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Architect

Features

29 Post Convention Report

Projects

9 Private Residence; Oconomowoc, WI
   Thomas R. Powell, AIA

12 Private Residence; Door County, WI
   Architecture 360

15 Yankee Hill Residential Development
   Kabler Slater Torphy Architects

17 Single Family Condominium
   E. William Johnson & Associates

19 Hyde Residence
   William A. Aubrey, AIA

21 Private Residence; Fitchburg, WI
   Solter & Associates

22 Water's Edge Condominiums
   Jerome A. Kowalski & Associates

23 The Heritage Retirement Center
   Hoffman Corp.

25 Residence; Bayside, WI
   Paul R. Schultz, AIA

27 Country Residence; Madison, WI
   Herbert G. Gauszwettz Architect

Departments

7 Guidelines
35 Forum
38 Society News
42 Marketplace
42 Advertiser Index

Cover: Door County Private Residence
Architecture 360
Photographer: Eric Oxendorf

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3 Wisconsin Architect June 1989
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Grace B. Stith
Coordinating Editor

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The site is steeply sloped, heavily wooded, 1.3 acres, on a peninsula. The house is located to provide lake views in three directions. A pedestrian access to the lake is provided on a gradually sloping path across the north hill. The driveway is located on an existing ridge, to provide the easiest access to the top of the hill. A flat area to the northwest is used as a private back yard.

The house is 2000 sq. ft. with an open living concept. The living room, dining room and kitchen are all open to each other. There are three bedrooms, two children's rooms with a bath on one level and the master bedroom and bath on a separate level.

The design intent was to build a relatively small house but to make it look large by using open and high spaces.
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The interior has a two story foyer, living room, family room, den, master bedroom suite with bath, dining room, powder room and kitchen with a wood beam ceiling. The second floor has two additional bedrooms, a full bath and a walk-in cedar closet. A generous amount of wainscoting and crown mouldings were included along with custom cabinetry.

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The owner was influenced, while living in Chicago, by the architecture of Gropius, Mies, and Breuer, among others.

A newly developed urban lot was chosen for the site, which slopes slightly from south to north. One tree of good proportion was located at southwest corner of property.

The clients presented a long list of specialized rooms on two floors to fit their needs plus a privacy deck and an illuminated garden. They wished to have a reflecting pool and a two car garage with the door not to be viewed directly from the street.

Photography: Bill Frish
Land value dictated maximum number of units allowed. The most desirable orientation was the northeast view of South Shore Yacht Club's harbor and breakwater, which also encompassed the eastern skyline of Milwaukee.

Lot width afforded each of the eighteen units a narrow exposure to the orientation, dictating a pie-shaped unit plan which resulted in a crescent building form. Two pie-shaped modules make up a single unit at ground level; a townhouse is stacked above each module. End units vary to take advantage of their greater exposure.

The stepped, gabled chimney modules, and crescent form served to reduce the visual mass of the building, making it compatible with the residential scale of the neighborhood.

Units average 1550 square feet, and amenities include direct access to garages (one third are double garages), fireplaces, gabled ceilings at top floors, and balconies off living rooms, master bedrooms, and dens. Ground floor units also have patios.

*Photography: Paul C. Butterbrodt*
The completed first phase of the project is a three-story wood frame building with residential wings radiating outward from the main "city square" communal space. City Squares is a five story atrium which functions as a spatial focus not unlike that of the traditional village square. Clerestories, skylights, and other large glass areas provide abundant natural light. Exterior views and interior landscaping further enhance the traditional village square concept.

Consideration of the physical limitations, needs, and desires of people age 62 and over resulted in a choice of three floor plans of one and two bedroom apartments. Each long wing is treated as a "street" forming its own neighborhood. Each leads to the dining rooms, lounging space and meeting rooms provided by "City Square".

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The site is located on a ravine to the west of the property, so the house was designed to incorporate it as the focal point. The program called for a residence of 4,000 sq.ft. on one floor with a exposed basement for future recreation area. The adjacent homes are traditional two story with this being the odd lot because of the ravine. The design of the house uses traditional elements: columns, center hall, white brick. A second story private study was added to increase the height of the house to blend into the neighborhood. The public areas are situated off the foyer with large open areas, sloped ceilings and a two sided fireplace as a focal point. Clerestory windows and skylights were used to bring light into the center of the house and halls, with interior transom windows to the bathrooms and master bedroom.

Photography: Jim Buivid
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26 Wisconsin Architect June 1989
A passive solar, earth sheltered residence which would provide flexibility for present and future needs of the client was the challenge of this project.

The initial program was constrained to 1500 square feet plus a greenhouse. To make these smallish living spaces appear more generous, three strategies were adopted. A ten foot ceiling height was selected. Awning windows were installed above standard height exterior doors and windows, increasing the view of sky. Interior living spaces were to be unpartitioned to share exterior and interior views.

In planning, provision was made for a future third bedroom. The greenhouse changed to a solarium after careful discussion of function. The solarium incorporated plants, mudroom, nursery, and work area.

Plaster wall and ceiling and ceramic tile floor finishes were chosen for thermal storage properties. Oak woodwork and trim brought continuity throughout. Kitchen cabinet door glass was picked by the owners. It performs double duty, reflecting views projected through windows beyond the kitchen and incorporating the tableware as an attractive part of the composition.

Photography: Herbert Gausewitz, AIA
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ARCHITECTURE STRUCTURE

A Report on the 1989 WSA Convention

The 1989 WSA Convention was held April 18-20 at the Olympia Village in Oconomowoc. From all reports, this year's annual conference was a success. A record number of members and guests participated in the seminars and social events during the three-day Convention; and the exhibit hall featured a record number of displays of the latest in design and construction industry products and services.

WSA Convention Chair Rick Parfrey, AIA, officially opened the conference by reflecting on this year’s theme . . . ARCHITECTURE/STRUCTURE . . . and reviewing the line-up of internationally renowned speakers scheduled to discuss the relationships between structure and architecture. The 1989 WSA Convention promised to be inspiring, intriguing, challenging and entertaining. It lived up to its billing!

This year's WSA Convention also provided participants with the opportunity to visit with friends, enjoy the adventure of a progressive cocktail party and ice cream social, and get answers to questions on construction industry products and services at a one-stop shopping center featuring over 150 exhibit booths. It was a chance to honor and recognize those individuals and firms who have contributed significantly to the architectural profession, the commitment to design excellence, the public's awareness of architecture and the support of architectural education in Wisconsin.

Golden Award Luncheon

Wayne E. Spangler, FAIA, was honored as the fourth recipient of the prestigious WSA Golden Award in recognition of his distinguished service to the WSA and the profession.

Certificates of Appreciation were presented by WSA President Olson to those companies who sponsored Convention speakers and events. The support received from the following companies contributed significantly to the success of the 1989 Convention: J.H. Findorff & Son, Inc., Ver Halen, Inc./Armstrong World Industries, InterPlan OPI Corporation, Best Block Company, David Fogelstrom & Associates, Inc., and Victor O. Shinnerer & Company, Inc.

Texas architect and humorist Dave Braden, FAIA, disrupted the solemn awards luncheon with his entertaining observations on the practice of architecture and society in general.
ARCHITECTURE\STRUCTURE

Speakers & Seminars

During the three-day conference, nationally and internationally acclaimed speakers presented their work and their views on structure and architecture. It will be a hard act to follow.

The 1989 WSA Convention opened with Bruce Graham, FAIA, senior design partner with SOM/Chicago, who discussed the strong influence of structure on his work and design philosophy. "Deconstructivist" architect Zaha Hadid from London closed the conference with a presentation of her fearless, provocative and futuristic work.

In between the wide spectrum of ideas and design philosophies presented by these two featured speakers, Robert Campbell, AIA, Horst Berger and James Wines offered their views on structure as an important and expressive design component. Campbell, the architectural critic for the Boston Globe, presented the story behind the story of the troubled John Hancock Building. Berger, an international pioneer in the design of tensile surface structures, discussed non-linear forms for architectural structures. Wines, of SITE in New York, challenged established notions of what proper architecture should be. In addition to presentations by these featured Convention speakers, participants enjoyed the wit, wisdom and work of award-winning architect Hugh Newell Jacobson, FAIA, at the Honor Awards Banquet and learned how to better control their liability exposure during a pre-Convention luncheon program presented by Peggy Fassett of Victor O. Schinnerer & Company.

Honor Awards Banquet

The 1989 WSA Convention witnessed the return of the Honor Awards Banquet. Members joined the award-winning architects, clients and contractors in this year’s celebration of design excellence.

WSA Design Awards Committee Chair Emma Macari, AIA, with the able assistance of WSA President Dennis Olson, AIA, announced and presented the 1989 WSA Design Awards. The six award-winning projects were selected by a three-member jury from over 80 projects submitted by WSA members.

This year’s Honor Award went to Kubala Washatko Architects, Inc., Cedarburg, for St. John United Church of Christ in Germantown. Five Merit Awards were presented to the following firms and projects: Berners-Schober Associates, Inc., Green Bay, for the Lambeau Field Press & Private Box addition; Heike/Design Associates, Inc., Brookfield, for the Manitowoc Maritime Museum; Miller Meier Kenyon Cooper Architects & Engineers, Inc., Milwaukee, for the Country Isle Elementary School in Fort Lauderdale; Potter Lawson & Pawlowsky, Inc., Madison, for the Fitchburg Community Center; and the Wisconsin Department of Administration, Bureau of Architecture, Madison, for the restoration of State Capitol Assembly Chamber.
WSA Annual Meeting

With WSA President Dennis Olson, AIA, presiding, the WSA Annual Meeting provided members the opportunity to reflect on where the WSA has been and where it is going.

In his remarks, Olson encouraged members to participate in the many programs and services provided by the WSA. Bill Babcock, WSA Executive Director, brought members up-to-date on legislative issues being tackled by the WSA.

Board members in charge of the four WSA Commissions presented brief status reports on committee activities ... Jim Gabriel, AIA, Executive Commission; Jim Larson, AIA, Education & Research Commission; Noble Rose, AIA, Government Affairs Commission; and Mark A. Pfaller, FAIA, Component Affairs Commission. QBS Steering Committee Chair Harry Schroeder, AIA, also presented his report on the WSA's Innovative Qualification Based Selection program.

Wisconsin Architects Foundation

The Wisconsin Architects Foundation again hosted a wine and cheese reception in conjunction with its Annual Meeting. This year the WAF reception and meeting were held in the middle of the exhibit hall, with Best Block Company sponsoring the wine and cheese.

WAF President Tom Nisbet, AIA, reported on WAF programs, scholarships and other activities, including a $10,000 challenge grant from the Janesville Foundation, Inc., for "Campaign 300." As part of the Annual Meeting, Gary Zimmerman, AIA, Dean Carl Patton and Orville "Bud" Arnold were elected to three-year terms on the WAF Board of Directors.

The WAF also had the pleasure and honor of accepting significant contributions from Kerry VonDross of Best Block Company and from Clarence Huettenrauch, AIA, FCSI, on behalf of the Milwaukee Chapter CSI.

WAF Board member Paul Graven, FAIA, thanked a retiring Tom Nisbet for his years of untiring service and leadership on behalf of the WAF.
Exhibitors

The Expo Center at the Olympia Village was filled with over 150 exhibit booths featuring the latest products and services for the design and construction industry. During the exhibit periods each day, it was also crowded with architects and guests hungry for information, competing for door prizes and thirsty for... their favorite beverage.

The "official" Exhibit Booth Awards jurors, Wayne Spangler, Dennis Olson and Rich Malenjak, AIA, selected ten exhibits as the best of the show. Congratulations are in order for the following exhibitors: First Place, Champion Brick; Second Place, Bend Industries, Inc.; and Third Place, Tropical Plant Rentals, Inc. Honorable Mentions were awarded to: Parkwood Chicago, Inc., World of Wood, Inc., Gagnon Clay Products Co., MDC Wallcoverings, N.L. Contract Interior, Best Block Company and Anderson Corp. Congratulations!


The one-stop shopping center of design and construction industry products and services is one of the best educational programs at a WSA Convention. The WSA thanks those companies that exhibited at our 1989 Convention.

Photography: Joe Paskus
Paul is extremely knowledgeable in insurance applications of the consulting industry. He has consistently offered us alternatives when they were available and, in my opinion, honestly strives to define insurance needs specific to our business, alternatives to us, and the best premium available at a particular time.

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Media Architects I

With the inappropriate use of the term "architect" by the media, it is becoming more difficult to practice architecture in the traditional sense. Following is the first of many personal experiences that may help demonstrate the frustration prevalent in the profession in recent years.

During the Nixon years in the late 70's, Huntley and Brinkley broke the ice with the profound television newscast announcing to the world that Henry Kissinger had become the first architect of world peace.

Shortly thereafter, I was retained by a married couple noteworthy for their outrageous teaching styles at a prominent midwest university. During the exercise of developing a program and throughout the schematic design phase, I came to realize that my clients had nothing in common other than their outrage. I negotiated a rather satisfactory arrangement in the floor plan by designing duplicate facilities throughout the residence, each in extreme contrast to the other. Common amenities were limited to the circular driveway (which was later posted to be one-way clockwise in the mornings and one-way counterclockwise in the afternoons and evenings), double entrance doors (keyed separately) and a common foyer, decorated in inappropriate duotones.

The details required for mechanical and electrical systems are so complex they would bore you. Fortunately, the residence was built in an architecturally restricted neighborhood. After flipping a coin, I was able to design the entire street elevation to the liking of the husband who won the toss. The junctures at the side and rear facade were masked with heavy landscaping to the pleasure of the contiguous neighbors.

The project was well publicized and won a first place state design award because of its appeal to a nastily divided architectural jury.

The most perplexing experience was the settlement for fees. Trusting the respect given my clients in the academic community and with faith in their education, I wrote a rather vague contract calling for a modest commission. After several frustrating negotiating bouts (separately with each spouse and their counsel), the settlement for fees ended with the husband and wife agreeing to different fees for work allocated to their share of the residence and their half of the common improvements. (She happened to like his taste in the cooperatively decorated foyer, but blamed me for not providing her with larger bedroom closet and a more elaborate bath than her spouse.)

What a surprise I was in for after the acceptance of the commission settlement. I was called to a meeting with both clients and their attorneys present where I was presented with a bonus. As I stood aghast, I was complimented to my embarrassment by all present. I expressed my gratitude and, prior to leaving, asked my clients, "Why did you select me as the architect for your home?" The answer came as a duet in perfect harmony, "Your ability to keep the peace."
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The Wisconsin Society of Architects has recently held several QBS round table sessions with members around the state to evaluate the Qualification Based Selection Program.

If you would like to receive a copy of the documented conclusions resulting from these meetings, or would like to share your thoughts with us regarding the QBS Program, contact Darius Van Fossen, WSA QBS Facilitator.

Call 608-257-8477 or drop a note to the WSA office, 321 S. Hamilton St., Madison, WI 53703.

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WAF

At the Wisconsin Architects Foundation Annual Meeting on April 18 at the Olympia Village, Thomas K. Nisbet, AIA, presented his last annual report as President of the WAF. Having completed two three-year terms on the Board of Directors, WAF Bylaws required that Tom "retire."

Tom Nisbet was first elected to the WAF Board of Directors in 1983-84. He was elected WAF Vice-President in 1984-85 and WAF President in 1985-86. During this period, the WAF has been able to accomplish a great deal towards its goal of building a better Wisconsin through architectural education. These accomplishments include the restoration of the landmark Stoner House as the permanent home of the WAF and WSA, increasing public awareness of architecture, and building an endowment that enables the WAF to provide annual scholarships to more architectural students. Under his leadership, the WAF also kicked off a three-year fund raising effort called "Campaign 300" to further increase its ability to support architectural education.

At the WAF Annual Meeting, Nisbet publicly accepted a $2,100 contribution from the Milwaukee Chapter CSI and a $1,000 contribution from the Best Block Company. In addition, it was announced that the Janesville Foundation, Inc. had pledged $10,000 to the WAF’s Campaign 300.

Gary Zimmerman, AIA, was elected by the membership to his first three-term on the WAF Board of Directors, and Dean Carl Patton and Bud Arnold were elected to their second tours of duty. Congratulations.

National ARE Results

In June 1988, 14,785 candidates took all or part of the Architect Registration Examination (ARE). Of the 4,093 candidates who took all eight sections of the exam, only 648, or 16%, passed all sections. The 1988 pass-rates for the individual sections of the exam ranged from a low of 37% for the Building Design section to 89% for the written portion of the Site Design section.
Section 89

In 1986, Congress passed the Tax Reform Act which added Section 89 to the Internal Revenue Code. This Section will affect every employer (regardless of size) who provides a life, accident, health, or other statutory employee welfare benefit plan. Compliance with the requirements of Section 89 became mandatory for plan years beginning after December 31, 1988.

The intent of Section 89 is to encourage employers to offer the same comparable coverage to all employees and to ensure that employees are able to receive benefits from the plan. A secondary intent is to raise revenues through additional income tax, via penalties for noncompliance.

Section 89 imposes both "qualification testing" and "nondiscrimination testing" requirements on each employer for all employer-provided benefit plans, and there are severe tax penalties for a firm's failure to comply with these requirements. Compliance with Section 89 is strictly the responsibility of each employer.

This information represents the basic tenants of Section 89 in very simple terms. Because of the complexity of the law, you may want to contact your tax advisor for guidance in making the required good faith effort to be in compliance with this law.

Membership Action

Rattunde, Wm. Coll, was approved for AIA Membership in the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter.

Osvatic, Kathleen, was approved for Prof. Affiliate Membership in the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter.

Donahue, Kevin, was approved for Associate Membership in the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter.

Maertz, Jeffrey, was approved for Associate Membership in the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter.

Oda, Matthew K., was approved for AIA Membership in the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter.

Wold, Robert A., was approved for AIA Membership in the Southeast Wisconsin Chapter.

Toussaint, Susan Healey, was approved for AIA Membership in the Northeast Wisconsin Chapter. (Transfer from Iowa Chapter.)

LaFrombois, III, Russell, was approved for AIA Membership in the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter. (Upgrade to AIA from Associate Member.)

Stephan, John, was approved for AIA Membership in the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter. (Transfer from Texas Chapter.)

McCain, Bruce L., was approved for Prof. Affiliate Membership in the Northeast Wisconsin Chapter.

Schmidt, Philip J., was approved for AIA Membership in the Northeast Wisconsin Chapter. (Upgrade to AIA from Associate Member.)

Oates, John R., was approved for AIA Membership in the northeast Wisconsin Chapter. (Upgrade to AIA from Associate Member.)

Vandersande, Steve, was approved for Associate Membership in the Northeast Wisconsin Chapter.

Seidel, Timothy, was approved for AIA Membership in the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter.

Wandschneider, Richard A., was approved for AIA Membership in the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter. (Upgrade to AIA from Associate Member.)

The following were approved for Student Membership in the Southwest Wisconsin Chapter:

Staller, Christopher
Kerl, Tom
Damm, Jaclyn
Connell, Sean
Heiman, Scott
Lins, Robin
Mason, Tom
Uselman, Stephan
Meixner, JSK
Schultz, Jr., Randall
Scherer, Jay
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