COVER STORY:
North Carolina's cities and towns are paying new attention to the design of their downtown business districts, as projects in Winston-Salem, Charlotte and Farmville prove.

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Q & A
"Cities everywhere are losing their regional character," says noted landscape architect Daniel Urban Kiley, who has worked on projects in Paris, Boston, Philadelphia and Charlotte.

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OFF THE DRAWING BOARD:
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The day of urban architecture has passed. They cite the increasing "automobilization" of Americans, the move to the suburbs and changes in tax incentives for downtown preservation and renewal as proof that central business districts are no longer central.

Others, however, see opportunities to change the old rules that once applied to city center design and institute new ones, ones that take into account the changed use of downtown areas.

New York architect Jonathan Barnett, FAIA, writing in the May, 1987 issue of Architecture magazine, says, "An identifiably different downtown building type has emerged in response to investment patterns and regulations encouraging mixed use. Offices, shops, and often a hotel are assembled around large indoor or outdoor public spaces."

Another new building type, Barnett says, is the "festival marketplace," which he defines as "a real or synthetic historic context for restaurants and impulse shopping."

He cautions, however, that the verdict is still out on the success of these new answers to the problems of urban design. "Historians will have to decide whether these large-scale downtown developments have helped unify the city center or have introduced a larger scale of urban fragmentation."

Denise Scott Brown, a Philadelphia architect, expressed her hopes for urban design in the same issue of Architecture. She would like to see the period of 1978-87 as one in which architects "submerged themselves in cities and learned to understand not only the economic, social and political complex for urban architecture but also the complex issues, complexly balanced, of equity, control and creativity that should mediate between the individual building and the urban design."

In this issue of North Carolina Architecture, we will take a look at how three cities in the state—Charlotte, Winston-Salem and Farmville—are faring in the design of their central business districts. The vision of Charlotte firms Clark, Tribble, Harris & Li and J.N. Pease Associates has played a major part in shaping the image of the state’s largest city, while Hammill-Walter Associates is actively involved in the restructuring and redesign of Winston-Salem, a city with an intriguing mixture of urban areas and historic sites. And finally, architect James M. Dugan III and the town of Farmville joined forces to make a neglected part of the central business district both aesthetically pleasing and productive.
A pedestrian strollway (entitled ‘Coca-Cola Plaza’) will allow visitors to walk from the new Triad Park complex to the Old Salem historic district. (Right, below) The glass-clad facade of the Triad Park office tower stands in contrast to other downtown buildings, which are primarily made of natural materials such as brick and concrete.
The restored Moravian community of Old Salem will soon have an architectural as well as a geographical link to downtown Winston-Salem, thanks to a project called Triad Park.

The project, which is part of the city's Central Area Action Plan, consists of One Triad Park office tower, Triad Park parking deck and Corpening Plaza. This first phase of a five-phase downtown redevelopment plan provides a gateway into downtown Winston-Salem from I-40 and links that area with Old Salem, to the south.

The Winston-Salem firm of Hammill-Walter Associates Inc. has provided architectural services for One Triad Park. The building, which was dedicated in May, features three exterior glass elevators overlooking Old Salem, a two-story lobby with skylights and fountain pool, and a 600-space underground parking facility with direct access to the tower's main lobby.

A striking and unusual part of the Triad Park development is the two-level Corpening Plaza, located atop the office tower's parking deck. A 60-by-18-foot cascading waterwall separates the two levels. The upper level contains a 60-by-120 foot reflecting pool surrounded by landscaped walkways, while the lower level features decorative water steps surrounding a large, open lawn.

Lloyd G. Walter Jr., AIA, president of Hammill-Walter, says One Triad Park was intended to be a counterpoint to other buildings in downtown Winston-Salem. "Most of the buildings in downtown were made of natural materials like brick, precast concrete, and so on. The developer for our project, however, really wanted One Triad Park to have a significant image, which is why we designed the building with reflective glass and a faceted facade. It's unusual for Winston-Salem."

Hammill-Walter recently completed the design of the north section of the Winston-Salem Strollway, a pedestrian walk running adjacent to Triad Park from First to Fourth streets. The strollway, which includes a trolley path and turn-of-the-century light posts and bollards, will eventually allow visitors to walk from downtown Winston-Salem to the Old Salem historic district.

In addition to the Triad Park projects, Hammill-Walter has been involved in several renovations, restorations and additions to downtown structures. The firm recently designed a five-level, 700-car parking deck for the M.C. Benton Convention Center. As development south of the deck continues, the deck's elevated walkway will be linked to Winston-Salem's downtown pedestrian walkway system.

Hammill-Walter architects have also renovated the R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.'s main lobby (a project that received
a national AIA award); the main lobby of Wachovia Bank & Trust Co.; and the Hyatt Winston-Salem Hotel. Also, the firm designed a 56,000-square-foot addition to the existing historical facility of The Winston-Salem Journal.

Hammill, who has been president of the Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce and involved in numerous civic activities, believes the city has made remarkable progress in its quest for an exciting, vibrant downtown area.

"We were less blessed than some cities in North Carolina, which have main avenues upon which their primary businesses downtown front," he explains. "So we have had to develop several centers of activity within our downtown area, one of which I believe will be the Triad Park complex, especially when other buildings like a hotel, office space, shops and condominiums are built within it."

Although the Triad Park project is already attracting traffic—"We've seen carloads of families drive down at nighttime to see the fountains, which is a good sign," says Walter—it will probably be several years before Triad Park becomes a truly integral part of the city.

"Once other buildings go up around it, and we have the good balance of mixed-use projects that we're hoping for, we'll call it a success," says Walter.

He explains that often cities lose sight of the kind of traffic they are hoping to attract to a downtown area. "You can say 'Let's put in shops,' but they have to be the right kind of shops, the kind that will appeal to people who drive into downtown Winston-Salem to work and will pass them on their lunch hours, that kind of thing," Walter says. "Then, in the case of Winston-Salem, we have good tourist traffic in the downtown area, so we have to provide services that people need, at slightly different times of day. Finally, once we put in residences, more office space and so on, we'll need to provide shops, restaurants and so on that are geared not only to workers and tourists, but also to downtown residents."

Walter says Winston-Salem has discovered that what it once thought of as a liability — acres of downtown land bought and cleared by the city in the 1960s—is now an asset. "No question but that having land available helped entice the Triad Park developer here," he says. "If we had had to buy pieces of land, then tear down existing buildings on them, the project would have been impossible to accomplish today."

While there have been differences of opinion among many groups of citizens who have an interest in downtown development, Walter sees those differences as mostly rhetoric. "The basic wisdom of developing a rich downtown area is agreed upon by just about everyone," he says.

If there is a problem in deciding how downtown Winston-Salem should develop in the future, it may stem from wanting too much, too soon. As Walter says, "We small cities tend to look at the Ghirardelli Squares of the world and want to do the same thing, but we have to realize we don't have the population to support that kind of project the way San Francisco does, or Boston, or New York. We have to plan according to the scale of our own city."
CASE STUDY: CHARLOTTE

Clark Tribble Harris & Li

A $30 million office tower designed by Clark Tribble Harris & Li will serve as a gleaming gateway from I-77 to Charlotte’s central business district when it is completed sometime in 1988.

Gateway Center, which was announced in January, is the first major development in the West Trade Street area of central Charlotte in more than 25 years. And because such entities as the NCNB Community Development Corp., the Bissell Cos. and Johnson C. Smith University are involved in the project, the impact upon the downtown area of North Carolina’s largest city is likely to be substantial.

The Gateway Center building is part of a larger, more ambitious plan to make a monumental entrance to the city via West Trade and I-77, that includes extensive landscaping, damming Irwin Creek to making a reflecting pool, and eventually building a hotel, more office space and residential units.

"The I-77 and Trade Street approach offers the most direct access to Charlotte’s central business district of any route in the city," says David K. Wagner, principal with Clark Tribble Harris and Li and project architect for Gateway Center. "But until now, the area around that access point has been marginal in terms of development. Now we are reinforcing the link between this area and downtown Charlotte, and allowing for future development to spring up along that link."

The city’s interest in developing the I-77/Trade Street interchange area led to a charrette in 1985 in which Charlotte invited a number of architectural firms to discuss ways in which W. Trade Street could be better utilized. Following the charrette, Clark Tribble Harris & Li was asked to design the first office tower at Gateway Center.

The 300,000-square-foot tower will have as its major tenant AT&T, which will lease 93,000 square feet for a new marketing operations center. North Carolina National Bank (NCNB), which is in the process of building a tower at the northeast corner of Trade and Tryon streets, will lease an additional 65,000 square feet in Gateway Center.

The office tower occupies a wedge-shaped site that provides maximum visibility from I-77. The building steps down from 12 stories to 5 stories on the end facing uptown Charlotte.

Wagner says the triangular site allowed for some innovative design concepts. "Most cities are gridular, but when you are able to bisect several streets with an angle, as we have here, you are given the perfect opportunity to design an important building. The triangular shape means the building holds the corner upon which it sits and establishes itself as a landmark upon the downtown scene."

The first level of the building, on Trade Street, will be used to house retail stores; parking for 1,000 will be provided, with 200 of those spaces under the building, 200 in a surface lot and 600 in a parking deck.

Cars will be able to drive into the tower’s central motor court for discharging passengers before proceeding to the parking areas. Wagner says this feature gives "a sense of entry" to the office tower and reiterates the importance of both pedestrians and automobile traffic to the success of the building.

"To be successful, an urban building must act as a destination for people," Wagner explains. "There must be warm, welcoming spaces for pedestrians, provision made for automobiles— which are a fact of life these days—and easy access from the street to the building’s retail spaces."

When completed, the office tower at Gateway Center will serve as a significant visual anchor for the western part of downtown Charlotte, an area that badly needs successful retail/office space if residents are to remain there.

"There is no question that other development in the area will follow our efforts," says Wagner. "I would say other development ought to be going up within five years, while it will take realistically about 10 years for Gateway Center to establish itself as a real node in downtown Charlotte."

He says the project exemplifies several rules now governing the field of urban design. "Twenty years ago, the idea was to simply clear out big pieces of land in a downtown area that were considered unsightly or undeveloped. But when you do that, everything around that land deteriorates, so you are faced with another problem. This is our way of replacing that ‘urban renewal rot,’" says Wagner.

He adds that "Urban planning is more risk taking these days than it is formula: What worked in the city before may not work again. So you have to be a pioneer of sorts when you are working with a city’s urban spaces."

Also important in today’s urban design is the presence of both public and private funding. "It used to be that most urban development was publicly funded, things like government buildings, courthouses and so on," Wagner explains. "Today, there are fewer public projects. Private development money is the key to an urban project’s success."

Wagner believes that the next five years will see major changes in the fabric of Charlotte’s downtown area, thanks to projects now underway or on the drawing board. These include a new government center and Federal Reserve Bank building; corporate headquarters for First Citizens Bank, First Union National Bank and NCNB Bank; a new festive retailing space called "CityFaire;", and expansions of/renovations to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Public Library and Spirit Square.
In addition, Clark Tribble Harris and Li is already at work designing phase two of Gateway Center, which will include more office and retail space. Apartments for area residents, of perhaps a hotel offering suite accommodations for business travelers, are also being considered for the second phase.

Wagner believes the city is ready for such expansion. "I think Charlotte is far outpacing other cities of its size in terms of development," says Wagner. "We now have the greatest opportunity we've ever had to make Charlotte a great city architecturally and, of course, the greatest liability if we don't live up to that promise."
West Trade Street Master Plan

West Trade Street—
View Looking East
CASE STUDY:
CHARLOTTE

J.N. Pease Associates

J.N. Pease Associates of Charlotte believes—and rightly so—that its architects have had a major voice in determining the image of downtown Charlotte, especially in the last few years.

The firm, which was founded in 1938 by Col. J. Norman Pease Sr., has been responsible for a number of buildings in the city's central business district, including the Knight Publishing Co. headquarters, the First Union Tower, the Carolina Trade Mart and Central Piedmont Community College. J.N. Pease Associates was also responsible, back in 1966, for the original master plan for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg (County) Governmental Center.

Today, J.N. Pease Associates is busy designing new components for that master plan, as well as buildings for corporate clients who want to be part of downtown Charlotte (now referred to in city literature as "uptown" Charlotte).

"We see our downtown activity divided into two entities," says John Duncan, director of marketing for J.N. Pease. "One is the governmental center, and all its parts, which covers five city blocks. The second entity is the corporate client, in this case Duke Power. Both are important parts of the downtown scene, but their design requirements are different, and call upon different skills from our firm."

According to Duncan, buildings designed for government use call for a very serious approach. "Once a government building goes up, it's up forever," he says. "Government buildings convey a very important image to both the citizens of the city and visitors, because the government building really shows what the community stands for."

In the case of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Governmental Center, director of design Phil Shive and his staff worked with three different groups to establish just what kind of image the center should convey. A committee made up of prominent local citizens wanted the center to have a significant visual impact upon its site, which fronts on the two main streets leading into downtown Charlotte, and include a large, open park. The city council wanted the building to be accessible to its constituents, to be, in members' words, "warm, inviting and open." And finally, the users of the building—those workers whose offices would be housed in the complex—were interested in function, space and flexibility.

Also, the new governmental center had to be harmonious with other, newer buildings in the vicinity. One, a $5 million city-county parking deck, had been designed by J.N. Pease and opened to the public in 1986; two other J.N. Pease projects, a $10 million addition to the Mecklenburg County Courthouse and a $2 million county jail intake center, were scheduled to open in 1988.

Duncan believes his firm's design for the governmental center answers the concerns of the citizens, the city council members and the building's future inhabitants. "We used pink granite and glass to make the building 'user friendly,'" he says. "We designed the space to be the maximum in function and efficiency. And we have included a park and plaza between the center and other government buildings that will be filled with trees and benches, and inviting to the community at large."

The government center was funded by a $32.7 million bond referendum passed by Charlotte and Mecklenburg County citizens in 1984; design of the project, which is scheduled to open late this year, took about 18 months. It was designed in conjunction with the government center was a parking deck on nearby Davidson Street. When it is completed later this year, both employees and visitors will have access to 1,000 parking spaces.

The design for the courthouse addition and jail intake center took about two years, Duncan says, thanks to the greater complexity of the project. "You have to provide for huge numbers of people going in and out, for prisoners being taken in and out, for 22 courtrooms, not to mention all the agencies, offices and other departments that go along with the courtrooms," he says.

Construction bids are being taken now for the courthouse/jail intake center.

Duncan says J.N. Pease Associates has designed "about one building a year for corporate clients" since the early 1970s. One of the firm's major clients, as far as downtown Charlotte goes, is Duke Power Co.

In 1972, J.N. Pease Associates designed an entire city block for Duke Power, beginning with a corporate headquarters and allowing for future expansion. The first building in that complex was finished in 1975; the second building, a 13-story addition to Duke Power's electric center, is scheduled to be completed later this year. Already finished is the Duke Power Computer Center, a 203,541-square-foot building housing Duke Power's technological equipment.

"The challenge in all these projects for Duke Power was how to be a good city neighbor," Duncan says. "With Duke Power, you're talking about buildings with huge numbers of square feet, yet they need to be 'user friendly' and they must somehow blend in with other buildings in the area, not just take up space."

The Duke Power Computer Center, which cost $20 million, is located at Third and College streets in downtown Charlotte. "This building was designed for machines, not people, so the requirements were different," Duncan explains. "We had to allow for an elaborate ventilation system for the machines, for example."

However, the firm was concerned that the computer
J.N. Pease Associates worked with committees made up of local citizens, city/county officials and government employees to ensure that the new Charlotte-Mecklenburg Governmental Center was both functional and inviting.
center, located as it is in a prominent spot in downtown Charlotte, present an appealing facade to those who passed it every day. Therefore, J.N. Pease Associates designed the building with rounded edges and used a grid design on the flat, gray precast concrete walls in order to provide textural and visual interest.

Duncan sees a number of issues facing architects who design for downtown business centers such as Charlotte's. "Our firm built the first real skyscraper in Charlotte (the First Union tower, constructed in 1970-71), so we have always been looking for innovative ways to solve urban design challenges," he says. "For example, until the First Union tower, all downtown development had fronted on either Trade or Tryon Street. We convinced First Union to build on College Street, with a 'people plaza' extending the building out to Tryon Street. We could foresee development moving onto those other streets around Trade and Tryon, and of course it has."

Duncan believes that too often architects lose sight of people when they are designing tall buildings for a city center. "We always have to consider the responsibility we have to the people who look at downtown, either on a daily basis or as visitors. Urban buildings must be functional, of course, but they have to be visually appealing and make a strong statement about the city, too."

(Above and below) The Duke Power Co. Computer Center, as designed by J.N. Pease Associates, is used primarily by machines, not people. Yet the curved exterior walls and landscaping provide passersby a pleasing view, as well.
The city-county parking deck, designed by J.N. Poole Associates is proof that urban parking structures can be attractive as well as functional.
In some ways, Farmville, located about ten miles west of Greenville, is a typical small North Carolina town. Its economy is founded upon agriculture, primarily tobacco; it has a main street running the length of the town’s business district; its residences range from Victorian mansions to neat brick ranches to a housing project on the outskirts of town.

What makes this town of 5,000 different from some others in the state is that its leaders have invested time, money and care in improving the appearance as well as function of Farmville’s downtown area.

“A lot of towns talk about redoing their downtown areas, but very few actually do it,” says James F. Dugan III, AIA, of Rocky Mount, who was selected several years ago to design a new look for part of Farmville’s central business district. “I was impressed with Farmville’s ability to win federal grants for their projects, several of which were going on at the same time I was working for them.”

A previous federal redevelopment grant had allowed the town to update its water and sewer system and renovate low-income housing. Other funds, some derived from local sources, had helped the city erect attractive brick planters and benches at intervals along the main street and demolish an old school that was no longer functional. That site, at one end of the central business district, had been turned into a large, grassy park with an attractive gazebo for band concerts and the like.

“We’ve gotten seven grants for improvements over the last 10 years,” says Frank Bradham, Farmville City Administrator, “all of which have helped us raise the standard of living in Farmville substantially, no matter what individual projects the dollars were spent on.”

He admits that “There are people who are against improvements, whatever they are. But Farmville is unusual in many respects. The city sets goals and works toward them very successfully.”

One of those goals is to have no deteriorating homes within the city limits; that goal has been reached. So has the goal to form an economic development office that would help Farmville attract new industries to its area. A third goal, to have all the streets within the city limits paved, is about to be met.

Farmville leaders were equally determined to improve the appearance of the stores that lined the town’s main business street. In 1983, the town was awarded a redevelopment grant that would make almost $3 million available to Farmville over the next three years. Part of the money was earmarked for a new community center, while another $200,000 was budgeted for the retail area adjoining the community center site.

Over the years, this section of downtown Farmville had not experienced the renovations and facelifts of the upper section of the district; as a result, the storefronts were a hodgepodge of styles and materials, with some in good repair and others waiting to be condemned.

Dugan’s challenge was to come up with a design for the lower section storefronts that would be aesthetically pleasing yet economical, and could be implemented within the limits of the federal grant, which allowed only exterior renovations.

“I was lucky from a design standpoint: The city had only two criteria, that the design use brick and awnings. Other than that, they were very open to ideas, which in projects of
Bronze awnings and brick pilasters around each storefront now give the row of stores an appearance of one architectural style.

This kind isn't very common," says Dugan. "From a construction standpoint, however, we had some restrictions to work with once we began to study the buildings themselves."

Dugan theorized that many of the stores had been built on rubble footings, which were common 40 or 50 years ago or more, and any attempt to shake the foundation with extensive digging or blasting would probably cause the buildings to crumble and fall. With the help of a structural engineer, Dugan developed a plan calling for a new, freestanding facade for the stores. "The idea is very much like the backdrops you see on movie lots, where what appears to be a Southern mansion is actually only a facade with supports," he explains.

Dugan's frame would be composed of brick pilasters around each storefront, supported by caissons in the ground. "We didn't want to drive posts into the ground because of the danger of the buildings falling, so instead we drilled holes and sank the caissons, some as deep as 20 feet," he says.

The new frameworks gave the rows of stores an appearance of one architectural style, yet still allowed the storefronts themselves to be decorated to the owners' tastes. And the freestanding facade means that the stores may be torn out later and new ones built in their places without having to tear down facades.

Another advantage of the caisson approach was the relative ease with which they were installed. "It took only a week and a half to build this kind of foundation," Dugan says, "and because the drilling sites were limited to the front of each building, we were able to get in and out quickly. None of the stores had to close down during the work, which of course made the owners happy."

The bronze-colored metal awnings protect the storefronts, giving a sense of "entrance" to each place of business and further unite the exterior of the stores. The color of the awnings, along with the brick used for the pilasters, echoes the colors used in the nearby community center, thus tying together the two areas.

Area residents were pleased that Dugan made only minor changes to the section's one "historic" building, an Elks Lodge built around 1890 by Farmville's black citizens.

Dugan says town leaders were supportive and helpful during the design and construction process. "The contractor for the project happened to be based in Farmville, so he naturally had a stake in making the redevelopment work," Dugan says. "And once we were finished with our part, many of the stores' owners decided on their own to make improvements to their storefronts, like putting in new windows or hanging new doors. All those changes helped the overall look of the section."

Since Dugan's project was completed, in 1986, Farmville has added other improvements to its business district, such as building a parking lot behind the longest row of stores to provide easy access to customers and beginning renovations on a Civil War era house that will serve as a town museum.

"I think Farmville has done so much for its business district because the leaders figured out that federal funds were out there for their projects, and they went out and got them," Dugan says. "Grant proposals can be pretty complicated things to write unless you know what you're doing, so Farmville went out and hired someone who did know how to write them. It was a case of delegating a function to ensure a good return."

Another aspect that aided Farmville in its downtown redevelopment efforts is that most of the town's citizens still shop and do business downtown. "So many towns have malls going up outside the downtown area, and so the downtown stores begin to close and move away," Dugan says. "Farmville so far has avoided that situation. You really have the sense that the downtown area is still the center of town."

15
Daniel Urban Kiley is a major landscape architect of the 20th century. His projects include an extension of the Champs Elysées, Paris; the John F. Kennedy Library with I.M. Pei, Boston; the Irwin Miller residence with Eero Saarinen, Columbus, Ind.; the Dallas Museum of Art with Edward Barnes; the Oakland Museum with Kevin Roche; and the Yale Center for British Art with Louis Kahn. Other projects include the U.S. Air Force Academy, Dulles Airport, the third block of Independence Mall in Philadelphia, the East Wing of the National Gallery and Snowbird resort.

Kiley, 74, served on the 1986 American Institute of Architects Honor Awards Jury. From his worldwide practice in West Charlotte, Vt., Kiley has participated in several projects of local interest: the Mint Museum and a portion of South Park, Charlotte; and the NCNB Plaza in Tampa, Fla. He recently visited Davidson College for the Third Davidson Horticultural Symposium, where he granted this interview.

When you arrive at an airport in North Carolina, how do you know you’re in this state?

"When I arrive at any airport, I don’t know where I am, because they’re all the same. The road from the airport is the first way to enter the city. In the old days, it was wonderful, because railroads were in the center. You came into the station, and it related to the city. It usually had a beautiful allée or mall or something connecting the station right into town. Now, you have this dreadful experience. You’re not relating any more to the way the city is."

Do you believe that southern cities are losing their regional character?

"Cities everywhere are losing their regional character. Because of technology and air-conditioned buildings, there doesn’t seem to be a need to design a building and orient it so that you are protecting it from the sun or getting the breezes."

"It comes down to this. Regardless of what architects do, in any design, the thing that makes it beautiful and rich is the proportions of the building, the proportions of the holes, the windows, fenestration, and scale, the details of shade and shadow... and the relationship of that building to other buildings. That’s what makes things work."

Are any North Carolina cities in the wrong place?

"That’s a good question. I guess you got that idea from one of the articles about my work in Calgary. I was on television there with the mayor. A
question came up: 'What do you think of our fair city?' I said, 'I think it's pretty nice, but you know it's in the wrong place. No Indian would camp more than overnight on the shores of a cold river in a katabatic zone. I understand there are over 300,000 of you, and it's not too late to get out.'

'The Indians told all of us whenever our cities are in bad locations. They said, 'Don't camp here,' 'Don't build here.'

'Take all the cities in the Ohio Valley or the Mississippi Valley. Cities surrounded by great levees costing millions of dollars... Those cities are in the wrong place, because they're in the flood plain. It's always going to get flooded, every spring, I don't care how many levees you put up. It's a geometrical thing. As our cities get bigger, the coefficient of runoff gets faster. We get more hard material instead of grass, we put concrete down, and you get runoff from all the buildings. Each year it gets worse. So what do you see every spring? People rowing boats in their cities in the front pages of the newspaper. The Indians were right, really. It seems like common sense, but there's no common sense...

'You probably have cities on the coast that get flooded by hurricanes, and maybe you should get rid of them.'

You once imported American southern magnolias from Pistoia, Italy, to the atrium of the London Standard Bank. Obviously you like to move plants. What do you think of using indigenous plants?

'We've been working on the NCNB tower in Tampa, Fla., with Harry Wolfe of Charlotte, who I consider one of the best architects ever. It's a beautiful tower, 36 stories tall, in French limestone. When I gave a talk down there they asked me that question on television. I said, 'I think it's dumb! You want indigenous plants, why not indigenous people? Why not kick the New Yorkers back out?'

'We must look at universals, not particular regions. Although we want to obey the rules of the region in the things that can grow there, we don't want to limit our palette to indigenous material. The whole world is our palette. Remember the plant explorers? They suffered, and we should reward them.'

How would you characterize the North Carolina landscape?

'It varies all over, from one end of the state, the north and south, and east and west. So you can't characterize it, you'd have to just describe it. The state of North Carolina along the coast is just about like South Carolina. The states are political subdivisions. They're not regional subdivisions or based on the land. But there's a general feeling all through the South. Below the Mason-Dixon line, there's a quality and character. Even states like Virginia and Louisiana have something in common.'

What do you think of the work landscape architects in this region are doing?

'The philosopher Goethe said you can only criticize through love. You can't criticize negatively. I break the rules, though. The only thing I feel is—and this is true of a lot of places—the breadth and background needs more enrichment through travel and understanding. You might say there needs to be more sophistication of how you approach a problem and meet it with your technology.'

What characteristics of the South do you find most charming?

'The charm of manners you miss in a lot of places. We have a little bit of it in New England too. There's a sort of natural gentility that I love. This is true not only of Southerners but of all people who are whole and rich and connected to the land...

'I love the old gardens and the houses and the cinnolines. We all can't live that way but we would like to. The way people say, 'How do you do? ', 'So good of you to come,' 'How nice of you to ask.' It's life that makes it beautiful. The architecture comes from the life. That's why we love these places.'

Phyllis L. Herring directs Studio Herring, a landscape planning firm in Davidson. Robert Page is news editor for Davidson College.
Firm Completes Master Plan

Architectural Engineering Concepts PA (AEC) of Charlotte has completed the master plan for Beacon Knoll, the first planned-unit subdivision approved for York County, S.C.

Beacon Knoll, which is being developed by Viking Enterprises, will eventually house more than 300 families and will include a commercial center and recreational facilities.

The 132-acre site is located on Pleasant Road about half a mile from Carowinds Boulevard and falls under the recommendations of the 2005 Plan developed by nearby Charlotte.

Firm Selected For NCAIA Tower Project

The FWA Group of Charlotte has been selected by the North Carolina Chapter of The American Institute of Architects to undertake a feasibility study and to design additional office space at the NCAIA's present Raleigh location.

The firm, which recently changed its name to The FWA Group from Ferebee Walters & Associates, has received 17 national, regional and local design awards in the past five years. The awards include a citation for architectural conservation for Brightleaf Square in Durham and an award of merit for historic preservation for the East Bay Trading Co. in Charleston, S.C.

The NCAIA invited every member firm to submit its qualifications for

Renovation Wins City Award

The Raleigh firm Planning and Design Associates (PDA) has been honored by the City of Raleigh for its renovation of the Sanders Ford Building, a former automobile dealership that is now called ArtSpace. The Sir Walter Award was given by the city's Appearance Commission to ArtSpace, a facility in which artists work and exhibit.

S.C. Office Building Finished

The new Springs Company offices in Lancaster, S.C., have been completed. Design of the 13,000-square-foot building, which has a sweeping quarter-circle curve capitalizing on a prominent

Company Acquires Florida Practice

Trible Harris Li Inc. (THL), the holding company for Charlotte-based Clark Trible Harris and Li Architects P.A., has acquired the Sarasota, Florida firm of Aubry Architects, headed by Gene Aubry, FAIA.

A new company called Aubry Architects PA will be formed by THL with Aubry serving as president. The new company will continue to operate from its Florida office.

Construction Begins On College Center

Construction work has begun on the Community and Small Business Center for the College of the Albemarle, Elizabeth City.
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Firm Wins National Award
Hunter Reynolds Jewel PA, Raleigh-based landscape architectural firm, has won a Merit Award in the 1987 National Design Competition sponsored by The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). The award, the second highest possible, was given for Skyline Place, a six-acre urban plaza in Fairfax County, VA, designed for developer The Charles E. Smith Companies of Arlington, VA.

Charlotte Firm Selected 1987’s Best
Little & Associates Architects was recently selected 1987’s "Outstanding Architectural Firm" by the Charlotte chapter of the American Subcontractors Association of the Carolinas.

The firm won in competition with 115 other area firms. Firms were judged on the basis of such things as competency; timely shop-drawing reviews and distribution; and fairness in decisions regarding subcontractors. More than 400 subcontractors cast ballots to determine the winner of the annual competition.

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Design Series
Begins Sept. 28
A five-part television series called America By Design will premiere on national public television on September 28. Hosted by architectural historian and author Spiro Kostof, the series will tell the story of the people and events giving shape to America—to its houses, workplaces, streets, public places and monuments, and land itself.

The series is funded by a grant from The American Institute of Architects (AIA). Other sponsors are the National Endowment for the Arts; Haworth Inc.; the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; and the Public Broadcasting Service.

America By Design will air successive Mondays beginning Sept. 28. For information on viewing times, check local listings.

Names and Changes
In N.C. Architecture

John H. Tabor, AIA and Charles G. Snow, AIA, have been named principals with the Charlotte-based firm Middleton, McMillan Architects.

Continued on page 24
Snow, a senior associate, has been with the firm since 1982 and will oversee projects in the civic, educational and institutional areas. Tabor, who will help manage projects in the commercial field, rejoins Middleton, McMillan after serving as vice president in charge of the Charlotte office of Reg Narmour/The Architectural Group. Also promoted by Middleton, McMillan were: John L. Gill, AIA, from associate to senior associate; Timothy B. Morrison, from project designer to associate; and John D. Pease, from CADD systems manager to associate.

The firm of Ellinwood Design Associates Ltd. has relocated its offices to 3300 Drake Circle, Suite 400, Raleigh 27607 from 2315 Myron Drive in Raleigh. The firm, established in 1978, now has 27 staff members and specializes in architectural land planning and engineering.

Fred C. Abernethy, partner in the Hickory architectural firm of Clemmer Bush Sills Abernethy, has been appointed by Gov. Martin to serve a three-year term on the newly created State Building Commission. The appointment was recommended by the NCAIA. Abernethy is one of nine members of the new commission, all of whom represent professions or trades involved in the construction industry.

John W. Walters is a new member of the Charlotte firm Odell & Associates. He was formerly with Jenkins & Peer Architects and Wolf Associates, Architects. He received his bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from Clemson University.

Continued on page 26
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William D. Bulla III; Jerry J. Jeter, James R. Sarver, Catherine A. Skala and David R. Taylor have been named associates with the Charlotte firm Odell Associates Inc. Bulla received a master's degree in structural engineering from Cornell University and a bachelor of science degree from NCSU. Jeter, an AIA member, received his bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Sarver, who directs Odell's mechanical engineering department, received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. Skala graduated from Winthrop College with a degree in interior design. Taylor graduated from Purdue University with a degree in landscape architecture and is a member of the ASLA.
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William G. Monroe III, formerly a senior vice president, has been named principal-in-charge of the Charlotte office of Clark Tribble Harris and Li. Also named as principals in the Charlotte office are David K. Wagner and Thomas D. Byrum. New principals in Clark Tribble Harris and Li’s other offices are Richard G. Morris and Richard Tao, New York, and H. Thomas McDuffie Jr. and Bruce D. Glasgow, Washington, D.C.

A. Joel Luper has joined PDA, Raleigh-based design, planning and management firm, as a project architect. A graduate of the University of Texas, he was formerly an associate with Jessen Inc. of Austin, Texas.

Zoel Allen, Charles McClure and Jim Montgomery have joined the Charlotte firm Knight Hepler & Hall Architects PA. Allen received his bachelor’s in architecture degree from Texas Tech University; McClure received an architecture degree from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte; and Montgomery received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in architecture from Clemson University.

Ellen Weinstein has joined Carrboro-based Dail Dixon & Associates as intern-architect. She received her bachelor’s degree in landscape architecture from Ohio State University and her master’s of architecture degree from North Carolina State University.

Roger H. Clark, FAIA, has been named director of design by the Research Triangle Park based firm O’Brien/Atkins Associates. Through an association with O’Brien/Atkins, he recently designed the Kenan Center and Alumni Center at UNC-Chapel Hill; the Admiral’s Club in the new American Airlines Terminal at the Raleigh-Durham Airport; and an addition to the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro. Clark, a professor of architecture since 1970, will continue to teach part-time in the School of Design at NCSU.
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