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Architect

Health Care
Columbia Correctional Institution
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The multi-benefits of masonry and precast concrete for multi-family construction

If you want your next building to be your best, consider the best building system for multifamily construction — masonry and precast slabs. Whether it's a high-rise, low-rise, or townhouse development, you can count on the multibenefits of masonry and precast concrete to multiply your sales and profits.

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If you'd like to know more about the multibenefits of masonry and precast concrete construction, contact the Multifamily Construction Advisory Committee.

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Individual architects and the Wisconsin Society of Architects have been and remain very active in fashioning the Wisconsin Building Code. The Code is the result of consensus reached by Code Development Committees and input received through public hearings. Architects regularly serve on the committees that promulgate the Code Requirements and are present at hearings.

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Imagine the “no-man’s land” and extraordinary liability exposure that would exist without the Building Code—every architect (and every lawyer) for her or himself, and beneficiaries of the Code, we are among the chief enforcers of the Code.

Imagine how difficult it would be with certain clients (probably some architects as well) who regard the Code as an unnecessary impediment in the path to riches and success. A state-wide Building Code gives all architects a common platform for design. Designing to meet the established Health and Safety Requirements of the Building Code is a major bulwark against exposure to liability.

The strongest argument for licensing of architects and for rigorous training and examination procedures, is the protection of public health and safety. Both the Building Code and the Licensing Regulations require professional responsibility in Code compliance. Architects and their clients need to know that the Code is ours. We made it and it protects us. To ignore the Code and its enforcement requirements is to invite extensive liability exposure and place your license in jeopardy.

*Brian Larson, AIA*
The site for the doctor's new office was created by moving two houses and demolishing a third home. The Architects designed the office to fit around the mature pine, birch and maple trees.

The client took a greater than average interest in the design of the office. He wanted an efficient traffic pattern to increase the number of patients he and his staff could serve. The design avoids boxing the receptionist behind an awkward "movie ticket window", and gives a full view of the waiting room and entrance. Four rooms containing essential orthodontic equipment have been grouped toward the north of the building.

Throughout most of the building, a warm gray carpet with a tinge of pink is reflected in the bronze colored slatted metal ceiling. In the waiting room, three shades of gray cover contemporary fixed chairs. Built-in cabinetry is covered in a medium gray laminate plastic, a shade lighter than the core.

*Michael Huijbrechts, Photography*
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The program for a new student center called for a building that could serve as the center and focal point of the 7500 student campus and the surrounding community of Menomonie, Wisconsin. The new student center was to be non-institutional in appearance and, as the center of the campus, was to have no "back" side. All facades were to have front entrances.

To compliment the University's extensive program in vocational rehabilitation and the large population of handicapped program participants, the facility was to be an outstanding example of barrier free design.

Set diagonally on the site which is located at the center of the campus, the building reflects the emphasis placed on pedestrian traffic patterns in order to attract the maximum number of visitors to the facility.

This 80,000 square foot structure has purposely avoided the "institutional" appearance with features like rounded walls of brick and a pitched standing seam metal roof. On the upper level is the Crystal Ballroom which can be divided into three smaller rooms and a 7,000 square foot multi-purpose room with a stage.
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Wisconsin's State Fair—the state's oldest annual recreational event with origins dating back to 1851—has a proud tradition of offering something for everyone. Present-day attractions during the 11-day summer fair on 185-acre State Fair Park site in Milwaukee/West Allis run the gamut from animals and exhibits to performances, rides and refreshments.

In scale and functions, the state fair is akin to a small, self-contained city—and it calls for a corresponding effort of planning and management to maintain both off-season economic viability as well as seasonal success in competition with a growing number of alternative entertainment opportunities. In just the last eight or ten years, more than a dozen new ethnic and other summer festivals have sprouted up in the Milwaukee area.

Wisconsin's modern-day state fair is one of the most respected—and one of the few self-supporting state fairs in the country. A prime moving force has been James W. Greiner, director since 1972. That year Mr. Greiner brought in Finch-Heery and The Durrant Group to undertake a comprehensive survey and master plan to give the dilapidated hodgepodge of existing buildings a new "face" and image—including upbeat, upgraded facilities and graphics, efficient traffic flow and a blueprint for future direction. Since then, The Durrant Group has continued to provide master plan updates and design for a wide range of new construction projects, facility improvements and site amenities—the latest of which is the already very successful Central Park, an entertainment stage and refreshment area.

"Wisconsin State Fair Park is not the largest in the Midwest, but it is one of the most successful in its use of available space and ground improvements," reflects Mr. Greiner. "A major service the design firm can offer the owner is a vision of the final implemented master plan—developed through a collaborative effort and responsive to the particular need of that owner," he points out.

Wisconsin's state fair managers supplement and integrate the master planning process with findings from professional surveys given to visitors to gauge strengths and deficiencies, pinpoint the market and identify areas of improvement. "But you have to be prepared to act on the results," emphasizes Mr. Greiner, who has spent an average of $1 million per year in physical improvements since he became director.

Overall ingredients which Mr. Greiner believes are important to the success of a state fair include good management and promotions; clean grounds; reasonable prices; efficient, low maintenance facilities; effective year-round utilization; good lighting; and appealing, well-positioned attractions.

"In today's world, given budget realities, it is especially important for fair planners and designers to help owners develop versatile, marketable facilities that lend themselves to a high level of year-round use," comments Jerold W. Dommer, ALA, President, Durrant Architects. Facilities available for rent year-round at Wisconsin State Fair Park include the award-winning 3,130 capacity Coliseum and exhibit halls, some interconnected, which offer more than 186,000 square feet of space.

That Wisconsin State Fair Park meets the test for success is reflected in the numbers as well as the happy faces: About 900,000 visitors—including about 20% from out-of-state and many repeat patrons—attend the actual 11-day fair. Another 1.1 million attend off-season events. In 1985 alone, there were 155 events—some lasting several days in a row—for a total of 908 event days. "It is this successful use of the facilities which gives the Fair Park the financial base for its many improvements, for we receive no tax dollars or supplemental funding for its operation," emphasizes Mr. Greiner.

Photography: Wisconsin State Fair Park
Eric Oxendorf
The program requires renovating a partially vacant 1940's era building into a diagnostic research facility. The facility was to house a Magnetic Resonance Imaging system (with space for a future system) to accommodate both inpatients and outpatients.

Patient access to the new facility is through an extensive tunnel system. Due to the condition of the tunnel combined with a patient's potential fear of a relatively new diagnostic procedure, the building design provides the patient with a series of aesthetic "distractions" through the use of light.

Approaching the facility through the dark tunnels, a patient's attention is first caught by the light of a neon sign set into a wall of marble tiles lining the entrance. Open entry doors allow light to stream out as an invitation into the facility. Inside the reception/waiting area, a flood of natural light, from skylights combined with a dramatic 16 foot ceiling and a large planter serve as further distractions suggesting the suite isn't underground at all. An adjacent inpatient waiting room also allows natural light to flood this sub-grade space via a sloping ceiling up to original building windows 20 feet above. This lighting scheme is repeated in the patient dressing area and at the handicapped entry. From the dressing area the patient is led to a Prep area, then moved into the MR Exam room on a transport table. For patient comfort, the Prep area and Exam room have indirect lighting.

This facility focuses on patient comfort and efficient staffing as highlights of an adaptive reuse. This successful renovation turned a poorly utilized archaic structure into a very human and highly efficient diagnostic research center.

Eric Oxendorf, Photography
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Portage seems pleased with its prison. It was designed to prevent problems.

Governing its design were three key considerations—security, safety, humane environment. The first prisoners moved into the facility early in May of 1986 and after six years of qualms and controversy, the local residents seem comfortable with the finished facility. Potter Lawson & Pawlowsky, Inc. was the firm selected for this project; associated architects were Hellmuth Obata & Kassabaum.

As Wisconsin’s first new prison since the opening of Fox Lake in 1962, the Columbia Correctional Institution offers the ultimate in high tech maximum security design for 450 inmates and safety for the 300 employees and staff. It is located at the edge of Portage in a rural atmosphere. Decentralized design and a multi-disciplinary approach allow improved control over inmates along with more flexibility. These two factors also give maximum safety to workers, thus producing a positive inmate-staff relationship.

Entrance to the institution is through a two-story administration building. Its offices are accessible to the public. All other buildings are for staff, inmates, and approved visitors who must pass through a security check.

Nine housing units are arranged in four clusters with a core unit. Inmates are housed in individual rooms which are furnished with units made by Badger State Industries.
Each of the four clusters is developed around a specific program—basic education, 150 beds; vocational education, 100 beds; special needs including treatment of mental health problems, 100 beds; industrial and institutional work programs, 100 beds. Inmates are housed in these units according to their level of education or vocational pursuits. Some will work toward a high school diploma, others will receive appropriate vocational training.

Interestingly, the reaction to these housing clusters, which provide rooms with full doors rather than open cells has been varied. Planned for privacy as well as security, some inmates feel that the new privacy makes them feel like maximum security prisoners.

The main building contains five vocational shops, an industries area, education space, plus adequate space designed for security supervision. Support services include medical, dental, food, canteen, and laundry. In Wisconsin recreation programs for prisoners have been provided since 1912. At Columbia an inner court provides outdoor recreation space in addition to the year around gymnasium. There is also a multi-purpose space for religious services and meetings, plus a visiting center.

Family visiting is encouraged in a large lobby-like room where seating can be arranged in small groups. An outdoor visitors’ courtyard may be used in pleasant weather. It includes a children’s sandbox and play equipment. The warm hospitable treatment of visitors helps morale without affecting tight security.

A major security control center in the main building monitors all other systems—housing units, perimeter security, and television monitors throughout the facility. All persons coming and going are monitored. Corrections officers open and close gates for employees as well as for visitors. Each door in the prisoners’ living sections is electrically controlled by officers. Shower and locker rooms have high security windows to monitor the scene. Prevention of problems was the goal in designing these living quarters.

A spiral stairway of 76 steps leads to the top of the dominant control tower located at the front of the institution. The officer here surveys the front entrance, roofs, and the prison yard. Surveillance is further provided from four
towers outside the fence, plus a motor patrol. The site is fully illuminated by high mast lighting which eliminates glare and shadow. All towers are provided with water and toilet facilities because the officers, who work eight hour shifts, may not leave their stations.

Double perimeter fences, 12 feet high and 20 feet apart, are hung with coils of razor wire which defies climbing. A special electronic board indicates immediately if any person gets near the inside fence at ground level. It also registers any touch or shaking motion on the exterior fence. Each gives a warning alert. Both together signals an alarm. (Outside fence alert can be caused by the landing of a bird, or by strong winds, ice, and snow.)

Super efficient kitchen equipment will ease the task of preparing food for 450 men. Instead of central dining rooms, food is moved to the separate living stations. Men will eat in small groups, cutting down on security risk as well as behavior problems.

Busy and constructive programs are planned each day for the inmates. Outdoor recreation, classes, employment training, therapy, and guidance will occupy most of their hours. Some will be assigned work on prison grounds. Inmates who break institution rules will be transferred to the 48 bed segregation unit after a due-process hearing.

The prison setting is further lightened by inclusion of pieces of art under the direction of Regina Flanagan, coordinator of the Wisconsin Arts Board Percent for Art program. A sum of $80,000 has been allocated for the prison. Nine pieces of movable works will be rotated among dayrooms of each of the nine housing units. A tenth will be used permanently in the superintendent's office. For the outdoor plaza at the center of the institution, a large scale sculpture incorporating color has been commissioned.
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The design response to these goals was a sloped glass greenhouse at the entry, which faces south and creates a transition space. The clerestories facing south and east allow natural light to the waiting/reception areas and to the operatories.

Each operatory has a window which allows a view of the woods from the chair. The open plan of the operatories allows privacy without enclosure, gives the feeling of a much larger space, and facilitates circulation between patients.

Photography: Classic Photography, Waupaca, WI
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The site had been occupied by the old North Stadium, a rather austere structure that had fallen into disrepair. The site is bounded on the north by Rufus King High School and on the other three sides by residential.

The new service building was built into the slope allowing at-grade access from the track to the lower level equipment storage; the upper level maintenance garage, public toilet facilities and supervisor's office were accessible from the higher tennis court and service drive. Most of the project's budget was required for demolition of the existing stadium, reconstruction of recreational and athletic facilities, landscaping, and unseen drainage and utility work, leaving only a minimal allowance for the building itself.

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On a wooded hilltop above the Menomonee River sprawls a large new facility consolidating functions and integrating staff and patients under one roof while maintaining a domestic scale. Despite the magnitude of the project (110 beds and support functions including medical services, dining, physical therapy, etc.), a residential character was established consistent with the existing administration building to be retained.

For organization and orientation, 110 patient beds were divided into three L-shaped 30-bed units and one 15-bed unit, each connected by verandas offering wooded views to the outside. The nurses station was located to allow centralized staff control.

The entry is scaled to reinforce a home-like environment familiar to patients. The interiors feature a predominantly neutral palette warmed by colored wall fabrics and carpeting. Color, too, is used as an orienting device. Each 30-bed nursing wing is distinguished by an identifying accent color that is repeated throughout the wing.

The design features a low profile brick exterior. Strategically located porches provide continuous shadow box overhangs for privacy and shade to the patient rooms as well as a reassuring sense of place.

Photography: Jim Threadgill, East Troy (Interiors); Eric Oxendorf, Milwaukee (Exterior)
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This chart shows actual on-site weights.

METPAR recently bowed to industry standard and went to 22ga for the face sheets of doors. The slight difference in weight is probably due to the heavier gauge of the oval crown which METPAR still uses as a mechanical interlock. Brand S uses a light gauge, folds it under and spot welds it in place.

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The site for this complete recreation center is a steeply sloped river bank mostly undeveloped. A stipulation was made that the view from brow of the hill be preserved. Site also presented a history of failure in soil bearing capacities. Instead of horizontal planning, the solution was a vertical stacking and nesting of spaces based on an 8' x 8' planning module supported on spread footings.

Circulation in the building is from the top down with entrance at the upper of three main levels. Exterior bulk of building is visually diminished by cut corners to eliminate volume. Lower levels are sheltered below the bank while upper lobby with open stairway through greenhouse enclosure, captures for the occupants the view across the river.

Outside entrance court becomes a visual connection between new Recreation Center and two existing buildings. It also provides an important gathering center for students.
The eighth floor of the Milwaukee County Medical Complex now houses one of the top Bone Marrow Transplant programs and facilities in the country. This unit transforms medicine, technology, science and architecture into a new weapon to fight cancerous disease.

The procedure of bone marrow transplant virtually destroys the immunological defenses of the body until new marrow can begin making white blood cells. For this reason, the transplant unit must provide a highly sterile environment for the patients. The design of the facility includes seven laminar flow units and three hepa-filter rooms. This highly specialized equipment provides the patient protection from exogenous bacteria by sub-micron filtration of air entering the patient area. A continuous flow of bacteriologically filtered air washes the patient.

The toilet room has to be readily disinfected and have as few seams as possible. For this reason, a tarkett material is used on the floors, base, and shower stall walls. This provides a monolithic surface for repeated wet wipedown decontamination. A negative pressure design keeps the air isolated from the patient room.

Complicating matters for the architects was the fact that this was a renovation project. Taking pre-existing conditions and transforming them into such a highly technologically sophisticated space required highly skilled design capabilities.
With this CAD work station and AUTOCAD, they run NECK and NECK.
"ARCHe type"
A CAD Based Typological Design System

The use of Computer Aided Design technology (CAD) has become quite widespread among architects the past few years. However, its use has been confined to a highly specific and narrow aspect of practice, namely the production of contract documents. Few if any applications exist for the early more formative stages of building design. Those that are available tend to be autonomous packages, usually 3D visualization tools which are cumbersome to manipulate and usually not transferable to later stages of design. This is not for want of basic software capability. Several powerful and moderately priced CAD systems are available with software that can be modified and customized by users to meet their specific needs. In the past these capabilities have been tapped primarily to develop sophisticated drafting environments. These same capabilities can also be used to create more design oriented procedures and constructs, the subject of this article.

Currently, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Interior Design program is developing several early design applications using programmable CAD capability. The description of one of these, "ARCHe type" which follows, is intended to illustrate the power of the technology and its potential as a design tool.

ARCHe type is a CAD version of architectural typology; essentially building type studies, an historically accepted means of architectural design. Typology has re-emerged out of deterministic modernism as a viable design approach. Its practitioners contend that 'type' studies can function not only as informative analytical devices, but in many cases they can also serve as the overall model for a design project. Archetypal models undergo modification and refinement during design in response to a buildings program and context.

The motivation for development of the system grew out of a concern for the difficulty both students and practitioners face integrating the programmatic and more form and giving aspects of design. Typology can help unify these concerns and CAD can provide a common medium for both. Although originally intended for use in design education, the system is also useful within architectural practice. It is implemented on a widely available CAD package (AutoCAD); thus the potential exists for full integration with later stages of design where its constructs could serve as the framework for final production drawings.

The balance of the article describes the ARCHe type system, its equipment and software requirements along with its features and capabilities.

INTRODUCTION: The intention of the project was the generation of a graphic software system useful as an integral tool in architectural and interior design. The final product is an enhanced CAD based application specifically focused on the analytical and creative tasks necessary in design at the conceptual level. It consists of three interrelated components. The first is an introductory tutorial concerned with the basic software capabilities and its potential as a design tool.

ARCHe type is a CAD version of architectural typology; essentially building type studies, an historically accepted means of architectural design. Typology has re-emerged out of deterministic modernism as a viable design approach. Its practitioners contend that 'type' studies can function not only as informative analytical devices, but in many cases they can also serve as the overall model for a design project. Archetypal models undergo modification and refinement during design in response to a buildings program and context.

Hardware: The hardware environment selected was the IBM-PC or compatible. Its selection was based on the fact that it is accessible to a wide audience of users. As a micro system it is user friendly and relatively inexpensive.
Although it has some limitations, its availability and ability to serve a wide range of peripheral devices made it an obvious choice. A basic workstation intended for professional use can be purchased for $2500-$3000 (plus plotter) and could operate the complete ARCHetypal package. An added benefit is the equipment could also handle other micro-CAD applications along with word processing, spreadsheet and data base programs.

Software: As with hardware, performance criteria were established for the supporting software prior to its selection as the development vehicle. Ease and comfortability of use were paramount considerations. Since the project involved a relatively unique application, programmability of the underlying software was also critical. Standardized data transfer capability was important for its potential to link with other programs in the future. Particularly important here were links to data base programs and their ability to search, sort and extract data (images) for comparative studies and evaluations.

AutoCAD was selected as the software foundation of the system primarily due to its availability and adaptability. It is the defacto standard of the micro-CAD industry and as such, is well supported with third party enhancements, active user groups publications and it utilizes the widest variety of computers and peripheral devices. Our intention was not to develop a new CAD system but rather to adapt and enhance an existing one for design tasks. AutoCAD, which comes with a series of macro and script facilities and an embedded user language (LISP), is almost a high level graphics language in itself allowing customization and adaptability (including new commands and operations).

Together, the IBM-PC type hardware and the AutoCAD software package serve as the shell of the ARCHetypal system.
"ARCH'etypetype"

As mentioned previously, final organization of the system included three major components, a tutorial introduction, graphic design files of archetype buildings for review and illustration purposes, and an enhanced CAD environment for use in actual design.

These three components and their sequence of use correspond to stages normally encountered during a design project; that is, acquiring knowledge about a problem or project, synthesizing a solution for it and finally, communicating it to others in some medium. In the ARCH'etypetype system the tutorial corresponds to the media, the design files are the knowledge base and the toolkit is intended for design synthesis.

**Conclusion**

It is believed by many that micro-CAD systems have great potential for allowing more effective and creative work in professional design settings. The system that has been described is a first attempt at direct application of CAD technology to early or schematic design tasks, an area largely bypassed in favor of more production oriented drafting environments. We believe such options will eventually result in a more thorough integration of architectural knowledge and skills in the pursuit of design excellence.

IBM and AutoCAD are trademarks of International Business Machines and Auto DESK Inc, respectively.

Bruce Kieffer practices architecture in Madison with North Design and is an Assistant Professor in the Interior Design Program at University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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4. Preliminary graphic analysis of the sectional and elevation properties of the Villa Rotonda using the 'toolkit'.

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Milwaukee's typical automated architecture firm has not hired specialized employees to perform computer related tasks; took over a year to decide which system was right for their office; initially used comprehensive vendor supplied training; trained 4.8 employees to use their automated system, 3.5 of which are employed specifically for workstation input; and did not require contract consultants, university courses, or seminars.

Survey questionnaires were distributed to 25 of Milwaukee's largest area architectural firms as published by the Business Journal, the week of December 16, 1985. Of the 17 returned questionnaires, 15 were completed — a response rate of 60 per cent. The 15 completed questionnaires were used to sample the level of computerized integration found in Milwaukee area architectural firms; from these 15 respondents, half have achieved full office automation.

Several (3) of the responding firms are using high level mainframe computers. Their top dollar investment has allowed the use of integrated multiple workstations, custom integrated software, and the capability to perform any automated A/E programmatic task. These firms were not included statistically, because the automated facilities were not as a rule located and operated by a Milwaukee area office, and because the profile reveals an overwhelming inclination toward lower cost microcomputer systems. It is interesting to note however that the users of these mainframe systems report a diverse capability of A/E applications due to multiple workstations and in-house customized software.

At the low end of the spectrum is the group involved in the planning stage. Currently no computers are being used by these firms. This group represents one-third of the surveyed respondents. One firm from this group has reported start-up dates and training agendas as preparation for operating an automated office.

During many of the personal interviews, and interspersed throughout the questionnaire, many concerns were voiced regarding expense. These concerns were generally accompanied by a prevalent wait-and-see attitude based on the fluctuating nature of microcomputer technology.

The affordability of the microcomputer market has lured many firms away from system investments such as the powerful but more expensive minicomputers ($25,000 plus). The firms have all but shied away from the high end mainframes ($100,000 plus). The majority of those that have invested in automation have done so with microcomputers ($1,000 plus).

The accommodating firm has researched their needs, and spent from $1,000-$30,000 to automate their office with a start-up system that will allow the broadest applications within the limits of their investment and the computing skills of their staff. The keyword: accommodating.

At this point, a list of common office tasks will help to clarify the extent of applied integration as supplied by the surveyed respondents. A significant number of applications seem to favor accounting and wordprocessing tasks. Presently, automated architectural design and drafting remains developmental. The following will be a discussion concerning the success and failures respondents have reported while integrating computers into their firms.
Office tasks could not be accomplished by any computer without the aid of a corresponding software application specifically designed to allow for the manipulation of data. The secretaries and accountants have been the lucky ones so far. It is this group of people who have been the first in any firm to get "hands-on", and it has been this group of employees to learn of the limitations with which they must work. Their data is generally straightforward; however, the need to share automated information is increasingly frequent. What is discovered is that the information from their several hundred dollar database software package cannot be understood by their equally expensive software spreadsheet. Drafting and design people are experiencing the same sort of disappointments. For example, an expensive design application ($2,000 plus) had been purchased that promised full 3-D and 2-D capabilities. What is later learned is that the images and corresponding descriptive data created while in the 3-D mode cannot be transferred automatically into 2-D. Software limitations were stressed frequently during interviews and surveyed responses. The software companies that design these products stop short of this integrated capacity for several reasons; the first is money, the second is money, and the last is money. This is not to suggest that these tasks cannot be accomplished. Many of today's current softwares are designed to allow for customized integration. For the needs of the typical A/E firm, this is tantamount to asking a client to supply their own working drawings. Few firms presently have sufficient programming talent in-house. Recall that no firms have reported hiring specialists.

Equipment limitations are also serious concerns. The cost of quality plotters ($9,000 plus) has limited their availability and regulated their use to specific tasks such as working drawing productions. This common shortcoming was referred to as the "bottleneck". If you need to make new friends in your office, this will be the place to do it. As a result, automated rendering has not become widely practiced. In fact, automated presentations are absolutely nonexistent among those firms queried. Slide shows and video presentations were explained as too expensive to produce, and not credible or fee worthy from the perspective of the client's point of view.

This was not the case as presented by numerous vendors, universities, and practicing architects, during the recent A/E/C Systems '86—Seventh International Computer and Management Show for the Design and Construction Industry.

Automated systems allow for several as yet untapped resources by the A/E community. For example, only one firm to date has reported accessing the public domain and has acquired an engineering analysis program. This undeniably saved the firm a significant amount of money. The public domain is an electronic network and is accessed using a modem to send or receive data transmissions, and contains FREE software. Local Area Networks (LAN), A/E community user groups, and attempts to develop in-house systems that "speak" or "handshake" from firm to firm are presently regarded as science fiction.

There are some very remarkable A/E applications that are being performed right now, very quickly, very efficiently, and with an extraordinary level of speed and accuracy. Those firms who have learned this proudly report 10 to 20 per cent productivity returns during working drawing production. For example, the concept of libraries holding standard details is not new; to insert library elements into a drawing no longer requires several trips to the copy machine. Databases with literally thousands of standard symbols and formatted schedules are available. Generic drafting applications are being utilized for creating non-standard drawing details that can be edited and used repeatedly at no additional cost. The means of communicating with various disciplines has become more reliable and occurrences of errors and omissions have thus become less frequent.

Those respondents currently automated have expressed their satisfaction with the computerized office environment. Those yet to "boot-up" have many rewarding experiences to look forward to. It won't be long until all of the floor space occupied by those bulky filing cabinets will be replaced by an additional automated workstation—manned by a recent college graduate.
What does a talented architect do after he hangs up his T-square? Pencil sketch! Like a "busman's holiday", the enjoyment of creating and capturing life's moments is an instable delight, forming the recreation for many professionals in the field of architecture.

Elmer Johnson is no exception. His artistic talents continue to be at their peak during his active retirement years at age 85. Johnson's long career has lost no momentum despite his retirement in 1969.

Born April 22, 1901, in Chicago, he was the son of Swedish immigrants who came to America in the 1880's. With his modest background, Johnson immediately went into business for himself after graduating from college and at the age of 25 had a ten-man firm known as Sloan & Johnson located in Chicago's Loop. Johnson earned a reputation in the Midwest as a delineator, producing renderings for Milwaukee architects in the late twenties.

In 1930, a Milwaukee architect and developer by the name of Herbert Tellgren asked Mr. Johnson to work for him as a designer.

In 1934 Elmer Johnson met Herbert J. Grassold, a Milwaukee architect, at the firm of Clas & Clas. A social friendship became a team relationship as they entered the Scottish Rite Cathedral Design Competition. Their winning entry yielded one thousand dollars and motivation to open their own firm, Grassold & Johnson Architects. The firm was to become one of Wisconsin's premier firms in the mid 1950's.

In 1930, a Milwaukee architect and developer by the name of Herbert Tellgren asked Mr. Johnson to work for him as a designer.

Their skills complimented one another. Johnson was a designer and delineator and Grassold was an expert at working drawings and project details. Business was sparse in the mid and latter half of the 1930's with a few respectable residential commissions and commercial projects.

The struggle continued through the mid 1940's. When World War II ended, they enjoyed a flourishing practice, peaking at ninety employees. Nearly one hundred Wisconsin architects have had career experience at Grassold & Johnson.

Grassold & Johnson became a training ground for architects who developed their own firms in the 1960's and 1970's.

While today's profession seems to lack a sense of humor, Johnson maintained his during the course of this career. A memorable instance occurred when Johnson's firm was being considered for the design of a home for the blind. At the interview with the Building Committee and Board of Directors, a sight impaired or blind audience, Johnson, apparently without thinking, suggested that they should take full advantage of the hilltop view when placing the building on the site. Johnson ate many helpings of "humble pie" when the office wags heard the story.

After Grassold's untimely death in 1965, Johnson became sole proprietor until he retired. The successor firm is now headed by and bears his son, William's name, celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1985.

Although he misses the companionship of his wife, Eunice, who died last year, Johnson enjoys an active retirement. With the exception of the summer months in Wisconsin, he resides in Del Ray Beach, Florida. His daily routine includes an active exercise program, a morning mile endurance swim, and his favorite sport, golf.

A varsity athlete in his prime, Johnson played basketball and football at Chicago's Armour Institute of Technology, the forerunner of Illinois Institute of Technology. His basketball career included a professional stint. A versatile athlete, Johnson was a long hitter in golf and maintained a five handicap during his prime. However, the demanding profession of architecture mandated his time on the design boards, sketching and planning, forcing a 15 year sabbatical from sports.
Johnson's golf course now is the prestigious Pine Tree Country Club in Del Ray Beach, whose active members include golf legend, Sam Snead. Pine Tree is rated as one of the top twenty courses in the United States and in the top five in Florida.

Johnson's other hobby, pencil sketching, has given him great relaxation and satisfaction. His ability to communicate ideas and record the built environment graphically, has not diminished in the least. Johnson's freehand subject material includes many personalities and scenes. However, some of his most memorable sketches are those of the sport he loves—golf.

His wry humor and sparkling personality have buoyed his spirit from the depths of the 1930's depression to a comfortable retirement of recreation and social life with the dear friends he has developed throughout his private and business life.

The writer, Gary V. Zimmerman, AIA, is an architect and chief executive officer of the Milwaukee based Zimmerman Design Group.

Editor's Note: Special thanks to E. William Johnson, AIA, for his assistance in compiling data and material for the article.
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This year, for the first time, the WSA Honor Award non-winning entries were juried by a group of non-architects in order to determine people's perception of these projects. These People's Choice jurors spent considerable time reviewing the plans, photos, and project descriptions of the 60 projects. Their critique was quite an eye-opener.

What did they say? They were impressed. Here are some examples:

"I love atriums; I love light. The maximum use of natural light is achieved by design in this office building."

"Glad to see the project was under budget-tax dollars are precious. Overall design is quite distinctive and compatible to the site."

"Church space shows great flexibility with so many different groups and committees all wanting their own space. This design has captured well that theme."

"A very practical and cost efficient design for this type of use."

"Excellent! Building and floorplan layout are quite effective in space utilization."

"Peaceful, homey-type atmosphere always nice in this type of hospital care."

"God bless the architect who survives with sanity a church building committee."

People's Choice citations are being prepared for the owners, contractors, and architects of the 35 projects who were selected by the People's Choice jurors.

What does it all mean? You have to draw your own conclusions. I say that our "PEOPLE'S CHOICE" is a strong affirmation of the general public's perception and awareness of the value of the service we provide.

It's an exciting time to be practicing architecture. The people appreciate our work product.

(The author, Wayne E. Spangler, AIA, is completing his 18th year on the WSA Board of Directors.)
Babcock Hired
William M. Babcock of Madison has been hired to be Executive Director for the Wisconsin Society of Architects. Bill has worked for the last nine years with the Public Expenditure Survey of Madison, a non-profit government research association. In working with this 2,500 member statewide research organization, Bill has worked in many of the areas essential to the operation of the Wisconsin Society of Architects, the Wisconsin Architects Foundation and the Wisconsin Architect magazine. He has been involved in analysis and recommendation pertaining to state and local governmental budget and tax proposals, developed position statements on public policy issues, worked with volunteer groups, provided public testimony before legislative bodies, coordinated meetings, written reports, assisted in raising money, and, in general, been involved in the full range of activities which constitute WSA.

The WSA Executive Committee felt fortunate to offer this position to an individual with the breadth and quality of experience and talents which Bill possesses. WSA members are encouraged to stop by their office in Madison and meet Bill.

People and Places
The Wilson Firm Architects & Planners has a new address: They can now be reached at 7915 W. Appleton Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53218. Phone number is (414) 535-0555.

Dennis Cerreta, AIA, has formed Cerreta Group LTD., providing services in architecture, marketing, and development. The firm can be reached at (414) 784-2022 or by mail at 16980 Greenwood Court East, Brookfield, WI 53005.

Martinson Associates have reorganized their offices and in doing so have changed their name to Martinson Architects, Inc. Their new address is 211 N. Broadway St., Green Bay, WI 54303. Phone number will remain the same. (414) 432-2442.

Robert J. Acord has purchased Boettcher & Ginnow, Inc. He has changed the name of the company to R.J. Acord Architect. The address will be 630 S. Green Bay Road, Neenah, WI 54956.

Robert M. Beckley, FAIA, has been named Dean of the University of Michigan College of Architecture and Urban Planning effective 1/87. Bob has been at UWM SARUP since 1969 when he helped found the School of Architecture. He is a Fellow of the AIA and serves on the Board of the Wisconsin Architects Foundation. Michigan's gain is Wisconsin's loss.

I Wish I Would Have Called You Earlier
A true life story of QBS and the WSA office

A school administrator found out about the WSA's assistance in helping public owners evolve a sane, competent, objective selection process for design professionals. He called the WSA office and received information and guidance.

He had one big problem.

What was it? "I wish I would have called you earlier."

What's the moral of the story? If QBS is going to work, the public owner needs to understand it and find out about it early in the selection process. The Wisconsin architectural community needs to promote QBS and to promote the WSA involvement.

Trust us... we'll do a good job for you.
Membership Action
Paulson, John, was approved for Associate Membership in the Northeast Wisconsin Chapter.

Rod, Kevin B., was approved for Associate Membership in the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter. He has transferred from Northern Idaho.

Callan, John, was approved for Associate Membership in the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter.

Wilson, Dale D., was approved for Student Membership in the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter.

Horky, John, was approved for AIA Membership in the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter. He is upgrading from Associate Member.

Grau, Philip A., was approved for AIA Membership in the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter. He has transferred from Texas.

Kraczek, Norbert, was approved for Student Membership in the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter.

Joe Weiler
A good architect, an asset to the profession a long time participant in WSA and a vitalizing and unique individual ... Joseph J. Weiler, died this past summer.

Licensed as an architect since 1927, Weiler's professional career spanned many decades and touched many architects and clients. His service to his profession included being President of the WSA in 1953-54 and service on a National AIA Committee.

The profession will miss its good friend, Joe Weiler.

It's Beautiful
The business of publishing the Wisconsin Architect is fraught with pitfalls and opportunities to be mugged. One such mugging recently took place when the Wisconsin Architect printed a colored photograph of the WSA Golden Award in the July Wisconsin Architect. The pitfall was the failure to note the photographer of the award. This wasn't an oversight only noted by the Wisconsin Architect editorial Board ... it was noted by many readers of the Wisconsin Architect who called in compliments on the quality of the photograph and complained about the lack of identification of the photographer.

The Wisconsin Architect recognizes Scott Weidemann for this excellent photograph and apologizes for any inconvenience that he incurred.

We Lose A Friend
Don Knudson, architect for the Wisconsin Vocational Board of Adult and Technical Education, passed on this summer. A recipient of a WSA Citation for Distinguished Service to the Profession of Architecture, Don was recognized for his commitment toward promoting energy conservation in public buildings and for promoting architectural awareness and understanding. Many Wisconsin architects had the privilege of working with Don and all were impressed with his enthusiasm, dedication, and commitment. Don's efforts as an architect and representative of the Vocational Board of Adult and Technical Education were representative of the highest quality of public service that one can provide.

The Wisconsin architectural community will miss its friend, colleague and advocate ... Don Knudson.

Thanks Eric
Next time you stop by to see your office in Madison ... the Stoner House ... note the handsome photograph of the dome of the Capitol Building. Compliments of Eric Osendorf, photographer, this framed photograph of the dome of our Capitol was recently donated to the Wisconsin Society of Architects.

Thanks Eric for the beautiful gift.

McClain Honored
The Wisconsin Society of Architects has conferred a Citation For Distinguished Service on Ed McClain, Administrator of the Division of Safety and Building of the Wisconsin Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations. This Citation recognized McClain's efforts in continuing the evolution of an objective State Building Code that is uniformly applied. The members of the Wisconsin Society of Architects applaud Ed McClain for his efforts.
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Desert Aire Corp. has announced plans to expand its manufacturing and corporate headquarter facilities. The president, James A. Metzger said the 22,000 square foot complex will be located on a three acre side in Milwaukee’s Bradley Industrial Park. Desert Aire is recognized as a leader in engineered technology and manufacturing large capacity dehumidifiers for indoor swimming pools and industrial applications. For more information about their products, contact Desert Aire Corp., 5633 W. Florist Ave., P.O. Box 18612, Milwaukee, WI 53218 414-462-9000.

ConCad Technologies, Inc. offers you a complete line of CAD software to complement AutoCAD’s basic 3-D visualization software. Whether you are an architect, civil engineer, surveyor, mechanical or electrical engineer, ConCad Technologies will provide you with state of the art software to dovetail your project to AutoCAD. Designed with the user in mind, the choice of AutoCAD software brings the benefits of a high performance CAD facility within the range of even the smallest office with the power and sophistication of multi-nationals. For more information, contact ConCad Technologies, UW-Stout, 112AA Bldg., Menomonies, WI 54751 715-232-2133.

Twin brochures from Livingston & Haven, Inc. describe new all-stainless steel pipe hangers and provide technical information for installation. Weight of pipe, weight of liquids in pipe, weights of both in 10-foot lengths, span-deflection relationship for pipe and water for gauges, including 16 USS (0.0625” wall) to 7-0 USS (0.500” wall) are included. For more information, contact Bill Bennett, Benco, Livingston & Haven, Inc., P.O. Box 7207, Charlotte, NC 28217 704-588-3670.
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A PANEL DISCUSSION.

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Their answer? It appears to be unanimous.

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