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Cover photo of the Brandon Surgical Group by ©1986 Ellis Richman
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3. survival
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"America By Design" is the latest cinematic undertaking to address the subject of architecture in the U.S. This time the series will focus "exclusively on events and people who influenced American architecture, planning and design." The American Institute of Architects, who helped fund the project, stated and underlined that "America By Design" is different from "Pride of Place," a disclaimer that can only help the new product. The five-part series is expected to be broadcast on national public television stations in the spring of 1987. "America By Design" is a co-production of WTTW/Chicago and Guggenheim Productions, Inc. and it is hosted by its creator, the noted architectural historian and author, Spiro Kostoff.

The various installments deal with "The House," "The Workplace," "The Street," "Public Places" and "The Shape of the Land." According to an AIA memorandum, "unlike 'Pride of Place,' 'America By Design' has been very much a joint venture between the creator—Spiro Kostoff—and the filmmaker—Charles Guggenheim." The AIA says, "We’ve put a lot of $$ and staff time into this one. This is very much of a family undertaking, and we believe you'll be proud to claim the offspring as your own."

Neither host nor producer needs much introduction. Spiro Kostoff is known to anyone who has ever taken a course in architectural history. He is professor of architectural history at the University of California, Berkeley, and the author of numerous books including his most recent, A History of Architecture, which is fast becoming the bible on the subject. According to the New York Times, the book gives the reader a "magnificent guided tour through mankind’s architecture from prehistoric caves to the extension of Harvard’s Fogg Museum." Charles Guggenheim, whom I heard speak at National Grassroots in Washington last January, has earned an international reputation in the field of films and television. He received the George Foster Peabody Award in television as well as seven Academy Award nominations and two oscars. He is a serious and committed filmmaker.

Perhaps there is still hope for the future of films which attempt to deal with the sprawling, and often controversial subject, of architecture, its history and impact on society.
New Commissions

Wedding & Associates, Architects, Inc. has been commissioned to design a new genre of multi-family housing for the elderly at nearly 20 sites around the U.S. Construction of the first four Independent Living Centers in Missouri, Tennessee and Georgia will begin before the end of 1986. Powell McKinley Architects-Planners Inc. have been selected by the City of North Lauderdale to design a 3,000 s.f. addition to the Public Safety Department to accommodate supervisor offices, code enforcement, booking and a sally port for prisoner dropout. Powell Design Group has just completed the design of two buildings for Camp Thunderbird, a handicapped-oriented camp and recreational facility operated by Life Concepts, Inc. Camp Thunderbird will be constructing a third dormitory and an auxiliary recreational building.

Oscar Sklar of Sklar Arkitekts P.A. has designed a headquarters for the Miami Audio Visual Corporation. The 4-story, 12,000 s.f. building features glass block curved walls and a 3-story glass block planter that is recessed into the side of the building. Architect Hervin Romney designed the exterior facade of the new Burger King on Miami Beach to be compatible with the Deco District, incorporating also Burger King's greenhouse windows along two streets, flanking a corner entrance. Windows and entrance are covered with a soft yellow canopy designed by the architect.

The Smith, Korach, Hayet, Haynie Partnership has designed the new Learning Center for Southern Bell in South Florida. The high-tech learning center will be used to train both technical and administrative staff. Currie Stubbins Schneider has designed a luxury import car dealership for Zanlo Imports in Delray Beach. The architects designed a renovation of the existing facility and the addition of 2,500 s.f. of display space.

To the left, Administrative office center for Burger King Corporation in Daytona Beach was designed by Benjamin Butten, AIA.

Oliver Glidden & Partners in association with Wendy Burckle Glidden have been selected to design the interiors of the lobby and public spaces for Gardens Plaza, in Palm Beach Gardens. The three-story lobby will feature cantilevered planters clad in Italian marble and an accent wall of fossil stone. Bellon Perez & Perez has been retained by Logessa, Inc. to provide professional services for its new $2 million residential development. The six-story building will contain 60 rental apartments.

The Smith, Korach, Hayet, Haynie Partnership has been commissioned to design a new 150-bed nursing home as a joint venture of St. Francis Hospital in North Miami and Mercy Hospital in Coconut Grove. Avinash Gupta, AIA, is principal-in-charge and project manager is Henry Alexander, AIA. Schwab & Twitty Architectural Interiors Inc. has been selected to design the renovation of Maison Maurice, a fine jewelry store on Worth Avenue in Palm Beach. Architects International Inc. has designed the parking garage for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza Station in Dade County. The garage has an initial capacity of 1,000 cars on three levels with provision for a fourth level.

Kenneth Hirsch Associates Architects AIA has been selected to design the 19,000 s.f. medical facility at Coral Springs, Palm Beach Gardens. The primary use of the building will be a state-of-the-art cosmetic and reconstructive surgical center. The City of Boca Raton has awarded the firms of Slattery & Root Architects, P.A., Thornbrough & Associates and Shereva & Associates the commission for the expansion of the Lake Wyman Community Park. The park is more than 50 acres and is bounded by the Intracoastal Waterway. The Sieger Architectural Partnership has designed the Imperial's new 8-story twin tower at Promenade in Boca Pointe. Designed for privacy, each tower of The Imperial contains just two spacious apartment residences.

Powell Design Group has just completed plans for The Oaks, a 30,000 s.f. retail center in Bradenton. Prime Design Inc., Architects, Engineers and Planners of Tampa (formerly Watson and Company) has been selected by the Broward County Board of County Commissioners as part of a design-build team for the construction of the new Broward County Detention Facility in Pompano Beach.

Collins & Associates Architects/Planners has designed Suburban Funeral Home's recently opened 15,000 s.f. building in Panama City. The $750,000 general home incorporates several innovative concepts that are new for the funeral industry. In addition to having four reposing rooms, Southerland has an in-house florist shop, video-taping capacity, a 350-seat chapel, a resource/library center, drive-through business window and covered parking for up to 18 cars. The new $8.2 million Fort Lauderdale Campus of Florida Atlantic University was designed by the Smith, Korach, Hayet, Haynie Partnership to be one of the country's most unique higher education facilities. The nine-story building houses classrooms, faculty offices, administrative areas, student areas, public spaces for lunchtime events or art displays, a computer center, television studio, meeting rooms, bookstore, and learning resource center. The building was designed as a high-rise campus specifically for an urban environment.

The Design Advocates, Inc. are creating a full-service rental retirement community in Bradenton for developer Ben Hay Hammet, Jr. The firm is designing Seaport, a 160-unit Adult Congregate Rental Living Facility for retired individuals 62 years and over. Currie Stubbins Schneider had been chosen to design the McCranie Office Building in Palm Beach County. Construction on the 7,500 s.f. building is slated to start this fall.

Schwab & Twitty Architects, Inc. have been commissioned to design the renovations and additions to Palm Beach Gardens High School in coordination with Team Plan, Inc. who is creating a new master plan for the project. Collins & Associates has been selected as the architect to design a 91,000 s.f. manufacturing plant and corporate headquarters for the Century Boat Co.

Oliver-Glidden & Partners in association with Wendy Burckle Glidden, ASID, IBM, have been selected to design the interiors of Suburban Bank in Lake Worth.
As part of Southland Corporation’s “Image 86” campaign to upgrade and expand customer services, Fugleberg Koch Architects designed a series of new, standard 7-Eleven Stores that will be built throughout the southeast. ■ Prime Design, Inc. (formerly Watson and Company) has been selected to provide design services for Shape Optimedia of Kennebunk, Maine. One of the most challenging parts of the design work will be the Clean Room where the compact discs will be manufactured. Compact discs must be manufactured under stringent, dust-free conditions. The plant will have a capacity of producing 20 million discs in 1987. Prime Design will also design the new Elementary School “E” in Kissimmee. ■ The Hillier Group has been retained to design a 30,000 s.f. conference center for the Ponte Vedra Inn and Club near Jacksonville. Construction will begin in early 1987. ■ RTKL Associates, Inc. has been selected by John W. Galbreath & Co and Paul Hanna Management, Inc. to design Esperante, a 20-story mixed-use complex in West Palm Beach. The project is scheduled for completion in the Spring of 1988. ■ Indian River Memorial Hospital has selected the Smith, Korach, Hayet, Haynie Partnership to design a new ambulatory surgery center. The new building will be a freestanding structure located on the present hospital’s grounds. Bellon, Perez & Perez has been retained by N&E Equity, Inc. to provide professional services for its new $600,000 corporate headquarters building. The two-story office in Miami will have 5,200 s.f. of space.

**Awards, Honors and Special Note**

The firm of Benjamin P. Butera, AIA, has won first place in the Jacksonville Parade of Homes for its zero-lot line, two story home in “The Valley at Hidden Hills.” The firm was also awarded a 1986 Aurora Award for a commercial building under 25,000 s.f. and one-to-three stories. The winning project is the new Administrative Office Center for the Burger King Corporation in Daytona Beach. ■ Paul M. Twitty, AIA, principal of Schwab & Twitty Architects Inc. has received several important committee appointments. He has been named to the Board of Directors of The Education Foundation of Palm Beach County and to the Martin County Economic Council. He has also been asked to serve with the Steering Group of the National Housing Committee of the AIA, the President’s Council of the University of Florida and he has been appointed to the advisory group for the State of Florida Collaborative Elderly Housing Initiative Program. ■

The Central Florida Chapter of the American Institute of Architects has named Rand J. Soeller, AIA, as Chairman of the new Quality Control Procedure Task Force. The construction design industry is filled with rising liability insurance rates and other construction administration/documentation issues. The intent of the estimated year-long effort is to reduce errors and omissions in architectural and engineering construction documents, and improve the quality of the practice of architecture and engineering in general.

For the second year in a row, Jane Grosslight, Program Director, Center for Professional Development, Florida State University, has won the national award for Innovative Continuing Education Programs from the American College Testing-National University Continuing Education Association. This year’s award was given for the workshops dealing with Freehand Perspective Drawing, Color Sketching, Computer Uses for Designers, Interior and Architectural Photography and Systems Drafting. These workshops were cosponsored by the Florida Association of the American Institute of Architects and the Center for Professional Development. The programs have been offered for the past four years on a consistent basis and have served 792 professionals, including 400 architects, mostly from the State of Florida.

Dr. Randy Atlas, AIA, was a guest speaker in July at the 116th annual congress of the American Correctional Association, a pro-
Compatibility is the byword for Florida’s future

Florida’s growth has stressed fragile ecosystems. To ensure the harmonious coexistence of the mangrove, the spoonbill and the highrise, the professional teams who plan Florida’s future need to be more sensitive to the combination of physical and aesthetic design elements.

This year’s annual conference of the Florida Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects (FC/ASLA) concentrated on implications of the recent passage of Florida’s Growth Management Act. As a professional obligation of landscape architects and planners, growth compatibility seeks solutions to incompatible land uses and functions that conflict due to growth pressures and limited resources.

Assembled here are opinions and impressions from landscape architects and others intimately involved in Florida’s growth on how Florida’s Growth Management Act will affect our state’s future.

“I am greatly concerned about the form and pattern that development will take as Florida continues to grow. It is essential that we build the Florida of tomorrow in harmony with our lovely but fragile environment.”

Governor Bob Graham

“The landscape architect should complement the work of the architect. Today, the site gets more attention than it did 10 years ago. The architecture becomes an element of the site as the site is the overall effect of the project. The team approach is extremely important — there are very few Michelangelos left.”

William H. Baker, ASLA

“What we do in the next 20 years should determine the Florida of the next millennium. We’ve passed the point where we can leave the design of Florida’s future to just one profession. I’d love to see us institute an interdisciplinary workshop amongst planners, landscape architects and architects.”

Herrick Smith, Chairman Dept. of Landscape Architecture University of Florida

“I believe the proper approach for a well-motivated, constructive, realistic, environmental community in Florida is to plan what this state is going to be like against the limitations of our natural system.”

Kenneth ‘Buddy’ MacKay, U.S. Congressman, 6th Congressional District.

“I find intriguing the notion that Florida was better in the past than it is right now, and than it is likely to be in the future.”

Richard Edmonds, Editor, Florida Trend magazine.

Landscape architects are probably the design professionals most responsible for translating good growth management concepts into reality. As Florida moves into the 21st century, landscape architecture will be the keystone within all disciplines that protect the public health, safety and welfare through planning and design of the land.” Mike Pape, President, FC/ASLA.

“I encourage the FC/ASLA to continue its support of the Department of Landscape Architecture at the University of Florida and for the department to enhance its interactive role with the profession. Upcoming mutual activities will enhance the practices of architecture and landscape architecture in Florida.”

Anthony Cutaneous, AIP, Dean, College of Architecture, University of Florida.

The architectural firm of Reece Yamada & Associates has opened its office in Tampa Commons. Principals in the firm are Edward M. Reece, AIA, PE, president and Masao Yamada, AIA, vice president. Mr. Reece is both a registered architect and a civil engineer and Mr. Yamada is an internationally recognized architect. Associates joining the firm are Architects James E. Kelley, RA, Eytel E. Pinon, RA, and Kathryn H. Hindman, Marketing Director. The firm will offer architectural and planning services.

Robert A. Koch, AIA, was one of the featured speakers for the 7th annual Southeast Builders Conference held in Orlando in August. The meeting, which is sponsored by the Florida Homebuilders Association, brings builders from Florida and 10 other southern states together for educational seminars, housing tours, and exhibits. Koch’s presentation was entitled “Back to the Future: Forecasting Housing Trends from Historical Reflection of Forces Driving Consumerism.” The topic explored how major events of the past have influenced consumer trends in housing design. Koch also addressed a two-day conference in Washington in June entitled “Developing and Leasing Suburban Office Buildings” which was part of a series conducted by the Northwest Center for Professional Education. Koch’s presentation was entitled “Design Features and Amenities Needed to Lease Space.”

The professional organization of correction practitioners including administrators, law enforcement officers, consultants and equipment vendors. According to Atlas, public administrators have recently been the subjects of liability suits for failure to protect the welfare of prisoners who commit suicide while incarcerated. In his speech, entitled “Reducing Liability of Prisoner Suicide Through Proper Design and Training,” Atlas suggested that suicide of prisoners is a preventable crime.

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This article was written, and the quotes compiled, by Susan J. Oksner, a writer living in Orlando.
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Brandon Surgical Group
Brandon, Florida

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Principal-in-Charge: Sol J. Fleischman, Jr., AIA
Project Architect: Don A. Scurato
Engineer: Civil—Mills & Associates; Structural—Cabana & Fernandez; Mechanical & Electrical—Carastro, Aguirre & Associates
Landscape Architects: Balsley & Associates
Interior Design: Fleischman-Garcia Architects
Owner/User: Brandon Surgical Group

When the husband/wife medical team of Drs. John Mikos and Carol Roberts decided to build an office to house a growing medical practice in the fast-growing community of Brandon, they wanted a building that was a departure from the more typical stucco and brick found in the vicinity. In addition, the site had several old trees which warranted saving. As a result of client imperatives and site restrictions, the architect designed a multi-disciplinary medical facility that is responsive to the needs of the medical profession as well as to the high-tech materials that were used. Building around the old trees provided the needed warmth in contrast to the shiny aluminum skin of the building.

Retention ponds, which were required for the drainage-sensitive site, were used as feature pools. The semi-circular concrete seating platform outside under the plexiglas entrance canopy overhangs the main pond and makes a very pleasant spot for those patients who want to enjoy the outdoors.

One of the program requirements was to design a waiting room which would seat approximately 100 patients, with a reception desk visible throughout the room. To this end, the archi-
Plan, above, and elevation on preceding page, courtesy of Fleischman-Garcia Architects. Photo, left, a plexiglas canopy overhangs a feature pool at the building's main entrance. Above, overview of the facility shows sitting and ponds.
A continuous curved glass skylight provides natural light to the waiting room.

The clients specifically requested that all of the doctors' offices, located on the east and west perimeter walls, be of the same dimensions and detailing to avoid any ego gratification or jealousy. Each doctor was able to choose his or her own colors from a preselected group.

The second floor contains a computerized business office which links to the medical data room on the first floor and a staff lounge with full kitchen, lavatory and shower facilities. The library/conference room features built-in shelves and audio-visual equipment. It is large enough that the entire staff of thirty may meet in it and it also features a small skylit balcony.

Aileen St. Leger

The author is a writer working in Tampa.
Chinsegut: An aesthetic alternative for a government structure

Chinsegut Nature Center
Hernando County, North of Brooksville, Florida

Architect: Soellner Associates
Architecture, Caselberry, Florida

Engineers: Ross, Esme, Fessler, Patterson, Winter Park, Florida

Project Administration: Florida Department of General Services, Bureau of Building Construction and Facilities Management; Robert J. Boerema, Director; Bill Scaringe, Asst. Director

Owner: State of Florida, Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission

Contractor: MC of Florida, Bushnell, Florida

The 400-plus acre site on which the Chinsegut Nature Center sits is a beautiful wilderness area in Central Florida. The Nature Center is on the northern portion of the site, near the top of a hill. The site was selected by Steve Fickett, Jr., a recently retired wildlife biologist who was with the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission for 23 years and was responsible for starting the project.

There were no existing prototypes for this type of building, so Soellner Associates used two existing pole bird feeders to triangulate the position of the building. They felt this was appropriate since the building was, after all, a nature center. Due to the contractor’s reasonable base bid, the budget permitted the use of double pane mirror-glass windows which allow people inside the structure to see the wildlife outside without the animals seeing or hearing the people. This is especially appealing in view of the fact that deer frequently feed at the edge of the woods north of the main meeting room. Three bird feeders are also visible from the interior. The double glass also helps reduce heat transfer, thereby lowering the facility’s utility costs.
The Department of General Services encouraged the use of passive energy saving features and as a result a totally passive vented roof helps exhaust the super-heated attic air during the summer months. Windows on the west are protected and shaded by a deep roof overhang, as is the main entrance.

According to Architect Soellner, "the building was designed to integrate with its environment." In the creation of the schematic design, the architect felt strongly that the building must relate to the outside. To this end, a number of important elements were incorporated into the building.

The large covered entrance was designed to double as an outdoor teaching space. It created a transitional zone so that the change from outside to inside was comfortable both physically and psychologically. The roof trusses are exposed over the outdoor teaching area and stained a color which contrasts with the deck above. This creates an abstraction of tree limbs over visitors' heads. Large louvers vent the naturally rising heat of the summer months while admitting light from high above the floor. Again, as with the trusses, the effect is not unlike walking in the woods and seeing tree branches criss-crossed overhead. This space is also very functional and will be used for outdoor demonstrations and classes.

The landscaped earth berms on two sides of the building literally make it a part of the landscape. The berms add a thermal flywheel effect that decreases usage of air-conditioning and heating.

Breezes are funneled through the center by the angled walls in the outdoor teaching area, through screen doors at the entrance, through the meeting room's operable double-pane windows to the exterior. Louvers in restroom doors create a flow-through to small operable windows placed high on the wall.

Split-face buff-colored block was used on all the exterior walls up to eight feet. This durable material has a rough natural-looking texture, similar to local stone. The block was also used on the interior of the meeting room. Upper exterior walls are covered with beveled cedar clapboard siding with cream-colored stain.

All utilities are underground and all large trees were preserved. The building is set behind a tree buffer which obscures it from the parking lot. The short walk from the parking area to the Center is one of transition from the world of automobiles to one of nature.

Diane D. Greer

Photos by George Cott.
Eastwood Business Commons
Tampa, Florida

**Architect:** The Zimmerman Design Group
**Structural Engineer:** R. J. Possen Co.
**Owner:** R. J. Possen Co.

*Eastwood Business Commons is an office/warehouse facility that was designed to accommodate its heavily wooded, irregularly shaped site. The design concept satisfied the owner in terms of saving quality trees and providing maximum flexibility for tenant lease spaces.*

Six adjoining building modules, staggered and placed around trees and tree clusters, created an aesthetically pleasing pedestrian courtyard, as well as solving site problems. The courtyard feature provides access to both ends of a typical building bay, permitting it to be split and accommodate double loading of tenants within the same bay.

Initially conceived as concrete block and stucco, it was determined that tilt-up concrete slab construction would reduce the construction cost by $80,000 and facilitate construction of the cantilevered panels required at the stepped glass corners. Constructed with an R-8 roof insulation system, the six-inch concrete wall panels are finished, upon leasing, with foil-faced insulation and gypsum board. Interior finishes are specified when bays are leased, or the area can be used strictly as a warehouse.

Stepped, tinted glass in blue aluminum frames create “chiseled” corners and pedestrian entry access points at the end of each building module. They also characterize the exterior perimeter of the facility. Two-inch wide, blue ceramic tile rustication bands run horizontally, aligning with the horizontal members in the aluminum storefront. Entry doors, corner tube columns,
and the “diamond” shaped steel tube and canvas canopy, which highlights entry into the courtyard, are finished in bright terracotta. Overhead doors, used for delivery and service purposes, are recessed from the building facade and turned 90 degrees to conceal their appearance.

Eastwood Business Commons was completed in January of 1986; construction costs for the 25,000 sq. ft. complex were $575,000 or $22.90 per square foot.

Anne Schumann

The author is an administrative assistant to the Zimmerman Design Group.
It’s Boca . . . and the living is easy

The Charlse Residence
Boca Raton, Florida

Architect: Angles, Esteban
Associates, Inc., South Miami, Florida
Landscape Architect: Krent Wieland Designs, Inc.,
Boca Raton
Owner: Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Charlse
Contractor: Housing Adventures, Boca Raton

From the firm’s beginning four years ago, principals Manuel Angles, AIA, and Jorge Esteban, AIA, have equipped themselves to create attention-getting designs for a broad range of clients including high end developers of luxury residential communities, builders of zero lot line homes and an array of townhome, villa and patio home projects. Recently, Angles and Esteban have begun to assemble a crack team of highly talented individuals with the skills necessary to provide a complete package of architectural and landscape services for both custom homebuyers and builders and developers of residential land commercial properties.

Angles and Esteban were asked by a couple accustomed to entertaining on a grand scale to design a residence for them that would fulfill their new roles as “empty nesters.” The architects designed a 3900 s.f. house on a half acre site that is reminiscent of a villa in Italy that the clients admired.

Construction of the single-story house was accomplished with conventional construction techniques despite its extremely luxurious appearance. The painted stucco structure has a traditional concrete barrel tile roof, alluding to the home’s Mediterranean origins.

Main entrance to house, above, and pool and patio, below, were photographed by Robert Stein, 1986.
The concrete foundation has stem wall footing. There are precast lintels over the windows and corbelling on the parapet walls which are capped with U-blocks. Square masonry columns and arches were used for support in the rear of the house and the patio area is so large that a steel flected plate was used to span the whole area. Ground surfaces here are brick. There is a greenhouse with glass ceiling behind the family room.

Foyer, dining, living and family rooms and kitchen and eating nook have very high sloping ceilings with exposed wood trusses. Ceilings are bleached oak and floors are travertine marble. Light floods the home through wall to wall windows with clerestory above.

The entire mood and feeling of the house and decor is one of elegance and luxury. The house also has a light, airy quality. In the kitchen, for example, the walls end at the top of the cabinets so that light can saturate the eating and food preparation areas.

The dramatic outdoor patio is replete with Roman columns, classic archways and covered ground surfaces. This outdoor entertainment area is a virtual extension of the home's interior.

In contrast to the open feeling which the architects sought in the house's public areas, is the intimacy and elegance of the master bedroom suite. Black marble and mirrors were used in dressing and bathing areas, in addition to a vaulted ceiling, Roman tub and skylight.

The contemporary mood of the house is appropriate, not only to the clients' lifestyle, but to the climate of the region as well.

Susan Bishoprpic
The author is a writer for Susan Gilbert & Co. in Coral Gables.
Greenleaf and Crosby Restored

Greenleaf and Crosby Building
Additions & Renovations
Jacksonville, Florida

Architect: Kenneth R. Smith, AIA Architects
Consulting Engineers:
Interior Design: Catlin Interiors, Inc.
Lobby Interior Design: Covington-Young Designers, Inc.
Owner: Greenleaf Associates, Ltd.
General Contractor: Wesley of Florida, Inc.

The Greenleaf & Crosby Building, originally constructed in 1926, was completely renovated and a new glass enclosed atrium was added on the former third floor roof area. The atrium physically and visually connects the second through the fifth floors, occupied by the Commander-Legler law firm, and serves as the reception area for the law firm while offering a common circulation path and means of communication between the various floors.

The original building, designed by Marsh & Saxelby Architects, was designed to permit the twelve-story tower to be expanded over the entire three-story base. The new atrium addition bears on columns designed for the future tower. The elevator lobby on each floor was opened up by the new glass curtain wall and provides excellent views of Hemming Plaza to the north.

The entire project was completed in ten months and the owners were able to take advantage of tax credits for historic buildings.

Above, photo of Greenleaf Building as it looked in 1926. Photo courtesy of Kenneth R. Smith, AIA. Photos on facing page, top left, building as it looks following restoration, top right, new atrium stair, lower left, new atrium and roof terrace beyond and lower right, original entrance and elevator lobby. Photos by Davis & Vedas Photographers.
Ideal proportions of form and void

Beaches Branch Library
Neptune Beach, Florida

Architect: Pappas Associates Architects
Engineer: Evans and Hammond, Engineering, Inc.
Landscape Architect: Jacksonville Landscape Company
Contractor: Mel Smith Inc.
Owner: City of Jacksonville

The Beaches Branch Library was designed with an understanding of the inherent geometry of the “Golden Section,” considered by the ancient Greeks to be the classically ideal proportion of form and void. The sides of the “Golden Section” rectangle are in the proportion of 1 to 1.618. If one looks closely at the library in elevation, plan and section, the classical proportion of the forms and voids is clearly recognizable.

The symbol of the Beaches Branch Library, the classic antefix, is seen as a flower-shaped design on the cast-stone facade. It was taken from the Greek ornamental blocks found on the edge of a roof used to conceal the ends of the roofing tiles.

The building was designed to make the most of light and shadow. The facade is constructed of cast stone which allows for maximum sculpting of the surface. The light sand color of the exterior allows for maximum contrast of light and shadow. The bright interior colors were chosen for two reasons. First, color is used to identify and separate large open spaces such as the circulation boulevard, the reading areas, the community room and the workroom and staff areas. Second, the bright colors are used to contrast the monotony of the stacks of books and to emphasize the open, airy, cheerful atmosphere.
Photos these two pages by Bob Braun Photography.
The library was built with steel frame supporting precast concrete wall panels. Longspan steel bar joists support a single-ply roof membrane on lightweight concrete on a structural steel deck. The building features an energy-efficient mechanical system that utilizes an underground storage of hot and cold water during peak use. The lighting is a combination of natural, recessed fluorescent and incandescent light.

The library contains an adult reading area and a children's reading room with a combined shelf capacity of 130,000 volumes. The large meeting room seats 120 people and has audiovisual capabilities. The conference room seats fourteen. There is a two-story atrium with quarry tile floor for use as an art display area. There are offices for librarians and workrooms for sorting returned books and processing new books. The library will operate with a computer assisted referencing system.

_Diane D. Greer_
This page, plan and elevation courtesy of Pappas Associates Architects.
South Florida Evaluation & Treatment Center

South Florida Evaluation & Treatment Center
Miami, Florida

Architect: Wolfberg/Alvarez & Associates
Principal in Charge: David A. Wolfberg, AIA
Project Manager: Donald L. Slager, AIA
Health Care Design Consultants: Shepley, Bulfinch, Richardson & Abbott
Engineer: Wolfberg/Alvarez & Associates
Landscape Architecture: The Ted Baker Group
Interior Design: Wolfberg/Alvarez & Associates
Contractor: Harrison/CM
Food Service Consultant: Joseph D. Antonell, F.S.E.C.
Owner: State of Florida, Department of General Services
User Agency: Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services

This 200-bed maximum security forensic hospital is uniquely situated on a 6-acre urban site and required a vertical solution to satisfy circulation, as well as security, requirements. The facility provides both outpatient and extended care services including medical and psychiatric evaluation and counseling, educational and physical rehabilitation. It also has complete recreational facilities. Due to its location in a residential area near downtown Miami, careful attention and sensitivity was required to address the distinct contrast between a positive treatment environment and a maximum security enclosure.

As the first forensic hospital to be built in an urban area of the state, a design solution was required which would avoid negative community reaction to a prison, and instead, present a positive and safe image. Due to the court-ordered closing of the existing state hospital, both design and construction of the

Photos by Steven Brooke.
177,000 square foot facility were fast-tracked.

The design solution focuses around three structural elements including a two-story support base, a raised, secured four-story residential and treatment tower, and an outdoor recreational area with green space. Eight-man residential pods form a pinwheel around a central nurses' station and connect to the treatment and security core, forming an efficient and positive interior space while presenting a strong, dynamic form to the exterior. The exterior is further enhanced by L-shaped windows which add a strong, repetitive graphic design element and lessen the institutional character of the facility. The facility is enhanced by the preservation of an historic arch which served as the entry to the Seaboard Coastline Railroad Station, formerly located on this site.

The hospital is constructed of poured-in-place, precast concrete joists and reinforced masonry. In order to meet security requirements as well as offer an efficient structural system, the tower was designed utilizing reinforced masonry. The tower module straddles the lower base with a transfer slab at the fourth level. Directly below the transfer slab and separating the base and tower, the third level serves as mechanical space while adding another level of security.

The mechanical system employs a computerized smoke detection and evacuation system consisting of three pressure zones per patient floor. In the event of an emergency, a pressure system channels smoke from the section on fire, thereby eliminating the possibility of smoke entering another section of the facility. The mechanical room, located between the ancillary base and the secured patient tower, supplies high velocity air down to the base and up to the tower through VAV distribution. A dryvit exterior insulation system and heat recovery system serve as energy conservation measures.

Completed in 1986, this medical center employs three functional elements. First, the center is a hospital which provides medical and psychological assistance for a variety of mental, physical and emotional disorders. Second, it serves as a maximum security detention center for those patients awaiting adjudication in the court system. Finally, it stands as a facility where patients who are capable of rehabilitation are in an environment which is conducive to treatment.

Mark H. Smith

The author is Director of Public Relations for Wolfberg/Alvarez and Associates.
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Architecture: A rationalist approach

by J. Robert Hillier, FAIA

I would like to talk about architects and stylists. On a national level, architecture today is in the grip of a professional debate that is more lively, and yet loaded with more animosity, than has previously existed in its history.

It is a philosophical tug of war between what I call the stylists and the rationalists. It is probably similar to design debates of old, except that in the 1980s, the media is a new player — even a new referee — and is taking the debate to the public.

At a time when the profession is faced with the onslaught of a computer technology, new systems, new economics, social responsibility, and possibly a diminishing role, architecture is caught in a nostalgic throwback to reminiscences of earlier styles steeped in romanticism and humanism. This throwback is best known as the Post-Modern movement.

It is a reaction to the glass, steel, chrome, and concrete high technology that was dictated to us with such high-handed ghishness in the 50s, 60s, and 70s by the architectural community. It is the reaction to Park Avenue’s glass skyscrapers. In fact, those skyscrapers are the shining antithesis of post modernism.

Style, fashion, handicap have reappeared in architecture under the high profile leadership of such superstars as Robert Venturi, Frank Gehry, Charles Moore, Don Lyndon, Michael Graves, and the original trend-setter of all, Philip Johnson of AT&T-Chippendale fame.

The counterpart of the postmodernists are what I call the rationalists — a group of architects that might seem traditional with their pragmatic, problem/solution directed work, represented by such firms as Kevin Roche, Skidmore, Stubbins, Mitchell-Giurgola, and The Architects Collaborative.

Tom Wolf’s book, Bauhaus to Our House, addresses the dynamics of how these styles are conceived, born, nurtured, propagated, and then discarded — stylistic tidal waves orchestrated by various elite artistic establishment groups, including the Bauhaus, the International School, the New York Five, the New York Press, and Philip Johnson himself.

With each new generation there are bound to be new styles but, as the media identifies, promotes and eventually discards each style at an ever-increasing rate, the bulk of the profession, in fear of being left behind, is forced to create something they do not necessarily understand, do not necessarily like, and, in fact, do not always do very well... all in an effort to respond to a media-sensitive clientele that demands “the latest thing.”

In today’s world of instant communication, style and its normal life-cycle are short-lived phenomena... it’s “life in the fast lane.”

“With trends now coming almost as strong and as fast as those in cosmetics, music, and jeans, cornice lines rise and fall as fast as hem-lines and some buildings are being designed with about the same short-term commitment.”

But building is not a short-lived news story. Buildings are permanent structures, constantly influencing us. Unlike last year’s dress, we cannot hang last year’s building at the back of the closet.

The turquoise green art deco McGraw Building in New York is a wonderful example of a great building that was left behind in the real estate market because of that “hideous color.”

The later, more classic but less “stylish” Seagram’s building continues to soar in value and command one of the highest rents in Manhattan.

With all of this emphasis on style and its constant and rapid revision, the architectural profession finds itself under unprecedented pressure to perform or respond. But the profession is confused about its mission, a mission which really should transcend issues of style.

Time Magazine has lamented the blurred difference between design and fashion. “Design is supposed to combine the practical and economical with a dash of artistic flare so that the result is pleasant, perhaps even a joy to use and behold.”

Architecture produced by design should express reasoned resolution of all client needs. It should be the balanced result of all the forces at work on it, not merely an acquiescence to “style.” Those forces are very simple and at the same time very complex. They have varying strengths and priorities. A good architect is able to identify all these forces and weigh each one of them. They include such basic elements as site, gravity, cold, the budget and more complex issues involving sociology, economics, demographics, and even politics. Many forces such as these latter four, are quite transient, yet the architecture they mold is permanent.

So one can take the view that architecture is a solution to client needs in the context of all of the forces at work in a “universe” that includes the client, his architect, and the solution itself.

This is the rationalists’ approach: identify the priorities, the controlling and influencing forces and organize and balance them in their proper and effective place in a design.

I recall with great fondness my former architectural professor, Jean Labatut, who taught that a design was valid only if there were ten good reasons for it being so... and one of those reasons could not be, “I like it that way.”

However, at the end of all those rational arguments, he always pushed you and your design to a point beyond the simple intellectual solution to a programmed need. He asked your intellectual and rational design to elicit emotional “after-burners.” That was
the ultimate “home run”: ten good reasons why and an eleventh one that said that it would be great for mankind.

So here we are with the call for style and fashion on one side, and the call for pragmatism — ten good reasons — on the other. What is today’s architect to do?

I have always viewed architecture as a reflection of its time. Buildings have always been the permanent record of different societies. We reconstruct the picture of Egyptian life from its pyramids and its temples. Greek idealism, Roman imperialism, the dark mystery in the upper reaches of the Gothic cathedrals, the richness of the Renaissance, the dynamics of the Manhattan skyline: each architecture tells the story of its time.

Each architect responds to the forces as prioritized by his client and the changing social, technical, and economic conditions in which he was working. Is today’s architecture confused because, perhaps, the times are confused? Are the trends and styles moving so quickly that there is little time left for deliberation or contemplation?

Surrounded by fickle public opinion, today’s fashioners of brick and mortar risk the fate of the rock superstar or jeans designer, who are big news today until “styles” change. But buildings are not the essence of the “hit parade” or the latest demimonde model peering out of the television tube.

If architecture is the balance of all forces at work on it, and if architecture is a reflection of its time, then I would say that the profession today is as responsive to today’s society as in previous times. Today’s society, the age of advertising, the age of media, the age of superheroes and throw-away plastic containers, is telling us what it wants designed.

After the cacophony of current trends has moved on down the block to the next generation, today’s buildings will still be standing, responding, serving, and perhaps even leading by providing some social stability.

Put aside the drawings, the renderings, the colors and the calculations. It is the social formula expressed by Winston Churchill “We shape our houses, and our houses shape us” that will prevail and for which the profession of architecture will be held accountable.

One would hope that the trends of style will soon settle down and architecture can get back to the business of architecture as rational problem solving, done with style.

J. Robert Hillier, FAIA, is President and CEO of the Hillier Group, the sixth largest architectural firm in the nation with offices in Princeton, N.J., and Tampa, Fla.
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