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- Project Name: Pecos Gymnasium, Pecos, New Mexico

- Owner: Pecos Independent School District #21
  Pecos, New Mexico

- Architect: The Architects Taos
  Taos, New Mexico

- General Contractor: La Mesa Builders
  Albuquerque, New Mexico

- Masonry Contractor: Paul Lindsey Construction
  Tucumcari, New Mexico
For all our readers we wish 1978 to be rhapsodic, exuberant and eudaemonic.

vol. 20 no. 1

IN THIS ISSUE:

are the New Mexico Society of Architects Honor Awards for new buildings designed by members of the Society. The report and comments were assembled and edited for NMA by Channell Graham, AIA.

With this issue New Mexico Architecture begins its 20th year of publication. Also, this issue introduces a new advertising agency. Flora and Company of Albuquerque have taken over the task of soliciting support for the publication of NMA. We expect great things from them, and they expect a lively magazine from us. Further, rumblings have been heard from throughout the land! Therefore, it is most timely that the “staff” ask for the reader’s comments and suggestions. A questionnaire is enclosed within this issue. Tell us what you like, or dislike about the magazine, what do you want to see? Please pull it out, fill it in, and return it to us! — JPC

New Mexico Society of Architects
1977 Honor Awards

10 Questions — an insert

Index to Advertisers 14

(Cover—Health Sciences Learning Resources Center—UNM—Balthazar Korab—Photographer)

—Official Publication of the New Mexico Society of Architects, A. I. A.—

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Which building material will you use? You've got energy shortages to think about. Air-conditioning costs. Heat gain through the long, hot summers. Heat loss in the winter months. Heating equipment costs. The whole set of energy-use factors suddenly has become critically important. The building material you use affects all of them.

Compare the energy conserving capability of masonry, for instance, with double-plate glass walls.

At 4:00 P.M. on a hot August day in Washington, D.C., the heat gain through a square foot of west-facing insulated brick and concrete block wall will be 2.2 Btus an hour.

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Project this differential over 10,000 square feet of wall. You come up with a heat gain through masonry of 22,000 Btuh, while the heat gain through double-plate glass is 173,000 Btuh.

In the case of the masonry wall, cooling equipment with a two-ton capacity can handle the heat gain. But with the double-plate glass wall, about 143 tons of cooling capacity will be needed.

An analysis of a typical 10-story building shows that over its useful life, the air-conditioning cost for a square foot of our masonry wall will be about 23 cents. For the double-plate glass wall, it will be $7.60.

It takes a lot of money to buy, install and create space for all the extra air-conditioning equipment required by the double-plate glass wall. A lot of money and a lot of energy to run that equipment.

Compare the heat loss in winter. It has a dramatic effect on energy consumption and building operation costs.

Our masonry wall, for example, has a "U-value" of .12. The double-plate glass wall has a "U-value" of .55. (U-values are used to determine heat loss through one square foot of wall area in Btuh per degree Farenheit differential across the wall.)

This means that the masonry wall is about 450% more efficient, on the average, than the glass wall in reducing heat loss.

Over the useful life of the building, the heating cost per square foot of wall area for masonry will be about 30 cents. For double-plate glass, about $1.38.

In a time of one energy crisis after another, masonry makes eminently good sense as a good citizen.

The masonry industry believes that the thermal insulating qualities of masonry are an important economic consideration to building designers, owners and investors, and all citizens. Masonry walls save on air-conditioning and heating costs. And just as important, they are less expensive to build. The masonry wall we've described would have a 38% lower initial cost than the double-plate glass wall.

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MASON CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW MEXICO
It had been four years since the New Mexico Society of Architects staged an Honor Award Program. The time interval allowed for a lot of new and exciting construction in New Mexico. The NMSA annual conference planning committee made several basic decisions in regard to Honor Awards:

1. We would ask for display boards in lieu of slides or brochure submittal to facilitate as much public relations exposure as possible.
2. The jurors would include two non-architects of high community stature and one out-of-state professional architect.
3. All submittals would be direct labeled without hidden entry information.

The Honor Awards Program came off as planned, except, one juror became ill and was unable to participate, and the second juror was unable to commit more than a half day to the program. Otto Poticha, AIA, of Eugene, Oregon was the architect-juror. Mr. Poticha is 1978 President of the Oregon Society of Architects and is well known in the American Institute of Architects for his pragmatic approach to national programs. He was chosen as an NMSA juror because of his dedication to architectural quality and his lack of timidity in regard to his opinions.

After a morning spent in interviewing those architects wishing to describe their projects, Poticha and two student "gophers" visited each of the projects in the Albuquerque area. The two "gophers," Margaret Jackson and Patty Hancock, were elevated to juror status, where they contributed to the evaluation and selection of the award winners.

The awards were presented at the annual banquet of the Society held at the Albuquerque Inn on October 14, 1977. The award presentation speech by Otto Poticha was long and detailed in content. Each project submitted for review was described and jury comments offered which are summarized on the following pages.

"In any jury program of this nature the first effort is to separate the 'wheat from the chaff.' In this instance I find no 'chaff' in the New Mexico submittals. The quality of the work, across the board, was very high, a tremendously high level of design quality! . . . I do feel that New Mexico architects as a group tend to borrow too much from each other." Therefore, in addition to the awards shown on the following pages, Mr. Poticha felt compelled to present to the members of the architectural profession in New Mexico a "Diagonal Award," because of the several design projects which displayed diagonal or triangular planning forms. Further, he offered the "Hole Award" to the projects having circular windows and openings.

C.G.

1. Special Award: University Arena Expansion

Architect: Joe Boehning
Consultants:
- Mechanical: Bridgers & Paxton
- Electrical: Uhl & Lopez
- Structural: Cottrell, Vaughn & Associates
Contractor: George Rutherford

In 1966, the University of New Mexico constructed the 14,859-seat athletic complex on the South Campus at a cost of $1.5 million.

In 1974 a decision was made to expand and remodel the Arena. The primary design requirement was to maintain the same open concept that made the original structure so successful. A total of 2,300 new chair-back seats were added by cantilevering five rows of seats over the back of five rows of existing seats. These new seats carried around the perimeter of the building to match the original concept. A new mezzanine concourse is located behind these new seats, again to maintain the original concept. (see New Mexico Architecture, November-December 1976)
2. Honor Award

Health Sciences Learning Resources Center, UNM

**Architect:** Harvey Hoshour  
**Consultants:**  
Structural; Randy Holt & Associates, Inc.  
Mechanical; Bridgers & Paxton  
Electrical; Uhl & Lopez  
**Contractors:**  
General; Lembke Construction Co.  
Mechanical; Yearout Plumbing & Engineering  
Electrical; Gamblin Electric  
**Photographer:** Balthazar Korab

The Health Sciences Learning Resources Center was designed to be a major focal point for the Schools of Medicine, Nursing, and Pharmacy located on the North Campus of the University of New Mexico. With future buildings, including a Student Union and an Administration Building, the Center will form a semi-enclosed plaza opening to the future main entrance of the North Campus. Pedestrian circulation from the existing buildings will be allowed to continue south through the plaza and to future medical buildings planned to the west.

**Jury Comment:**  
"Building is very skillfully handled. The shape is derived from the future campus plan. The building is an accumulation of static spaces, but this appears to be the nature of the building's function. Campus planning for this area of the campus seems very confused, however."

3. Honor Award

Kennecott Copper Mine

**Architect:** Schlegel & Lewis

A project to study the visual conditions at the Kennecott Copper Mine at Hurley, New Mexico and to make operational and physical recommendations leading to an upgrading of the physical and environmental image of the complex.

**Jury Comment:**  
"Well thought out — not an attempt to find cosmetic beauty, but finding simple and direct means of exploring beauty with an industrial process. The jury suggests in lieu of a proposed international competition, a sculptor or team of sculptors be retained on a continuing basis for the shaping of the tailing pile, since constant change is required."

Visual Impact Study
4. Honor Award  

Solar House  
Albuquerque, NM

**Architect:** Antoine Predock  
**Consultants:**  
Structural;  
Randy Holt & Associates, Inc.  
Electrical;  
Don Fowler  
Mechanical;  
Bridgers & Paxton  
**Contractor:** Homes by Marilynn

The task was to design a solar heated home in the mountain foothills which would respond to views, natural ventilation, and climatic impacts. Indoor/outdoor living patterns are developed in the design of the house.

From the entry court distant views toward the west are intentionally blocked by the house, but are revealed immediately inside. The house steps down a hillside with terraces and patios entrapping activity areas. Natural ventilation is induced by the "stepping" cross section and high operable windows, which create a chimney effect.

Low winter sun is absorbed by brick floors for passive solar heating effect. The active solar system is flat-plate collector, ethylene glycol-to-water exchange. Heat from water in storage is exchanged to a space-heating loop which passes through fan coil units for forced warm-air delivery.

**Jury Comment:**

"This project is much more successful than the photographs imply. Simple, direct response to site, maximizing all of the views and sun presence. Solar collectors are a part of the design but did not dictate the spaces."

NMA January-February 1978
The program was to design a 43,000 square-foot college bookstore in the midst of several large instructional and educational buildings. The structure encompassing separate, distinct areas. The structure should also connect into an existing concourse (one full level above grade) and provide a means to exit the concourse both for ambulatory and handi capped individuals.

Due to the massive structures immediately surrounding the given site, it was decided to depress the structure one full level below grade, giving the overall exterior appearance of a wall rather than a building. The roof of the structure was designed as a plaza to give access to the concourse and to grade level outside the building. In addition, the large space for open-air bazaars, skylights, surrounded by planters, will have to be evaluated when the resolution of campus to the west has been accomplished. The project from the standpoint of visual and spatial surprises with all elements exposed to view.

The entire concept was to design a "non-building," full of visual and spatial surprises with all elements exposed to view.

Jury Comment: The idea and concept warrant attention, but the building leaves a lot of questions unanswered. Roof top is another open space on a campus inundated with redundant, contrived and left-over spaces. There is a need for making this space special. The success of the entrance diagonal will have to be evaluated when the resolution of campus to the west has been accomplished. The photos hurt the project from the standpoint of interiors; help from standpoint of exteriors.

NEW MEXICO SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS HONOR AWARDS 1977

5. Merit Award
University Bookstore, UNM
Architect: Holmes & Giannini
Consultants: Structural; Robert D. Krause
Mechanical: Coupland/Moran & Associates
Photography: Dick Kent
Contractor: Lembke Construction Co., Inc.
The Humanities Building is located on the south side of Sherman Smith Plaza and was created with the philosophy as set forth by the department chairmen destined to occupy the facility. Their conception is summed up as follows: "that the design of a Humanities Building should focus the qualities of persons, alone and together, inviting the human spirit to flights of vision, understanding, and communication that continue to civilize our society and to balance the materialism of technology."

The building is constructed on five levels with the graduate School and General Honors Program located on the plaza level. All offices are designed with exterior fenestration oriented toward the view where possible. There are exterior patio deck areas on all levels.

Jury Comments:
"Very sensitive to siting, exposure, mall, etc, and responsive towards inhabitants and users . . . but no carry-through to interiors or interior spaces. With each floor a different color, the interior is early 'Holiday Inn'."
7. Merit Award  Nizhoni Elementary School

Architects: Mastin, Fletcher, Fellows & Eeds Architects, Ltd.
Consultants:
Structural;  
Krause Engineering Co.
Mechanical/Electrical;  
Coupland/Moran Associates
General Contractor:
Kealy Construction Co. Phase I  
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This school is designed for 750 students and is based on an open-plan, non-graded educational program. The building is located on a sloping site and is designed to be terraced from one bay to another, making its design an integral part of the terrain with minimum disturbance to the natural environment.

Research indicated a preference for a mix of open and closed classrooms. Hence, the decision to use a two-to-one ratio of open and closed areas. This answers the range of psychological needs of both students and teachers.

Separating the open and closed areas are common service cores containing toilets, teacher prep room, storage, etc. Each classroom contains a special wet area with sinks and storage cabinets.

Jury Comment:
"Skilfully done. Well laid out functionally, and apparently deals with the site successfully. Deals with the open school plan in an appropriate way; some things function more successfully not being open to other places. However, the building over reacts to energy conservation by omitting natural light. The architect attempts to deal with symbolism in a rather token fashion. More attempts could have been made for a community building."

8. Citation  Area, Inc. Building for Al Lomax

Architects: Schlegel & Lewis
Consultants:
Structural;  
Wybe van der Meer
Mechanical;  
Claude Lyon
Electrical;  
Dean Powel

An office space for an appraisal firm using the most economical energy conservation systems available. A suitable arrangement of spaces using conventional energy saving methods (e.g. double glazing, thicker insulation) and the sun controlling feature of angled windows which virtually eliminate summer solar heat gain.

Jury Comment:
"Building explores methods of dealing with an office building on a strip commercial street. It develops a simple facade and gives an appropriate scale rather than conflicting with the established street. Introduces a reflected light without viewing the environment. The building suffers with some poorly handled details."
HINDSIGHT COMMENT: By Chan Graham, AIA, Awards Chairman.

I believe that Otto Poticha fulfilled his assignment as the out-of-state expert awards juror. He spent two very intensive days learning about and evaluating the projects submitted, and he delivered an intense and sometimes biting criticism. Agreeing or disagreeing with the awards juror should not be a point of contention. Some of the comments are bound to be misdirected, due to the outsider's quick overview evaluation. What is necessary, however, is that we reflect and consider juror comments for what they are meant to be: conclusions drawn by an outsider from the data available and from observations.

It is generally agreed that the next Awards Program should schedule criticism and comment for a casual afternoon meeting so that the architect of the project can answer the critique in a casual and relaxed atmosphere. At the awards dinner (or similar program) would be just the announcement of the awards.

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THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE: By John D. Rupley AIA, AILA

Agreeing or disagreeing with the awards juror should be a point of contention. Mr. Poticha has the qualifications of a good juror; however, his attitude was deplorable. When a juror does not care about what we think or feel, it makes one wonder how he feels about what we, as architects, have accomplished. It was apparent from his comments that he did not care! Respect for our fellow practitioners is often a too rare quality. Respect was not apparent in the presentations, as it should have been.

His comments attacking the building landscapes attack us all, for too often we forget that our buildings must fit on this earth. People are the users of all our spaces, indoors and out. People need living spaces, ones that allow experiences to happen, both in the macro- and micro-climate. People do not react well to "hard-surface America", the type of climate we all are guilty of trying to develop. People and buildings need a good landscape environment.

Criticism on a constructive level alone is difficult to achieve, yet it should be striven for in this type of presentation. It is hoped that these comments are accepted in that light, and that future jurors will bear them in mind as a goal for presentations.

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Albuquerque Testing Laboratory........ 14
American Business Interiors............. 4
Artesanos Imports Co.................... 14
Builders Block......................... 15
Crego Block Co.......................... 2
El Rey Stucco Co., Inc................... 15
Hanley Paint Mfg. Co., Inc............. 4
Hydro Conduit.......................... 16
Mason Contractors Assn. of N.M.......... 6
McGill Stephens Trus Joist.............. 4
Pull-out Questionnaire between pages.... 4 & 5
Spectra-Glaze........................... 13
Stanley Structures........................ 5
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