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Circle 20 on Reader Inquiry Card

FLORIDA ARCHITECT July/August 1989
CONTENTS

Features

Paul Rudolph, FAIA
The Quintessential Modern Architect 11

1989 FAIA Unbuilt Design Awards
This year, a distinguished jury met in New York City and
selected twelve projects from 106 submittals. In building
type, the projects range from a beach house on the Gulf of
Mexico to a downtown shopping mall, a government complex
and a planned "company town" in the mountains of
Puerto Rico.

Chapel Dedicated to Nils Schweizer, FAIA 39

A Link To the Profession
University of Florida Architecture Professor Maelee Foster
has designed an award-winning teaching internship program.

Departments

Editorial 9
New Products 40
Books 42
Letters 43
Chapter Awards 45

Florida Architect, Official Journal of the
Florida Association of the American Institute
of Architects, is owned and published by the
Association, a Florida Corporation not for
profit. ISSN-0015-3907. It is published six
issues a year by the Executive Office of the
Association, 104 East Jefferson St., Tallahas-
ssee, Florida 32302. Telephone (904) 222-
7590.

Opinions expressed by contributors are not
necessarily those of the FAIA. Editorial
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The drawing on the cover is of the Mayaguez Municipal Marina and proposed waterfront development designed by Humberto Betancourt for construction in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.
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In May, I was asked to serve as a judge for the 1989 Tallahassee Parade of Homes. There were fifty-one homes by Tallahassee builders open for inspection over a two weekend period. The least expensive house was $73,000, and the term “modest” doesn’t even come close to describing it. The rest of the homes were between $90,000 and $525,000, with over half of them costing over $200,000.

“The time to buy is now,” touted Parade literature, “whether it’s your first house or you’re ready to move up because of family.” Surely they’re not suggesting to young couples that their first house should cost $200,000.

All of this brought home what I’ve been reading lately about the housing crisis we’re experiencing in Florida. Now, the experts are saying that housing will be Florida’s biggest crisis of the 1990’s.

Anthony Catanese, dean of the University of Florida’s College of Architecture, says that the lack of affordable housing hasn’t been called a crisis because everyone thought it was a lower class problem that could be swept under the rug. Now, however, it’s become a middle class problem, and as such, will be the major problem of the nineties.

According to a National Association of Realtors survey, “less than fifty percent of families can qualify for an average-income home in their counties. In many of Florida’s higher priced markets, such as Hillsborough, Orange and Palm Beach counties, the figure dips to as low as thirty percent.”

“The only solution for these families,” according to Catanese, “is to continue renting. The American dream of home ownership is no longer possible for many families.”

Catanese predicts that the housing crisis will create more elderly people to move in with their adult children, more married children to live with their parents and more single adults to delay moving out of their parents’ homes.

When a young, college-educated couple who are both working full time cannot afford to buy a house, that’s serious. Affordable housing shortages hurt the poor the most, but they’re not the only ones affected anymore.

One of the problems that the housing industry is facing today is in addition to rising material costs is impact fees imposed by local governments. These fees are taxes added onto the price of a home to pay for local services such as road maintenance, parks and other community infrastructure. The imposition of impact fees by various localities has wrought great controversy, with homebuyers resenting the extra taxes and homebuilders complaining that the extra fees make it even harder to find buyers who can afford the price.

To solve the housing crisis, Catanese feels that government must make affordable housing a major priority. The government must offer incentive programs and grants to get developers and builders interested in providing moderately priced quality homes. Housing costs would go down if the government overhauled its complicated construction permit system to make it speedier and more efficient.

From what I was able to see on my recent visit of new Tallahassee homes, there is a serious shortage of affordable housing. Without action, the problem will only worsen. Diane D. Greer
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Circle 48 on Reader Inquiry Card
The 1989 FAIA Unbuilt Design Awards jury met in New York City in March. Amid the stimulating surroundings of Paul Rudolph’s Beekman Place apartment, jury members Rudolph, Gene Leedy and Bert Brosnihan considered 106 projects from the Florida/Caribbean region.

During a break in the deliberations, one topic that was discussed was Rudolph’s continuing fixation with the possibilities offered architects by the mobile home industry. His projects using modular units of that type clearly stand out in his mind, and in his conversation. Much has been made of Rudolph’s fascination with mobile homes, which he has called the true twentieth century “urban brick.” In his own devices, he may yet insure that “prefabricated” does not remain a dirty word in the architectural profession.

The fact that Rudolph is comfortable working with modules that can be stacked in various configurations is not surprising. After all, Walter Gropius was his teacher at Harvard and while Architectural Record Editor Mildred Schmetz feels that Rudolph’s work evolved as a reaction against the minimalist design that Gropius tried to teach him, the Bauhaus influence must still have been strong. Rudolph himself described his 1957 work on the Riverview Jr. Sr. High School in Sarasota this way: “I was happy to be again in a familiar climate and (I) reverted to the much more simplistic demands of the International style. ‘Following the rules’ insures a degree of completeness, a sophistication, a refinement which is not possible when one deals with the search for the unknown.”

In short, the basic elements of the International style are still present in his work although there are strong spatial differences. Rudolph’s is not linear space, but multidirectional. Also, unlike Gropius he chooses to asymmetrically arrange his details.

In Rudolph’s recent design for the Colonnade Condominiums in Singapore, one sees stacked modules and might be reminded of some of his early projects like the Walker Guest House on Sanibel Island with its interior spaces clearly defined by plywood panels. Although drawing a parallel between the Walker project and the Colonnade is stretching the point in terms of time and technology, both show an obvious concern with spatial complexities. A more obvious and more recent parallel is between his unbuilt Graphic Arts Center for the city of New York and the Colonnade.

Rudolph began, as so many architects do, in wood, and he has evolved to the concrete frame megastructures that are now dotted throughout Southeast Asia. But through the years, and regardless of the materials, he has held onto the basic tenets of modernism. His concern with function, materials and space are consistently apparent. His buildings have rich textures and wonderful three-dimensional surfaces that seem to breathe. He remains staunchly post-modern in his refusal to adorn his buildings with historic motifs.

His work clearly demonstrates that he believes modern buildings should be shaped to show on the exterior the specific interior function of the space.

In many ways Rudolph has come a long way since his early years in Sarasota with Ralph Twitchell designing small residences. But it was these small residences, like the Cocoon House on Siesta Key, that first brought him national attention. The transition he has made from the residences of the fifties to the megastructures of the eighties is fascinating because the parallels are so clear. What is also clear is that Paul Rudolph is probably the quintessential modern architect.
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A Song For the Unsung

B ringing attention to the design process is the goal of the annual FA/AIA Unbuilt Design Awards Program. The program is open to projects of all sizes and classifications that have been designed by members of the Florida Association of the AIA, but have not yet been built. All entries, however, must have been commissioned for compensation on behalf of a client.

This year, 106 projects were submitted and reviewed by a distinguished jury meeting in New York City. Paul Rudolph, FAIA, served as Chairman of the Jury. He received his Bachelor of Architecture from Harvard University in 1947. Within two years, he received his first Award of Merit for Design from the American Institute of Architects. Today, Rudolph is at the height of his career, with projects underway around the world.

Bert Brommith, AIA, practiced architecture in Sarasota from 1955 to 1965. In 1961, he was named one of 14 "New Architectural Talents in America" by Architectural Forum magazine. From 1961 to 1975, he served as a principal in the firm of Jaster/Bromsmith/Levine in New York City. Since 1975, he has practiced in relative obscurity in Northern Westchester County, New York in the fond belief that "in time I will get it right."

Gene Leedy, AIA, is a favorite son of Florida architecture. He has been designing all types of buildings with his signature use of T-beams and screen walls for the past thirty years. In 1965, Leedy gained national recognition as one of Architectural Record's "Successful Young Architects." More recently, Leedy was the recipient of the FA/AIA's 1988 Award of Honor for Design, the highest award the Association can confer upon an architect for continuous excellence in design.

In this sketch by Don Singer, FAIA, the jury evaluates the submitted projects: Left to right are Gene Leedy, Bert Brommith and Paul Rudolph.
Hervin Romney Architect,
Inc.
Miami, Florida

Built with reinforced concrete slabs and columns, this concrete block building will have its exterior stucco painted bright primary colors.

The small site incorporates twenty units into five levels of a rental apartment building with lobby and parking at grade. The second level of the building is being utilized for recreation, while the third and fourth floors contain flats and two-story townhouse/penthouses. The structure meets the scale of both adjacent townhouses and a highrise located across the street.

The jury found the variety of interior spaces appealing, as well as the fact that the building form maintains the identity of each individual unit.
Currently targeted for completion in 1993, this low silhouette office building contains an area of about 70,000 square feet. Sudan is located in sub-Saharan East Africa and the design of this government building recalls the character of anonymous desert forts and oases in the vicinity of the Sahara Desert.

References to architecture that was seen in Sudan between 500 BC and AD 300 appear on the circular reservoir at the main entry, in exterior walls suggesting megalithic masonry construction, in garden arrangements recalling objects within objects, in the contrast of highly developed interiors with anonymous exteriors, in the stepped pyramid configuration of skylights and in the framing of the entry portal by multiple bands of masonry.

The building construction will be cast-in-place reinforced concrete. Flat-plate floors and roofs will be supported by perimeter bearing walls and square interior columns arranged in square bays. Light is introduced into the building by 8-inch wide vertical slots in exterior walls and by two 50-foot square skylighted gardens located on the centerline of the building's rectangular plan. Security considerations indicated two atriums rather than a large single one.

The jury admired the simple formality of this project with its obvious emphasis on security.
Winter Park Memorial Hospital Cancer Care Facility

Helman Hurley Charvat
Peacock/Architects, Inc.
Alexander W. Stone, AIA - Project Designer
Maitland, Florida

In order to alleviate some of the mental discomfort of the patients who must use this facility, the intent of the design solution was to deal with components that embody the antithesis of death, such as sunlight, water and large existing on-site trees.

As one enters the radiation facility, he is greeted by a ten-foot square pool of water. Reflections of passing clouds may be seen in the water and during the cold winter months, a shaft of sunlight moves across the pool as the day progresses. The water gently flows over the sides of the fountain producing a sound which many people find soothing.

The opposite end of the waiting area is defined by a stand of four large oak trees which are visible through floor to ceiling glass. Here, the canopy which these trees form, in conjunction with the west wall of the satellite building, creates a garden space which will be landscaped with flowering plants.

Although the direct effect of architecture on one’s physical health is probably limited to some extent, it was the general consensus of the doctors and hospital, that a peaceful environment would be most conducive to the patient’s well-being. The jury felt that this was a very quiet, straightforward solution to a particularly complex problem.
Top, north elevation and below, west elevation. Left, section perspective. Above, site plan courtesy of HHCP.
Bay Plaza Waterfront Retail District

St. Petersburg, Florida

Thomas C. Gruber, AIA,
RTKL Associates, Inc. -
Design Architect
William S. Blizzard, Anderson Parrish Associates, Inc. -
Architects of Record

The special requirements of this project are to transform a mostly vacant and underdeveloped downtown core area into an upscale retail district similar in concept to J.C. Nichols’ Country Club Plaza in Kansas City.

The design goal was to take advantage of St. Petersburg’s waterfront and park system and have strong visual and physical connections to and from the retail district. Food, entertainment and public facilities were located adjacent to the waterfront park so that they became an anchor for the district. Parking also had to be organized so that it was convenient, walking distances were reasonable and retail relationships were attractive to prospective tenants.

The most difficult aspect of a project of this scale is accommodating the divergent views of local community groups while still maintaining a viable plan that requires multi-block assemblages.

The jury liked the planning concept and thought it was a very thoughtful solution to relating the city to the water.

This page, site plan and proposed north elevation. Opposite page, main entrance to shopping district.
South County Civic Center

Currie Schneider Associates
AIA, PA
Delray Beach, Florida

The objective of this project is to provide the residents in southern Palm Beach County with a place to hold civic meetings and to provide administrative offices for the County Commissioners and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Situated on an existing lake, the building will occupy a fourteen acre site in the immediate vicinity of several residential developments. The external form of the new center reflects the internal function and the building is atypical of others in the area. It is buffered from its surroundings by existing vegetation.

There will be seating for 1,000 inside the center’s usable 20,000 square feet. Interior requirements include flexibility in the main assembly room which can be subdivided into four smaller spaces. Because each room must be able to function independently, it was necessary for the design to provide for acoustical isolation.

The jury felt that this simple building form resolved a complex variety of spatial requirements.
Opposite, top: Site plan and southeast elevation. Above, axonometric courtesy of Currie Schneider Associates.
Mayaguez Municipal Marina and Proposed Waterfront Development

Humberto Betancourt, Arquitecto
Gaspare Malek, Asociado
San Juan Antiguo, Puerto Rico

This proposed waterfront development will contain marina, restaurants and shops, sailing center and yacht club facilities, boardwalk, drydock, hotel, parking, fishing facilities, middle income housing, commercial areas, piers and a park. The buildings will be constructed of poured-in-place reinforced concrete, wood and steel. Cast iron, wood and copper urban furniture will be used on a variety of paving materials.

The City of Mayaguez required a phased construction schedule with the first phase to include the marina, housing, fishing, drydock and related recreational facilities. The second phase will include the promenade up to the Yaguez River delta and the third phase will include the boardwalk and fishing pier. Later phases will expand the entire project throughout the bay area.

In this major waterfront development, the jury felt that the site features were well integrated by the device of a continuous promenade at the water's edge.
Yapuet River Delta showing all of the development's amenities and section of Promenade.
Bay Park Place

Tampa, Florida

John Howey Associates
Tampa, Florida

Located in a large oak hammock, this site borders a city park and has views to Hillsborough Bay. The client desired to develop the site with luxury park homes which would take advantage of both the site and the view.

The design solution places the parking at the lowest site elevation with three levels of paired midrise units over the walled-in parking and separate retention ponds. At each end are multi-level townhomes with their own entrances making a total of eight units in the complex.

The units range in size from 2,000 to 2,600 square feet. All have three bedrooms and three bathrooms, nine foot high ceilings, fireplaces, large kitchens and patio balconies opening off of the master bedroom and living room. The perimeter walls of the building have controlled entry gates. Where tree removal is necessary, oaks and palms are being relocated with the help of the Tampa Parks Department.

The jury was impressed with the human scale of this project, its form and simplicity and the clever solution of parking and site drainage.
Residence for Mr. and Mrs. Frank Seco de Lucena  
Shell Point, Florida

John Howey Associates  
Tampa, Florida

The property on which this vacation house is located is on the Gulf of Mexico in the Florida Panhandle. The owners, who are boating enthusiasts, wanted to incorporate an existing structural frame into their new house. To this end, wood floor framing is secured to new and existing concrete pilings which are driven to a lime rock base. There are full wood trusses at the building ends for lateral support.

The owners also wanted a house that could be completely opened and then made secure for long periods of time when it was vacant. In addition to the living area, there are two bedrooms, a loft and three bath. Third floor viewing decks are accessible by ladder and there are various decks at different levels that take advantage of the north-south orientation, views of the Gulf and the prevailing breezes.

The directness of a modest frame structure raised above the earth for view and breeze was immediately appealing to the jury. They also admired the pleasant variety of spaces within a single form.

This page: top, Side elevation. Middle, front elevation. and bottom, plan of main living level.
This residential community for 4,000 people is to be developed on a 200-acre mountain site on the coast of Puerto Rico. The project’s concept integrates the urban development of the Caribbean culture to its architectural traditions.

The design scheme maximizes its hilly location. The fan-like arrangement of buildings arises from the central park plaza where the clubhouse, chapel and bandstand are located in the tradition of the octagonal cities of the past. The octagonal street and block patterns conform to the natural grade.

The program required a highly secure environment achieved by a wall surrounding the residential community. The retail center will be located outside the walled area in an analogous relationship between the sugar mill building and its company town. Small shops will be located at the base of the “wallbuilding” served by the main road which anchors the urban grid to its periphery.

The housing types will range from estates on one acre sites to twin houses, row houses and blockhouses, each designed by different architects following a graphic set of rules. These rules are intended to give unity and a common vocabulary to the town as well as allowing for individual creativity.

The jury felt it was clear that the project showed exceptionally sensitive research and form analysis. Although the architectural development has not yet been clarified, the jury felt that the strength of the research would be carried out in the building forms.
Left: General scheme for town with Citadel Plaza at center. Above, top: the main town square, middle: company administrator’s house and bottom: town engineer’s house. Photos courtesy of Marvel • Flores • Cushman.
Hillsborough Community College
Brandon Learning Center

Brandon, Florida

Ranon & Partners, Inc.
Jim McLean, Architect
Tampa, Florida

This building will be the first of three principal phases of a new campus. The facility contains 180,000 sf and 1,057 student study stations and is scheduled for a December, 1990 occupancy date. The site is a rural prairie which is relatively isolated.

The design for the campus defines the first of a series of connecting courtyards as outlined by the campus masterplan. A concept was developed from both the given and the opportunities... a prairie site, a high-tech program, a series of landscaped gardens. The structures are designed to hover slightly above the lush garden supported by an elevated platform. Together, building and garden will combine to provide an educational setting unique to the Florida environment.

Construction materials consist of an aluminum storefront, hollow metal frames and reflective glazing. Porcelain ceramic tile cladding was selected for durability, low maintenance and vandal resistance. It also presents a cool, crisp, modular appearance. This material of anther origin is contrasted against clear anodized aluminum and jade-colored reflective glass.

The jury felt that this was a sensitive arrangement of six buildings to form an entrance for a major future expansion. The individual buildings are well integrated in both form and material usage. There is a rich variety of spaces between buildings, both axial and subaxial.

Elevation, axonometric and site plan courtesy of Ranon and Partners.
Fomon Residence

Architect Charles Harrison Pawley
Jerry Beattie- Project Architect
David Richmond, Victoria Laguette, Lauren Greenberg, Gregg Pawley, John Skianka- Project Team

This two-and-a-half acre site on Lake Worth has been undeveloped for more than fifty years. With 560 feet of waterfront, there is a spectacular view across the lake to an island bird sanctuary and the Intracoastal Waterway beyond. Designed to be the client’s escape from Northern winters, the house was designed to match the natural beauty of the site. Primary consideration was also given to designing a house that would function efficiently and sympathetically within the natural environment.

The design of the house showcases the beauty of the materials used in its construction including various woods and indigenous stone. There are six-foot deep covered porches on all exposures. The client also requested that the house be a tropical vernacular type of structure. In keeping with this theme, a pavilion concept was used which maximizes both views and natural cross-ventilation. There is a separate guest house and pool pavilion and the main living areas are elevated well above ground to better capture the prevailing breezes. The house has high exposed beam ceilings, and French doors were used extensively to permit secure enclosure, as well as to maximize the house’s potential to be completely opened up.

The jury liked the organization of the plan, the massing of the room areas, the straightforward detailing and the honest use of materials.
Brevard County Operations Center

Hunter RS&H Inc.
Tom McCrory, Design
Architect
Jacksonville, Florida

This county government operations center will provide facilities for planning and development, social services, utility services and county commission administration. Completion is scheduled for 1990. The development of the operations facility marks the beginning of a new Town Center in Brevard County. The design addresses the consolidation of public government services and responds to the image and importance of a civic building.

A campus of public structures was developed through the use of separate buildings, covered walks and a variety of public courts and spaces. The formal entry with its fountain, colonnade of palms and entry portico is reminiscent of a classical treatment.

The future Judicial Center will complete the civic complex. The building has a conventional steel frame with bar joists. There is a standing seam metal roof with copper patina. The exterior is brick veneer with precast columns, lintels and bases.

The jury liked the simplicity and formality which they felt is appropriate to this type of building.

Center. Building C. Model above, north elevation of Buildings A and B. Opposite page, site plan.
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Chapel Dedicated To Nils Schweizer, FAIA

The late Nils Schweizer, a past president of the FAIA and student of Frank Lloyd Wright, will be honored in a very significant way by the Episcopal Diocese of Central Florida. The project, a memorial chapel, has been named the St. Augustine Chapel and it will be built on the grounds of the Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center near Orlando.

Canterbury Center meant a great deal to Nils as a special place of spiritual renewal. His vision for it became its master plan. The Schweizer family believes there is no better place to create a memorial to Nils through which others will come into an intimate relationship with nature, the self and the spirit of man and God.

It is appropriate that the design team for the chapel consists of Nils’ children Kevin Schweizer, Architect; Tamara Schweizer Sims, Interior Designer; and Gauth Schweizer, Landscape Architect. They incorporated in its creation the elements of organic architecture with which their father was so long associated.

Plans are being made to give members of the architectural community an opportunity to express their love and respect for Nils by participating in the funding for this memorial project. Further information can be received by contacting the Canterbury Retreat and Conference Center at 1601 Alafaya Trail in Oviedo, Florida 32765. (407) 365-5571.
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Many times it is an architect who specifies the lightning protection system. Information is presently available from Lightning Master about their new air terminal lightning rod with static dissipating characteristics. The rod, PP-35T, has recently been approved by the Underwriters Laboratories.

Static dissipation has been a buzz word for several years now. Simply, it is the reduction of a ground charge associated with an electrical storm at a rate sufficient to maintain the value of that charge on a protected structure below that at which a lightning strike will occur, thus rendering the site “lightning invisible.”

The static dissipating air terminal replaces the traditional air terminal, and enhances dissipation of lightning-causing static ground charge to the atmosphere, thereby reducing the likelihood of a direct strike.

The new rod weighs approximately 1.25 ounces and is mounted on a standard 1/2-inch thread base. The PP-35T must be electrically bonded to ground and to the object or structure upon which it is mounted.

For information, contact Lightning Master in Brooksville, Florida at (904) 799-6800.

New Fireproofing Material Available

Firebreak Perlite Type KG100 is a patented, quick-setting, inorganic fireproofing material. It is a two-part formulation consisting of a dry, blessed perlite, and a liquid activator solution.

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Firebreak Perlite Type KG100 contains no asbestos, no fibers, no vermiculite, and no chloride, and produces a fireproofing that is hard, moisture-resistant and non-friable. The phosphate in the mix inhibits corrosion of substrate materials. It is classified by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. for up to four fire ratings on structural materials.

Firebreak Perlite is a product of Chemco-Kalsee, Inc. Florida office: 813-942-4234. The company will have an exhibit at the Sarasota Design Conference in July.

TASSO Introduces Paintable Diagonals

TASSO Wallcoverings, manufactured by U.S. TASSO, is a paintable glass fiber wallcovering that is highly permeable when painted with latex (9.5 times more permeable than vinyl wallcoverings according to tests conducted at Georgia Tech). An oil-based or epoxy paint, however, will seal the finish.

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Woven glass fiber also has the quality of rehabilitating walls by bridging joint cracks and smoothing rough surfaces, it can be installed over wood paneling, brick, stucco, tile and drywall.

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Books

Prehistoric Architecture in Micronesia
By William N. Morgan
University of Texas Press, $49.50

This is William Morgan's second book, the first being Prehistoric Architecture in the Eastern United States, which was published in 1980. Clearly, Architect Morgan's interest lies in what can be learned from the architecture of our ancestors. His research is thorough, his drawings, diagrams and maps are clear and explicit and his writing style is consistently readable and interesting. Added to all of this is breathtaking color photography of perhaps the most beautiful islands in the world.

This is the first modern study of the richly diverse and innovative architectural tradition in the Western Pacific in the centuries preceding Western contact. Prehistoric Architecture in Micronesia presents five distinctly different examples of Micronesia's ancient architecture, comparing the architectural characteristics of the island groups with each other and with monuments outside Micronesia.

The sites include the extraordinary stone cities of Lelehol and Nan Madol on the islands of Kosrae and Pohnpei, respectively. Other structures include the meeting houses and residences built on hexagonal stone platforms in the Yap Islands, the earthen terraces and ornately decorated meeting houses of Palau, and the megalithic columns and capstones of prehistoric houses in the Mariana Islands.

Morgan's first encounter with the architecture of Micronesia came in 1954 while he was serving in the United States Navy and stationed on Guam. During the nineteen months he was there he saw numerous capstones and stone columns, but could find no reliable source of information about the unusual structures. In Morgan's own words, he describes what followed: "During a chance visit to the neighboring island of Tinian, an elderly Micronesian told me of an immense latte in the jungle. Following his directions, I found the ruins of the extraordinary House of Taga with two of its original twelve columns still standing." From that point, I believe Morgan was "hooked" and his own interest and curiosity about this remote and impressive architecture grew steadily. Although many years would pass before Morgan began his research in earnest, he did visit the islands of Micronesia in 1984 and begin to review available information. It was then that he decided to prepare a study of prehistoric architecture based on five distinct island groups. In this book, the architectural ideas of each group are presented in their respective cultural and geographical contexts.

In the introduction to the chapter on Methodology, Morgan uses a quote from fellow Florida architect Paul Rudolph which sums up the importance of a study such as this. Rudolph says, "...pay close attention to what we regard as undetected things and how they approach the problems, how they approached them in the past, and how they still approach them...quite often people do things when left to their devices, do things very well, and solve an awful lot of problems that architects tend to forget."

Copies of Prehistoric Architecture in Micronesia are on sale in the FA/AIA Headquarters Bookstore in Tallahassee. (904) 222-7590.

Interior Signage Catalog of Desk & Door Nameplate Company
Catalog free on request

Desk & Door Nameplate Company developed this manual as an educational guide to interior signage. It was designed to help design professionals better understand the mechanics of and the opportunities for designing fine signage. The manual was designed for easy, efficient and repeated use by architects and their space-planning or interior staffs. It covers everything from names and graphic processes to technical specifications.

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Letters

Editor:

It was with great interest that I read and viewed the articles on "Nine Residences By Florida Architects" in the May/June 1990 issue.

The last article, "An Engineer in Time Saves a Lot," also caught my attention. An article about the benefits of structural engineers to the architectural project is something that I as a structural engineer have often emphasized.

Unfortunately, I had just previously read "Learn and Don't Burn," an article on wood framed multifamily structures and their inherent fire danger potential.

The first example in your article was a nursing home that was converted from precast concrete roofs and interior noncombustible bearing walls to clear span wood trusses and elimination of the noncombustible interior walls. HVAC changes were also made and the project's budget was reduced from $3 million to $2.5 million.

It would be interesting to know if the owner, architect or structural engineer had evaluated life cycle costs for the reduced structural costs and higher insurance costs for a nursing home -- a facility that requires extra care for safety.

The other examples shown were good ones and indeed show the benefits of early structural engineering participation.

Lane R. Smith, P.E.
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Broward County

Broward County’s 1988 Awards for Excellence in Architecture were juried by Kenneth Treister, AIA, Miami; Roney J. Mateu, AIA, Miami, and John Thomas Regan, Dean of the School of Architecture, University of Miami. The jury selected a total of four winning projects from two categories, built and unbuilt.

Built Category: Award of Excellence
Private Residence
Palm Beach County, Florida
Architect: Donald Singer, FAIA
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
This design for an oceanfront residence evolved from an effort to capture the beauty of the sea and sky, while offering shelter and protection. The concrete and masonry structure is sheathed in natural coral stone.

Unbuilt Category: Award of Excellence
Bay Plaza Waterfront Retail District
St. Petersburg, Florida
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
This masterplan for a nine block downtown urban retail district was designed to transform an underdeveloped city core into an attractive waterfront shopping park.

Built Category: Award of Merit
Port Everglades Passenger Terminal
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
This cruise ship terminal, the first phase of a planned expansion of port facilities, announces itself with technological and sculptural expressiveness.

Unbuilt Category: Award of Merit
Twin Palms Apartment Project
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
Architect: Terence O’Connor, AIA
Ft. Lauderdale, Florida
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See as in SWEET'S Section 09950.

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THE BOLD LOOK OF KOHLER
A Link To The Profession
by Diane D. Greer

The second annual AIA Education Honors program drew nearly fifty completed sub-
missions from thirty schools nationwide. Jury members, all educators, represented colleges and universities from California to Maryland. One of this year’s three recipients of the Education Honors was a teaching internship program entitled “The Bridge That Bonds incoming Students: A Course in Leadership Followship Training” which was designed, and is directed, by Maeele Thomson Foster, an Associate Professor of Architecture at the University of Florida.

In a congratulatory letter to Professor Foster, AIA President Benjamin Brewer stated that “The Bridge That Bonds was considered among the most exemplary efforts in the teaching of architecture for its relevance to the profession, its contribution to the advancement of the profession of architectural education and its ability to be transferred to other instructional settings.

Brewer’s high praise was justified. The success of the program can be measured by the many testimonials from graduates who have found themselves “seized” by the experience of teaching in a program that helped to clarify their career goals. Graduate interns who are now educators have installed modified versions of The Bridge program in their respective institutions and in that way, the program may already have had an impact on architectural education and the profession.

Since its inception in 1973 as a special topics course, the goal of the program has been to train qualified graduate teaching assistants. Since 1984, the course has played an active role in the UF curriculum and appears as a 4th and 5th year elective in the Undergraduate and Graduate catalogue. The course owes its existence to the continuing cooperation of faculty, students, administration and staff. In The Study and Practice of Leadership in the Discourse of “Liberal Education”, Frank Pace writes, “In order for our colleges and universities to advance and disseminate knowledge, all students must have courses exploring the nature of leadership and testing of leadership skills.”

Pace’s thoughts on this subject may be influenced by the large numbers of students who hesitantly make their way into first-year design studios seeking role models and leaders to set the stage, point the way, inspire and share experiences. The leaders that these future professionals seek must symbolize the group’s identity. They must act as leaders to an insecure band of followers. Professors represent the image of a “grade-giving authority” and students find it extremely difficult to talk to a professor in this strange environment with its harsh demands to think, act and solve problems.

The teaching intern, on the other hand, is quite often available late at night and on the weekends, not to solve problems, but to motivate students to seek answers. They are there as role models, eager and encouraging, to create a bond with the students. In turn, it is hoped that the student will bond with the program. The teaching interns have made a commitment. They are self-selected and enrolled in a two-credit elective course for which they will be evaluated and receive a grade.

The primary goal of the Teaching Internship Program, as it should be in all educational experiences, is to make students think, to question and to act. The program, once established, runs itself with the congenial cooperation of the participants. It adjusts easily to fit any degree program, semester or quarter system. Since it requires an insignificant appropriation of time or funds, yet increases quality performance and production, it weathered political shifts in administration. The program can go anywhere and become a viable part of any architectural curriculum.

Since the Teaching Internship Program is self-selective, it has allowed for the identification and involvement of qualified minorities not only in The Bridge program, but also in the innovative Minority Tutorial Program. Here, minority students seeking leadership positions are identified and given an opportunity in a funded program that has an unusual twist. The funding is allocated to provide tutors for minority students and the minority students become the tutors for all beginning students. They provide well-advertised “Help Sessions” one evening a week during the fall and spring semesters and the funds they earn go into the pocket of the tutor. This interaction has proved to be extremely beneficial to faculty and students alike. Involvement in the Student Internship Program has proved to be extremely valuable to the maturing students as it allows a holistic view of the students’ architectural education, a unique opportunity to evolve as a leader and it also fosters conceptual development with verbal and visual communications skills.

Photos of students, top and above, by Maeele Foster. The Teaching Internship Program runs itself with the total cooperation of the participants and increases student performance and production.
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