

new england

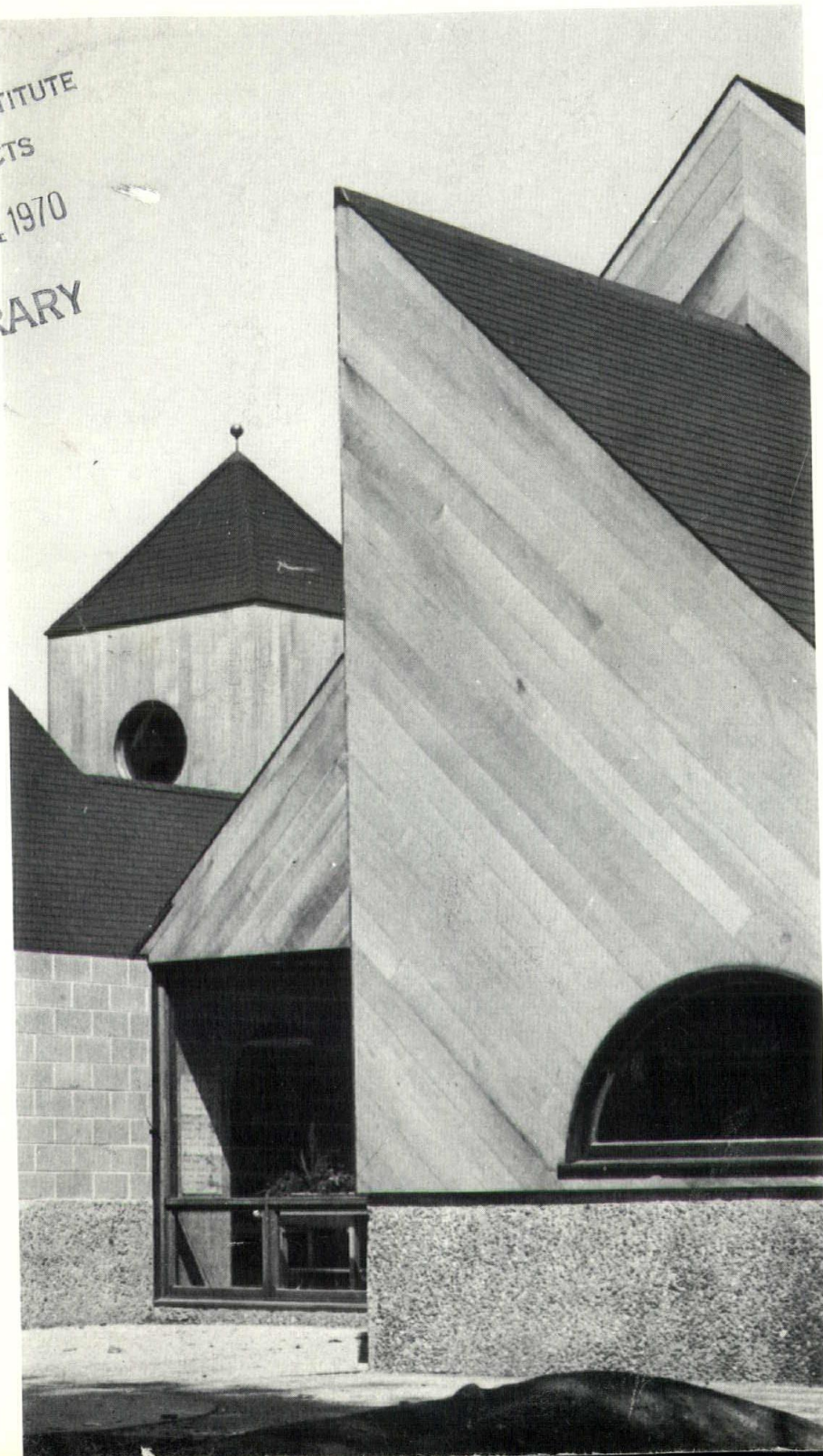
Architect

May 1970

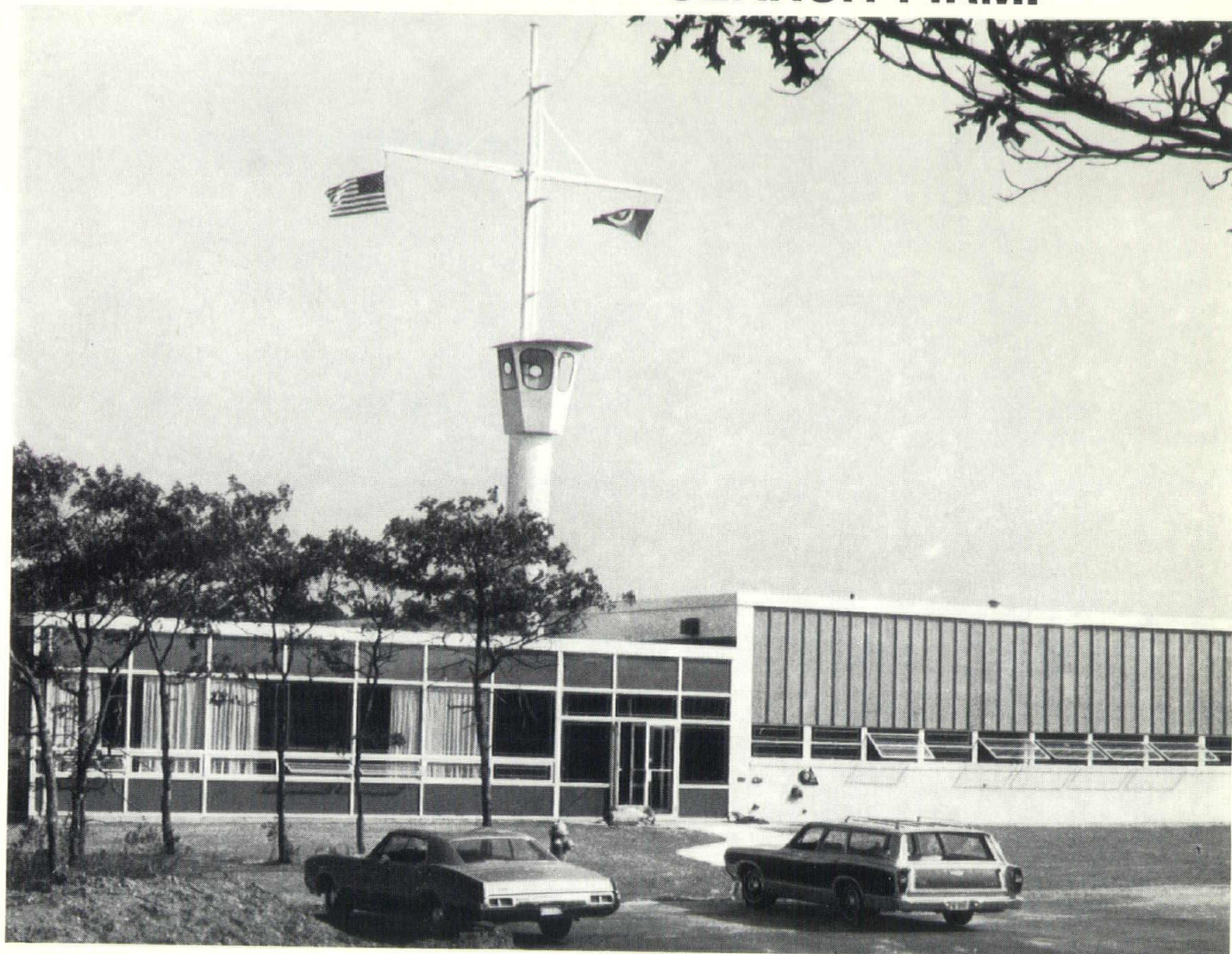
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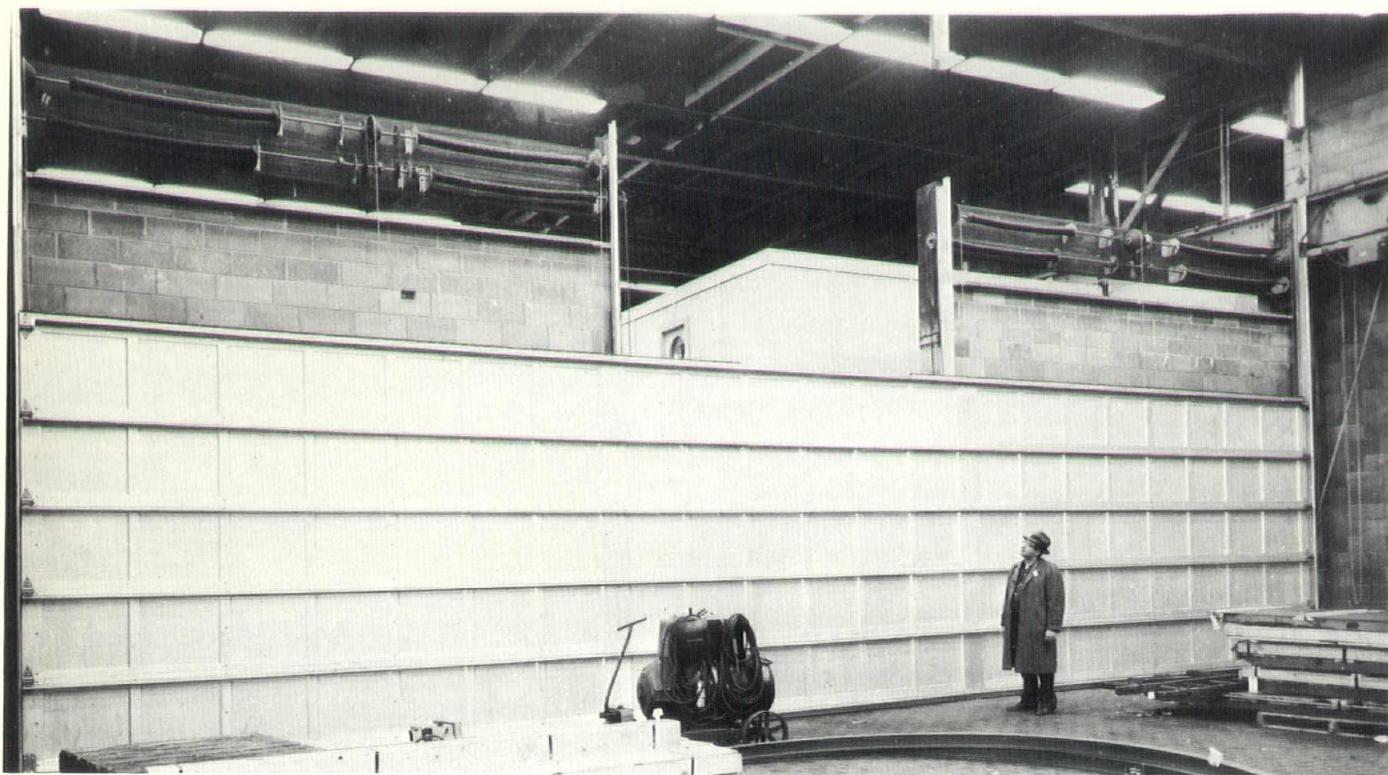
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## NOTES & COMMENTS

### AIA Names Honorary Members

Seven persons "who have rendered distinguished service to the architectural profession or to allied arts and sciences" have been elected honorary members of the AIA. They are: the Honorable Luis A. Ferre, Governor of Puerto Rico, San Juan; Samuel Chamberlain, etcher and author, Marblehead, Mass.; Thomas Griffith, editor of Life magazine, New York City; Benton MacKaye, forester, author, and regional planner, Shirley Center, Mass.; R. S. Reynolds, Jr., Chairman of the Board and chief executive officer of Reynolds Metals Company, Richmond, Va.; Samuel Spencer, attorney, Washington, D. C., and Walter Muir Whitehill, Director and Librarian of the Boston Athenaeum, Boston. Governor Ferre was inducted in ceremonies in San Juan on February 19 and the others will be inducted at the AIA Convention in Boston, June 21-25.

### Harvard Student Wins

Dolores H. Campen of Eau Clair, Wisconsin, a graduate student at Harvard University, has been awarded a General Education Fund Scholarship by The American Institute of Architects and the American Institute of Architects Foundation. It was the only one awarded in the New England Region.

Miss Campen was one of fifty-four student and professional architects selected for the 1970-1971 academic year. The awards, totaling over \$53,000 were provided as follows:

AIA scholarships were granted through endowments by Henry Adams, Edward Langley, Louis H. Sullivan, Dan Everett Waid, Milton B. Medary, and Carl F. and Marie J. Rehmann.

AIA Foundation grants were provided by Blumcraft of Pittsburgh, designers and manufacturers of railing and grille systems (two \$500 scholarships to undergraduate students); Dresco International  
(Continued on page 32)



*new england*

# Architect

May 1970   Volume 1   Number 2

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## Comings Assumes Harvard Post

Bay State Architect Henry E. Comings has been appointed Assistant to the Dean for Architecture in the Faculty of Medicine at Harvard.



Henry E. Comings

As an assistant administrator in the Area Planning Office, Comings will participate in matters of office organization and operational effectiveness, according to Robert H. Ebert, M. D., Dean of the Harvard Medical School. As Assistant to the Dean for Architecture, he will have the specific responsibility to manage the office's production of program drawings and construction documents related to the space renovation program in the Harvard Medical Area.

He has been in the independent practice of architecture since 1967. From 1959 to 1967 he was an associate with Chester Nagel and Associates of Cambridge.

Comings is a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy. He received the A. B. degree (cum laude) from Harvard College in 1954 and the B. Arch. from the Graduate School of Design at Harvard in 1959.

While associated with the Nagel firm, Comings was involved in several Harvard projects, among them the Animal Research Center in Southboro, Mass., and design study proposals for a new building for the Harvard School of Dental Medicine. More recently, working as an independent, he was involved in the production of contract documents for the remodeling of the Medical School's administrative building.

Among the professional groups with which Comings is associated are The American Institute of Architects and the Boston Society of Architects. He is a member of Urban America, Inc., of the Citizens Housing and Planning Association of Metropolitan Boston, Inc., and the Volunteers for International Technical Assistance, Inc. He is also a consultant to Housing Innovations, Inc., and of the Board of Directors, Buffum Family Association, Inc., where he is developing plans for a museum building.

## Stahl/Bennett "Monoglomerate"

The Boston architectural firm of F. S. Stahl & Associates Inc., designers of new urban landmarks and retriever of old ones, has taken the wraps off its latest construction model: a 50-man architectural "monoglomerate" bearing the name of Stahl/Bennett Inc. It will have offices in Boston and New York.

The nine-year-old company, which has played a major role in reshaping the landscape of downtown Boston, has restructured itself into a multifaceted management group for systems planning in order to

**New England Architect**



gain a larger slice of the environmental design pie.

According to Frederick A. Stahl, the 39-year-old president of the new company, "The architect has concerned himself exclusively with the visible part of the iceberg, leaving the client and other professionals to invent the structure to hold it up. This is the reason so many businessmen insist that 'architects don't understand cost' or that they 'try to build monuments to themselves.'"

"As architects," adds partner John P. Bennett, 36, "we have to be committed to the success of the *total* undertaking — not just the one element of providing a suitable design formulation."

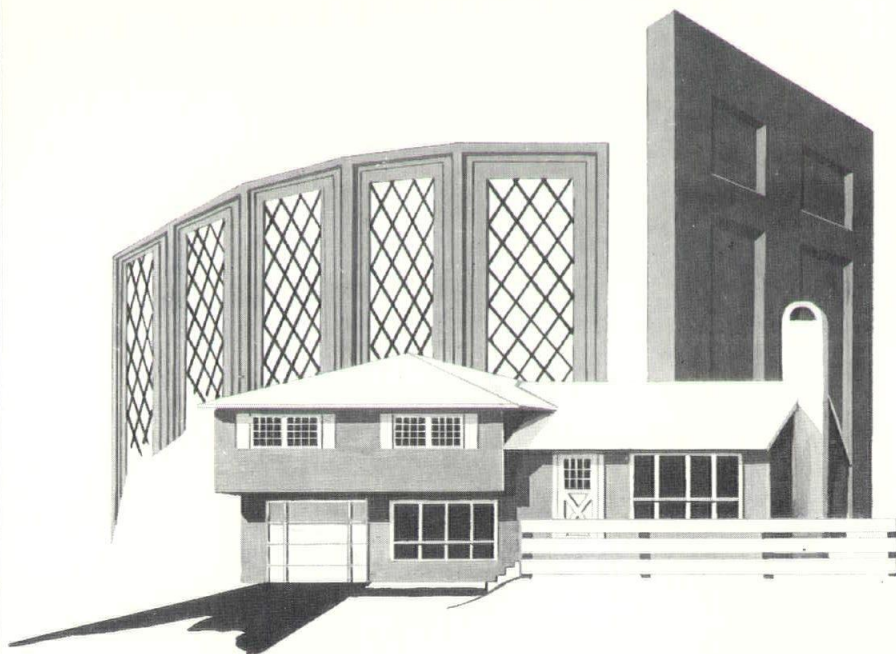
To activate the commitment, Stahl, Bennett and their two principal associates — vice presidents Franklin B. Mead, 33, and Edmund S. Twining III, 27 — will now: (1) Provide clients with a management framework for the related design professions as well as certain required components of the environmental mix not normally regarded as architectural functions. These would include land-use-mix R & D, legal strategies, financial analysis, information system planning, government and community relations; (2) Serve as joint-venture partner with developers, development-minded contractors, land owners, institutional investors and government agencies.

To implement these plans, the firm has just completed a 10-month-long reorganization that separates the creative functions from those dealing with administration and logistical support. Creative work will be handled by a modular, interlocking group of full-staffed autonomous units. Each will specialize in a given area of environmental design, architecture, interior design, land and site planning, urban retrieval, neighborhood redevelopment, transportation systems planning, etc.

Heading each unit will be a design director and an administrative head who will be free to solicit, build and service their own clientele. These units will operate as satellites to the parent group,

(Continued on Page 28)

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THE Henry B. Dupont Library designed by Cambridge Seven Associates for the Pomfret School in Pomfret, Conn., is a library that has more to do with people and study than with the storage of books, as has been the traditional orientation of the conventional library.

"Study is supported by having materials available of all kinds, not just books, but also slides, tapes, films, microfilm and computer access," architect Louis J. Bakanowsky, partner-in-charge, has said. "It is supported also by having adequate lighting, comfortable furnishings and surroundings." It is also supported, he believes, by recognizing that "study" is actually a broad range of activities from the most intense, introspective activity on one hand, to a more active, almost social activity, on the other. ("Environmental options reflecting this range of different study attitudes must be available to the student to support and enrich the learning process.")



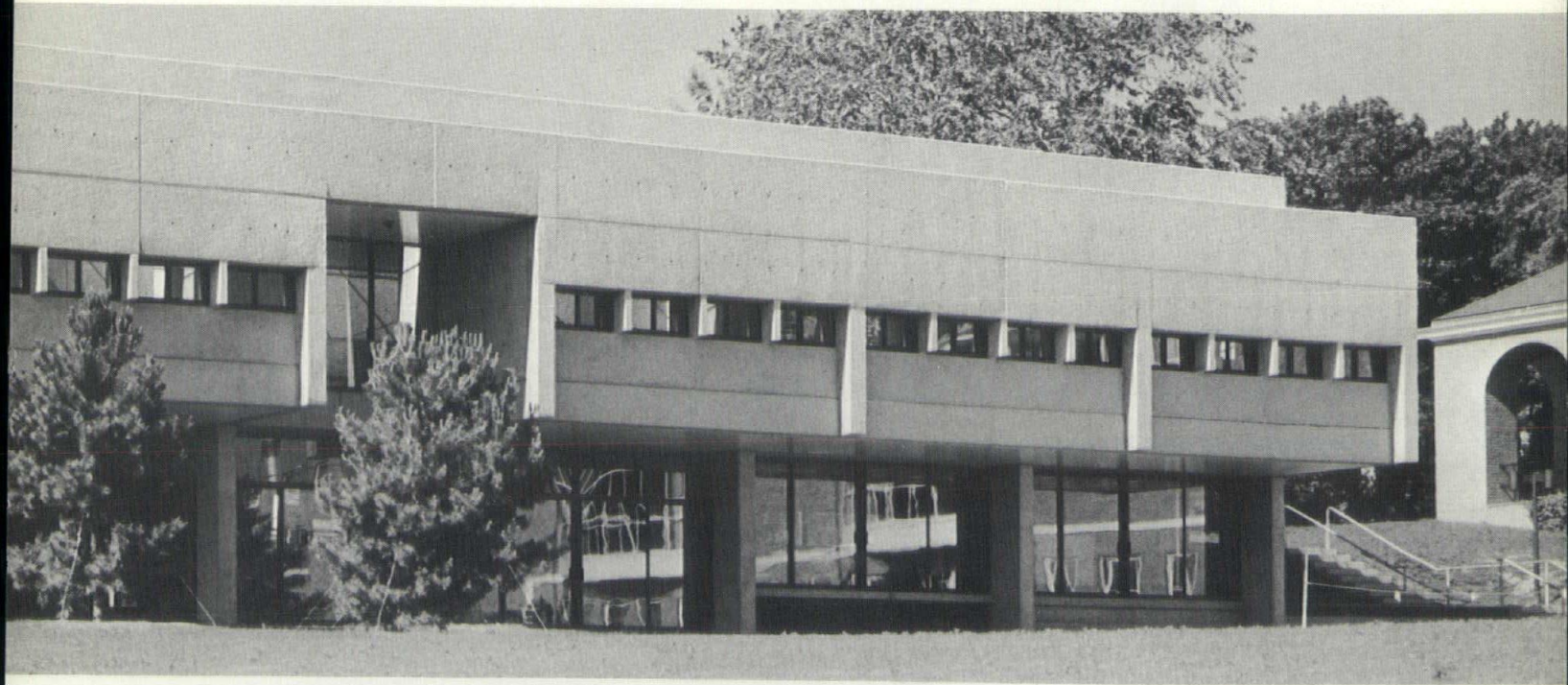


# Dupont Library

Pomfret, Conn.

*Award of Merit*

*Cambridge Seven Associates, Inc. — Cambridge, Mass.*





The Pomfret School Library, which has won an Award of Merit in the 1970 Library Buildings Award Program (sponsored jointly by the American Institute of Architects, the American Library Association and the National Book Committee), reflects this preoccupation with the learning process.

The Library offers the students choices ranging from the most private and remote study carrels deep in the second floor stack area or balcony carrels remote but not removed from the central activity of the building, as well as informal study lounges in both areas.

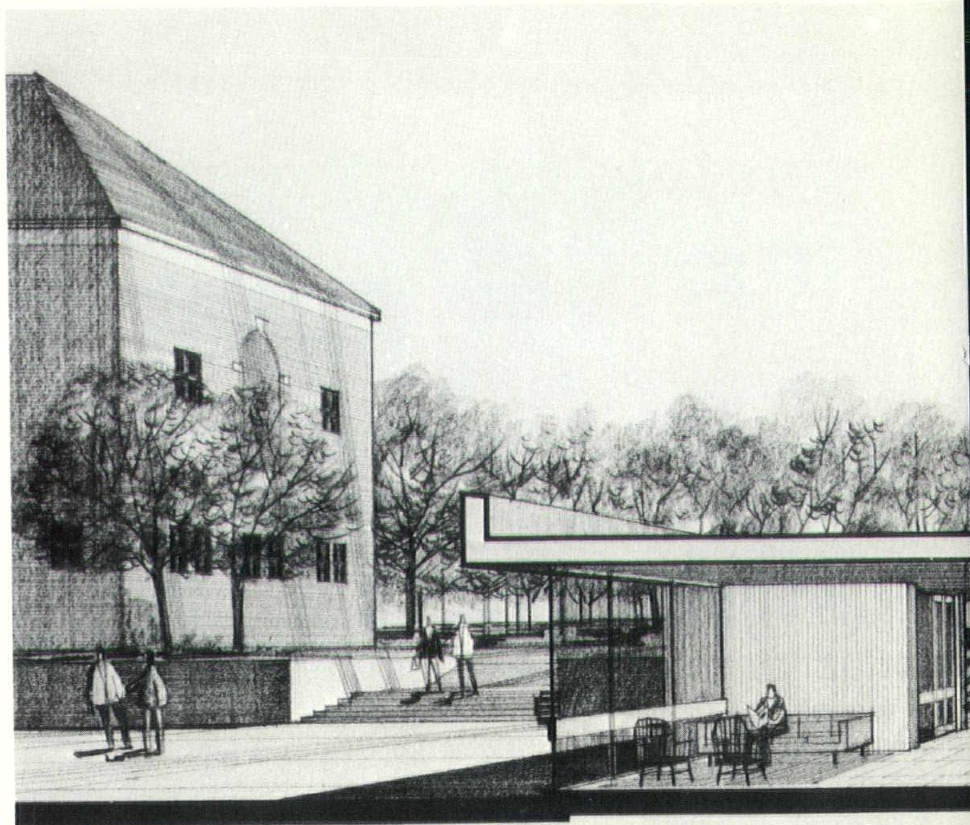
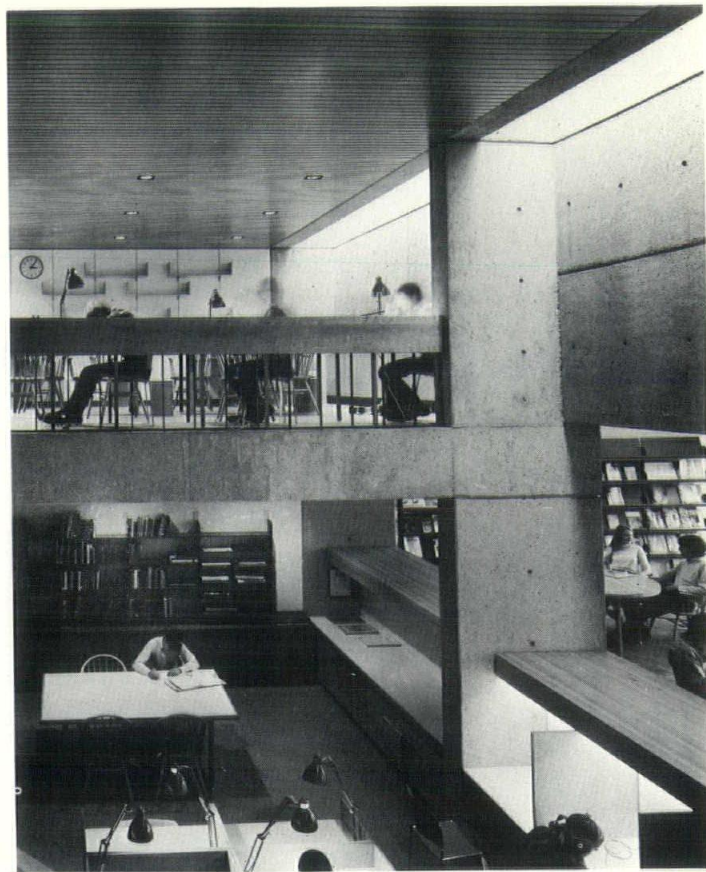
It also offers a much more active environment in the court-oriented periodical area, as well as special audio-visual carrels in the level below. To complete the range, it also offers special rooms for group study and typing.

In addition to providing an internal environment reflecting the individual learning process, the building responds to broader campus needs. The program called for the building to be "the heart" of the school; not only an academic center, but an activity center for the school, as well. The brick courtyard, which is a direct extension of the library, was designed to meet this requirement.

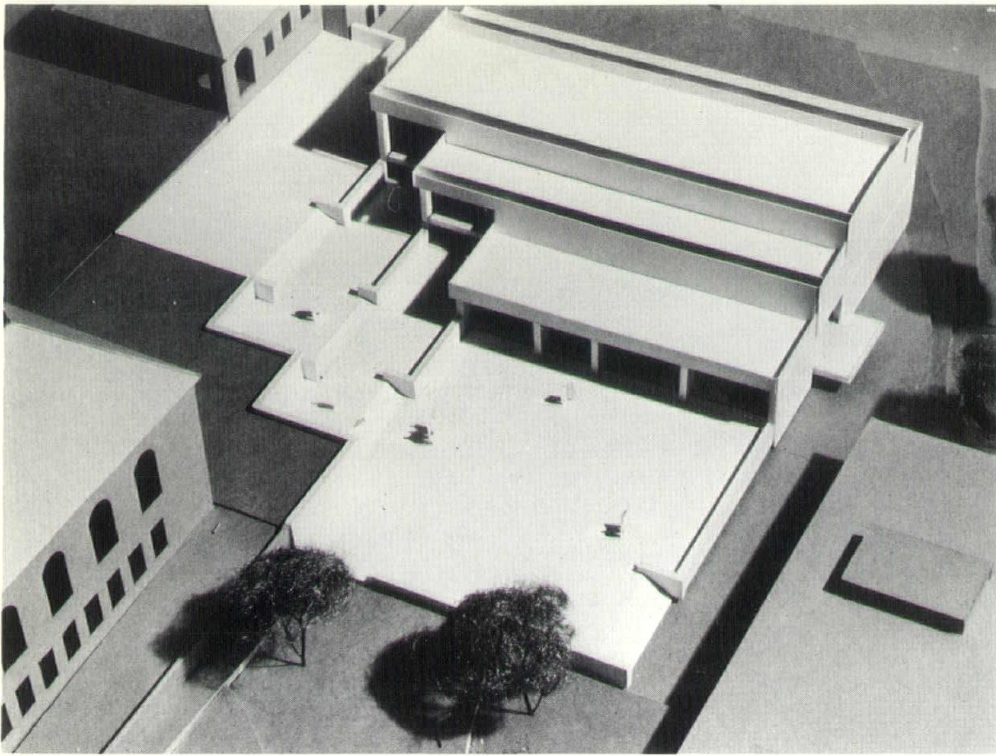
The diagonal of stepped site terraces was developed to tie the main dining building into the new courtyard. These stepped levels reflect the stepping of the Library building which allowed varying height relations to buildings around the court while providing a form which can easily allow future additions to accommodate the growth of this facility.

Sunlight is controlled to the south by the stepping of the building and deliberate "eyebrows" on the carrel spaces along the same wall. Skylights over the columns allow the penetration of sunlight deep into the building which provides a lively interior without the negative influence of sunlight on the working environment.

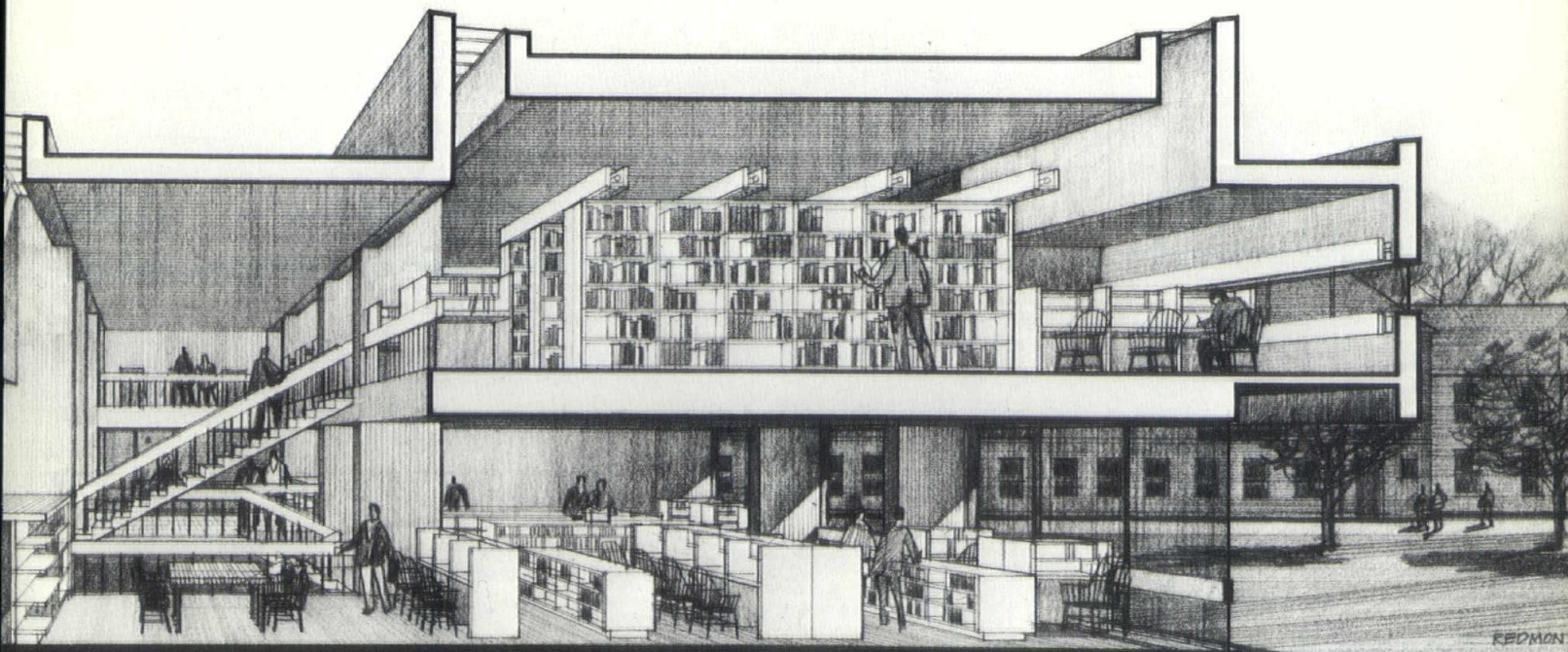
The structure is of exposed reinforced concrete throughout. Deep columns support roof slabs, which are separated to allow skylights between them. The concrete is



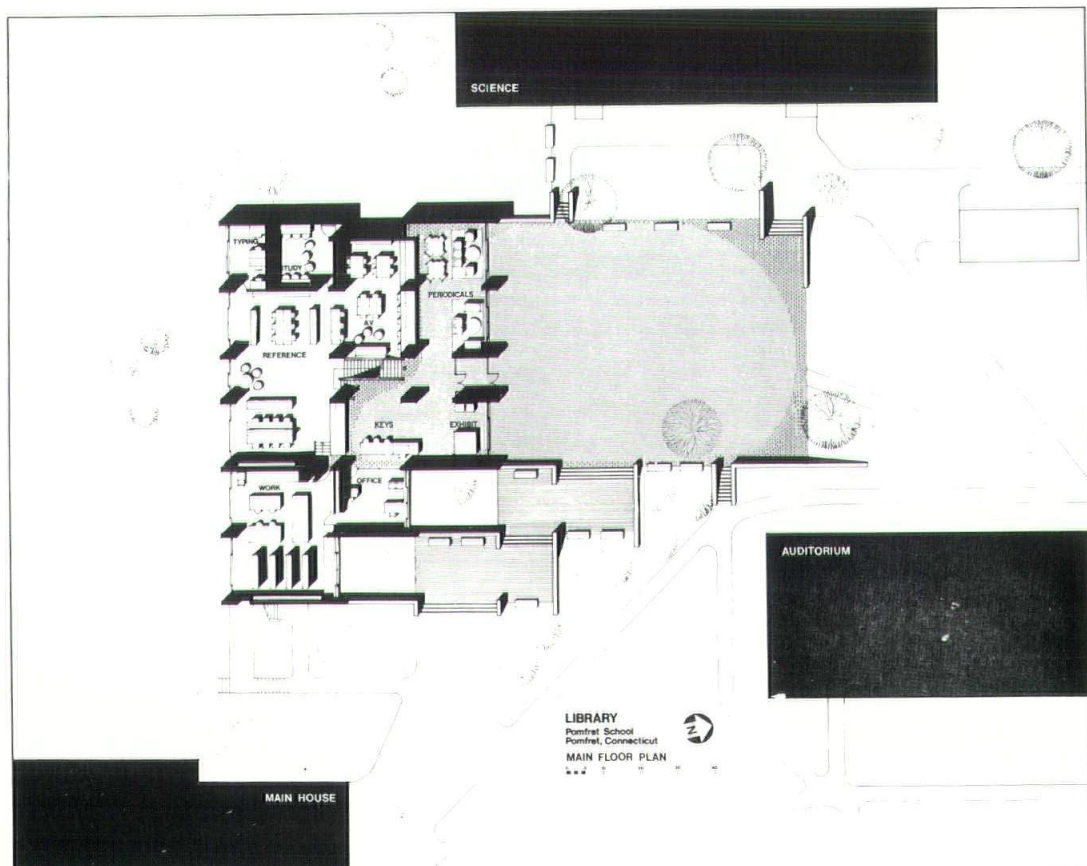
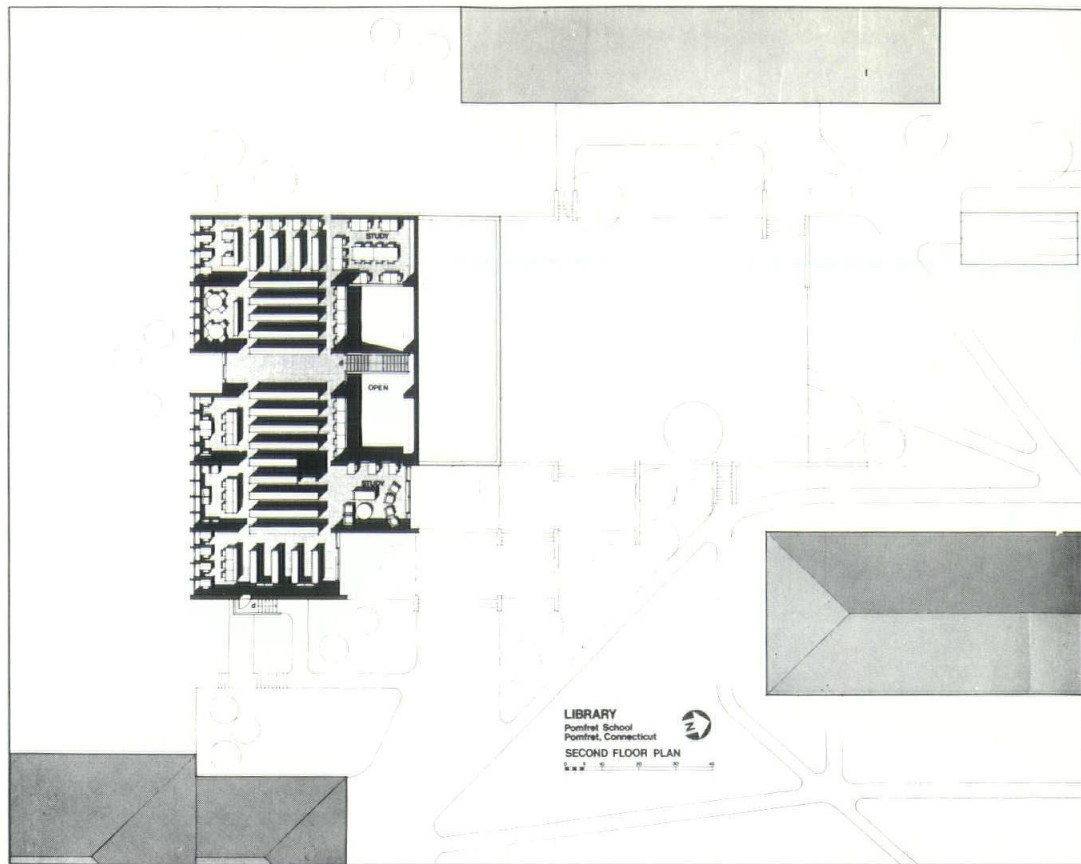




*The diagonal of stepped site terraces was developed to tie the main dining building into the new courtyard. These stepped levels reflect the stepping of the Library building which allowed varying height relations to buildings around the court.*





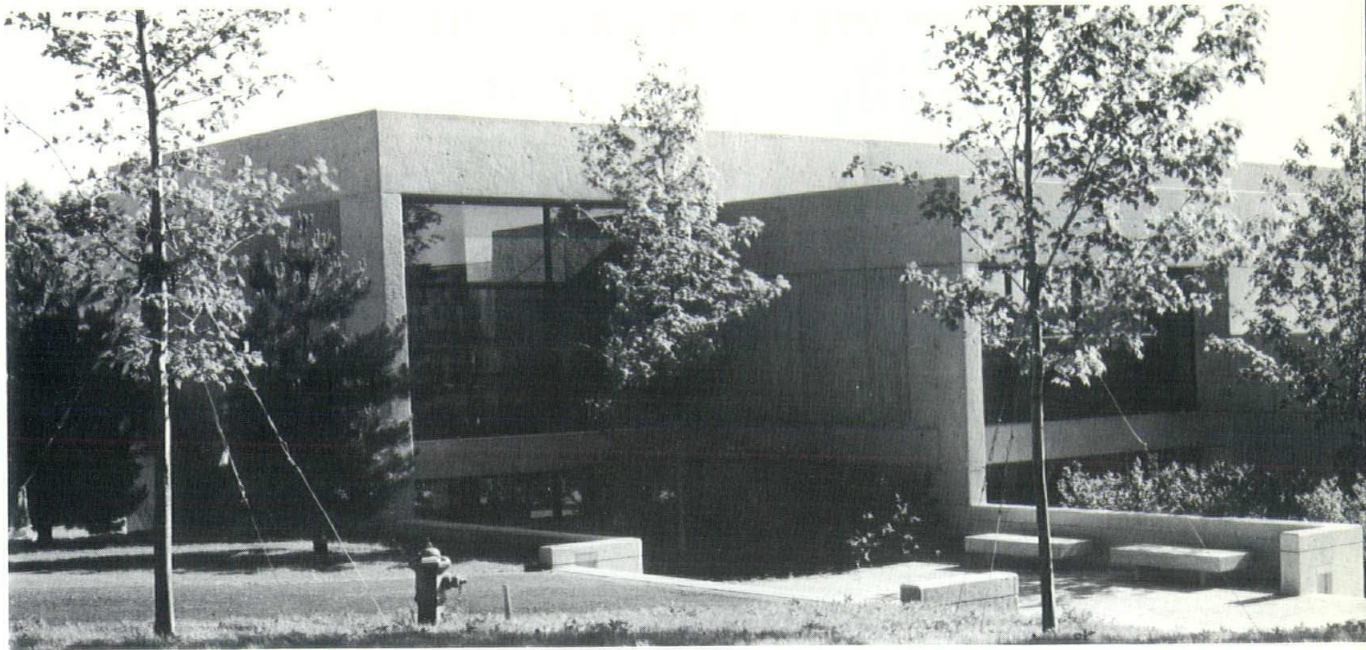






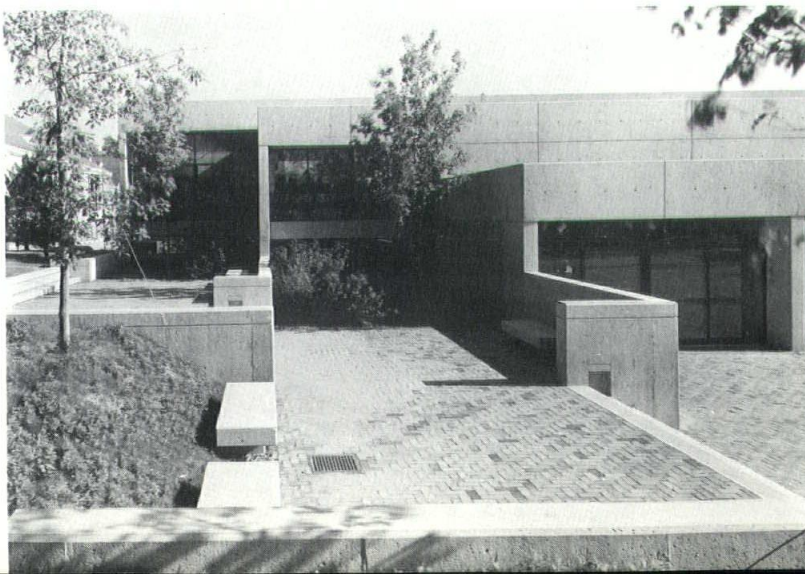
*Interior finishes include a natural hemlock wood strip ceiling with acoustic insulation, painted gypsum board partitions, brick and light brown wool carpet floors.*





*Adequate lighting during daylight and nighttime hours was vital factor in design.*

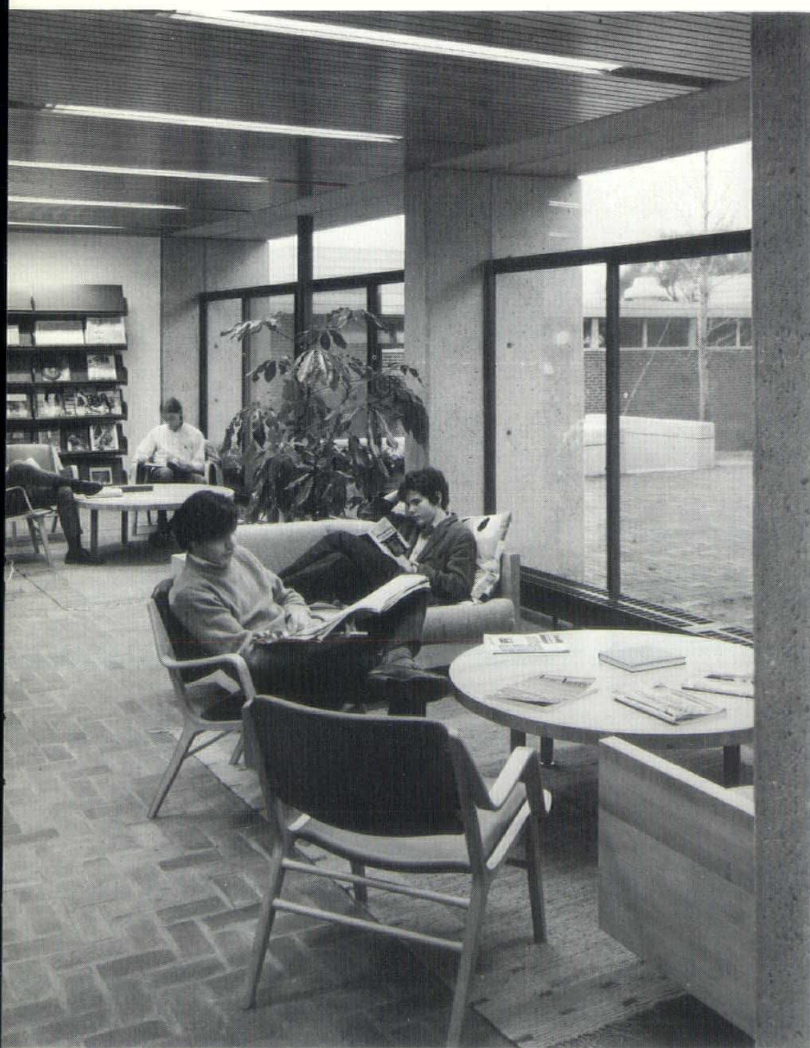
*Deep columns support roof slabs, which are separated to allow skylights between them. Exterior windows are double glazed in aluminum frames colored medium bronze.*







*Stepped terraces  
link major buildings.*



*Court-oriented periodical area.*

sandblasted to expose matrix of light buff cement, sand and the rich browns of local stone aggregate.

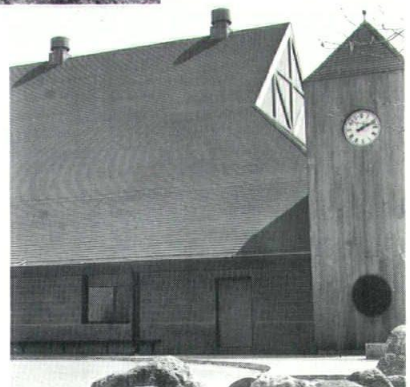
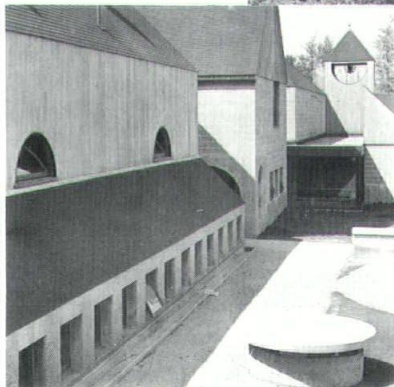
Exterior windows are double-glazed in aluminum frames colored medium bronze. Skylights are square pattern wire glass, set directly into concrete with clips and silicone sealant.

Interior finishes are a natural hemlock wood strip ceiling with acoustic insulation, painted gypsum board partitions, brick and light brown wool carpet floors. Heating is provided by perimeter hot water fin tubes. Ventilation is natural supplemented by a central tempered air supply adjacent to the book-lift. Exhaust units are on the exterior wall.

Completed in September, 1969, construction cost of the 14,600-square-foot building was \$503,000, or \$34 per square foot. Site cost was \$11,000. Total cost of equipment, \$76,000. It was designed to serve 247 students, (seating capacity 160) and house 30,000 volumes. There are 17,000 volumes in the present collection.

Engineers were Souza & True (structural); Reardon & Turner, (mechanical/electrical). Landscape Architect: Carol Johnson. General contractor: George Fuller Company, Boston.





*Turrets, moats, belfries and bridges dramatize sharp break with traditional concepts.*



# Bancroft School

## Andover, Mass.

### *Honor Award*

*William D. Warner — Providence, R.I.*

"A relaxed, even playful, spirit permeates this school and library which were clearly designed for the young occupants," was the Jury Comment when the Bancroft School Library was chosen for the Honor Award in the 1970 Library Buildings Award Program (sponsored jointly by the American Institute of Architects, the American Library Association and the National Book Committee). "Expressing enjoyment, play, and delight in the forms as well as the materials, it is a clear departure from tradi-

tional library design. The variety of spaces throughout accommodate all of the activities advocated by authorities on child growth and development, while encouraging the inquiry approach to learning. This is truly an imaginative, functional project."

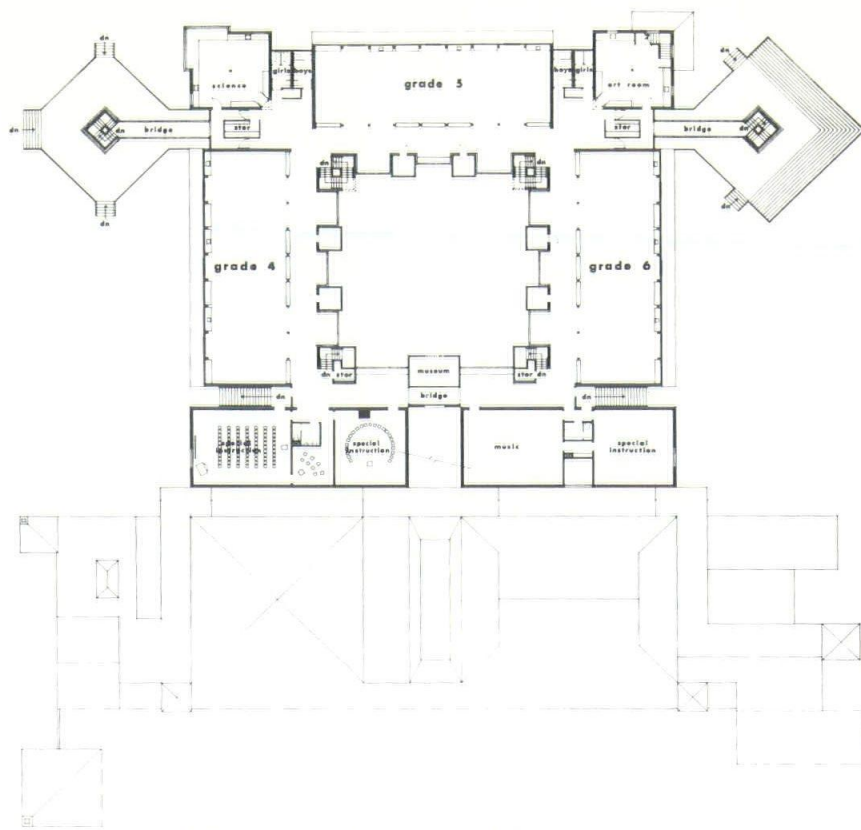
Said *School Management* magazine (October, 1969):

"It is safe to say that there is no other public school building in America quite like Bancroft. It is difficult to objectively evaluate its real significance — i.e., pacesetter

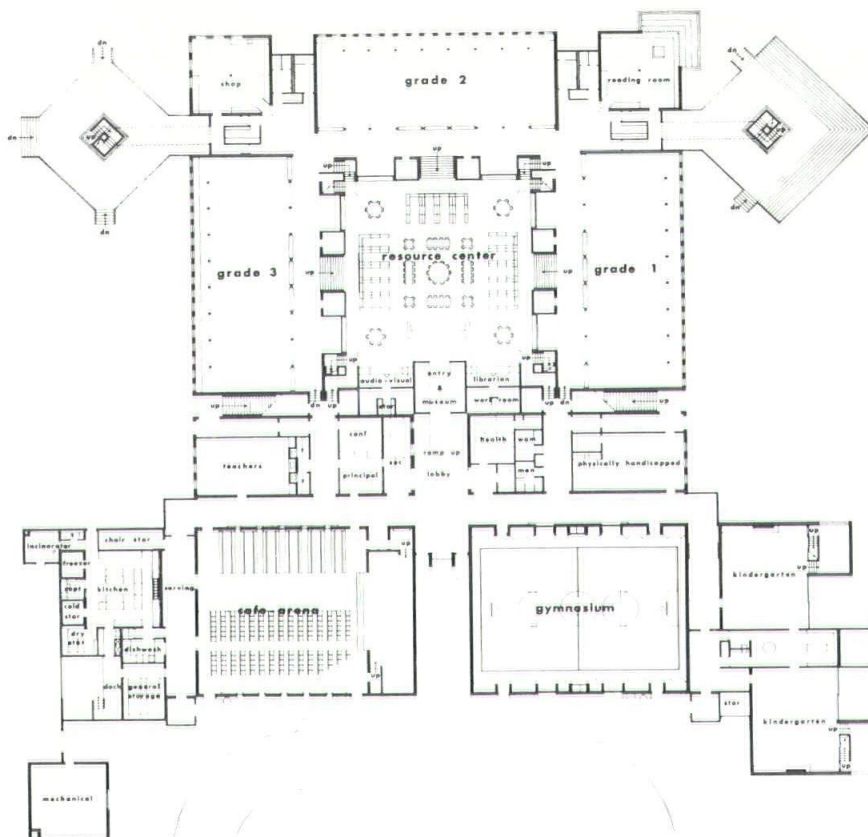


*Round, semi-circular and trapezoidal window construction lend added interest.*





**BANCROFT SCHOOL • LEVEL 2 •**



**BANCROFT SCHOOL • LEVEL 1 •**



or curiosity? But it is mighty tempting to predict that if systems schools marked the beginning of the end of schoolhouse rigidity, Bancroft may well mark the beginning of the end of conformity, sterility and inhumanity in school design.

"That's quite a mouthful. But then, Bancroft is quite a school. 'Let's take a look at it.'"

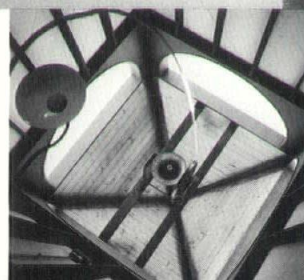
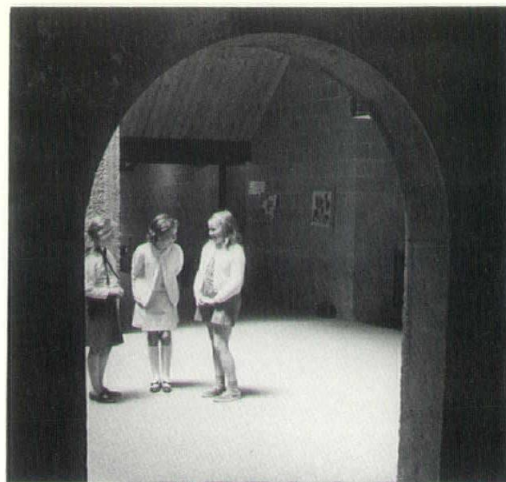
But where shall we start? Designed by architect William D. Warner of Providence, R.I., specifically for the enjoyment and education of *kids* it is — like the youngsters he understands and serves so well — utterly unpredictable and full of surprises, with enough moats, turrets, belfries and bridges to accommodate a schoolhouseful of fantasies and fairytales.

Bancroft was designed to serve 550 pupils (kindergarten through sixth grade) with special spaces for some exceptional children of the community, including mentally retarded and physically handicapped. The building provides for effective integration of television with possibilities for viewing both regional educational network and closed-circuit systems. Space for future studio work is included.

The school, having a gross area of approximately 64,000 square feet, is closely designed around a large flexible library-resource center with classroom areas housed in three two-story barn-like lofts, with partially open split-level relationship to the resource center. The administration, cafetorium and gymnasium

*Earth colored pumice block walls rest on concrete foundations extending above finished floor and raise up to accommodate entrance arches where they occur.*

*(middle right) Bell Tower. (lower right) The Living Room is one of the most popular areas in the school. Floor is carpeted and children like to read, rest or relax in sunshine and shadows.*





*(right upper) Checkout desk in Resource Center. (right lower) Six classroom areas are housed in three barn-like, two-story lofts, with a partially open split-level relationship to the Resource Center.*

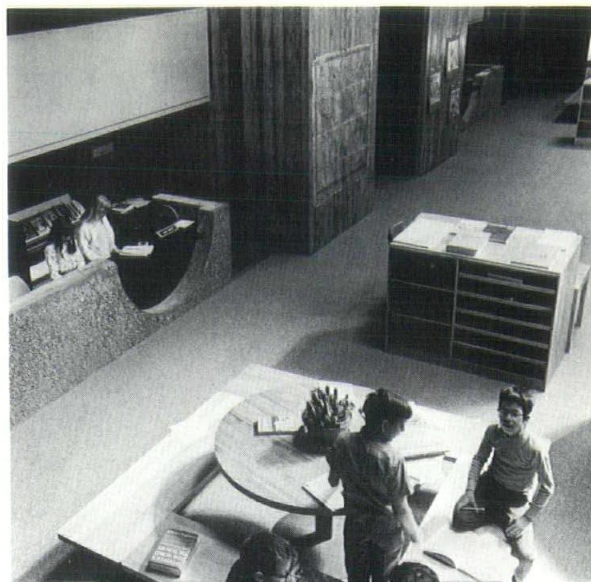
are located on the north side of the school for convenience of public use and to provide relative isolation from instructional areas.

Three classes for 25 students are grouped together in a flexible classroom loft for each grade. This arrangement was arrived at to achieve the kind of flexibility indicated in the program and required for the team teaching approach used in this building. Different pupil arrangements are possible for each loft by the use of tracked room-dividers.

The construction of the school is in the category of heavy mill construction, with masonry walls where required for bearing and fire-protection, with wood on non-structural gable ends and other permissible non-bearing walls.

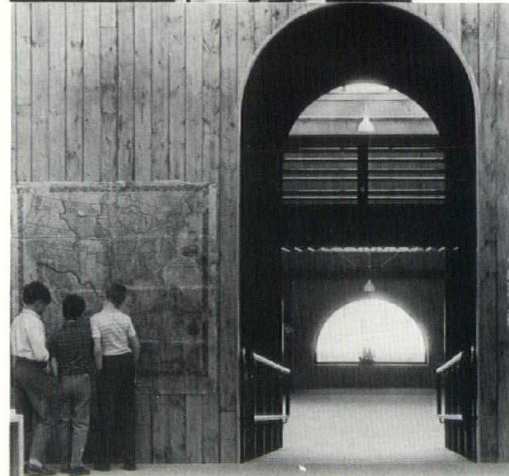
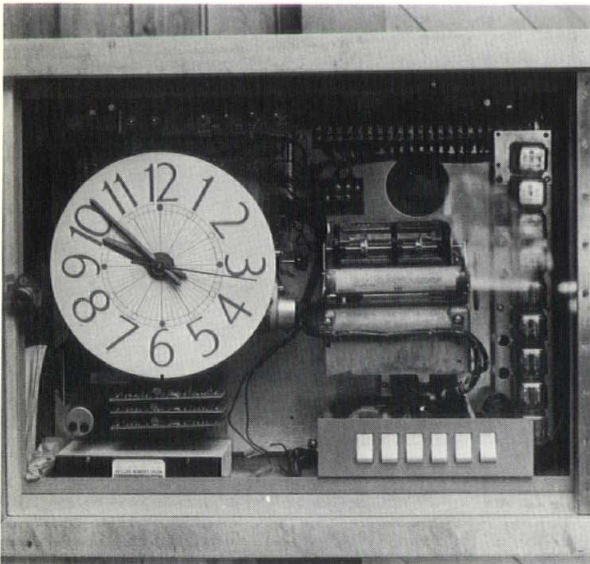
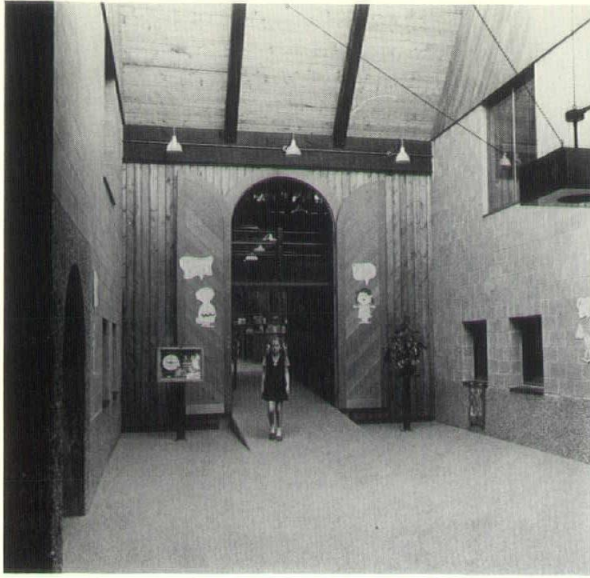
The materials are simple and exposed. Heavy timbered trusses throughout with exposed wood decks are supported by earth colored pumice block walls which rest on concrete foundation walls extending 2'8" above the finished floor and raise up to accommodate entrance arches where they occur. The aggregate of the concrete is exposed by using retarding agents on the form work. The entire school is carpeted.

"Kids only have to glance at most schools to know what goes on inside: To learn means to stand in line, sit in silence and listen interminably," says Warner. "The Andover people didn't want Bancroft



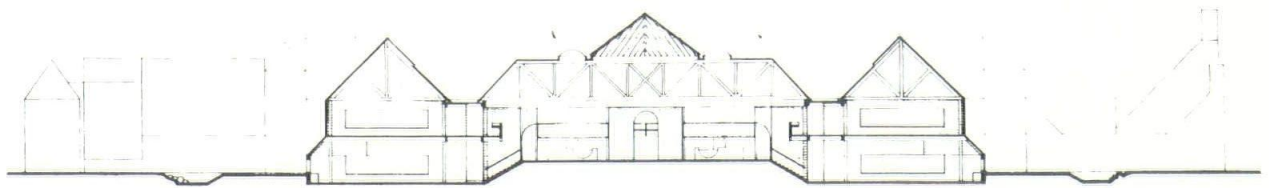
*(right) In the ceiling of the gymnasium, the ventilating equipment hangs exposed. The foremen for the heating and electrical contractors were the "sculptors," Warner has said. "We worked together very closely, and they were proud of the role in shaping the visual scene."*



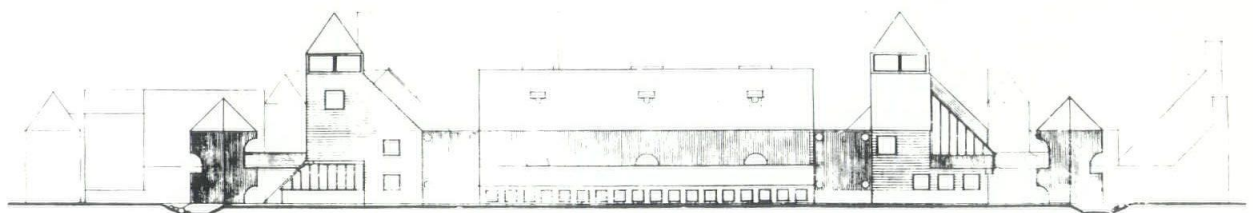


(top left) Lobby is spacious and warm. (middle left) School's clock control system is displayed in glass case for youngsters to study. (bottom left) Table and seats outside kindergarten area will be covered with hand-made tiles. (top right) Barn-like lofts serve a variety of uses. (middle right) Art Room (bottom right) View toward Lobby from Resource Center.



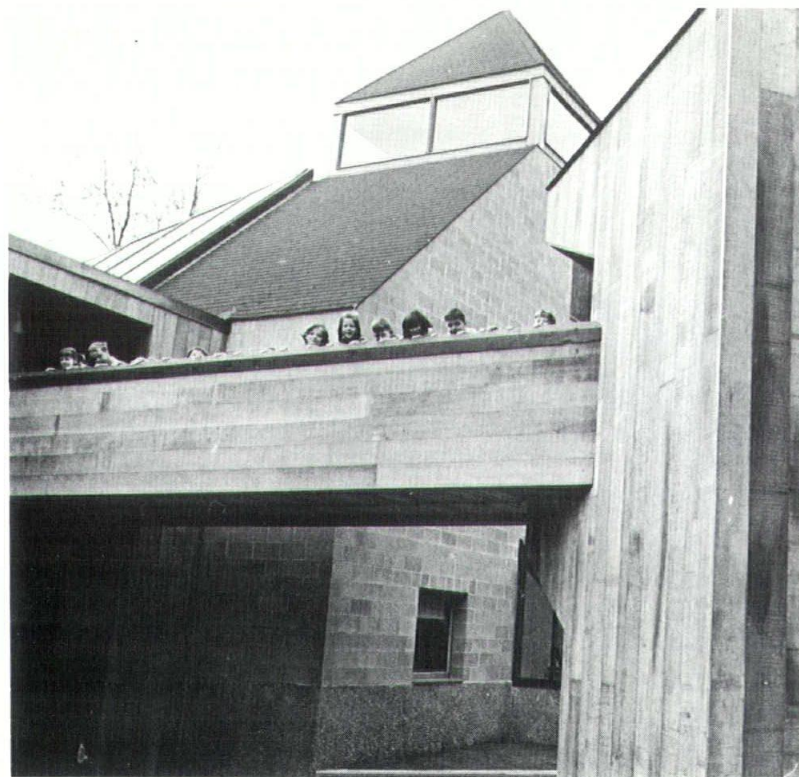


SECTION LOOKING NORTH THROUGH RESOURCE CENTER



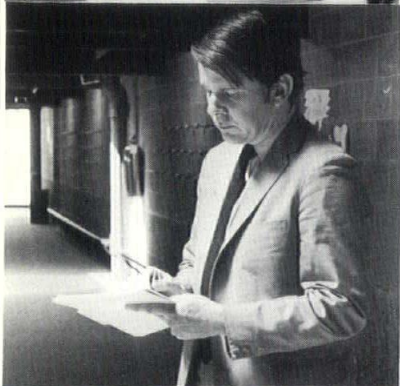
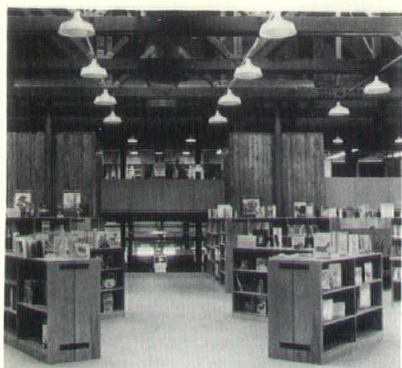
SOUTH ELEVATION

5' 5' 5' 15' 30'



*Bridge to second floor.*





*"Kids only have to glance at most schools to know what goes on inside: To learn means to stand in line, sit in silence and listen interminably," says architect Warner (left) "The Andover people didn't want Bancroft to be that kind of a school. And they didn't want it to look like that kind of a school."*

*"It's a mistake to talk about open schools as nothing more than vast cavernous lofts. To get the right atmosphere in a school — any school — you must have a wide variety of spaces."*



to be that kind of a school. And they didn't want it to look like that kind of a school."

As a result, they have a structure boasting a variety of three-dimensional forms, and visitors are often bewildered by the trapezoids, cylinders, triangles and boxes that stand out so sharply against the flat expanse of roof.

To demonstrate how a building and its parts can be used to teach, Warner insisted that all services (plumbing, electricity, heating, ventilating and air conditioning) be exposed and color-coded. Plumbing pipes and fixtures are blue, electrical equipment and conduits are green, and ventilating/heating equipment is red. In the ceiling of the library and the gymnasium, the ventilating equipment hangs exposed amidst wood trusses and dangling lamps. In the lobby, the school's clock control system is displayed in a glass case, permitting the youngsters to study the mechanisms and watch the system work.

Total cost of the project, including furnishings, fees, equipment and site work was \$1,975,000 or \$30 per square foot and \$3,500 per student.

Engineers were LeMessurier Associates (structural) and Carvounis & King (mechanical); Bride Grimes & Co., heating and ventilating; S. A. Lissack Co., plumbing, and Manzi Electrical Corp., electrical. General Contractor was Leominster Engineering Company.

Since its completion, Principal Earl E. Simon has had to schedule "tour hours" to accommodate visitors without disrupting classes. "We recognize the many opportunities it affords us," says Simon. "We also recognize — as does the architect — that a good program is developed by people, it doesn't come with the building. But the building definitely has made all of us *want* to develop programs that are as exciting as our surroundings."





### State Liquor Store Portsmouth, N. H.

The New Hampshire Liquor Commission's new self-service sales facility (left) designed by Donald T. Dennis, of Portsmouth, will be built this year in the north quadrant adjacent to the present Portsmouth Rotary Circle.

Contract for the construction of the \$305,782 one-story facility has been awarded to the Maxam Company of Portsmouth. The masonry and brick building is scheduled to be opened for business by Thanksgiving.

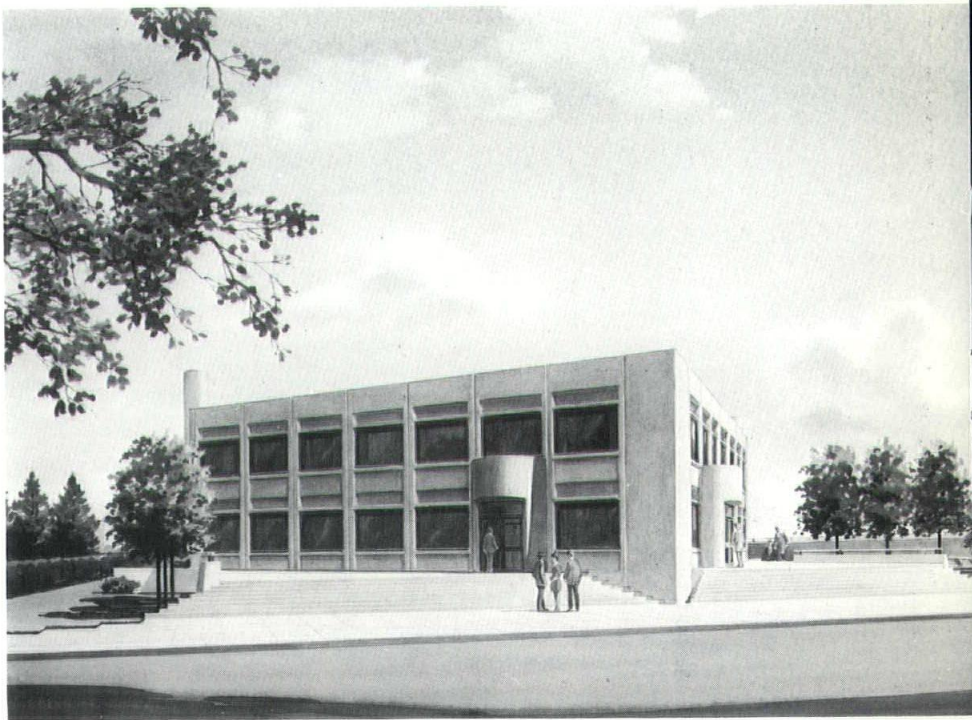
## ON THE DRAWING BOARD

### Campanella Office Building Warwick, R. I.

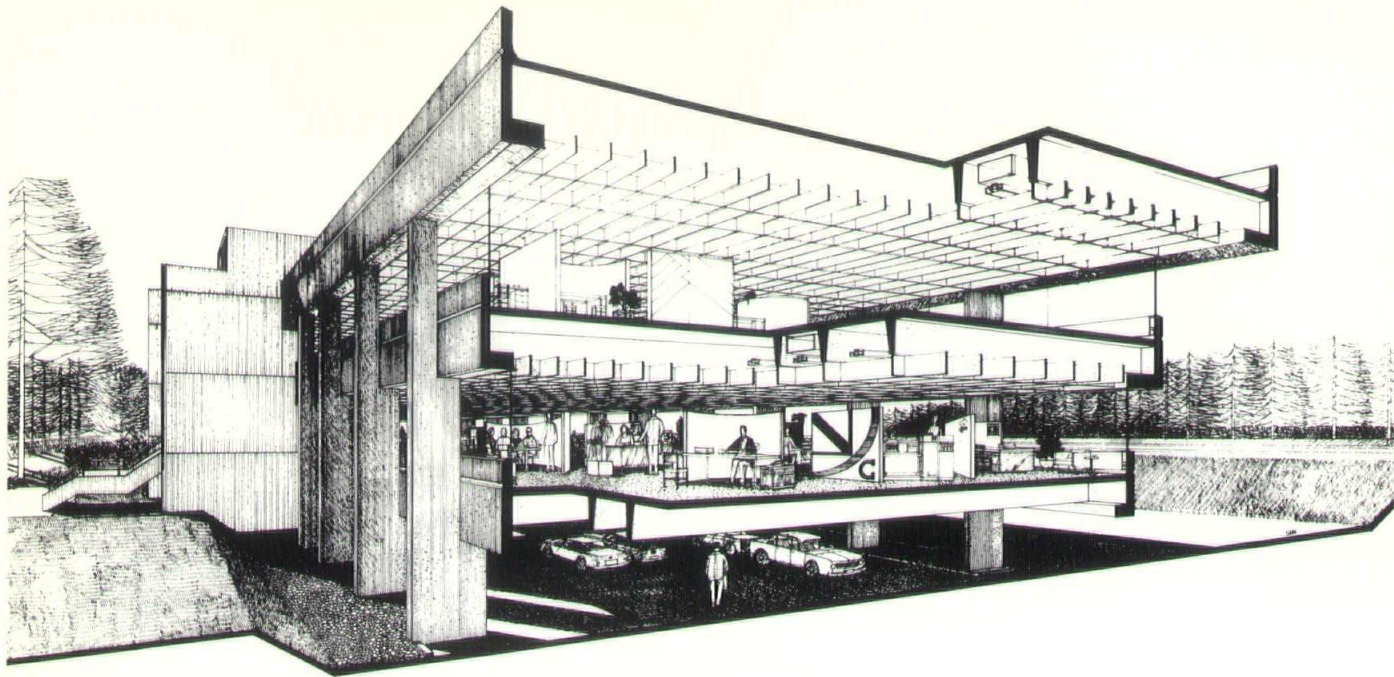
Campanella Corporation's proposed corporate office building in Warwick, R. I., was designed by Robinson, Green and Beretta, architects and engineers, of Providence.

The contemplated two-story concrete structure will have about 20,000 square feet of floor space and will cost in excess of \$300,000. The building will be positioned on the site at a pronounced angle to create a more open plaza space.

Campanella is one of the largest ready-mix concrete suppliers and road builders in Southern New England.







#### Riverside Park Office Building Complex — Weston, Mass.

Renderings (above and below) are of Phase I of the Riverside Park Office Building complex in Weston, Mass., at the intersection of Route 128 and the Massachusetts Turnpike. Designed by architects Steffian, Steffian & Bradley of Boston, the total development will consist of five inter-connected office buildings raised one story above grade with parking under the buildings as well as around them.

The total floor area will be 150,000 square feet with Phase I consisting of 60,000 square feet. The entire building is precast concrete with 60-foot long double tees spanning the entire building.

The mechanical shafts and vertical circulation are built of architectural concrete block and are expressed in towers on the exterior of the buildings. Each column-free floor has complete flexibility to

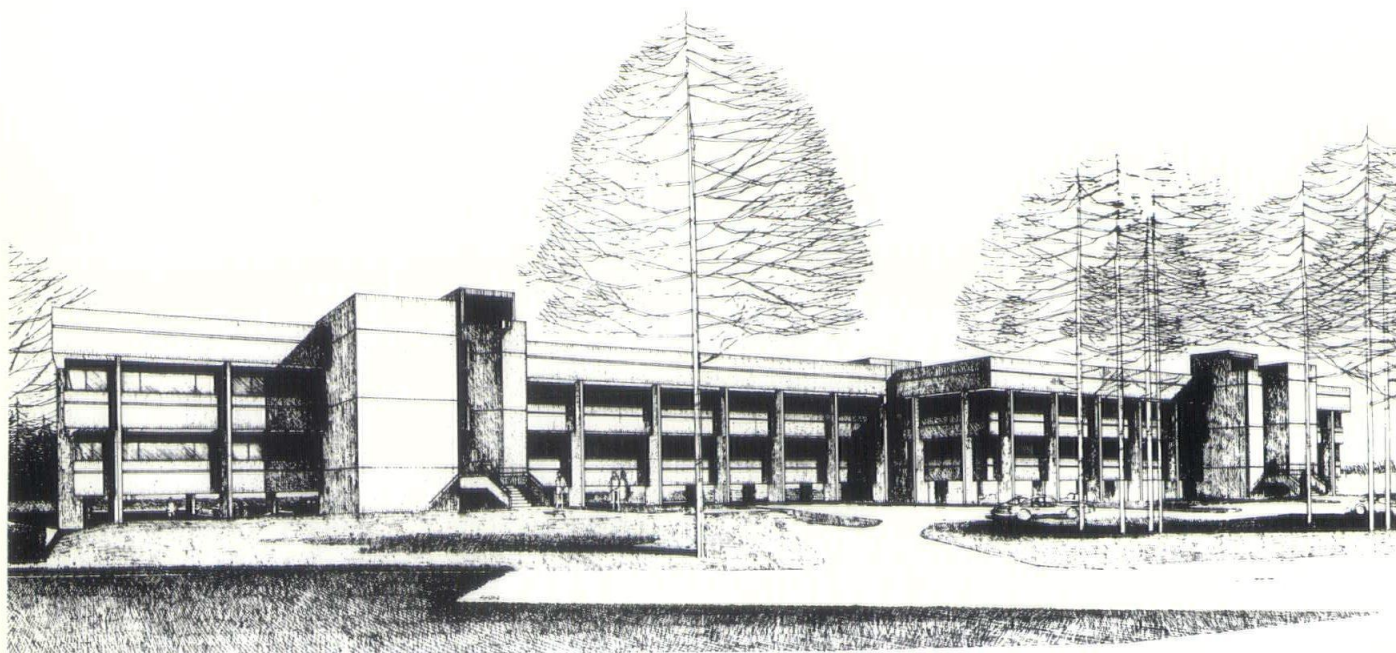
accommodate a variety of office layouts but specifically "office landscape."

The Owner of the project is Richard C. Fitzgerald. General Contractor is George B. H. Macomber Company, and the Rental Agents are Hunneman and Company.

Total Cost Phase I: \$1,300,000

Total Area: 60,000 square feet

Cost per square foot: \$21.75





# Flansburgh





# Residence

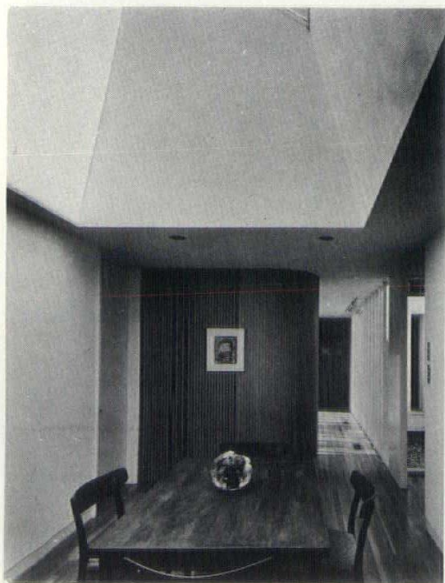
Lincoln, Mass.

**S**ITE of the home designed by Bay State architect Earl R. Flansburgh for his own family use is a beautiful wooded tract with a rough, rather small outcropping of granite and a spectacular view for ten miles in two directions and for five miles in the other two.

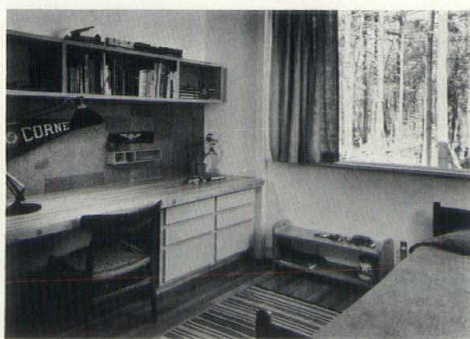
The outcropping, with its view through and over the tops of a mixed hard and soft wood forest, offered a magnificent site, but it was impractical to build the house on top of the rock because of its small size. "It would have meant destroying the beauty of the rock," Flansburgh says. "The most effective way of preserving the natural form of the granite seemed to be to allow the house to float as much as possible over and around the rock."



*View from Living Room toward Open Courtyard and Guest Room beyond.*



*Natural light enters Dining Room through skylight above table.*



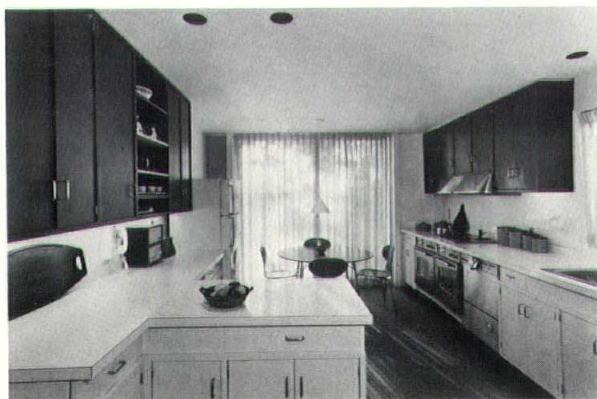
*Mixed hard and soft wood trees are clearly visible outside youngster's room.*

*Earl R. Flansburgh & Associates — Cambridge, Mass.*



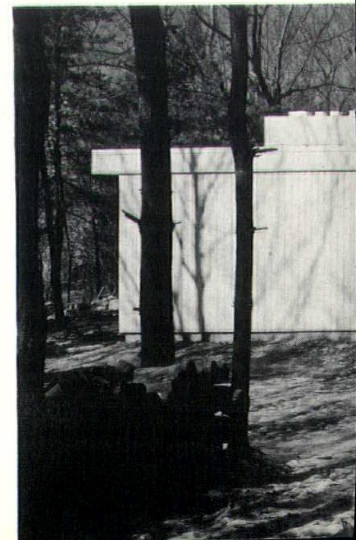


*Living Room*

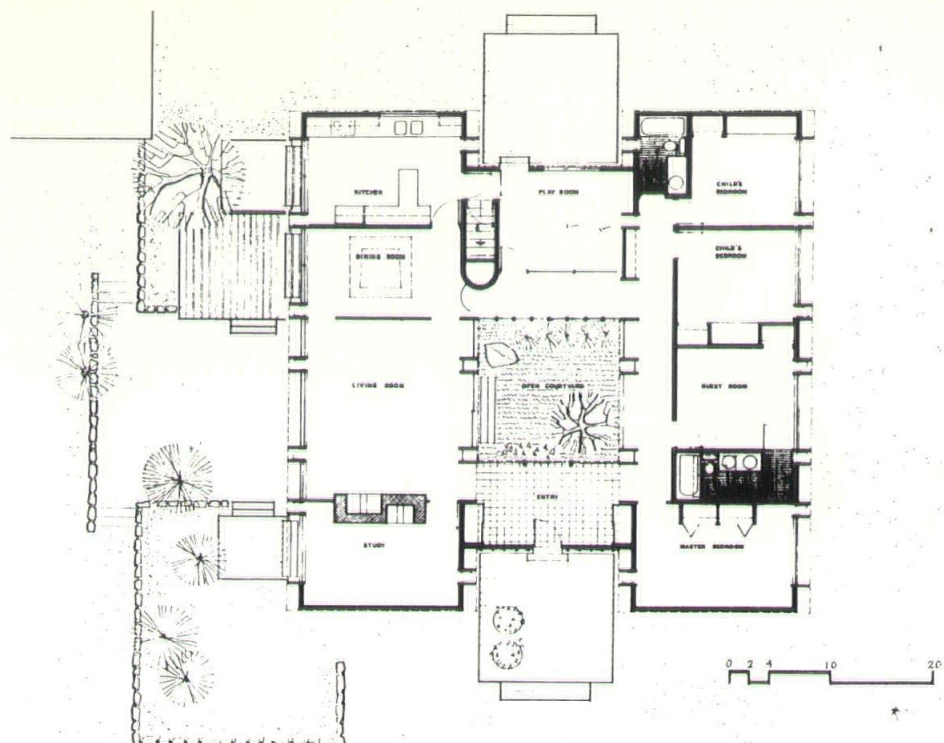


*Kitchen*

*Rough texture of wood siding was designed to contrast with smooth fascia and fins.*





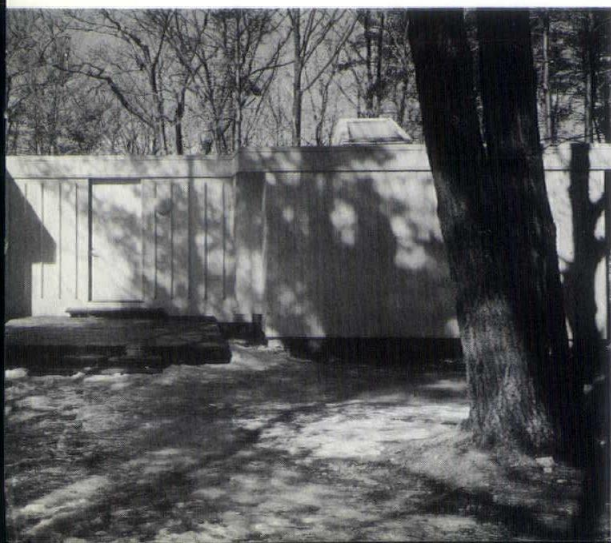


The design was conceived as a group of planes at different levels held together by the strong form of the monitor. To provide for the time when the children are away, their area was isolated from the rest of the house. Because of the family's varied interests a generous amount of storage has been distributed throughout the house.

Structure and materials: foundation, dark concrete; frame, wood; simple span construction; siding, rough unplanned pine; facing, smooth pine; fins, smooth duraply; decks, stained pine; roof, tar and gravel; sliding doors, stock aluminum.

Rough texture of wood siding is designed to contrast with smooth fascia and fins. Dark concrete foundation designed to emphasize the floating nature of the house over and around the rock.

Engineers were Souza and True, Cambridge, (structural); Francis Associates, Marion (mechanical/electrical); Max Mason and Carol Johnson, Cambridge, (landscape). Cost of the 3,200-square-foot residence was \$38,000.





**Stahl/Bennett** (Cont. from page 5) whose basic function is to provide those management services that creative personnel find time consuming but necessary, i.e., program development, budgeting and scheduling, pricing and bid-taking, contract negotiation, documentation, etc.

The first two units are now operational. The first is **STAHL ASSOCIATES**, successor to F. A. Stahl & Associates, and concerned with architecture. The second is the **INTERIOR DESIGN GROUP**, specializing in office planning and interior design. This unit actually evolved out of the original architectural collaborative six years ago, when F. A. Stahl & Associates took on a great deal of the tenant planning for the 34-story State Street Bank building that it had conceived in joint-venture (Pearl Street Associates) with several Boston and London real estate developers.

"With Stahl/Bennett, Inc. involving itself more and more with historic restoration of well-known



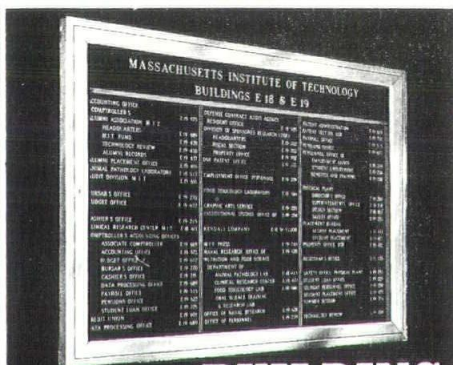
**STAHL/BENNETT INC.** principals discuss firm's newest high-rise project (rear). From left to right: Franklin B. Mead, Frederick A. Stahl, John P. Bennett, and Edmund S. Twining III. Boston-based firm also has New York office for interior design operations, and plans establishing additional units for environment work.

landmarks in a number of U. S. cities, it is likely that the next unit to be formed will specialize in urban retrieval", according to Mr. Mead.

Coordination between these satellites and the S/B core group will be the responsibility of Mr. Twining, the only non-architect group among the four principals. An M. B. A. from the University of Pennsylvania, Twining joined F. A. Stahl & Associates in 1969 by way of Bethlehem Steel and Central-Penn National Bank of Philadelphia.

"Architecture," he says, "has comported itself far too long as an

art profession when it ought to have operated as a business. In an age of total communication, architects still speak in a jargon that is often totally incomprehensible to the guy paying the bills. They talk about the 'architectural experience' when they should be speaking about the client's discounted cash flow and his rate of return." The upshot, he feels, is that far too much time and money have been wasted on false starts. "That, and on coming up with design solutions to problems that were never stated, or on underresearching jobs with the result of producing beautiful but unprofitable buildings."



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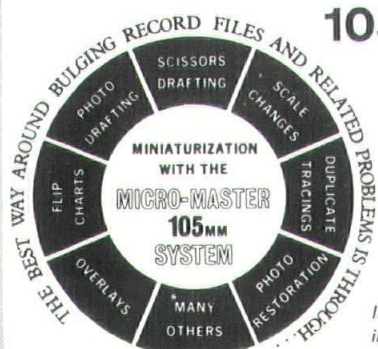
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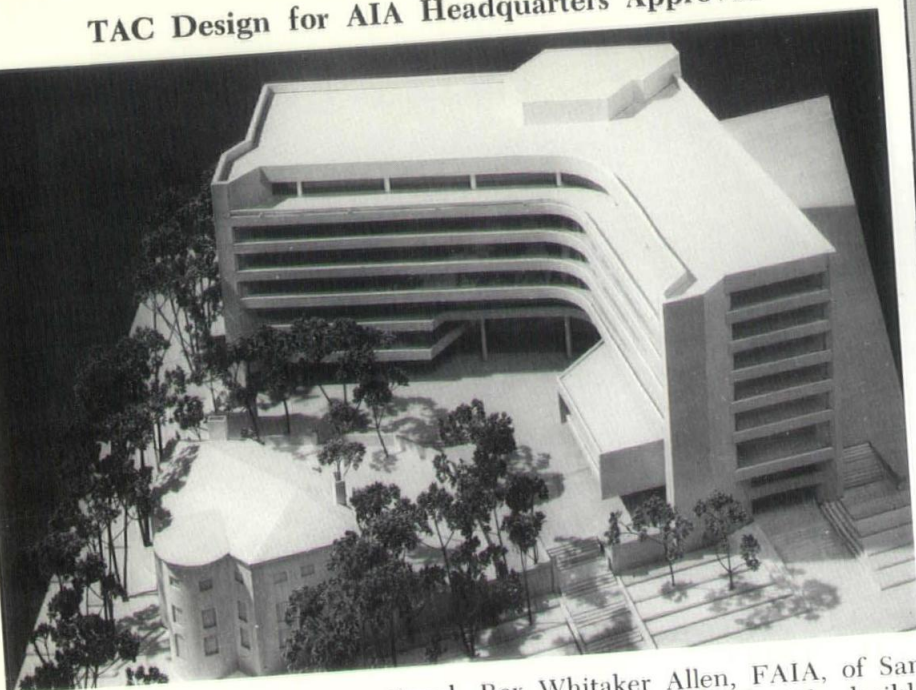


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## TAC Design for AIA Headquarters Approved



Design of AIA's new, national headquarters building has been approved by the Fine Arts Commission and the Institute's Board of Directors, according to William L. Slayton, Executive Vice President of The American Institute of Architects.

Rex Whitaker Allen, FAIA, of San Francisco, commented, "The building will stand as a symbol of the creative genius of our time, while complementing, protecting, and preserving a cherished symbol of another time, the historic Octagon House and its garden."

### O'Connor Lectures On Concrete Masonry

John P. O'Connor, Executive Director of the New England Concrete Masonry Association, recently lectured at the Harvard Graduate School of Design. Appearing before students working toward their Masters degree in Architecture, O'Connor gave a two-hour presentation illustrated with slides and aimed toward acquainting tomorrow's leading architects with the structural, aesthetic, fire-resistive, acoustical, and other properties of concrete masonry.

The seven-story, 130,000-square-foot building will curve around historic Octagon House, the renovated National Historic Landmark owned by the Institute. The buildings will share a common, landscaped garden.

Approval of the \$6.8 million design followed a six-year effort by AIA to design a building which would meet the needs of the 24,200-member expanding national professional society. Previous designs by other architects had been rejected by the Commission.

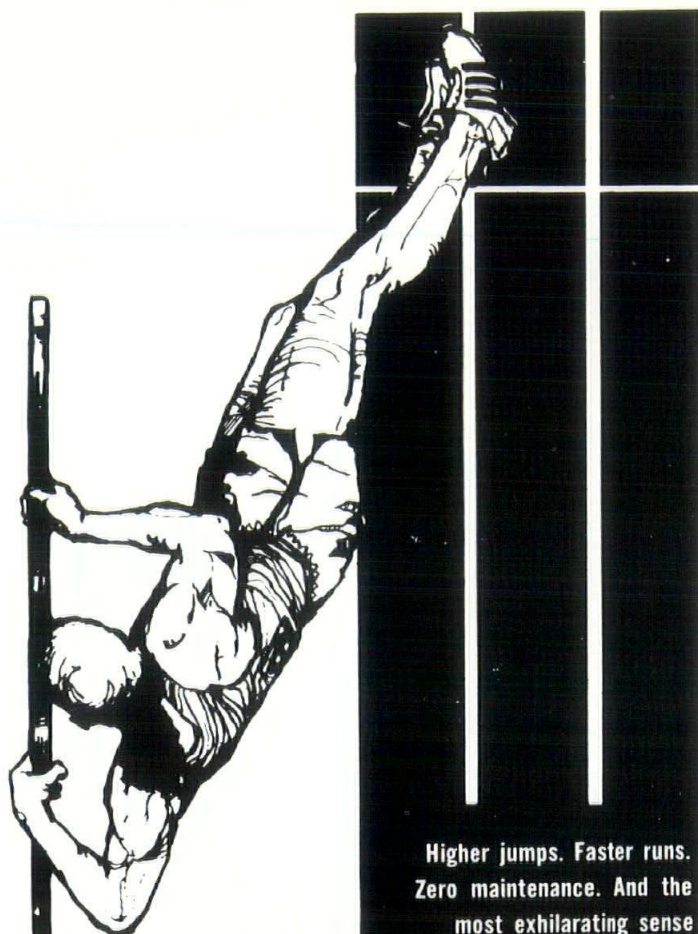
Such appearances are part of NECMA's continuing educational effort O'Connor said. Similar presentations have been given before both student groups and practicing architects and engineers. The goal of the program is twofold: to have the design profession familiar with concrete masonry and confident in its application to their projects; and to acquaint them with the NECMA office as a source of reliable information at the professional level.

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## MIT Facility Dedicated



*The Camille Edouard Dreyfus Chemistry Building at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, dedicated April 17. At the right is the Alexander Calder stabile, "The Big Sail."*

An \$8,000,000 building for chemistry at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was dedicated Friday (April 17) as the Camille Edouard Dreyfus Chemistry Building.

The building, designed by I. M. Pei & Partners, is situated in McDermott Court, east of the central M. I. T. buildings. Nearby is the 20-story Green Building, also designed by Pei, an M. I. T. alumnus. The four-story Dreyfus building is of poured concrete, with one end dramatically cantilevered. It houses headquarters for the Department of Chemistry and laboratories for graduate students and post-doctoral chemists conducting research in organic, bio-organic and biophysical chemistry.

Laboratories in the new building are divided into efficient small bays, each with room for two or four students. Each bay has its own ventilation outlet and each has such facilities as nitrogen and vacuum pipes.

The new building was named for the late Dr. Camille Dreyfus, Swiss-born chemist who with his brother, Dr. Henry Dreyfus, pioneered in polymer research.

## Environmental Quality



*Pictured at the reception honoring the members of President Nixon's Council on Environmental Quality given by the American Institute of Architects at historic Octagon House are, left to right: Council Chairman Russell E. Train, Congressman Hale Boggs (D-La.), Rex W. Allen, FAIA, President of AIA, and William L. Slayton, Executive Vice President of AIA.*



## Dodge Index Tops 200 For 4th Consecutive Month

March brought another heavy flow of new projects to the nation's construction industry, sustaining the Dodge Index at a near record high, it was announced by the F. W. Dodge Division of McGraw-Hill Information Systems Company. Rising costs and a continuing volume of very large projects were major factors in the surge of construction during the opening months of 1970.

The value of March contracts totalled \$6,140,111,000, a 19 per cent increase over the year-ago month.

The March Dodge Index of contracts for future construction reached 208, close to last December's record rate of 218. This was the fourth consecutive month the Index topped 200. The average of the years 1957-59 is the 100 base of the Dodge Index.

"At the end of the first quarter, 1970's contracts were ahead of last year's total by seven per cent—a 'gain' that reflects little more than

## MONTHLY SUMMARY OF CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY

Prepared by F. W. Dodge Division  
McGraw-Hill Information Systems Co.

|                          | March, 1970<br>(000) | March, 1969<br>(000) | Per Cent<br>Change |
|--------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Nonresidential Building  | \$2,191,077          | \$1,772,326          | +24%               |
| Residential Building     | 1,974,169            | 1,957,142            | + 1                |
| Nonbuilding Construction | 1,974,865            | 1,423,611            | +39                |
| Total Construction       | \$6,140,111          | \$5,153,079          | +19%               |

|                          | 3 Mos., 1970<br>(000) | 3 Mos., 1969<br>(000) | Per Cent<br>Change |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Nonresidential Building  | \$ 6,620,107          | \$ 5,767,149          | +15%               |
| Residential Building     | 4,889,622             | 5,505,490             | -11                |
| Nonbuilding Construction | 4,656,171             | 3,787,508             | +23                |
| Total Construction       | \$16,165,900          | \$15,060,147          | + 7%               |

the increase in construction costs since this time a year ago," noted George A. Christie, vice president and chief economist for Dodge.

"The real difference is in the type of work that is currently coming

through," Christie said. "In the early part of 1969 there was a fairly normal balance of contracting for nonresidential building, housing, and heavy construction. Then, as

*(Continued on Next Page)*

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(Continued from page 31)

housing weakened all through last year, the void was filled by a greatly expanded volume of nonbuilding construction while nonresidential building held quite steady at its already high level," said the Dodge economist. "In the remainder of 1970 some reversal of this pattern can be expected, as housing recovers and the pace of industrial and commercial building slackens a bit."

Nonbuilding construction provided the major thrust in March. The month's contract total, at \$1,974,865,000, was 39 per cent above last year's value. More important, according to Christie, the heavy construction category was the only one to show a seasonally-adjusted gain over February's rate, an increase of ten per cent.

A few big projects made most of the difference in March, including two electric generating facilities with a combined construction value of more than half a billion dollars, and a water supply system which will cost nearly a quarter billion dollars.

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March nonresidential building contracts, valued at \$2,191,077,000, were 24 per cent above their weak year-ago total. On a seasonally-adjusted basis, however, nonresidential building declined sharply in March from its record February 1970 rate.

In the latest month commercial building held steady while industrial construction contracting fell back sharply from a February surge. Institutional building (schools, hospitals, etc.) also eased after a strong February showing.

"March's residential contracts showed no improvement over February, after seasonal adjustment. However, both those months ran slightly ahead of January, the weakest month in over two years for the contracting of new dwelling units," Christie noted.

"Latest data do not confirm that the expected upturn in housing has yet begun. But now that the single biggest barrier, monetary restraint, has been relaxed, it's safe to say that the end of the housing decline has been reached. Next month's contract statistics ought to bring the start of a steady expansion in housing," the Dodge economist predicted.

Residential contract value in March was \$1,974,169,000 and exceeded the year-ago March total by one per cent due to a sizeable increase in nonhousekeeping building.

Notes (Continued from page 2)

Association, Buffalo, N.Y., franchised applicators of Desco coatings (five \$400 scholarships to undergraduate students); PPG Industries Foundation of Pittsburgh (two \$2,250 grants for graduate study in urban design), and the National Terrazzo & Mosaic Association of Arlington, Va. (one \$1,000 award for an undergraduate student).

One professional award was granted to Lester Lee Jones, Detroit, Mich., who will enter the Master of Environmental Design program at Yale University. He intends to study environmental problems of the Black community. The \$2,000 grant was made through the Waid Education Fund.

The recipients were selected on the basis of scholarship and need by the AIA Committee on Scholarships, headed by T. Trip Russell, FAIA, of Miami. Members were: Leon Bridges, AIA, Seattle; DeVon M. Carlson, Dean of the School of Architecture, University of Colorado, and Betty Lou Custer, AIA, St. Louis.

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