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VIRGINIA RECORD

Founded 1878
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ON OUR COVER is the Anniston Playground Shelter in Richmond. Designed by Fraher & Harrison, Architects, it is featured on page 12 of this issue. (Photograph by Fraher & Harrison)
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VIRGINIA RECORD

6

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Let's Talk About Architecture

Describing who we are and what we do will be the theme of my year as President of the Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects. This is a message that everyone—the general public, legislators, government administrators, and, indeed, other professions—needs to hear over and over again and we, as architects, must do the best possible job of enlightenment. The more effort we expend in this direction the more we will assure the future of good architecture.

Architecture is so central to civilization that we virtually define the civilization by the architecture. What better than their architecture would define the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Greece, and Rome? What do we even know of the Mayans beyond their architecture and facts interpreted from their architectural remains? Isn't architecture the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the Victorian era, or the Georgian, or the Edwardian?

Consciously or unconsciously, the general public senses that architecture is a major component of a civilization's heritage to future generations. There is a growing awareness of the importance of "historic preservation," a term which, to reemphasize my point, speaks almost exclusively to architectural preservation. In a state with an abundance of scenic beauty, the Virginia tourist enjoys the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Shenandoah Valley, or the varied sights of the Tidewater and Coastal areas, but it is the architectural heritage of Virginia that is an even greater attraction—the great plantation houses, Mr. Jefferson's University, Monticello, and Colonial Williamsburg.

But what of today's architecture which will become tomorrow's heritage? Perhaps we tend to become too self-conscious about it, but I think we have an obligation to our clients to remind them of the lasting nature of their architectural endeavors.

Having said this, let's look at the other side of the coin. Architects do far more than create buildings for the future—we create human environments for the present. Through our building design, we create the public's daily environment and we need to repeatedly review this fact. Our structures are responsive to the technological and highly individualistic demands of our sophisticated civilization. Our buildings 'work' in terms of today's technology and take into account the rapidly changing nature of that technology so that they will still 'work' tomorrow. They recognize changing energy sources and supplies, changing communications technology, and changing work and living patterns. Society places a high value on functionality.

Society places an equally high value on individuals. Our buildings provide a level of safety unheard of in the past. Our buildings are convenient for the public and accessible to the handicapped. In addition, our buildings are psychologically pleasant both to those inside and to those outside the building. Since the dawn of civilization, people have delighted in a well planned, attractive building, whether they live in it, work in it, worship in it, or find simple entertainment in it. Let's remind them of it!

The complexity of designing buildings that meet these criteria is readily apparent to us but do we adequately explain our expertise to the public? Based on public perception of the architect and reinforced by public attitudes toward remuneration, the answer is no. We have busied ourselves with education, innovation, and state-of-the-art to the point that we now provide greatly expanded services for smaller fees and we haven't taken the time to adequately explain ourselves to the public. The architectural profession embraces some of the brightest minds in the country who combine art, engineering, sociology, psychology, and management, in the unique practice of architecture and yet, tangible recognition seems to elude us.

The purpose of this message is not, however, to argue for better pay for architects—dear as that subject may be to my heart. It is, rather, an emphasis on the need for a better public understanding of what architects do. Because our society places a high value on money, it is important that public bodies and private clients alike realize that good architecture also makes good financial sense. Unfortunately, the trend is in the opposite direction in the erroneous belief that the lowest architect's fee is the prime determinant of ability and is therefore the best financial choice for the client.

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Architecture services are not an end in themselves, but rather a means to an end. A client is legitimately concerned about the total cost of a building, and even more legitimately concerned about the life-cycle cost of operating the building. Let's inform the public that there is no substitute for the value of professional design in the planning of a successful end product. Because each building is a "custom" project (site, function, budget, etc.) the interrelation of components in the final analysis determines the success of the project. Without sufficient analysis before construction begins, final analysis becomes mere hindsight. Today's world teems with environmentalists, research and development teams, financial analysts, management consultants, and the like. Architects have pioneered these fields for centuries and are more expert now than ever before. Let's tell the public about it! Believe or not, the public is interested in, even fascinated with, architecture, whether it is past heritage, present environment, or future vision. Let's talk about architecture.

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Cantor Heads Northern Virginia Chapter

The Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects announces its officers for the coming year. They are:

Marvin J. Cantor, AIA—President
Lawrence D. P. Cook, AIA—President-Elect
Eason Cross, Jr., AIA—Secretary
William A. Klene, AIA—Treasurer

The Chapter consists of approximately 300 registered architects in the Northern Virginia area whose geographic boundaries extend from the Washington Metropolitan suburbs south to Fredericksburg and west to Warrenton. The Chapter has been involved in community architecturally related projects, architectural programs in the schools, advisory committee for the Northern Virginia Community College Architectural Technology Program, as well as holding an annual awards program for architecturally meritorious projects.

This month the Chapter honors some of its most esteemed members and founding officers at its testimonial dinner at Evans Farm Inn.

For additional information, contact: Marvin J. Cantor, AIA at (703) 578-4230, 5205 Leesburg Pike, Suite 1007, Falls Church, Virginia 22041.

Introducing Eric Flax

Richmond native Eric Flax is the newest staff member of the Virginia Society, AIA. Eric joined the staff on November 24, 1980 as Director of Publications and Special Events. Eric attended Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, GA for two years and received his undergraduate degree in Journalism from the University of Maryland in May 1980.

Eric brings extensive background experience with him in the areas of association work along with his journalistic abilities. He formerly worked for The United Jewish Appeal Federation, The Virginia Gasoline Retailers Association, and Maryland Media, Inc. Also, Eric was an account representative for Target Communications, Inc. and was Editor of The Newspaper, a local publication.

Eric brings with an enthusiastic attitude of hard work and determination. The Virginia Society, AIA, wishes Eric the very best and looks forward to a long relationship.

Firm Opens

Bruce Morgan Justice, AIA has announced the opening of his office Bruce M. Justice Architecture and Planning. The new office is at 910 South Parham Road, Richmond, Virginia 23229. Telephone 804-741-0877.

New Partner

C. W. Huff, Jr.—J. Carl Morris & Associates, Inc. has announced that J. Terry Cox has become a partner.

The firm will continue to practice architecture under the name of Huff, Morris, Cox & Associates, Inc. at 6 North First Street, Richmond, Virginia.

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A.I.A. NEWS
VIRGINIA SOCIETY
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
The Brandermill Branch Office for the Bank of Virginia was completed on July 31, 1980.

**Building Type:**
Single Story, Frame Commercial Building (Branch Bank) 4048 sq. ft.

**Owner’s Program:**
It was the desire of the owner to build a new branch banking facility in an expanding community which had a high potential for future growth. Full service banking was to be provided which included loan offices, safe deposit boxes, drive-in banking and 24-hour banking services. It was necessary that the branch be designed in a manner that would harmonize with an existing language of forms, materials and textures. The owner required that the facility have visual impact for the surrounding community as well as for passing motorists. At the same time, the building needed to maintain a dignified image consistent with the Bank's philosophy.

**Site Description:**
The site for the project was .596 acres of land located in the planned community of Brandermill in Southwest Chesterfield County. Bounded on the west by Old Hundred Road Relocated and on the north by Millridge Parkway, the site borders the entrance to Brandermill's major commercial area.

Property boundaries on both roads were forested with mature trees, as well as underbrush, which screened a portion of the site from view. Access, organization, and views were all important considerations, with the shopping center acting as the primary orientation of the site.

**Design Solution:**
The design of the building was intended to provide a functional facility for the Bank of Virginia as well as establish a strong new image for the Bank in an expanding market. The concept was a result of existing site factors combined with an idealized diagram of how a branch bank...
Anniston Playground Shelter
Richmond
Fraher and Harrison—Architect

Mechanical Engineer, Simmons, Rockecharlie & Prince • Electrical Engineer, Simmons, Rockecharlie & Prince • Structural Engineer, Dunbar, Milby & Williams • General Contractor, M. E. Howard Construction Co. • Photography, Fraher and Harrison.
Several years ago the Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority undertook an aggressive project which required the relocation of an existing cemetery to provide a park for the residents of its Whitcomb Court Housing project. The park was completed in 1972 and provided extensive play areas for children, basketball courts, and a softball field. In order to provide a more comprehensive recreational program, the need became evident for providing a covered shelter with restroom and storage facilities.

The Anniston Playground Shelter was developed as part of a package of improvements to the community facilities in Whitcomb Court. Also included were alterations and a 2,400 square-foot addition to the Whitcomb Court Community Center that provided meeting rooms for neighborhood groups that meet at the Center.

Because the shelter was to be located in a public park where there was a potential for vandalism, certain design considerations became necessary. The use of materials as indestructible as possible, as well as the elimination of any unnecessary architectural embellishments, seemed necessary.

Concrete block was selected as the material for the wall enclosures and support piers because of its initial cost and durability. In order to improve the scale of the material, a half-high "ashlar" block was used. Graffiti, if it were to become a problem, could easily be covered by repainting. Steel support beams and exposed steel joists provided a durable yet playful structural system. The structural members were painted in bright colors to allow the shelter to become a focal point in the park.

M. E. Howard Construction Co. of Richmond was general contractor for the improvements, and handled concrete work, carpentry and caulking.

Subcontractors & Suppliers
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Church of the Apostles
Meeting Place, Fairfax
Brown/Ryon Associates, Ltd.—Architect

Mechanical Engineer, Strickler Associates, P.C. • Electrical Engineer, Strickler Associates, P.C. • Civil Engineer, BEC of Virginia, Inc. • Landscape Architect, Meade Palmer, FASLA • Construction Manager, Scott-Long Construction • Photography, Ralph Snell, AIA.
Metal buildings. They’re warehouses. And factories. They’re cold. They’re ugly.

Metal building promotional brochures pose the question, “That’s a metal building?”, followed by 30 color photos of brick-and-cedar-shake-camouflaged metal frames. Metal buildings? Sure, but marginally.

It doesn’t have to work that way. Metal building systems—more correctly, pre-engineered building systems—can be used to obtain virtually limitless design expression. They can be economical and speedily constructed buildings. Sometimes they can be architecture.

The Church of the Apostles needed a building solely as shelter—as a meeting place to house the worship, educational, and administrative functions of the flourishing congregation. They needed it fast. They needed it without going into debt. It had to be easily expandable. And it had to be disposable—designed so, that when it outlived its effectiveness as a church building, it could be easily converted to another use.

The architects investigated six alternative building systems. Conventional construction, of course. But also: Balloons; Tents; Domes; Metal Buildings;—even reinforced concrete shells from Australia.

For this structure, the pre-engineered metal building presented the best balance of design criteria and system responses.

To utilize the pre-engineered system to best advantage, the complete building shell—structure, prefabricated foundation panels, standing seam roof, exterior and interior wall panels, insulation, doors, and windows—was built of off-the-shelf components.

Two single slope rigid frame systems are juxtaposed. The lower building houses classrooms, a nursery, fellowship spaces, and offices. The taller of the buildings, three structural bays, forms the 700-seat worship room. A side wall is designed to be removable, allowing two additional bays to be added. The floor slab is thickened and specially reinforced so the building can be used for warehousing or light industry in the future. Industrial-type lighting fixtures and exposed ductwork are utilized for compatibility with the exposed structure. North-facing clerestory windows help light the interior.

The site was complicated by a series of special restrictions. It was located between a wooded residential area and a petroleum tank yard, in an area under the control of an architectural review board.

Despite extensive clearing, necessitated by extraordinary parking requirements, many trees were saved. A one-hundred-foot-wide buffer of trees shields the view of the tank yard from the church building. The area is thoroughly landscaped. To recede into the landscape, the building is bronze in color. Railroad tie curbs and wooden light poles complete the picture.

An assemblage of three free-standing crosses—ranging in height from 24 to 42 feet—identify the building as a place of worship, a place that reflects the singular needs of the Church of the Apostles.

Scott-Long Construction of Fairfax acted as construction manager.

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Longest & Dodge Office Building
Chester
C. W. Huff, Jr. - J. Carl Morris & Associates, Inc.—Architect/Engineer

The Longest & Dodge Office Building, located in the center of Chester, is a Colonial building consisting of three floors. Its Colonial tradition is followed through in all the proper details, i.e., the Flemish Bond, the rubbed brick arches, the rubbed brick corners and moulded step nosings. This is all complemented by the back band trim, Williamsburg muntins and moulded wood sill of the windows along with the five member cornice and modillions. The roof is Buckingham random width slates.

The first floor is occupied by the real estate firm of Longest & Wells—this area being especially laid out for their use and purpose. The foyer, with random width heart pine flooring, enters into a general office for secretarial spaces. Off of this area are three offices for agents, a conference room, and a lounge and office equipment area. At the end of the corridor is a large conference room with an exterior entrance.

The upper floor is rented to two private firms, and the lower to one client for offices and related use.

This building fits in well with the surrounding buildings, which are visible from the site, such as the Chester United Methodist Church, and it is designed to be an anchor for other buildings on the site.

The site allowed this structure to have grade entrances on the lower and main floors. Parking is provided on three sides making it accessible for the various occupants. Several of the large existing trees were maintained, with the rest of the site being landscaped in boxwoods, dogwoods and roses.

Bass Construction Co., Inc. of Richmond was general contractor for the project.

Subcontractors & Suppliers
(Richmond firms unless noted)

Also, Davenport Insulation, Inc., Fiberglas insulation; Foamrap Insulation Co., Hopewell, exterior wall insulation; American Door & Glass, Inc., glass & glazing; Pleasants Hardware, hardware supplier; F. Richard Wilton, Jr., Inc., Ashland, gypsum board contractor; H. E. Satterwhite, Inc., ceramic tile; Consolidated Tile Co., Inc., acoustical treatment & resilient tile; City Wide Decorators, Inc., painting contractor; Triangle Plumbing & Heating, Inc., plumbing contractor; Richmond York Corp., heating/air conditioning contractor; Rabe Electric Co., Inc., T/A Womack Electric, electrical contractor.
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to tell the Virginia Story  FEBRUARY 1981
Ware Episcopal Church
Parish House Addition, Gloucester

C. W. Huff, Jr. – J. Carl Morris & Associates, Inc.—Architect/Engineer

Structural Engineer. Randall A. Strawbridge, Inc. • General Contractor, H. Peyton Hall • Photography, J. Carl Morris.

Ware Episcopal Church is located one-and-a-quarter miles north of Gloucester County Courthouse in Tidewater, Virginia. The church, a simple rectangular building with two-foot thick brick walls, was built in 1690 and is located on a natural rise. Primary features of the site are many large trees and gentle contours.

Due to a steadily expanding congregation, the existing parish house facilities had become inadequate. After assessing their needs, the church's building committee decided to add two classrooms, a minister's study and a secretary's office to the parish house. In order to make the best use of the church's existing spaces, the architect, along with the building committee, determined that the church would benefit much by constructing a new chapel. The existing chapel space was originally intended for scout meetings and was not particularly well suited as a chapel. Construction of a new chapel would enable the old space to be converted into one of the required classrooms.

The new structure was located on the south end of the existing building. This location was chosen in order to complement a wing built earlier on the north end of the parish house, and connection to the Sunday school and toilets on the lower floor of the parish house could be made simply here by extending the existing corridor into the new structure. An entry to the building was created through the new wing, which was projected beyond the front of the existing parish house to make the relatively small structure more prominent and to strengthen the new entry to the parish house. The chapel was placed on axis to this entry to emphasize its role in this church, since it will be used frequently for Weddings, Christenings and other small services. This new arrangement of spaces improves the efficiency of the church's operations since the new church offices and chapel can be operated independently from the existing spaces.
Though there was no stated budget, costs were a major consideration in determining the size and construction of the new wing. The building is composed of a slab on grade, wood frame walls with brick veneer and wood roof trusses. Laminated wood arches were used in the chapel to create an open space in the small scaled addition. The exterior brick and slate were chosen to match the existing materials as closely as possible.

The classroom and offices have drywall ceilings and walls. Finishes in the chapel were selected to enhance the modest space. Chapel walls and ceiling are light stained wood, and the east wall of the chapel is brick painted white. All spaces are carpeted.

Two new electric heat pump units serve the new wing. The contract cost for construction was $132,500.00, and the building was completed in May 1980.

H. Peyton Hall of Saluda was general contractor and handled excavating, sodding, seeding, etc., landscaping, landscaping work, foundations, concrete work, carpentry, cabinets and glass.

Subcontractors & Suppliers
Phil and Pearl Heyman retained this architect's services to design a contemporary home to be all on one level, except a lower level recreation space. A two car garage with convenient access directly into the house, preferably to a mud room/laundry space, was requested. Separation of living space from bedrooms was also desired and a light and airy interior feeling for display of numerous art works.

Because construction costs were to be a consideration, the design was not to be difficult and involved. Privacy from the street was also desired. Solutions to all owner requirements were achieved—i.e., no front windows, except ones focusing on the entry courtyard and foyer for privacy considerations. Horizontal bands for light and shadow interest were designed for frontal treatment and interruption of continuous plane with a vertical, recessed courtyard/entry element and front room "light catcher." The use of large south facing insulating glass for light and passive "sun space" winter heating and large roof overhangs for summer shading was employed.
Wind efficiency of house massing and wind deflection/summer shading as well as privacy was achieved with rear wood grille fence. Heavy insulation and heat pump were combined to maximize energy savings with passive assistance.

Heyman Construction Company of McLean was general contractor for the project.

Subcontractors & Suppliers

Carl Jennings & Co., excavating; John Stickley Co., sodding, seeding, etc.; Donald Nesmith, landscaping; Meadows Farms Nurseries, Sterling, landscaping contractor; Tri-County Paving, Leesburg, paving contractor; Parker Concrete Co., foundations & concrete contractor; Virginia Concrete Co., Inc., Springfield, concrete supplier; Hengen Construction Co., Springfield, masonry contractor/supplier & mortar; Union Iron Works Co., Herndon, steel supplier; Alonzo Ours Construction Co., Manassas, roof deck & roofing; Arlington Iron Works, Manassas, miscellaneous metal & handrails; Boomerden Builders, Fairfax, carpentry; and Murphy & Ames, Inc., Herndon, structural wood, millwork & wood doors.

Also, Allied Plywood Corp., Alexandria, paneling; Wailes & Edwards, Bethesda, MD, cabinets; The Martin Co., Washington, DC, waterproofing; Bucknell Decorators, Alexandria, caulking (J. Miller), & painting contractor (Duron Paints); Asbestos Covering & Roofing Co., Inc., Beltsville, MD, roof/wall/foundation insulation; Fairfax Glass Co., Falls Church, glass & glazing contractor; Andersen & Tri-Pacific Corp., windows; Sheets Wholesale, Inc., Vienna, hardware supplier; Bill Hottle Co., Arlington, gypsum board contractor; Weller Ceramics, ceramic tile; Dominion Floors, Inc., Arlington, resilient tile; Park Carpet, Falls Church, carpet; Dyer Brothers, Inc., Arlington, wall covering; Van Caffi Plumbing & Heating, Inc., Arlington, plumbing contractor (American Standard fixtures); Krafft Service Corp., Alexandria, heating/air conditioning contractor; Dominion Electric Supply Co., Inc., Arlington, lighting fixtures supplier; and Roy H. Davidson Electric Co., Inc., Fairfax, electrical equipment supplier & electrical contractor.

to tell the Virginia Story

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Estabrook Residence
Addition, Fairfax
Lynwood E. Brown, AIA & Assoc., Inc.—Architect

Designer, Richard A. Schoppet, AIDO, CSI, Assoc. AIA
• Landscape, Interior Design & Photography, Mr. & Mrs. Estabrook
• General Contractor, Cleveland R. Jenkins.

to tell the Virginia Story  FEBRUARY 1981  25
Bill and Marilyn Estabrook's goals in enlarging their present home required that an addition be designed that would enlarge the living room, and formalize an existing entrance, that was both indirect and inconvenient, by incorporating a separate entry space and coat closet. At the same time, they wished to maintain the desirabilities of view, light and openness provided by their present generous-sized front windows, while achieving the advantage of decreasing heat loss through double glazing. This initial concern grew into a strong desire to incorporate energy-efficient features wherever possible in the design. Finally, it was their desire that in achieving these goals, the result should not appear as an "add-on," but instead blend with and be complementary to their existing home.

The architect's response to these requirements was to incorporate passive energy features such as capturing and re-circulating ambient heat, reducing summer cooling loads through shading fins and tinted glass, providing thermopane insulating glass for reduction of heat loss in winter, and constructing a garden wind-shield along with "air-lock" vestibule entry for protection from winter winds. Solar heat gain in winter was anticipated through the installation of greenhouse windows over the new coat closet, and "sun-space" concepts employing solar mass. An "ice-house" roof concept was incorporated into the design for additional insulation.

The one time entry through the client's music room was eliminated, allowing it the benefit of a private garden through use of the double-duty garden wind-shield wall. The dining room, which was previously windowless, now has a view into the new private garden.

On the exterior, the existing redwood lap siding and brick were matched in the addition to complement and reflect the existing finishes.
Roof lines and pitches were duplicated and represented in angled siding patterns.

The floor level at the new foyer is lower than that at the living room, enabling cold air to drop and warm air to rise to the areas where it is most needed in winter. In summer, heat is exhausted by an electrically operated fan aided by natural convection.

Cleveland R. Jenkins of Fairfax was general contractor and handled foundations, concrete work, masonry work, stonework, carpentry, waterproofing, caulking, roofing, roof/wall/foundation insulation, glazing, gypsum board with Joe Blevins, Falls Church, painting (with the owners) and plumbing. The owners handled carpeting.

Subcontractors & Suppliers

Wyatt, Manassas, excavating; Virginia Concrete Co., Inc., Springfield, concrete supplier; H. O. Engen, Sterling, masonry supplier & mortar; Sisler’s Inc., Falls Church, stonework supplier; J. C. Reading & Sons, Inc., Manassas, structural wood & wood doors; Herndon Lumber & Millwork, Inc., Herndon, millwork, paneling & wood doors; Harry Perkins, Manassas, sheet metal; James A. Cassidy Co., Inc., Beltsville, MD, Pella windows; Sheets Wholesale, Vienna, hardware supplier; Thurman Stewart, Centreville, ceramic tile; Martins, Fairfax, paint supplier; Thomas Somerville, Fairfax, plumbing fixture supplier; Harry Perrins, Manassas, heating contractor; Joseph M. Catalano Co., Inc., Falls Church, lighting fixtures supplier; and Melvin Furman, Annandale, electrical equipment supplier & electrical contractor.
Robert B. Marx Family Residence
Goochland County
Chenault & DePasquale, AIA—Associated Architects

Structural Engineer. Randall A. Strawbridge • General Contractor. Thomas H. Harris, Jr., Builder, Inc. • Photography. The Architect.
Designed to take maximum advantage of a beautifully wooded site, this two-zone residence also allows Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Marx to live in only one-half of the house while the other can be completely closed off. The program called for a two-zone design with the major living spaces and master bedroom serving as the nucleus for the everyday “lived-in” portion of the house. The second zone was to include formal entertainment areas and guest bedroom spaces, with the potential for further expansion of the sleeping areas. The major form expression is barn-like modeled after Virginia’s rural architecture.

The site was not only beautifully wooded, but also included a picturesque ravine along the western edge and a small creek to the south. Considering both the program and the site, it was decided that the two-zone concept could be achieved by using an L-shaped plan with the entry point to each zone near the corner of the L. This would provide a clear conceptual expression of the decision to create separate, but joined areas. To arrive at the common entry point, and to experience the ravine along the western edge, a colonnade overlooking the ravine leads persons from a parking area, past one side of the L, around a corner and to the entrance.

From the entrance one can immediately move to the family room, which is at the heart of the “lived-in” zone. This space is also situated to be within audible range of the creek and within viewing range of the ravine. As an expression of its dominance, the family room is also accessible to the living room space. An adjoining dining room is also positioned to be within easy access to the kitchen, situated in the other zone to serve the more frequently used eating area in the family room.

Western Red Cedar clapboard siding and “Timberline” shingles provide strong, natural textures so that the house harmoniously complements its beautiful surroundings.

Thomas H. Harris, Jr., Builder, Inc. of Richmond was general contractor and handled carpentry, caulking and gypsum board.

Subcontractors & Suppliers
(Richmond firms unless noted)
R. H. Pearson, masonry contractor; Miller Manufacturing Co., Inc. and A. E. Tate Lumber Co., Inc., millwork; Jacobs Ladder General Contracting, roofing; Davenport Insulation, Inc., wall insulation; Binswanger Glass Co., windows; American Seamless Floors, Inc., resilient tile; Costen Floors, Inc., wood flooring; Wade L. Eatmon Plumbing & Heating, plumbing contractor; and H & H Heating & Air Conditioning, Manakin, heating/ventilating/air conditioning contractor.
Unity Church
Virginia Beach
The Design Collaborative/Laszlo Aranyi, AIA—Architect

Mechanical Engineer, Bowman & Associates, P.C. • Electrical Engineer, Bowman & Associates, P.C. • Structural Engineer, Stroud, Pence & Associates • Civil Engineer, Miller-Fox, P.C. • Interior Decorator, Mary Lou McTeague • General Contractor, George Jensen, Inc. • Photographer, Rod Mann.
When the members of Unity Church purchased 11 acres of land in Virginia Beach, they wanted a building that would reflect a contemporary image, but still blend into the natural surroundings. Since the Unity faith has no identifying style or symbols to be incorporated into its buildings, the architect was given a free hand to create a structure that projected their philosophy through his design. The client requested a unique, energy conscious, contemporary design using natural materials.

A multi-winged structure with a central core, using the wooded site as a background, provided adequate room for present needs with an eye toward future expansion. The current building phase includes classrooms, general offices, a bookstore-library, and a combination chapel-social hall. The next construction phase will add a permanent 500 seat sanctuary at the rear of the central corridor.

Cedar siding and a cedar shake roof were used to fit into the natural surroundings. Skylights and many interior windows were added in the central corridor to provide an open feeling and utilize natural light.

Rooms receiving daily use such as the minister’s study and church offices, were located on the south side for maximum direct passive solar heating gain. Overhangs were added to screen out the sun in the summer. Heavy insulation was used in all walls and ceilings. Polycell Infiltration Sealant was used to further reduce heat loss.

As with most churches, economy was a prime factor. Conventional wood framing was used in the construction. Sheet vinyl flooring for both economy and ease of maintenance was installed in the classrooms. Carpeting covering concrete slab was used in the other areas of the building. All interior furnishings and finishes are in soft shades of blue and beige to provide a meditative mood and suggest earth and sky tones of the natural environment.

George Jensen, Inc., of Norfolk was general contractor and handled foundations, carpentry and structural wood.

Subcontractors & Suppliers

Virginia Beach firms were: Asphalt Roads & Materials, Co., Inc., paving contractor; Premier Millwork & Lumber Co., Inc., paneling; Ayers Insulating & Supply Co., Inc., roof/wall/foundation insulation; and Seaboard Paint & Supply Co., Inc., wood doors, windows, window wall, storefront & hardware supplier.

From Norfolk were: B & H Sales Corp., excavating, piling & landscaping; Capital Concrete, Inc., concrete contractor; Colonial Block Corp., stonework contractor; Hall-Hodges, Co., Inc., and Batchelder & Collins, Inc., steel suppliers; Kitchen Towne, Div. of Towne Distributors, Inc., cabinets; Eastern Roofing Corp., roofing; Walker & Laberge Co., Inc., glass & glazing contractor; Coles Drywall, plaster contractor; Grover L. White, Inc., ceramic tile, structural (glazed) tile; terrazzo, acoustical treatment, resilient tile & carpet; Irving Stafford, painting contractor; paint supplier (Glidden Paints), paint manufacturer; Paxton Co., sprinkler contractor; Kemp’s Plumbing & Heating Corp., plumbing contractor; and Charles W. Davis, electrical contractor.

Others were: Anton Osfolk, Chesapeake, masonry contractor; P. R. International, North Carolina, millwork; Sue Harbour, Newport News, wall covering; and Indoor Air Systems, Inc., Chesapeake, heating/ventilating/air conditioning contractor.
St. Patrick’s Church and Rectory
Renovations, Richmond
Chenault & DePasquale, AIA—Associated Architects

Built in 1859, St. Patrick's is the second oldest surviving Catholic church in Richmond. Standing on property that was once part of historic St. John's Church in Richmond's Church Hill district, the rectory and church had suffered a great deal of cosmetic deterioration, and it had been architecturally mistreated by inappropriate exterior finish and material choices. With this problem at hand, the architects decided that color schemes appropriate to the original period, as well as a cleaning of the front of the church to expose the original brick, should be a first priority. This was completed, along with restoration of copper cupolas, gold-gilding of the Crucifix, cleaning and refinishing of cast iron railings, and a number of minor repairs to upgrade the structures.

Since the buildings were located in an area of Church Hill designated as an Historic District by the National Register for Historic Places, particular emphasis was given to treatment of the exterior that would restore the appearance of brick finish and respond to other original architectural detail. During the course of this project, a neighboring owner decided to upgrade his property in a similar manner, thus completing the historic block.

Subcontractors & Suppliers
(Richmond Firms unless noted)
Jefferson Medical Park
Roanoke
Byron R. Dickson, Architect

Jefferson Medical Park, located in the 1100 block of South Jefferson Street and scheduled for completion in spring 1981, promises to be a focal point in the rejuvenation of this very important part of downtown Roanoke.

The concept of this new medical facility was envisioned by John Adler of Adler Leasing and Development. It fulfills a critical need for professional clinic and office space between the two major area hospitals: Community Hospital of Roanoke Valley and Roanoke Memorial Hospital.

Byron R. Dickson, Architect, developed a comprehensive site arrangement providing four
buildings which house five separate and diversified medical practices representing 15 physicians. Each practice owns an individual parcel free simple with cross over rights to the other parcels.

The new park, which replaced an old gas station and several condemned houses is bounded on the north by Albemarle Avenue, on the west by First Street, S.W. and on the east by Jefferson Street and Maple Avenue. The arrangement of the buildings creates a central courtyard and the entire complex will be heavily landscaped at its completion. All parking requirements are provided on the site. Vehicular access will be from five entrances allowing each medical practice its own convenient parking area.

The low scale, contemporary structures establish a fitting professional atmosphere while complementing the historically significant areas of the adjacent Old Southwest Neighborhood. Jefferson Medical Park has already stimulated further redevelopment in this area of South Jefferson Street.

The buildings range from a 6,700 square foot joint ownership one-story to a 8,200 square foot single-ownership multi-level with an active solar heating and cooling system. Total occupiable area for the complex is over 29,000 square feet. All buildings are designed with a common architectural theme and employ the latest state of the art energy conserving construction details and materials.

The foundation structure is reinforced concrete. Above grade vertical support is wood frame. Roof construction is wood trusses. Exterior enclosure is synthetic stone and composite stucco insulation system. Bronze anodized aluminum door and window wall frames are used at the main entrances and wood operable windows contain double pane glass.

Interior partitions are either demountable steel stud or wood with gypsum wall board. All
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ceilings are acoustical lay-in tiles. Sound control wall and ceiling insulation is used extensively. Entrance foyers are slate and floor materials range from vinyl tile to carpet.

With the exception of the solar conditioned building, HVAC is by multiple rooftop gas-fired units or gas-fired multi-zone units with economizer cycles. All equipment is concealed in recessed roof pockets.

The individual offices and clinics feature extensive cabinet work. A complete centralized security system will be installed in all buildings. Some spaces feature fireplaces.

Financing is by the Bank of Virginia. S. Lewis Lionberger Co. of Roanoke is general contractor and is handling reinforcing, steel erection, carpentry, waterproofing, caulking, concrete work (with Salem Foundations, Inc.), and foundation insulation.

Subcontractors & Suppliers
(Roanoke firms unless noted)
Kingery Brothers Excavating, excavating; Land Design Associates, sodding, seeding, etc.; landscaping & landscaping contractor; Salem Foundations, Inc., foundations & concrete contractor; Concrete Ready Mixed Corp., Roanoke Ready Mix Concrete Corp., and Salem Ready Mix Concrete Inc., Salem, concrete suppliers; Carroll Masonry, Vinton, masonry contractor/ supplier & stonework contractor; Ten-E-C Stone, Chattanooga, TN, synthetic stonework contractor; Structural Steel Co., Inc., steel supplier & miscellaneous metal & handrails; Timber Truss Housing Systems, Inc., Salem, all structural components—i.e floor system, wall panels, roof trusses, Bird roof shingles, Crestline case ment windows & interior doors & trim; Home Lumber Corp., paneling, and Pergue Cabinet Shop, Inc., & DALUE Home Services, Check, Va., cabinets.

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Richmond, Va.
FOR THE RECORD

J. P. Mills, Jr.
Retires

J. P. Mills, Jr., an employee of the Virginia Department of Highways and Transportation nearly 45 years and its chief traffic and safety engineer since 1952, retired January 31.

Mills, 69, is regarded as the “dean” of America’s state traffic engineers, and was instrumental in selecting route numbers for the interstate highway system nationwide.

A native of Binghampton, N.Y., he moved to Virginia with his family when he was a child. He grew up in the former Princess Anne County, now part of Virginia Beach, and received a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Virginia Tech in 1936.

He went to work for the Highway and Transportation Department the same year and was assigned to several traffic engineering and planning jobs before being promoted to his present position.

As traffic and safety engineer, he has directed the department’s statewide operations in traffic signs and signals, pavement markings, truck weighing, and a variety of traffic engineering studies.

When the national interstate highway system began in 1956, Mills was one of two state traffic engineers in the country chosen to number the interstate routes. He also was chairman of a national committee on urban interstate route marking, and was one of six traffic engineers assigned to develop the first sign manual for the interstate system.

Last year, he received the Special Award of Merit of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials in recognition of his long-time service to the nation’s highway program.

Mills had represented the association on the National Committee on Uniform Traffic Laws and Ordinances, and also served on the former National Advisory Committee on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways.

He is a former president of the Virginia section of the Institute of Traffic Engineers, and represented the highway and transportation commission as a member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission for 15 years.

For 32 years, he found time, as a weekend hobby, to be the public address system announcer for high school, college, and professional football games at Richmond’s City Stadium, a pastime he gave up in 1973.

Marketing Head Named by Firm

- Greenhorne & O’Mara, Inc. announced today the appointment of T. S. (Chip) Roberson, of Richmond, to head the marketing efforts of their Virginia operations. The firm presently has eight offices nationally and has been providing engineering, architecture, planning, earth science, surveying, and photogrammetric services in Virginia for over thirty years.

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Congressman Parris Speaks to Builders

- The Honorable Stanford E. Parris, U.S. Congressman, was the guest speaker at the Northern Virginia Builders Association's (NVBA) February 12, 1981, dinner meeting at the Quality Inn-Pentagon City.

Parris was recently elected from the 8th District of Virginia to Congress where he is a member of the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs. He has previously served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, the Virginia House of Delegates, U.S. Congress from 1972-1974, and as Secretary of the Commonwealth of Virginia. He is a member of the American, Virginia and District of Columbia Bar Associations and is active in many civic groups.

Congressman Parris talked to NVBA members about "Interest Rates and Other Matters of Concern to the Building Industry." NVBA is a group of the area's builders and others allied with the building industry who have worked together for almost 50 years to create the most favorable conditions possible for the building industry in Northern Virginia.

"Part of an ongoing series of meetings, the February meeting will be one of great importance to our members who are understandably concerned with high interest rates," said NVBA President Leonard I. Abel, prior to the event.

Historic Organ Restored

- The only pipe organ in Prince George County was built in 1873, has just been restored, and was heard for the first time in 18 years on Saturday, November 15, in a free public concert.

Located at the Brandon Parish Church in Burkeville on Route 10 about 15 miles southeast of Hopewell, the organ fell from use in the early 1950s when the church acquired an electronic instrument. An unsuccessful attempt to revive the organ was made in 1982.

For the inauguration of the restored organ, the rarely-heard Five Bagatelles, Op. 47, for two violins, cello, and organ by Antonin Dvorak was performed by Richmond Symphony Orchestra members Robert Prokes, Helen Coulson and Frantisek Smetana and organist John Ogasapian of Lowell, Massachusetts.

Dr. Ogasapian also played several hymns, his own Variations on "Land of Rest," organ restorer Lawrence Trupiano's Romantic Pieces for Erben Organ, the Sonata in C by Carlos Seixas and Moderet Expressif by Andre Fleury.

Until recently, the builder of the instrument had been a mystery. Church legend held that it was an ancient English instrument donated by the Ritchie family in memory of Mrs. Isabella Ritchie, a former mistress of Brandon Plantation. When members of the Organ Historical Society were contracted through harschord maker Peter Redstone of Claremont, the organ was visited and subsequently identified as an instrument supplied in 1873 by the leading nineteenth century New York City organbuilder, Henry Erben, whose son, Charles, had signed several pipes.

The legend concerning Mrs. Ritchie was found to be true, except that the organ was built in New York City. The instrument returned there in the spring to be thoroughly restored just a few blocks from where it was built in the historic Soho district of Manhattan.

Restorers Mann & Trupiano, who specialize in historic restorations of nineteenth century American pipe organs, repaired all of the organ's 151 pipes, most of which were severely damaged, restored its mechanism of wooden linkages connecting keys to valves which open beneath the pipes to admit wind, rebuilt the organ's wind system and hand-pumping mechanism, and refinished the woodwork of the freestanding case.

"Though the organ sat silent for decades, it was not unused by insects and rodents who found it a comfortable abode and eating place," said restorer Lawrence Trupiano while he was re-erecting the instrument in the gallery of the church in October. "The damage they did was extensive, and substantially added to the organ's two major problems: unsympathetic maintenance in the past and complete glue breakdown that caused many of the critical moving parts and tone-producing elements not to function."

The restorers replaced termite-damaged wood with lumber no less than 100 years old, and built new rear panels to replace the missing original panels using wood salvaged from an 1863 Henry Erben organ.

The church decided to restore the organ when they learned of its historic significance and latent musicality from the Organ Historical Society, according to The Rev. Brian C. Hobden, rector of Brandon Parish Church. He said their electronic instrument is failing after 20 years, and "something had to be done."

As an Englishman, Mr. Hobden had seen many organs similar to the small pipe organ at Brandon in his native land, and found some of them centuries old to still be serving well at churches in the English countryside.

"The key to the longevity of the English organs is the trait of having a simple and strictly mechanical mechanism, rather than one complicated with electric and pneumatic contrivances that become popular in this century," said Trupiano. Henry Erben built the Brandon Parish organ using the same kind of simple mechanism, which Trupiano called "track action."

Trupiano, who has recently restored Erben organs and other similar instruments in New
York, Long Island, and Charleston, S.C., said Erben used only the finest materials in his instruments, including mahogany and walnut to make moving parts that would have been made from pine and other lesser woods by other builders.

"His workshops built about 1,200 organs from 1824 until his death in 1884, and Erben set the style for tone and mechanical quality for what has become recognized as the New York school of organbuilding, said the restorer. "The organ at Brandon is one of the most interesting examples of his late work that I have seen. Its sound is surprisingly fine, and shows the influence that tonal styles in Boston were having on New York builders in the last part of the nineteenth century."

In the records of the New York Historical Society, Trupiano found a copy of a promotional brochure that Erben published in 1880, listing most of the organs he had built to that date. It includes the Brandon organ, as well as 51 other organs Erben built for churches in Virginia. Of those, only seven are known to remain, according to Organ Historical Society records. With the playing of the Brandon organ, five of the seven will be in use. Besides the Brandon instrument, only the larger organ built in 1872 for the Lee Chapel at Washington and Lee University remains unaltered and in its original location.

The recital on November 15 was sponsored by the Organ Historical Society as part of a dozen concerts designated yearly by the national organization as part of its Historic Organs Recitals Series. Recitalist John Ogasapian is nationally known as a recitalist and musicologist who specializes in the history of American pipe organs and organ music. He is Henry Erben's most recent and thorough biographer, and is the author of numerous articles on Erben and two books, Henry Erben: Portrait of a Nineteenth Century American Organ Builder, and Organbuilding in New York City, 1700-1900.

VIRGINIA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT NEWS

North Carolina Company Announces Fredericksburg Expansion

- Exposaic Wire Company of Mt. Airy, North Carolina, has chosen Fredericksburg, as the location for a new production facility. Exposaic will produce high carbon wire in a 70,000 square foot facility in the Fredericksburg City Industrial Park.

  The Exposaic Wire Company is a division of Exposaic Industries, Inc. which includes a ready-mix concrete/concrete block division and a precast division in addition to the wire production activity. The Fredericksburg area facility represents a diversification of the company away from construction related products according to company officials.

  Exposaic anticipates employment of about 75 in the first phase of its activity. The company estimates annual production of about 36,000 tons of the high carbon wire when the plant is fully operational.

Bank of Virginia (From page 10)

facility should operate. The physical form of the structure is an expression of this concept using a given language of architectural forms and materials.

The focus of the solution is the central banking lobby. Serving as a major axis, the lobby divides public and private space and serves as a pivot around which the other functions of the bank rotate. As an organizational tool, this idea proved to be very effective. Building masses and fenestration were related back to this organization and govern the total form of the building. The resulting structure has a strong geometric form which serves as a focal point for the community shopping center.

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