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Charlotte (top) hosts the AIA North Carolina Summer Design Conference in August; and (bottom) the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, by Odell Associates

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Daylighting

August Workshop To Explore All Angles Of This Energy-Efficient Practice

he North Carolina Alternative Energy Corporation (AEC) is ready to light up your life. Or at least some of your upcoming building designs. AEC is funding and co-sponsoring a full-day workshop on

AEC is funding and co-sponsoring a full-day workshop or daylighting for commercial and institutional buildings on Thursday, August 13, just prior to the start of the annual Summer Design Conference in Charlotte.

Also co-sponsored by AIA North Carolina, the workshop will be presented by the North Carolina Solar Energy Association. Gary Bailey (Innovative Design), Dale Brentrup (UNC Charlotte College of Architecture), Wayne Place (NCSU School of Design), Robert Powell (N.C. Solar Energy Association, RS&H) and Fatih Rifki (NCSU School of Design) will head up the presentation, which will be held at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

The term "daylighting" is easily defined by Harvey J. Bryan of Harvard University. It is the conscious and skillful use of natural light as an effective lighting source for a building's illuminating needs during a daytime operation.

According to Robert Powell, AIA, who is both chair of NCSEA and an AIA North Carolina board member, the pur-

pose of the workshop is simple. Due to the fact that daylighting has only recently been taught in colleges of architecture, the workshop will provide an opportunity to increase the knowledge of North Carolina's architects in the practice of daylighting.

"There have been great improvements in daylighting with better energy conservation and better ways to control the light level of a building," said Powell. "This workshop is aimed at improving knowledge of daylighting among North Carolina architects. That's the first step. Once we've done this, we can move on to promoting daylighting to school boards, commercial building managers and the local government. We want to be able to say that there are architects waiting in the wings who are capable of designing a structure using daylighting."

The workshop will demonstrate that successful daylighting design makes use of natural light without glare or heat gain, reduces electric lighting and air conditioning loads, and improves the visual environment. Technical elements of daylighting will be taught, as well as how it integrates with spatial, structural, mechanical and electrical systems. A hands-on session will allow participants to work on problems in smaller groups. Case studies and reference information on computer



RS&H Architects used plenty of daylight in its design of the Statesville Post Office

design tools will also be presented. The workshop will cover rules of thumb for decisions about reflective factors, glare elimination, aesthetics, structural and economic factors, and aperture direction.

Daylighting has been used for centuries. Even the ancient Greeks and Romans tried to control the use of daylight in the development of their cities. The development of the fluorescent light and other advances in technology in the late 1940s allowed buildings that used electric light to become the dominant building form. By the 1960s, daylighting had been forgotten by most building designers, throwing aside a building design strategy that had been used for many years.

"There have been some excellent examples of daylighting in North Carolina, but very few," said Powell. "Architects are reluctant to practice daylighting because they just aren't quite sure of how to use it.

"There are numerous benefits to using daylighting," he continued. "First of all, daylighting provides a better quality of light compared to that of fluorescent. It comes across as being very comfortable." Powell said that natural light can improve



When: August 13, 8:30-4:30

Where: UNC Charlotte, College of Architecture

Who should attend: Architects, lighting engineers and other interested design professionals

Cost: \$75 per person

Sponsored by: North Carolina Alternative Energy Corporation (AEC)

Presented by: North Carolina Solar Energy Association

In cooperation with:

AIA North Carolina North Carolina Solar Center North Carolina State University, School of Design University of North Carolina at Charlotte, College of Architecture

How to register: Call Susan Luster, AEC, 919-361-8000

the productivity of office workers and school children.

"Daylighting may or may not include the use of sunlight," he added. "The light coming from the sky, not the sun, is much easier to use. With this light, you don't have the heat of direct sunlight, reducing air-conditioning costs. Or you can use direct sunlight for heat during the winter and block it in the summer."

Powell also said that using daylighting can give the architect an opportunity to create new and interesting building forms.

"There are two basic methods that are used in practicing daylight," continued Powell. "In dealing with windows, there are ways to throw daylight farther into a space. A second method is top-lighting, which involves different methods of penetrating a roof."

The workshop is intended to provide architects and engineers with basic, yet comprehensive instruction needed to comfortably market and incorporate daylighting design into their upcoming projects.

To register for the workshop, call Susan Luster at North Carolina Alternative Energy Corporation (AEC) at 919-361-8000.



Architects J.N. Pease and Edward Mazria employed daylighting to illuminate this reading area at the Mt. Airy Library

Off The Drawing Board N.C. State Names New Leader For Department Of Architecture

hristos A. Saccopoulos has been named head of the Department of Architecture at N.C. State University. Saccopoulos, 49, has been associate dean and professor of architecture at Mississippi State University since 1988.

A native of Greece, Saccopoulos has practiced architecture worldwide. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Iowa State University and worked with internationally acclaimed urban theorist and designer Constantine Doxiadis in Athens.

J. Thomas Regan, dean of the N.C. State School of Design, said the faculty and students of the Department of Architecture strongly supported Saccopoulos' selection. "Chris is an optimistic and dynamic person, one with a clear vision of how architecture will evolve in the future, and how architectural education relates to that evolution. With his strong grounding in academics, he will always have the best interest of the students at heart," Regan said.

Saccopoulos begins his duties at N.C. State on Aug. 1. The Department of Architecture comprises about half of the 600 students at N.C. State's the School of Design.

Awards and Recognition

Norma DeCamp Burns, AIA, has been appointed to the American Institute of Architects' 1993 Honor Awards Jury, which is responsible for selecting national Honor Awards for the coming year. The jury will meet Sept. 17-19 and Oct. 23-24 at AIA headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Burns, the president and principal of Burnstudio Architects, PA, of Raleigh, also will serve as the chair of this year's Triangle Development Awards Jury, a program sponsored by the Triangle J Council of Governments, which meets Aug. 5.

Burns has received numerous awards and recognitions for her design accomplishments. Her work has been published in Architectural Record, AIA Journal, Southern Living and Space Design, while her Chatham County Social Services building was cited by Time magazine as one of the "Ten Best Designs of 1984."

Burns received her master's degree from N.C. State in 1976 and served on the Raleigh City Council from 1985-89.

Allen L. Brooks, AIA, of AB Architecture in Charlotte, has been honored by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission for his work in preserving historic architecture in the city. He was presented an Individual-Professional Award for devoting "considerable energy to preservation projects...such as the Dowd House, Biddle Hall, Rosedale and the Dilworth neighborhood." Brooks once lived in and restored the Dowd House, which was the headquarters of Camp Greene during World War I.

William Robert Wakeham, AIA, has won the 10th annual Sir Walter Raleigh Award for community appearance in the commercial category for his Olde Raleigh Village shopping center. The award was presented by the City of Raleigh Appearance Commission.

An architectural plan designed by a senior at N.C. State's School of Design recently won first place in a national competition seeking innovative designs for affordable housing. **Dieatra Blackburn** designed the winning entry in the open submission category of the 10th annual Student Design Competition, sponsored by the American Wood Council and the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture.

Blackburn's design for renovating a decaying residential neighborhood near downtown Raleigh was judged the best among more than 700 entries, earning a \$2,000 prize for Blackburn and a \$1,000 award for the School of Design. Blackburn's work was part of an independent studio course supervised by visiting instructors **Betsy C. West** and **Ellen Weinstein, AIA** (of Dail Dixon and Associates).

Raleigh's Habitat for Humanity is studying the design to determine whether it can be put to use in the actual neighborhood used for the project, or in a similar neighborhood.

Jeffrey A. Huberman, AIA, of Gantt Huberman Architects in Charlotte, is having an exhibit of his paintings at Peden Gallery II in Raleigh from July 17-Sept. 5.

In The Works

Harris Architecture of Charlotte has been selected by NationsBank to serve as architect for the renovation of several branch banks in eastern North Carolina. The firm also has been chosen to handle the historical renovation of the Reigel House in Fort Mill.

Calloway Johnson Moore, P.A., of Winston-Salem, has designed a new Fine Arts Center for Ravenscroft School in Raleigh. The 27,000 square foot structure, now under construction, will include a 450-seat auditorium as well as art, band, choral, dance and music rooms. The \$2.75 million project is being financed by a private fundraising effort. Calloway Johnson Moore has extensive experience in designing arts centers and other cultural facilities, including many of the buildings on the campus of the North Carolina School of the Arts.

J. Bruce Spencer, AIA, of Haynes Spencer Richards in Raleigh, will serve as project design principal in providing design improvements to a fountain area at Freedom Plaza in Washington, D.C. The Plaza is located on Pennsylvania Avenue between the White House and the Capitol. Construction could begin this fall and is part of a revitalization effort conducted by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation, a federal agency. **CPAA**, City Planning and Architectural Associates of Chapel Hill, designed the independent living units now under construction at Twin Lakes Retirement Center in Burlington.

Gunn-Hardaway Architects of Charlotte has been selected by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education to handle a \$2.7 million addition and renovation project for Hidden Valley Elementary School in Charlotte. Gunn-Hardaway has two other current projects with Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools – the \$7 million South Charlotte Middle School, which should be complete this summer, and the \$5.3 million Amay James Traditional Elementary School, which is scheduled to begin construction in September.

Clarification

In the March-April issue of *North Carolina Architecture*, a credit was inadvertently omitted for the Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. Middleton, McMillan, Architects, Inc., is the architect of record for the project, while Morris Architects (formerly Morris-Aubry) of Houston is the associated architect.

AIA Survey: Economy Improving

Architecture practices and the building industry in many regions of the country appear to be showing early signs of economic recovery, according to a national poll of architecture firm principals conducted by the American Institute of Architects.

The results of the survey were released at the AIA's national convention in Boston last month.

"This survey is one of the earliest indicators of what appears to be an economic recovery in the profession of architecture and the building industry," said James P. Cramer, Hon. AIA, the executive vice president and CEO of AIA.

"In this survey, we have measured the economic climate and the level of new business opportunities for architecture firms since the beginning of the year. We believe this approach gives us the most timely information possible. Most measurements of building trends are based on construction contracts awards and permits, which generally occur months after the design has begun."

More than half (52 percent) of the participants said they believed the economic recession as it pertains to architecture firms in their areas has bottomed out, while only 20 percent of the respondents said the recession has not bottomed out and 28 percent were not sure.

In addition, 44 percent of the participants reported that business opportunities for architecture firms in their areas have increased since the beginning of the year. Nearly one-third said the level of opportunities stayed the same, and 25 percent stated that the number of opportunities has decreased.

Nationally, hiring and layoff trends seem to have stabilized, as half of the survey respondents said the number of architects employed by their firms has stayed the same since the beginning of the year.

Areas experiencing the greatest upswings, according to the survey participants, are New England (which was one of the first hit and worstaffected areas), the West South Central region (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas), the East South Central (Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee) and the East North Central (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin).

Although the South Atlantic region, which includes North Carolina, was not cited, architectural practitioners in the state agree that the economic forecast is improving.

"The indication from the rank and file of our membership seems to support the survey results," noted Timothy D. Kent, executive director of AIA North Carolina.

"A lot of private companies and clients are now beginning to plan long-overdue projects, such as expansions and renovations, that had been put on the back burner because of the economy. An infusion of state capital construction funding in the near future could cement the recovery and produce a tremendous ripple effect throughout the economy."

A representative sample of 300 randomly selected firm principals from 48 states participated in the telephone survey, which was conducted in May.



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Technology Meets Design Medical And Research-Related Architecture Must Be Flexible

ealthcare architecture has become increasingly important with the growing need for better medical care. New trends, along with the need to improve the large number of hospitals built during World War II, have provided architects around the United States with a challenge – to concentrate not just on the physician's needs, but those of the patient as well. North Carolina architects have met this challenge head on.

"The trend is to outpatient care," said David Ramseur, AIA, managing principal in charge of healthcare/research facilities for Odell Associates in Charlotte. "Patients are willing to pay for healthcare, but it is cheaper for them to use an outpatient facility rather than the regular inpatient care. When people come to the hospital, they want a hospitable environment. That, along with the needs of the doctors, is our biggest concern in our medical projects."

It is expected that the growth and need for healthcare facilities, whether through renovating or designing new structures, will continue.

"In my opinion there will be a rise in medical projects," said Charles Boney Jr., AIA, of Boney Architects in Wilmington. "Outpatient facilities and the fact that many hospitals are out-of-date provides the work now. But, the aging of our population will keep the need out there for awhile to come. We are a society that will soon have a large number of people at the age of 65 or older. Demographics show that people are living longer. Doctors can detect problems earlier allowing them to treat the patient faster and with better results."

"The complexity of the systems and equipment, along with constantly evolving technology, make it important to develop well-planned facilities that are both operationally efficient and flexible," added Kerry Kane, AIA, of Small Kane Architects in Raleigh.

Kane's Tidewater Research and Extension Center in Plymouth underscores the flexibility needed in the design process when it comes to other technologically-related projects such as research facilities.

"A key concern in our Tidewater project was its flexibility," Kane said. "It has a clear span structural system to allow relocation of all interior partitions, versatile utility chases and expandable HVAC and electrical systems.

"Basically, in designing a research facility like Tidewater, we wanted to do three things. It needed to be highly functional to facilitate its research and educational program use. Also, we wanted to develop an architectural character that fit in well with its surroundings and visually reflected its use."

The development of new medical and research-related facilities continues to be a concern in our society. Whether it is developing better outpatient care or improving major medical centers, the demand for healthcare projects appears to be here to stay.



Vernon G. James Tidewater Research and Extension Center

Plymouth

Owner: North Carolina Department of Agriculture **Architect**: Small Kane Architects, Raleigh **General Contractor**: Laughlin-Sutton Construction Co., Greensboro

Photographer: Jim Sink

This first phase of a two-phase facility for the N.C. Department of Agriculture and N.C. State University consists of a 35,000-squarefoot Station Building housing faculty research offices, agricultural experimentation labs and multi-use conference and meeting rooms with food service areas. The new facilities are set back 1,200 feet into the farm with a demonstration plot forecourt between the Station Building and highway. An L-shaped public lounge, complete with fullheight glass walls for 180-degree viewing of the farm from the northwest and southeast, separates the meeting room facilities from the office and lab areas. Labs and other shared spaces are centrally located between farm management offices and university faculty offices. Building forms and massing (repetitive gable roofs, round conference rooms, round ridge vents, etc.) symbolize the agrarian nature of the project. Materials and details (glazed brick, silicone glazed window systems, etc.) reflect its highly technical research program.



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Western Wake Medical Center Cary

Owner: Wake County Hospital System Architect: Odell Associates Inc., Charlotte Associate Architect: Sears Hackney Keneer & Williams, Inc., Cary General Contractor: Pizzagalli Construction Company, Cary Photographer: Gordon Schenck

This \$16 million facility replaced an existing 20-bed hospital. The central design feature is a 5,000-square-foot atrium used for a variety of functions from cardiac rehabilitation to pedestrian circulation. All diagnostic and treatment areas, as well as the admitting department, have waiting areas that open onto the glass-roofed atrium supplying views and natural light. Conceptually, the building is organized into two major components: the outpatient and the inpatient services. Comprised of 120,100 gross square feet and 98,000 square feet, the project's goal is to ensure the best in healthcare services for the community.



Shriners Hospitals for Crippled Children

Greenville, S.C. Owner: Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children Architect: Odell Associates Inc., Charlotte Associate Architect: GMK Healthcare, Columbia, S.C. General Contractor: Barton Malow Company, Sarasota, Fla.

Photographer: Rion Rizzo

Completed in the summer of 1989, Shriners Hospital is located on the Greenville Memorial Medical Center campus. This \$21 million hospital serves as a teaching facility, which shares medical staff with Greenville Memorial Medical Center. These units provide state-of-the-art techniques in pediatric orthopedic care. Included in the 134,000square-foot hospital is 60 inpatient beds, a larger outpatient center, diagnostic and treatment departments, administration, school classrooms, four hotel-like rooms for parents and complete dining facilities.





Cape Fear Memorial Hospital Wilmington

Owner: Cape Fear Memorial Hospital Architect: Boney Architects, Wilmington General Contractor: Miller Building Co. Photographer: Boney Architects

This recent project is the second expansion of this private hospital. A combination of renovation and new construction on an extremely limited site, outpatient services were the primary requirements of the program. The focal point of the addition is the new entrance. The proportions of the canopy and the large entrance lobby reflect a hotel-like ambiance instead of the more typical institutional image, and the hospital's "concierge" welcomes visitors at a central desk and directs them to the proper departments when necessary. The patient's physical and psychological comfort were of paramount importance during the design process. Public areas are generous, colorful and well-appointed to provide a comforting atmosphere for patients and family.



Clinical Cancer Center, UNC Hospitals

Chapel Hill Owner: UNC Hospitals Architect: O'Brien/Atkins Associates, Research Triangle Park General Contractor: C.T. Wilson, Durham Photographer: Rick Alexander

This \$4.2 *million facility is a two-story* masonry addition to a renovation of an existing clinical facility on the campus of the UNC Hospitals. Functionally, the facility houses three distinct types of uses. First, there are the administrative and research activities located on the upper levels of the renovated new spaces which support the center but have no need to be in direct contact with the patients or technicians. Second, the non-patient accessible spaces on the lower level which support the clinic include control rooms, mold preparation areas, offices, records and bookkeeping areas. And third, the patient areas, which include waiting spaces, examination rooms, diagnosis and treatment areas, are treated with the most care in terms of access, organization and finish.







Forsyth Memorial Hospital

Winston-Salem, N.C. Owner: Forsyth Memorial Hospital Architect: Peterson Associates, Charlotte General Contractor: Rentenbach Constructors, Inc., Greensboro Photographer: Tim Buchman

A \$2.5 million addition and renovation project of the Cardiovascular Recovery and Intensive Care Units, the design was aimed at ultimate patient comfort. Such details as soft indirect lighting, sound control to minimize harsh noises, breakaway sliding glass partitions and nurse workstations adjacent to the beds are evidence of the goals of the project. The design ensures patients are in constant visual contact with nurses and support personnel. The new eight-bed CVRU is back-toback with an eight-bed intensive care unit, both of which share central support areas.



Site of the Annual AIA North Carolina Summer Design Conference



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The Queen City Charlotte Plays Host To Summer Design Conference



The Queen City of Charlotte will play host to the AIA North Carolina annual Summer Design Conference scheduled to be held August 14-15. Headquarters for the conference will be the Omni Charlotte Hotel in the state's largest city.

Charlotte, which offers the advantage of an excellent combination of climate, geography and culture, is located in the Piedmont region of the Carolinas. The city is just two hours east of the Appalachian Mountains and three and a half hours from the Atlantic Ocean. New York is 631 miles to the northeast, while Atlanta is a mere 256 miles to the southwest.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg area was first settled by Scotch-Irish immigrants in the 1740s. The County of Mecklenburg was established in 1762 and the City of Charlotte was incorporated in 1768. The city was named for Queen Charlotte, wife of England's King George III.

Now a mid-sized city with the population of 421,990, it is a startling fact that Charlotte is the center of the nation's fifth largest urban region and it is the largest city within its own region. Over 50 percent of the nation's population lives within a 650-mile radius, a larger total than live within 650 miles of both Atlanta and New York. This proximity to a wide variety of markets has led to the development of Charlotte as a financial, distribution and transportation center for the entire urban suroundings. In addition, the Queen City has developed into a major wholesale center with the highest per capita sales in the United States, ranking sixth nationally in total wholesale sales.

Charlotte is a recognized leader in commerce with \$167 billion in banking resources, ranking third behind New York and San Francisco. The city's financial resources pay huge dividends in recruiting new business and industry to the area, and Charlotte is proud that nine of the top 10, 44 of the top 50 and 212 of the top 500 industrial corporations listed in "Fortune 500" have offices and/or plants in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County.

Intersected by interstates 77 and 85, linking the city to New England, the Great Lakes region and Florida, Charlotte offers an impressive array of cultural opportunities which include art museums, music, theatre, dance and scientific discovery. Such attractions as Discovery Place, Charlotte's award-winning, handson museum of science and technology; The Mint Museum of Art, recognized as one of the top art museums in the Southeast; and Carowinds, an 83-acre theme park, call Charlotte home. Add to that the NBA's Charlotte Hornets, the Charlotte Motor Speedway, the "AA" Charlotte Knights and Atlantic Coast Conference basketball, and the city provides ample entertainment for any visitor who travels to Charlotte.

And you can't help but mention the climate. Charlotte's location offers an excellent climate, ideal because of its moderate temperatures and mild seasons. Its high percentage of cheerful, sunlit days offers a striking contrast to long periods of gloomy weather found in northerly climates or long sultry days in the more southerly locales. The daily maximum temperatures run from 52 degrees in January, 72 in April, 88 in July and 73 in October. Extremes are infrequent, with below zero temperatures occuring only four times since 1878, and temperatures hit 100 degrees only about twice a year.

In hosting the Summer Design Conference, AIA North Carolina members should find plenty to enjoy, including not just the location but the atmosphere that the Queen City provides.

Area Attractions Something For Everyone

Carowinds - An 83-acre world-class family theme park. Ten themed areas including the six-acre Rip Tide Reef water section provides a full day of fun for the family. Over 30 state-of-the-art rides, shows, shopping, adjacent Paladium amphitheatre and a campground are located in the park. Located at 14523 Carowinds Blvd. (704) 588-2600

Charlotte Museum of History and Hazekiah Alexander Homesite - An original "Rock House" built in 1774 with a reconstructed log kitchen and stone springhouse make this an interesting stop. Costumed guides lead the public tours, and there is also a history museum which presents a variety of changing exhibits. Located at 3500 Shamrock Dr. (704) 568-1774

Discovery Place - One of the top 10 science and technology museums in the nation. Permanent exhibit areas include a Tropical Rain Forest, Aquarium, Life Center, Science Circus, Collections Gallery and the new Charlotte Observer OmniMax Theatre and Kelly Space Voyager Planetarium. Located at 301 N. Tryon St. (704) 372-6261

James K. Polk Memorial - A N.C historic site, this attraction is the reconstructed homesite of the 11th United States President. The visitor center features a 25 minute film, exhibits and displays that represent the life and times of James K. Polk. There are also tours of historic buildings furnished with late 1700s and early 1800s artifacts. Located on Highway 521 in Pineville. (704) 889-7145 Winston Cup Tours (Charlotte Motor Speedway) -Photograph session at Victory Circle, an action-packed film presentation, Carolinas' Boxing Hall of Fame and tours of the grounds, garages and pit areas make this tour an exciting one. There is also shopping in the Winston Gift Shop. Located on Highway 29 in Concord. (704) 455-3204

Winghaven Garden and Bird Sanctuary - Created in 1927, this garden and bird sanctuary encompasses three and a half acres in the heart of a quiet residential neighborhood. Located at 248 Ridgewood Ave. (704) 331-0664

Artefino Galleries - This gallery represents selected Latin-American and American artists. Santiago Leon, the Cuban-born director, brings to Charlotte the unique color,

influences and passion of important Latin-American artists through monthly exhibitions of paintings, watercolors, drawings, prints and sculpture. Located at 119 E 7th St. (704) 372-3903

Mint Museum of Art - North Carolina's first art museum with American and European paintings, pre-Columbian art, regional crafts, historic





Carowinds - an 83-acre theme park

costumes, African art, gold coins minted in Charlotte and one of America's outstanding collections of pottery and porcelain. Located at 2730 Randolph Rd. (704) 337-2000

Historic Guide to Uptown Charlotte -A self-guided walk through uptown Charlotte visiting up to 77 historic places and markers starting at "The Square" and

> ending at the Visitor Information Center. Maps can be picked up at the Visitor Information Center. Located at 229 North Church St.

> **SouthPark** - Slip into shopping elegance, SouthPark style. Surround yourself with a wealth of exquisite fashion, sophisticated fun, fine food and impeccable service. Shop Belk, Dillard's, Sears, Thalhimers, The Food Court and 115 of the finest stores in the South. Located at 4400 Sharon Rd. (704) 364-4411

> **Cannon Village** - Restored in the graceful style of the Colonial era, Cannon Village features sepeciality shops, factory-direct stores, restaurants, tours and exhibits. Located at 200 West Ave. in Kannapolis. (704) 938-3200

The Mint Museum of Art Special Supplement - North Carolina Architecture

North Carolina Architecture

September-October Annual AIA North Carolina Design Awards Issue

November-December Office Buildings Office Space Design Submissions Deadline: September 21



Continuous Effort Necessary To Be World Class City



By Charles C. Hight, AIA, PE

Dean UNC Charlotte College of Architecture

Gee Dad, my teacher told me that I should become world class. But gee dad, what is world class?

The teacher said she has become world class, though I never noticed it. She acts the same way as before - good natured, well intentioned and confusing. True, she does have a lot of new clothes - some are neat and others funky. She keeps trying new things and new combinations, but so far she hasn't managed to get it all together. Is that what she means by world class?

Why should I be world class? Why can't I just be me? Does being world class mean that I will look and dress like everyone else? Will I suddenly become richer or get dates with prettier people? Just what does it take to be world class?

Well, child, I am not sure what it takes to be world class. But, I do know what is world class when I see it.

I know that it isn't world class just by saying that it is. In fact, if you say you are world class, then that makes you just the opposite.

Child, why don't you just relax and enjoy yourself. Learn to make the most of what you have with your resources and opportunities. Understand and appreciate your past, but for heavens sake, don't try to copy it. Respect the past while looking into your future. Be creative and explorative. Challenge the ordinary. Understand and respect our environment. And have fun!

If some one calls you world class, that is great. If they don't, who cares?

Explore and develop new ideas. Just be the best you can be with what you have.

What does the above conversation have to do with Charlotte architecture?

Well, the news media and others quite frequently describe Charlotte as world class," though no one defines what it is or when it occurred. Interestingly, all of us consider cities like Florence, Boston and Edinburgh to be "world class," but I don't know anyone in any of those places who refers to themselves as world class. The more important questions are what is the architectural quality of our city, how well have we created an environment which encourages all citizens to become the best that they can be, and are we seeking to make Charlotte unique in its own terms?

In the 16 years that I have lived in Charlotte, overall the quality of its architecture has improved. In the past 10 years, the City has been most fortunate to add a number of fine new buildings to our city center. The quality of design is good, and the potential exists to become great.

Unfortunately, in creating some of



WONC 36-6

FIM BUCHMAN

the new buildings, the city has often destroyed important elements of its architectural heritage. The destruction of the Masonic Temple and Gouldie Odell's Central Library is unforgivable. Each of these buildings represented an important phase of our city's growth. Wonderful opportunities were missed by not retaining these buildings and designing the new developments adjacent to each in a manner which respected the older architecture and explored new design ideas. The result would have been a much more intriguing civic design than what we now have. Certainly, each would have helped to make Charlotte visually unique, rather than looking like every other place.

Architects, business leaders and public officials must learn to save our valuable architectural heritage and to design new buildings to enhance and be enhanced by the older architecture. Instant cities, which have no known past, invariably have no long term future. Kings Drive's Po-Mo cardboardlike strip looks like thousands of places everywhere in the U.S. Fortunately, the strip looks like it won't last out the decade.

On the other hand, the saving of Latta Arcade, Rosedale House and Spirit Square visually enrich the city. Likewise, Charlotte is benefitted by the restoration and modifications by Morgan-Adams of many of the Third Ward mill buildings. Fourth Ward is an excellent example of restoring some traditional buildings and adding new buildings which reflect contemporary design ideas and visually relate to the past. The work of David Furman and Crutcher Ross is especially worthy of examination.

The city has gained from some public and business leaders' dedication to acquiring valuable architecture and to their unusual vision of what is possible.

The new government center, Mecklenburg County Court House, the Interstate Tower and NationsBank Headquarters are examples of buildings which greatly enhance our civic design. Simultaneously, they stand on their own as fine architecture and improve the community design. The materiality of architecture is explored and celebrated. In each case, and in different ways, each building illustrates an understanding of scale and the value of architectural sculptural approach. Each adds quality to the Charlotte skyline and improves the streetscape. Their designs show seriousness and a dedication to design exploration. Each, in its own way, communicates confidence in the future and a willingness to architecturally stand for something. The intersection of Trade and Tryon Streets is becoming special. It could become great and friendly to people with the addition of the park and placement of trees on all corners.

I am concerned that generally architects may be losing their confidence in the future and spirit of innovation.

During the period of the 1950s through the early 1980s, many Charlotte architects demonstrated a willingness to explore new ideas. Odell's coliseum on Independence Boulevard and Bell Residence on Providence Road are but two of many examples of architects demonstrating a willingness to push the design edge.

In sad contrast is the most recent collection of buildings in the Southpark area where the attempt has been to return to a past architecture. Invariably, the result has been a misunderstanding of historic architectural styles. These buildings do not reflect an understanding of the scale, detailing or visual order of the historic styles. We are left with empty, old looking forms which in fact have none of the spirit of the architecture they attempt to emulate.

A recent addition to the architectural landscape of Charlotte is WCNC-TV, a state-of-

the-art broadcast center and corporate headquarters designed by Jenkins-Peer Architects

While certainly well-endowed budgets help to produce excellent architecture, fine buildings can be achieved with tight budgets. For example, two of UNC Charlotte's best structures are the Physical Plant and our College of Architecture building. Each respects its particular site, enhances the campus and greatly adds to the University's visual quality, wonderfully serving the users. The COA building illustrates the exploration of that wonderful architectural



The Interstate Tower enhances Charlotte's "civic design"

material – light. Each was done within the constraints of a tight state budget.

I urge we be less timid. I suggest we must increase our engagement in serious design inquiry. We must stop looking to the past for answers. We should respect and understand it but not attempt to copy it. World class does not mean being timid or looking back. It means truly knowing oneself and inventively making the most or our resources. To be unique requires designing to take advantage of the special site conditions and client desires, such as in the NationsBank Tower.

To revitalize our design inquiry, I propose that the AIA and the College of Architecture establish a design alliance which stimulates rigorous design inquiry dialogue between architects primarily engaged in education and practice. It may be desirable to also include organizations like the Chamber of Commerce so that the inquiry involves the public.

I see that, if I want to become world class, then I must act world class. I must be myself while always working at becoming better. I must look at everything as an opportunity to explore new ideas.



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Summer Design Conference - Complete Schedule Of Activities

Adult Schedule

Thursday, August 13

7:00-9:30 p.m. Cocktail party/barbecue dinner at UNCC School of Architecture hosted by AIA Charlotte. Student exhibits. Program by Mr. Dennis R. Wellner-HOK Sports Group.

Friday, August 14

- 8:00-11:30 a.m. Board of Directors meeting/breakfast. Exhibitor registration and set-up. Member registration, check-in (continucus through lunch).
- **11:30-1:30 p.m.** Lunch, annual membership meeting, election of 1992 officers, Richardson Sports/HOK Sports Group presentation. Spouses lunch & fashion show at city club.
- 11:30-6:00 p.m. Exhibits area open.
- 1:30-3:30 p.m. Dedicated exhibit time and door prize drawing.
- 1:30-4:45 p.m. Spouses gallery crawl and reception at Ionathan's.
- 3:15-3:45 p.m. Coffee/ice cream break (Exhibit Hall).
- 3:45-5:00 p.m. Seminar I: M. Jennifer Briley speaking on the work of Arquitectonica, Coral Gables, Florida.
- 5:00-5:45 p.m. Committee on Women and Minorities in Architecture: Meeting.
- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Committee on Women and Minorities: Reception for SusanMaxman.

5:00-7:00 p.m. Free time.

- 7:00-10:30 p.m. Kids dinner/movies (Omni Hotel). 7:00-8:15 p.m. Cocktail part (top of First Union
- Tower). 8:30-10:30 p.m. Awards dinner banquet (Omni Hotel).

Saturday, August 15

7:30-9:00 a.m. Past presidents' breakfast. 7:30-8:30 a.m. Breakfast (Exhibit Hall) and door prize

drawing.

9:00-12:00 p.m. Tower tours. **11:00-12:30 p.m.** Exhibit breakdown.

- 12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch (Exhibit Hall); Speaker: Harvey Gantt, FAIA.
- **12:30-6:00 p.m.** Golf tournament: four to five differ ent clubs, four to five foursomes at each club, 64 total golfers.
- 2:00-5:00 p.m. Tennis tournament.
- 2:00-5:00 p.m. Spouses: shopping /antiquing/ museums.

2:00-5:00 p.m. Kids Design Camp III (Exhibit Hall).

2:15-3:15 p.m. Seminar II: Fred Clarke, FAIA, of Cesar Pelli Associates speaking on Center for the Performing Arts and NationsBank Tower.

3:15-4:00 p.m. Coffee/ice cream break (Exhibit Hall). 4:00-5:00 p.m. Seminar III: Deans' Panel with

Professionals. 5:00-5:30 p.m. Young Architects Forum Committee Meeting.

5:00-6:30 p.m. Free time.

- 6:00-7:00 p.m. Kids dinner at Discovery Place.
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. Kids activities at Discovery Place.
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. Cocktail party at Discovery Place.
- 7:30-9:00 p.m. Dinner at Discovery Place; Susan Maxman, National AIA President-Elect.

9:00-10:00 p.m. Member, kids and guests movie (OmniMax Theatre) "To the Limit".

10:00-10:30 p.m. Dessert at Discovery Place. 10:30 p.m. Return to Omni Hotel.

Sunday, August 16

Morning Breakfast (on your own). 11:00 a.m. Omni Hotel checkout.

Kids Schedule

Friday, August 14

- **11:30-1:30 p.m.** Children's lunch and puppet show by Gray Seals Puppets.
- 1:30-5:00 p.m. "Design Camp" for children age eight and over. Supervised activities, including Lego competition for children under age eight (Omni Hotel).
- **7:00-10:30 p.m.** Dinner and movies at Omni Hotel (a variety of movies will be shown based on age groups).

Saturday, August 15

9:00-12:30 p.m. "Design Camp" for children age eight and over. Supervised activities, including puppet show, for children under age eight. 12:30-1:30 p.m. Lunch at Omni Hotel.

- 1:30-5:00 p.m. "Design Camp" continues. Supervised activites, including a visit to Discovery Place for children under age eight.
- **5:00-5:30 p.m.** Reception for "Design Camp" partici pants and their parents (Omni Hotel).
- 5:30-6:30 p.m. Free time with parents.
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. Dinner at Discovery Place.
- 7:30-9:00 p.m. Children's activities at Discovery Place (children age 10 and older may sign up for Challenger Space Mission. Children age eight and older will have full use of the museum. Kid's Place - a special play area in the museum - will be available for children under age eight).

9:00-10:00 p.m. Movie "To the Limit" at Discovery Place's OmniMax theatre with parents.

10:00-10:30 p.m. Dessert with parents at Discovery Place.



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