

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1986

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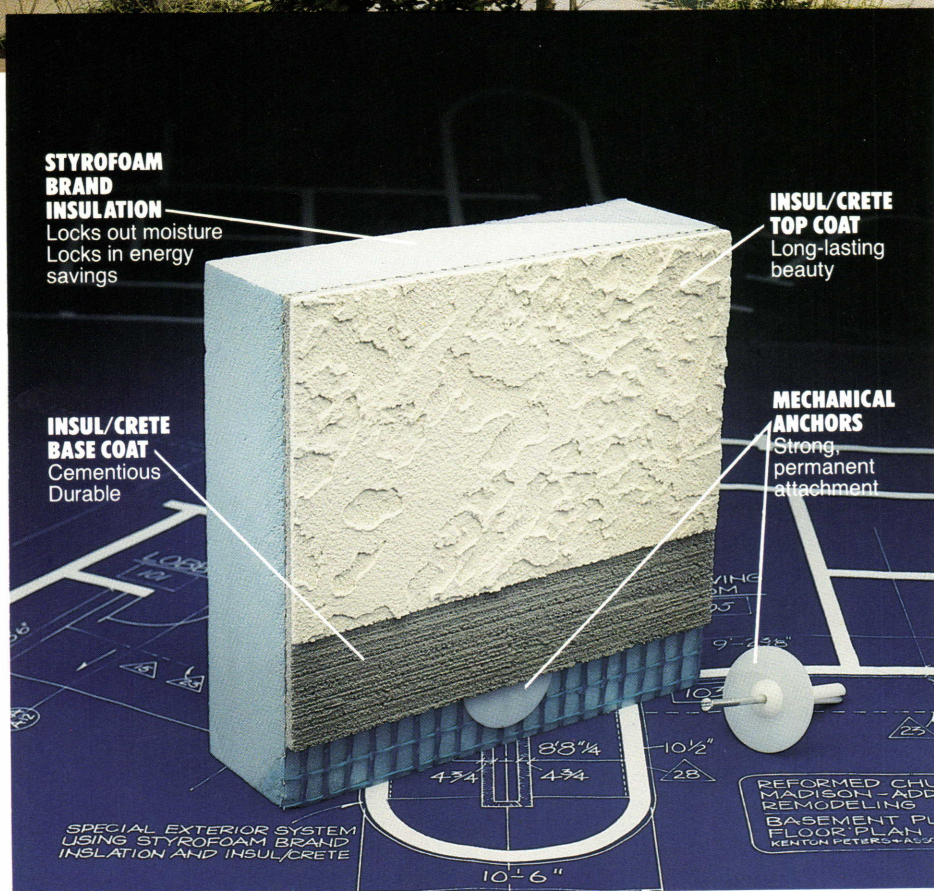
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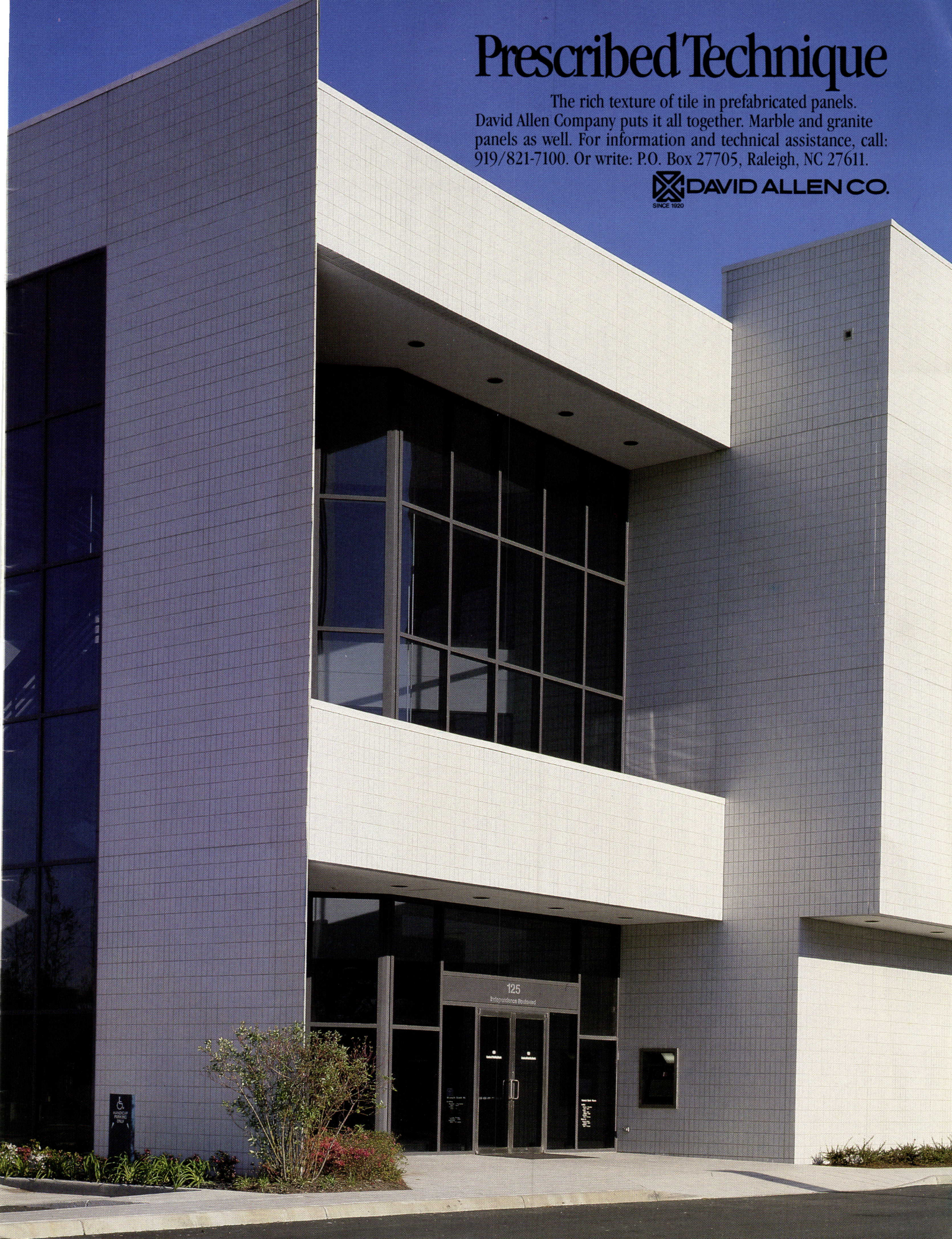
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# NORTH CAROLINA ARCHITECT

Volume 34, No. 6  
November-December 1986

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#### 4 PLEASING THEMSELVES

By Ellen Grissett

Photography by Rick Alexander & Associates, Charlotte

The only clients Chapel Hill's O'Brien/Atkins Associates had to worry about satisfying on this project were themselves.

### FEATURE

#### 20 ANOTHER WINNER

Harborwatch, a condominium development on Lake Norman, has earned David Furman/Architecture of Charlotte a top design award from *Builder* magazine.

### DEPARTMENT

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Jenkins-Peer Architects of Charlotte has been honored for its work on the Lenoir County Courthouse, and the partners of Knight Hepler & Hall Architects of Charlotte have been cited as the Young Architects of 1986.

*COVER: When they designed their new offices, O'Brien/Atkins Associates of Chapel Hill put in plenty of windows with interior and external views. Photography by Rick Alexander & Associates, Charlotte.*

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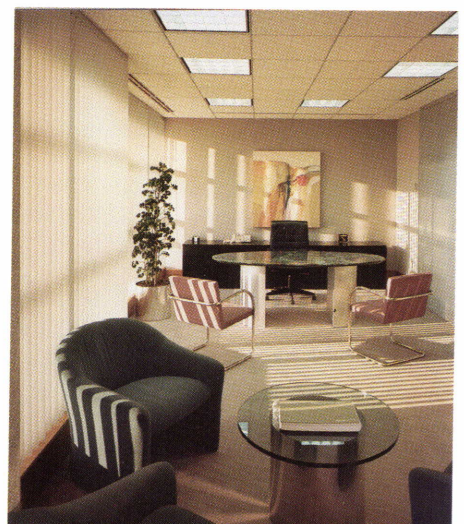
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# A Home To Call Their Own

By Ellen Grissett



Space wasn't a problem when O'Brien/Atkins Associates was founded in 1975 with three partners and a staff doing mostly residential design. But 10 years later, the firm was directing more than \$95 million in commercial construction. The staff was spread over 14,000 square feet of two buildings in the Eastowne Office Park in Chapel Hill.

"We designed that park, but it was meant for smaller firms, and we

simply outgrew it," partner John Atkins says.

So the 75-architect firm, the largest in the Triangle, designed a 100,000-square-foot building on Miami Boulevard between Research Triangle Park and Raleigh-Durham Airport with itself in mind. It now occupies 25,000 square feet of the first building in Central Park West, developed by Teer Associates.

The building, sleek and modern, is

in keeping with the firm's recent projects, which include the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina, the Kenan Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the new American Airlines terminal at the airport.

O'Brien/Atkins' building is constructed of projecting bands of white precast concrete with floor-to-ceiling reflective green glass on all outside walls. The entrance is recessed, and exterior mullions are marked in maroon. A skylight runs the entire length of the building, while eroded corners feature terraces on the upper levels.

A visitor to O'Brien/Atkins' fourth-floor headquarters steps from the elevator into an expansive lobby marked by a custom-designed, highly lacquered, maroon reception desk. The area is punctuated by matching maroon columns, and furnished with sleek seating in chrome and black leather. Standing in the lobby, a visitor can look to the left and see a corridor through double glass doors and, beyond, the small roof terrace shared by senior partners Atkins and William O'Brien.

To the right of the lobby, more double glass doors lead to a large conference area with adjacent kitchen and

O'Brien/Atkins Associates occupies 25,000 square feet on the fourth floor of the building it designed in Central Park West (above). Projecting bands of white precast concrete wrap reflective glass walls (right).





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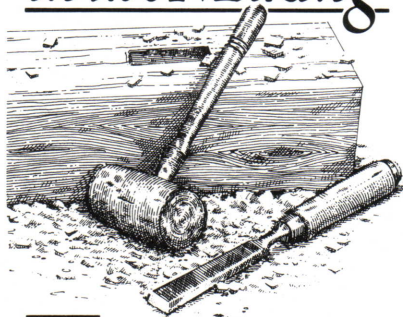


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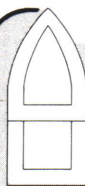
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half-bath. This conference room has been used not only by the architects but by small business groups who need private meeting space, Atkins says.

The entire lobby area is accented by a barrel ceiling and leafy, green plants. Even on overcast days, light streams in from the glass walls that flank the lobby and face east and west on the wooded terrain.

The work space itself is laid out in a kind of H formation, with the lobby forming the central bar.

Corridors to the left and right of the lobby take the visitor to a computer room, mechanical space and employee snackbar or to the telephone switch-



The firm's interior design group chose colors that harmonize with the exterior's green and grays.

board and interior design conference room. Both corridors open into large, glass-walled spaces at the northern and southern ends of the building.

Another corridor stretches past administrative and senior partners' offices before connecting with the large end spaces, which are divided by partitions into areas for O'Brien/Atkins' various departments. They include interior design, engineering, administrative support and landscaping services as well as architecture—which employs more than half of the firm's workers.

"We opted for an open office plan, with the inner cubicles organized around the department heads, who occupy the outer offices," Atkins says.



"At first, there was some concern about being in a large space together, but we've found that there is enough privacy in the design to satisfy work needs, while still creating a feeling of communication with one's peers."

Small conference areas were built into corners of each department so that two, three or four employees could leave their desks and work together outside their offices.

The partitions in both large office spaces were left much lower than ceiling height so as not to block the views from the banks of windows surrounding the end offices.

O'Briens/Atkins also designed seven open terraces for the firm, which fit into various eroded exterior corners of the building. They open off the employees' snack room, the firm's library and various departments and are popular spots for warm-weather meetings or lunch breaks.

The interior design group selected colors to harmonize with the exterior's greens and grays. Carpeting and walls are in shades of taupe, with accents provided by the maroon columns and black leather chairs.

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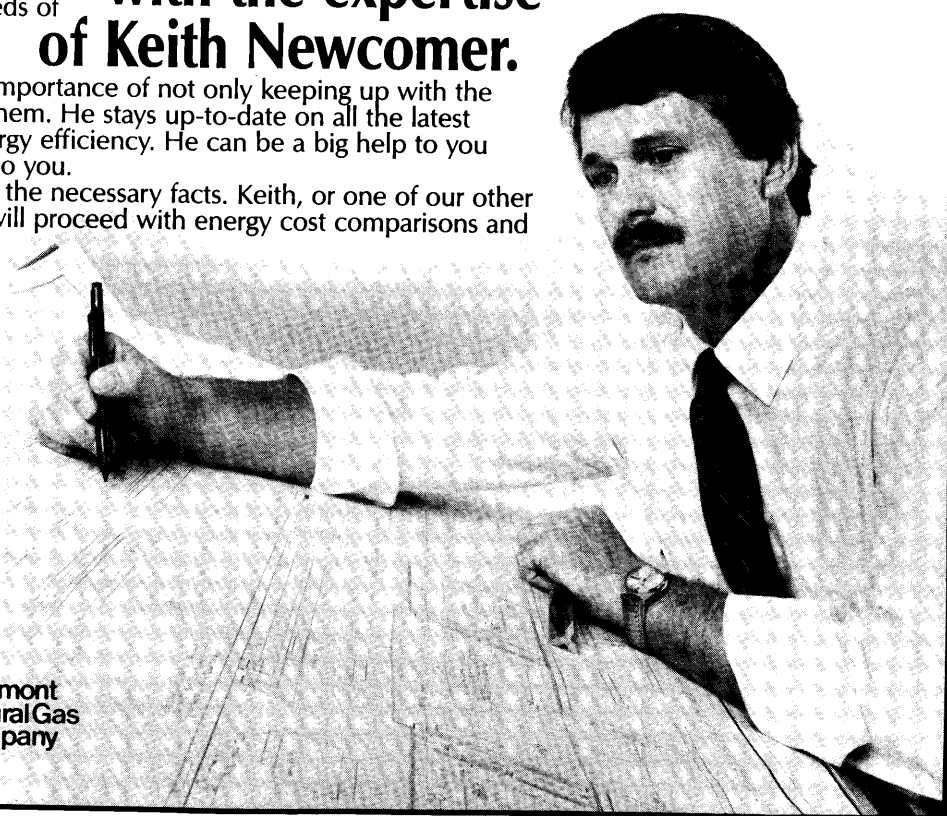
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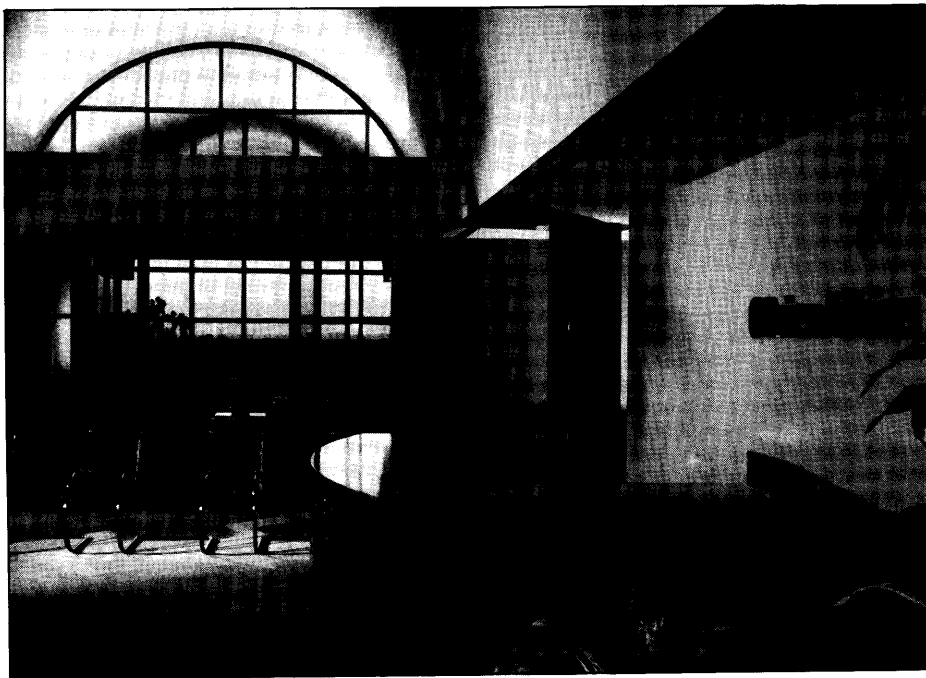
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A barrel ceiling and green plants accent the lobby. Corridors lead to offices and work space.

O'Brien/Atkins has options to take up to 40,000 square feet more, but Atkins says that probably will not happen for a while. "We would have to go down to another floor, which we would like to avoid. It's nice now to have everyone on the same floor."

He said the move, most of which took place over a long weekend last May, prompted some changes in habits.

"Some people who live in Durham and Chapel Hill, like Bill O'Brien and I do, are now actually driving more miles to work than we did when the office was in Chapel Hill," Atkins says. "Others are driving fewer miles. Then there were changes in office atmosphere. Where we used to be able to call out to someone about some pro-

ject, we now have to use the telephone intercom system or walk down the hall to a meeting point."

Atkins says he and O'Brien sought advice from other architects in the state on how to make the move as painless as possible. "It wasn't without headaches, but now we have settled in and gotten adjusted. After all, when you work on deadlines, there's no time to just sit around and contemplate how you might have done it differently."

He adds, "Even though architects can sometimes be their own worst clients, we believe we've achieved our object, which was an office that is more spacious, more efficient and makes a statement about the firm's philosophy to the community." □

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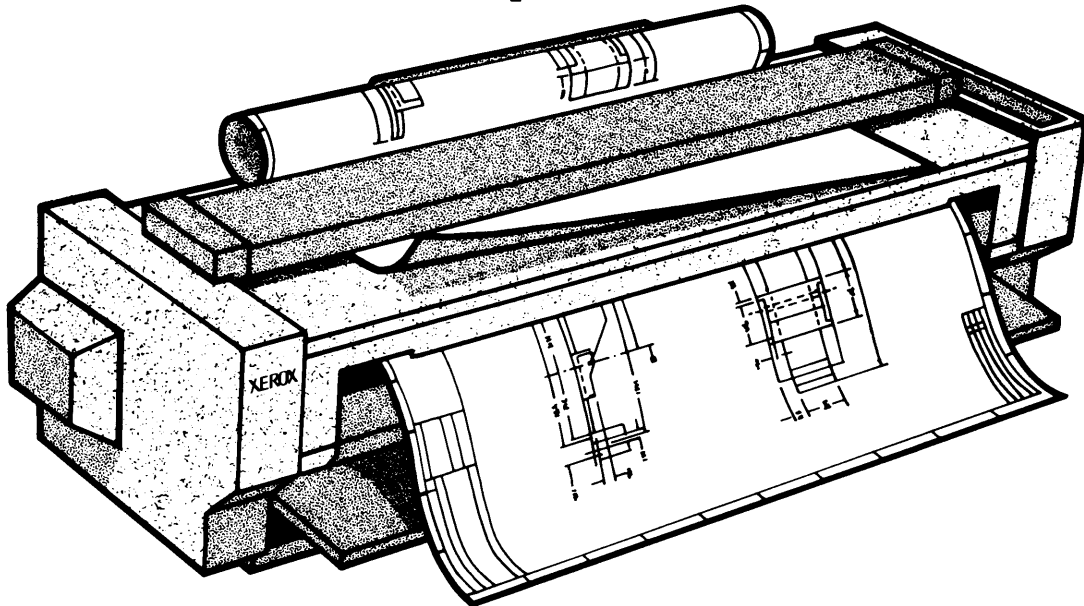
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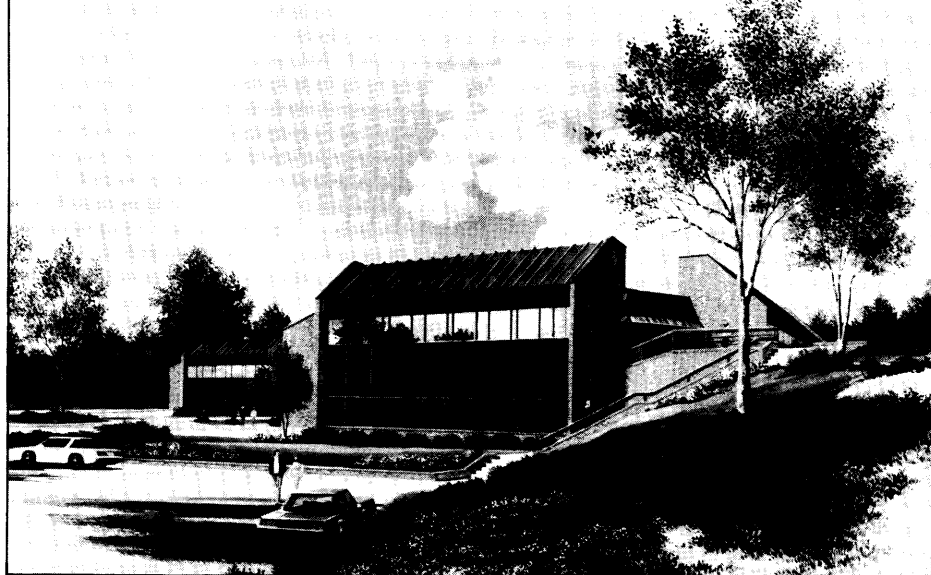


# Off The Drawing Board

## Greensboro Architects Design UNC Labs

RS&H of North Carolina Inc., Architects/Engineers/Planners, of Greensboro has designed the \$2.5 million research laboratories that Glaxo Inc. will build on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Glaxo will build the 16,000-square-foot biological research building as part of the medical complex on the



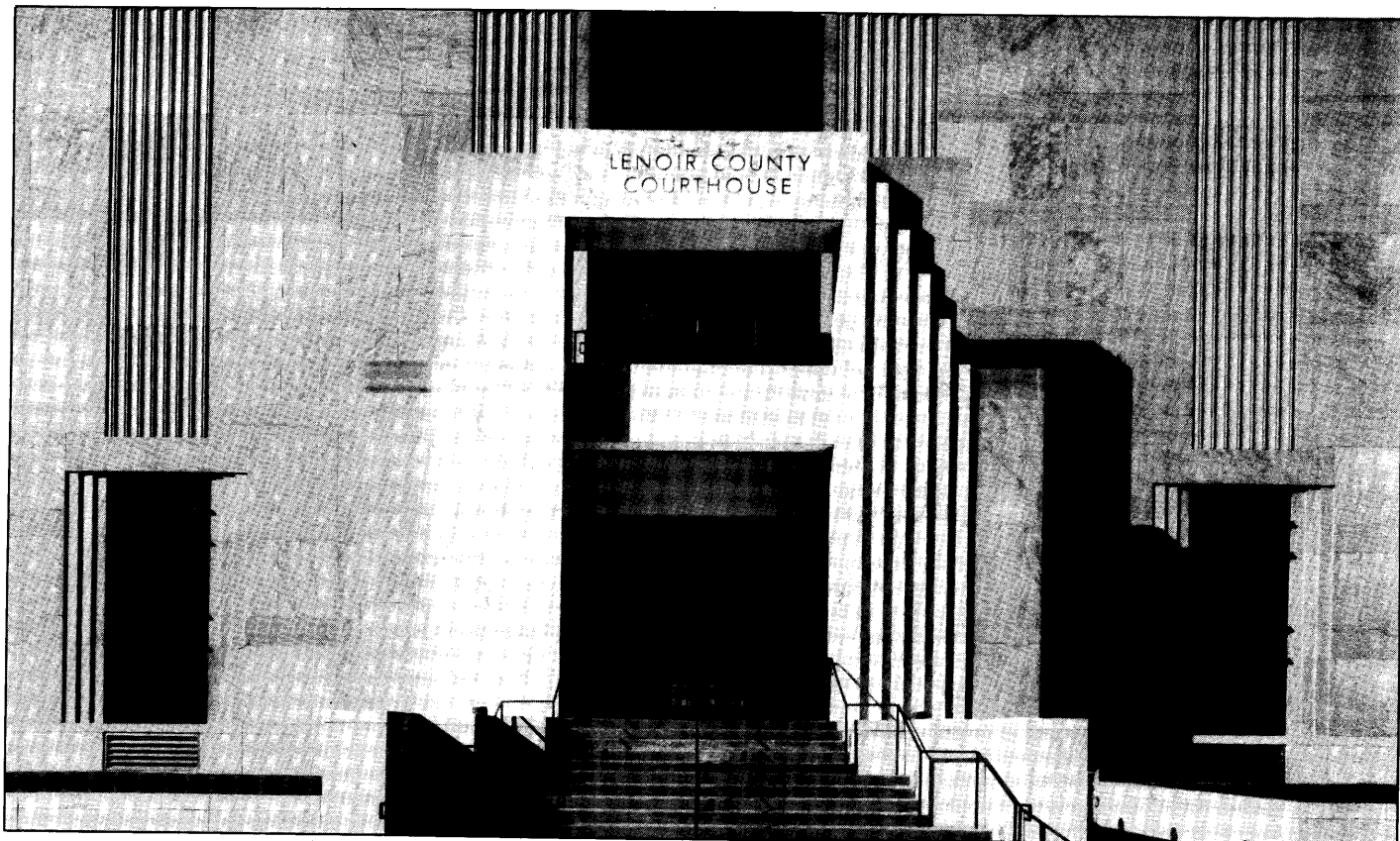
*RS&H of North Carolina Inc. designed the research laboratories that Glaxo Inc. is building at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.*

campus, and its scientists will work with the university's students and faculty. The facility eventually will be turned over to the school.

Construction is expected to be completed by the end of 1987.

Dr. Stuart Bondurant, dean of the

medical school, calls the project a pioneering relationship. "This linkage will contribute to the economy of our state both by strengthening industry and by helping position the university at the leading edge of applied science," he says.



*Jenkins-Peer Architects of Charlotte was cited by the South Atlantic Regional Council of the American Institute of Architects for its renovation and expansion of the Lenoir County Courthouse.*

## Jenkins-Peer Honored For Courthouse Work

Jenkins-Peer Architects of Charlotte has received a 1986 Honor Award for design excellence from the South Atlantic Regional Council of the

American Institute of Architects.

The firm was cited for its work on the expansion and renovation of the Lenoir County Courthouse. The winning design added 45,000 square feet to the original 36,000 square feet of the 1938 WPA/Art Modern-style courthouse.

"The architects achieved a handsomely detailed, sensitively proportioned structure that related to its earlier component in a very successful manner," the SARC selection jury said.

Jenkins-Peer was the only state firm to receive an award in the competition.



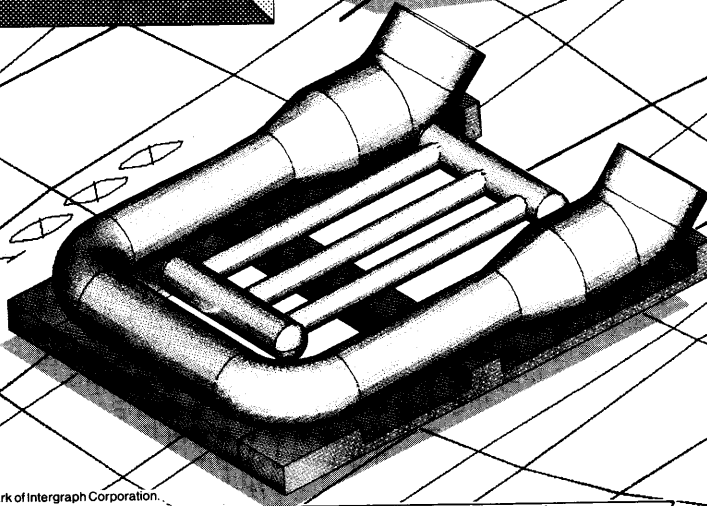
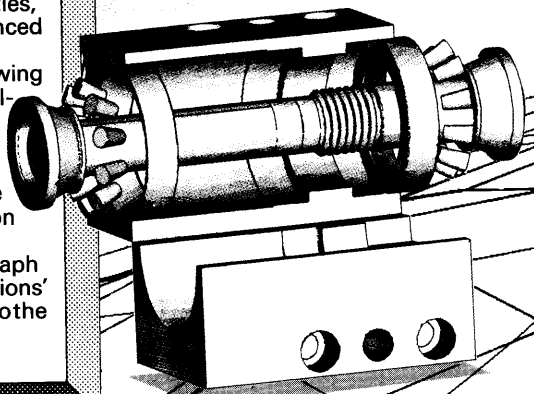
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## Work Under Way For Motorola

Construction has begun on a new office-customer service facility for Motorola in Charlotte.

Overcash-Harris Architects of Charlotte designed the 14,000-square-foot facility being built at Interstate 85 near Sugar Creek Road. The building will centralize Motorola's sales department and customer service operations, currently operating at separate locations in Charlotte.

Rodgers Builders is serving as general contractor for the project, which is scheduled for completion in January 1987.

## Designer Forms New Firm

Katie Burgess Tyler, a workspace designer and planner, has formed Inside Moves Co/Inc. to offer computerized interior space planning and design.

"We can customize an interior for any business, whether it's retail or an executive suite," says Tyler. She has more than 10 years' experience in the field and has been responsible for space planning, design and project management for interior finish-out construction at Harris Teeter corporate headquarters, Bojangles' national headquarters and regional offices for Coors Beer and Gaines Food.

## Knight Hepler & Hall Wins Citation

The partners of Knight Hepler & Hall Architects of Charlotte have been named Young Architects of 1986 in a competition sponsored by the South Atlantic Regional Council of the American Institute of Architects.

The award was based on the firm's work on Charlotte's Colony Park West office condominiums, the corporate offices of Doggett/Lippi Advertising and a 5,000-square-foot private residence.

Company partners John Knight, Stephen Hepler and Dennis Hall received the award at the SARC convention in Savannah, Ga.



"As a young company, we are very proud to be recognized for our ability and aggressiveness," says Knight. "We look forward to a bright future."

Knight Hepler & Hall Architects is a full-service architectural design firm specializing in commercial, office, multifamily, interior design and restoration architecture.

## Firm Picked For Restaurant

Jenkins & Hale Architects of Raleigh has been selected by Char-Grill Ventures Inc. of Raleigh to design its second Char-Grill restaurant.

Like the original Char-Grill, which opened in 1959, the second restaurant will also be located in Raleigh.



Barea

## Office Formed In Greensboro

Major S. Sanders Jr. has opened an architectural office in Greensboro.

The office is located at 1327 Beaman Place, Suite 6.

## Law Firm Picks Designer

The Charlotte law firm of Weinstein & Sturges has selected J.N. Pease Associates, a Charlotte-based architectural, engineering and

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planning firm, to design its new building.

Construction is scheduled to begin early next year. R.T. Dooley Construction Co. of Charlotte is the contractor for the project.

## Architect Donates Spherical Blackboard

Raleigh architect Douglas R. Hurlbert has donated an 8-foot diameter spherical blackboard to N.C. State University's School of Design.

Hurlbert built the special blackboard, which allows students to experience four-point perspective drawings inside, much like a cyclorama, at nights and on weekends over a 2½-year period.

## Davidson Hosts Horticultural Symposium

Landscape architect Dan Kiley and Anthony Paul, a landscape consultant in England, are among five speakers scheduled for the Third Davidson Horticultural Symposium.

The symposium, scheduled from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 4, 1987, will take place at the Davidson College Student Union Building in Davidson. The college is host for the event, which is sponsored by the Davidson Garden Club. Other speakers are John L. Creech, former director of the National Arboretum; John Elsley of Park Seed and Wayside Garden; and J.C. Raulston, a professor of horticultural science.

The cost is \$28, which includes morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea. Registration information is available from Ruth Pittard, Davidson Horticultural Symposium, P.O. Box 1145, Davidson, N.C. 28036, telephone (704) 892-2000, extension 140.

## Names and Changes In N.C. Architecture

Thomas P. Turner, president of ADEP Architects in Charlotte, has been elected South Atlantic Region director to the national board of the American Institute of Architects.

Turner was elected at the regional

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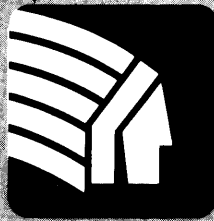
meeting in Savannah, Ga., to represent the region that includes North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

Turner, who received his architectural engineering degree from Clemson University in 1951, has practiced in the Southeast for more than 30 years. He has been active in the AIA, serving as president of the Charlotte Section, president of the North Carolina Chapter of AIA and on a number of national committees.

Turner has served as a visiting lecturer on architectural professional practice at N.C. State School of Design and Clemson University. He has also served as a consultant to the University of Illinois and Seattle Pacific College on institutional laboratory design.

**John K. Boal, Frank A. Goppold** and **Philip A. Kuttner** have been named partners with Little & Associates Architects in Charlotte.

Boal, a graduate of N.C. State University and Kansas State University, heads resort/residential



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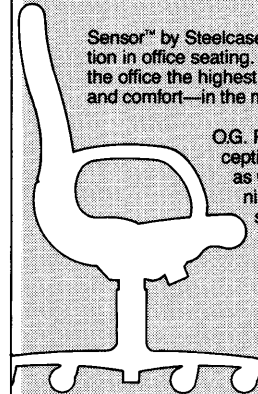
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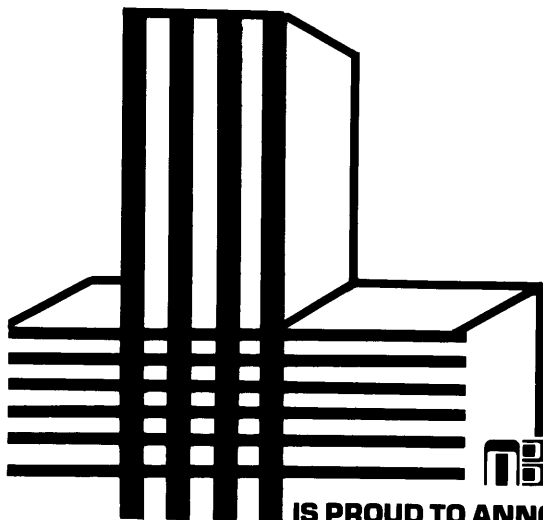
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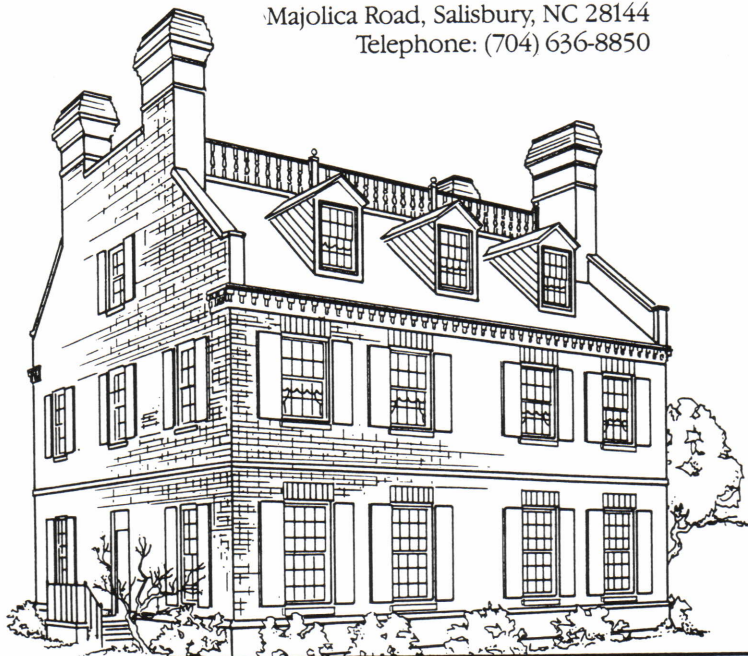
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projects for the firm.

Goppold, a graduate of Kent State University in Ohio, is a design specialist in mid-rise office and retail facilities.

Kuttner, who received a master's degree in architecture from Clemson University, designs for colleges/universities and special projects for Little & Associates.

Ferebee, Walters & Associates has named **Bryant A. Baker, Jeffrey M. Lane, James Terry Keane and William D. Bilger** senior associates in the firm.

Baker and Lane are in Ferebee, Walters' Charlotte office, Bilger is in Research Triangle Park, and Keane is in the Hilton Head Island, S.C., office.

**Jerry Edward Rankin** has joined Ferebee, Walters & Associates in Charlotte as an associate.



*Seamon*

Rankin, who has 16 years of architectural experience, previously worked with firms in Texas and in the Durham/Chapel Hill area. He received his bachelor's degree in architecture from the University of Texas at Arlington and a master's in architecture from N.C. State University. While at N.C. State, he received the NCAIA Book Award in 1981 for outstanding work in architectural design.

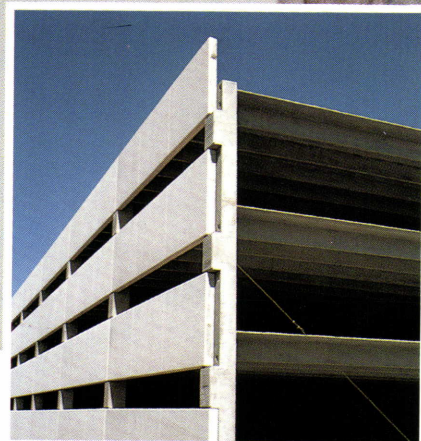
Ferebee, Walters has also announced that **Robert A. Goss** has joined the firm's South Carolina office in Hilton Head Island as a professional-in-training. He graduated





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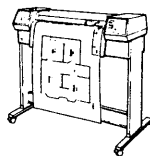
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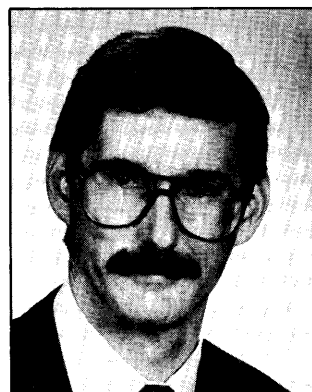
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in 1985 with a bachelor's degree in architecture from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

**Jane Barea**, an interior designer, has joined the Winston-Salem

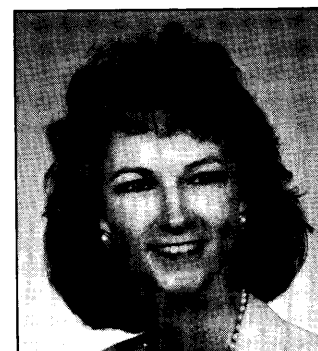


Hall

architectural firm of Hammill-Walter Associates Inc.

Barea, formerly with Total Concept Inc., is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is a member of the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art.

Barea specializes in furnishings, fabric and architectural finishes in corporate interior design. Her experience includes several large-scale projects for the First Boston Corp. in New York and Texas.



Tyler

"Our clients are becoming more and more sophisticated, and in the last year we have seen a significant increase in the demand for interior design services in the Triad," says firm President Lloyd G. Walter Jr. "We are pleased to have Jane on board to help us meet this demand."

Hammill-Walter Associates has also announced that two staff members, **Donald R. Seamon** and **W. Layne Adams Jr.**, have completed all licensing requirements to practice architecture in the state of North Carolina.

Seamon has been with the firm since 1971, and Adams joined in 1985. □

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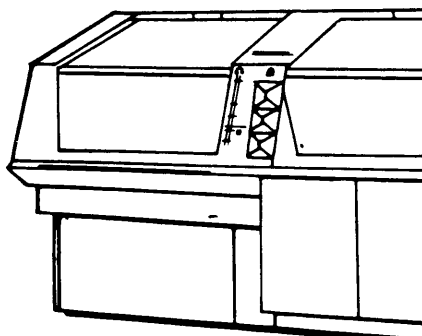


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# David Furman Cited For Condominium Project

**H**arborwatch, a condominium development at Davidson Landing on Lake Norman, has earned David Furman/Architecture of Charlotte a national design award from *Builder* magazine.

The merit award was presented in the multifamily housing category by the magazine, the publication of the National Association of Home Builders. The competition is the largest of its kind in the nation and annu-

ally attracts about 1,000 entries.

Harborwatch consists of two, three-level, gray-cedar shingle buildings on North Harbor at Davidson Landing on the lake north of Charlotte. The 42 one- and two-bedroom units range from 700 to 900 square feet and feature greatrooms and decks overlooking the harbor. Amenities include a swimming pool, tennis and volleyball courts, a fitness trail, picnic areas and access to the harbor. Harbor Plaza, a commercial center to be developed

across North Harbor from Harborwatch, will include a restaurant, shops and offices.

"The concept of Harborwatch was very straightforward and clean," says Ron Kennerly, executive vice president of the Lake Norman Co. "Its symmetry is dramatic and highly appealing to the eye. Because it is a simple and well-executed design, it was therefore an economically successful project."

The success of the Harborwatch pro-

"We've known from the beginning that Harborwatch is a top-calibre development," Ron Kennerly says. "Receiving this award confirms this."



Photography by Rick Alexander



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ject was a factor in receiving the award, Furman notes. "This particular competition does take into consideration the success of a development—including economic considerations—as opposed to architectural monuments which may not be successful," he says.

Kennerly says the project sold out in less than three months. "We've known from the beginning that Harborwatch is a top-caliber development," he says. "Receiving this award confirms that for us."

"The challenge in designing and building Harborwatch was to build a small, more affordable condominium which would complement the other Davidson Landing developments," he adds. "David worked with us to design exactly what we and our buyers were looking for."

Davidson Landing, developed by the Lake Norman Co., is made up of eight developments including North Point, with David Furman-designed townhouses that won a similar award in last year's NAHB competition. Other developments include Edgewater, Spinnaker Cove and Portside, which are nearing completion. □

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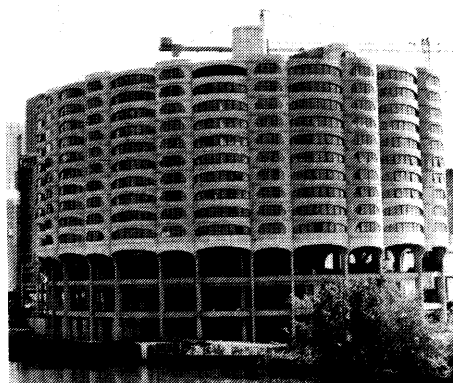
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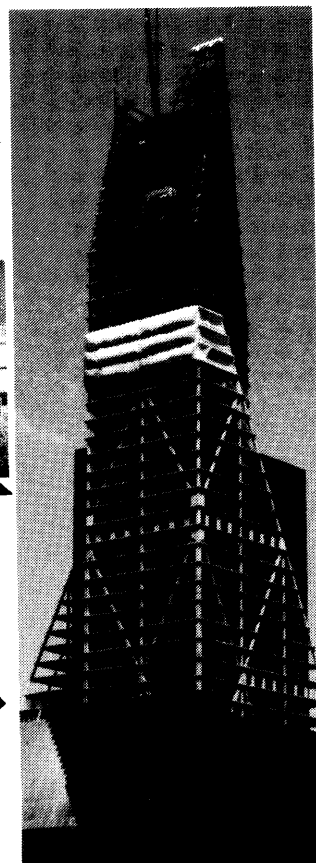


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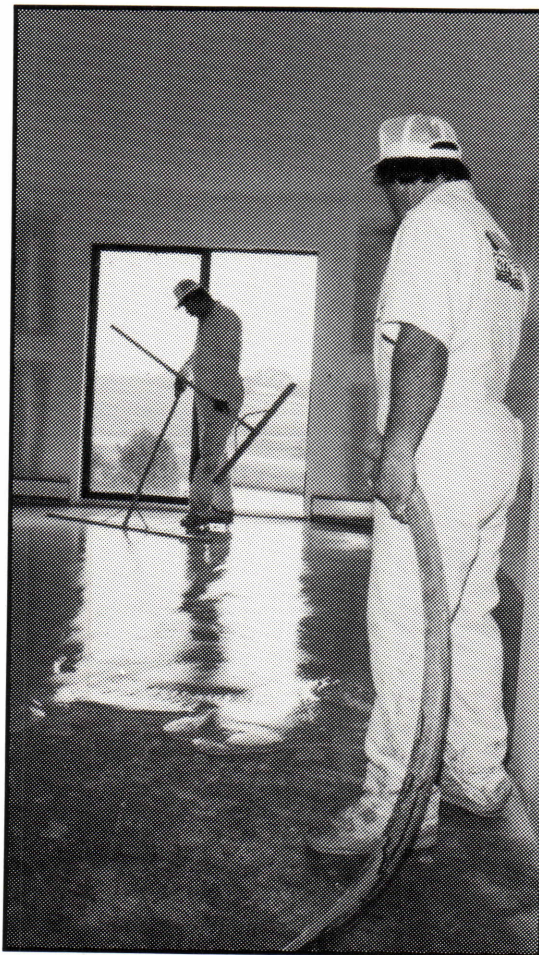
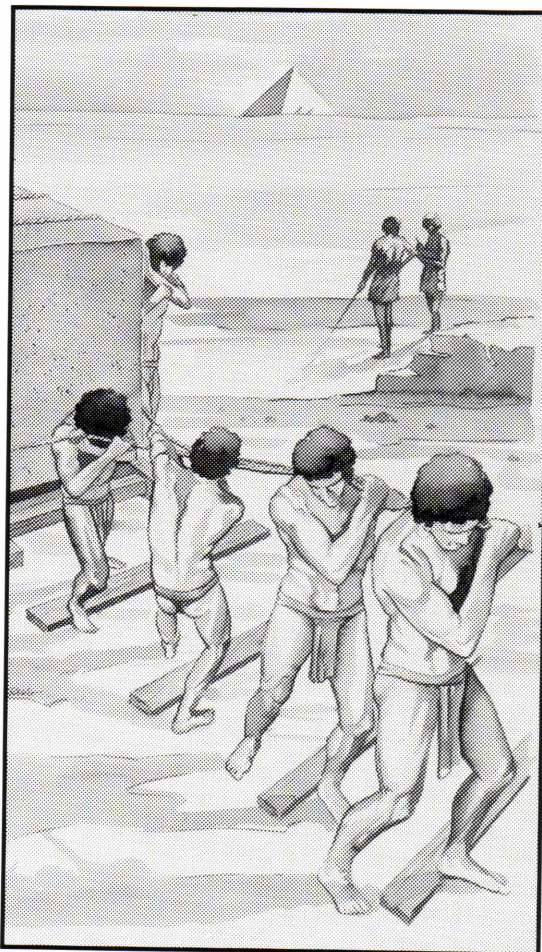
Spectacular River City, near downtown Chicago, has 2,500 residences, offices, conference center, marina, theater and more. Fibermesh is used on upper decks and in lobby to inhibit and control concrete cracking and reduce permeability. **Architect:** Bertrand Goldberg Associates, Inc., **Owner/Developer:** River City Developers, **Contractor:** McColl Construction Company.

The 60 story steel framed Allied Bank Tower, Dallas. Fibermesh was used as an alternate to wire mesh in its composite floor system, helping reduce construction time and costs. **Architect:** I.M. Pei and Partners, **Owner/Developer:** Criswell Development Company, **Contractor:** HCB Contractors.





# Times Change



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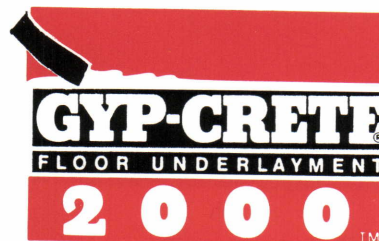
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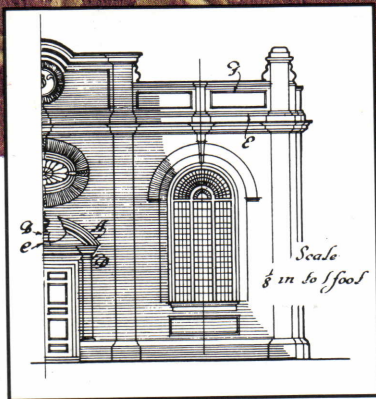


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