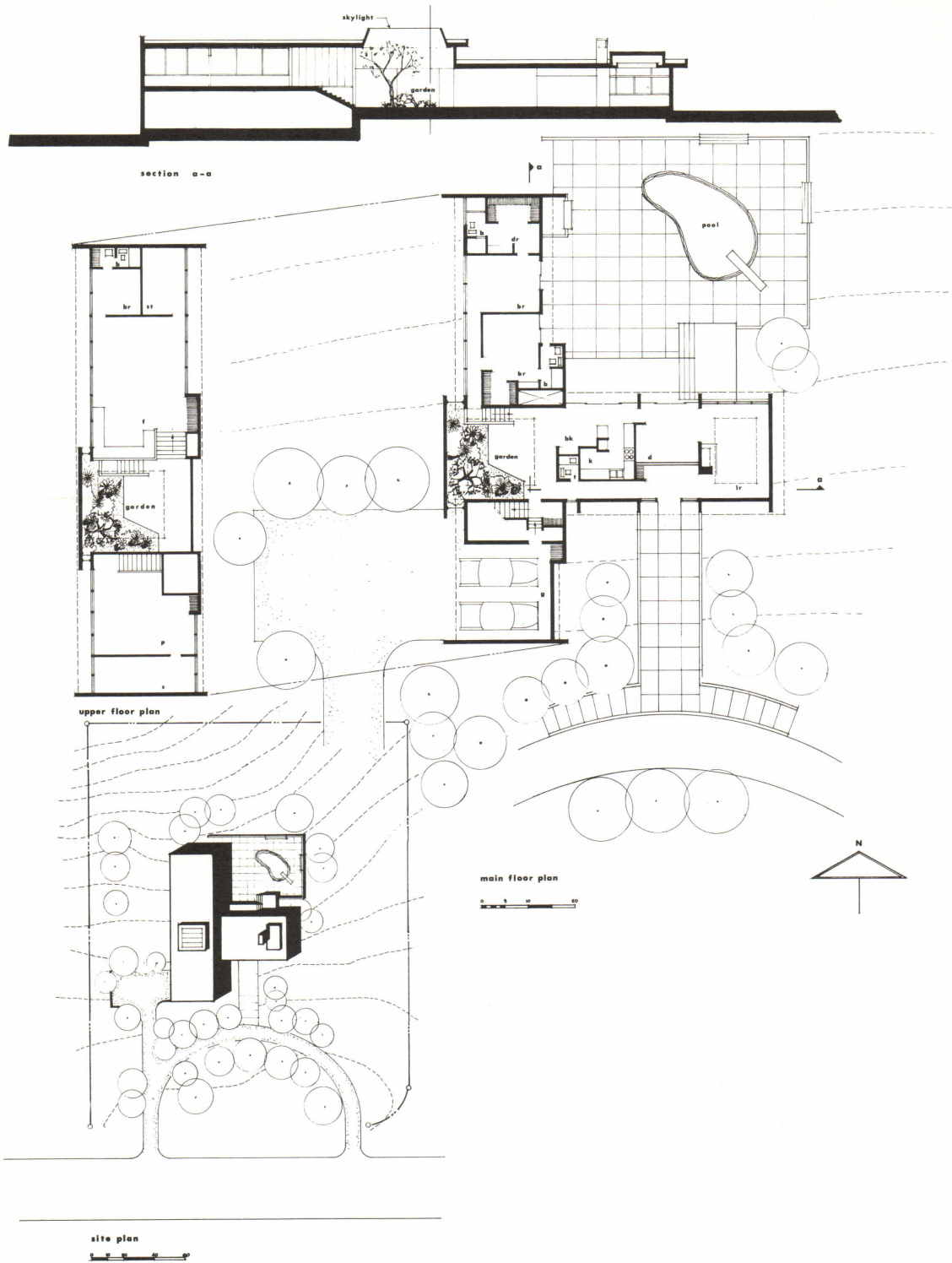
Workshop: This room should have a large doorway for lawnmowers, etc. Storage bins, cabinets, and tools will be here, as well as a stone sink, work bench, and shelves.

Office: Space for a drawing table, two desks, shelves for books, files, map and photo files.

Office Rest Room: Toilet, lavatory, shower.

Public Toilets: Double, individual toilets in each room, with two urinals in Men's Toilet."





1966

HOUSE WITH INTERIOR GARDEN

siler city

owners:
Dr. & Mrs. Mott P. Blair



Owner's Program Requirements:

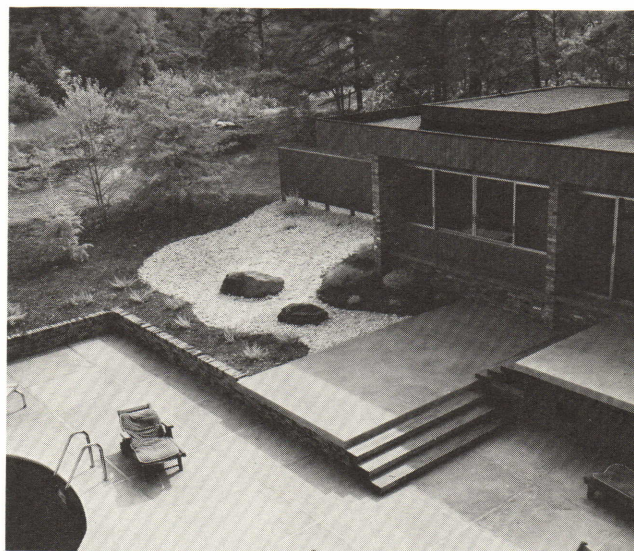
- strong separation of living and sleeping areas
- space for entertaining large groups indoors and
- provision for indoor gardening space
- maximum natural daylight in interior of plan
- preference for simple forms, horizontal lines

Materials:

- brick and southern yellow pine vertical siding
- brick floors
- drywall and cypress panelling interior walls
- conventional wood frame and brick cavity wall

Mechanical systems:

- four-zone gas-fired hot air heating system with electrically compressed air conditioning



architect:

ARTHUR R. COGSWELL & ASSOCIATES

chapel hill

general contractor:

Van Thomas Contractor, Inc.

siler city

COLLEGE PARK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

wilmington

owner:

New Hanover County Board of Education
wilmington

architect:

BALLARD, McKIM & SAWYER, AIA

wilmington

general contractor:

Coastal Construction Company
rose hill

structural engineer:

Kahn & Furbush
raleigh

mechanical engineer:

H. L. Buffaloe
raleigh

ground broken: April, 1964

completed: October 15, 1964



1966

From the Owner's Educational Specifications, we quote the following:

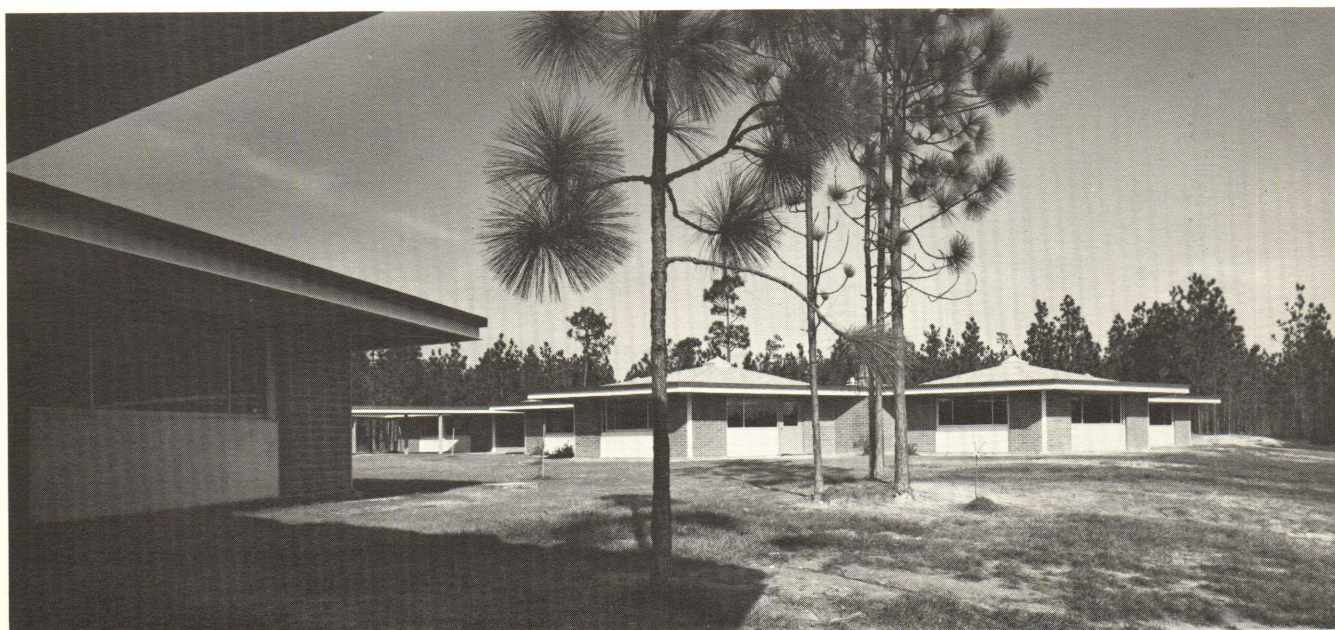
"I. Philosophy

A. A school should be so designed, arranged, and decorated to provide a natural motivation for the learning process. Its attractiveness and warmth should create a security and sense of well-being in the student. Areas within the school should reinforce the purpose of that area by the "atmosphere" it provides.

B. As an elementary school represents the first major "away from home" experience in a child's life, it should serve as a bridge between the home environment and the awesome effect of a larger physical plant.

C. The design of the building should provide for the physical convenience of both pupils and teachers.

Photographs by Gordon H. Schenck, Jr.



D. Flexibility should be the theme of the designer as he plans for efficient educational operations by today's standards and yet allows for tomorrow's innovations. Rooms should be as easily converted for large group activity as for small group work.

E. As the school curriculum will be built around the central library, so should the school itself. Teaching will be research oriented, with small groups and committees using the library facilities frequently, particularly in the upper elementary grades. Easy access to the library and central storage area from the upper grade classrooms is essential. Classrooms should be designed to facilitate the teaching of small groups and yet be easily converted for teaching large groups by the removal of sound proof partitions between various rooms.

II. Initial Specifications

A. The school should be originally designed to accommodate approximately 370 pupils.

B. The design should provide for expansion in the immediate future to accommodate approximately 720 pupils and two orthopedic classrooms.

C. Special areas such as the library, cafeteria, physical activity room, and book storage should be designed to serve an expanding school.

D. Initial utilities should be adequate to allow for the future expansions and new developments.

III. Physical Areas

A. Instructional Materials Center (Library Complex)

B. Six Primary Classrooms

C. Six Elementary Classrooms

D. Health Room

E. Principal's Office

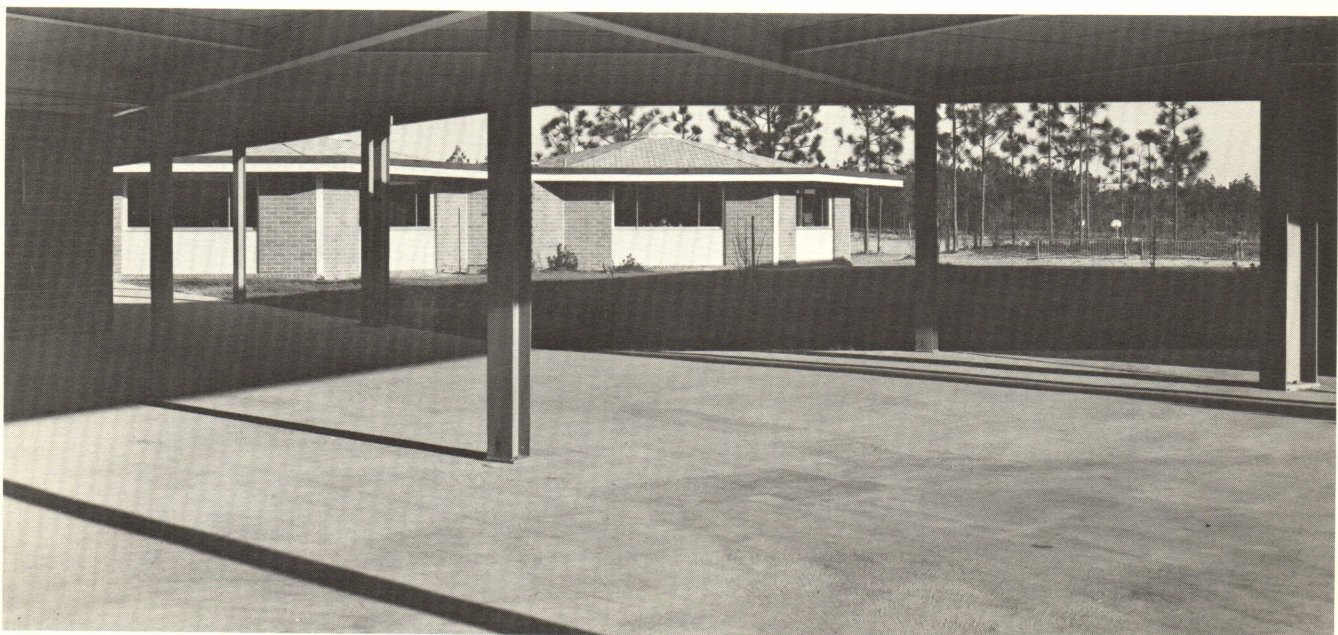
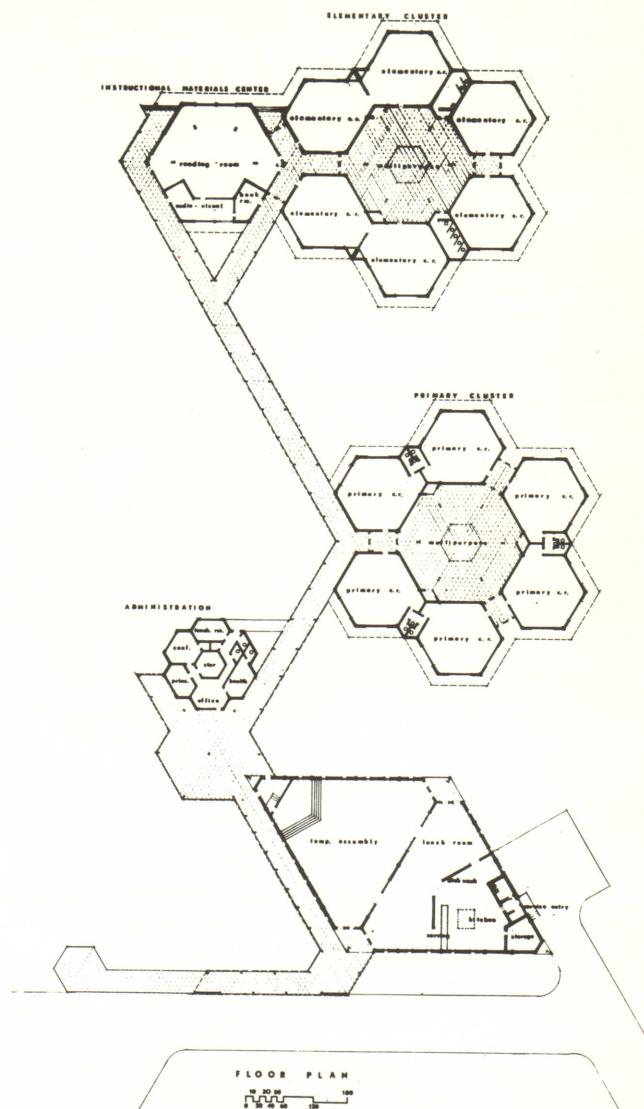
F. Conference Room

G. Teacher's Lounge

H. Lunchroom-Assembly

I. Kitchen Facilities

J. Supporting Miscellaneous Areas."



William W. Dodge III to Head N. C. Association of Professions



Dodge shown with John S. Forsythe, principal speaker for the NCAP meeting.

William W. Dodge III, A.I.A. of Raleigh was elected President of the North Carolina Association of Professions in Winston-Salem. Dodge succeeds Earl L. Knox, D.V.M. of Raleigh following the Annual Meeting held on March 9th. Serving with Dodge as officers are: John S. Rhodes, M.D. First Vice-President; W. J. Smith, of Chapel Hill as second Vice-President; Edward G. Batte, D.V.M. of N. C. State University at Raleigh as Secretary; and Robert G. Bourne, P.E. was re-elected Treasurer of the organization.

The Association of Professions is composed of state memberships representing medicine; architecture; professional engineers; veterinary medicine; and pharmacy. The state group was formed by charter in December 1962. Thomas E. Cooke, P. E. of Durham served as its first president, followed by John R. Kernodle, M. D. of Burlington as second president and Dr. Knox has just completed his office as president for 1965-66. Dodge will serve as its fourth president for 1966-67.

Special recognition was given John R. Kernodle, M.D. at the meeting last week when the Association presented him with a Certificate of Appreciation. "This was in recognition", said W. J. Smith, in presenting the Award, "for Dr. Kernodle's leadership in getting North Carolina professional groups interested in an Association of Professions and getting the state to be the fifth in the nation to officially organize." Michigan was the first state to have an Association, chartered in 1958. Since 1964, individual membership has been offered on an annual membership basis.

Awards were also presented to the three Past-Presidents for their active interest and leadership in expanding the Association's membership and scope of activities.

Mr. John S. Forsythe, Chief Counsel for the Senate Committee on Labor and Public Welfare, Washington, D. C. was the key-note speaker for the Winston-Salem meeting. He spoke on expanded opportunities for training and practice in the chosen professional fields and cited the acute shortages of such trained persons in North Carolina and throughout the nation.

Claude U. Paoloni, Director of Pharmacy-Central Supply, at the Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital in Greensboro served as Moderator for the afternoon panel discussing training programs in North Carolina and entrance requirements for selected career fields.

As follow up to the state-wide meeting March 9, Paoloni announced the Association of Professions would sponsor two programs for Community Colleges this spring on recruitment and training for professional and technical assistants. These are scheduled to be held at Southeastern Community College in Chadbourn-Whiteville area on March 17th and in Southern Pines at the Sandhills Community College on April 19th. Each of the member professions will have representatives participating on panel discussion programs. "This is a project of the Association's Education Committee", said Paoloni, committee chairman.

"A third program was scheduled for the Central Piedmont Community College for March, but has been postponed until fall," said President Dodge.

NC STATE STUDENT WINS REYNOLDS PRIZE

A design of "An Educational Facility for the Peace Corps" has won the \$5,000 sixth annual Reynolds Aluminum Prize for Architectural Students for William R. Mitchell and his school, North Carolina State University.

The selection from entries submitted by 29 architectural schools was announced in March by The American Institute of Architects, which administers the competition for the "best original design of a building component in aluminum."

The cash prize, divided equally between student and school, will be presented during the annual AIA convention June 26-July 1 in Denver, Colo.

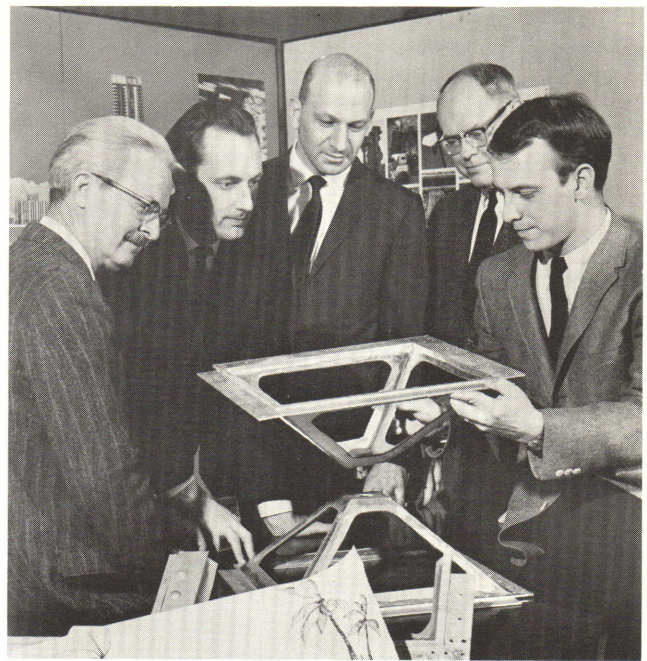
A 22-year-old native of Wake Forest, Mr. Mitchell is scheduled to get his degree in architecture next year.

The AIA jury also selected for special praise and an Honorable Mention citation the design of an aviary by Warren E. Keiding, of Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.

The Peace Corps Educational Facility shown in the national winning entry is one application of the key feature in Mr. Mitchell's design, a stretch-formed aluminum module. Connected by key pins, these modules can be used to form almost any type of three-dimensional space frame. The structure could be disassembled and rebuilt at another location.

These lightweight aluminum modules, six feet by six feet, are "nestable," fitting into one another for compact, economical shipment. They can be transported easily to difficult sites and assembled manually by unskilled labor to form a variety of types of shelter to meet local needs. Open spaces in the modules will accommodate almost any type of service system, such as utility lines. These features make the design suitable for structures for use by the Peace Corps, the student noted.

"The jury believes that the unit exploits the unique characteristics of aluminum and is an original application of common practices in the fabrication

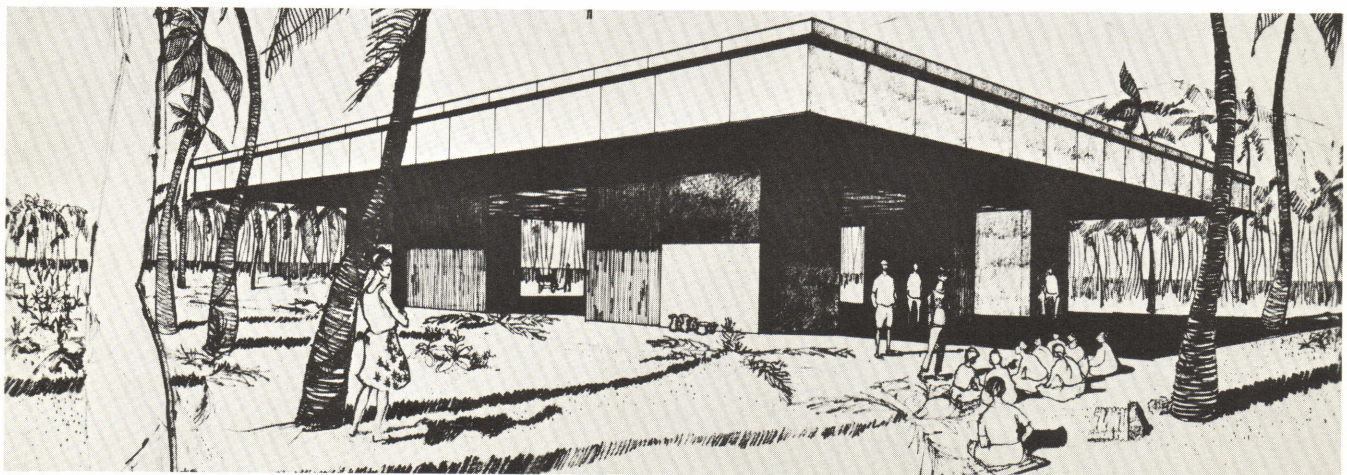


William R. Mitchell (right) shows a model of his aluminum structural unit to Dean Henry L. Kamphoefner of the University's School of Design and Associate Professors Brian Shawcroft, Charles H. Kahn and J. N. Boaz.

from metal sheets, nesting of components for shipping, and erecting of prefabricated units in the field to form space frames of great dimensions," the jury report stated. The report cited "the excellence and ingenuity" of the aluminum module design.

The jury consisted of Chairman H. Samuel Kruse, FAIA, of Miami, Fla.; James W. Elmore, AIA, Dean of the College of Architecture, University of Arizona; and Richard W. Snibbe, AIA, of New York.

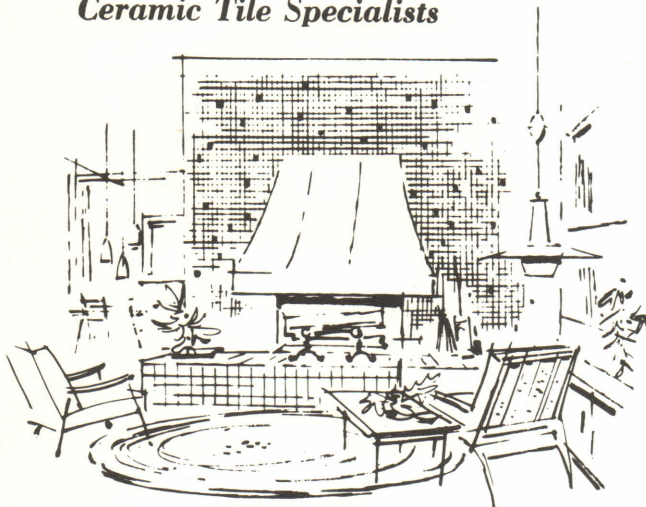
Commending the "excellence of the presentations of the entries," the jury said: "If this is representative of the skill with which the emerging generation of architects will delineate their concepts, we are sure that the new generation of architects will be able to communicate."



An Educational Facility for the Peace Corps

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Continued from page 5

While the North Carolina Attorney General's office and the U. S. Post Office Department were conducting investigations of the contractors' work, the North Carolina Board of Architecture asked the New Jersey Board of Architecture to take action against the New Jersey architect for illegal practice and gross unprofessional conduct in practicing in North Carolina without a license, and misrepresentation as to a "North Carolina certificate pending" when, in fact, no North Carolina license had ever been applied for. The Board also picked up the seal and accepted the retirement from practice of a North Carolina architect whose name appeared as "Associate Architect" on some of the plans and whose North Carolina seal helped enable the New Jersey architect to evade the North Carolina Architectural Practice Act.

Some of the reasons by the Schur-Lee situation could, and did occur in North Carolina, are as follows:

1. The questionable practice of the U. S. Post Office Department in contracting to lease buildings from whomever makes the lowest bid to build and lease such buildings for Post Office use. The late Senator Olin Johnson called this procedure a real estate grab bag.

2. The apparent practice of promoters such as Schur-Lee to place low bids and then cut costs by cutting corners and avoiding or evading State and local requirements for proper design and safe construction.

3. A loophole in the North Carolina General Contractor's Licensing Act which permits an owner to "be his own contractor" regardless of experience, skill, or a contractor's license.

4. A loophole in the Architectural Practice Act which permits an individual owner to make plans for "building for himself" regardless of experience, skill, or an architectural license.

5. A State building inspector's office, within the Insurance Department, which lacks funds and staff and authority for proper enforcement of building laws; lack of uniform enforcement of building permit requirements by city building inspectors; no State requirement for building permits outside the municipal zones; the occasional offering by professionals of "limited services" which enable owners or developers to evade State licensing acts and building codes.

What should be done to prevent the recurrence of bad building practices in Post Offices and other public buildings in North Carolina?

Long before the Schur-Lee disclosures, some corrective measures were being taken, such as:

1. Efforts by North Carolina Architects and Contractors to amend their licensing acts.

2. The formation of the North Carolina Building Inspectors' Association, and its better enforcement program in co-operation with the Insurance Department and State Building Code Council and the licensing Boards.

3. The formation of the North Carolina Building Congress, composed of representatives of all branches of building trades and professions which work for the understanding, enforcement, and improvement of State and local building laws and which has recently published a handbook of North Carolina Building Laws.

4. The special enforcement efforts by State Licensing Boards within their respective fields. As one example, the N. C. Board of Architecture works closely with municipal building inspectors and has revised its Rules and Regulations to prohibit, under penalty of revocation of license, the kind of "limited services" by architects which may enable non-registered persons to evade the safety requirements and building permit requirements of the law.

Such efforts, however helpful, are not enough to assure safe and proper design and construction of buildings in North Carolina. The following are some additional actions needed:

1. Federal action in changing or improving Post Office Department procedures in its contract-leasing program.

2. State action in (a) Removing the loopholes from the contractors' and architects' practice acts. Both professions have proposed such bills but have lacked sufficient administrative or legislative support to secure passage. (b) Increased appropriation and staff for the inspection division of the Insurance Department. (c) A State policy requiring State approving agencies such as the Insurance Department, Health Department and Welfare Department to withhold approval of projects under their supervision until and unless compliance with licensing acts is shown. (Department of Administration, Property Control, Hospital Board, School Planning Division and other State agencies already have and enforce such requirements.)

3. Local action in stricter enforcement by city managers, city building inspectors, and city attorneys of existing laws, codes and ordinances concerning the issuance or withholding of building permits and inspection of construction.

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NCAIA SUMMER MEETING

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JULY 21, 22, 23, 1966

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EDWARD P. MORGAN AND THE NEWS

AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY RADIO NETWORK

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February 25, 1966

A group of subversives, as it were, is meeting in Washington this weekend, almost in the shadow of the White House, and plotting an American revolution. Before J. Edgar Hoover calls out the Feds, however, he might well check with the White House. For the conspirators are members of no secret tong. They belong to the reputable American Institute of Architects, AIA, whose current activities have been inspired, in part, by the wives of two presidents and urgent recommendations by President Johnson himself. Until very recently, beauty was not considered a national issue except at the cosmetic counter and the Miss America contest. But thanks to the lively interest in the natural and man-made attractions of our land expressed by the Kennedys and the Johnsons, beauty in the civic sense is no longer a joke or a dirty word. The two first ladies, Jacqueline and Lady Bird, have added their own special impetus to the nation's slowly growing consciousness of taste, the value of our cultural heritage, the importance of gracefulness over ugliness in buildings and the enduring worth — if they are permitted to endure — of such botanical knick-knacks as trees and grass and flowers.

So the profession of architecture has been emboldened to lend some of its own considerable talents to the subject. Two AIA committees, one on aesthetics, the other on urban design, have been comparing notes here in the Institute's headquarters, Octagon House, one of Washington's lovelier landmarks, which James Madison used as a presidential mansion for a while after the British burned down the White House in the War of 1812. Almost diffidently, the architects are mobilizing for a "war on ugliness." They are moving slowly; some

think too slowly. But like similar professional groups, such as the American Medical Association or the American Bar Association, they are divided, left, right and center, and furthermore they are not sure exactly what their role should be.

But at a recent regional conference in San Francisco, spawned by the White House Conference on Beauty, architects happily discovered bureaucrats who candidly admitted that the government itself did not have rigid, pre-set ideas on how to proceed. If this fluidity can be maintained it is a promising augury of future planning. Already the architects have discovered, however, that that word "planning" is a major obstacle in itself. Coupled with that sacred phrase "free enterprise system," the prejudice against planning has presented an almost insuperable barrier in the past to the imaginative, intelligent layout of cities and towns, the parks within them and the preservation of the natural beauty around them. It is as if the education supported by our American "money-making culture" has taught us to sanctify profits to the exclusion of virtually all other values.

An architect from Wilmington, North Carolina, who has long been battling real estate and other interests on zoning decisions and civic construction plans, put it this way at one of today's Octagon House sessions: "You try to persuade a property owner not to put up a filling station or a parking lot on his land and he eyes you as if you were a Bolshevik and accuses you of undermining the free enterprise system."

Nevertheless, the AIA's "war on community ugliness" task force has produced, in rough draft, a declaration which says, in part, "The public, both its leadership and

electorate, must be made to see economic goals are not supreme, and that the uncontrolled bulldozer and the billboard are not indices of the state of our culture." Economic goals are still vulgarly decisive, however, as the draft recognizes. In the chaotic gap between problems and solutions in city planning and resource conservation, it concedes, "economic exploitation and predatory self-interest become the law of the land and social and physical ugliness are the inevitable by-products."

One of the ways to right this ghastly state of affairs is to make people realize that in the long run harmonious urban planning and the preservation of natural beauty are sound investments, that they can be made to pay off, dollarwise. A change in the tax structure is one approach. Why can't aesthetic objectives and economic objectives be made identical? One proposal submitted to the Maryland Scenic Beauty Commission would, for example, levy an "earnings tax"

on, say, parking lot owners and slum tenement landlords. Instead of — or in addition to — what is usually an absurdly low "ad valorem" basis for their property taxes, they would be taxed on earnings received from such enterprises. On the other side of the scale, there would be tax deductions and/or exemptions for investments in beautifying the property.

You can almost hear now the anguished screams of vested interests against any such "revolutionary" scheme but saving our cities and countrysides is going to take a revolution in public responsibility and it's encouraging to note that leaders among the nation's architects are organizing a kind of guerrilla force to infiltrate the establishment. Some architects are even preparing to make the supreme sacrifice by running for office themselves. That would be beautiful.

This is Edward P. Morgan saying good night from Washington.



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This procedure entails the channeling of requests and applications for Sweet's through local A.I.A. chapter offices.

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The chapter office has the applications on hand now. Contact us if you would like one.

Sweet's and the A.I.A. hope that through this procedure all qualifying firms will receive the Catalog File.

GOVERNOR'S CONFERENCE ON BEAUTIFICATION HELD IN RALEIGH

On April 7-8 Governor Dan K. Moore called a state-wide Conference on Beautification held at the Sir Walter Hotel, Raleigh. The two-day conference was opened with an inspiring talk by Mrs. Dan Moore at luncheon on Thursday. Afternoon seminars were divided into subcommittee meetings covering highways, zoning, parks and open space and overhead utility lines. Additional seminars covered the subjects of junkyards and roadside controls, planning for visual results in urban areas, historic sites and regional planning.

Seminars held on Friday morning related to highways in urban areas, conservation of water resources, travel and tourist attractions, and beautifying town and country. Professor Edward Higbee, Director, Twentieth Century Fund's Study of American's Public Environment and Member, President Johnson's Group on Domestic Affairs, addressed the group at a banquet on Thursday evening.

A complete report will be carried in the May issue of North Carolina Architect.

NCSU & NCAIA JOINTLY SPONSOR ROOFING CONFERENCE

An informational program on built-up roofing systems will be held at the N. C. State University Faculty Club, Raleigh, on Thursday, April 28. Joint sponsors of the conference are the School of Design, N. C. State University, and the North Carolina Chapter AIA. Special emphasis will be placed on a discussion of roof failures and their causes. Speaking to the group and leading the discussions will be:

William C. Cullen of the Building Research Division, Institute of Applied Technology National Bureau of Standards. Mr. Cullen is a native of Buffalo, N. Y., and received a B.S. in Chemistry from Canisius College there in 1948. He joined the Building Research as a chemist upon graduation and has done research on building materials, particularly roofing materials, while working with various governmental agencies. Among other outstanding assignments, he is a member of the Advisory Editorial Board for Roofing Design Manual, The American Institute of Architects.

A native of Texas, **Dr. Ernest G. Long** earned degrees of B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas. He has been engaged in research on asphaltic and elastomeric materials used in roofing, waterproofing and allied fields for approximately 17 years, presently employed as Chief of Asphalt Research Section for Johns-Manville Research Corp. He has served on numerous technical industry committees and advisory groups for a number of years and has written numerous papers for presentation before technical and industry groups and government-sponsored industry forums.

Robert M. Stafford, a native North Carolinian, graduated with a B.S. in Chemical Engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology. He has been employed for almost 20 years in the roofing manufacturing industry in various engineering and research capacities. He is presently serving as consultant to the Georgia School Building Authority and the Georgia University System Building Authority on Roofing Systems, and has served numerous other clients in this area of work. He has contributed articles on built-up roofing to a number of professional journals.

A capacity crowd of one hundred is expected to attend the conference. Joseph N. Boaz, AIA, associate professor of Architecture at N.C.S.U. and a Director of NCAIA, is in charge of arrangements.

PLANNING CONFERENCE

A Conference on Planning and Environmental Health will be held at the Institute of Government at Chapel Hill, May 5-6, sponsored by the N. C. Planning Association, N. C. Section, American Institute of Planners, N. C. Public Health Association, N. C. Conference of Health Directors, Sanitary Engineering Division, State Board of Health, and the Institute of Government.

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H-U-D: Dream or Nightmare?

By Ralph Reeves, AIA



Reeves

Normally, I am not given to superlatives, but I must say that one of the worst governmental occasions in recent years is the establishment of a Department of Housing and Urban Development. Support and favor by the AIA are not in communion with a profession's traditional orientation about an axis of the individual.

Obviously, it is true that the plight of the cities is close to desperate and that many new methods, attitudes, devices, and arrangements require development. But how anyone with even a reasonable allotment of perception can identify a Federal Government megalosaur as a panacea for these ills is most bewildering.

Because implementation is of the future, goals, hopes, and dreams can be debated endlessly without conclusion. We can, however, reflect upon the historical tradition of this dream-world; and unfortunately, the prospects are frightening.

Throughout the nation, the real seat of malodorous political energies has been the large city. In smaller communities, the machinations, irregularities, and other undesirable activities have been — despite the newspapers — not far afield from the day-to-day incidents in the business world: related to the specific environment but more-or-less unrelated one to the other.

In the larger cities, though, all that has been the worst in American political life has been spawned and nurtured in the fertile compost of masses, pressure groups, expensive real estate, and huge public pay rolls. Organized crime, minorities, trade unions, and other block-voting syndicates have written the most morbid pages of American history; and, up to now, the only tempering element has been the limit of nation-wide cohesion. Today, however, in one stroke there have been established both the manner and the means for a full, organized manipulation of these lethal centers.

The history of the Department of Agriculture is worthy of observation. Its primary purpose was to keep the farms in operation with some measure of stability. A fiscal comparison by application of a pro-rata overburden of the cost of USDA and other related agencies reveals an actual food cost almost double the cost marked on the grocer's shelves.

Until recently, a rather normal amount of minor deviations each year (miscalculated subsidies, allotment overplanting, and the like) were incidental and insignificant. When agricultural operations got into

the big leagues, there came large-scale manipulations of commodities and soil bank irregularities. During the same period, the small farmer was run off the land; and profitable farming became pretty much restricted to giant farms.

Other initially good intentions of the Federal Government have paved further the pathway to hell.

We have the world's most expensive postal system whose inefficiency has disgusted the public.

The strategic stockpile — justified to maintain the military establishment in emergency — first was manipulated to support favored industrial production in emergency, and then became a club for the President to chastise one of the few manufacturers who refused to jump when he said "frog."

The FHA made it possible for millions of people to own homes, a worthy endeavor indeed; and it is true that many people have been aided. Along with this program, we got windfall profits to lift the eyebrows of a stone Buddha, countless young couples saddled prematurely with home ownership responsibilities, and the absolute destruction of the rental house market.

Feeble rays of the dawn sun of the Great Society already have cast murky shadows. Monetarily, the anti-poverty program is only in first gear; but the stench rose from the start. In the outlying areas there have been minor irregularities: relatives on pay rolls, beneficiaries not poor enough, and like situations. In the cities, though, accounts filtering through the veil of secrecy chill the senses.

So, here we are with a brand new department that has the potential of the worst of all the others, collected into one basket. How many of us are really so naive to believe actually that there is a hope of genuine success?

In the seedbed of graft, corruption, and real honest-to-God crime, we have established a nationwide structure that involves the most vigorous and insidious of pressure groups, the most lethal of political structures, and funds that only an astronomer can comprehend.

I hope, verily, that I am wrong and shall be as delighted as any if this affair comes off successfully. But I place credence in history and in the mathematics of sociology, and I think the whole idea stinks.

I trust that later on we do not find ourselves making the same observation as the Chinese litigant who discovered that saving his goat cost him his cow.

PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearings on proposed draft standards for the implementation of the President's Highway Beautification Program are being held in each State of the Union. The President of the North Carolina Chapter AIA appeared at the hearing held at the Highway Building, Raleigh, on March 9, and made the following remarks:

"My name is Macon Smith, President of the North Carolina Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, an organization with a membership of approximately 400 Architects, representing 80% of all licensed Architects in the State.

"Speaking in behalf of the North Carolina Chapter, it is felt the National Law will greatly strengthen efforts to protect the natural beauty of the American landscape, as well as control the proliferation of billboards, signs, and other eyesores that litter the approaches to American towns and cities which now constitute a major source of urban ugliness.

"The Chapter gives its enthusiastic support to the removal of the visual blight along our highways and strongly encourages regulations, controls, and restrictions as necessary to obtain a reasonable orderly and effective display of outdoor advertising.

"The Chapter would like to go on record as indicating the draft standards as set forth under Categories I, II, III and IV as prepared by the Bureau of Public Roads are considered essential, but minimum if the Highway Beautification Act is to be effective."

ODELL HONORED

A. G. Odell, Jr., FAIA, Charlotte architect, was cited for his crusade against ugliness on the American scene as President of The American Institute of Architects at an award dinner honoring construction's man of the year in New York on February 8th.

DEITRICK TO HEAD FOUNDATION

Wm. Henley Deitrick, FAIA, of Raleigh, was named recently as President of the Raleigh Historic Sites Foundation, Inc., a newly formed organization whose goals are to preserve the worthwhile historic sites in the State's Capital City. On being elected, Deitrick stated that he hoped everyone in the State would take an active interest in the preservation of their Capital City's architectural and historic heritage.

This assignment ties in with his work as Preservation Officer of the N. C. Chapter AIA. Inquiries as to the activities and aims of this group are invited.

THREE ARCHITECTS CITED BY BISHOPS' COMMITTEE



Archie Davis, AIA, presents citations to Ed Pugh, Holland Brady and Vernon Lewis.

Three North Carolina architects of rural Methodist churches were cited during the meeting of the Bishops' Committee on Church Architecture held recently in Durham. The awards were presented for outstanding achievement in the annual Randolph E. DuMont Design Program under The Duke Endowment to Ed. Pugh, Jr. of Elizabeth City who designed the new Wade's Chapel Methodist Church at Washington, N. C.; R. Holland Brady, Jr., AIA, of Architects Associated, Tryon, for the Columbus Methodist Church, Columbus; and Vernon E. Lewis, AIA, of Burlington, for the recently completed Julian Methodist Church, Julian, N. C.

Dr. Frederick Herzog, assistant professor of Systematic Theology at the Duke Divinity School, stated at the meeting that the radical new styling of many churches built in the past few decades is based on the principle of "the sacred function of Christian Architecture." He also told a group of rural Methodist ministers and other church leaders that "the character of the sanctuaries man builds for his worship is often determined by his view of worship, but there should be thought of the relationship between worship and building — with the building so designed as to emphasize its 'servanthood'".

Dr. Herzog also pointed out that although there is a need for "the sacred dimension in church architecture, it need not be the primary or determining dimension."

He said that contemporary architects and theologians are developing the idea of placing the altar-table centrally within the sanctuary — but no more centrally than the baptismal font or pulpit.

Each year, the Bishops' Committee meets at Duke with rural pastors from both North Carolina Methodist conferences, architects and representatives of the Duke Endowment for discussions of building needs and church programs traditionally supported by the Endowment.

This year, new emphasis is being put on expansion and improvement of all rural church programs, said Dr. Wilson Nesbitt of the Divinity School faculty at Duke.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 28: NCSU-NCAIA Sponsored Conference on Built-up Roofing, Faculty Club, Raleigh
- April 30-May 22: Exhibition by Pier Luigi Nervi, School of Design, NCSU, Raleigh
- May 3: Durham Council of Architects, Jack Tar Hotel, Frank DePasquale, AIA, President
- May 4: Charlotte Section, N. C. Chapter AIA, Stork Restaurant, Independence Blvd., 12:30 P.M., Thomas P. Turner, Jr., AIA, President
- May 4: Raleigh Council Architects, Honor Awards Dinner, Carolina Country Club, Raleigh, C. Frank Branan, AIA, President
- May 10: Winston-Salem Council of Architects, Reynolds Building Restaurant, 12:00 Noon, Don Hines, AIA, President
- May 4, 11, 18, 25: Architects Guild of High Point, Sheraton Hotel, 12:15 P.M., Norman Zimmerman, AIA, President
- May 19: Greensboro Registered Architects', Dino's Restaurant, 6:30 P.M., Leon McMinn, AIA, President
- May 19-20: School Planning Conference 1966, Memorial Auditorium, Raleigh
- May 22-June 22: Exhibition of Contemporary French Tapestries, N. C. Art Museum, Morgan Street, Raleigh
- May 28-Oct. 20: Summer Exhibition, Student Work, School of Design, NCSU, Raleigh
- June 3: Eastern North Carolina Council of Architects, Honor Awards Dinner, Wilmington, Theodore J. Peters, AIA, President
- June 19-22: Annual Meeting, N. C. Building Inspectors' Association, Holiday Inn, Gastonia, John A. Parham, President
- June 26-July 1: National AIA Convention, Denver, Colorado
- July 9-Aug. 21: Exhibition of Masterpieces from Montreal, N. C. Art Museum, Morgan Street, Raleigh
- July 21-23: NCAIA Summer Meeting & Design Seminar, Grove Park Inn, Asheville
- Oct. 27-29: South Atlantic Regional AIA Conference, Queen Charlotte Hotel, Charlotte, B. B. Rothschild, AIA, Regional Director, Charlotte Section NCAIA, Hosts

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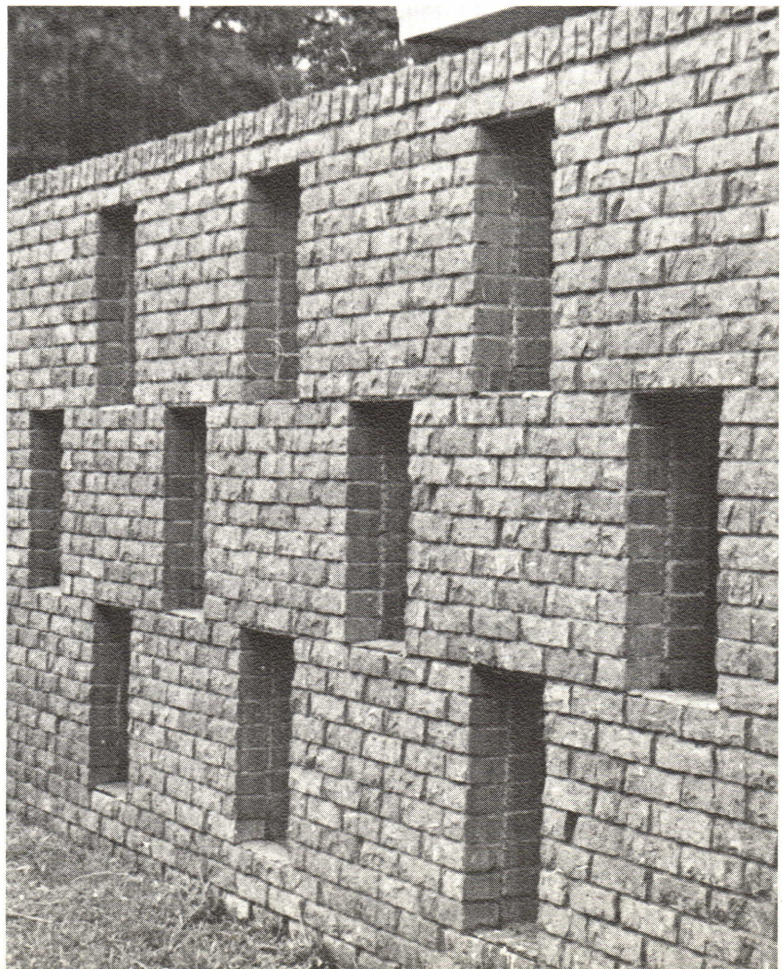


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