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Journal for Architecture and Planning October, 1980 Volume 1, Number 2



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Journal for Architecture and Planning

From The Editor

Dimensions is a joint venture, not only of the College of Architecture and the Nebraska Society of Architects, but also of you. It is your input that makes *Dimensions*. We appreciate those who have supported it with contributions and suggestions. In addition to the credits listed elsewhere, the following people provided material or otherwise aided in the production of this issue. Their assistance has been greatly appreciated. In alphabetical order, these people are:

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Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



Michael D. Marsh, Editor



Cover Photograph: York County Courthouse
D. Murphy Photograph

Oftentimes, in the pursuit of a richer environment, compromises are made. Frequently, the issues surrounding any proposed change, provide what appear to be avenues of equal merit. These multiple avenues inspire equally enthusiastic supporters on all sides. In the ensuing manipulations, victories are won, defeats are dealt, experience is gained. The experience gained through defeat always makes the most profound and lasting impression. Often, it is also the most painful.

The following excerpt was originally published in the *Illustrated History of York County, 1903* (Crawford, H.M. and C.H. Page, publishers; *History of York County, Nebraska; York, Ne.; 1903.*)

YORK COUNTY COURT HOUSE

York County Court House situated in the public square in the center of the city, is, with one exception, the finest structure of the kind in the state of Nebraska. The cost of erecting this building in round numbers was \$60,000, one-half of which was raised from the sale of county lots and the balance provided for in the tax levies of 1886 and '87, so that not a dollars worth of bonded indebtedness was incurred by the operation. The building as completed is a structure that any city or county in the United States

might well feel proud of. The building faces on all sides of the square and has a ground area of 70 x 100; the tower that surmounts the main entrance is finished with a statue of Justice. The county court room and offices, jail, jurors room, county superintendent's office, clerk's, recorder's and sheriff's offices are provided for, and the building which is of pressed brick with stone cappings is beautifully furnished and trimmed inside with red oak. The construction began in 1886.

Twice, in the years preceding 1977, voters of York County defeated bond issues aimed at building a new courthouse on the site of the old one. On December 6, 1975, the York County Courthouse was enrolled in the National Register of Historic Places. On April 12, 1977, the York County Commissioners voted (in spite of the apparent wish of a majority of York County voters not to build) to destroy the old courthouse and build a new one on the site. Destruction of the building began on May 30, 1978. A week later, the structure was completely razed.

Indeed, the old structure was in questionable shape. Certainly the new courthouse will serve its purpose. But to those of us interested in preserving our cultural, social and architectural heritage, a lovely old friend has been lost. Rest in Peace.

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DIALOGUE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

As editor of the "OGEE" (Omaha AIA), I am excited about *Dimensions*. I was very eagerly awaiting your first issue, and when I got it, was pleased with the text, but very disappointed with the graphics. An architectural publication is a natural for some good graphic as well as verbal communication. I'm sure *Dimensions* will improve as it progresses.

Paul Jeffrey,
"OGEE" Editor
Omaha

Dimensions reflects a true bridge between the academic and professional sectors and is long overdue. A continuing success is genuinely wished.

Neil E. Minter
Kansas City

See if you can get the best articles published for the general public. Maybe the Omaha World Herald would publish "Cities" by G. Haecker, for instance. I thought it was well done.

Larry Schweitzer,
Lincoln

It was a pleasure indeed to have received a copy of *Dimensions*, the new Journal for Architecture and Planning. The publication is impressive for a number of reasons, not the least of which is the nature of its sponsorship, and its focus on improved dialogue among and between all who are interested in improved living in the Midwest.

We have no criticisms, and but one suggestion — let the press roll on this new and exciting publication! You, your staff and fellow Journal sponsors are to be highly commended for making *Dimensions* a reality. We are confident that such efforts will contribute substantially to improved quality of life for each of us.

Best wishes.

Ronald W. Roskens
President, University of Nebraska

Your introductory letter and so many things from UNL seem to stress programs, activities and favoritism for Nebraska-based architects. It makes the rest of us, who may be the majority, a little left out. Please recognize that successful alumni live outside the state of Nebraska, yet still feel close.

John Quest,
Grand Junction, Colorado

Congratulations on a fine publication.
F.W. Deakin,
Portland, Oregon

"We are trying and must continue in order to be worthy of the title 'Architect'. Let's not succumb to those who use it in haste or self-laudation."

Although I risk sounding petty or trite with my criticisms, I firmly believe the integrity of each and every person — managing editor, editor and authors — is inextricably linked with the quality of articles, format, graphics, coverage and concerns of your publication.

The forum of the printed word can be very powerful — especially if the logic of layout is clear, strong and uncompromised.

Your first edition came close; but it failed enough in my eyes to at least border on being offensive. Shame on you.

Don't become cute. Don't succumb to New Yorker infills or irrelevant and unre-

lated treillage. Rather, be unrelenting in your quest for content and appropriate presentation no eyewash — the College suffers enough from that.

Continue to solicit voices other than the ones you hear each day. Whether you agree or even possess the ability to understand them all — don't ever limit our growth and stimulation by policy or just plain myopia.

The forum has inherent limitations, but don't become the second Federalism. Flexibility and exceptions must supplement all rules. Not that anarchy become supreme, but rather, that sterility not gain in complacency. We are trying and must continue in order to be worthy of the title "Architect". Let's not succumb to those who use it in haste or self-laudation.

In your strivings, I offer whatever assistance that I may be. My best wishes and hopes for a significant contribution to the College, profession and community.

Jay F. Perantoni,
Somerville, N.J.

First issue looked pretty good . . . keep it up. And, keep it responsive to the needs and interests of Nebraska architects.

Donald E. Blue,
Omaha

Dimensions reserves the right to reject any letter to the editor in violation of the basic norms of taste or appropriateness. All other submissions will be considered for publication. All letters become the property of the magazine. No unsigned letters will be considered. If an author wishes to have his name withheld, that request should be made with the letter.

Send correspondence to:
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University of Nebraska
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Lincoln, NE 68588

A Word From the President

To date, 1980 has been an intense year for the Society and promises to continue so throughout the remaining weeks. In the first edition of *Dimensions*, I spoke of a number of issues that are affecting the AIA and its purposes, namely:

1. Registration and Licensing
2. Membership and Dues
3. Government Affairs
4. Design
5. Energy
6. Public Relations

Regarding the registration and licensing, Art Johnson and his task force have been at work to prepare for the Sunset Review of Nebraska's Registration Law in 1982, a task force project which is vital to every architect practicing in Nebraska. Art and his task force are diligently collecting the needed background data to compare our law with others in the nation and is preparing to get into the specifics regarding proposed changes in our present law. He will be soliciting input from the membership in the very near future, so be prepared to make your concerns known when he requests them.

We are holding the line in response to the proposed 1980 budget, even though it was severely reduced during our budget meetings earlier this year. I feel confident that we will be able to function this year within the proposed budget, but, as stated in the last issue, I believe that an increase in revenue is necessary to maintain the desired services to the membership.

Bill Fenton and his Government Affairs Task Force provided the vigilance and action that was required during the 1980 Legislative Session. A number of issues were reviewed and addressed by the task force from energy-related legislation to a state building code. On behalf of NSA, I want to take this opportunity to thank Bill and his task force for another job well done.

Regarding design, I am certain that all of the NSA members are aware of the

1980 Honor Awards Program which will be held this year in Omaha on November 7. Warren Keller and his committee have been working very hard to again provide a top quality program. I have been informed of many of the proposed functions and it promises to be an outstanding event for NSA members and their guests. Hope to see all of you in Omaha.

In addition to the input from NSA on proposed energy legislation, Steve Eveys and Rick Kuhl have created a slide series and narrative on passive solar design that can be borrowed from the Society. This slide series has been and can be used to help inform the public of the work that NSA members have done and are doing in the area of passive solar design. It provides an excellent program for civic organizations and further increases the public's awareness of the architect's role in energy conserving activities related to the built environment. I appreciate the response from the firms who contributed slides for the series and especially want to thank Steve and Rick for their efforts.

The College of Architecture and NSA, through the three chapters, provided assistance to the Grand Island community in the aftermath of the tragic tornado which devastated the community earlier this year. The assistance was provided by individual faculty and NSA members on a volunteer basis. Jim Cannon, who resides and practices in Grand Island, has contributed many hours of his time toward the organization and professional assistance required for the reconstruction efforts. This contribution casts a favorable light on the profession and particularly on Jim. He has set an excellent example for the profession and deserves our commendations.

If any of you have suggestions that would improve the Society and its services to the membership, please let me know.

Lynn L. Jones, AIA
President
Nebraska Society of Architects

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ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

The Nebraska Solar Office

Robert Youngberg
NSO Director

The Nebraska Solar Office was established May 1, 1978, as a joint effort of the Nebraska Energy Office and the University of Nebraska Energy Research and Development Center. The Nebraska Solar Office Plan (April, 1978) charged the office to be "responsible for the encouragement, guidance, promotion and coordination of all solar energy programs in Nebraska."

The NSO was initially funded by a grant from the Mid-American Solar

\$650,000 in additional contracts from various local, state, regional and national agencies for solar commercialization, research and development. The NSO functions cover two broad categories: market development programs and research and development.

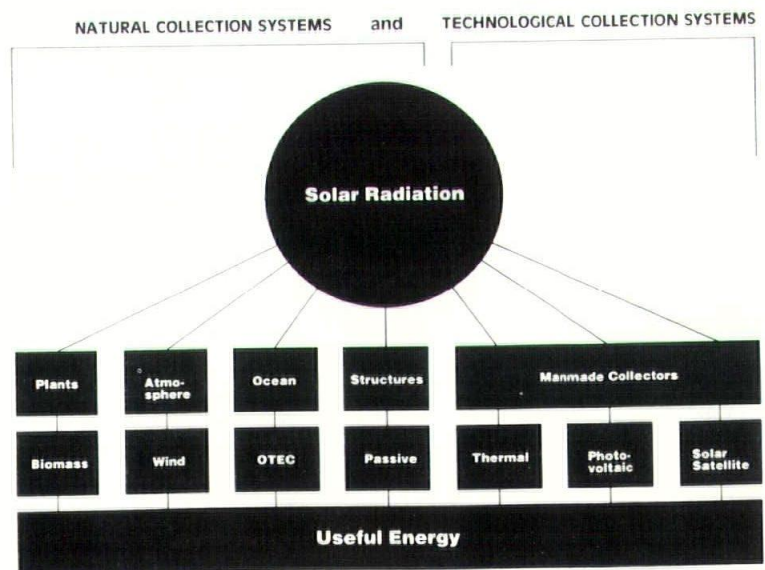
The objective of the NSO's market development program is to accelerate the acceptance and utilization of solar energy in order to reduce the state's dependence on non-renewable energy imports. To meet this objective, the office has four areas of activity:

- Information Collection and Dissemination
- Education and Training
- Commercialization and Consumer Confidence
- Intergovernmental Liason

The NSO organizes, presents and sponsors solar-related workshops in passive solar residential design, solar design for professionals, water heating and solar access, in addition to general information workshops.

"The objective of the NSO's market development program is to accelerate the acceptance and utilization of solar energy . . ."

Energy Complex (MASEC) which serves 12 North Central States for solar commercialization purposes. The Office has been successful in obtaining over



Funding for some of the workshops is provided by separate contracts with MASEC, Southeast Community College, the State Department of Education, Division of Vocational Education and Professional Development, and the National Solar Heating and Cooling Information Center.

The NSO staff has made presentations to over 40 organizations and civic groups and encourages citizen input into state, regional, and national solar policy by organizing and co-sponsoring meetings of the Nebraska Solar Resource Advisory Panel. The Solar Office also organized a one-day meeting on the National Plan for the Acceleration of Commercialization of Solar Energy (NPAC) for Nebraska.

The Office publishes a comprehensive directory of solar financial information, consumer tips, solar products and services available to Nebraskans. It is currently gathering data and system descriptions of selected solar installations across the state and maintains the *Nebraska Solar Yellow Pages*, a directory of solar energy industry-related manufacturers, distributors, professionals, educational courses, legislation, financial institutions and speaker's bureau. A copy is available free of charge to the general public.

"Technical assistance is provided to Nebraskans by the solar office . . ."

Public awareness of solar energy potential is increased through regular contributions of solar-related articles to the *Nebraska Energy News* and by panel appearances on the Nebraska Educational Television's "Easy on Energy" program. The Office also originates a weekly question and answer column in the Omaha World Herald.

Technical assistance is provided to Nebraskans by the Solar Office's 1000+ volume library, five different computer solar heating and cooling analysis methods and direct access to the National Solar Energy Information Data Bank.

Research and Development

Soon after being established, the NSO assumed administrative responsibility for a U. S. Department of Energy — Argonne National Laboratory Solar Storage Research Project. The first 18-month phase of this research proved to be very promis-

ing and has been extended for two more years. Additionally, the Office is conducting final negotiations for contracts to analyze and assess solar radiation penetrating various types of tree canopies and demonstration and monitoring of ground-coupled heat pumps.

Areas of Excellence

The Nebraska Solar Office has con-

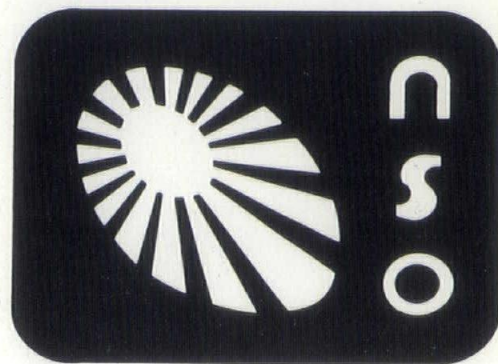
"MASEC has been recognized as the lead solar regional center for passive solar market development."

centrated on developing several areas of expertise. The first is medium temperature thermal storage units for solar systems. The results are promising and have resulted in low-cost, efficient and effective prototypes for site-built solar storage. Several units will be installed and monitored in the next year and three national workshops will be conducted next year.

Another area of expertise is the area of passive solar design for residential construction. MASEC has been recognized as the lead solar regional center for passive solar market development. The NSO has the contract to provide training workshops and to develop workbooks and audio/visual material for the region. In October, the Office will hold a three-day seminar for teams selected on a regional and national basis for training in passive planning.

The Nebraska Solar Office has also been active locally and nationally in the area of solar access. Assistance was provided to the City of Lincoln in writing the ordinance and guidelines for a solar access incentive for developers — the only one in the nation. Assistance is now being provided for a "solar rights" ordinance. This activity resulted in the first solar access workshop in the nation for land use professionals in addition to presentations at national conferences and seminars.

Persons interested in obtaining information regarding possible solar applications to their area of expertise are encouraged to contact Robert Youngberg at the NSO office in Nebraska Hall on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus.



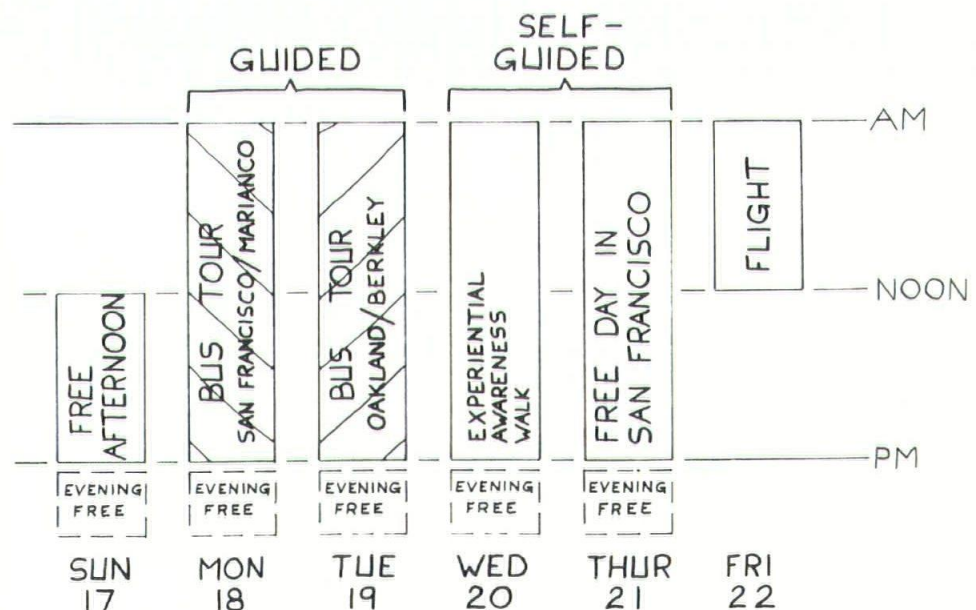
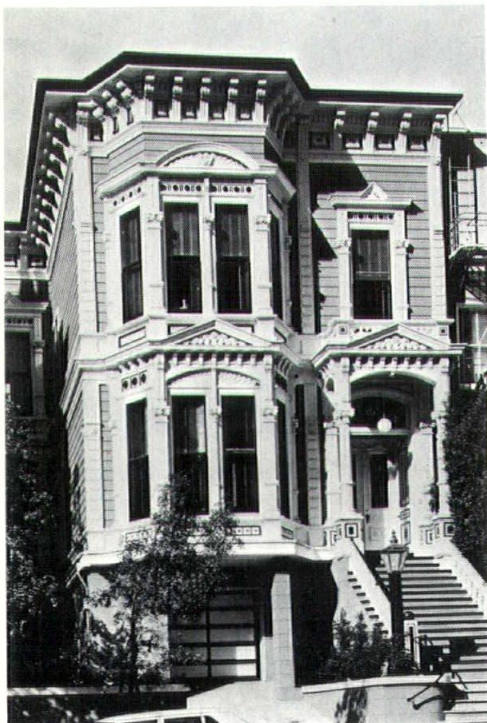
SENIOR INSPECTION: San Francisco

The annual Senior Inspection Trip for fourth year students is aimed at providing students with the opportunity to experience major architectural statements first hand. Traditionally, this experience has been limited to Chicago and Columbus, Indiana. However, last year's trip broke this tradition and provided students with a three day exposure to New York City and a brief side trip to Chicago during the return.

In keeping with this new desire to provide the students with opportunities to experience major architectural achievements first hand, as well as cultural/social environments at a personal level, the 1980 Senior Inspection Trip was scheduled for San Francisco. The trip this year was extended to four full days at the study site and was broken down into the following itinerary:

The first two days of the trip consisted of a formal guided tour of San Francisco's outlying areas and the Oakland/Berkeley/Marin County areas. These excursions concentrated on architectural examples by such well-known architects as Frank Lloyd Wright, Bernard Maybeck, Julia Morgan and Roche/Dinkeloo.

Of major significance in the development of a thorough and sensitive understanding of the city of San Francisco, its architecture, culture and social concerns was the small group experiential walking tour scheduled for the third day. This day-long walking tour was concentrated in the retail and financial districts of downtown San Francisco. The students, with the aid of score booklets, were asked to document their experiences and impressions along the score route and at key architectural and urban sites. This "on



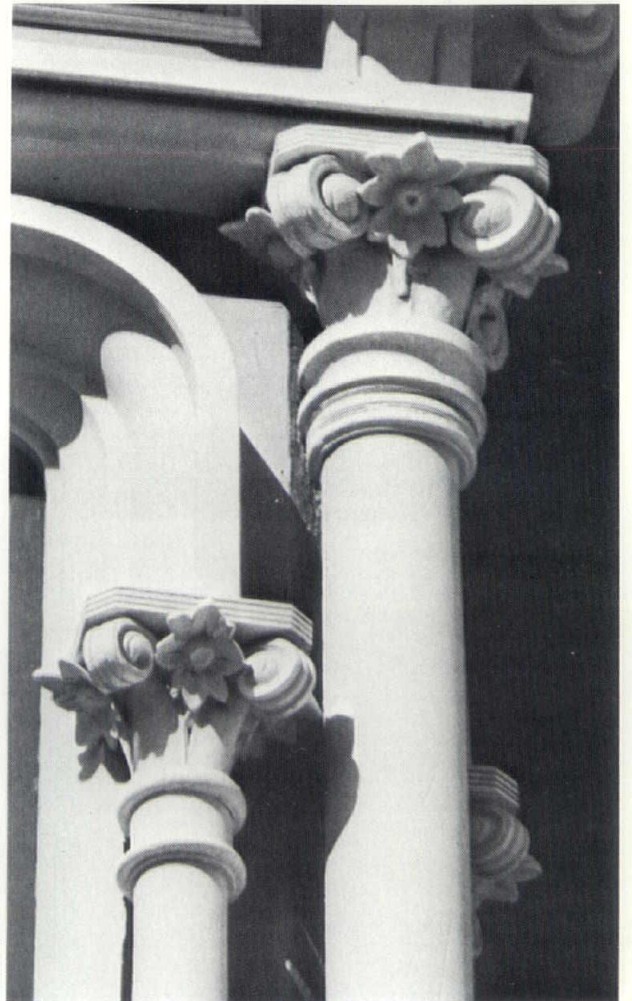
Drawing by Mark Fanders

the street" personal exposure to the city proved invaluable in enhancing the students' appreciation of both the diverse architectural heritage found throughout the city and the cultural/ethnic vitality of the people of San Francisco.

The fourth day was a "free day" and allowed individual students to select particular itineraries. Optional visits to the offices of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill,

MLTW/Turnbull Associates and Leo A. Daly Co. were arranged for those students interested. In addition, optional tours were arranged to visit some of the more significant Victorian and Edwardian row house examples in the area. The students who preferred to strike out on their own were provided that opportunity and encouraged to see those points of particular personal interest.

The forty-four students and two faculty coordinators that took part in this year's trip gained invaluable insights into not only the city of San Francisco and its people, but also into one another. The comradery which develops during these inspection trips proves to be part of the most rewarding and beneficial aspects of the annual excursions.

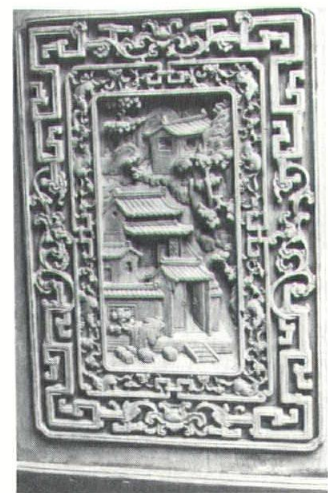


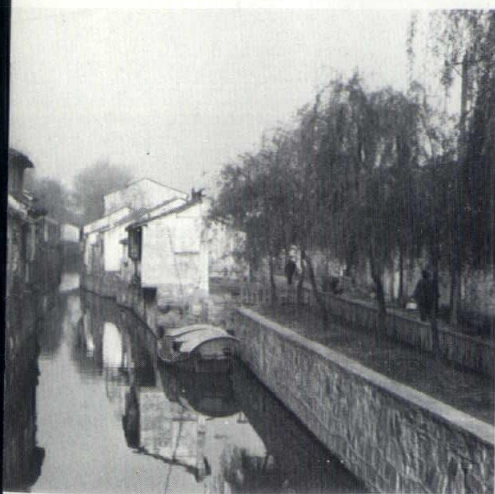
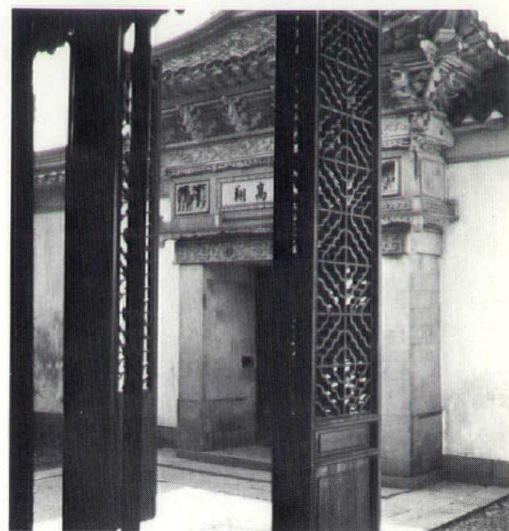
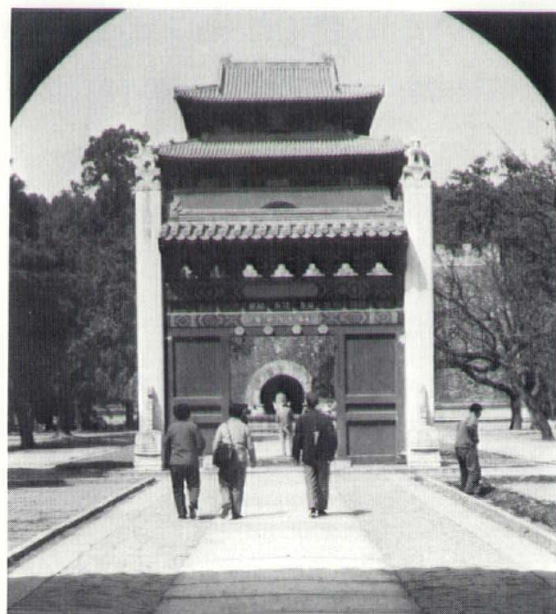
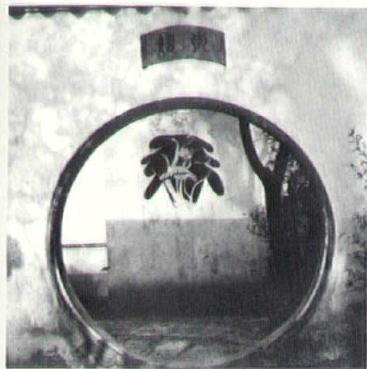


SHADOWS AND REFLECTIONS: China's Contrasts

Cecil Steward

China is a place of gates, doorways, courtyards, sequential openings.
China is an environment and people of contrast:
Bicycles and articulated buses,
Auto horns and bicycle bells,
Bright and colorful children; uniform dark clothing on adults,
Folk cures and the medicine of science,
Meager resources and goods for people; plenty for government,
Color, excitement and style in art and architecture of the past; drab, plain modern projects with little quality control,
Infinite patience and dedication to piece work; poor maintenance of the built environment,
Individual fetish for punctuality; little concern for efficiency,
Historical dedication to the common cause; indifference to the multiple facets of quality existence,
Dramatic uniformity of the society's character; stunning individuality of community.
China is a land of contrasts.





In April, 1979, Cecil Steward joined eight other deans of schools of architecture in the United States to visit the schools of architecture in the Peoples' Republic of China. The group was sponsored by the American Institute of Architects and hosted by the Architectural Society of China. During the twenty-two day itinerary, the U.S. educators visited schools and professional groups in six cities giving lectures and exchange seminars. A reciprocal party of Chinese educators is scheduled to visit the U.S. in the fall, 1980, to complete the exchange.

PRESERVATION WORKS

FROM FRANCE TO THE AMERICAN MIDWEST: The Legacy of John Latenser, Sr.

Daniel Kidd, Architectural Historian,
State Historic Preservation Office,
Nebraska State Historical Society

Less than 2,000 feet apart in downtown Omaha are two fine products of the French Renaissance Revival: the 1900-12 Central High School, and the 1909-12 Douglas County Courthouse. Displaying high qualities of the stonemason's art and existing as a noncontiguous pairing, the buildings are triumphant works in the career of architect John Latenser, Sr. Historically, they are eloquent and significant vestiges of the "City Beautiful" idea.

Central High School's raised basement and first level are smoothly rusticated, while the upper stories are smooth-faced ashlar with a mild profusion of classical detailing in stone. The structural skeleton's members are steel with iron-plate filler; the exterior walls and trim are Bedford oolitic limestone.

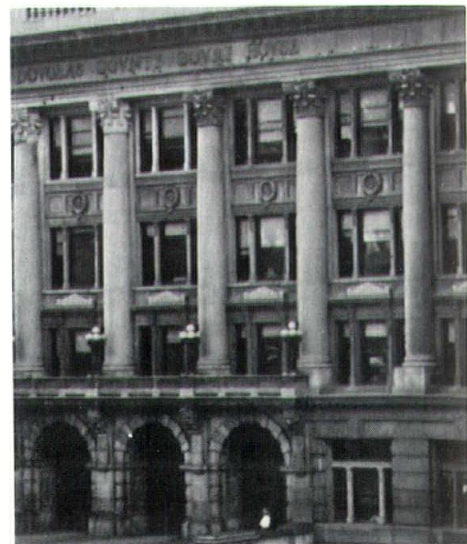
The school building's east (main) facade, virtually duplicated on the west, has a five-part arrangement of central pavilion, flanking wings, and end pavilions. On the central pavilion, a hexastyle Corinthian portico of slight projection rests on a section of protruding rusticated stone masonry. Filling the tympanum within the dentilled and modillioned pediment are allegorical figures sculpted in relief.

The end pavilions have a three-part arrangement: a centered pavilion incorporating a tetrastyle Corinthian portico *in antis* flanked on either side by five bays separated by pilasters. There is a continuous cornice with dentils and modillions, and above is an uninterrupted parapet enlivened with recessed panels and anthemion-shaped antefixes. The four salient pavilions have tile-covered hipped roofs.

Built in four phases, construction of Latenser's Central High School encircled its eclectic Victorian predecessor's tower,

which was dismantled and removed in 1912. The architect intended that a smoothly-rusticated tower of monumental proportions rise from the new school's center; but assumedly due to its tremendous extra cost, the tower was never built and the central space has continuously served as an open courtyard.

The symmetrical U-shaped Douglas County Courthouse exists as five stories above an elevated basement. The structural frame is steel; the building's walls are Bedford limestone over a granite base. Stretching the height of the second, third, and fourth stories of the north (main) facade's recessed wall, engaged Corinthian columns rise from the smoothly-rusticated first floor to a dentilled and modillioned entablature. Acroteria-crowned pediments cap the end pavilions and abut the fifth floor — originally a jail



Douglas County Courthouse
Nebraska State Historical Society

and visually disengaged from the floors below through the absence of ornamentation. Corinthian pilasters separate fenestral openings on the end and rear walls where the smoothly-finished basement becomes fully exposed. The courthouse's roof is flat, except for a parasol roof covering a center skylight.

In typical French Renaissance Revival fashion, the entire first floor of a building should be rusticated and should make exclusive use of round-arched openings.

Office in Chicago. As a result, President Cleveland appointed him superintendent of the Federal Building in Omaha, and a prolific phase (most commissions being for public school buildings in eastern Nebraska and western Iowa) was launched.

Schools were among the most notable exceptions of public buildings that escaped the "City Beautiful" idea. The movement, which flowered at the World's Columbian Exhibition of 1893 in

Paris. In light of the unequalled attention the Chicago event received, Latenser was obviously quite familiar with the World's Columbian Exhibition. His knowledge of French Renaissance forms can also be attributed to his European background. Regardless, Latenser, like other architects in America utilizing this particular revival, handled it confidently and with freedom: liberties were taken in proposing a large tower for the high school and in the first-floor fenestration of the courthouse.

The year 1912 was unique in Omaha city architecture, for it witnessed the completion of two substantial public edifices designed in the same style by the same hand. These noble buildings, resplendent in classical detailing and representative of the aspirations of early-20th-century Omaha, have undisputedly earned landmark status and the worth of being preserved for future generations.

Central High School and the Douglas County Courthouse were listed in the National Register of Historic Places on August 6, 1979, through action of the State Historic Preservation Office, Nebraska State Historical Society. The writer wishes to acknowledge the use of files at the State Historical Society in the preparation of this article.

Chicago, was essentially a re-use of classical renaissance forms in an ordered civic architecture. Preceding the Central High commission, Latenser depended heavily on the Romanesque Revival and the Tudor Gothic for academic buildings. However, a cardinal location — the ten-acre site of the Nebraska Territorial Cap-



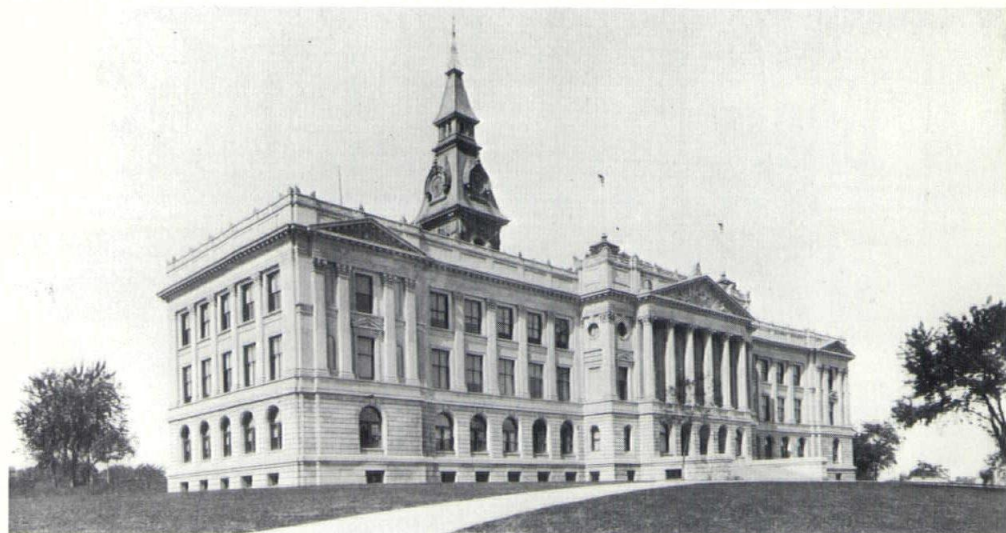
Douglas County Courthouse
Nebraska State Historical Society

The tenet regarding rustication was observed by Latenser in the Douglas Courthouse, but he was unhesitant in restricting an arched fenestral treatment to an elaborate three-bay frontispiece serving the main entrance. All other first-floor openings are rectangular.

John Latenser, Sr. (1858-1936), a third-generation architect and a native of Liechtenstein, received professional training at the Royal Polytechnic School in Stuttgart, Germany. His schedule in Stuttgart involved studying architecture in the winter months and working as a stonemason during the summers. Hence, he acquired preparation in building engineering and design while gaining a practical knowledge of stone as a building medium.

In America, Latenser worked in several cities before settling in Omaha in 1885, where his initial practice consisted primarily of producing cottage designs. A turning point in the architect's career came in the early 1980's when he devised a successful method for correcting the faulty foundation of the Federal Post

Central High School, Nebraska State Historical Society



Central High School
Nebraska State Historical Society



THE OMAHA PRESERVATION ORDINANCE: A Viable Historic Preservation Mechanism?

Robert Peters and Susan Ruby
Omaha Planning Department

In our rush to adopt preservation legislation and establish local governmental regulatory procedures, the real goals of the preservation movement can, and probably often do become subservient to both the implementation structure and the existing political environment. Even more disconcerting, a combination of politics, chance and misguided perceptions seem to play as large a role in preservation goal attainment (or lack of attainment) as a carefully drafted ordinance.

Implementation of Omaha's "Landmarks Heritage Preservation Ordinance", adopted in December, 1977, provides a case in point. Superficially, the climate under which the ordinance was enacted appeared positive. The City of Omaha had been an active participant in downtown restoration/revitalization programs since the early seventies, and had initiated a number of successful projects involving the acquisition of vacant historic properties and their renovation for public or private uses. (Recent examples of this approach include the proposed sale of the historically significant Burlington Railroad Headquarters to Madison, Wisconsin, developers proposing a \$2 million renovation into office and commercial uses, and recycling of the former Downtown Library to office uses compatible with the surrounding governmental/office core.) The City Planning Department strongly supported such activities, and together with the City Legal Department, had long

promoted the passage of progressive local preservation legislation involving creation of a landmarks commission. Supplementing City efforts, Landmarks, Inc., the area's major private sector preservation organization, served as an effective political voice for a more aggressive preservation approach in Omaha. Through the efforts of these various parties, the public awareness of preservation-related issues and problems increased substantially during the mid-seventies.

A 1977 change in the City Council composition improved support for preservation programs, culminating in passage of the Landmarks Ordinance. However, with the exception of the document itself, no other direction was established by the Council, and no funding was forthcoming for this major new commitment. In fact, there were many who questioned the very constitutionality of such an approach. Significantly, the Mayor was of this opinion, allowing the ordinance to become law without his signature.

Others saw in the ordinance, opportunities to promote ongoing downtown programs or to insure the preservation of particular structures of architectural and/or economic interest, while failing to recognize the need for developing a comprehensive city-wide strategy capable of addressing more difficult problems and facilitating conservation in seriously threatened neighborhoods. This sentiment was, to a large degree, shared by

members of the public sector and private interest groups alike. Finally, it must be emphasized that any assertive government involvement in historic preservation is a relatively progressive activity in the conservative Midwest. Prior to passage of the Omaha ordinance, government influence in Nebraska preservation measures had been limited to the downtown Omaha efforts noted, and to the State Historical Society inventory and restoration program. Neither of these involved comprehensive policy formulation or requirements in any way capable of altering private sector whims.

It was within this framework that City Planning Department personnel were assigned as staff to the newly created Landmarks Commission. Recognizing that the Ordinance contained significant regulatory provisions necessitating the formulation of a comprehensive preservation program (including an historic framework, designation criteria, designation priorities, further implementation measures, and a systematic survey and inventory method), several planning department staff members initiated the organization of such a program. At the same time, the commission and designation procedural system was to be detailed.

As it became apparent that the tasks were too large for the existing professional staff assigned, an internal disagreement surfaced within the department itself. Some felt that the organization could be established in lieu of developing a comprehensive program. Others argued that such an approach was tantamount to creating another government channel for rubber-stamping the obvious. If the commission was to evolve into an assertive and positive body, it would have to be backed by well-thought-out and explicit goals, objectives, and reasons for being.

Given the lack of program funding, staff sought direction and aid from the National Trust, the Nebraska Historical Society, various area universities and interested private sector groups and individuals. Initially, interns from local universities supplied necessary manpower to research neighborhood histories and landmark designations in return for course credit. The State Historical Society agreed to support the comprehensive program proposal, awarding the City \$35,000 in Grants-in-Aid appropriations for the 1979 and 1980 fiscal years. In addition, the National Trust (both Washington and Southwest Plains offices) supported the newly created Omaha pro-

Lincoln's New Preservation Ordinance

Lincoln's City Council recently passed an historic preservation amendment to the city's zoning ordinance. It calls for the creation of a seven-member Historic Preservation Commission in order to carry out the intent of the ordinance. The first duty of the Commission is to recommend the City Council designate historical landmarks, sites or districts.

Once an historical designation is made, the ordinance allows the Commission to regulate maintenance, construction and alteration of that site, landmark or district through the issuance or denial of building permits.

Other duties of the preservation Commission are to research and survey historic sites, landmarks and districts, prepare National Historic Registry nominations, issue guidelines for preservation historic properties, and disseminate preservation information to the general public.

gram, supplying information and general guidance, as well as providing a summer intern to supplement the Grants-in-Aid funded research and inventory effort.

Volunteers have since been recruited from the University of Nebraska at Omaha to further aid in survey/designation activities; two professionals have been hired to define the scope of "historic" as it pertains to Omaha; and to prepare local landmark and district designations; a consultant has been employed to establish a computer system designed to permit storage and retrieval of "Historical Omaha Building Survey" data; and Landmarks, Inc. has been supplied with funding to begin an inventory of priority area structures under direction of the Commission staff. Neighborhood support has increased due to a series of staff presentations and workshops, and currently two potential historic districts are being actively planned. Finally, by soliciting support from Council members originally active in passage of the ordinance, there now exists at least some recognition of the requirements and responsibilities inherent in developing a meaningful local preservation program. The staff prepared a budget of actual and projected preservation program costs for City Council review. What was originally billed as an activity requiring no additional funding is currently costing in excess of \$60,000 per year. Most of this has not yet been recognized as a line item in the budget, but rather is being absorbed within the existing Planning Department budget.

These diverse activities were undertaken by the Commission staff and other interested individuals during the initial years following the Commission's creation in order to encourage implementation of the *intent* of the landmarks ordinance. The underlying fear was (and

remains) that this intent would be lost in bureaucratic red tape and political compromise. Recent developments reveal that these concerns are not without foundation. For example, the designation of the Riveria (Astro) Theater — which is possibly one of the most obvious and generally recognized "landmark" structures in Omaha — has not yet been accomplished. This case exemplifies the problems associated with creating an ordinance, but not the appropriate mechanism for ordinance implementation. In this situation, economic viability is being used as a major criteria for the designation action. Such a position misreads the ordinance, as well as the function of a comprehensive designation program.

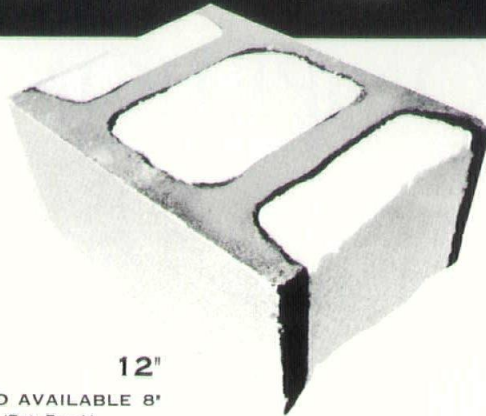
Far too often, preservationists work toward local ordinance adoption, with no real thought given to political, economic, social and value system realities of the local environment. The Omaha experience to date suggests that an ordinance, no matter how progressive, can only be considered a beginning. There is clearly an ever-present danger that this beginning will be subverted and that the real goal — preserving significant aspects of our heritage — will never be attained.



Astro Theatre, Omaha
Nebraska State Historical Society

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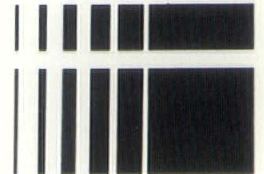
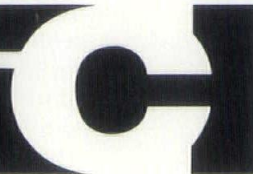
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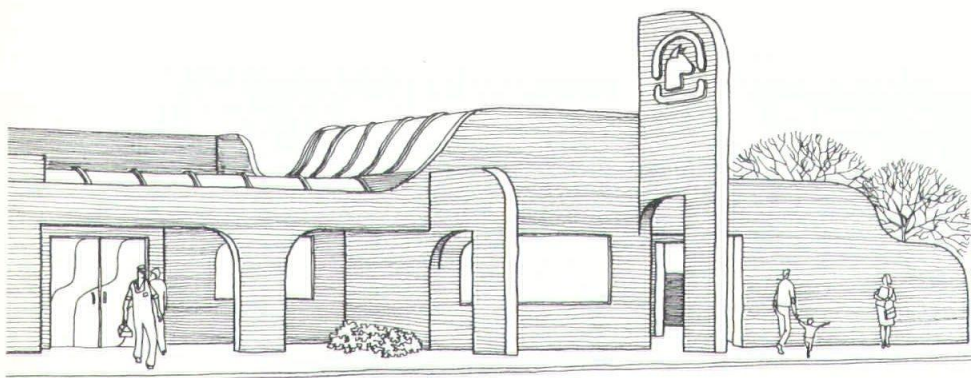
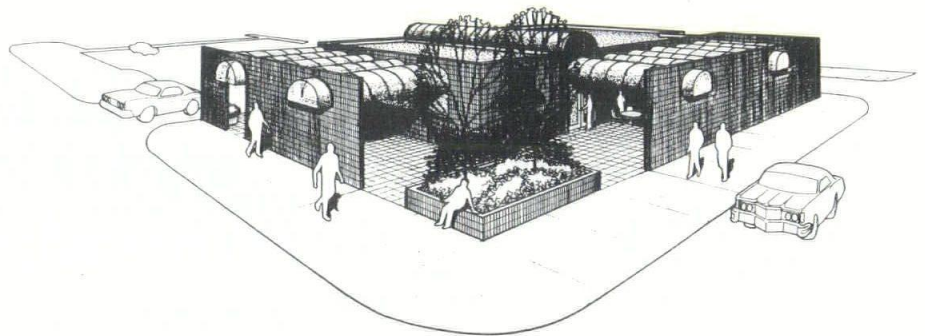
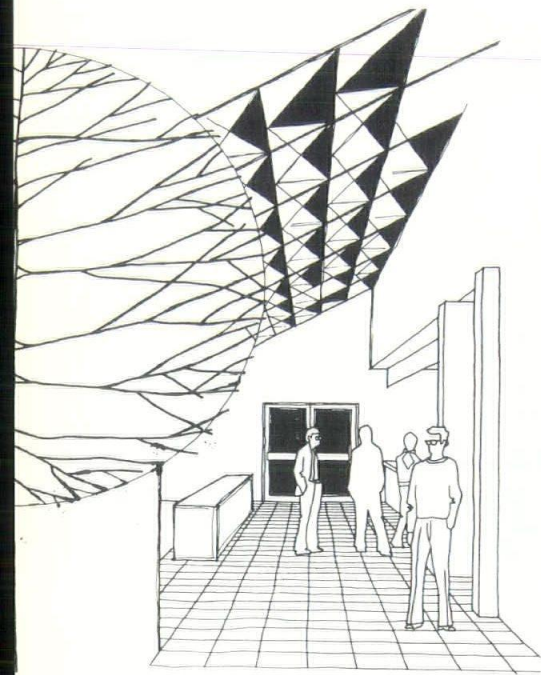
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NCMA COMPETITION: 1980



Early in the project, a sketch exercise was run with the purpose of designing a logo for the franchise. This provided the students with the impetus to begin thinking about the symbols and images of the fast food service industry.

Sponsors:

The Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association and R-Lynn, Inc., of Omaha, Nebraska, (parent company of the Arby's franchise operation in Nebraska.)

The program was written by:

John Benson
Jim Griffin
Bob Duncan

The studio design instructors were:

Dales Gibbs
Al Quick
Bob Duncan
Ted Ertl
Bob Findley

The members of the jury were:

Peter Wood, Chairman; associate professor of architecture, University of Nebraska

Virgil Womsat; Architect from Omaha, Nebraska, and member of the Nebraska Society of Architects

Lynn Gardner; President of the Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association

For the first four weeks of the 1980 Spring semester, the senior design studios in the Department of Architecture at the University of Nebraska — Lincoln were engaged in the annual Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association competition. More than 75 students in five studios took part in the exercise.

This year the competition dealt with an out-of-context, prototype model for a fast food franchise serving Nebraska beef sandwiches as the staple. The students had the opportunity to talk with various experts in the franchise food area as well as those involved with the concrete masonry industry.

tion and of the Kearney Concrete and Block Company.

Sam Marvin; President and Chairman of the Board of R-Lynn, Inc.

Tom Baumgartner; R-Lynn, Inc.

Problem statement to the students:

General:

The subject of this year's Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association Competition provides a unique opportunity to combine an academic experience with a very real design challenge in a competition setting.

The competition will focus on the prototypical design of a new fast service family restaurant franchise to be developed in the 1980's. The Nebraska based firm of R-Lynn, Incorporated, is interested in exploring the design issues related to such a venture and has joined the Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association in this year's effort.

Competition Objectives:

- To understand the aesthetic and structural qualities of concrete masonry products.
- To use concrete masonry products imaginatively and appropriately within the spatial, functional, and structural constraints of this design project.
- To explore prototypical designs for a new fast food franchise that will create a relevant and marketable image for the 1980's.

Academic Emphases:

- Functional and construction considerations as form determinants.
- Expression of the "Design Concept" as a significant design determinant.
- Development of a competent design presentation.

Competition Scenario:

A group of local businessmen are planning to start a new fast service family restaurant franchise. They have initiated a design competition for the purpose of selecting an architect to develop the image and restaurant prototype for this venture. This prototypical development will eventually include designing the logo, menu, furnishings, food containers, graphics, environmental image, and even the uniforms of the staff.

The franchise chain is to be Nebraska based and pilot locations will be developed in Nebraska. The restaurants will be sold as individual units to local investor/

Brief History of NCMA Competition

John Benson

The NCMA Competition has a long history, going back to August 28, 1962, when a trust agreement was signed by Charles Watkins, then president of the Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association and the Nebraska Foundation. The agreement provided for an annual scholarship fund of three hundred dollars to be awarded to three fourth year architecture students who were judged to have "created the best architectural design involving the use of concrete masonry units" during a design competition written and coordinated by the department of architecture. Prize money was to be distributed as follows.

First Place	—	\$150.00
Second Place	—	100.00
Third Place	—	50.00

Eighteen years later, the NCMA Competition is still an important part of the fourth year design curriculum, and over the years the Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association has contributed over \$6,000.00 in scholarships to the department's fourth year students.

The competition has focused on many different building types that included a nursery, savings and loan building, fire substation, gallery, the development of an exterior mall to the west of Architecture Hall, racquetball courts, a chess club, headquarters for the NCMA, and this year's prototypical design for a fast-service family restaurant.

Each year the subject of the competition changes, and over the years the prize money has increased. In 1980, NCMA awarded a total of \$750.00 to two winners. Larry Rugg won first prize of \$500.00, and Eric Wolfe, second prize of \$250.00 (this year's jury could not decide on a third place winner).

Over the years, close to 1,000 architecture students have entered the NCMA Competition, presented their design ideas on 30 x 40 illustration boards, collectively lost many hours of sleep, agreed or disagreed with the juries, learned about the esthetic and structural qualities of concrete masonry products, and enjoyed an award banquet as guests of the NCMA. Since 1962, many faculty members have been involved. Nearly everyone on the staff has had his shot at writing a program, chairing a jury, or guiding a section of fourth year design through the competition, or in many cases, all three activities. Many members of the profession have served on juries, and many architects and members of the NCMA have enjoyed reviewing the competition submittals and talking to the students and faculty involved at the awards banquet.

Plans are already being made for the 1981 edition of the NCMA Competition which will be held during the spring semester of the 1980-81 academic year, and the story of this very successful cooperative endeavor continues.

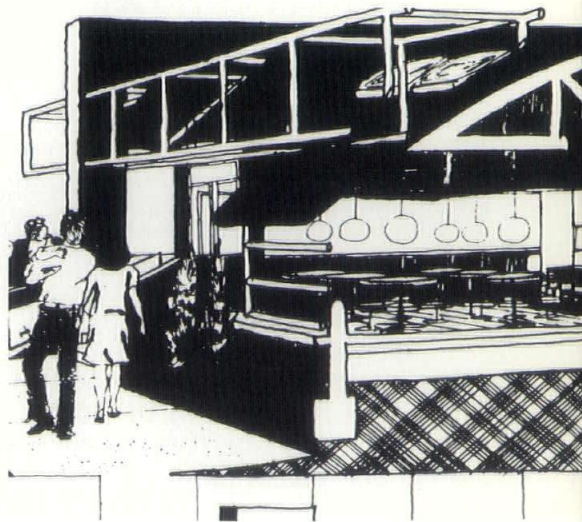
managers. Training will be part of the service offered to each franchise.

The menu is to be simple but good, with a choice roast beef sandwich being the mainstay.

Jury Comments:

The jury in general commented favorably on the total effort by the students by stating that there was not a single project presented which could not be built and could not be successful depending on location; that there was not a single project that would make the prototypical scene worse; and that among the submissions, there were some outstanding ideas, some way ahead of their time.

Issues that were of critical importance



to the jury members in their deliberations were:

- did the design function to provide for quick, uninterrupted service?
- did the layout efficiently utilize all the space?
- did the exterior plan work; including consideration of automobile circulation?
- was there an architectural image to the prototype that would be recognizable and could be duplicated anywhere regardless of its application, either in new construction or in a remodeling effort and in a particular context?
- was there good use of concrete masonry building materials?

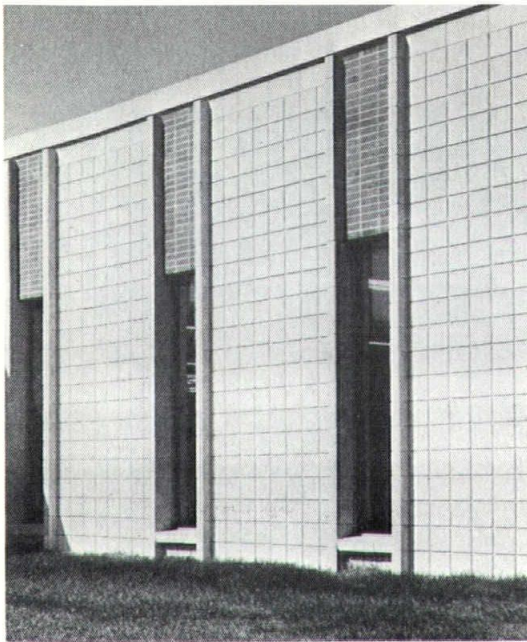
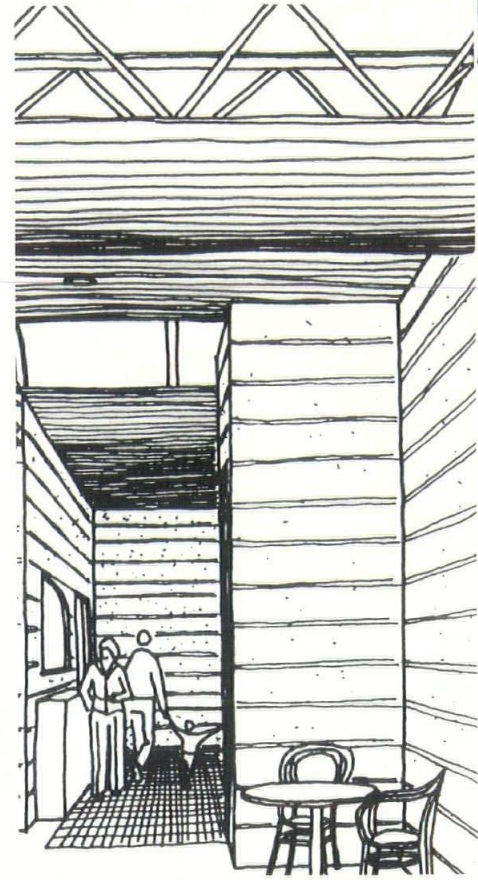
On the negative side, there were too few projects that sufficiently dealt with energy conservation considerations. There were few projects that could claim to be prototypical of the 1980's; most were dressed up 1960's and 1970's versions. Many of the projects would have taken an exceedingly large volume of traffic to

generate enough money to support the cost of the architecture.

Awards:

Honorable mention: The following projects were singled out to receive honorable mention awards because they distinguished themselves in one particular area of the program/design. They were the most buildable, the best design, the most efficient, or the best use of concrete block, and were honored for this achievement. These projects did not place higher in the judging because they each presented some offsetting problem or sense of incompleteness.

- Honorable mention Mei Kang. This project provided a most effective use of space. It has an efficient floor plan and is one of the easiest and most buildable projects in the group.
- Honorable mention to Michael Gower. A quiet, comfortable neighbor, this design would be "nice" to see in the neighborhood. While the



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floor plan had some problems, it could be straightened out with some adjustments and had the added benefit of potential expansion.

- Honorable mention to Tom Rossbach. This project demonstrates a marvelous use of a ton of concrete masonry products along with having a pleasing, sensitive design look.
- Honorable mention to Troy Christensen. This project shows excitement and superbly presents a strong idea. The forms and add-ons make it adaptable to remodeling, and it can fit within any design context.
- Honorable mention and logo design prize to John Calson. This is a very workable plan and a buildable design. The logo best presents the image to be representative of the franchise.

Prize Winners

- Second prize to Eric Wolfe. This is a nicely drawn, clear presentation of a workable plan which could serve as a prototype for an architectural image that can be utilized over and over.
- First prize to Larry Rugg. It looks like a concrete block building. It looks good and has a strong image that can be reused. In particular, the mixture of open truss work and solid wall is effective. The image is of a fun, nice place to eat.

From the Sponsors . . .

" . . . We have found in our experience that excellence is the primary objective needed for growth. Growth in some form must be attained in every living situation. These are parts of the loop of life that we support any way we can and in every way we can.

We have a fine educational system in Nebraska that can and must recognize excellent talent, support excellent talent, and retain excellent talent! This is what led us to the University and the College of Architecture — Nebraskans supporting Nebraska.

The first meeting with Jim Griffin and his initiative to provide a better educational experience for the Architectural student proved the need for our project. The organized approach from that time on was most beneficial to us in researching, quantifying and graphically helping us with new ideas to better serve our customers. The student that wanted to excel in the project could very objectively do so given the excellent set of rules prepared by the faculty.

We were very appreciative and proud to be able to work with the University and send our sincere thanks to all those involved.

Keep up the good work — we're proud to be on your team!

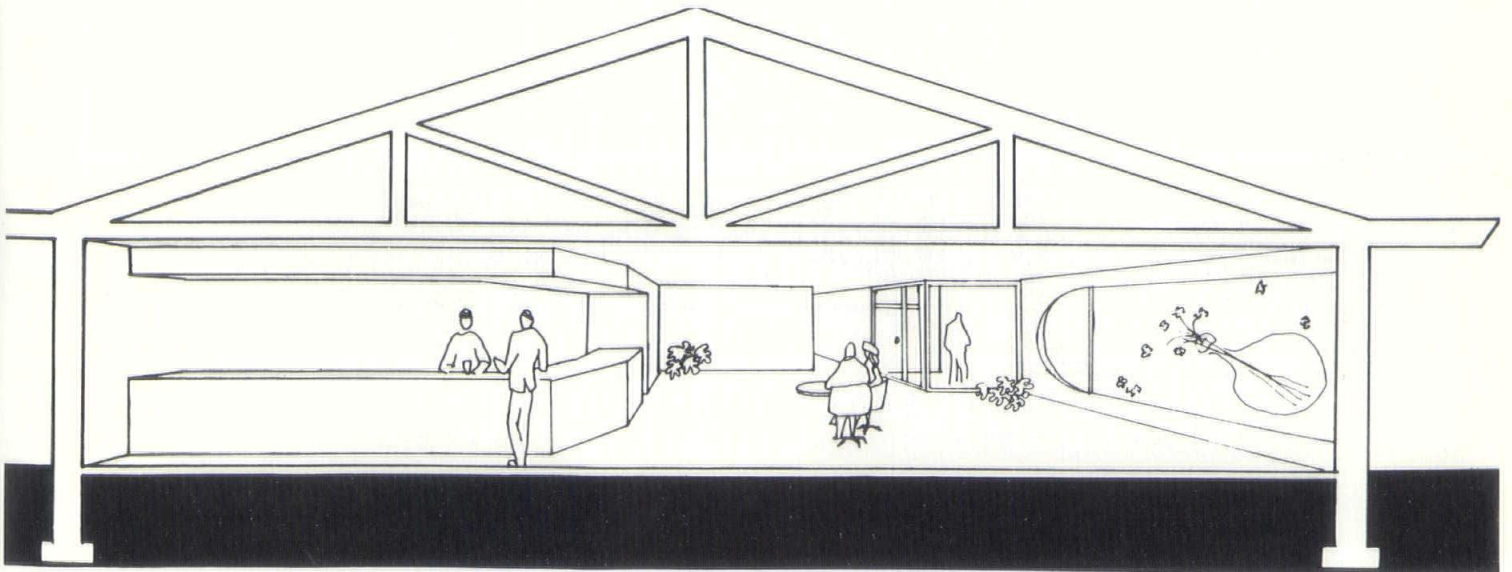
Sincerely,
Samuel B. Marvin,
President and Chairman of
the Board,
R-Lynn, Inc.

The Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association has sponsored the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Architecture Awards Banquet since 1962. It has been a great pleasure working with the College of Architecture and the students during the past 18 years. There have been 54 students who have 1st, 2nd or 3rd place awards plus numerous honorable mention winners.

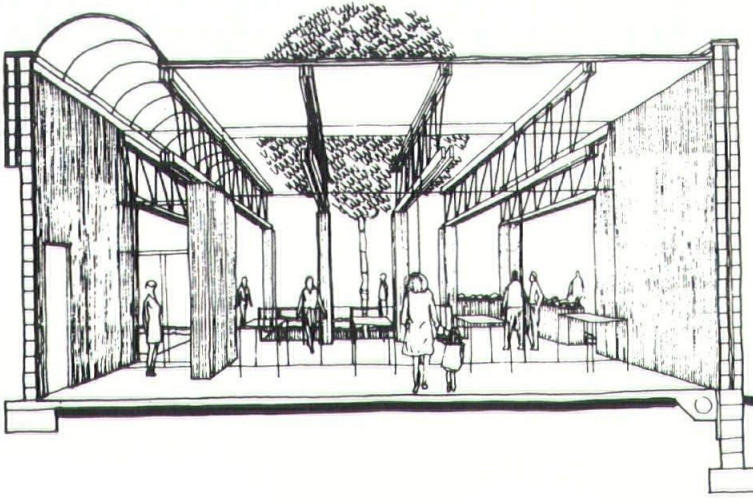
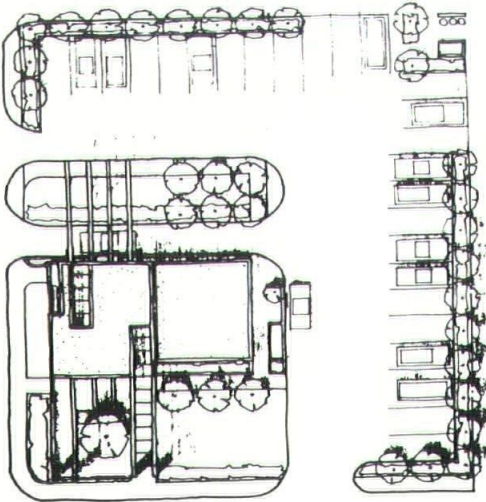
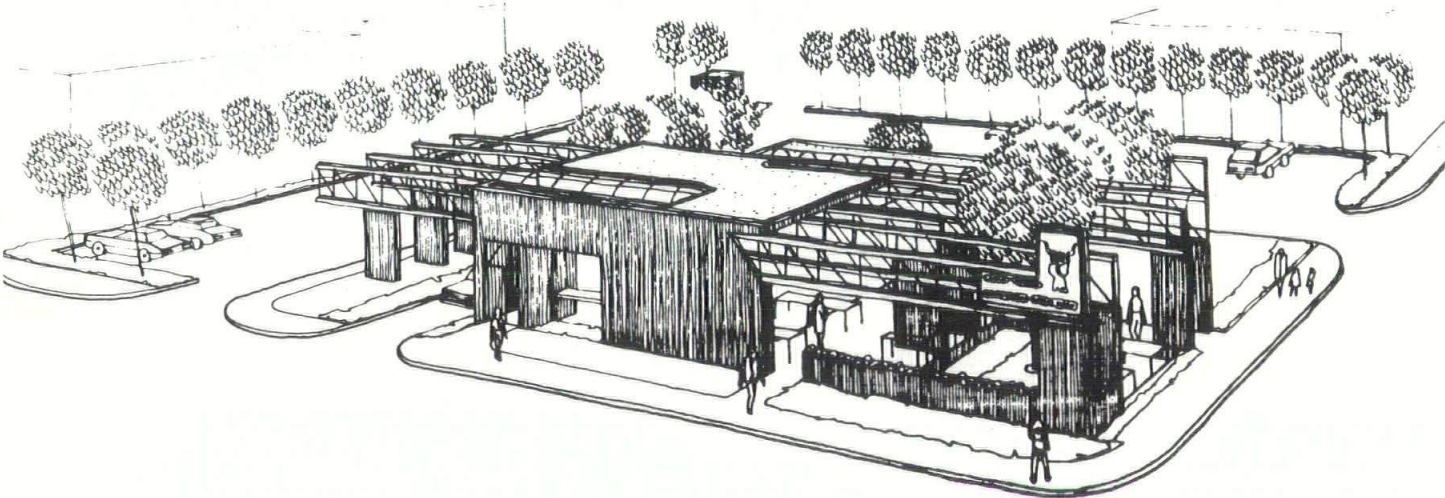
Some of the earlier students who have been in the competition are now owners or major partners in architecture firms and speak very highly of the award competition.

The problems have been many different building types over the years. The quality of work the students do on their design drawings improves each year. Compliments to the school and the faculty for doing a fine job with the students in architecture.

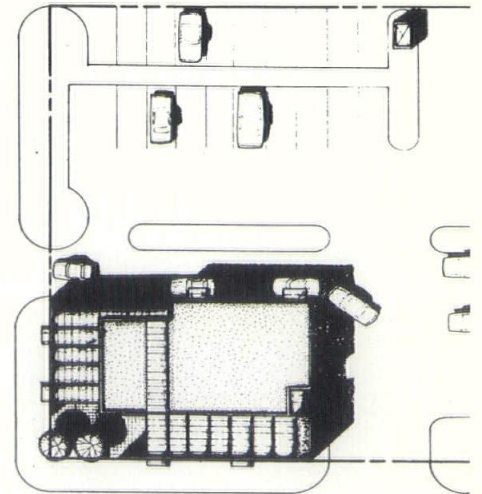
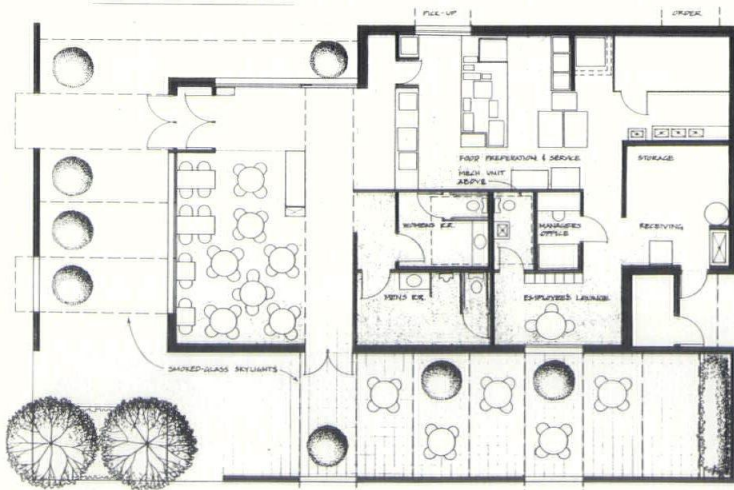
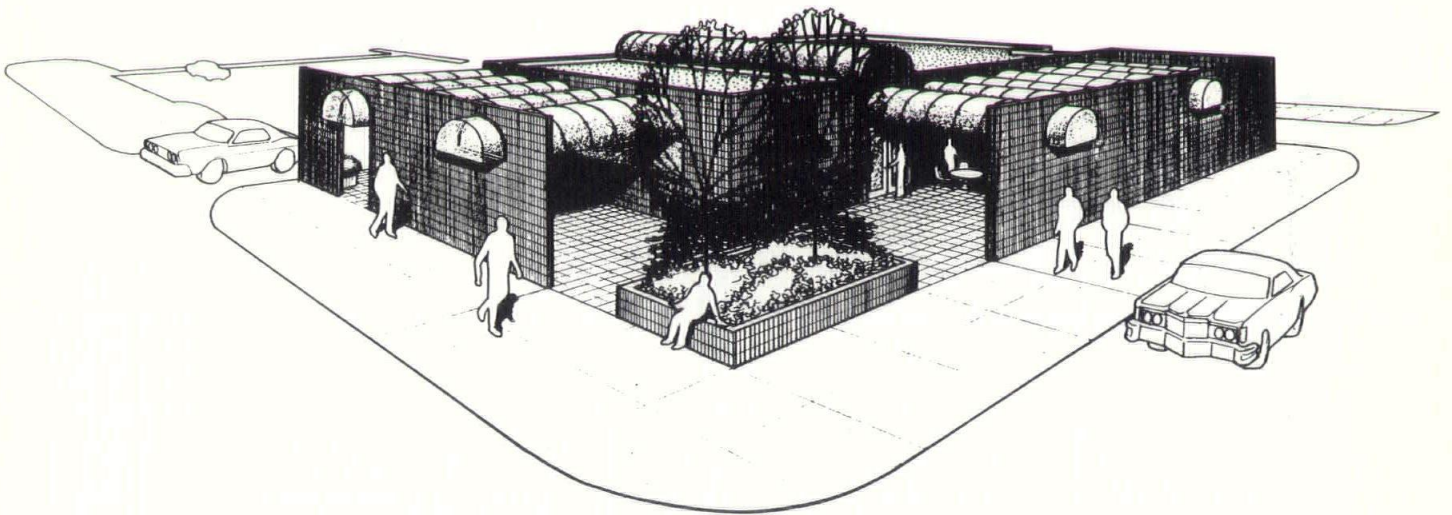
Lynn, Gardner, President
Nebraska Concrete Masonry Association

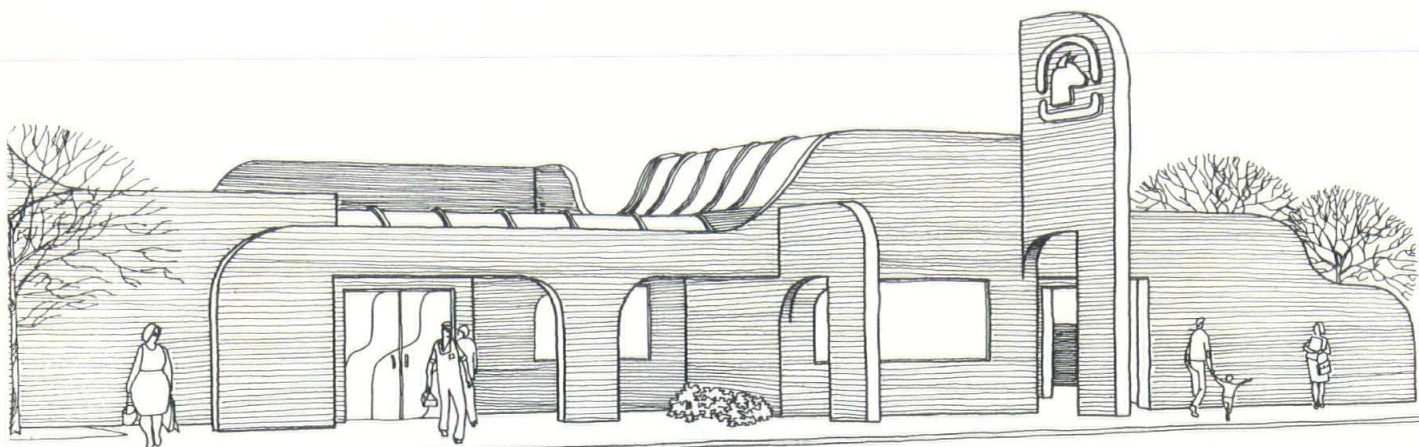


First Place, Larry Rugg

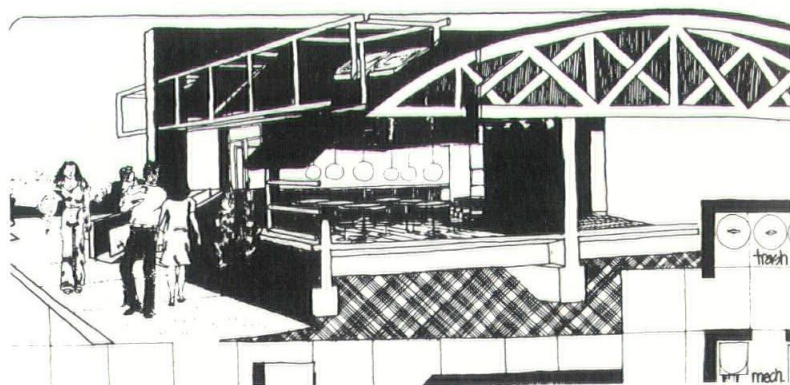
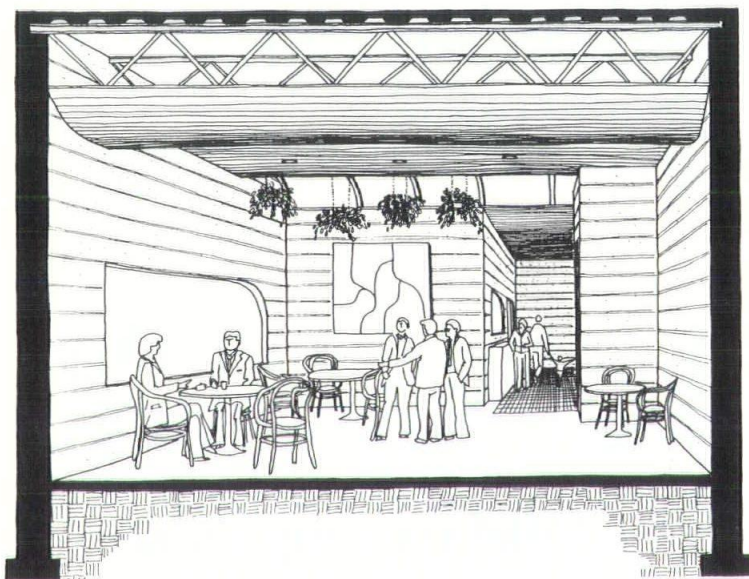


Second Place, Eric Wolfe



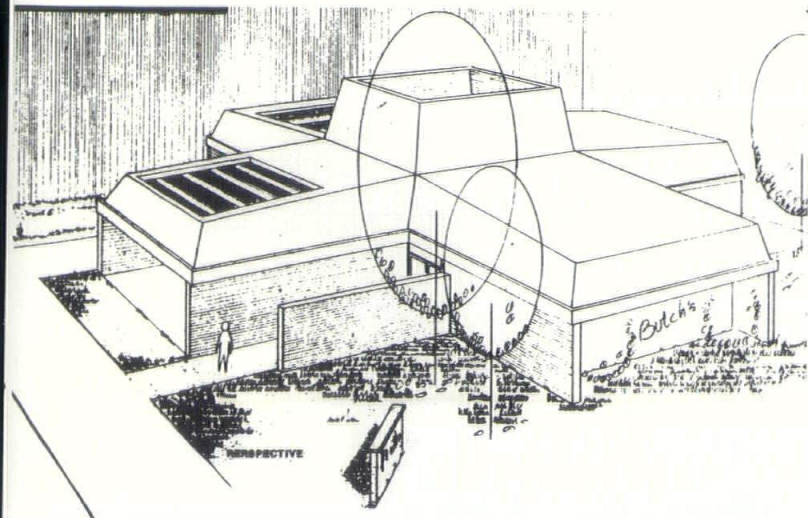
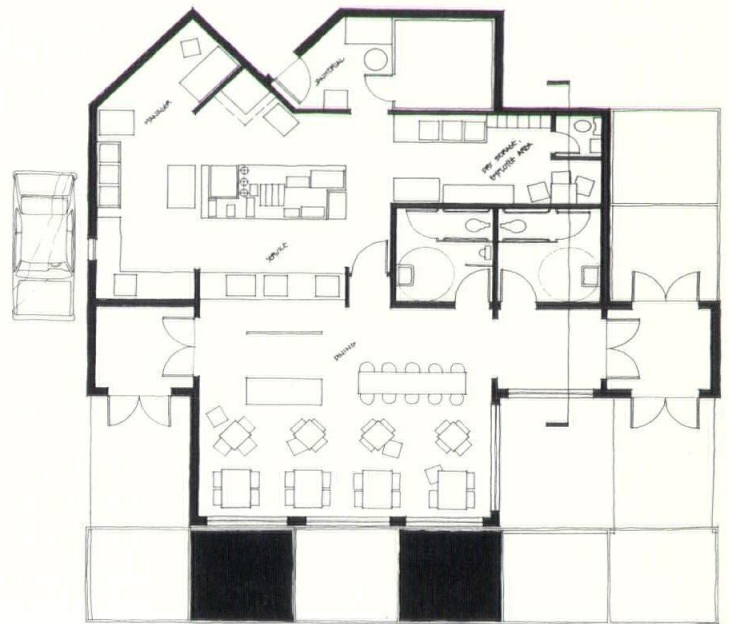
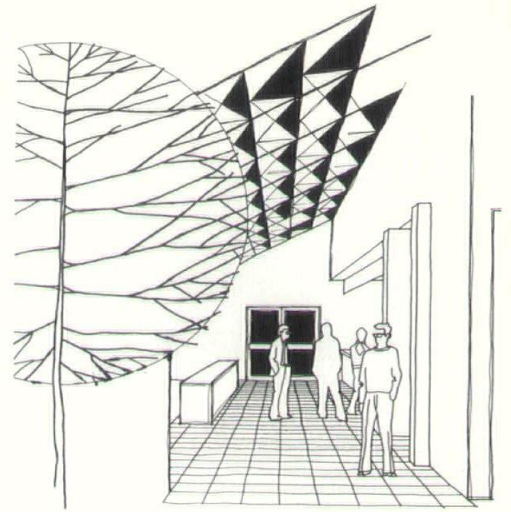


Honorable Mention, Tom Rossbach



Honorable Mention, Troy Christensen

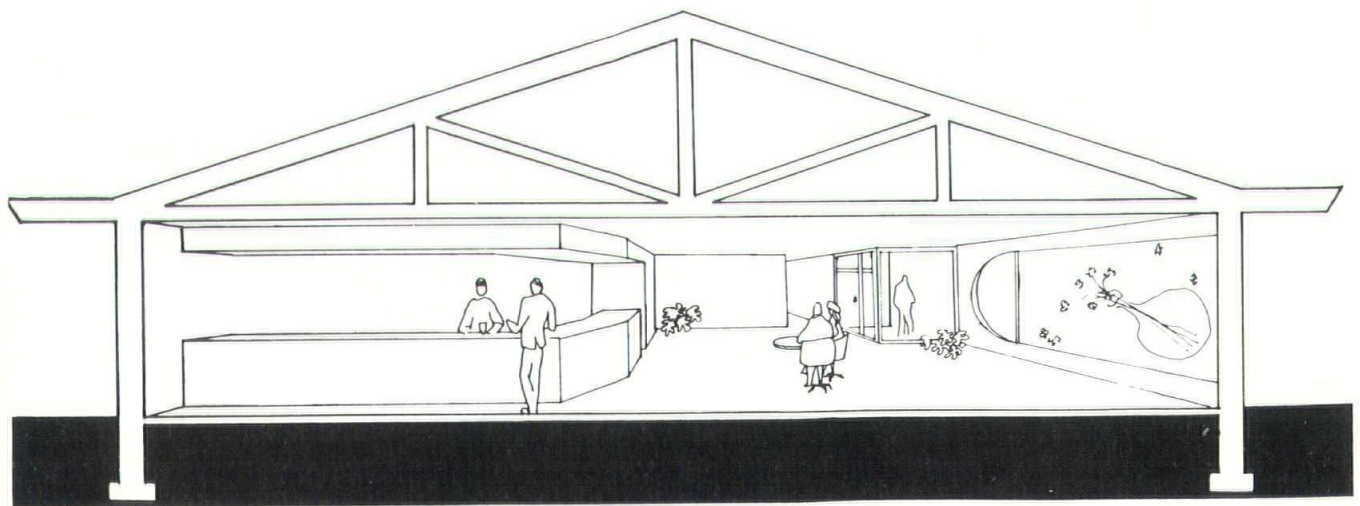
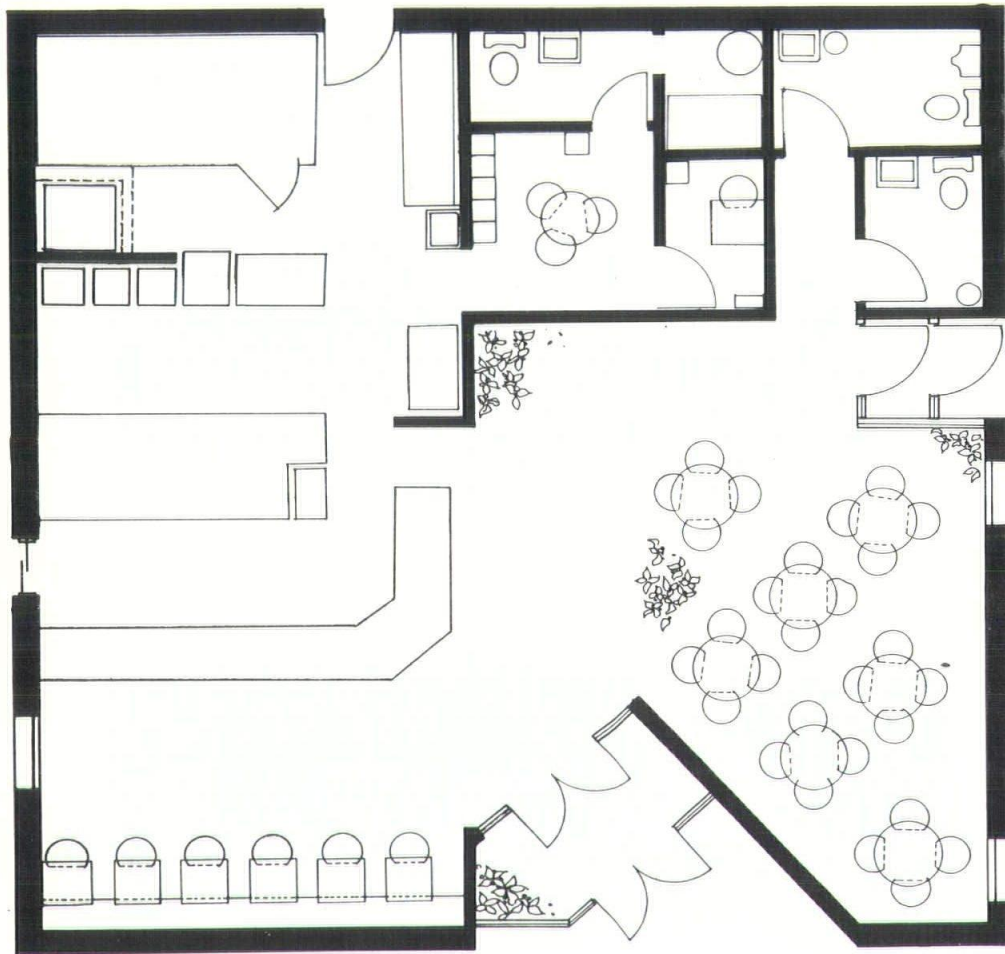
Honorable Mention, John Carlson



Honorable Mention, Michael Grower

Dimensions October, 1980/27

Honorable Mention, Mei Kang



NEWS NOTES

College of Architecture Hyde Speakers Series 1980-1981

For the coming year, the Hyde Speakers Series will be organized somewhat differently than in years past. There will be two lecturers in Sheldon Art Gallery each semester and a larger number of informal, practice-oriented lectures in the gallery of Architecture Hall. These will be conducted by visiting critics in the graduate programs.

Speaking in Sheldon in the fall will be John Lobell, author, architect and professor at Pratt Institute. He will speak on



John Lobell

Wednesday, October 1, at 4:00 p.m. His most recent work is a book entitled *Between Silence and Light: Spirit in the Architecture of Louis I. Kahn*. He has lectured widely on Kahn and on the Philadelphia school of thought.

On October 29, Robert A. M. Stern, architect and commentator will speak in the Sheldon lecture hall on post-modernism.

Critics who will speak in the Architec-



Robert A. M. Stern

ture Hall Gallery in the fall include Charles W. Harris, Professor of Landscape Architecture at Harvard University and Kenneth Brooks, architect and environmental designer from Spokane, Washington.

Among the second semester speakers in Sheldon is Allan Jacobs, architect and planner. His eight years tenure as planning director of San Francisco is the basis of his book *Making City Planning Work*. He is currently chairman of the planning program at the University of California, Berkeley.



Allan Jacobs

Dr. Barry Commoner, professor of Environmental Science at Washington University in St. Louis, will be speaking in the Sheldon Art Gallery on March 12, at 4:00 p.m. He is noted for his interests in botany, physiology, environmental and energy related fields. He is the author of four books: *Science and Survival*, *The Closing Circle*, *The Poverty of Power* and *The Politics of Energy*.

(Continued to page 30)



Dr. Barry Commoner

(Continued from page 29)

Critics for second semester include: Richard Oliver, Curator of Architecture and Design, Cooper-Hewitt museum; Bill Valentine of Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum, San Francisco; George Ranally of Yale University; Tony Dubovsky of the University of California, Berkeley; Tim McGinty of the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee; and William Kirby Lockard of the University of Arizona. The latter four are scheduled for a special drawing workshop.

Corkill To Go To London

Professor Corkill is to spend a substantial portion of the fall semester in London and Western Europe. He will engage in a faculty development program intended to strengthen his understanding of aesthetic principles as applied to urban spaces. This study will broaden his contributions to the overall educational experience of his students, particularly in the often neglected area of urban infill.

Professor Corkill believes his program objectives can best be accomplished by studying a variety of infill projects — both contemporary and historic. He will also spend time visiting professionals who have interests in the same field. England and western Europe should provide a superb classroom for his work. Corkill believes these studies will serve as an excellent base for use in strengthening UNL's graduate program.

Upon his return, Professor Corkill plans to expand these studies to include graduate students. His major objectives for these students will be:

- to gain a better understanding of basic design and aesthetic facilities.
- to appreciate the major task and responsibility of the designer with respect to his design context.
- to build confidence in designing with environmental aesthetics.
- to develop methods of communicating personal perceptions in urban design.

Bereuter Fellowship

On leave of absence from the University of Michigan's College of Architecture, Rochelle Martin joins the UNL staff as part of the Bereuter Fellowship Program. She will teach courses in design and a special course on color theory as it pertains to architecture.

After receiving a Bachelor of Science in Education, Ms. Martin taught art in a Detroit high school before deciding to return to school, stating that architecture had always been her primary interest. With degrees from Lawrence Institute of Technology, Southfield, Michigan, and Wayne State University, she is presently working on her doctorate at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

During the past five years Martin has taught studio design classes at both the University of Michigan and Lawrence Institute of Technology. Her goal at the University of Nebraska is to help students understand color as an integral part of architectural design rather than as an applied decoration. Color will be approached from the viewpoints of perception, human response and aesthetics and will be the focus of a special class she plans to teach in the spring.

New Equipment for UNL's Media Center

According to Kent Hobsen, director of UNL's Architecture Media Center, he has received several new pieces of equipment. These are:

- a Goodkin commercial art camera capable of increasing or decreasing the photographic image.
- a 185.FL diazo printer. This has greatly heightened the quality of prints. Kent states that if enough interest is generated, Milar prints might be attempted.
- a 3-M lettering machine. This prints letters on a tape transferrable to nearly all media. It will cost 3¢ per inch.
- JVC color video equipment. Kent informs us that the lecture series will now be taped in color making future viewing much more interesting.

Faculty Exchange

The third round in the teacher exchange with the College of Technology in Dublin, Ireland, brings Fergus Hogan to the UNL campus as a critic in the fourth year design course. Professor Robert F. Guenter is the Department of Architecture's representative in Dublin, where his major assignment is a lecture series which traces the evolution of Japanese architecture.

Guenter developed the lecture series from material presented in a graduate level survey course, and from lectures presented to professional and lay groups in the Omaha-Lincoln area. The Irish presentation has been divided into a half dozen major segments:

1. The Beginnings: Animism and Early Shinto Shrines
2. Chinese Influence: Buddhist Temples of Asuka and Nara
3. Tantric and Other Esoteric Cults: Heian Syncretism
4. The Zen Explosion: Pavilions and Gardens
5. Peach Mountain Politics: Castles and Teahouses
6. Edo: From Isolation to the Metabolists

During his six week stay in Ireland (October 4 — November 15), Guenter plans to investigate and photograph the remains of the small island's early history. The mysterious dolmens, stone circles, celtic crosses and beehive huts have been targeted as areas of special interest. During the spring semester, a brown-bag slide series entitled *Guinness Stout and So's Guenter* will apprise the semi-interested public of what the infamous "Fat Monk" discovered in County Cork.

Architectural Model Shop Expands

The Architecture Model Shop has acquired two new pieces of equipment, according to Robert Stowers, Director. The first, a surface plane, allows working with very small pieces in relative safety. The second, a vacuum forming machine, was built to create spherical and circular shapes and compound curves using sheet plastic. Anyone needing assistance with these or any of the other equipment in the shop should contact Robert Stowers, 310 Former Law Building.

In Support of Excellence

The College of Architecture is pleased to announce the initiation of two new scholarships for architecture students.

Mr. George Clayton, a 1951 graduate of the Department of Architecture, established the *George E. Clayton Scholarship Fund in Architecture* in December, 1979. It is to be awarded annually to a regularly enrolled student of architecture whose professional goals include the practice of architecture in small and rural communities. Recipients must have demonstrated a record of academic excellence, show strong professional potential and be worthy of assistance. This year's scholarship of \$350 has been awarded to James Fagler, a fifth year graduate student.

The *Samuel B. Marvin Graduate Scholarship in Architecture* was established in August, 1980 to assist the Department of Architecture to recruit and retain outstanding graduate students as candidates for the Master of Architecture degree. Mr. Marvin is an alumnus of the University of Nebraska and is president of R-Lynn, Incorporated of Omaha. Albert Thomas Macchietto, a graduate with distinction from the UNL Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies program has received a scholarship of \$250 as he enters the Master of Architecture program this fall.

The graduate committee plans to recommend two other scholarships totaling \$750 in January, 1981 for the spring semester.

Congratulations go to Tom and Jim, and many thanks to Mr. Marvin and Mr. Clayton for their generous and timely support.

Four UNL Faculty Members Leave

Jay Garrott, a senior-level design instructor in the Department of Architecture has accepted a position as instructor in design at Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburg. He will be involved in initiating a new program of participatory design for inhabitants in this country and third-world nations.

While at UNL, Jay promoted design for special populations and served on several state committees on design and planning for the handicapped.

Peter Wood, design instructor at UNL for three years, has departed to take the

position as Assistant Dean of the College of Architecture, University of Houston. In addition to his instructor duties at UNL, he served as Continuing Education Coordinator and as a member of the publication board of this magazine.

Kevin Forseth has taken a position on the staff of The College of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He taught introductory design at UNL for five years and intends to instruct in the same general area at UW-M. While on the staff of the Department of Architecture, Kevin wrote an introductory design text/reference entitled *Graphics for Architecture*.

Mary Kihl has accepted the post of assistant dean of research in Iowa State's College of Architecture. She was at UNL for two years and taught courses in research methods and regional planning and development.

Greece and Italy Winterim

The 1980-81 Architecture Winterim will tour Italy and Greece. It will depart Lincoln on the 26th of December and return the 11th of January. First stop on the tour will be Venice. After a tour of the city, the entourage will visit Florence, the religious and ancient sites of Rome, and Naples.

Sailing from Brindisi, the group will then go to Greece, touring such places as Athens, Delphi, and Olympia. Those taking the tour will not only examine the ancient architecture of Italy and Greece but will have opportunities to experience local cultures first hand.

This year's trip will cost an estimated \$1,730. This includes all travel and lodging expenses and some meals. Any student who wishes to take this opportunity to travel abroad and earn three college credit hours is asked to contact Robert Stowers in the College of Architecture.

Deon Bahr appointed to National Commission

A National Commission on Architecture for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has appointed Deon Bahr to its 11-member commission. Deon will serve a five-state area assisting congregations in Building-related problems and questions.

Shorts

The NSA's Omaha Chapter plans to have local artists present drawing workshops this fall. No dates have as yet been announced... The 1980 Honor Awards Program will be Friday, November 7 in Omaha. The critique will begin at noon; the banquet will follow that evening. Contact Lynn Jones, Jean Muntz or Warren Keller for more information... The annual meeting of the Nebraska Planning and Zoning Association is tentatively scheduled for January, 1981. Announcement of a specific date is pending... Bahr, Vermeer & Haecker, Architects has moved their Omaha office to 1209 Harney Street in the Old Market... The firm of Unthank & Unthank has moved to 5151 Everett Street, Lincoln... Ambrose W. Jackson Associates has moved its office to 5820 Ames Avenue in Omaha... Kirkham, Michael and Associates announces the relocation of its Des Moines office to the Blue Creek Office Building, West Des Moines, Iowa.

Grand Island Recovery Assistance

The College of Architecture assisted the citizens of Grand Island in many ways in their recovery from the June tornado. Each of the three departments of the College has been actively involved in this recovery effort.

Architecture faculty and students provided assistance to the building department by assisting with the damage inspection of buildings. This assistance enabled the city to issue building permits for reconstruction much more quickly than would have been possible with local resources alone.

Planning faculty assisted in a meeting of the businessmen trying to plan and rebuild the devastated South Locust Street District. Additionally, Professor Jim McGraw resided in Grand Island to provide staff support to the Planning Department in the absence of their director.

Faculty from the Community Resource and Research Center are playing a continuing role in several capacities. Neighborhood groups are being assisted in organizing and developing their strategies for action. Planning assistance was given in a project which involved piling the rubble, covering and landscaping, and developing a sledding-tobaggoning hill. Assistance is being provided in re-developing two devastated park sites. Assistance is coordinated with the efforts of the team from Wichita Falls, Texas.

Faculty of the College of Architecture are continuing to be of assistance to the citizens and officials of Grand Island upon request.

The following is a letter received by Homer Puderbaugh, Professor College of Architecture.

Dear Professor Puderbaugh:

Now that the rush of work resulting from our infamous June Third tornado has eased somewhat, the Building Department of the City of Grand Island, with a collective sigh of relief, thanks you for your expert assistance, ingenuity, and thoughtfulness when we were completely

inundated with many new, unusual, and unforeseen procedures during our recent extraordinary circumstances.

Your cooperation in helping us struggle through total disaster to a new dawn will never be forgotten. I am sure everyone will remember our unique experiences as a time of despair, but also as a time of learning, making new friends, and meeting new challenges.

Again, we thank you for your foresight and neighborliness when we needed you.

Sincerely,
Robert L. Kriz
Mayor

Corrections

In the July issue of *Dimensions*, it was incorrectly reported that Gregg Wielage visited Buddhist and Shinto shrines while touring Japan. The report should have read, "Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples." It was also reported that Gregg received \$4,000 as a stipend.

Gregg informs us, "I was awarded nowhere near \$4,000." To make matters worse, Gregg's name was misspelled. Our apologies, Gregg.

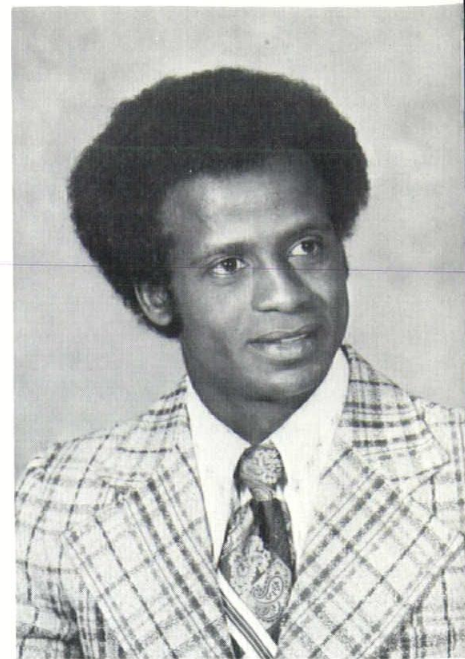
Another name misspelling occurred in the July issue — that of Lynn Jones. We had it correct in one place but wrong in another. Again, we apologize for this careless mistake.

Additionally, we juxtaposed two letters in Mele Koneya's name. Redfaced, we must again make apology.

John P. Helleberg, Sr.

Funeral services were held for John P. Helleberg, Sr., who died July 1 in Kearney. He was founder of the architectural and engineering firm of Helleberg and Helleberg.

Helleberg was born in Denmark in 1890, came to the United States in 1909 and practiced architecture in Kearney from 1923 until 1964. He was an emeritus member of the Nebraska Society of Architects.



Negussie Negawo

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden loss of a beloved friend and colleague, Negussie (Nick) Negawo. Negussie was found dead in his Omaha apartment on July 30th. The exact cause of his death is undetermined.

Negussie was born on December 28, 1950 in Shoa Province near Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he lived until he finished elementary and secondary schools. He came to the United States in 1972 and entered Mount Marty College, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and Business Administration. He enrolled in the Graduate Program for Public Administration at the University of Nebraska-Omaha and, later, in the Community and Regional Planning Department of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, receiving Master's degrees in both areas.

Negussie is survived by two sisters, neices and nephews in Ethiopia, and by two cousins currently residing in the United States.

A scholarship fund has been established in Negussie's remembrance. The purpose of this memorial is to provide financial assistance for graduate students in Community and Regional Planning and Public Administration at the University of Nebraska. Contributions can be sent to:

Negussie Negawo Memorial Scholarship
c/o The UNL Foundation
P.O. Box 30186
Lincoln, NE 68503

FIRM NEWS

Davis/Fenton/Stange/Darling

Current and projected work has resulted in an increase in staff to both the architectural and engineering departments of D/F/S/D. Richard Griffin, a December, 1980 graduate of the College of Architecture, and Richard Juilfs of Mesa College, San Diego, will facilitate production in the architectural department. Providing electrical design support is UNL graduate, Mark White.

A review of current D/F/S/D projects in the city include:

□ **Nebraska Wesleyan Theatre and Speech Center**

This \$1.8 million, 28,000 sq. ft. project replaces the existing Enid Miller Theatre, the Loft Theatre, and a variety of other spaces on the present campus. Completion is scheduled for December.

□ **Lincoln High School**

An 1100 seat stadium concludes the final improvements to Lincoln High School's athletics program. Ready for fall sports is a new athletic field utilizing a construction technology developed at Purdue University.

□ **Bryan Memorial Hospital**

A \$35 million expansion and remodeling project is awaiting approval from the Southeast Nebraska Health Systems Agency, the Nebraska Health Department, and the City of Lincoln. The project calls for an addition on the south side, replacement of one two-story section of the north end, an addition to the west and creation of a main entrance on the north. Construction is targeted for summer, 1981; completion for 1984.

Kirkham, Michael and Associates

Janis Vilums, Jr. has been appointed a vice president of KM. He retains his duties as manager of the Health Care Facilities Design Division. Vilums, a native of Latvia, received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from the University of Nebraska in 1960.

Gary E. Sindelar has been appointed Vice President and Manager of the KM Des Moines office. Sindelar has B.S. and

M.S. degrees from the University of Nebraska.

Kirkham, Michael energy engineers recently completed energy audits for school systems in the Ralston, Pawnee, and Beveridge schools in the Omaha area. Kirkham, Michael's Health Care Design Division is working closely with the administration and board of Huron Medical Center in Huron, South Dakota, to develop preliminary plans for hospital renovation and expansion.

FIRM NEWS

Firm News will be a permanent part of the News Notes section of *Dimensions*. Projects — current, past, or future — and changes in staff or organizational structure are appropriate topics. If your firm or organization has news of a general interest to readers, please submit written copy for publication no later than November 20, 1980, for inclusion in the January, 1981, issue. All submissions become property of *Dimensions*.

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The foundation of *Dimensions* is you. We need your input. Start by ordering a subscription. Please complete the attached return card and check the rate you wish. We will bill you later or you can enclose the card and your check in an envelope and return it to us at the address on the card.

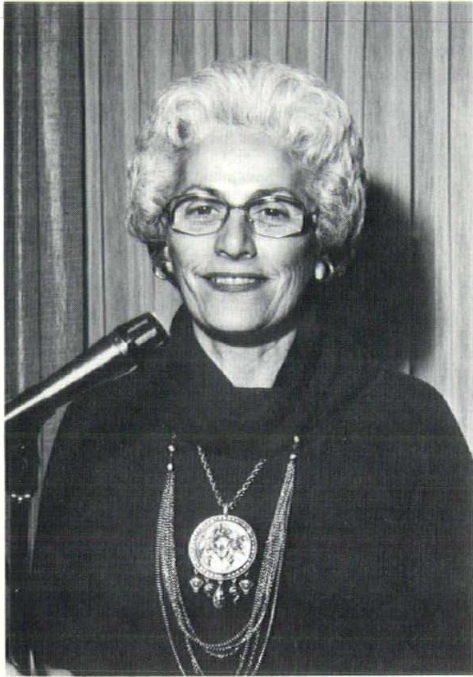
You will then have the opportunity to keep current on the architectural happenings of Nebraska and the surrounding region.

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Dimensions, University of Nebraska, College of Architecture, Lincoln, NE 68588



COMMENTARY

The Honorable Helen Boosalis,
Mayor of Lincoln

Last spring, I wondered what I could possibly say to a group of architectural students as a participant in a panel seminar on professional accountability in planning and architecture. Seeking company and compassion in my misery, I exclaimed to a friend, "What do I know about architects and their profession?" The friend, secure in the knowledge that she didn't have to do the speaking, offered only that I should know a great deal — after all, the mayor is, perhaps, the chief architect of the city. Still fretting because my speech wasn't ready, I padded off to my office and thought about this new title of mine — Chief Architect. I finally had to agree.

Mayors and other elected officials are responsible for putting together capital improvement programs for the city projects and programs which significantly affect the visual quality of the cities they attempt to govern. Elected officials make daily decisions that influence the character of the built and natural environ-

ment. Realizing this, I was better able to consider just what "professional accountability" can or should mean to the architects of the 1980's.

"There is a new spirit in our nation's cities — a spirit characterized by the ethic of self-help and personal responsibility . . ."

In my five years as Mayor of the City of Lincoln, I have had an opportunity to visit with citizens of Lincoln and other cities. I found people in every walk of life and in every size community very aware that aesthetic and cultural considerations are significant to their well being. They are anxious for something better than our present environment. Given this perception, I see a need for a stronger bond between architects and planners and a

new, important "client" — the general public.

I'm told that clients in general do not

"The architectural profession must help educate people to see . . ."

demand the best; frequently, in fact, they insist on the worst. This, to me, is not all that surprising, for the general public has received little or no experience that teaches them the valuable connection of the visual world and their physical needs. What is surprising is the frequency with which the public gets what it unknowingly demands — ill-designed buildings and bad urban spaces. Can it be that architects and planners are neglecting the care and feeding of clients — the general public; that architects are failing to detect the public's excitement and sense of well-being that comes from an encounter with a pleasant urban space? Why is it that the talents of architects are all too often not sought in efforts to make our cities, our communities and our neighborhoods more livable and lively? Has the public forgotten you — or have you passed us by?

Architects need to talk more often and with more of the public in a language the public can understand. No doubt it's great fun to talk about the merits of post-modernism or the lack of interest in the international school, for we all like to wax philosophical at times, but it's an exercise of non-communication to most clients and certainly the new client, the general public.

In a country of enormous beauty and variety, I think it's terribly unfortunate that our cities are becoming more and more alike. Pat Moynihan once said that, except for the temporary inconvenience to inhabitants, only a half dozen cities would be missed if they disappeared overnight. I don't believe the public likes this standardization, but, with a few exceptions, that is what the public is getting.

I think much of the nostalgia we are seeing these days is, in part, a reaction by people fed up with sterile environments, with the "stock plan" look of some entire cities. There is a yearning for the human scale, and I believe, a new spirit of responsibility in our cities — in their

planning departments, neighborhood associations and civic groups. I am delighted to see residents of our older neighborhoods ban together for the primary purpose of conserving their immediate environments, for preserving and rehabilitating the housing stock that makes their neighborhood unique. There is a new spirit in our nation's cities — a spirit characterized by the ethic of self-help and personal responsibility for improving the quality of life.

"Unfortunately, a piece of bad architecture or a poorly designed public space gets used as much as a piece of good architecture."

However, this new public client needs the leadership and advice of the professional architects. Unlike other areas of art which all too often exist as an alternative to our daily routine, the consumption of the art of architecture is everyone's daily activity. Unfortunately, a piece of bad architecture or a poorly designed public space gets used as much as a piece of good architecture.

The architectural profession must help educate people to see. The decision makers who are responsible for creating the built environment have too often not seen the possibilities of beauty, harmony and human scale. This blindness or ignorance should not be used as an excuse by the architectural and planning professionals for setting aside the responsibility of creating livable and beautiful cities.

The impact of the designers has significant visual, social, economic and physical relationships to the community, and thus, the architectural contract should include, by reference, the public interest. Architects must accept this and see that their individual clients recognize this. In this era of fragile economics, this will be a significant undertaking. Too often, amenity and quality appear as frills in tight budgets, as expendable items in times of constraint.

Local government and elected officials must also accept and appreciate citizens' desire for pleasing environments. If, in fact, mayors and other elected officials

are the chief architects of the city, then we better squarely face this responsibility. Lacking the expertise ourselves, we need to hear from and listen to the design professionals in our community. We must be confident that these professionals have a passion for quality and will not let this opportunity for quality environments, as expressed by our citizens, pass. An educated public, demanding good design and pleasing surroundings, can be a powerful ally in creating well-designed buildings and livable, lovable cities.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 8-10 AIA Regional Meeting in Ames, IA
- 10-12 Energy Expo's 80, Omaha Civic Auditorium; Contact Energy Inform, Inc., P.O. Box 52, Omaha, NE 68101, (402) 556-5252.
- 11 Lincoln Chapter AIA meets at NBC
- 13-15 Nebraska Community Improvement Program Judging
- 22-5 Union Exhibition
- 29-1 Master's Week

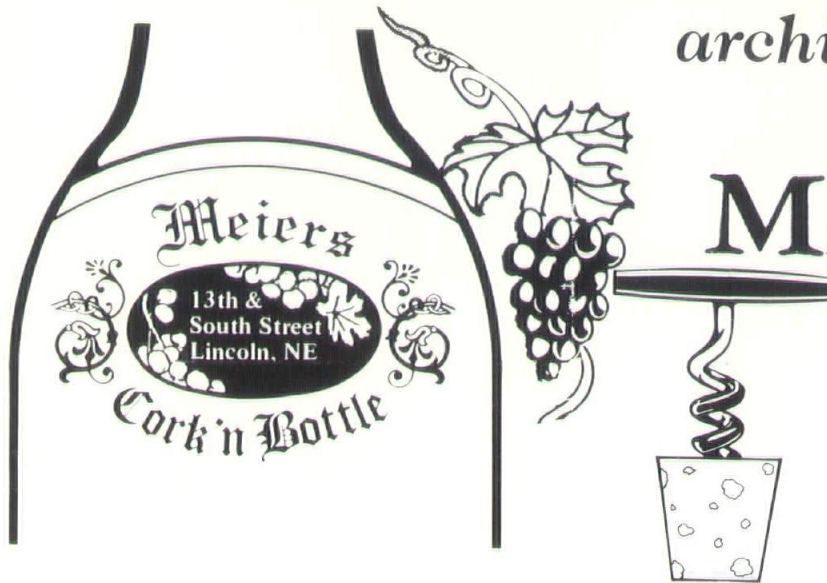
NOVEMBER

- 1 College Recognition Day, Missouri Game
- 1 Pig Roast
- 7 Nebraska Society of Architects Honor Awards Banquet, Mutual Of Omaha Dome, 7:00 p.m.; critique 12:00 noon, Contact NSA office for details, (402) 556-8800.
- 7 Recognition Day and Awards Banquet, Nebraska Community Improvement Program, East Campus Union, UNL and Pershing Auditorium, Lincoln.
- 8 Lincoln Chapter AIA meets at NBC.
- 17-20 Alcohol Fuel Workshop, Southeast Community College, Milford NE. Contact Bruce Stutzman, Southeast Community College, Milford, NE. (402) 761-2131.

DECEMBER

- 13 Lincoln Chapter AIA meets at NBC
- 26 1980 Winterim in Greece and Italy, December 26 – January 11.

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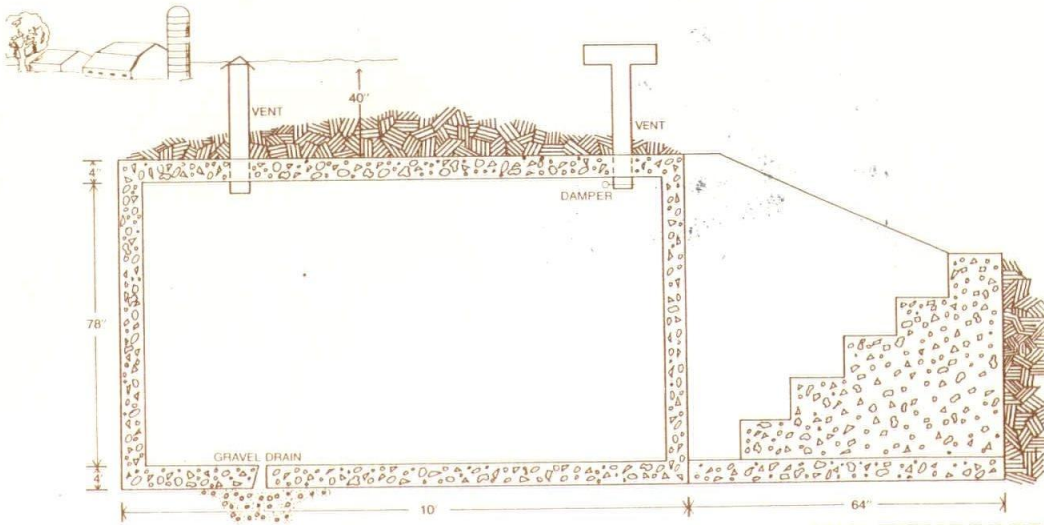
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