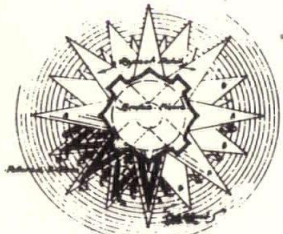


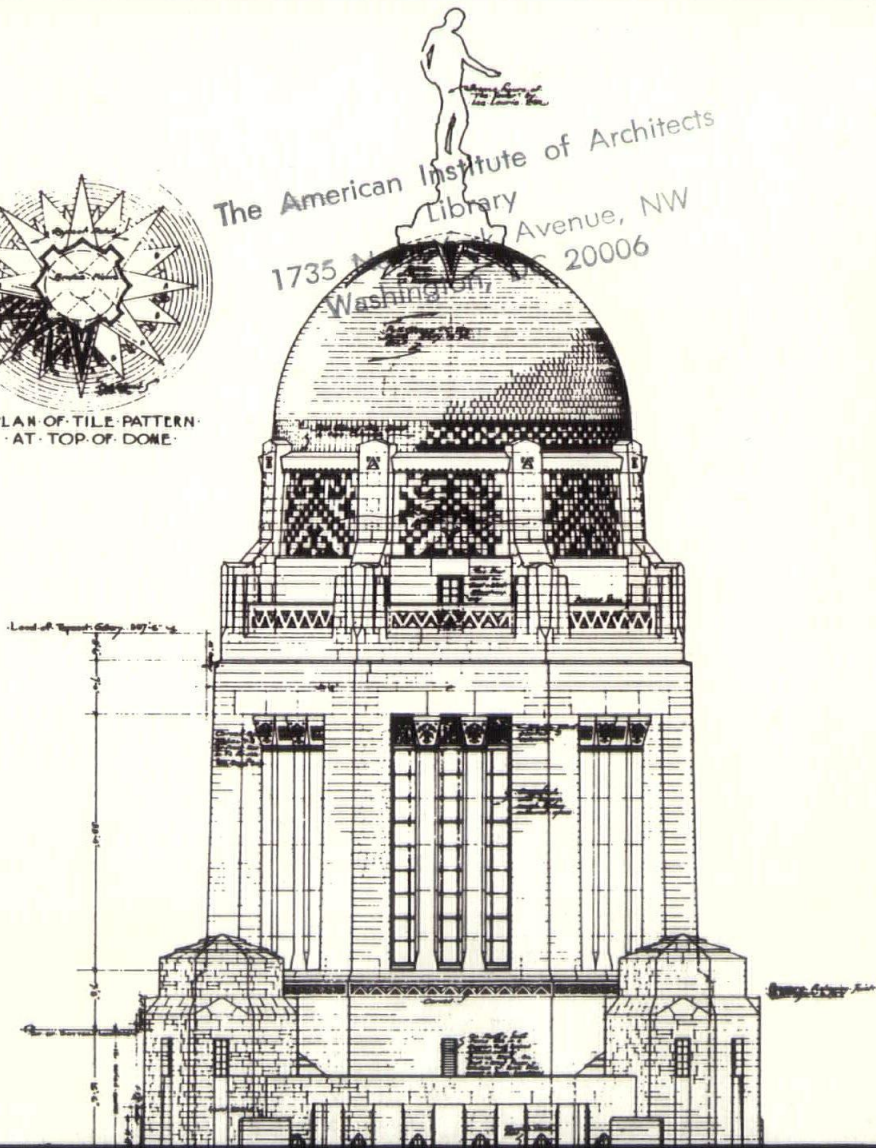
SUMMER 80 DIMENSIONS

Journal for Architecture and Planning

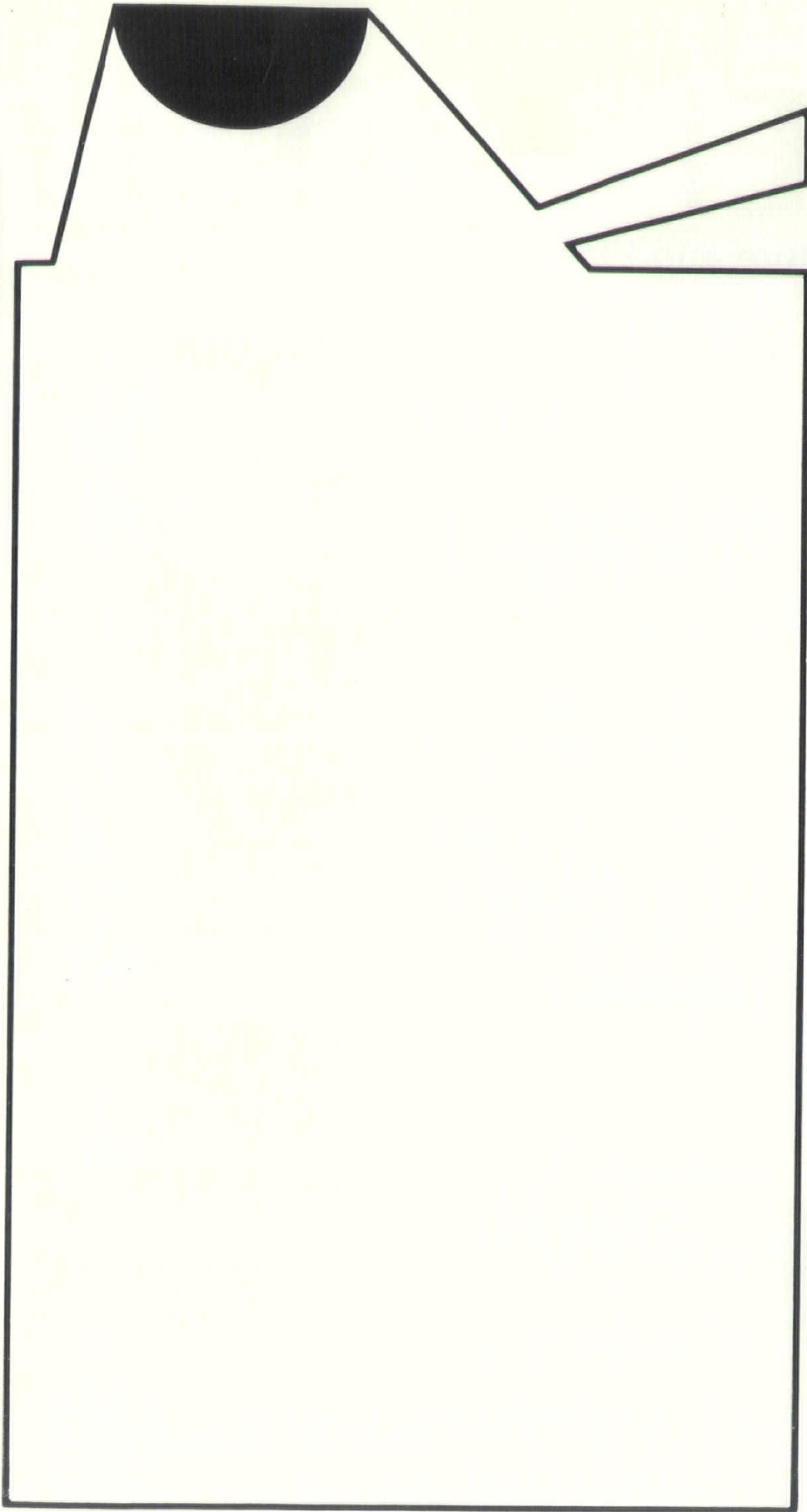


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Welcome to the first issue of *Dimensions*.

This magazine is intended to serve as a forum for the discussion of relevant issues — issues of concern to the readers — professional and public.

For this dialogue to work, people have to be willing to step forward — to contribute to the magazine. This can be in the form of letters, articles and suggestions for articles (always include suggested author) graphic materials, etc. We do not guarantee that all submissions will be published but they will be seriously considered.

Communication is the key to understanding. The practitioners, the educators, the researchers and the users of the professional design disciplines are or should all be concerned about the future of our society and the role that the design disciplines can play. Those roles are still under discussion and exploration as pointed out in the statements by Architecture Dean Cecil Steward at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and by Lynn Jones, president of the Nebraska Society of Architects.

Dimensions has initially set up departments such as energy, preservation, news notes, etc., which will be a regular part of each issue. In addition, it is expected that each issue will consist of one or more major articles of general topical interest. This issue, for example, deals with the 1979 Nebraska Society of Architects Honor Awards and the 1979 Nebraska Community Improvement Program.

Dimensions, at least initially, is a Nebraska magazine, jointly published by the College of Architecture and the NSA. However, it is our intent to be midwest regional in scope. With that in mind we will seek and accept articles which deal with regional issues and which are of interest to readers on a regional scale. Residence of author is not at issue. We hope to successfully invite and publish material by nationally known figures.

If *Dimensions* is to successfully serve as a forum for our readers, we must hear your voices. Please speak with us.

**Thank you,
James Griffin
Managing Editor**

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Journal for Architecture and Planning

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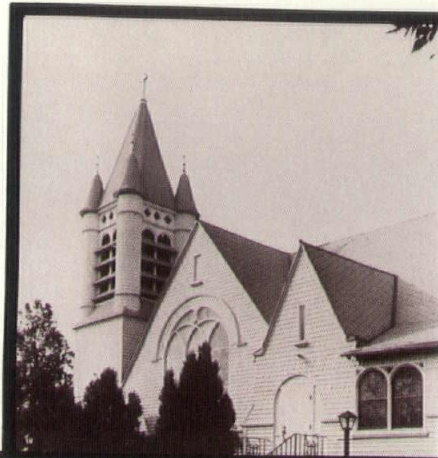
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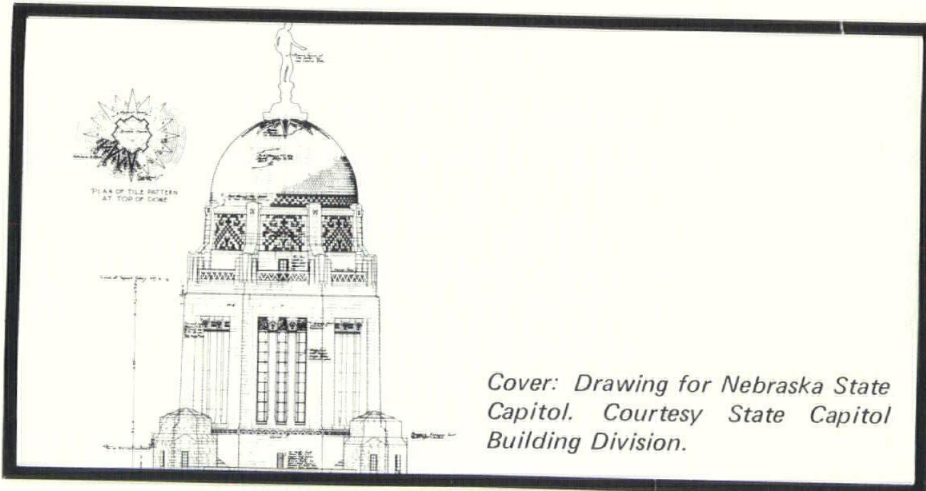
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Salem Lutheran Church, Ponca, Nebraska. Credit: D. Murphy.

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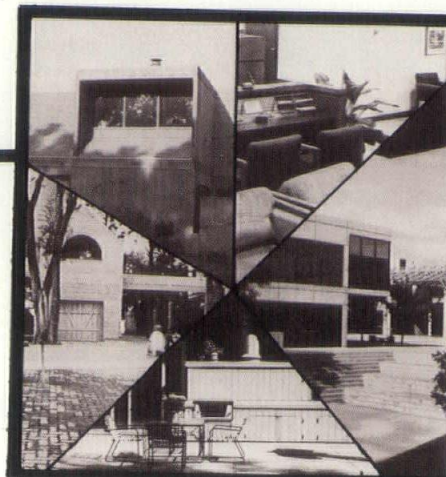


Cover: Drawing for Nebraska State Capitol. Courtesy State Capitol Building Division.

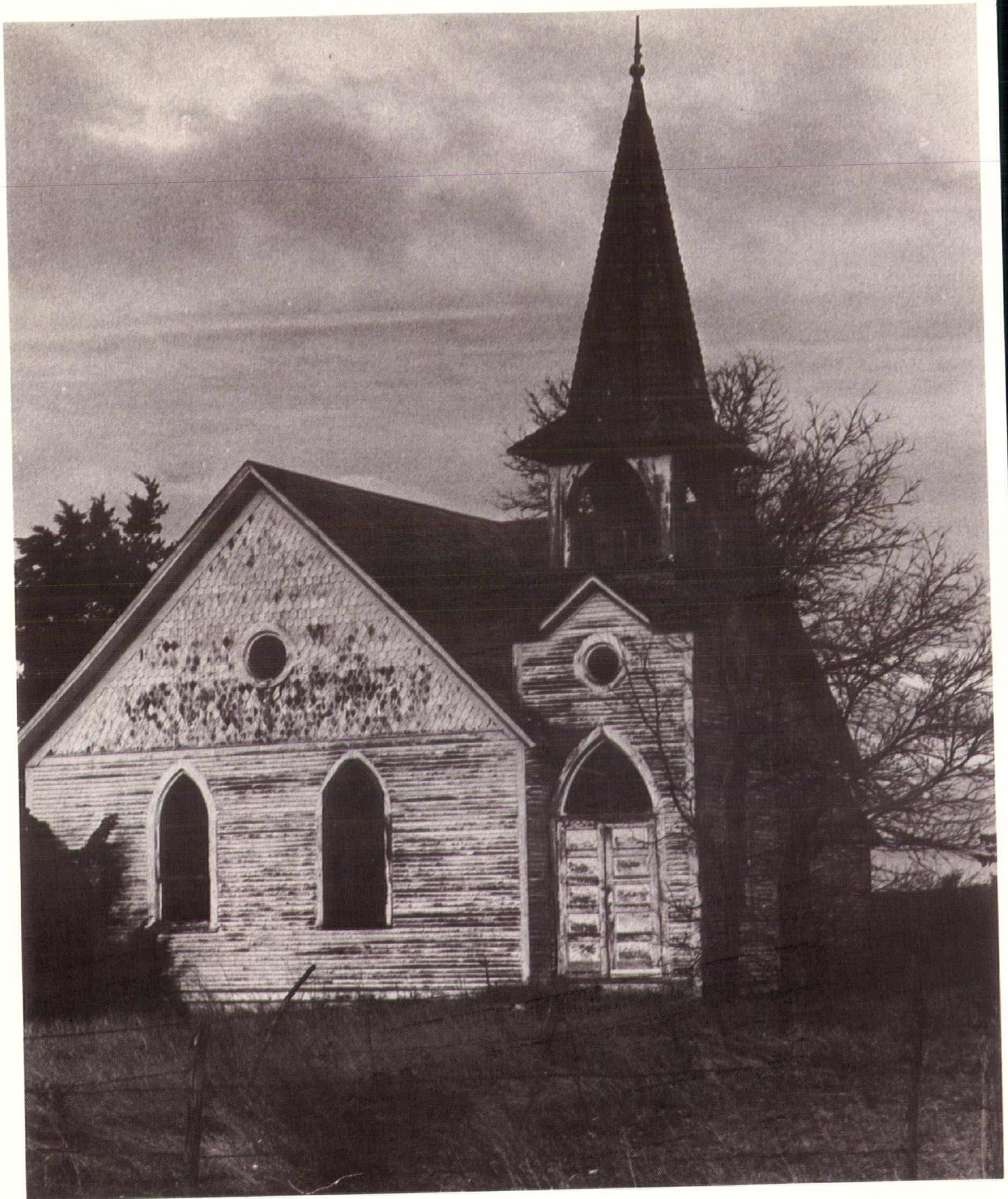
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Lutheran church outside Nebraska City. Photo: Steve Obering.



Preservation Works

Churches

By Dan Kidd

In any region or country, church buildings generally serve as the greatest architectural patrimony and, as such, provide an unparalleled historical record. Few would argue that, on the whole, houses of worship reflect the highest aspirations of people and therefore receive more attention in design and siting than any other type of buildings except, perhaps, major governmental structures. Even the very nonreligious can appreciate a well designed church or synagogue. One of the foremost authorities on French gothic cathedrals is known to be a vigorous athiest. As in Europe, on the American Atlantic Seaboard, or in neighboring midcontinental states, the church buildings of Nebraska figure significantly into our state's cultural heritage.

By the end of 1980, approximately 30 churches in Nebraska will be listed in the *National Register of Historic Places* individually or as contributing components in national register districts. These listings represent a variety of denominations, architectural styles, and construction dates, and they span a wide geographic spread. The diversity ranges from the awesome Saint Cecilia's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Omaha, Spanish Renaissance Revival, 1905-54; to the Bellevue Presbyterian Church (recorded by the Historic American Buildings Survey in the 1930s), Gothic Revival, 1856; to the diminutive Keystone Community Church in Keith County, vernacular, unique in having been erected for both catholic and protestant services.

Other denominations represented by Nebraska churches listed in or nominated to the National Register include the Unitarian, Baptist, Methodist, Congregational, Lutheran, Episcopal, Holiness, and African Methodist Episcopal faiths. Other architectural styles include the Greek Revival, Italianate, Victorian Gothic, Shingle Style, Stick Style, Colonial Revival, and Prairie School. The scale of these buildings varies greatly, as do the construction materials (consider, for example, the bailed hay Pilgrim Holiness Church in Arthur County.) Talented local builders have been responsible for designing these valued structures, as have noted architects such as Thomas Rogers Kimball, Ralph Adams Cram, H. Van Buren Magonigle, John and Alan MacDonald, and Frederick Stott.

For a visual delight and as a means of comprehending the architectural merits of Nebraska's churches — large and small, urban and rural, high style and vernacular — I highly recommend the traveling exhibit, "Dreams in Dry Places," a rich collection of photographs portraying Nebraska buildings and structures. Photographers Roger Bruehn and David Murphy have truly captured Nebraska's essence. (This project, supported by a grant from the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities, is currently touring Nebraska. For information contact Professor Keith Sawyers, College of Architecture, UNL.)

Fortunately, Nebraska's religious buildings are not yet faced with the likes of wholesale demolition that has taken

many of England's precious ecclesiastical buildings. But problems are cropping up in the eastern United States, and Nebraska eventually will be faced with the problem of church buildings that have become too small for the needs of growing congregations, or too burdensome for the finances of shrinking or expiring religious groups. Architects in Nebraska can and must take some responsibility for safeguarding the priceless cultural resources represented by this state's ecclesiastical buildings.

If called upon to design an expansion or addition to an older church, the architect should be sensitive to the scale, materials, and historic style of the existing building. Also, he should keep in mind that numerous smaller churches have successfully been retained and utilized as chapels for weddings, funerals, and other intimate events, or as social halls by burgeoning religious congregations faced with no alternative but new construction. In Nebraska, such action has happened in several cases, one as early as the late 1800's when the congregation of Saint John's Lutheran Church in rural Nemaha County kept possession of their older stone house of worship for use as an educational facility.

Architects should also be familiar with conservation techniques if selected to supervise repair work or restoration of an historic building. Structures that were harmless a decade ago, are now known to be detrimental. Churches, like other buildings, present no cause for being "dressed up," or made to look older than they are. Leave the Corinthian pilasters and broken swan's neck pediments in Williamsburg: Nebraska's heritage is Nebraska's own.

Likewise, the introduction of contemporary elements in an historic church is most often a sad mistake. Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral in St. Louis, Mo., a fine Victorian Gothic edifice designed by Leopold Eidlitz and constructed in the late 1860's received a then-lauded remodeling in the 1960's a century after its erection. The superb wooden floors of Christ Church were sheathed with large tiles of vermiculated marble and the appropriately ponderous Victorian pews were replaced with individual tubular chrome chairs with unfastened individual kneelers of the same make. The contemporary furnishings inside the Victorian cathedral is a visual *faux pas* that endangers the knee joints of the pious; chrome on marble (neither

original to the interior) is a slippery proposition and St. Louis communicants often suffer bruised knees when kneeling without the utmost caution.

When there is no choice but to abandon unneeded churches, adaptive reuse is an alternative to demolition that architects should investigate. Two major issues exist here: the suitability of a proposed new use; and the acceptability of architectural or structural change to the building. If adaptive re-use is feasible, exterior alterations always should be minimal, and if the interior is notable, subdivisions and modifications also should be as few as possible. Libraries, community centers, and recital halls are likely conversions to be considered because of the spatial nature of churches.

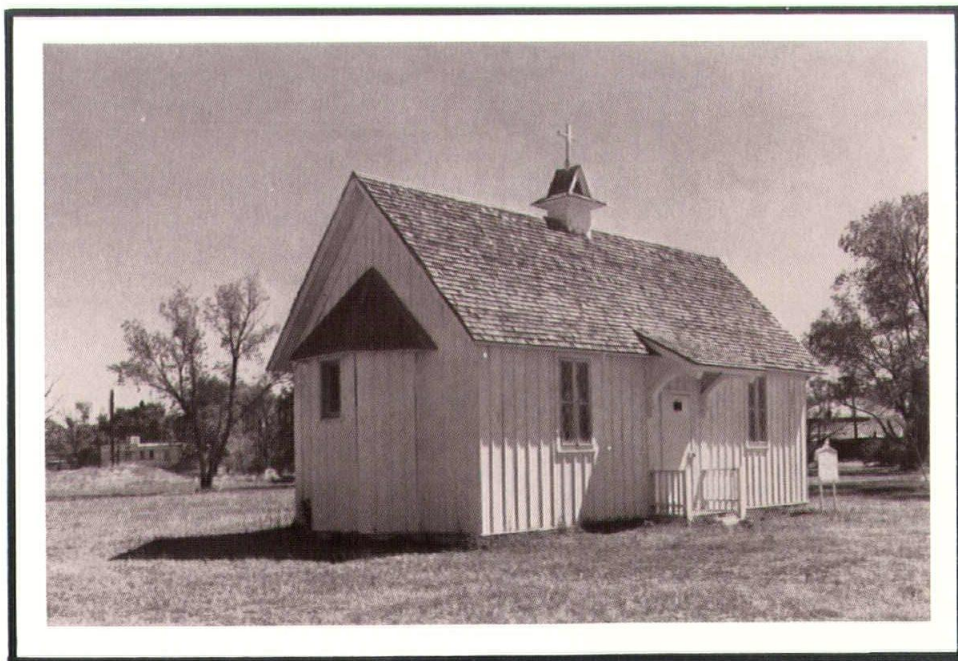
In *Buildings Reborn: New Uses, Old Places* (New York: Harper and Row, 1978), author Barbaralee Diamonstein presents several cases in which redundant religious buildings have been re-used: an 1890 Salt Lake City synagogue is now flourishing restaurant; an Eclectic frame Baptist church in Stonington, Connecticut, was recycled into an attractive residence; and a post-Civil War Presbyterian church in Iowa City now serves as a civic auditorium, while the basement level houses the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office. Countless new uses can be found for redundant churches, but

destroying their integrity in the process need not occur.

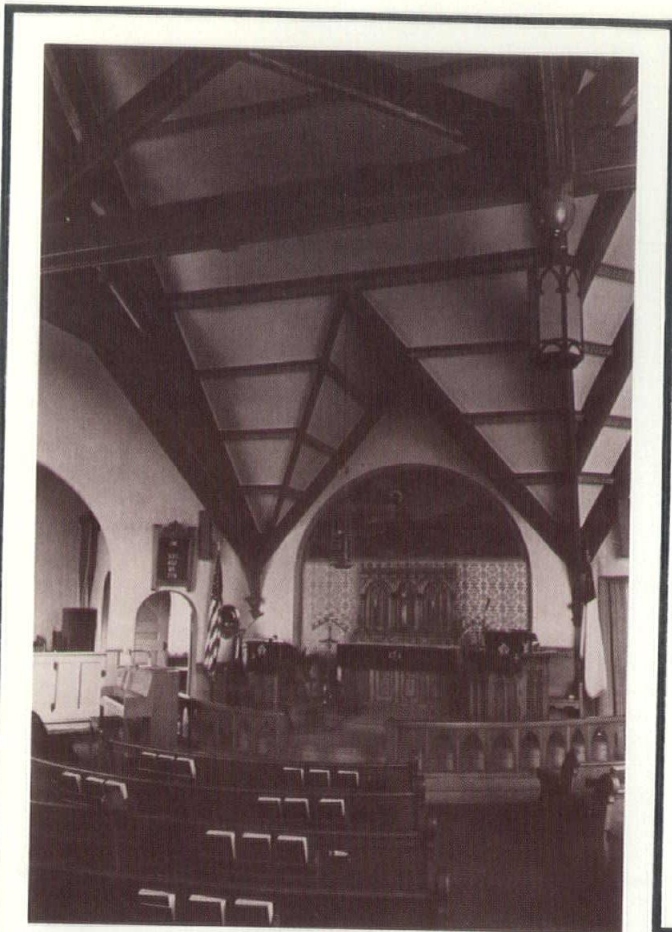
The Tax Reform Act of 1976 offers federal income tax incentives for certified rehabilitation work to owners of properties listed in the *National Register of Historical Places*, either individually or as part of a district, or as part of an historic district recognized by a certified local historic landmarks ordinance.

In France all cathedrals are owned by the state, and since 1968, England has operated a Redundant Churches Fund. But the United States has no state religion. Properties listed in the National Register are eligible to be considered for historic preservation grants-in-aid, but the amount each state receives varies from year to year, and competition becomes stiffer with the increasing number of places being listed. If the United States is to maintain its notable churches, much of the action must come from private initiative.

Some churches will have to be expanded or receive additions, some must become auxiliary religious buildings, and others will have to be recycled. Historic preservation recognizes the necessity of these alternatives to demolition and (pardon me) prays that architects will be ready and able for the challenging professional aspects that such projects will be presenting in Nebraska.



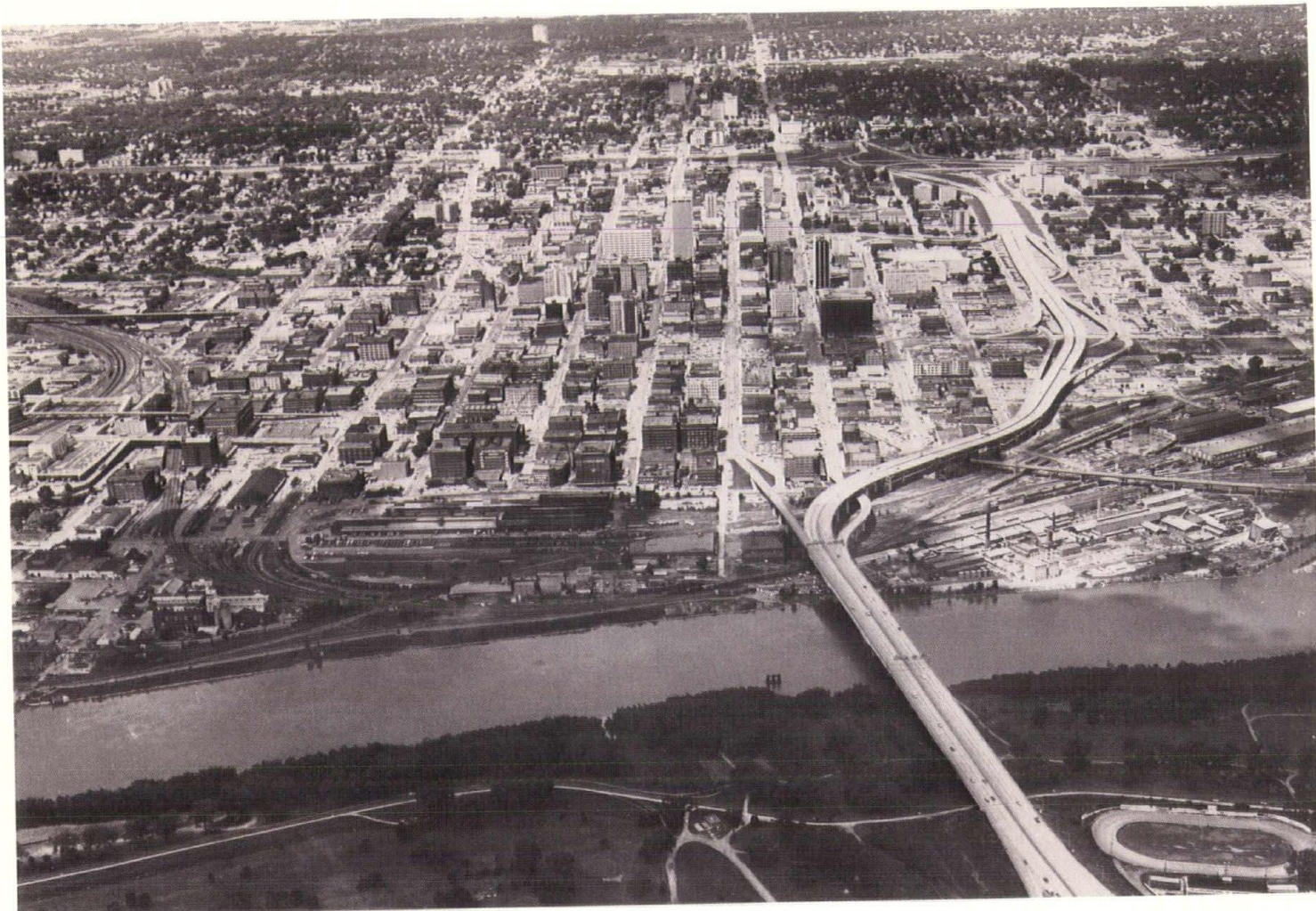
Keystone Community Church, Keystone, Nebraska. Courtesy: Dan Kidd.



At left, Salem Lutheran Church, Ponca, Nebraska. Interior detail of sanctuary looking NE toward altar. Credit: D. Murphy.

Below, Trinity Cathedral, Omaha, Nebraska. Credit: R. Bruhm (c) 1978.





Downtown Omaha, Nebraska. Credit: Wurgler Photo.

Cities

By George Haecker

It is intriguing to attempt documentation of what makes a city successful.

By city, in this article, I refer to its most urban aspect — its central business district.

The assumption that a successful city needs a successful downtown center can be of course, countered with arguments that point out that an affluent society with many modes of mobility, is very successful with its suburbs, shopping centers, restaurants, movie theatres, plenty of parking and greenspace. Indeed, until just a few years ago, this was probably the prevailing wisdom; and, at

least in Omaha's case, very little concern was placed with its downtown area. People were content in the suburbs — everything was too convenient, and downtown was just to be tolerated as part of the 40-hour work week.

It is no secret now, however, that many recent factors have intensified to make the suburban rational no longer valid — the premier factor being the fuel shortage and the subsequent consolidation of our lifestyles and distances. A host of technical and economic arguments support a downtown area, such as preservation of farmland, and the con-

tinued use of existing infrastructure of sewers, water lines, streets, highways and public facilities. If suburban sprawl in Omaha continues at its recent rate, it is estimated by the year 2020 one billion dollars will have been spent for additions to these facilities and 35,000 more acres of farmland will be consumed, more intense land use within existing boundaries, will allow the same population growth with virtually no additional investment in public services.

Beyond these economical arguments, however, there is an even more compelling reason for refocusing toward down-

town — cultural and civic. Omaha can really only have one Orpheum, one City Hall, one financial district, one Civic Auditorium, one court house, and one Joslyn Art Museum. These types of facilities can't and shouldn't be duplicated in the suburbs; and, by collectively grouping them as they are, the potential for an existing urban ambience is in place. The question now becomes, "How do we best take advantage of this potential, and how can Omaha restore its urban 'sense of place'?"

It is safe to say, that a renewed interest in downtown Omaha currently is taking place. It has been documented that percentagewise, property values since 1978 have increased more towards the east of 72nd Street than west of it, and Omaha's 3-year old urban development policy, which recommends a more consolidated growth, is beginning to take effect. In addition, such programs and groups as Downtown Omaha Inc., the Riverfront Development Program, and the Omaha Development Council are all focused toward a revitalized downtown.

An urban area is a complex organism, and many diverse factors affect its life or death: geography, topography, sociology, economics, and overall the community's character, pride and conviction. Cities vary just as individuals vary, and it is difficult to determine what makes one more successful. What is needed, perhaps, is a sort of a Dale Carnegie course for cities. These individual factors are contributing, but not solely responsible for, the success or failure of an urban environment. Take topography, for example. It could be argued that a flat city has more chance of success because pedestrian circulation is easier. There are many cities that exemplify this: London, Paris, Boston, the French Quarter in New Orleans, and, closer to home, Minneapolis, and Denver. However, there are notable exceptions: San Francisco, and more in scale to Omaha, Seattle. The hills and dales in Omaha's downtown area could be presented as a serious detriment to its success; but Seattle, most particularly, exemplifies that a central business district can have most tortuous of hills and still be successful. It's interesting that Omaha first developed on the flat river bottoms; initially the major banks and business institutions were all east of 14th Street; then with the railroad and industrial uses intruding, the center moved west up to the old river bluffs. Now, with the Marina City proposal, the

Old Market, and Central Park Mall, the center may again be shifting more toward the east and the flat topography it provides.

Another contributing factor is geography and the center's location in reference to the greater or metropolitan area. It has been said that Omaha has a distinct disadvantage in this regard because the central business district is at the eastern edge of the metropolitan area; and, with this fan-like shape, distances to travel to the center are necessarily greater than with a truly central location. However, the condition is more the rule than the exception; and, although Minneapolis, Kansas City, New York, London, Paris, and many others, do exemplify a central location, geographically this term is usually a misnomer, as centers are very often not in the center; and, particularly in America, cities tend to grow in one direction or the other, usually to the west. We have many examples of successful downtowns that aren't central to their population base, such as Chicago, Boston, Savannah, and close to home, Lincoln.

This brings up another factor that is often used in the Lincoln/Omaha comparison, the influence of public institutions versus private enterprise. Lincoln, of course, is blessed with the State Capitol on one side of the central business district and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln on the other. It would be hard to imagine how a business district could fail under these circumstances; and for this reason plus many others, Lincoln provides an outstanding example of what can and should be done to develop a quality urban environment. But Omaha, although more of a bootstrap operation depending on the private economy, needn't lose hope in this regard. There are more cities that have not only survived but prospered, strictly on the private sector rather than public support; and there's a sort of lusty quality in this as compared with the artificial respiration that Lincoln can take advantage of. The raw economy of a place is an interesting factor. In Denver's case, its tremendous growth was, in a sense, forced by the energy crisis and resultant investments in that area of the country. In other words, Denver didn't sit down one day and say, "Let's grow and prosper." It just happened, in spite of itself. On the other hand, the success of Minneapolis was not so much a matter of outside influences and economic injection as it was a conscious civic attitude and goal. Minneapolis did sit down and say,

"What can we do to make a great city?" and set about to do it. They consciously created the environment to attract investments, whereas Denver just happened to be in the right place at the right time. Omaha's analogy could be Minneapolis and not Denver. Unless some unforeseen economic boom takes place, Omaha will need to resurrect itself with its own will rather than rely on the raw economies of the market place. Of course, it would be a tremendous benefit if more industries and investments could be attracted to the city; but it's a viscous circle; before they can be attracted, Omaha will need to prove itself by its own effort.

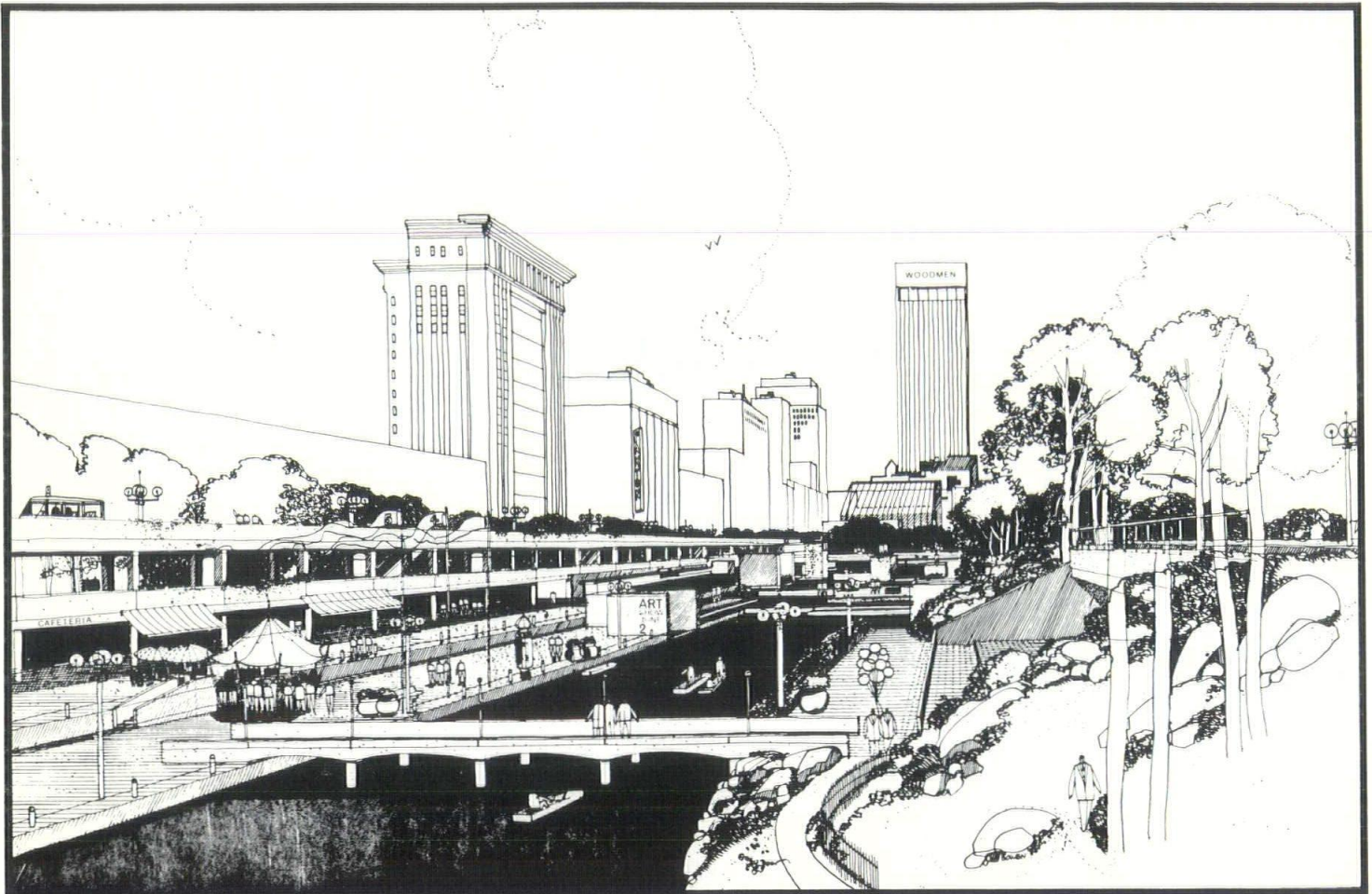
In this complex milieu of factors that affect a city lies a simple set of criteria that is essential for success. A kind of self improvement urban primer that might be used for a most basic guideline for civic decisions. For an urban area to be successful, exciting, and prosperous, there are six key criteria that must be followed and achieved. There is a tendency to oversimplify and merely designate a *must* for housing; a *must* for retail; a *must* for parking; a *must* for parks; or more office space, or better hotels, or whatever; with the inuendo that if any of these items were achieved, the problems would be over. It is not so simple as this and focus needs to be more cosmopolitan and encompassing. But, at the same time, the subject is not so complex or indeterminate that it can't effectively be addressed and a solution found. For the consideration of civic decisions, the following six criteria that should be incorporated into planning:

- **MIXED USE**

A city's excitement is in its diversity, its hustle, bustle, mix, and contradictions. We should encourage, at all turns, all and every function possible downtown. No single user or type of use should have exclusive preference, and our goal should be to combine all functions: retail, office, housing, entertainment, recreation; and, certainly not last nor least, religious institutions should be part of our urban mix. Indeed, nothing should be excluded or, if existing, removed.

- **TRANSPORTATION/PARKING**

I combine these two elements because they are one entity. If you have a proper transportation network, the need for parking is diminished. We are paranoid about parking to the point where downtown Omaha is looking more like Berlin during World War II



Looking west toward downtown Omaha from Central Park Mall. Courtesy: Bahr, Vermeer & Haecker.

than a living city. There is no need to park if there is nothing to do after you park. Parking should, of course, be considered and incorporated into planning; but it is the result of successful planning, not the cause of it. Clearing buildings to make way for more parking for the so-called "convenience" of the shopper/visitor is only a downhill cycle. This only demotes the urban environment, makes the downtown less and less attractive, and drives away the potential visitor. One doesn't visit, or isn't attracted to, San Francisco or New York because they have plenty of parking. Parking is incidental, and I rate it as a low priority of downtown improvement. If the demand and ambiance is created, people will find a way to get there; and if they can't readily park, they will begin to rely more and more on public transportation, which is better anyway.

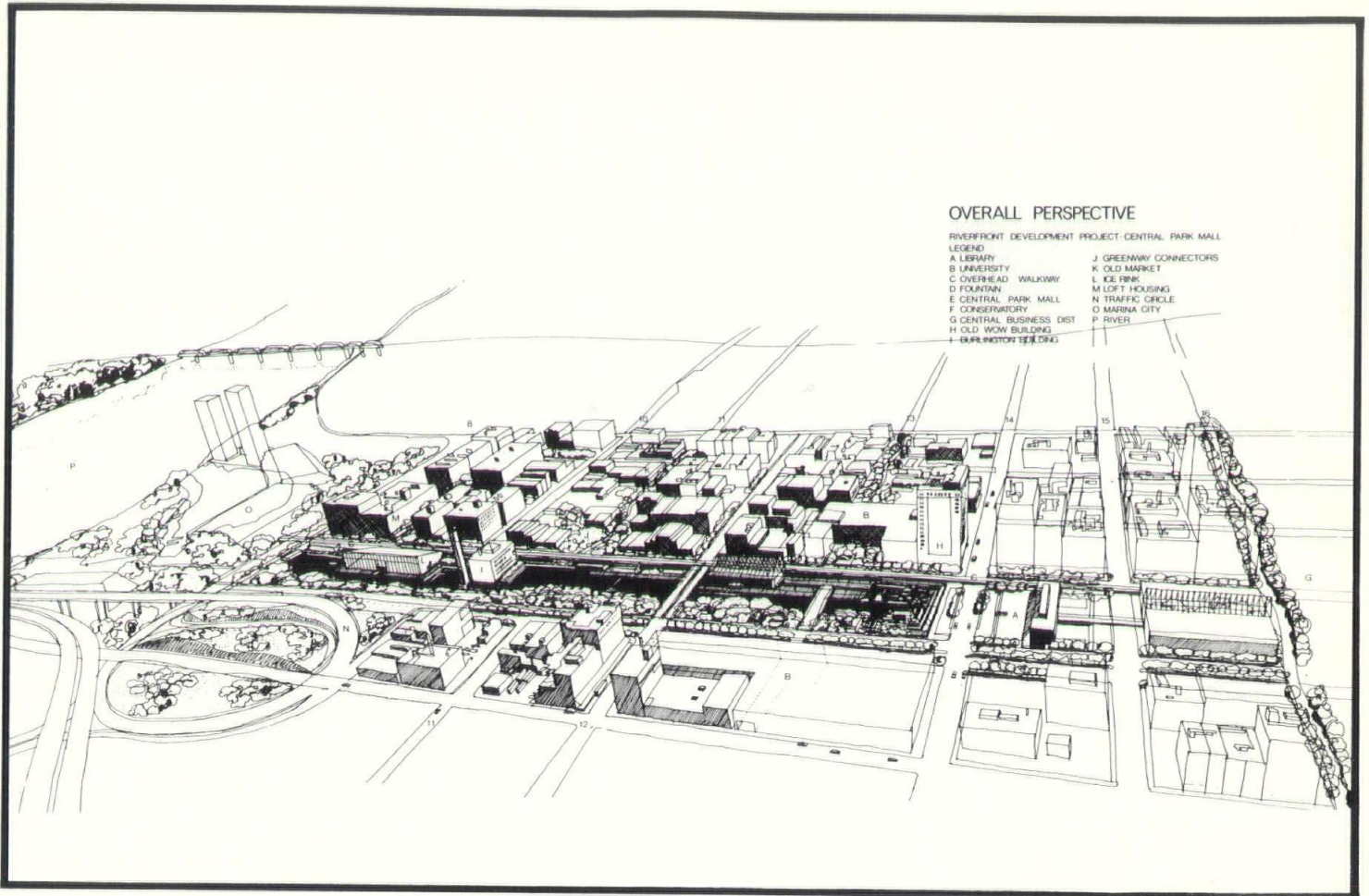
● **INTEGRATION**

By this I mean two types of integration, both physical and operational. Physically, whether it is entirely good or bad, there is an existing context to downtown. The street pattern, vistas, buildings, and spaces are familiar to people and they identify with the total as well as the parts. New construction should integrate with this environment to the greatest extent possible. Chances of success are generally better with minor surgery than with major surgery. There is no value in clearing whole blocks and completely obliterating a given environment when more sensitive infilling and complementary construction can take place. The failure of the old urban renewal program was proof of this; once a given area is obliterated, it is extremely difficult to give it new life. Likewise, with certain stores and existing institutions, we

should very carefully catalog what is currently working, and in any degree successful, and make every effort to build upon these successes, rather than obliterate them with superblock scheming. There are existing today in the downtown some very viable small business operations: shops, restaurants, and businesses; and it would be most counterproductive to force them out of business, or into a disruptive move, with new construction that could not accommodate their scale or circumstance.

● **QUALITY**

When we build we must build with the highest architectural quality and confidence that we are capable of. People are attracted to confidence; and when we make our buildings of the highest quality possible, it exemplifies this confidence and our commitment to our city. On the other hand, when



Central Park Mall and Environs. Courtesy: Bahr, Vermeer & Haecker.

something is constructed that is mediocre, it dampens all around it. As Daniel Burnham said, "Make no small plans — they have no magic to stir men's souls," we must stir our civic pride; and that can only be done by building with absolute conviction and quality. Both the IDS Center in Minneapolis and the NBC Building in Lincoln are close-at-hand examples of this. Both these buildings have played major roles in setting the standard of excellence for the respective cities, which in turn has spurred further civic pride and commitment. It is time Omaha became less insular and learned this lesson; whatever we build downtown must be exemplary.

● **PRESERVATION**

This is closely related to the criteria of integration explained above, but is specialized enough that it needs individual attention. Of course, many books have been written on the subject and all manner and rationalization has explained why it is of value to

preserve our architectural heritage. I won't attempt in the space of this article to repeat these arguments, except simply to say that every successful city has recognized this fact. Architectural preservation has recently mushroomed from an inkling awareness to a booming trend; and, if Omaha does not take advantage of this opportunity, it will be turning its back on a key element that could assist in the resurrection of downtown.

● **PEOPLE AMENITIES**

The premise here is simply that if you provide those public ingredients that make an environment fun to be in, people will be attracted to it; and from that attraction will come all other results. It's a chicken and egg game; but it has been clearly documented in other cities that if the public investment can be made in pedestrian walkways, parks, fountains, art, plazas, and open space, people will come, and private enterprise will follow. This is, of course, the rationale for Omaha's

Central Park Mall, and we can say that this particular effort is currently underway. However, more should be done throughout the CBD area in regard to detailed ingredients, such as benches, trees, fountains, sidewalk paving, and those urban amenities that create the mood and environment for the public's enjoyment. Obviously, if streets and sidewalks are plain, littered, and devoid of attractive detailing, people will not feel good about being there, and will be on their way as quickly as possible.

Omaha can get the job done. A strong impetus lies both locally and nationally which refocuses toward the city centers. It is official federal policy to redevelop and make better use of urban areas. There is a growing awareness that a successful urban area is exemplary of the best things of civilization; and in Omaha there is both the opportunity and existing context to grow from a good city to a great city. As the 1980's progress it is clearly time for civic rebirth to begin.

Energy Alternatives

By Steve Eveans

A new era is upon us in environmental design.

A new attitude is in the formulative stages. This new attitude in people expresses a greater need for an understanding of the environment and the processes involved in environmental change. It expresses a concern for the quality of environmental design.

For some, the concepts of energy conservation and the conservationist approach in general, forecasts a reduction in the quality of life. Logic tells us that there must be an attitude change in the use and planning of our non-renewable energy sources. This demands a heightened sense of awareness about these resources, their connective systems, and how they interact with our society and culture. This especially places a greater demand on the design professions to be held accountable, for the expression of the qualitative aspects of environmental design. It emphasizes a need for a sense of the priorities obtainable through the design processes. Architecture and planning must understand the priorities and be involved in setting them and informing educational clients, the public and the decision makers as to the implications.

Energy conservation by mandate should be only an intermediary stage while the "new attitude," direction is developed. This development hopefully will not be toward an escapist attitude.

We cannot, at present, say that we fully understand our own earth. Energy consciousness will come from an understanding of the impacts, problems, and possibilities for all present and alternative energy use practices and resources. We must have a better handle on what we have available, what the problems are and what the challenge is to set future priorities.

It is hoped that the qualitative aspects of our environment and culture are not lost during this period. If the technocracy directs our way there is a danger that the qualitative and expressive elements of the design process will be mandated into mediocracy. Governmental regulation is a prime example of this situation. Several pieces of legislation are before the Nebraska Legislature in regard to energy, its use and regulation. Do we know, as professionals, what the implications of these laws are in terms of design? Designers have ignored our potential role in the public realm. In turn we are perceived as technical resources, entrepreneurially waiting on the sidelines to be called upon when we are needed. We are not called as often as we could; architects are responsible for only five percent of the built environment in terms of design.

We, as design professionals, administrators, and facilitators have before us the opportunity to put our skills and design processes on the cutting edge for our

society. We can and should be involved in setting the trends and priorities, but we need to be more involved with the public we serve.

In the midlands we have perhaps an even greater opportunity to plan and design the environment. We have not yet felt the tremendous impacts as have other more urban areas but we may be faced with these conservation issues soon. Because of our agricultural resources and a natural emphasis on community and region, we can better bear with the problems ahead.

The design professions must communicate on all channels. We can communicate about architecture, for it is the art and science of integration. We can communicate sensitive planning, for it is the expression of the needs of our society. The channels are many.

The issue and problem of energy consciousness is making us take a good look at ourselves and our present situation. Conservation is an interim device to project us into the future. Conservation practices need not mean cutting back in terms of our creative and expressive human nature.

Several channels are open to design professionals, administrators, and facilitators in this region and state. The most important thing we can do is practice what we preach and work at communicating our successes.



The Sower. Early photo of Nebraska State Capitol dome. Courtesy: State Building Division.

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Dialogue

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

There is a much desired and great need for discourse between professionals in the environmental design fields. Even though the quality of this communication and opportunities for this type of sharing has been greatly improved in the last three years, the consistency/continuity has been quite a bit less than what would be desired in a truly growing (knowledge, education, process) professional community.

The quality of architecture is something we should be proud of in Nebraska. We must also strive for a greater understanding of what quality of our own work is and more importantly, how the general public perceives this quality. We can barely talk to each other now, how can we expect the general public to respond to what is being said in our work?

I would like to know what the related design professionals think and feel about our identity crisis. I think some suggestions about solutions to this vast communication problem would be worth mentioning.

There is committee forming in the Lincoln chapter of the AIA to come to grips with this problem and the basic educational level. The goal of this committee is to foster the growth and devel-

opment of the concept that we can both learn from and teach with the real physical/built environment and that a certain level of sensitivity to the issues of the built environment can be taught throughout the learning process of life.

Our plan is to work with the Lincoln Public Schools to consolidate all of the previous programs we have been engaged in with the schools into a pilot program on "Built Environment Education."

Our first task is to orient the teachers in a pilot school to the advantages and processes to be gained and used in this program. The benefits to be gained by the committee members and the AIA as a whole are many. The fulfillment of our primary commitment in terms of our code of ethics and its directives about education and the profession will be realized.

The committee members will learn better teaching and leadership skills. The AIA will instantly become more visible to the students and their parents. This will eventually establish a base of contact and transfer of knowledge that will lead to a better informed public, future clientele and potential professionals.

Steve Eveans
Architect

The first issue of Dimensions is financially supported by the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and by the Nebraska Society of Architects. Subsequent issues will be supported by the College of Architecture and by income from subscriptions and advertisements.

The editorial staff of Dimensions in-

vites all interested parties to submit articles, news items and letters for publication. News items and letters will be published at the discretion of the editor. Articles will be reviewed and if selected for publication will be edited in terms of form, length and structure. Any author who wishes will then have an opportunity to read the edited version before it is

published.

We request that all material submitted for publication be typed, double spaced on one side of the page. Suggested length from 600-1000 words. Please submit graphic material also. Black and white photos and line drawings are preferred. Sizing of graphics will be determined by the editor.



Take Note

Faculty Exchange in Ireland

The UNL Architecture college has an on-going faculty exchange program with the Architectural Faculty from the College of Technology in Dublin, Ireland. The program is structured around a six-week stay in the host country. Our assignment in Dublin typically involves assisting the studio master for the third year design studio in a five-year program. In addition, several lectures are given in our area of expertise to members of the college and faculty.

For the first exchange (two years ago) Professor Allan Quick from UNL exchanged with Sean Rothery from Dublin. Sean's assignment in Lincoln was to teach one section of Design 440, a senior studio involving the role of context in Architectural Design. He also gave several lectures in the Gallery on Irish Architecture. This year Professor William Borner went to Dublin in exchange with Eamonn O'Doherty. Borner said he found the exchange to be an immensely beneficial experience both personally and professionally. There is no comparison to "touring" a country and actually having a teaching assignment and working and living with the people. This program offers a faculty member the opportunity to see architecture and urban design not only of Dublin, but of London and Edinburgh as well. When Eamonn was in Lincoln, the locally based firm of Davis/

Fenton/Stange and Darling, hosted an evening cocktail party to exchange ideas and philosophies on architecture.

* * * *

London 1980

Eleven students are participating in the 1980 London Architecture Study Program under the guidance of Professor Tom Laging. The students and Professor Laging and family (wife Mig and daughter Quinn) are living in the Marlebone district of London convenient to the AA, Regents Park and Hyde Park, and the "best fish and chips place in London." Day trips from London are planned with Oklahoma and Wisconsin students to visit Stonehenge, Salisbury, Canterbury, Norwich and Bath. Visits to Oxford and Cambridge will be done independently. Word has been received that the students are busy working on their projects and "living like vegetarian church mice as the price of meat and chicken is out of sight (\$7.00 a chicken)."

* * * *

Winterim 1979-80

The 1979-80 Architectural Winterim to France and Italy not only turned out to be quite an experience for all, but also, the largest Winterim group the university has ever sent. The Winterim program, for those who aren't familiar with it, is a Continuing Education course offered by the College of Architecture for three

credit hours and is usually conducted from the day after Christmas until the day before second semester classes begin (about 18 days).

This year's architectural trip was led by three faculty, Robert Stowers, Kevin Forseth, and Homer Puderbaugh, and composed of 36 students ranging from freshmen to graduate students in architecture, interior design students, university faculty in other disciplines and professional. This cross section of individuals from the university and community made the trip most enjoyable.

December 27 we arrived in Paris and spent several days visiting this major European city and its environs (Chartre Cathedral and Versailles in particular). We then traveled by overnight train to Nice on the French Riviera where we spent New Years Eve and enjoyed breathtaking sunsets. From there we traveled to Italy and visited Venice (my favorite) and Florence (where it all started) and on to Rome including a side trip to Naples and Pompeii.

I'm sure that it was a trip everyone will remember, the culture so historically rich and the architecture so grand. We walked around most of the time in awe of the 1000 years of history we were experiencing first hand.

Next year's Winterim promises to be equally spectacular. We will fly into Rome, spend time in Venice and Florence

and then travel to Athens, Greece. If you are interested in joining the group next year, contact Bob Stowers.

* * * *

U.A.G. Exchange

Professor Robert Duncan will be taking eight third-year students to Guadalajara, Mexico, to take part in the Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara (U.A.G.) Exchange Program. Students will begin in the summer taking a six-week course in Spanish at U.A.G. followed with equivalent four-year architecture courses during the fall semester. In addition to course work students will participate in and share the many activities offered by the U.A.G. Architectural Program.

* * * *

Design Studio 955

With support from the Hyde Grant, Design 955, the second semester sixth year studio, recently spent one week in residence in Houston at the office of Caudill, Rowlett and Scott.

Each day was scheduled with a morning, afternoon and evening session focused around mini-design sketch problems on architecture and energy related issues. In this manner the class did several individual sketch problems complete with CRS critique. Subject areas for design and energy include programming, interior design, architectural design, and landscape architecture. A "show-and-tell" was

held at the beginning of the week to introduce the members of the class to the participating CRS staff members. The class presented design solutions from several 955 studies and CRS discussed examples of their work such as the SERI solution and the TVA project.

On the lighter side, Bill Caudill hosted an evening social and cocktail party for the class at his home. In addition, the last afternoon in Houston was spent touring several architectural offices in the area, including the office of Robert Douglass, former Nebraska graduate.

* * * *

Intern Programs

The UNL Architecture Intern Program continues to draw support from the students, faculty and profession. Minor changes resulting from our first "trial and error" efforts are being incorporated into the program and we believe these changes with the professions interest and help, will lead to an excellent opportunity for both students and professionals. The program will remain 15 weeks (13 weeks in the summer) of 40 hours per week controlled office experience for the student under the guidance and supervision of an office professional. Four students completed their internship this fall semester in the offices of Davis/Fenton/Stange/Darling, the Clark-Enersen Partners, Bahr, Vermeer & Haecker, and

Dreams in Dry Places

A Photographic Exhibit of Historic Nebraska Architecture



Photographs by:
R. Bruhn
David Murphy

Design by:
Rod Lamberson

College of Architecture
University of Nebraska - Lincoln



Center for Great Plains Studies
University of Nebraska - Lincoln

With the Technical Assistance of the Nebraska State Historical Society

Thomas Bachtold Associates.

Contact the chairman, College of Architecture, UNL.

* * * *

Fellowship Awarded

The Leo A. Daly Travelling Fellowship was recently awarded to Greg Wielage. The Fellowship, which carries a cash stipend of \$4,000, is awarded every two years to a worthy fourth, fifth or sixth year student. It is the richest and most prestigious scholarship offered by the College of Architecture. Greg is a sixth year graduate student who has been working with Professor Guenter to develop a book on Japanese Architecture. Greg will use the Fellowship to visit Japan where he will study Shinto and Buddhist shrines. Members of the jury for selecting the recipient included Jack Savage, an Architect from the Leo A. Daly firm.

* * * *

Dreams in Dry Places

Dreams In Dry Places, a photographic exhibit, explores the first 100 years of Nebraska architecture. The exhibit is organized around architectural themes such as domestic architecture, buildings of rural communities, style, materials, and ethnic influences. The photographs are interpreted by quotations from American literature. On display are 130 contemporary photographs by David Murphy, survey architect with the Nebraska State Historical Society, and Roger Bruhn, a Lincoln photographer. Keith Sawyers, professor of architecture, was the project director.

The exhibit is sponsored by the Center for Great Plains Studies and the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and funded by a grant from the Nebraska Committee for the Humanities.

* * * *

HDR Graduate Scholarship

The Department of Architecture is

pleased to announce the continuation of the Annual HDR Graduate Scholarship in Architecture, and will soon call for applications from students who have been admitted into the Master of Architecture degree program and will be enrolled as fifth or sixth year students during the 1980-81 academic year.

The purpose of this \$1000 scholarship is to aid the recruitment and retention of outstanding graduate architecture students. The scholarship is awarded annually to a student who is making satisfactory progress toward the professional degree, Master of Architecture, and is considered to be worthy and deserving.

Completed application forms, transcripts and supporting material must be submitted to the chairman of the Department of Architecture (206 Arch Hall) no later than 4:30 p.m., April 11, 1980.

Steve Weber, a fifth year graduate student from Lincoln was the 1979-80 recipient of this scholarship.

* * * *

Kirkham, Michael & Associates Scholarship

The College of Architecture is pleased to announce the continuation of the annual Kirkham, Michael & Associates Scholarship, and has asked for applications from students who will be sophomores, juniors, or seniors in the B.S. in Architectural Studies degree program during the 1980-81 academic year.

The purpose of this \$750 scholarship is to encourage and assist young men and women of promising talent and ability to complete the requirements for graduation from the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Troy Christensen, a senior in the B.S. in Architectural studies program was the 1979-80 recipient. Congratulations to Troy and many thanks to Kirkham, Michael and Associates for their fine support.

Completed application forms, tran-

scripts and supporting material must be submitted to the Dean's Office (107 Arch Hall) no later than 4:30 p.m. March 28, 1980.

* * * *

Department of Community and Regional Planning

The Department of Community and Regional Planning has nine graduate students on internships funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Section "701" Work Study Grant Program. The HUD grants are to the State of Nebraska Policy Research Office and the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency. The nine community and regional planning students are working for the following local agencies: City of Lincoln Urban Development Department, Lincoln Opportunities Industrialization Center, State of Nebraska Department of Energy, State of Nebraska Department of Economic Development, State of Nebraska Department of Welfare Technical Assistance Agency, and the Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency. As part of the program, the students work part-time during the academic year and full-time during the summer months. Cash contributions from the local agencies and monies from the HUD grant pay for the students' tuition, books, and a monthly stipend.

* * * *

Austin Joins Faculty

Richard Austin has joined the faculty of the Community Resource and Research Center as an associate professor of community development. He has a bachelor's degree from Texas Technological College and a Master's from North Texas State University. He is a registered landscape architect in Texas and Kansas and has served most recently as director of the Dallas office of Oblinger-Smith Corporation. He previously spent five years on the faculty of the Department of

Landscape Architecture at Kansas State University, as a landscape architect for Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and as a municipal park planner. He is the author of numerous publications and is currently authoring a book on planting design.

* * * *

Offices/Committees positions:

Mele Koneya

Editorial Board, Journal of the Community Development Society

Ted Wright

President, Nebraska Planning and Zoning Assn.

Recognition and Awards Committee, Community Development Division, National University Extension Association

Kip Hulvershorn

President, Nebraska Chapter, Community Development Society

Board Member, Mid-West Recreation and Park Assn.

Board Member, American Assn. for Leisure and Recreation, Chair, Committee on Research and Planning

Member — National Joint Task Force to Study Recreation, Parks and Open Space Standards

Member, Continuing Education Committee, National Recreation and Park Assn.

Kim Todd

Program Director — Great Plains Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architecture

Jim Griffin

Editor, National Newsletter for the Community Design Center Director's Association

* * * *

National Offices

The following national offices held by

CRP faculty include:

Marie Arnot — President-Elect of National Community Development Society. She becomes president in August 1980 for one year.

Mary Kihl — Appointed to a two-year term on the Transportation Research Board's Committee on Land Development and Transportation.

The Transportation Research Board is an agency of the National Research Council which encourages research on transportation systems.

Roger Massey — Secretary-Treasurer, Education Department, American Planning Association.

* * * *

Sawyers Elected

Professor Keith Sawyers has been elected to a three-year term on the National Board of Directors of the Society of Architectural Historians.

Wood Appointed

Associate Professor Peter Wood has been appointed a member of the AIA Continuing Education Committee.

Steward Chairman

UNL Architecture Dean W. Cecil Steward is a member of the national IDP Coordinating Committee which is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of the Intern Architect Development Program being jointly sponsored by AIA and NCARB.

He is also immediate past Chairman and remains a member of the AIA Continuing Education Committee.

AIA Professional Management Committee

The AIA Practice Management Committee, chaired by Thomas Moreland of Eugene, Oregon, held its first meeting of 1980 February 28-29 in San Antonio, Texas. Herman Schmidt from HDR and

John Benson from the College of Architecture were both in attendance.

The meeting opened with the customary introductions, and then the committee zeroed in on identifying practice related issues to be discussed by study groups that afternoon.

At the end of the first day, the following resolutions were presented to Bruce Patty, chairman of the AIA Commission on Practice and Design:

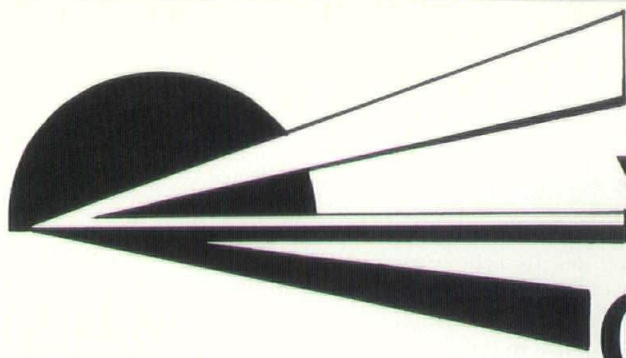
The first resolution requested that a fully funded task force on "Micro Computers applications in the Practice of Architecture" be formed to determine the AIA's potential role of assistance in this area. A great sense of urgency accompanied the committee's discussions about computers. No one was willing to spend two years studying the issue, rather PMC felt that it needed to identify a method for sharing information rapidly and at a minimal cost. A micro computer newsletter was suggested as one way for members to disseminate information.

The second resolution recommended that a day-long seminar on "Long Range Strategic Planning" be offered at the November PMC meeting to be held in Savannah, Georgia.

The third resolution suggested that a half-day seminar on "How to Find and Keep good employees" be presented at the Savannah meeting, and that the AIA Continuing Education Committee prepare seminars on personnel practices and employee development.

It appeared that by the end of the meeting that resolutions two and three would be combined by the PMC steering committee.

The final resolution recommended that the current task force or suitable fees be funded for additional study and development. An educational seminar on "Project Organization, scheduling and control was presented during the morning of the second day.



Mark Your Calendar

JUNE

1-4 AIA National Convention, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Fontenelle Forest Nature Walk, Omaha, Neb.

21 AIA/ACSA Teacher's Seminar in Cranbrook, Mich.

JULY

AIA Family Picnic

26-31 Third Annual Summer Institute on Energy Design: ASCA/DOB sponsored, Cambridge, Mass.

AUG

Omaha Chapter NSA walking tour of neighborhoods. Omaha, Neb.

5-8 Community Development Society Annual Meeting, Arcata, Calif.

18 Beginning of 1980-81 academic year at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

21 Nebraska Society of Architects Executive Committee meeting.

SEPT

18 Nebraska Society of Architects annual business meeting.

25-27 Central States AIA Regional Convention. Tulsa, Okla.

NOV

Nebraska Society of Architects, AIA Honor Awards Program.

20 Nebraska Society of Architects Executive Committee meeting.

DEC

AIA holiday party.

By Keith Dubas

The Nebraska Celebration of Architecture was held in November as a time to honor those involved with creation of a better built environment. Events during the celebration included the designation of Architecture Week by Governor Thone, a visit by Ehrman Mitchell, FAIA, president of the American Institute of Architects, special television showings of films on architecture, displays on architecture in downtown storefronts and the annual pig roast put on by the students of the UNL College of Architecture. The highlight of the period of celebration was the awarding of the Nebraska Society of Architects Honor Awards at a ceremony which took place at the Nebraska Bank of Commerce Center in Lincoln before more than 125 architects and friends.

The five projects honored were selected by jury from 33 submitted entries. The jury of architects, all from Philadelphia, was chaired by George Qualls of Geddes, Qualls, Brecher and Cunningham and included Charles Dagit of Dagit-Saylor and Fred Foote of Mitchel-Giurgola Associates. Qualls introduced the winning projects by honoring the "crucial role of the client in developing outstanding architecture" and by further stating that "the buildings we honor tonight are the clients' buildings, (they are) the three dimensional testimony to the faith and patience which the clients possess."

The honor awards were then presented with the following commentary from the jury:

These are their per curiam comments:

AIA Honor Awards



Courtesy: Tom Findley.

Housing Cluster

Treehouse Association, with Architects Gary Bowen, Scott Findley, Tom Findley, Jack Savage and Gary Tasich. For Treehouse Townhouses in Omaha.

This small cluster of individual houses gathered around a brick paved courtyard is distinguished by a pleasing consistency of treatment without the loss of architectural variation. The presence of a previously existing home and the careful retention of a number of mature trees gives the development an added richness. This project was also awarded the Masonry Award for the character of the central court.



Photo: Joel Strasser

Savings and Loan Bank

Davis, Fenton, Stange, Darling. For State Federal Savings Branch, Lincoln.

This free-standing structure sits gracefully in a thoughtfully designed landscape which admits yet controls the automobile. The building is particularly successful in the handling of its interior spaces. The view into a contained courtyard, the sensitive placement of skylights, and the continuous interior transom line all contribute to a sense of cohesion that makes the inside a logical counterpart to the exterior.



Photo: Joel Strasser

Family Room and Pool

Bahr, Vermeer and Haecker of Omaha and Lincoln. For private residence addition, Sioux City.

An early modern house is the site for this addition of a family room, terrace, and swimming pool. This award was given for the care and restraint with which the new has been merged with the old. Although the existing home is built of masonry, the wood clad extension fits comfortably in scale, texture, and color. The new room which incorporates views of the pool and a carefully positioned piece of sculpture seems to be an attractive setting for leisure time activities.

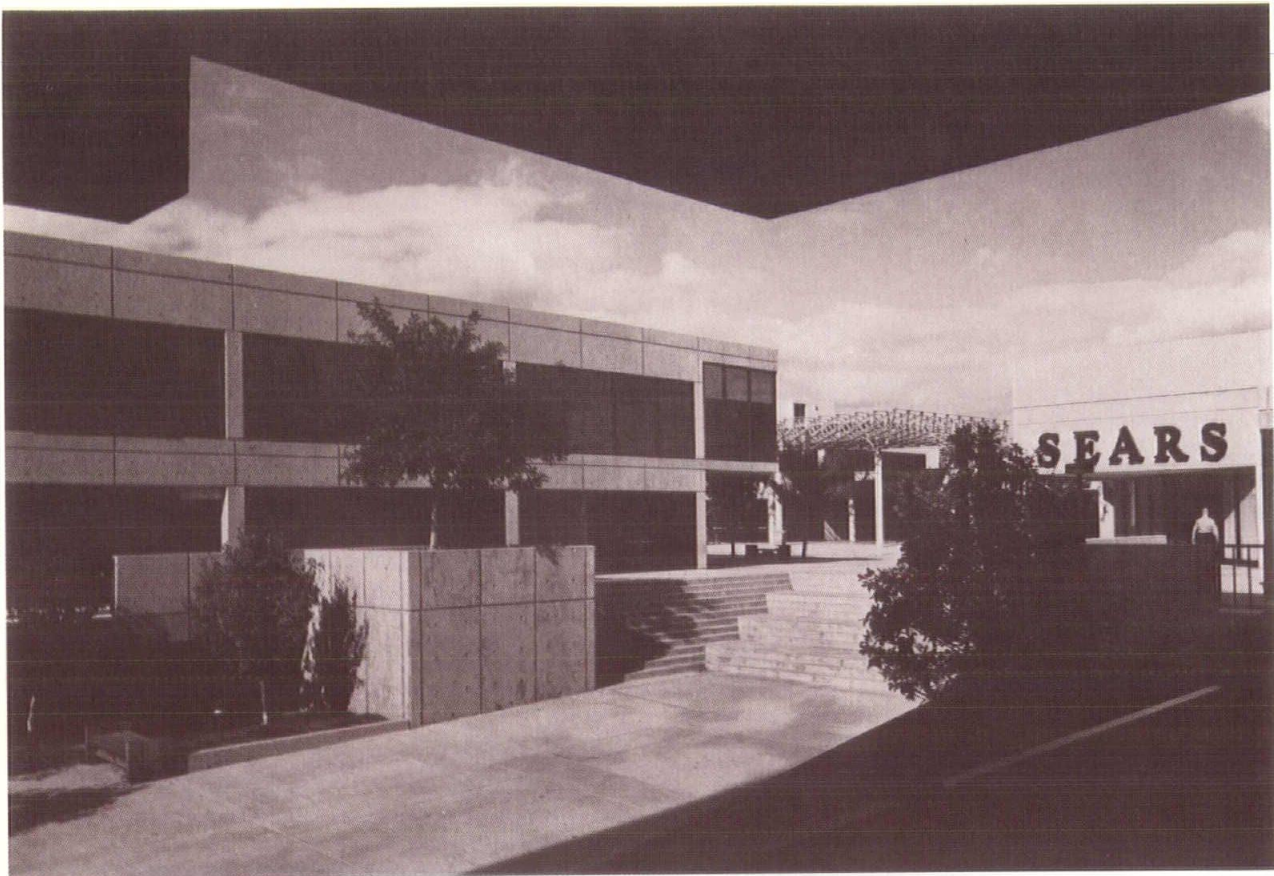
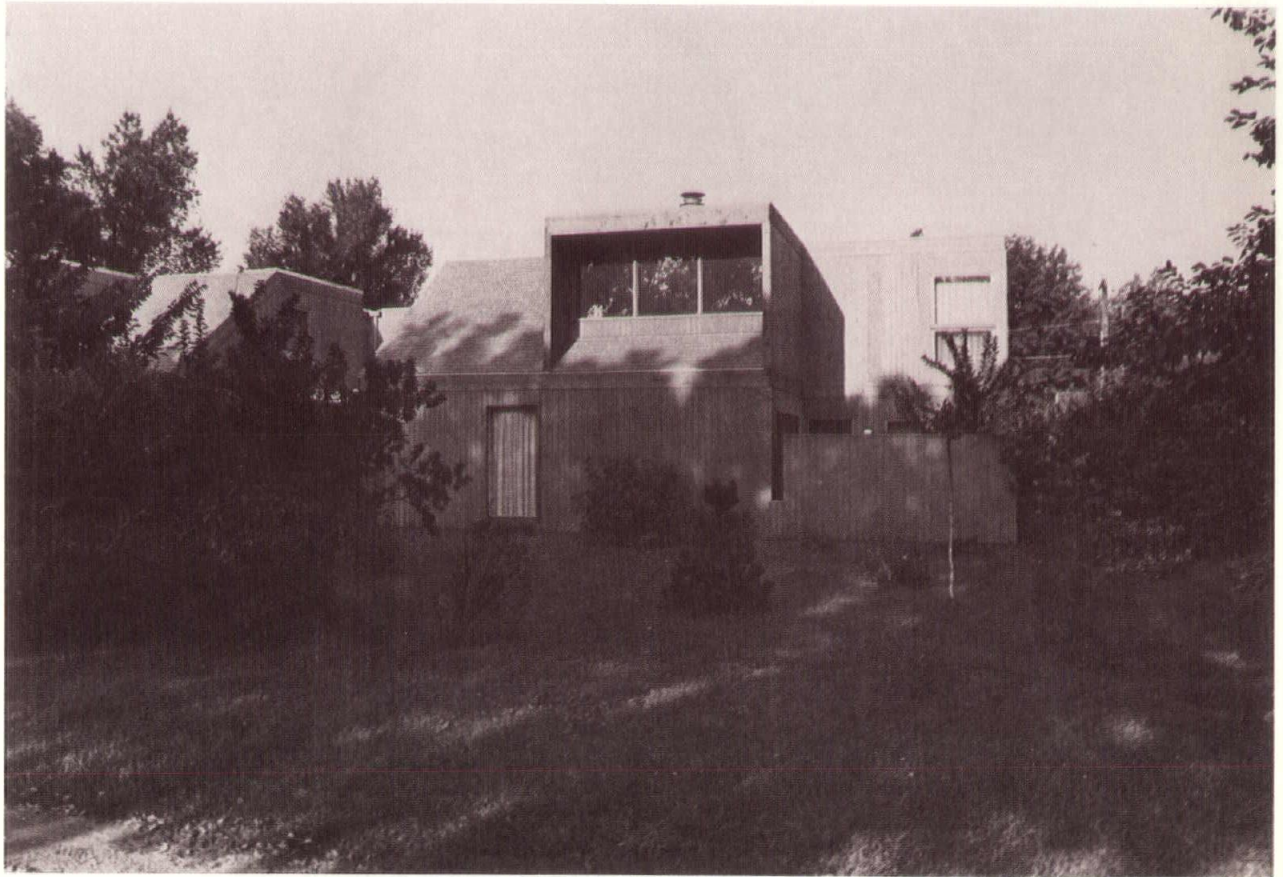


Photo: Joel Strasser

Regional Shopping Center

Astle Ericson and Associates, Midlands Mall in downtown Council Bluffs.

This large shopping mall containing three department stores is characterized by interior plazas connected by skylit galleries. The jury was impressed by the vitality and control with which this massive complex has been handled. Too often, such developments jump from monolithic blandness to chaotic variety. Here, these forces appear to have been brought into plazas which announce the gallery skylight system.



Courtesy: Robert Findley & Associates

Two Duplexes

Robert Findley and Associates of Lincoln. For Pleskac Duplex in Lincoln.

The jury was impressed by the richness of scale and texture that has been achieved in such a small undertaking. The uses of double height spaces, sloped roofs, and trellises within a limited palette of materials and a restrictive budget has produced a pleasant living environment.



Commentary

"There is great scope for architecture in America if architects express themselves in the language of their times. . ."
Sir Banister Fletcher

Expression in the language of the times is a reasonable definition one might attach to the term "contemporary architecture." Contemporary architecture has been the quest of architects and educators for the last 100 years.

Over that period of time, architects and educators have experienced both successes and failures in understanding, translating, and engaging in the language of our times. Perhaps understandably so, when one recognizes the dynamics and complexities of the contemporary American social, economic and political systems. As long as the architectural profession embraces the translation through design of contemporary cultural and social values then the profession itself will constantly be subjected to change. It will gain a dynamics from the surrounding society.

Where are we in architectural education today in relation to knowing "the language of our times?" If excellence is our quest, and relevance to contemporary society is our goal, then we must have a clear understanding of the issues and the probable outcomes.

Are architects and planners needed? Where are the people who will translate society's functional needs and cultural values into accommodating physical form? Who will facilitate the debate about aspirations and organizational resource issues for society? Who will attend to the quality of life issues for the benefit of the individual in the environmental context?

The entrepreneur/developer may meet the economic demands of certain markets, but who will cause the solution to the housing problems of the minorities, the poor, and the disadvantaged? The local government may address the public transportation issues, but who will work for a sensitive and efficient total urban environment? The sociologist and the "urbanologist" may want to abolish discrimination, but who will provide the plans to achieve those goals and objectives? Who will dare to envision the future in all its complexities, its interrelationships and its consequences?

An article in a recent issue of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported that architecture schools have come of age. If that is true it is so because the professions of architecture and planning have also matured. A cycle of history has been completed; we are paused at the edge of a new era. We have journeyed through the early contemporary design gamut of the post-industrial revolution, Beaux-arts, Bauhaus, modernist, industrialized systems, post-modernist, man-environment systems — all movements of design thought and theory of the past 100 years.

And yet the architecture and planning environment is languishing. We seem to have paused during the seventies to repair our wounds of the sixties — social values are more tolerant and humanistic, but still without clear purpose. Science and technology have begrudgingly encompassed certain of the environmentalists' principles; the energy supply and demand issue is unclear and uncertain, national and international economic systems are tenuously bobbing up and down without consistent growth or decline. The political environment is moving to a more

conservative philosophy.

In the professional practice of architecture and planning the trend toward a diversification of services seems to have subsided, the national demand for the construction of new inventories of buildings is low, an emphasis on re-use, remodeling and restoration has emerged, the general economic outlook is weak to moderately strong for the near future. The design professions (especially architecture) continue to demonstrate an unwarranted inferiority complex — an emphasis has grown in recent years on international practice, a realization is dawning that the rate of change and increased public concern for quality demands continuous education for the professional. More and more societal responsibility is given to the professional who can translate and evaluate issues from the eco-system context down to an individual's operative alternatives. Articulation of the profession by definition of specialties is under discussion at the national level.

Educationally, curricular changes made in the late sixties have been in effect long enough for evaluation. The forces impinging on the professions are now suggesting new patterns and educational experience; the traditional college age population is declining, new concerns for post-professional educational programs are developing from mid-career professionals, extended age-limits for retirees, early exiting young professionals and mounting public pressure for evidence of re-certifiability of practicing professionals, and limitations on economic and physical mobility are influencing new demands for non-traditional and off-campus modes of instruction.

In the midwest region; issues of en-

vironment, energy, and water resources are being debated. Land-use planning is being discussed and cursed, not so much as a mechanism for urban development as for the benefit and protection of the rural land-use patterns. Agri-business and agriculture are gaining international recognition as essential industries with opportunity for future economic impact upon the region. The attention and concern for the quality of life and "community" as a way of life is far advanced over most sections of the country; many sections of the region are experiencing in-migration growth of rural communities, while most of the midwestern urban areas continue to show modest growth, or are at least stable in population.

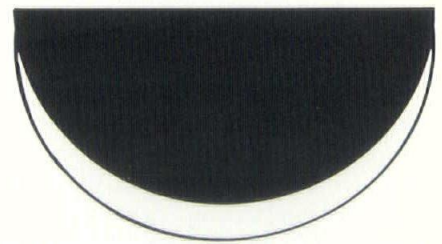
At the local level, Lincoln has accomplished much in the development of a quality environment and services for its citizens — the active participation of the community of professionals and of the university is welcome and has been sought out — the local economy has remained relatively strong during times of national duress — good relations exist within and between the college, the university community, representatives of city and state government and the professional community. The university structure provides access to segments of urban and rural environments — the university has (however timidly) embraced a philosophical position supporting structured program/resource planning and the encouragement of selected program excellence in the face of declining financial support.

We find ourselves in the midst of a time and an environment which at both the macro and the micro levels seems to require leadership, for clarity of purpose, for definitive processes and for strength

of conviction. We find the surrounding conditions supportive of organized activity which can collectively analyze, evaluate, choose and plan for purposeful courses of action. The quest for excellence — excellence of an environment that will maximize the opportunity for individual fulfillment — excellence of programs and experiences which will instill in students the attitudes toward change, growth and learning, and creativity which will in turn shape the society — in appropriate and timely at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The effort must exceed the pace of progress of society.

W. Cecil Steward, Dean
College of Architecture UNL



A great many changes, challenges and opportunities have been faced by the architectural profession since the day of 1857 when 13 men met in the New York offices of architect Richard Upjohn to form the organization now known as the American Institute of Architects.

Then, as now, the purposes of the AIA are "to organize and unite in fellowship the members of the architectural profession of the United States of America; to promote the esthetic, scientific and practical efficiency of the profession; to

advance the science and art of planning and building by advancing the standards of architectural education, training and practice; to coordinate the building industry and the profession of architecture to ensure the advancement of the living standards of people through their improved environment, and to make the profession of ever-increasing service to society."

These purposes are continually evaluated to determine the most effective and relevant methods of providing services to the architectural profession and to society.

Currently a number of issues are effecting the AIA and its purposes. Some of these issues are:

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

Architect registration and licensing has come under serious questioning in several states such as California and Wisconsin. Nebraska's registration law will come under similar scrutiny in 1982 when Sunset Legislation focuses on our law. We must start *now* in order to allow ample time for the thorough evaluation of the present law and for significant input from the profession. In addition to this evaluation and input, we must promote the registration philosophy among our state legislators or we might find ourselves in a vulnerable position when this issue comes to the legislative floor.

In order to start this process, I have requested Art Johnson to chair a task force to evaluate our present law and to map out a plan to involve members interested in this issue.

The number of members in the Nebraska Society of Architects (NSA) over the last several years has remained relatively static. This, coupled with increased costs has resulted in an effective decline in the quantity of services, which the available capital can support. This year, the executive committee was forced once again, to reduce the budget to avoid using the reserve funds set aside for emergencies.

This trend will continue unless we develop new and innovative methods of generating revenue to carry on the services of NSA. Several methods suggested include the organization of a bookstore (i.e. St. Louis and Minnesota Chapters), provide for a state convention, produce more seminars and conferences, and vigorously promote new membership. All of these methods would produce revenue without a membership due increase.

The potential impact of new legislation and legal decisions concerning architecture is staggering. Everything from a new state building code and energy legislation to the very ethics of the profession are being proposed and/or challenged.

We, as architects, cannot and must not ignore the tremendous opportunities we have to participate in the legislative process. Without this participation and involvement, a further erosion of our sphere of influence and expertise is inevitable.

Bill Fenton is leading a Government Affairs Task Force which continually monitors new proposed legislation at the State level that could affect architects and the services they provide. He needs the help of all of us, so don't hesitate to alert him to anything you feel is pertinent to this issue.

The continued improvement of the

built environment through good design is the essence of the service architects provide to society. We must not relinquish our responsibility and withhold our expertise in these matters. We must continue to be involved in and be heard on all issues affecting this environment. We must be knowledgeable about the issues affecting energy usage and conservation in our environment and practice it every day. We must be aware of the economics and needs of our clients and society.

The sensitivity to and concern for good design that meets and exceeds the needs of our clients and society is the best possible public relations for architects and the architecture profession.

As your president, I dedicate my energies to do all I can to assure a strong, viable organization and one which has society's respect. This respect cannot be regained and maintained without all of us working in concert with continued vigilance and innovative ideas.

Let's make this decade one which we can look back upon with pride and satisfaction. We can meet the challenges together.

Lynn L. Jones, AIA
President
Nebraska Society of Architects



Nebraska Community Improvement Awards

By Mele Konyea

In keeping with its purpose of encouraging Nebraska communities and neighborhoods to improve the quality of life enjoyed by their citizens, 170 communities and neighborhoods have agreed to upgrade their standard of living by participating in the 1980 Nebraska Community Improvement Program.

Over the past 17 years, the NCIP has been working to encourage community involvement activities by assisting and recognizing communities and neighborhoods for their achievements.

In the early sixties, the NCIP first grew out of discussions between Emile Christiansen, then UNL Architecture faculty member, Dr. Otto G. Hoiberg, the Department of Economic Development and Northern Natural Gas Company. From a handful of small communities in 1963, the NCIP has grown to include nearly 200 entrants from Nebraska communities and neighborhoods. Originally, the cities of Lincoln and Omaha were not eligible to participate because of their overwhelming size and access to resources. In 1972, however, Omaha and Lincoln neighborhood groups were invited to enter the program and thus, the neighborhood component of NCIP was born.

The NCIP, nationally recognized as one of the best programs of its kind, is jointly administered by the Community Resource and Research Center of the College of Architecture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the Community Affairs Division of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Thirteen gas and telephone companies sponsor the program and provide operating funds for awards, judging and publicity, in addition to serving in an advisory capacity to the program.

In making services and talents available to those communities and neighborhood groups within the program, staff from the university and state offices provide assistance to leaders in areas ranging from information on a specific project to the organization of a total community development model. Such a model requires that the community or neighborhood itself be the prime mover toward desired improvements and that the university and state play a subordinate but supportive role. At the beginning of the program year each community and neighborhood is encouraged to examine its problems and needs, set goals for the year ahead, undertake projects to meet needs and involve citi-

zens throughout the process. Every project, however, is locally initiated and locally controlled.

Signing up for the NCIP costs the community or neighborhood organization nothing, and is done through the submission of a simple application. Upon entering, community leaders receive publications and newsletters outlining program ideas and resource information. Once a community or neighborhood is enrolled, it begins to compile, in the form of a scrapbook or final report, documentation of its improvement efforts according to needs analysis, involvement and awareness and project accomplishment. In the fall, judges are invited from other states to review the final reports and scrapbooks to determine the finalists for the awards. In the criteria used by the judges, emphasis is placed more on goals setting, needs assessment, citizen involvement, and awareness than on actual accomplishments. Much of the NCIP's effectiveness rests on the fact that it stresses coordination of the improvement work of all organizations in the town or neighborhood.

Program entrants are categorized according to population except for Omaha and Lincoln neighborhoods which comprise a single category. After three intensive days of reviewing project books and visiting finalist communities, the judges select the award winning towns and neighborhoods for the \$450, \$300 and \$200 cash prizes. In addition, the Special Awards Program allows communities and neighborhoods to compete in such areas as economic development, human services and environment and energy. A new category called "Community Development Process" has been added to encourage entrants to document their goal-setting, citizen involvement and awareness activities.

Under a new humanities category for the Otto G. Hoiberg Awards, communities and neighborhoods will be able to receive awards for activities in humanities projects such as oral histories, photo exhibits, film discussions on a literary or historical theme, festivals celebrating ethnic heritage or educational programs focusing on local culture. The NCIP was awarded a grant from the Nebraska Committee on the Humanities to allow humanists with skills in art, literature, or history to assist communities and neighborhoods with their projects.

Progress made during 1979 by

Nebraska communities and neighborhoods to improve the quality of life of their citizens was recognized on October 26, 1979, as community leaders from across the state gathered in Lincoln for the 16th annual NCIP Recognition Day.

Approximately 800 persons attended the day's events which began at 9 a.m. with a display of scrapbooks and neighborhood final reports. A luncheon with Gov. Charles Thone and Dean Cecil Steward of the College of Architecture at UNL, featured the keynote speech of Paul Comer, Director of Iowa's Community Betterment Program. The evening Recognition Banquet at Pershing Municipal Auditorium ended the day on a high note as the 1979 NCIP award winners were announced by Gov. Thone.

In addition to recognizing achievement, Recognition Day is intended to help community leaders learn from each other. Morning and afternoon workshops, moderated by recognized business and community leaders in such areas as main street revitalization and park planning, allowed NCIP participants an opportunity to exchange ideas and make contacts.

Evaluations from community leaders in the program have been positive. Most maintain they participate in NCIP not just for the recognition but for the opportunity to document and reflect on their improvement activities. Nebraskans, in general, are very proud of their towns, villages, cities, and neighborhoods and are anxious to have the opportunity to show them off to visitors, whether they are tourists, casual travellers, or program judges. The NCIP provides incentives and a focal point for the expression of community pride.

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