The Sanford W. Goin Architectural Scholarship

- Architecture was both a cause and a profession to Sanford W. Goin, FAIA. As a cause he preached it everywhere as the basis for better living and sound development in the state and region he loved. As a profession he practiced it with tolerance, with wisdom, with integrity and with humility.

- He was keenly aware that in the training of young people lay the bright future of the profession he served so well. So he worked with them, counseled them, taught them by giving freely of his interests, energies and experience. . . . The Sanford W. Goin Architectural Scholarship was established for the purpose of continuing, in some measure, the opportunities for training he so constantly offered. Your contribution to it can thus be a tangible share toward realization of those professional ideals for which Sanford W. Goin lived and worked.

The Florida Central Auxiliary has undertaken, as a special project, to raise funds for the Sanford W. Goin Architectural Scholarship. Contributions should be addressed to Mrs. Edmond N. MacCollin, President, 240 Bayside Drive, Clearwater Beach, Florida.

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THE COVER

The second of our 1961 series of covers designed by students at the University of Florida was done by Charles Kirkland. It was selected for this particular issue because it seemed to carry — at least to the editor — a kind of abstract suggestion of some sort of church symbolism. We could be wrong, of course. Maybe we just liked it!
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Message from The President...

The Gift of Service

By ROBERT H. LEVISON
President, The Florida Association of Architects

We are sometimes so busy "getting" that we find little time to give. Let's stop for a moment and think about this facet of our lives, both personal and professional.

The art of giving embraces many categories and encompasses many areas. As Emerson said: "Rings and jewels are not gifts but apologies for gifts. The only true gift is a portion of thyself." How then can we make the "true" gift not only as people, but as professionals as well?

As a member of the Florida Association of Architects your active participation in civic affairs (on municipal boards, in worthy charity drives, on committees for public improvement, in civic and fraternal organizations, working with youth and old age adult groups) and regular church affiliation can raise your standing in the community and add to the stature of your professional reputation. The personal satisfaction achieved through such service is also of no mean consequence.

Individually and collectively, our greatest service to the profession should be in raising our own personal standards to the highest possible level.

In most foreign countries, Europe and South America particularly, the architect is considered "tops" among all professional men—a superior individual from the standpoint of creativity and integrity. A survey conducted last year in one of our own professional guidance and mental health clinics, schools and largest cities by a national periodical whose weekly circulation runs into the millions, indicated that the American man on the street considers our profession number one in its responsibility to the public. We must live up to that responsibility.

(Continued on Page 6)
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Gift of Service...

(Continued from Page 4)

We have the mind with its ideas, its dreams and its realizations. We have the heart with its love, its sympathy and its understanding. We have time—patience—and we have words. Of the latter, two with the most meaning are encouragement and guidance.

Wilfred A. Peterson once said that the finest gift a man can give to his age and his time is the gift of a creative and constructive life. To achieve this end in a professional sense, I would propose the following:

1. Give of your mind to the young professional, the student and the architect in training. Make them into good, sound stock and your contribution doubles each day.

2. Give of your heart the joy of good fellowship with your associates and fellow architects. Try to be sympathetic to their problems in the light of your own—and again try to develop greater understanding. Accept the logic that admits there are two sides to every story. Listen, learn and appreciate.

3. Take the time to serve your association, its committees and commitments. You will be the one to gain.

4. Use your words to boost, not knock. Only then are you giving the “true” gift to your profession. In so doing, you and the entire world around you will benefit and profit. Not only the poet asks: “Who profits most? ’Tis not the man Who, grasping every coin he can, Unscrupulously crushes down His weaker neighbor with a frown.” Society has long since consigned him to an indeterminate limbo as unworthy of his trust, unworthy of friendship and unfulfilled in his potential mission of life.

Neither does he profit most who fails to grasp the brass ring of opportunity on the merry-go-round of existence and chooses to shirk responsibilities that might lead to bigger and better opportunities—and greater service to mankind.

No one can withdraw from the human race, can turn away from its flaws, its frailties and its virtues without losing its vision and the promise of his own.
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Officials of Protestant churches which make up the National Council of Churches have been quick to recognize that traditional design no longer provides adequate expression for facilities needed in their expanding church service programs. Basic religious symbolism has by no means been ruled out. But new architectural forms are being warmly welcomed by every denomination, thus providing architects with new and challenging professional opportunities. One example is the South Miami Lutheran Church for which Polevitzky, Johnson and Associates were architects. Above, is the Sanctuary, the initial structure of a four-building program. On the opposite page is the Fellowship Building, completed last year. Other views and the plot plan appear on pages 10 and 11.
Trends of A New Building Boom

During the last decade the volume of religious buildings increased more than three times as fast as any other non-residential building type. Church authorities forecast a continuation of this trend and estimate that by 1970 the extent of our overall religious plant will have doubled.

The pattern of American community development is being changed as much by the construction of churches as by the rapidly proliferating shopping centers. In the last two decades, the volume of religious buildings has soared to an 880 percent increase; and most construction departments of the various Protestant denominations confidently expect that the amount of enclosed space now used for a variety of religious purposes will more than double in the comparatively near future.

Thus, from the quantitative viewpoint alone, church building presents an opportunity of major proportions to the architectural profession. And it is an equally impressive opportunity from the qualitative point of view. It is safe to say that the values which lie in good design and sound construction are not only fully recognized by church building administrators, but constitute an integral part of the development policies of most denominations which compose the National Council of Churches.

One excerpt from a publication of the Church Architecture Department of the Southern Baptists illustrates this point.

“'No church building,' says this department, 'should be undertaken without the services of the best professional architect. . . . Only the most experienced professional architect can make the wise decisions and choices necessary in erecting worthy church buildings. Southern Baptists will continue to have monstrosities and glaring amateurish buildings unless and until we employ the very best architects when undertaking new buildings.'

The statement reflects a similar policy on the part of other denominations—and though designs in some denominations may appear conservative in comparison, dramatic results of the policy are increasingly evident throughout the state. Within the framework of a church building's economics, creativity is being welcomed. To quote Dr. P. M. Boyd, Miami District Superintendent of the Methodist Church, "... an architect of ripe judgment, fair appraisal and cooperative leadership is indispensable along with a Building Committee of vision and integrity . . . . Courage and audacity for God's Kingdom are also indispensibles if we are to match the moral and religious needs of our people. The impact upon the community and the communist world is not going (Continued on Page 10)
Churches...

(Continued from Page 9)

to be made by a timid, shrinking Building Committee and architect."

Thus, by and large, the expanding church building program has cut its own bonds of architectonic tradition. Current preoccupations are with novel solutions to the various problems of enclosing space for a growing number of special uses. The architect's task is no longer to provide merely a conventional structure as a place for worship. It is to develop a religious plant—in which facilities for educational and fellowship activities may hulk nearly as large in importance as the sanctuary itself.

The church today, according to one authority, Dr. J. Ray Dobbins, superintendent of Missions for the Miami Baptist Association, encompasses many needs and many activities. The architect must plan for worship, teaching, training, music, recreation, dramatics and social affairs. As the church plant grows, administrative facilities become increasingly important also.

But the problem is not a simple, cut-and-dried procedure of designing a complete church plant. Church officials and church architects alike emphasize the salient factor of change that often virtually controls the design of many church plants. Change is created by growth—the expansion of membership and the widening of the Church service program. If architects and church building committees were to be given a single guiding caution, say church planning authorities, it would be a paraphrase of Burnham's famous entreaty to "...plan no little plans."

Location and land are the first two items of any church building program to prove the point. Most church officials set a minimum of two and one half acres as necessary to accommodate a modest, but modern, church plant. For the larger plant in or near any metropolitan community the area should be almost, if not quite, double this. As to location, neighborhood accessibility is of greatest importance—and some authorities advocate a location in the very center of the community on the busiest of thoroughfares.

Though the architect may seldom be involved with the actual selection of the land, he is immediately concerned with planning of the site and the design of the various buildings on it. Here the rule of thumb is to provide for future as well as immediate needs. Necessarily, of course, both will be conditioned by the ultimate size of the church membership; and provision must be made for adequate parking (in Dade County, for example, the rule is one parking space for each four seats) and outdoor recreational space.

Obviously, specific requirements are subject to wide variation, not only relative to the character and size of the building plot, but with respect also to the liturgical needs and traditions of the particular denomination involved. The architect should know these variations and differences. But most Protestant denominations maintain a headquarters planning and architectural staff from which information on specific customs and requirements may be obtained.

The second most important rule of thumb is the need for the greatest possible flexibility of building use. This applies most particularly to the initial stages of a new church building program. Seldom does a church group have sufficient money to complete its plant immediately. More often the plant development is a step-by-step affair—though the church program embodies as full a range of activities as possible. This means, then, that the architect must design in terms of immediate multiple use as well as in terms of ultimate special use.

Authorities are in general agree-

(Continued on Page 26)

James Forney photos

Left, the Sanctuary of the South Miami Lutheran Church; and, opposite, a view across a landscaped court toward the entrance end and the curved portico that links it with the two Sunday School units and the Fellowship Building... Here full freedom of design has been utilized with no loss of the religious "atmosphere" that churchmen unanimously feel should be a major factor of any architectural expression.

THE FLORIDA ARCHITECT
Architects Invited to Attend Church Conferences

Florida elements of the National Council of Churches, in active cooperation with three Florida AIA Chapters will conduct a series of three consecutive conferences on Church Building and Architecture from February 27 to March 4. Purpose of the three-city program is to bring to those concerned with the subject a better understanding of good planning and adequate facilities for worship, education and fellowship.

First of the three meetings will be held in Grace Lutheran Church at St. Petersburg, February 27 and 28. The Central Baptist Church of Miami will be the location of the second meeting on March 1 and 2. The third meeting will be held in the Riverside Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville, March 3 and 4.

Each of the three local conferences will be similar in character in that a roster of main speakers will address each — and each will include a series of workshops on such subjects as site planning, progressive construction programs, special requirements for various church activities, financing, and architectural services. Each also will include an architectural exhibit of outstanding churches assembled by the Church Architectural Guild of America — as well as a showing of church work by local architects.

Main speakers are all ordained ministers who have extensive backgrounds in church planning and design. Rev. Scott T. Ritenour is Executive Director of the Department of Church Building and Architecture of the National Council of the Churches of Christ, U.S.A., in New York. Rev. Edward S. Frey has similar responsibilities as Executive Director for the Department of Church Architecture of the United Lutheran Church in America, also headquartered in New York.

The third speaker, Rev. James L. Doom, earned a degree in architecture from Georgia Tech and later, in 1943, graduated from the Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, Ga. He is now serving as consultant in church architecture for the Board of Church Extension, Presbyterian Church in the United States, with headquarters in Atlanta.

Their discussions of planning and design problems relative to the various facilities needed for a modern church service program will form the core about which each conference will be developed. Local churchmen and architects will contribute to workshop sessions.

Working with local church groups are committees from the AIA Chapters involved. In St. Petersburg the architects' group is chairmaend by Howard F. Allender; in Miami by James E. Ferguson, Jr.; and in Jacksonville by H. Lamar Drake.

Architects are invited to attend the conferences and are urged to submit, as early as possible, examples of their religious work they deem suitable for exhibition.
Outdoor worship has long been a custom of this Methodist Church; and this new sanctuary, completed last year at a budgeted cost of $650,000, was designed to retain an atmosphere of openness and close contact with its gardened setting. For this reason the seven-story-high structure—roofed without a single interior column—is enclosed with glare-reducing gray glass walls except at the chancel end. Piers between glass areas enclose air-conditioning ducts and are faced with variegated green glass mosaic. The roof is surfaced with chips of red clay tile embedded in plastic. Inside, the ceiling is finished in soft white plaster and indirectly lighted with concealed floodlights controlled by dimmers. The central peak of the ceiling is 75 feet above the floor to impart a desired “soaring” character to the interior; but a sense of intimacy has been gained by the low ceiling height at the corners of the huge room. The roof is framed with four main steel plate girders carried to caps supported by concrete piles and joined at the peak with four additional steel frames. At the narthex a mezzanine contains service rooms; and the seating and lighting of the choir loft has been arranged for religious plays and concerts.
On the opposite page is a view looking toward the entrance from the narthex. Right, a closeup of the exterior wall treatment and anchorage for one of the main plate girders framing the roof.

The sweep of the folded roof planes contrives a low silhouette for such a large building and blends well with the surrounding buildings. The site has been landscaped with reflecting pools around the building.

In the chancel area, finished entirely in walnut, the choir loft will accommodate augmented oratorio groups of 300. Seating of the 2000 capacity auditorium is upholstered in blue green to harmonize with the mosaic-faced piers of the window walls. The floor is vinyl tile over a concrete slab poured with a reverse incline to aid visibility. Aisles, chancel and narthex are carpeted in burnt orange.
Parish Hall, St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, Tampa

MARK HAMPTON
Architect

The problem was to provide a meeting hall and activities center which could also work well as a temporary church until the sanctuary itself could be built. It is part of a program which will include a rectory, a classroom building, a youth center, a chapel and the church itself — plans for which have all been completed. In addition to the auditorium and stage, now used as a sanctuary, the building contains church offices, a library and lounge, a completely equipped kitchen, robing rooms for the choir and acolytes and apartments for the sexton and curate. Construction is flat slab reinforced concrete with buff masonry panels.
The architectural concept of this church grew from the fact that it was planned as an addition to a 30-year old existing structure of simple, modified Gothic character. A conscious effort was made to harmonize the old and the new—yet to incorporate within the new sanctuary a contemporary sense through use of modern materials and craftsmanship. This explains the high-pitched roof—same as the existing structure—general proportions and use of old brick for the facade. It also explains the structural system used—a series of reinforced concrete bents, with heavy wood decking spanning them. Side walls are light-weight honeycomb panels faced with matt-finish porcelain outside and figured red gum on the interior. These panels are surmounted by cement-glass panels depicting the history and growth of the church. The same type of window serves as a background for the cross above the altar at the chancel and won a Broward Builders Exchange Craftsmanship Award in '58. Now under construction is a 110-foot steeple, the upper portion of which will be executed in aluminum tracery to reflect the form of the pointed arch shell at the narthex entrance. Development of this new sanctuary involved some remodeling to the old structure which is now used as a chapel, with adjoining class rooms and church offices.
Three Noteworthy Small Churches...

J. BROOKS HAAS
Architect

The St. Luke's Episcopal Church is the initial building in a program to include a future rectory, parish hall, and school. A low budget dictated a structure of steel A-frames covered with wood sheathing. Wall enclosures are glass, clear and set at an angle along sides, framed in wood as vertical panels at ends. The cross at the porch is a basic element of the facade design and forms a shelter canopy for the entrance. Cost, including pews and equipment and complete air conditioning for just under 4000 sq. ft., was $18.50 per foot.

GEORGE E. WADDEY
Architect

The Community Church at Lauderdale By The Sea is built on a triangular lot which had substantial influence on its design. The entrance facade is 21' in width, while the two-story fellowship hall and classroom building behind the chancel spreads to 69'. Structure of the sanctuary is laminated wood beams with t & g wood planking, all of redwood; that of the fellowship hall of prestressed concrete slabs. Exterior of the nave is white painted stucco, that of the narthex portion Florida travertine, laid in a random ashlar. Roof of the sanctuary is surfaced with green asbestos shingle tile. The nave is flanked on both sides with aluminum frame windows, the upper portion glazed with decorative plastic panels, the lower with redwood slat jalousies.

A. WYNN HOWELL
Architect

In the design of St. Edward's Episcopal Church at Mount Dora a series of powerful stone piers with glass walls between support a wood planking roof to define the church space as essentially a pavillion. Stone, wood and glass have been used as simply as possible, inside and out, to create a sense of combined power and repose that supports worship but does not dominate it. In plan the church is a traditional cruciform, with the altar to the east, lighted from above by a skylight. The design concept grew from liturgical needs and a desire that the building blend pleasantly with the character of its site.
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**News & Notes**

**1961 Committee Chairmen Named by President Levison**

Chairmen for 18 FAA Committees were appointed by FAA President Robert H. Levison at the January meeting of the FAA Board. At the same time some small revisions were made in the FAA's Committee structure. Two were discharged—one concerning a new Executive Director and the other relating to an FAA Headquarters Feasibility. A third—College Building—was merged with the newly named Committee on Government Relations. Chairmen appointed were:

- AIA-EJC Liaison—Russell T. Pancoast, FAIA; Awards and Scholarships—Wahl J. Snyder, FAIA; Chapter Affairs (vertical)—C. Robert Ahele; Collaboration with Design Professions—A. Robert Broadfoot, Jr.; Community Development—William T. Arnett; Convention—Verner Johnson; Education (vertical)—T. Trip Russell; Home Building - Construction Industry—John Stetson; Hospitals and Health (vertical)—Walter B. Schultz; Government Relations—Anthony L. Pullara; Membership—H. Leslie Walker; Office Practice (vertical)—Robert H. Levison, Earl M. Starnes, co-chairman; Preservation of Historic Buildings (vertical)—Belford W. Shoumate; Public Relations (vertical)—Edward G. Grafton; Publications—G. Clinton Gamble; Research—Turpin C. Bannister, FAIA; Schools and Educational Facilities (vertical)—C. Ellis Duncan; Committee on Basic Practice—G. Clinton Gamble.

**Good Old 1960...!**

It seems that some people have been complaining that the first year of the Sixties was more of a fizzle than the sizzle that economic experts predicted just a year ago. But it wasn’t so in the construction industry, according to a release from the F. W. Dodge Corporation issued late last month. This stated flatly that by year’s end the total of construction contracts awarded in 48 states and the...
District of Columbia set a new all-time record — slightly ahead of the previous record set in 1959.

The construction fat might have fallen into the statistical fire if contracts in December had not soared to a fantastic 22 per cent gain over the total volume of awards during December 1959. One reason for the advance lay in the 92 per cent rise in heavy engineering — as roads and bridges. Though residential awards were down 12 per cent, the aggregate of non-residential construction registered a 26 per cent gain.

For the year commercial and manufacturing buildings showed substantial volume gains — and school construction volume shot up 13 per cent, or more than $300 million over 1959.

State Board Grants
62 New Registrations

At its January, 1961, meeting the Florida State Board of Architecture granted registration to practice architecture in this state to a total of 62 applicants who fulfilled the Board's requirements.

This year only three registrations were granted by exemption; and only six architects were granted registration on the basis of NCARB certification. The following successfully passed the written examination:

Atlantic Beach — Herschel E. Shephard, Jr.
Auburndale — Jack L. Turner.
Bradenton — Walter B. Rine, Jr.
Clearwater — William J. Casagrande.
Coral Gables — Stephen C. Little.
Daytona Beach — Donald E. Brotherson.
Delray Beach — Samuel Ogren, Jr.
Albert Trull, Jr.
Gainesville — Frederick N. Reed, Jr., Craig B. Thorpe, Sadi Koruturk.
Hallandale — Joseph S. Kanter.
Hollywood — Joseph H. Dodds.
Jacksonville — Walter J. Parks, II, David B. Boyer, Joseph B. Harms, Richard W. Pearson, Jr.,

(Continued on Page 22)
Florida Northwest Message

By ROY L. RICKS
President

In the several years that the Florida Northwest Chapter has been in existence we have steadily increased our Corporate membership to include practically every eligible architect. This year we will make a concerted effort to stimulate the interest of those Corporate members who have drifted from the Chapter, and to increase our Associate membership. Through increased interest in our Chapter from within we will be more effective as a group in our ability to accomplish our objectives.

The geographical confines of our Chapter include areas extreme in their degrees of development — from one of the oldest cities in the State to one of the State’s fastest growing areas. This situation presents public relations problems that extend from very basic public education regarding the profession to the more involved concern of presenting the cultural and sociological effects of good architecture.

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This is the recently completed Skelly Oil Building, Tulsa. The upper 15 stories are pre-cast concrete curtain wall panels made with grey, green and white aggregates and Trinity White portland cement. They are generally 4'6" x 5' and 4'6" x 8' in size.

The pierced grill surrounding the second floor is 20' high. Panels are 4' x 4' x 8". White aggregate was used with the Trinity White.

The pre-cast exposed aggregate panels (Mo-Sai) and grilles were made by Harter Marblecrete Stone Co., Oklahoma City. Black & West, Tulsa, were the architects.

Ask for full color book, "Curtain Wall Panels and Facings." Address—111 West Monroe St., Chicago.
The church stands unique among buildings of the world. It supplies not shelter, it is not a source of wealth, simply Sanctuary, Architecture for the soul — to house the spirit of man.

Forget the form, the structural gainliness, the ostentation displayed, the mongrel function.

Look beyond the physical seduction so cunningly contrived to sell the building, but not its purpose.

We have seen them, today’s churches—solid in their own plasticity—truncated pyramids resting on their apex, the fish skeleton, brilliant glass iridescent boxes of fairy lightness, the cathedral and its grandeur, the meekness of the little mission chapel.

Today’s churches—an utter waste unless they have inherent within them the fourth dimension of architecture, the spiritual dimension.

Space with atmosphere as elusive as a handful of mist of a morning.

How fitting that we have to enter in to feel it, expose our bodies as well as our minds. Steep in the aura, absorb though all of our senses the Divine Message.

Undenominational, universal, yet with very personal appeal, there is great uncertainty in its predetermination. Often it is accidental. It is unrelated to size. It is more likely to be present in the unpretentious.

You can’t feel it in a sermon delivered to a crowd. You might find yourself more spiritually attuned after seeing a Greek tragedy, hearing a concerto, or spending an hour in a room with Cezanne or Kandinsky.

But, I have found it.

In the Church of the Holy Family in Philadelphia a conventionalized Romanesque building of the 30’s, beautifully proportioned and sensitively conceived.

Saint Patrick’s Cathedral in the late afternoon.

The Throne Room of the Lincoln Memorial with his great epigram etched indelibly in the wall.

Chichicastenango in the center of the square. The pungency of incense made the air, strewn rose petals were the carpet, only candles gave the light. But, the spirit of God pervaded this pagan house.

What quality could be common in these temples? Could it be the leaded, stained colors in the half light of late day — contiguous hangings and soft shadow-icons in polychrome, the dramatic effect at the altar baldachino, the absence of a crowd, the hushed echo of a cough?

Or the satisfying feeling that this building was created but for your use and God’s use?
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Florida Northwest...

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Along with the attempt to better educate the public generally, it is our desire to, through Chapter action, urge the various governing bodies responsible for public work to use the methods suggested by the AIA in evaluating and selecting architects for these projects.

Our Chapter will maintain its interest in the legislative affairs of the State as concerns the construction industry. We will continue the efforts of Chapter member STUART MORRISON, in maintaining contact with our local legislators. If properly informed by their constituents, legislators will be aware of the problems, and certainly more receptive to the efforts of the FAA.

The illegal practice of architecture remains a concern. Through lack of enforcement of the law, this illegal practice continues unrestricted. This Chapter has been attempting to gain assistance from local building officials in curbing these activities. Some progress has been made; we will continue this effort.

Florida Northwest Chapter is looking forward to an active and productive year. We hope, through increased interest and participation, to accomplish at Chapter level the objectives of the FAA and the AIA.

Churches...

(Continued from Page 10)

ment that the church auditorium, or sanctuary, should be the dominant central element of the site plan. It may, or may not be the first part of the plant to be constructed. Often the group will utilize a secondary portion of the ultimate plant until the growth of membership and finances justifies expansion. As a result the completed plant will usually contain what most churches now regard as highly desirable, if not an actual necessity—a secondary auditorium of 200 to 300 capacity so designed and equipped as to make it adaptable to secondary religious services (as weddings, funerals, prayer meetings) as well as to fellowship activities.
This character of flexible use should follow through every element of the church plant, except, possibly the sanctuary when this is constructed as a terminal portion of the church building program. For example, educational activities are an increasingly important part of any modern church service program. But the classroom type of educational facility is no longer generally regarded as the most desirable. Most authorities now fully recognize the sharp differences that exist between secular and parochial educational needs and programs; and, as one result, educational spaces are now being planned for group classifications rather than as a series of permanently partitioned cubicles for use by various "grades."

The character of such spaces is more and more assuming that of a large home living room. Many partitions, both permanent and temporary, are being eliminated in favor of unobstructed areas which can be intensively utilized for various recreational and fellowship activities in addition to serving the purposes of group instruction.
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A Letter
To
The Governor

MY DEAR GOVERNOR:

Somewhat less than a year ago you were gracious enough to reply to a series of questions on matters of major interest to various elements of Florida's huge construction industry. Your forthright answers to those questions were published in the April, 1960, issue of this magazine. You have recently assumed the responsibilities of the office for which you were then a candidate. Shortly the first legislative session under your gubernatorial administration will be called to order. Thus I venture to call your attention once again to a matter which justifies the thoughtful consideration of legislators as vitally affecting the future well being of our state.

This is the Mechanics' Lien Law...As you know, during the course of many years a wide range of efforts have been made to revise many provisions of this law. The end sought was removal of its many ambiguities and the clarification of procedures in fairness to construction organizations affected and for the greater protection of the public these organizations serve.

Most efforts to amend this statute in line with these general objectives have proved abortive. Similarly, various cooperative efforts by trade and professional groups to develop even more drastic revisions of the law have not been successful. Most recent of these was a conference called in Fort Lauderdale by the Broward Builders Exchange last month. A panel discussion and a series of group "workshops" were constructive — but only to the extent of clarifying some of the more obvious tangles in procedure and the legal pitfalls which the law now contains. This meeting produced no firm recommendations relative to measures for revising and streamlining the law; and, in general, voiced only the practical ad-

monition to seek legal advice at every turn — and then to appeal what might appear to be an adverse ruling of a court in the event of possible litigation.

This, in capsule, has been the history of all serious discussions on this statute. In spite of many suggestions for eliminating some of its complexities and ambiguities, the basic inequities and inadequacies of this statute remain. It is now clear to many responsible leaders in the construction industry — as, also, to most members of your own legal profession — that piecemeal efforts toward improvement are not sufficient. As spokesmen have said, not even the legal fraternity understands clearly what the law means; and as each makeshift amendment is signed, this meaning, in terms of any sort of practical interpretation, becomes even more jumbled.

In short, judging from fairly recent court decisions, the law does not actually protect those for whom protection was first sought — the mechanics, material suppliers and sub-contractors who make up the vast bulk of the construction industry. Worse yet, from one viewpoint, is that under a certain chain of circumstances involving "improper" procedures, the bill-paying owner of a construction project — and thus by logical extension the public of our State — may be open to the liability of having to pay twice for part or even all of his job. Hardly less severe is the necessity for his having to operate unwittingly under the cloud of such a possibility as a result of dangerously inadequate advice stemming from some ultimately improper interpretation of the law's various and vague provisions.

What Florida needs, Governor, is a brand new Mechanics' Lien Law. You will agree, I think, that the construction industry is justified in looking to you for leadership toward this end. You will agree, too, I think, that the objective can in time be reached.

In view of past attempts, the method for reaching it seems clear. Let the 1961 Legislature establish a Mechanics' Lien Law Study Commission. Let this group be charged with a thorough research of the subject and the drafting of a new statute through active cooperation of the Attorney General's office. Let a series of public hearings be held on the various phases and provisions of the new statute. Let necessary revisions be promptly made; and then, at the 1963 session of the Legislature, let a new and workable Lien Law be introduced as an administration measure fully backed by the construction industry, the legal profession and a clearly informed public.

Need for this new legislation is pressing. And any measures short of a completely new approach will not achieve adequate, nor even practical, fulfillment.

Cordially,
ROGER W. SHERMAN
WHY THIS MESSAGE:
Because the University of Florida is a State-operated and financed institution, it cannot budget nor borrow funds needed to provide the one-to-nine matching sum necessary to assure an allocation from the National Defense Loan Fund. Thus donations must be relied upon to raise the $90,000 needed to establish a basis for the total revolving fund required for student aid during the next four years. Hence this appeal for alumni help.

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