North Carolina ARCHITECT
March-April 1982

NCAIA Design Awards 1982
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NCAIA Design Awards
With an introduction to the Awards Program, including an explanation of the jury process, on page 5.

A Personal View
Toward a Design Dialogue, by Wes McClure, AIA, chairman of the 1982 NCAIA Awards Committee.

Chapter Notes

Marketplace

Coming Next Issue: Office Buildings in North Carolina.
Over the years, the NCAIA Design Awards Program has become the key means through which the Chapter promotes a standard of excellence in architecture — a standard principally directed at our membership, but perhaps more importantly at the patrons of architecture and the public at-large.

Without an active involvement on the awards committee, it is difficult to understand exactly what goes into the process of reviewing award submittals and the final selection of award winners. With the belief that it is important, from time to time, to review this process for the information of all of our members, I would like to describe the sequence of events that took place this year.

In September of 1981 the Chapter Awards Committee met to select a jury for the 1982 Program and to finalize submission requirements, format and calendar. Traditionally, we choose a city and then a group of architects from that city who are asked to serve as a jury for the program. The last time we selected Washington, D.C. was in 1974. Since then, our work has been judged by our peers from Boston, Chicago, Houston, Atlanta, New York, Jacksonville, and Philadelphia. This year we wanted a jury from within our region that would hopefully understand the context of practice in North Carolina. Since it had been some years since we had selected a jury from Washington, this seemed like a reasonable choice. Our Washington jurors were scheduled by October and they included: David Condon, FAIA, a principal in the firm of Keyes, Condon, and Florence; Paul Spreiregan, FAIA, architect/planner and author; Frank Schlesinger, FAIA, professor and practitioner; Arthur Cotton Moore, FAIA, a principal in the firm of Arthur Cotton Moore and Associates.

Dave Condon graciously agreed to host the proceedings at his office.

The layout of the awards brochure was revised, printed and mailed to all Chapter members by early November, 1981. By December, we had received most of the program entry forms and knew how many entries to expect.

The committee’s work began shortly after the sixth of January when all 60 award submissions had been received at the NCAIA Tower in Raleigh. Numbers were assigned to each entry; the slides accompanying each entry were sorted into trays and indexed by number. The same number was put on each binder and a list of projects by title and number was typed for later use by the jury.

On January 21, Tom Calloway and I drove to Washington. The following morning we prepared the jury room with all binders hung on display, similar to the display format used at our conventions. The projector and screen were also readied for use by the jury when they arrived at 10 a.m.

After an introductory charge to the jury, the members spent most of the morning on their own, with lists in hand, checking the projects they wished to retain for further review. Each juror studied each project and made personal notes. After all projects had been examined, the jury met as a group and listed those projects which they wished to discuss together.

The first cut left 38 of the 60 entries still on the wall and discussion continued over lunch. By mid-afternoon the task of obtaining a consensus was more difficult and required debate. By 4 p.m. the jury had chosen five projects to receive awards, designating three Awards of Merit and two Honor Awards.

Without a doubt, the jury worked hard to select the 1982 Design Awards Program winners and gave careful attention to all entries. It is my belief that the projects illustrated on the following pages do indeed establish a standard for excellence in architecture.

The jury comments following were compiled by Wes McClure.
Discovery Place
Museum of Science and Technology.

Architect:
Clark Tribble Harris & Li Architects, P.A., Charlotte
Vanply
Corporate
Offices

Architect:
Dalton-Morgan & Partners, P.A., Charlotte

Location: North Hoskins Rd., Charlotte, N.C.
Owner: Getty Oil Co., Los Angeles, Ca.
Contractor: Reynolds and Sons Construction Co., Inc., Charlotte.
Mechanical Engineer: Mechanical Engineers, Inc., Charlotte.
Structural Engineer: Brian Burnell, P.E., Charlotte.
Award of Merit

Jury: "The jury commended this project's domestic shape and scale which helps the large clinic be a good neighbor in a residential area. The scale-giving elements of columns and windows, and the notion of porch and entry through the porch, were noted. The freshness and striking image were considered memorable, and a very pleasant waiting room has been produced by the playful facade."

Fryar Dental Clinic

Architect: DW Design P.A., Charlotte

Location: Magnolia St., Mooresville, N.C.
Owner: Dr. James A. Fryar, DDS
Contractor: Southern Constructors, Inc., Mooresville.

Structural Engineer and Consultation: King-Guinn Associates, Charlotte.
Dental Equipment: Healthco Dental Products, Charlotte.
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There does seem to be a concentration of design awareness that is producing a concentration of excellent projects in Charlotte, as exemplified by the fact that all five of this year’s award winners practice in that city. One can only guess why this is so. Is there a sense of design competition that is particularly fostered in Charlotte? Are there different types of patrons there? Does the UNC-C College of Architecture have an important influence? Or, is it merely a coincidence of the past few years and not a lasting phenomenon?

Everywhere, there are increasing numbers of architects in practice, and we are becoming more dispersed across the state. There is a lot of good work being done. There is also a fair amount of mediocre work being done in all the design directions noted above. As one juror put it last year, “I sense this wasn’t a banner year for North Carolina.” Each year for the past two years there have been 60 projects entered in the Design Awards Program. Can this number be truly representative of the state-of-the-art of architecture in our state?

Or, are people not entering good work for some reason? One juror noted this year that there were well-done, solid projects in the program that could have received awards just a few years ago and were now being passed over, perhaps because of a stylistic boredom factor. More likely, it is because the jury is presented with more design choices today and they can reward innovation and excellence while expecting competence as a minimum.

Neither this year’s jury nor the previous jury noted any convincing evidence of regionalism in the projects. While attempts to make “place” were applauded, most such places could not be viewed as unique to our state (or even our climate). Perhaps this particular “ism” has not developed to the point where projects are appearing in the Design Awards Program.

Some of the residences have come the closest to being regional in nature. But such projects combine so many other ingredients that the flavor of regionalism is easily obscured. One juror remarked last year that “designing a house is like designing a chair: very personal and very difficult.” Residences get careful attention each year, but seldom receive awards. Probably this is because they are so personal, and are also frequently overworked.

I have the impression that we are caught up in the unhalting trend of the times, disentangling ourselves from the dogma of modernism. I see today’s pluralism as a healthy evolution, but I believe we must work harder to maintain consistently high quality design while we struggle to re-establish architecture as the broad-based discipline it deserves to be. With so many choices, the task is made more difficult.

My second observation concerns the relationships we establish between our buildings and the people who use them. There is a strong dichotomy to be seen between those buildings which engage their users on some level, and provide an enriching experience, versus those which stand aloof and command our attention principally by their striking object quality. This year’s jury gave much attention to both the neighborliness and humaneness of the submittals. The contrived and loud insistence of some buildings was contrasted with the more quietly executed projects that make good places for people without trying too hard. The real debate centered not on the need for a humane architecture but on the means by which it is achieved. One of the jurors felt compelled to issue the following statement: “Some projects express an urge that only appears to be answered through the (allusion to historical form) design approach — the need of an enriched architecture. I have grave doubts that this current avenue will realize its purported premise.”

There is a tendency for the best work to be evidenced in the small buildings, while the larger buildings (in either budget or scale) are frequently mediocre. A poor idea executed in a small project gets passed by in a hurry, while the physical inertia of larger structures allows them to impose their presence on many people and a broader context. Could the fact that large buildings tend to come out of larger offices be a major factor here? Or, is it simply easier to execute good architecture on a small scale? Perhaps when faced with generous programs and budgets we forget restraint and discipline as well as people.

Both juries in the past two years have been concerned that the projects which really cry out for humane treatment are not getting it; e.g. hospitals, elderly housing, churches and schools. They felt that some of these buildings bore the unwritten sign “Abandon all hope, ye who enter here.” Is this the message we want architecture to convey to the public? Many projects which are quite well-executed represent directions which the public-at-large (and sometimes our professional peers) abhor for their insensitivity. Can we look forward to a day when
Chapter notes

Asheville

Architects Bill Ashe, AIA, Mike Cox, AIA, and Donny Luke, AIA, have formed the partnership Architectural Design Studio at 90 Church Street, Asheville. Luke is a new member of the Institute, and Cox is a past president of the Asheville Section of the NCAIA.

Chapel Hill

The new $1.2 million Chapel Hill Municipal Bus System's vehicle operations and maintenance facility, designed by Cogswell/Hausler Associates, P.A., of that city, was one of the winners of Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation's 1981 Energy Conservation Awards Program.

Winning in the Industrial Built Category, the firm was cited for "successfully integrating functional requirements and low-cost energy conservation techniques" in the 15,000-square-foot building. The design utilizes natural daylighting and a passive solar heating system, combined with extensive use of glazing, skylights and roof monitors, plus thermal mass structural materials. Large vehicle entry doors on opposite sides of the building provide natural cross-ventilation for the maintenance and service areas; there is no mechanical cooling system in these areas. Large ceiling fans provide power-assisted thermal gradient ventilation at night. Overhangs prevent direct heat gain during the day.

For heating, glass-block walls on the southern exposure allow winter sunlight into the building, as do glazed vehicle doors and roof monitors. Exposed concrete floors, masonry walls and a concrete roof deck serve as solar heat storage. Gas-powered infra-red radiant heaters suspended from the ceiling provide additional heat if necessary.

Owens-Corning selected this passive solar design "for its high benefit-to-cost value and because it did not require technically complex heating equipment. The keystone of the system is the nearly 4,000-square-feet of south-facing glazed doors and glass-block walls."

Cogswell/Hausler Associates was the only North Carolina architectural firm to receive an Owens-Corning award in the tenth anniversary of the program. Project designer for the firm was Ted Hoskins.

Charlotte

J.N. Pease Associates of Charlotte has been selected to design the East Carolina University School of Medicine's new 12,000-square-foot radiation therapy center, a $5.3 million project that received final approval from the UNC Board of Governors in November, 1981.

The facility will be a comprehen-

sive center for Eastern North Carolina and will support existing therapy units in New Bern, Kinston and Goldsboro. It will house two medical linear accelerators — for the treatment of malignant tumors — plus a 4-million-volt unit and an 18-million-volt unit, according to Dr. William E. Laupus, dean of the school. The unit will also include a radiation therapy simulator that provides the high quality radiographic images necessary for planning radiation treatment and determining the appropriate doses, Laupus added. About 40 percent of the budget will be used for equipment.

Construction of the facility, scheduled to begin late this year, will take 18 to 24 months to complete. The medical school expects to open the center in 1984.

Fayetteville

Harwell Hamilton Harris, AIA — the man and his architecture — will be the highlight of a special exploration this spring of the "art of architecture," jointly sponsored by the Fayetteville Museum of Art, the Cumberland County Public Library system, and the Arts Council of Fayetteville/Cumberland County.

Beginning May 23, the Fayetteville Museum of Art will present an exhibition of Harris's drawings entitled "The Artist as Architect." "Harwell Hamilton Harris is a naturalist's architect, an artist's architect; but more than both of these he's a genuine architect's architect," said Mason S. Hicks, AIA, of Fayetteville who helped initiate the tribute to Harris. "Few of us even suspect his contributions to the average American house owner. These gifts grew mostly from his gentle but uncompromising view that architecture must be practiced as an art-form..." The exhibit will run through June 27.

Concurrent with the Harris tribute, the Arts Council will present an exhibit dealing with small-scale, contemporary southeastern North Carolina architecture at the Arsenal House Gallery May 23-June 28. This study will feature color slide presentations of work by N.C.
assistant dean at the School of Design 1977-79.

Clark has also been widely published in architectural magazines and is the author of a number of books on architecturally related subjects. He has served on design award juries in Georgia, Ohio and Florida and was chairman of the Honors Jury for the AIA in 1980. He resides in Raleigh with his wife and two children.

The 81 Fellows will be invested in the 60-year-old College on June 6 at the 1982 AIA National Convention in Honolulu. This year the AIA marks its 125th anniversary with a nationwide celebration of its past achievements and contributions to the architectural profession and society.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill recently opened its new physical education and intramural facility that was designed by Dodge and Associates, architects and planners, of Raleigh.

According to William W. Dodge III, AIA, the structure was “very carefully sited, and scale was a major consideration. The building was broken up into multiple masses and given a more pedestrian scale. The overall design also reflects and relates to existing neighboring buildings on the campus.”

The main floor of the steel-framed Fetzer Gymnasium actually houses three separate gymnasia. The largest will seat 2000. Six squash courts are located in a wing of the building, and 15 handball courts plus a viewing and teaching court are in another wing. (The handball courts are stacked on two levels.) Large locker and dressing areas, a physiology laboratory, a multipurpose room, and a training room are on a lower level. The total facility encloses 161,000-square-feet of usable floor space.

The new brick building is connected to the existing Woollen Gymnasium by an enclosed 72-foot-long pedestrian bridge.

Davidson and Jones Construction Company, a general contractor in Raleigh, has been selected to construct the permanent facility of the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina (MCNC).

The multi-level structure of approximately 60,000 square feet will be on site in the Research Triangle Park, according to Sherwood H. Smith, a member of the MCNC Board of Directors and chairman of its building committee. Smith is chairman and president of Carolina Power & Light Company.

Completion of the facility for supporting education and research Continued on page 20

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Plan Hold, a manufacturer of equipment for filing plans, prints and specialized graphics, has introduced a new “Catalog 27,” a 52-page, full-color presentation of the company’s entire product line. The catalog consists of three major product divisions: “Vertical Print Files,” featuring products for high-density filing of plans, reproduction prints and large graphics; “Original Drawing Files,” highlighting specialized housings for single-sheet storage of original drawings, illustrations, etc.; and “Roll Files,” showing cabinets, modular files and other storage units for filing rolled graphics.

U.S. Brass introduces its new Valley XL faucet line, an all-brass construction faucet with clear lucite acrylic handles. The Valley XL is also available in triplate chrome and the new “Designer Gold” finish.

Style-Tex introduces its fabric-backed vinyls from the company’s new Interweaves collection, color-coordinated wallcoverings designed to be scrubbable and strippable for long wear and low maintenance. The three new patterns are “Highlands,” “Clanstripe,” and “Tweed.” There are 148 designs in the collection, each of which is packaged in triple rolls containing approximately 108 square feet. Designs come in 54" widths.

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