

# P/A NEWS REPORT

*Progressive Architecture 430 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022*

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# PA NEWS REPORT

PA NEWS REPORT

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PA NEWS REPORT

# P/A NEWS REPORT

*Progressive Architecture's Monthly Digest of Buildings, Projects, People and Products* September 1967

## INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF ARCHITECTS

PRAGUE, CZECHOSLOVAKIA About 2000 persons from Europe, Asia, and North and South America attended the ninth world congress of the International Union of Architects here July 3 through 7.

Much of the conference's work took place in preliminary sessions, in which from 20 to 25 delegates from as many countries met in specialized workshops. In these sessions, they discussed such topics as schools, registration, housing, and hospitals. Much of the value of these UIA meetings, says Daniel Schwartzman, who was one of the AIA delegates to these preliminary sessions, is "in sharing our experience with less developed nations." Another part of their value, of course, is as an exchange for international architectural information. Schwartzman is responsible for reporting on the meeting to the AIA, which will in turn report to its members.

For P/A's comments on the conference, see this month's Editorial.

## NATURAL LIGHT FROM A FLUORESCENT LAMP

NORTH BERGEN, N.J. A recently introduced fluorescent lamp is said to match both the visible and ultraviolet spectrum of natural outdoor light. Called Vita-Lite, it will provide a limited amount of the ultraviolet wavelengths, enough to help synthesize vitamins needed for healthy bones and teeth without causing sunburn, according to the developers. They also claim the lamp will help rid an indoors atmosphere of bacteria and viruses that are normally killed by sunlight. It is being made available for commercial and industrial applications by the Duro-Test Corporation.

## WAGE BOOSTS CATCH BIDDERS OFF - GUARD

Do it today. It will cost you more to do it tomorrow. Or, better yet, don't do it at all. These attitudes, especially the latter one, are affecting many architectural projects across the nation as building costs continue their often shockingly steep advance. Spearheading this advance are labor contracts, which averaged increases of nearly 5% across the U.S. during the first half of 1967.

What makes these cost boosts dangerous to architects is the relative quiet with which they are achieved. This is especially true if the labor contract is signed locally — in New Orleans, for example — and the architect responsible for a job there is from, say, Chicago.

Some of the largest labor wage increases occurred in the construction industry, ranging in April and May alone from a 5¢ hourly increase in Jacksonville, Fla., to a whopping 50¢ an hour increase over a three year-period in Cleveland.

Understandably, these rapidly proliferating cost increases have thrown bids off alarmingly, sometimes by as much as 50%. And it is no surprise that, faced with these unexpected advances, clients are having second thoughts about going ahead with their plans. At least two Cleveland projects were so affected recently — a two-block rehabilitation job in the Hough section, which is currently trying to find new financing (see p. 49, AUGUST 1967 P/A), and five campus buildings of the Cuyahoga Community College.

If nothing else, these soaring labor costs are going to mean that clients will have to pay more for building. One Cleveland home builder estimates that recent wage boosts alone will, by 1969, tack an extra \$5000 on a house that would have sold last year for \$23,000.

## BUNSHAFT DESIGNS ART MUSEUM FOR WASHINGTON

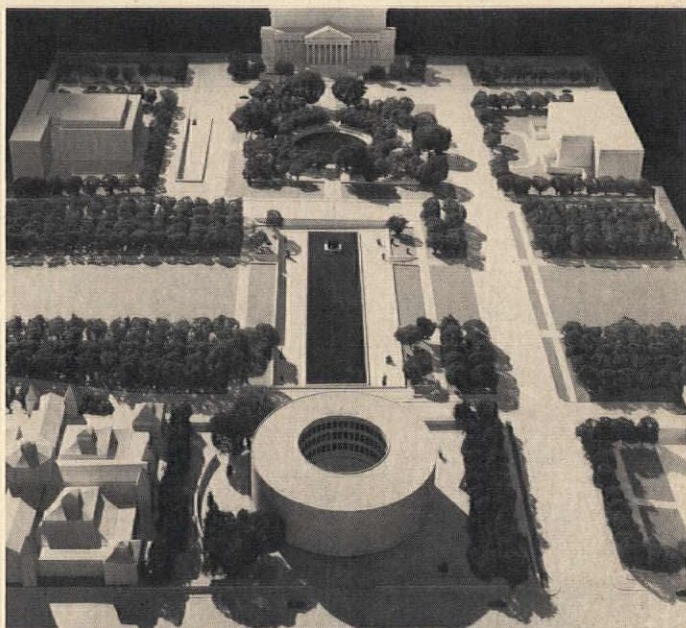


Photo: Ezra Stoller

WASHINGTON, D.C. If the membership of the Fine Arts Commission is changed by the President (see news item, p. 57, one of the first tasks facing the new members may be a decision on the new Hirshorn Museum, designed by Gordon Bunshaft of the New York office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. The circular museum rests on four hollow "legs," above a sunken sculpture garden, which will line a rectangular, 500' reflecting pool directly in front of the museum. Pool and garden will run at right angles across the Mall, depressed 7' below

grade, creating a new cross axis of the Mall first proposed more than 50 years ago. Beyond the garden would be a proposed National Sculpture Garden surrounding a circular pool that could be used as a skating rink in the winter. The National Planning Commission has granted preliminary approval of the plans, while questioning the idea of skating amid works of art. Although President Johnson has signed a bill authorizing the \$15 million museum to house the art collection of Joseph H. Hirshorn, construction awaits Congressional funds.

## ECOLOGY : MAN SHAPES HIS ENVIRONMENT

*"From Nature's chain, whatever link you strike, Tenth, or ten thousandth, breaks the chain alike."*

ALEXANDER POPE

Earlier this year, the nocturnal stillness of Knott County, Ky., was shattered by a gigantic explosion. Someone had fastened dynamite charges to a diesel power shovel of the Kentucky Oak Coal Company and blasted it, as they say, to kingdom come. Feuds are, of course, nothing new to the Kentucky

hills, but this one had implications the Hatfields and McCoys never dreamed of. Disputed were the rights of strip coal miners to tear up the homes and yards of eastern Kentucky residents to get at the coal beneath. Rights to coal just beneath the surface were given to the mines 60 to 100 years ago in so-called "broad-form" deeds, and so far the Kentucky courts have upheld the rights of the miners. A further ruling is due this month from the Kentucky Supreme Court.

## Mo-Sai wins this round on the new Madison Square Garden



Mo-Sai was chosen to completely encompass the new drum-shaped home of Madison Square Garden. To create a warm color and emphasize the 13-story height of the building, Mo-Sai with exposed chocolate-colored pebbles and light beige ribs was cast in one

unit 22 feet wide and 8 feet high. When bolted into position the ribs run vertically the height of the building.

To further accent the height, vertical coves in a light beige Mo-Sai were placed every 22 feet (see inset). The coved units

were joined to the back of the flat panels with tongue and grooves cast in the Mo-Sai.

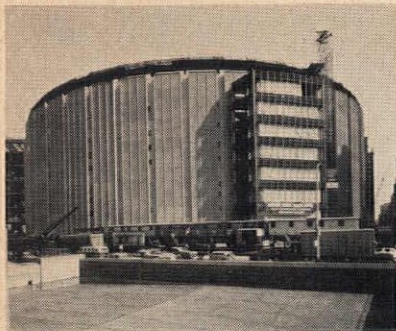
The textured Mo-Sai surface of hard, natural aggregate will maintain its color indefinitely, winning maintenance "rounds" for many years to come.

Architects: Charles Luckman Associates / Structural Engineers: Severud, Perrone, Fischer, Sturm, Conlin and Bandel / General Contractors: Turner-Del Webb, a joint venture



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Photo: Billy Davis

Home owners are understandably reluctant to see their homes destroyed with no compensation. "Random shooting from both sides has become commonplace," read a report from the area in mid-July. "Mine guards go armed." But the ramifications of strip mining go even beyond the personal tragedy of home owners. For wherever strip mining occurs, the land is made unfit for habitation. Not only does the surface soil get removed or mixed with deep-lying minerals, making it impossible for it to support vegetation, but also pools of water fill in depressions and irregularities with high concentrations of dissolved substances inimical to life. Moreover, where the vegetation is stripped away, the earth becomes prey to the effects of wind and rain. Much the same thing happened in the 1930's on the great Midwestern plains. The grasslands were plowed under for crops, which died during a drought. Left unprotected, the land blew away in swirls and clouds that blotted out the sun, burying homes and hopes alike. Suddenly, thousands of families were without means of support, defeated by their ignorance of natural sequences of events. The

study of these sequences is known as ecology — literally, the study of man (or any other living organism) in relation to his environment. Unlike other animals, man has a penchant for fouling his own nest, partly because of a lack of ecological knowledge, partly because he seems not to care.

**Nor any fish to eat** — Take the alewives, for example. Originally a salt-water fish, the alewives crept into the Great Lakes when the St. Lawrence Seaway was opened about 10 years ago. With no natural enemies to keep them in check, they have proliferated until the lakes contain literally millions of them. This summer, millions died, perhaps from pollution, perhaps from sudden changes in water temperatures. Whatever the cause, lakeside cities, especially Milwaukee and Chicago on Lake Michigan, found their lakefront beaches covered with dead alewives. Water intakes were clogged, and an overpowering stench wafted inland on northeasterly breezes. Crews worked around the clock with bulldozers trying to clear the beaches; Chicago even sprayed the decaying mass with deodorant. At the height

of the summer season, lake cities found their beaches unusable.

The alewives might have met with natural enemies in the Great Lakes, but the opening of the Welland Canal connecting Lakes Ontario and Erie some 40 years ago let in the lampreys—long, black, fish-eating eels. The canal was helpful to the shipping industry. At the same time, by providing a passage-way for the lamprey, it effectively killed the Great Lakes fishing industry. Like the alewife, the lamprey found no natural enemies in the lakes. (It had originally been a denizen of the Atlantic, also like the alewife.) And with nothing to check its progress, it ate its way through the lakes, completely wiping out the trout and pike. With the fish went not only the fishing industry but peripheral industries, such as fish distribution and sea food restaurants. Through some brilliant work by biologists, the lampreys are now under control. But the alewives are not. A \$10 million bill is pending in Congress to find out what to do with them.

**Unplanned suicide** — A Pandora's box is opened each time someone tampers unknowingly with man's environment. Although the alewives were mostly only a costly nuisance, more often man's tampering with the ecological balance can cost him his own life. Perhaps the most dramatic example came recently with the death of three American astronauts. Engineers had sought to make the rocket load lighter by using pure oxygen inside the space capsule. What they overlooked is that a spark fed by pure oxygen can cause a life-snuffing fire. Human ecology. Man exists in air, not in pure oxygen.

In southern California, the push for living space has led man to redesign the hills, land formerly considered too steep for adequate housing. In his book *Eden in Jeopardy*, Richard G. Lillard describes the results of this particular folly.

"From around 1945 on, up and in went the skiploaders and bulldozers and big eight-wheeled trucks to hack at

primeval green slopes and reduce them to crumbly, desolate cliffs, ripping at ancient seepages and springs, dumping topsoil to creek bottoms and covering it flat with sterile inner layers. Often contractors, as they skimmed the tops of hills, or as they ran their arbitrary roads up hill-sides or as they gouged out little shelflike pads for bungalows or castles, had the machinery efficiently shove tons of loose dirt and brush over the side, where it slouched, loosely held up by bushes. 'Just shove 'er over. The brush'll hold 'er!'"

Then, of course, the rains came. Lillard goes on: "Tons of rainwater soaked into tons of loose dirt and rock in the raw cuts and loose fills until finally the soggy masses uprooted the shrubs they lay on and slipped rumbling and smashing down the slopes. Rivers of ruin on denuded hillsides picked up rocks and soil and roared down. Sometimes as the mud flows gave way they pulled the foundations out of the house just above them. More often they piled up around the houses below them, new spic-and-span all-glass contemporary homes, and then when the mudslides slopped up deep and heavy enough, they went on through the houses, pushing in walls and windows, filling swimming pools, carrying away terraces and plants and trees and all the accumulated objects of Home, Sweet Home and Garden Beautiful."

Finally, in 1952, a Los Angeles ordinance set restrictions for the cutting and grading of hills and for the drainage of water. But even so, drains clog, seepage from drains and swimming pools puts pressure on weakened soil, and careless contractors grade during the rainy season. So landslides still occur.

**The finger in the dune** — The same type of needless destruction happens along the eastern seaboard, because there, as elsewhere, man has tampered heedlessly with his environment. In 1962, the northeast coast was lashed by a violent three-day storm. Day after day, 60 mph winds pushed 40' waves against the shore from Long Island to Georgia. In



Photo: National Geographic Society

New Jersey alone, 2400 homes were destroyed, 8300 partially damaged, and in all, \$80 million worth of damage done. Almost all of it could have been avoided, if man had heeded knowledge about natural processes. Ian McHarg, chairman of the landscape architecture department at the University of Pennsylvania, wrote about that storm in an essay entitled "Ecological Determinism":

"The theory of dune formation is well understood, as is stabilization by vegetation. The ecological communities from beach dune to bay shore have been their limiting factors. In the Netherlands, the value of dunes and their stabilizing grasses and the important role of ground water are known and attributed value, but not, however, in New Jersey. It is common knowledge that beaches are highly tolerant to human use but that dunes and their grasses are not. Development of the Jersey shore included breaching of dunes for many purposes—home building, beach access, etc. No constraints were placed upon use of dunes so that vegetation died and the dunes became unstable; no effective restraints were placed upon withdrawals, ground water which inhibited vegetation growth. Considerable areas

were waterproofed by buildings, roads, parking areas, which diminished recharge of the aquifers. The consequences were inevitable: with its natural defenses destroyed, the shore was vulnerable and was extensively damaged."

McHarg has two professional ecologists teaching on his staff at Pennsylvania. He considers a knowledge of ecology so important for his landscape architects that his department offers the university's ecology courses. Graduate students in biology who want ecology credits take them in the department of landscape architecture.

**Fouling the waters** — There seems to be nothing man likes to foul better than water. By pouring sewage and the wastes of industrial processes into lakes and streams, he not only makes the water undrinkable, but he also often makes it impossible to swim in it, and kills off its wildlife, which has provided both recreation and food. So polluted is Lake Erie that little life exists in it. Its beaches have been closed to swimming for years. In Lake Erie, the effects of pollution have run their course, and the Federal Government is being forced to undertake a \$3,900,000,000 program to clean it up. Deep in Soviet Russia,

Lake Baikal, which contains one-fifth of the world's lake water, is just beginning the pollution cycle. A newly opened pulp mill is pouring its waste into the lake in quantities sufficient to worry biologists about the ultimate fate of some 1000 species of plant and animal life found only in that lake. Also threatened is the lake's considerable fishing industry, currently producing 35% of Siberia's fish catch. Hundreds of thousands of the world's smaller lakes are threatened by the wastes produced by the sewage of the homes that line their banks. Slowly, what was once an ideal home site becomes a homesite next to a sewer.

**Marshes are invaluable —** Wetlands, the coastal marshes rimming much of the continental United States, are suf-

fering much the same fate as lakes and rivers, with much the same dire results. As these wetlands are dredged away to provide landfill, or filled in with garbage and other pollutants, or paved for roads or housing developments, factories or marinas, several things happen. For one thing, removing or covering the nearly indestructible peaty salt marsh barriers destroys one of the greatest natural buffers against storms. High seas are absorbed by these marshes the way sponges absorb water. Like dunes, they protect the land behind them. Another thing that happens, ironically, is that some of man's most economically val-

uable food is destroyed. An acre of salt marsh can produce 300 lb of edible scallops per year, more than an acre of grassland can turn out in beef. Besides, these marshes afford protection for both the young of many food fish and for the Crustacea and other invertebrate creatures they eat. If the marshes are destroyed, a large portion of the off-shore commercial fishing may be endangered. "A marsh takes a good thousand years to be created," Dr. Nelson Marshall, professor of oceanography at the University of Rhode Island, told a reporter recently. "It can be destroyed in a day."

**Cities and climate —** As the rapid filling and paving of the United States' vast megapolitan stretches picks up speed, it appears that such huge, rel-

evaporation is lost. Just how all this affects continental climates is not precisely known. In fact, it is thought by some that, despite the heating effect of cities, the climate is becoming slowly cooler. The cooling trend is explained as a result of the increased carbon dioxide in the air, man-made pollution, which throws up a dome-shaped shield against the sun's rays. Not as much heat reaches the ground, and the earth slowly becomes cooler. Whatever is happening, with care, man can guard against it. Judicious interspersal of cities and parkland, the placing of buildings to allow for the cooling, clearing effects of wind, and, of course, the control of pollution, can keep climate in balance. The important thing — and for man it seems almost impossible to do — is to keep from tampering with nature without knowing what the results will be. Once the economic significance of preserving the environment — and indeed the need to preserve it if we are going to preserve ourselves — is recognized, we can avoid the confusion Dr. René Dubos of the Rockefeller Institute has noticed. "Throughout the centuries," he states, "man worshipped nature. He still does, but now he does it with a sense of guilt."

## BRITISH ARCHITECTS CONVENE

BRIGHTON, ENGLAND Some 500 persons attended the annual meeting of the Royal Institute of British Architects in this seaside town July 13 to 15. Given the number of architects registered in the British Isles, attendance was proportionately what can be expected at AIA conventions, and the tenor of the occasion was much the same. There was a program of speeches, followed by discussion, much of which centered on the old topic of prefabrication: how architects will have to lead in the development and utilization of more economical building systems or have their work usurped by package builders. There was also talk of increased costs and the need for evaluating them correctly. And there was some mention of the environment and the planning of neighbor-

hoods. In short, it sounded like an architectural convention on the western shores of the Atlantic. But there was a notable difference. The RIBA allows no product suppliers at its convention, no salesmen, no exhibits of architectural products. Perhaps, by this act of segregation, they are missing a valuable chance for exposure to the suppliers they depend upon.

## LOW-COST HOUSING SYSTEM BEING TESTED IN DETROIT

DETROIT, MICH. With the aid of a \$203,000 grant from HUD, seven units of low-cost housing are being constructed here. If cost estimates of about \$7 per sq ft are met, the implications of the system in a world hungry for feasible low-cost housing may be far-reaching. Designed by Neil Mitchell, who teaches at Harvard, and who spent a year recently in Venezuela as consultant for development on the new city of Ciudad Guayana, the system, a variation of which is getting its first try here, was devised originally to rely heavily on the enterprise of the householder, who is expected to put it together himself — in the best homesteading tradition. What he does is erect four porous concrete columns on sunken concrete pilings. (The concrete used is extremely lightweight, about half its volume consisting of small air bubbles entrained in the fresh concrete at the time it is mixed.) Two beams of porous concrete are then lifted onto the columns and secured by steel pins; porous concrete roofing slabs are placed between the beams. Each component weighs only 150 lb, so it can be put in place by two men. "It's idiot proof," says an associate of Mitchell's. "My wife helped put one together." With the roof in place, the owner theoretically (but not in Detroit) supplies his own materials for walls — anything that will keep out the weather, such as tar paper, orange crates, adobe bricks.

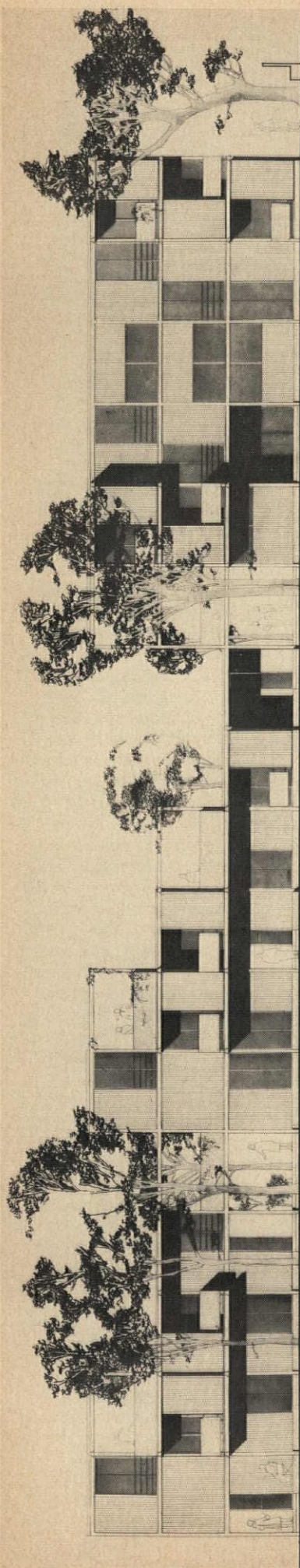
In Detroit, plans call for experiments with different



Photo: Ben Martin

fering much the same fate as lakes and rivers, with much the same dire results. As these wetlands are dredged away to provide landfill, or filled in with garbage and other pollutants, or paved for roads or housing developments, factories or marinas, several things happen. For one thing, removing or covering the nearly indestructible peaty salt marsh barriers destroys one of the greatest natural buffers against storms. High seas are absorbed by these marshes the way sponges absorb water. Like dunes, they protect the land behind them. Another thing that happens, ironically, is that some of man's most economically val-

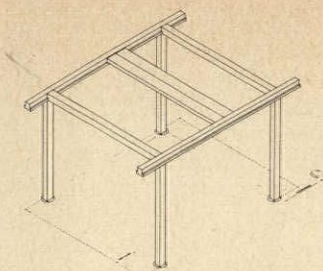
atively unalleviated areas of concrete, steel, and other man-made materials can appreciably change the climate. Everyone knows that it is usually warmer in the city than in the country. "The temperature tonight is expected to dip into the sixties in the city and into the upper fifties in the suburbs," announces the radio. And the reasons for this disparity are not hard to find. The rock-like materials of cities store heat more effectively than do trees and open land. Moreover, tall buildings keep cooling breezes from dispersing the heat. The rain and snowfalls in cities are allowed to run off in gutters so that the cooling effect of their



types of siding: steel, aluminum, plastic, asbestos, cement, and wood. Construction will be done by union labor. Since this is the first time the system has been tested on such a scale, and because here it is not a do-it-yourself project, costs may run as high as \$10 per sq ft. But HUD is picking up the extra tab. Neither bathroom nor kitchen will be prefabricated. "At this point, the prefab units on the market cost more than a piecemeal installation," explains Robert Mayers, a New York architect, who, with his partner John Schiff, is designing the Detroit housing for Mitchell. Schiff and Mayers have added some innovations to the system. They use the cross-beams, for instance, which cantilever 3' beyond the columns, to provide space — when two 10' units are placed back-to-back — for a bathroom and stairwell, or, on the exterior, a sunscreen. Using the basic unit, they have provided an amazing variety of configurations. Sometimes the frame is left open, forming a courtyard or an upstairs balcony. On the interior, they can form a two-story living room by omitting the roof panels at the first-floor level. Experiments with the porous concrete have reduced its weight to about 80 lb.

HUD plans to sell the units to persons in the area, offering them low-cost Government mortgages. The architects, Mitchell, Mayers, Schiff, and architectural consultants Bruno Leon & Associates of Detroit, went into the area to talk with prospective purchasers, asking them what they wanted in housing. Most liked the fact that the system allowed for low-cost additions as their families grew. To this end, the architects have run prefabricated plastic pipe stacks for bathroom plumbing to the third story in all five-bedroom houses although there is now no bathroom on these floors.

Thirteen of the units will be strung out on land that is now a parking lot owned by the Catholic Church. Four individual units will go up on vacant lots also owned by the Church. No land will be specially cleared; while enthusiastic about the low-cost housing, residents in the area



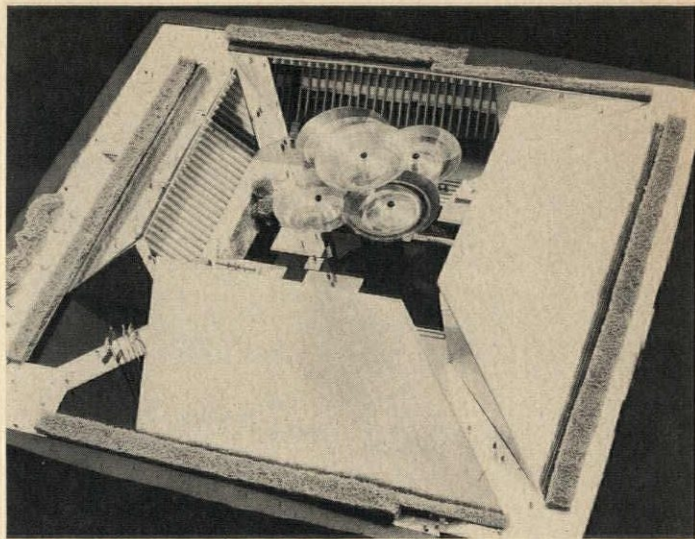
were vehemently opposed to any urban renewal that might be tied in with it.

Mitchell feels that his system could provide shelter in disaster areas. A plane could fly the abbreviated factory needed to turn out components to, say, the site of an earthquake in Turkey. Using

local materials, it could be turning out housing components within 12 hours.

In underdeveloped areas, the system has the advantage, besides being low cost, of encouraging the homeowner to improve his economic status. As his income improves, he could change the wall materials. And if, as Mitchell suggests, 16 pilings are sunk on an individual lot instead of a minimal four, the house could be gradually expanded without much extra help. According to one estimate, the original cost, including surveying, placing of pilings, and price of components, could be as little as \$300.

## CANADIAN PAVILION FIRST FOR EXPO 70

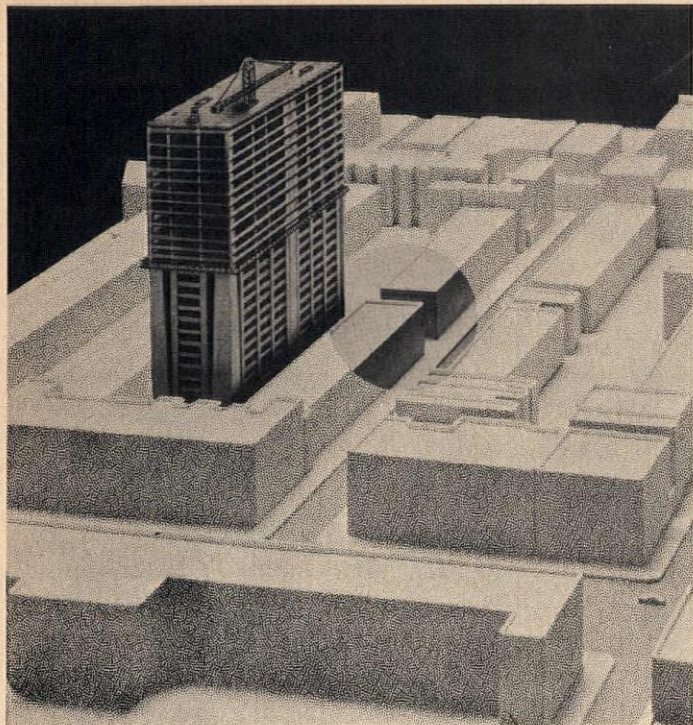


VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA Appropriately enough, the first pavilion announced for Expo 70, the international exposition to be held in Osaka, Japan, comes from Canada. It is the result of a two-stage, nationwide competition in which there were 207 entries. Winners are Erickson Massey, Vancouver architects, who started out to design a structure that looked as little like a world's fair building as possible. "We have seen enough of fair buildings recently," comments Arthur Erickson, whose firm designed the Man in the Community pavilion at Expo 67.

What they had to do, however, once the size of the exhibit space wanted was settled, was, as Erickson explains it, to "bring the building out of the ground." Model of the Canadian exhibit shows four shed type shelters ("A-frames

with one side extended to provide an overhang"), surrounding a central courtyard. The exterior surfaces of these sheds are sheathed in mirrors, to reflect the sky. One of the sheds will house a restaurant and exhibit offices; the others will hold the Canadian exhibit entitled "Discovery." Each shed, 65' long and 50' high, is hardly an invisible structure, but the mirrors will help them seem less obtrusive, reflecting as they will the surroundings from their 45° surfaces.

The interior courtyard, with reflecting pool, is thought of as a place to sit or walk through without having to view an exhibit. Above it will be five overlapping, rotating umbrellas on mirror-sheathed pedestals. On the undersides of the umbrellas, the architects plan to paint a work of art that will move and mesh as the umbrellas rotate.



## PLAN OFFERS HOUSING WITHOUT RELOCATION

NEW YORK, N.Y. A scheme for building new apartment units in crowded, run-down urban areas without displacing present tenants is being put forward by the firm of S.J. Kessler & Sons. Impossible? Not so, say the Kesslers, who have applied for a patent on their idea. What they propose is to build a high-rise structure in the now-vacant, contiguous backyards of urban tenements. Although originally proposed for use in Harlem, the scheme might be used in virtually any urban ghetto where backyards have little use besides depositories for garbage. They envision an apartment house approximately 53' wide, leaving 15' to 20' of space on either side, between it and the street-lining tenements. Perhaps one tenement would be removed to provide access for construction machinery and materials. Once the high-rise apartments were completed, the persons in the surrounding houses would be moved into them, and the site cleared to be turned into park and recreational facilities. The Kesslers believe that such construction could be done under present Federal 221 (d) 3 regulations, providing more spacious, sounder homes than current rehabilitation does. Some provision could be made at ground level for small busi-

nesses and underground space allocated for parking.

Many New York City agencies and organizations have offered encouragement, but, so far, none have offered to back a trial unit.

## ROCHESTER REVIEWS ITS RIVER

ROCHESTER, N.Y. Several years ago, the Rochester Society of Architects realized the need to acquaint citizens of this upstate New York city with the extent to which their lives are influenced by architectural design. As a first step, the society inaugurated an annual exhibition whose themes were calculated to stimulate public awareness of its environment as provided by nature and improved (or disfigured) by man. After some early exhibitions had presented a general view of the profession, the society dug in further with shows that concentrated on individual building types. Recently, hitting even closer to home, the Society ran an exhibition entitled "The River," which spotlights the city's most obvious physical feature.

It was the aim of the committee that arranged this year's exhibition, which ran from May through August, to expose existing conditions along the river, to point out the natural amenities it affords, to explain inappropriate uses of waterfront land, and

to suggest changes that would "bring the Genessee River into the city instead of allowing it to sneak by the back door as a sort of large-scale, open sewer." Such an aim involved, of course, a great deal of work on the part of society members, and it is hoped that the effort will not be wasted — as the waterfront has been.

At the river's mouth, the society proposes construction of a new, modern port facility with new warehouses, a boardwalk for visitors, a waterfront restaurant, and a marine museum. The river basin would be widened to accommodate ships and the increasing numbers of pleasure craft. As a point of attraction for tourists and boaters, a pavilion might be built to incorporate a fog horn and a beacon and form a sort of "River Gateway."

Other proposals include a large marina in the lower river near Lake Ontario, an apartment complex at the top of the gorge south of the Upper Falls, and a "River Plaza" complex of shopping and recreation facilities that would line both sides of the river in the downtown commercial district.

Fortunately, the society's interest in the river coincides with the thinking of city officials, some of whom, including the mayor, were on hand at opening ceremonies last May. Since then, the exhibit has been displayed in storefronts, office building lobbies, and at the county fairgrounds, so that a large segment of the Rochester public has had a chance to see and perhaps even to consider it.

## THE FINE ARTS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. Architects and city planners were waiting with some apprehension, in early August, for the White House to make decisions that could affect the future development of the nation's capital.

The decisions involve the composition of the prestigious Commission of Fine Arts, which is essentially a sort of architectural (and unpaid) review board, chartered by Congress to judge design proposals for new public buildings, parks, bridges, monu-

ments, and the like. It has no statutory power to enforce its judgements (and it can and has been ignored by Presidents), but its opinions have been increasingly important to the development of the capital.

Problem now is that, through the ire of former President Truman, who ignored decisions and refused to make appointments, terms of four of the commission's seven members have already expired or will expire soon. Thus, President Johnson could, with a mass appointment, completely change the character of the group — and with it, the character of the future city development.

All six members were appointed in 1963: artist William Walton, who is serving as chairman; planner Burnham Kelly; sculptor Theodore Roszak; critic Aline Saarinen; architect John Carl Warnecke, architect Gordon Bunshaft (whose term expires this month). All six will continue to serve until someone else is appointed, but the situation leaves only landscape architect Hideo Sasaki (whose term expires in 1970) serving on a continuing basis.

A prescribed system of staggered terms, considered essential by commission members for the sake of continuity, broke down when President Truman, annoyed because the then-existing group didn't like his plans for a porch on the south side of the White House, began to ignore the commission and didn't bother to replace members whose terms had expired. Thus the members were finally replaced as a group.

White House delay in naming new commissioners is due in part to an attempt to work out a new system of staggering terms; in part, apparently, to uncertainty about names of possible new appointees.

Of special concern to architects is the fact that, with encouragement from Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, the existing commission has assumed a powerful role — trying to turn poor plans into better ones, criticizing architects, even redesigning some projects. A wholesale replacement by people not oriented to what the existing commission has tried to do could

mean a complete change of signals for anyone attempting to design almost anything of monumental or official nature in Washington.

Although Gordon Bunshaft, chief opponent of the new AIA headquarters addition, is one of the commission members whose term is expiring, chances are he will not be replaced. Bunshaft, of course, is working on the LBJ Library in Austin, Tex., and it is probably safe to assume that the President will continue to seek his advice. Bunshaft's retention on the commission will no doubt doom any reconsideration of the AIA building.

Just how a change in the commission's membership could affect the FDR Memorial designed by Marcel Breuer is not certain. A bill is now pending in Congress suggesting that Breuer's version be built despite the Fine Arts Commission ruling. The bill would reverse the provision of an earlier bill making Fine Arts Commission approval mandatory for the memorial.

In normal circumstances, the Fine Arts Commission's rulings are merely recommendations. However, according to a provision of Shipstead-Luce Act in 1930, in certain "monumental" areas of the city — the Rock Creek Park area, for example — the commission acts with much the powers of a local zoning or planning board. Since the AIA land falls in one of these areas, the commission's ruling on it can only be reversed by decision of the district commissioners. Whether or not the AIA will appeal to the commissioners is undecided, and the matter is further complicated by a soon-to-be-carried-out consolidation of the district commissioner's offices, which will reduce the number of commissioners from three to one.

— E.E.H. JR.

## PERSONALITIES

**William H. Liskamm** of the San Francisco architecture and planning firm Okamoto/Liskamm has received the Arthur W. Wheelwright Fellowship in Architecture from Harvard University. The fel-

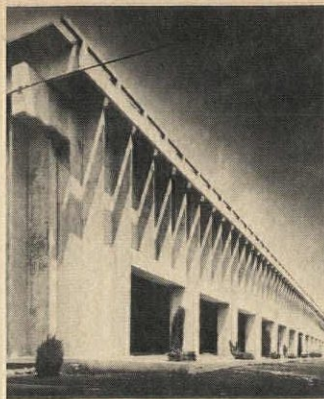
lowship will enable Liskamm to study transportation facilities, design, and development in various parts of the world while serving as visiting senior lecturer at the University of London for the academic year 1967-68 . . . At the request of the White House, **Charles Luckman**, New York architect, is attending the 43rd session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council in Geneva. Luckman is Special Advisor to the U.S. delegation . . . Head planner and architect for the Planning Office at Stamford University, **Royal H. Tyson**, was recently elected president of the Association of University Architects . . . For service to the profession, **George T. Rockrise**, Seattle architect and adviser on design to HUD Secretary Robert C. Weaver, was awarded a citation by the American Society of Landscape Architects.

## PCI PRESENTS AWARDS



1

CHICAGO, ILL. Eleven projects that demonstrate "interesting functional and economic use of precast and prestressed concrete" and take "liberal advantage of the inherent character of the material" were selected for honors in the Prestressed Concrete Institute's 1967 awards program. Judges for the competition were: Charles M. Nes, Jr., immediate past president of the AIA; Earle T. Andrews, president, American Society of Civil Engineers; Thomas M. Linville, president, National Society of Professional Engineers; Guy Desbarats, partner in the Canadian architectural firm of Affleck, Desbarats, Dimakopoulis, Lebensold, Sise; and MacDonald Becket, vice-president, Welton

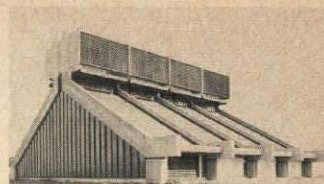


2

Becket & Associates.

Winning designs, which include five Canadian projects, were: Community Center (1) San Pedro, Calif., by Joncich, Lusby & Associates; Ohio Savings Association, Parma Heights, Ohio, by Don M. Hisaka & Associates; Toronto City Hall, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, by Viljo Revell and John B. Parkin Associates; Warehouse for Pleasantdale Corporation (2) Atlanta, Ga., by Martin & Bainbridge; Habitat 67, Cité du Havre, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, by Moshe Safdie & David, Barott, Boulva.

In addition, the Water



3

Tower and B.C. Hydro and Power Authority Communications Center, near Simon Fraser University, Burnaby Mountain, British Columbia, Canada, by Erickson Massy; Central Heating and Cooling Plant (3), University of Saskatchewan, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, by Clifford Wiens; Bay Area Rapid Transit System, San Francisco, Calif., elevated system by Tudor Engineering Company for Parsons-Brinckerhoff-Tudor-Bechtel, Donn Emons, consulting architect; Industrial Bridge for General Mills, Inc., West Chicago, Ill., by A. Epstein & Sons; Ardrossan Grade Separation, Highway #16, near Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, by McBride-Reagan, Consulting Engineers; Pedestrian Bridge for University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn., by Bruce McCarty & Associates.

## IT'S A CIRCUS!



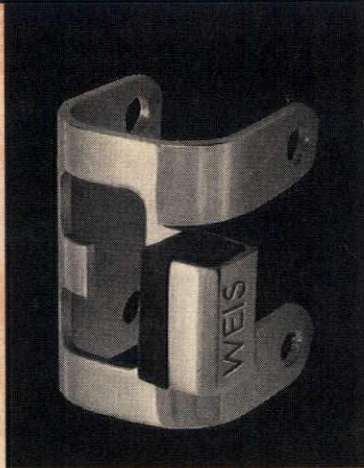
Photo: Ann Douglass

NEW YORK, N.Y. Like it's here, baby. The Electric Circus has come to town: a psychedelic blend of showmanship, big beat music, and pulsing projections. It is a discothèque located in an old Polish dance hall in East Greenwich Village. It has a little of the look of a high-school gym, transformed beyond the wildest dreams of the prom committee. It is an almost total environment. Playing in the wash of an apricot-colored light,

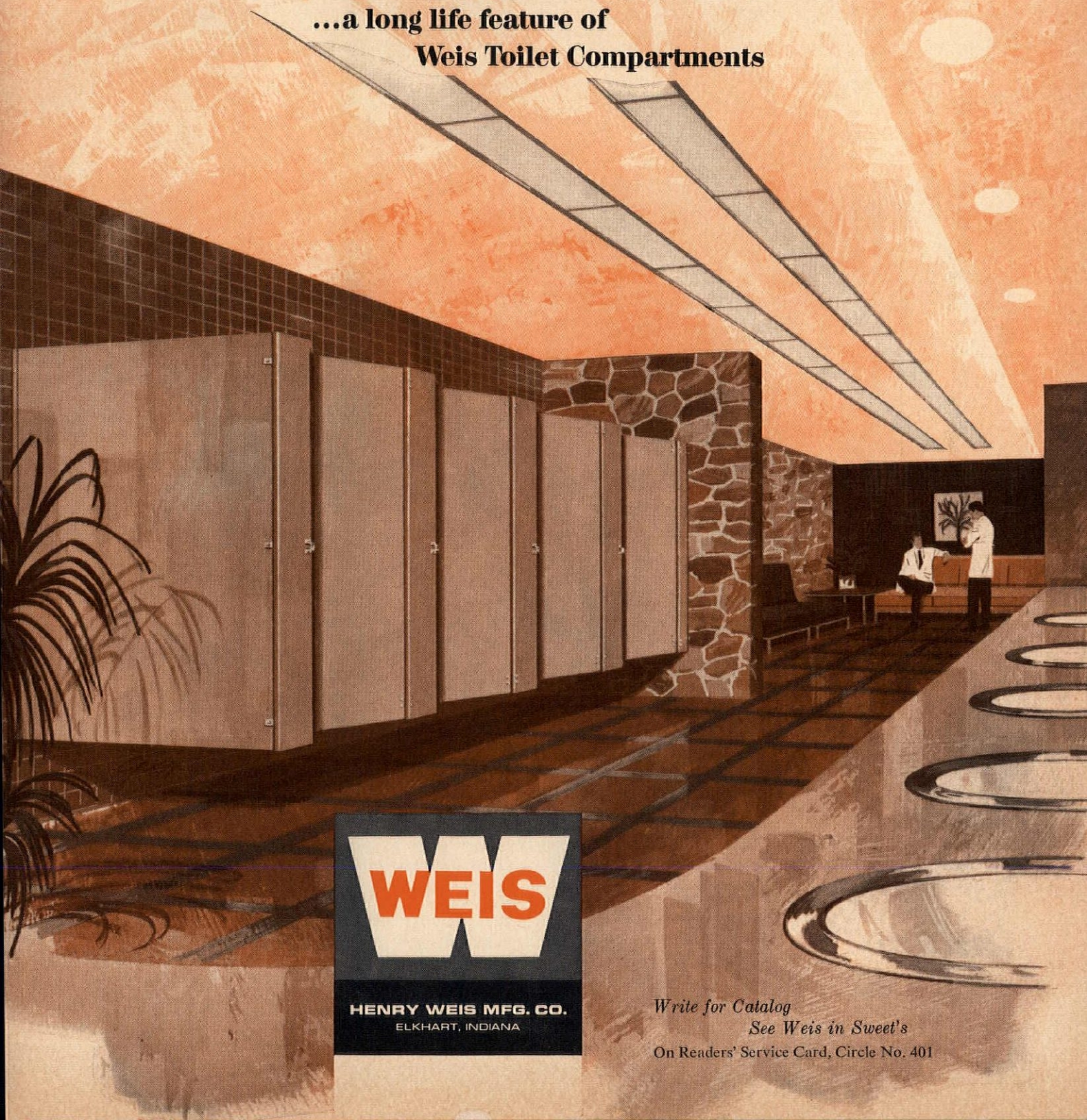
the band bangs out an electronically amplified beat. On the inside of a white wool canopy, draped beneath the ceiling like the roof of the German pavilion at Expo 67, projections appear. The room is lit only by their dancing colors, which flow like a gigantic mass of protoplasm exploded against the ceiling. Occasionally, a circus performer appears and does his act — juggling, escape, trapeze work — by strobe light.

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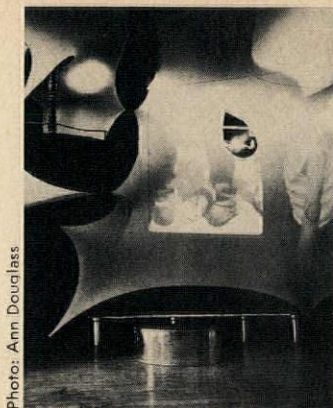
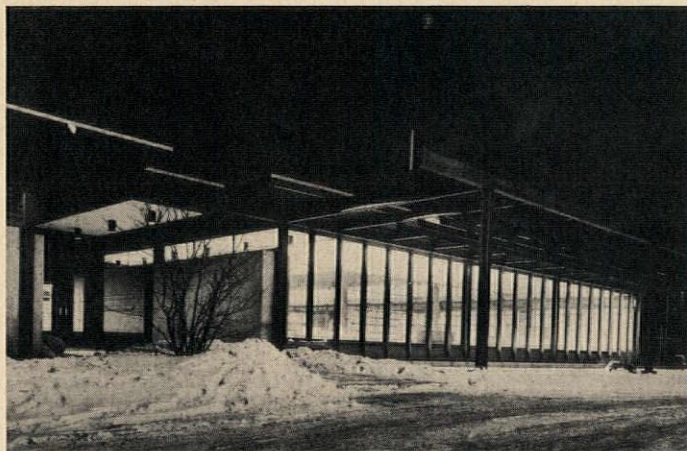


Photo: Ann Douglas

alize that Eric Bentley was right when he called the hippies "the middle class in fancy dress."

Architect was Bryan Scriven of Chermayeff & Geismar Associates, Inc.

## AISC AWARDS TO 12 STEEL-FRAMED BUILDINGS



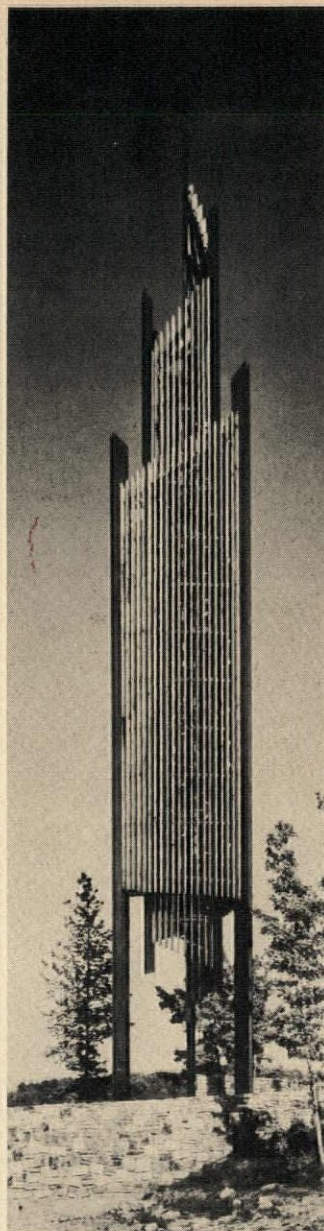
NEW YORK, N.Y. The American Institute of Steel Construction announced 12 winners last month in its annual awards program to honor aesthetic design with structural steel. The jury consisted of Henry Degenkolb of H.J. Degenkolb & Associates, Engineers; Robert L. Durham, AIA president; Robert F. Hastings, president of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls; Walter Sharp, Director of the Tennessee Fine Arts Center; and David N. Yerkes, Director of the AIA's Middle Atlantic Region. Jury members named all 12 winning buildings to receive Architectural Awards of Excellence. Awards went to:

Auditorium-Gymnasium, Fort Collins, Colo., by Bunts & Kelsey of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Washington & Lee High School Gymnasium, Montcross, Va., by Stevenson Flemer, Eason Cross, Harry Adreon, Associates, of Wash-



2

ington, D.C.; Forest Home Branch Library (1), Milwaukee, Wis., by von Grossman, Burroughs & Van Lanen of Milwaukee; Loutit Hall of Science, Grand Valley State College, Allendale, Mich., by Meathe, Kessler & Associates of Grosse Pointe, Mich.; Whitesboro Senior High School, Whitesboro, N.Y.,



3

by The Perkins & Will Partnership and Frank C. Delle Cese of White Plains, N.Y.; Health Sciences Instruction and Research Building (2), San Francisco, Calif., by Reid, Rockwell, Banwell & Tarics of San Francisco; Carillon (3), Stone Mountain, Ga., by Robert & Company of Atlanta; Westchester Tuberculosis and Public Health Association Office, White Plains, N.Y., by Joseph Roth of Yonkers, N.Y.; Ford Motor Credit Company Office, Dearborn, Mich., by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill of New York, N.Y.; a Parts Depot, Richmond, Calif., by Volkman & Stockwell, of San Francisco; the Charles F. Read Zone Center Building, Chicago, Ill., by E. Todd Wheeler and The Perkins & Will Partnership of Chicago; and an Office Building for the

ESCO Corporation, Portland, Ore., by Wolff, Zimmer, Gon-sul, Frasca of Portland.

In conjunction with the awards program, AISC's Board of Directors voted to extend a Special Award for Excellence to the St. Louis Gateway Arch in recognition of its outstanding achievement in aesthetics and technology.

## LUCKMAN BANK WINS CLEVELAND ACCLAIM



CLEVELAND, OHIO Directors of the Central National Bank of Cleveland agreed with the architects, Charles Luckman & Associates, that their 23-story headquarters building in downtown Cleveland should be restrained, neither flashy nor disruptive of regional tradition in building design.

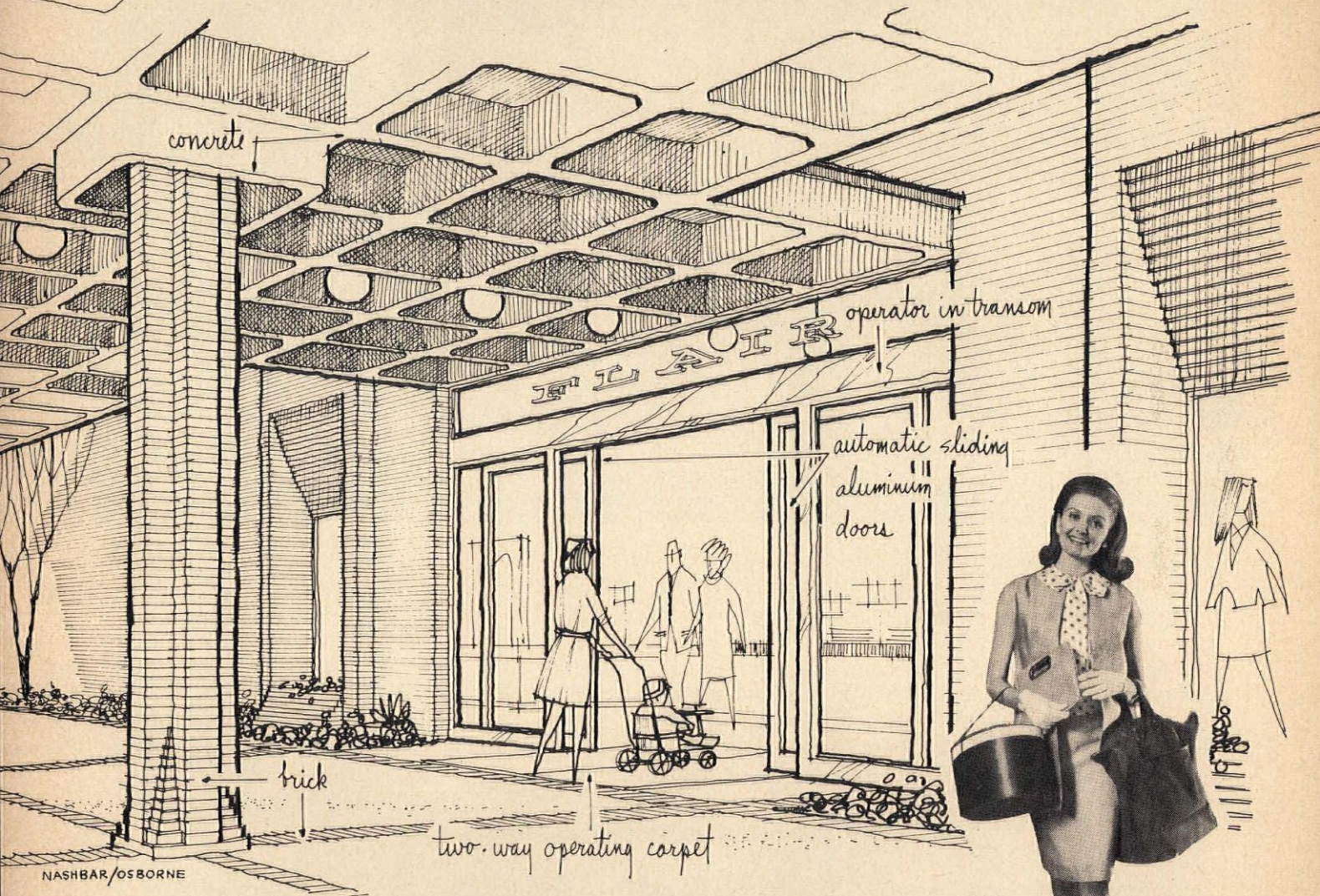
To be faced with brown brick and bronze-tinted glass with bronze-colored metal trim, the resulting structure fits the specifications. The boxlike building, with its vertical mullions and louver-like treatment of the upper stories, which house mechanical equipment, is quiet and inoffensive. It is, as the architect observes, "neither old nor new," neither beautiful nor ugly. Indeed, it seems to please almost everyone. In approving the design "with high commendation," the Cleveland Fine Arts Advisory Commission accorded it the highest praise it has given in five years and expressed its "great relief to have something that isn't in the language of all the other shiny buildings in the area."

Behind the office structure will be a seven-story garage for 350 cars, with three drive-in teller booths located near the garage entrance. Its

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of this ceiling surface—each 48" SPAN-DECK slab fits together perfectly to offer a minimum number of small, clean joints. Acrylic latex paint is all any SPAN-DECK ceiling requires—a definite savings in acoustical finishing materials and maintenance—THAT'S THE BEAUTY OF AN EXPOSABLE SOFFIT. For additional information, write your nearest SPAN-DECK supplier or Box 99, Franklin, Tennessee 37064.

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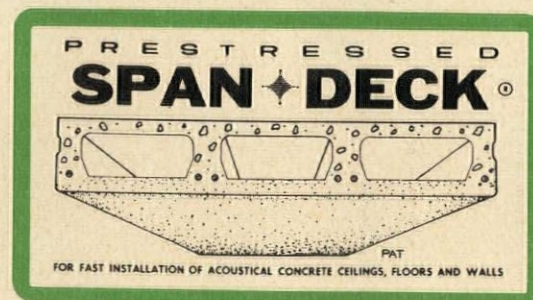
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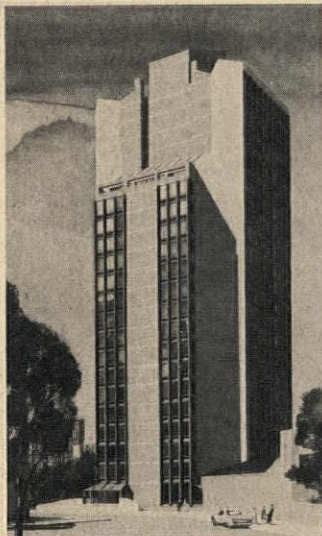


pierced walls will be covered with brick similar to that which will be used on the main building.

Restaurants and shopping facilities on the ground floor will open onto a 180'-long covered promenade that will connect bank and garage. Plans for landscaping include a reflecting pool.

Net rentable space, including 21 office floors and ground floor commercial space, is 530,000 sq ft. Construction will begin this month and should be completed late in 1969.

## MOORE DESIGNS TOWER FOR ELDERLY



NEW HAVEN, CONN. Pending approval by the New Haven Redevelopment Agency, a 22-story tower of apartments for the elderly designed by Charles Moore will get under way here by the end of the year. Sponsored by the Jewish Community Council, the tower will provide 217 apartments for persons over 62 with incomes below \$4800. As seen in the rendering, the building will have three walls of glass and steel, and one of masonry. Besides the 180 efficiency units, the building will contain a hobby shop, a sauna bath, and a large solarium with palm trees on the sixteenth floor, a beauty salon, and a private men's club. There will also be a dining room and commissary. A Federal loan from the Housing Assistance Adminis-

tration will pay for construction. The building is part of a \$15 million redevelopment complex at Church Street South and Columbus Avenue.

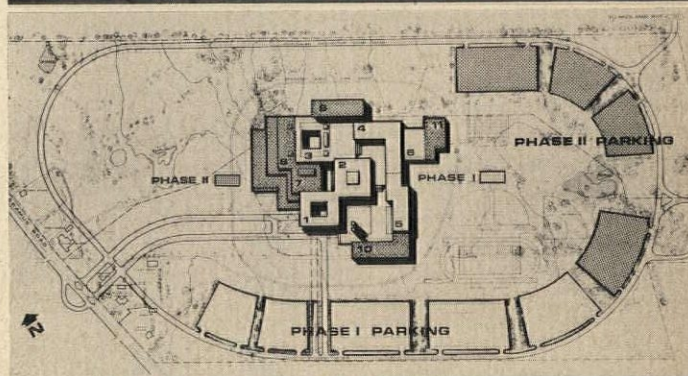
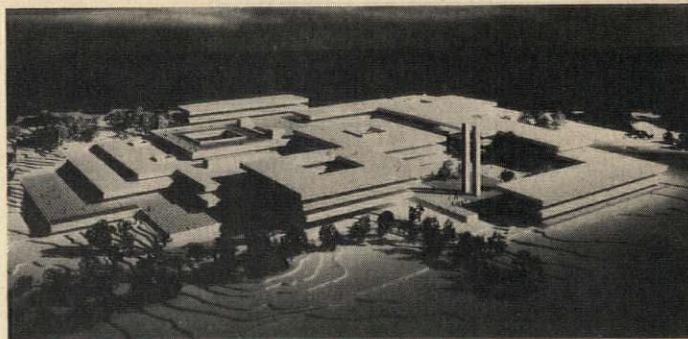
## CALENDAR

The Annual Meeting of the Porcelain Enamel Institute is scheduled to take place at the Greenbriar Hotel, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., September 24-27. For details, write to: John C. Oliver, Executive Vice President, PEI, 1900 L St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 . . . From October 1-4, the National Builders' Hardware Association and the American Society of Architectural Hardware Consultants will meet at the Palmer House in Chicago. More information is available from: Nels M. Nelson, 309 Ontario St., S.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 55414 . . . The AIA Committee on Health Environment will sponsor a workshop on programming the community mental health center, October 2-3 in Washington, D.C. Registration is limited to 150 applicants and must be accompanied by a fee of \$35. Registration forms are obtainable from: Mrs. Marilyn Ludwig at the Octagon, 1735 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006 . . . The Florida Chapter, AIA, plans its annual convention for October 5-8 at Hollywood's (Fla.) Diplomat Hotel. List of theme speakers includes Louis I. Kahn, and Columbia University's Albert Goldman, professor of literature . . . The California Council, AIA will stage its 22nd Annual Convention in San Diego's Mission Bay Park, October 5-8 . . . The AIA's New England Regional Conference will convene in Portland, Me., October 6-8. Theme of the sessions will be "Recreation: Re-create" . . . The Lions International is to sponsor a conference entitled "The City of the Future" at the University of Puerto Rico, October 16-18. Participants will include Margaret Meade, Dean Clarence Walton of Columbia University, Constantinos Doxiadis, and James W. Rouse . . . The Museum of Modern Art, 111 W. 53 St., New York, N.Y.,

will offer a one-day symposium entitled "Transportation Graphics: Where am I Going? How Do I Get There?" on October 23 . . . The Committee for Construction Industry Product Literature of the Producers' Council, Inc., has arranged to hold its Second Conference on Product Literature and Advertising in Chicago's Drake Hotel, October 23-24. Write for information to: Product Literature Conference, Producers' Council, Inc., 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 . . . November 9 is the date selected for the Fourth An-

nual Design Conference sponsored by the Society of the Plastics Industry. Place will be the Americana Hotel, New York City . . . The 11th Semiannual Meeting of Consulting Engineers Council of the U.S. will be held November 15-17 at the Olympic Hotel, Seattle, Wash. . . . An Interprofessional Conference on Environmental Design will convene November 16-18 at the Education Center of the University of Maryland. Sponsoring organization is the interprofessional Commission on Environmental Design, an alliance of six professional groups.

## SINGLE STRUCTURE FOR NEW COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### LEGEND

PHASE I	PHASE II
1 ADMINISTRATION	7 FINE ARTS
2 LIBRARY	8 STUDENT UNION
3 STUDENT UNION	9 SCIENCE
4 SCIENCE	10 HUMANITIES
5 HUMANITIES	11 PHYS. ED.
6 PHYS. ED.	

PARAMUS, N.J. A new two-year college to serve residents of Bergen County, N.J., will be housed in a complex but well-proportioned "mega-structure," according to the master plan developed by Frank Grad & Sons, Newark architects and engineers. The plan, approved by the college's board of trustees in late July, calls for two phases of construction, the first to provide 400,000 sq ft of space and facilities for 2000 full-time and 4000 part-time students. In the second phase,

expansion will bring total floor space to 900,000 sq ft to accommodate 5000 full-time and 10,000 part-time students.

Construction will begin next year on the 167-acre former site of the Orchard Hills Country Club in Paramus, with completion of the first phase scheduled for early fall of 1970.

The master plan was carefully thought out in relation both to the academic program of the school and to the needs of the community. The

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individual academic and career departments are related architecturally to the library, and were located with regard to their mutual interrelationship and probable use by the community. Administration and fine arts sections of the building will be placed near each other and close to parking areas, since they are most likely to attract outside visitors. A 400-seat performing arts theater is part of this section. The physical education "building" will be furthest from the academic area and adjacent to the athletic fields. As the library is the logical core of academic life, so the student union, with bookstore, dining hall, and leisure area, is the dominant feature of social activity. Recognizing its importance as a binding factor in a student body composed to a great extent of commuters, the architect gave it a prominent position on the perimeter of the plan near the administration and fine arts facilities.

The building that will contain all these facilities is a three-level, terraced structure of concrete and masonry that will project naturally from the gentle slope of a hillside.

In size, it will approximate the area of six square city blocks. Outdoor terraces and landscaped patios flow into each other to connect various levels of the building, while internal corridors, for use in winter or inclement weather, communicate with various elements within the structure.

Construction in the first phase is expected to cost \$17 million. Construction costs for the entire campus will be shared equally by the state and Bergen County; operational costs will be divided among state, county, and student body.

### COMPETITIONS

One of the nation's largest architectural awards, the New York Chapter's **Brunner Scholarship Grant**, is open to any citizen of the U.S. who is engaged in the practice of architecture or a related field. The award, which carries a stipend of \$6000, is made for advanced study in a special field of architectural investigation that is expected to

contribute to the practice, teaching, or knowledge of the architectural profession. Application forms are available from H. Dickson McKenna, Executive Director, New York Chapter, AIA, 115 E. 40 St., New York, N.Y.; proposals will be reviewed until January 15, 1968. . . . Members of chapter, state, and regional divisions of the AIA are urged to submit material for presentation to the AIA Committee on Institute Honors for 1968 national medals and citations. Entry blanks are obtainable from: AIA, The Octagon, 1735 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006, will be accepted until December 1, 1967. Submissions must be mailed before February 16, 1968. Awards will be presented at the AIA convention in June.

### BULGING BOSTON BANK

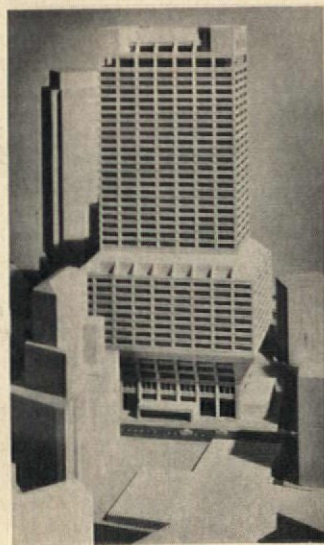


Photo: Hokian Karas

BOSTON, MASS. The First National Bank of Boston plans a \$40-million headquarters structure that will provide 1,463,046 sq ft of space in 37 stories. Rising from a landscaped plaza, the building will bulge outward 30' beyond the vertical on all four sides from the sixth to the thirteenth floors, a protrusion that gives the building a little of the look of a streamlined gourd.

Demolition of buildings now on the site, including the old Chamber of Commerce Building, will begin this fall. The bank expects to occupy about 1 million sq ft of space and lease the rest. Architects are Campbell, Aldrich & Nulty.

### PERIL OF THE IMPERIAL

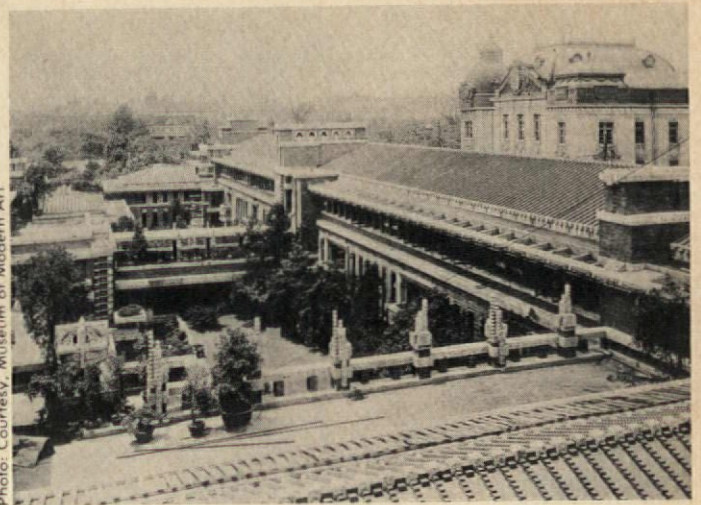


Photo: Courtesy, Museum of Modern Art

TOKYO, JAPAN The Imperial Hotel is too old (at 44 years), too inefficient to operate, and too wasteful of urban space. For all its value as architecture and its international traditions, which have made it a symbol of Tokyo and sought out by thousands of travelers, times have changed, and Wright's hotel is slated to make way for a 23-story replacement.

For years, the hotel's owners and management have been considering replacing the buildings with a new one, but the final decision was made only early this year. Since then, architects have been selected, application for a building permit has been filed, and demolition has been scheduled for November at the earliest. Exact determination of the demolition schedule is pending city action on the application for a building permit; since the hotel is in a "scenic area," action is being delayed by the Marunouchi controversy (see p. 61, JUNE 1967 P/A).

Although there had been talk in the past of retaining at least the lobby (while discarding the wings (construction of which was not personally supervised by Wright) and erecting a U-shaped building embracing the old lobby, such considerations seem to have no place in the owner's plans. Nevertheless, the newly formed Society for Preservation of the Imperial Hotel is concentrating efforts on retention of the building at its present site. The Society is considering several proposals, including one advocating turning the hotel into a public library, but its chances of success seem bleak. The hotel

owners reportedly have no intention of doing more than retaining a single pillar as a "monument" to Wright and his building.

Many in the preservation movement have expressed the opinion that the national government should recognize the importance of the problem, not merely because of the nature of the old Imperial itself but because of the broader issue of the significance of individual buildings in the urban environment, and the need for proper evaluation and treatment of works of modern architecture. Architectural historian Seiken Fukuda thinks that resolution of the problem need not be accomplished on a purely commercial basis; the government could merely act on behalf of the people. But the general reaction from official quarters is that the building cannot be saved, and this may well make the difference between success and failure for the society.

Perhaps the major potential weapon the Society has becomes operative only if the government decides to work for preservation of the building. The site is 95% nationally owned land and the property of the Imperial Household Agency, which had the first Imperial (which burned) and the Wright-designed hotel built, to be used as a state guest house and as a first-class modern hotel for Japan. On this basis, it has been suggested that an alternate site be made available to the hotel owners, so that the old Imperial could be preserved. Whatever does happen, some change in ownership of the

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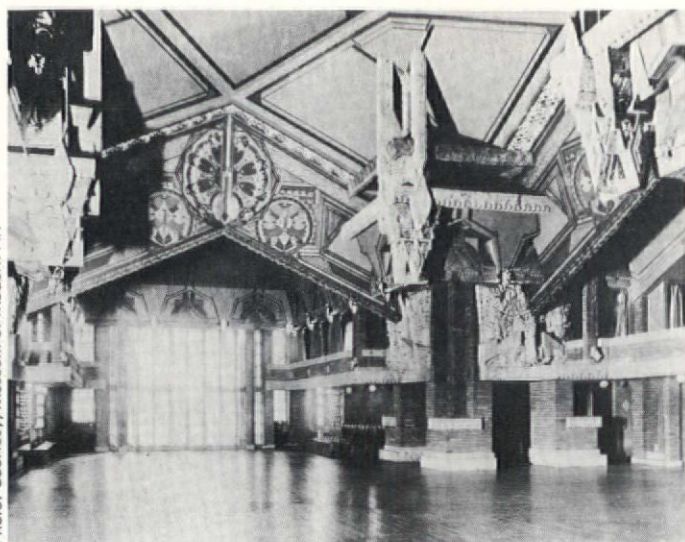
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CEILING SYSTEMS BY  
**Armstrong**



land is due. When the old Imperial is demolished, the lease will have terminated. The Finance Ministry has therefore told the hotel owners to buy the land or return it to the state. The site is assessed at about \$11 million, but may be worth considerably more if placed on the market.

Because of the great expense entailed in moving even a part of the hotel for a short distance, and because the hotel needs a good deal of geriatric care, there has even been a proposal that an entirely new Imperial Hotel be built at an as-yet-undetermined site, according to Wright's original plans. This would cost less than relocation, it is believed. Perhaps this may be linked to the Ise Shrine tradition of periodic reconstruction of wooden architecture, and although the proposal does not seem to have much of a chance, it certainly offers food for thought to architectural theorists.

If relocation is possible, the most likely site would seem to be in Hibiya Park, located on the other side of the street from the hotel. The park could use redesigning, and would benefit from the hotel's presence. The emendation of laws required for this would be far simpler than suggested in other proposals.

An Imperial Hotel spokesman has stated, "We will pre-

serve as much of Wright's concept in the new building as we can"; but the architect is to be Teitaro Takahashi, who designed the annex, called the New Imperial, which was built in 1958 and denounced by Wright. No faith can thus be placed in the hotel's statement of professed interest in preservation.

This year is the centennial of Frank Lloyd Wright's birth. Of his early works, both Midway Gardens and the Larkin Building have been demolished, and if the Imperial Hotel is to be saved, it requires immediate action. Statements of support or proposals can be sent to the Society, c/o Prof. Gaijiro Fumishima, Department of Architecture, University of Tokyo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo. It would certainly be a fitting memorial to Wright if his hotel were to be preserved, even though he detested what had been done to it, because through preservation, restoration becomes possible for the first time. In his last letter to architect Antonin Raymond, who worked for him, Wright requested that a "devastating electric sign" be removed from the banquet hall. They had mutilated his building, Wright said, and now there is a chance — although a small one — that the mutilation can be atoned for.

— MARTIN COHEN of the *Japan Times*

## SCHOOLS

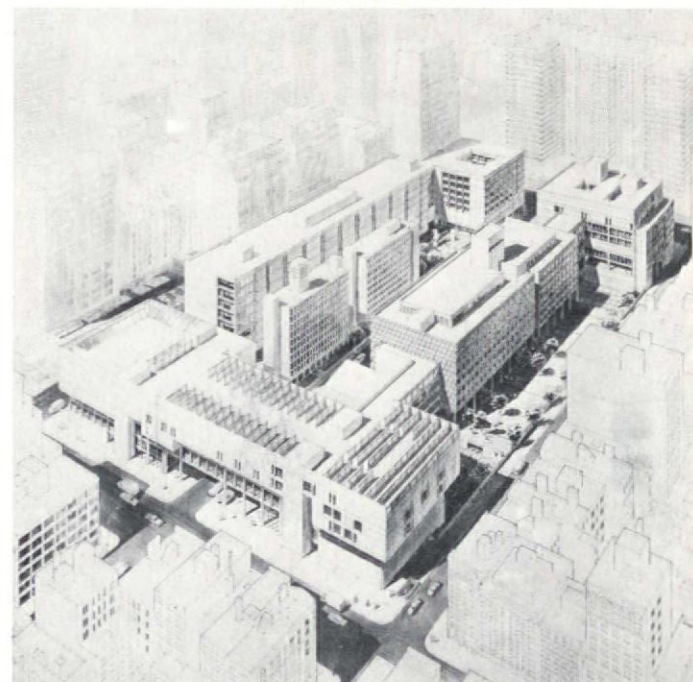
Forty-six students and graduates of the **Columbia University School of Architecture** are traveling and studying in the U.S. and Europe

under the \$59,000 William Kinne Fellows Memorial Traveling Fellowship program. Stipends for individual scholars range from \$1200 to

\$1500 . . . At **Harvard University's Graduate School of Design**, Albert Szabo was recently elected a professor of architecture, and Gerhard Michael Kallmann was appointed professor with the stipulation that will continue his private practice . . . New associate dean of the **College of Environmental Design** at the **University of California's Berkeley** campus is Henry J. Lagorio . . . Head of the newly organized department of visual studies

in the **Clemson School of Architecture** is Robert H. Hunter, associate professor of architecture . . . Richard R. Whitaker, Jr., director of educational programs for the AIA, has been appointed associate professor of architecture at the **University of Colorado** . . . Chicago's Commissioner of Development and Planning, John G. Duba, will head the civil engineering faculty at the **Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn** in New York.

## URBAN INSTITUTE OF FASHION



NEW YORK, N.Y. New York's Fashion Institute of Technology plans to expand from its present building on West 26th Street into an urban campus. A \$30 million program will add a dormitory, an auditorium, an academic building, a student center, a design lab, a library, and an arts building by 1973. As much of the ground level as possible will be kept open and continuous. Circulation through the buildings will be provided at the third-story level. Eventually,

27th Street, between 7th and 8th Avenues, will be surrounded by Institute buildings and will be closed to traffic and turned into a landscaped pocket-sized interior campus.

When construction is completed, the Brooklyn Museum plans to turn its collection of fashions over to the Institute for permanent storage and display, and for use by the students. Architects are deYoung & Moscovitz; Philip deYoung, partner-in-charge; Youssef S. Bahri, project designer.

## WASHINGTON/FINANCIAL NEWS

by E. E. HALMOS, JR.

**Urban Legislation Rush** — It is now certain that Congress will crank out a bill aimed at urban housing before this session is over — and that

the final result will be a major switchover from existing philosophy on such matters:

It will lean heavily on private enterprise as a source of

# Now a roof board that "breathes" with no loss of insulation value— **CELRAMIC®-BOARD**

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On Readers' Service Card, Circle No. 386

funds and know-how, relegating the Government role to adviser and monitor; and it will also attempt to make it possible for slum-dwellers to become homeowners, perhaps by substituting "sweat equity" (labor on the project) for cash down payments.

Sadly, passage of such legislation will owe a debt to the tragic rioting that has swept so many urban centers: It is aimed at eliminating some of the causes of big-city unrest by providing adequate housing.

What comes out of Congress may have little to do with the immediate task of cleanup and rebuilding — that's likely to be handled on an emergency basis. Here, the aim is a long-term, effective solution for low-income housing. It will certainly dictate a major change both in the agencies for which architects will be working, and in the over-all concept with which they approach the task.

Basis for this new approach exists in three key bills now before the Senate: a bill bearing the endorsement of most Republicans (S. 1592), presented by Illinois' freshman Senator Percy; and two related bills (S. 2011 and S. 2088), authored by New York's Robert Kennedy. Percy's bill went into the hoppers early in April, Kennedy's in late July. The measures are complementary in some respects, and are worth a close look.

**The Percy Proposal** — Percy's bill (the "National Home Ownership Foundation Act") would create a private, nonprofit "National Home Owners' Foundation," which in turn would organize local community groups (of businessmen, clergy, charitable organizations, slum dwellers), which would plan for development of low-cost housing for sale, obtain financing (with guarantees from the Government) and would even offer counselling to prospective owners to the extent of family planning.

Prospective owners could contribute cash as downpayment and monthly payments (in a cooperative venture, or a condominium), or they could contribute labor to its construction (or rehabilitation) to

take the place of a cash equity, paying out the rest of the mortgage in regular monthly installments.

Property would be acquired by the local nonprofit group, which would finance all initial work for construction or rehabilitation, backing an initial loan from the Federal "Foundation" with the mortgages and the property itself.

**Kennedy's Call to Action** — Kennedy's "Urban Housing Bill" could be complementary: It calls for tax-incentives for private industry of any kind as reward for investment of money and knowhow in low-income city housing — through such devices as mortgage insurance up to 80% of costs, interest rates at 2%; tax incentives on property (if the project contains 100 units or more), further incentives on general corporate taxes, if the corporation wants to invest in such housing.

In addition, the "Industrial Incentive Act" (S. 2011) would be a try at providing jobs and training in skills to slum-dwellers, who could be employed on constructing the low-income housing that would be authorized in the first measure. Industries volunteering to employ "significant numbers" of unskilled or semiskilled local residents on such jobs would get further incentives that would include a deduction of 25% additional (thus 125% deduction) on all salaries paid to such employees, plus other deductions on machinery and equipment used in training programs, and the like.

A number of somewhat similar measures have been introduced in the House.

**Meaning for Architects** — Significant for architects — beyond the social objectives — is that sponsors of these bills have expressed: (1) growing Congressional impatience with the slow progress and blunderings of existing Government attempts to build low-rent housing; (2) acceptance of a principle long advocated by social scientists, city officials, and some architects: less displacement, less discontent, less problem, if salvageable residence properties are rehabilitated, rather than bulldozed out of existence for

eventual replacement by new (and often unfamiliar and unfriendly) structures; (3) the belief that if slum-dwellers can really get an equity on their homes, the tinder for destructive riots won't be quite so dry.

**A-E Procurement, Cont.** — Architects and other professionals who have been working for legislation to clarify the question of professional fees and contract awards seemed to have the feeling that, with friends like Wisconsin's Senator Proxmire, they had no need of enemies.

While a six-Society "Committee on Federal Procurement of A-E Services" was at work on a suggested bill on the subject (and trying to decide on a proper legislator as sponsor), the often-maverick Proxmire rushed into the breach and introduced a bill of his own (S. 2089).

In the view of the professionals, the Proxmire bill was worse than nothing at all: It would flatly eliminate the 6% fee limitation now in force (as recommended by both the societies and the General Accounting Office), but it would place total reliance on "Truth in Negotiation" laws that would, in effect, enforce bidding on a price basis for professional service contracts.

Richard H. Tatlow, III, chairman of the "committee," tried to be tactful in a statement on the Proxmire action: He said the proposal is "not a satisfactory solution," but added that his group is "hopeful that future measures introduced by other Senators and Congressmen will include clarification of the fact that architects and engineers cannot be expected to submit competitive price proposals on work that has not yet been designed, and for which even feasibility may not yet be established." Tatlow couldn't keep out a sharper comment, though: "We are appalled at any suggestion that professionals be secured on the basis of negotiated or competitive bids."

In effect: Thank you very much, Senator Proxmire.

(Another Congressional check into matters of concern to architects were hearings opened early in August by the Senate Public Works Com-

mittee, into progress of "value engineering" programs both in the military construction areas, and in civilian construction agencies of the Government.)

**Financial** — Overshadowing any other financial consideration was what now appears to be an inevitable boost in taxes, though whether it will come in the form of the "surtax" proposed by the President in his January budget message, or something else, isn't yet clear. But there's no doubt that the national deficit for Fiscal Year 1968 will run well over \$20 billion — even with a tax rise — and something will have to be done. Economists, noting one of the strongest trends in history of money flowing into savings institutions in the first half of 1967, fear that prospects of a heavy tax increase will cut off the flow, thus reducing money available for financing construction work.

□ Along with total new-home construction starts, sales of new one-family homes were down again in April (compared to a year ago), according to the Census Bureau. In the month, actual sales were listed at \$45,000 — up from March, but down 4% from 1966.

□ State and local governments continue to increase their public works spending. In the 12 months ending in March 1967, according to Census Bureau figures, the local governments spent \$20,400,000,000 for new construction — an increase of about \$2 billion, or 11% over the previous 12-month period. Almost half of the money was spent on streets and roads; about a quarter went for educational facilities.

□ Over-all, the construction industry was performing just about as predicted during the first half of the year. In May, the seasonally adjusted annual rate of new construction put in place was about even with the year before — \$72,400,000,000. That's actually a very slight percentage behind 1966, but with the normal summer pickup, the industry was expected to just about hit last year's total (around \$76 billion) when all the reports are in. It will be the first time in more than 10 years that a new dollar-volume record will not be set.



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# THE PRESCON MEMO NEWS

THE PRESCON CORP.: 502 CORPUS CHRISTI STATE NATIONAL BUILDING — CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78401

## COLUMN-FREE AREAS REDUCED COSTS AND FASTER COMPLETION GAINED BY POST-TENSIONING



*These three projects emphasize the scope of Prescon operations. Twenty offices offer assistance to architects, engineers and contractors to gain the advantages the Prescon System offers.*

Eleven precast and post-tensioned prestressed concrete frames give architectural unity and expression to the new Chapel and Dining Hall for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur in Fairfield, Conn. Designed by J. G. Phelan and Associates, and Fletcher-Thompson, Inc. Architects and Engineers, Bridgeport, Conn., 22 peripheral frame columns support the main Chapel floor and rise from the Ambulatory to a height of 55'. Saddle-shaped concrete beams connected to the column at the top, to form rigid frames, rise from 46' to 65' height and support the roof.

The prestressed concrete frame components were precast and prestressed as individual units. They were assembled in their final position to form rigid frames. The bent frame spans range from 56' to 78'.

Beams and columns were post-tensioned immediately after the concrete reached a strength of 4,000 psi. They were assembled to rigid frames by post-tensioning the junction. Prescon Type S grouted tendons were used.

The frame beams are designed for simple bending under their own weight and part of the dead roof load. The balance of dead load, snow and wind forces are resisted by frame action. The columns were prestressed to resist wind loads, to absorb the tensile stresses from frame action and to prevent bending cracks during handling and erection. The compressive force resulting from beam end-reaction and bending moment was transferred into the column thru a lead pad, to provide uniform stress distribution.

It is estimated that the methods and construction used greatly reduced costs. Precasting saved \$22,500, and prestressing steel was slightly over \$1,000 per frame. Reduction in steel weight afforded in additional savings in material handling.

Prestressing the concrete frames eliminated cracks due to shrinkage, bending, and handling, resulting in controlled deflection and a structure more than twice as rigid as one designed by conventional methods.

Contractor: E. & F. Construction Company, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

**\$12,000,000 Mills Square Complex** is central stressed with Prescon tendons. Located in San Mateo, Calif., this 3-building complex — 9 story office building, 9 story apartment building and 4 story hospital plus 3 lower levels of parking for 680 cars — largest central stressed project in the United States, used central stressing to eliminate pour strips, and speed up construction schedules. In the garage area the use of steel expansion joints prevented conventional end stressing, complicated expansion joint construction, and demanded an all too rigid sequence of placing concrete. Central stressing solved these problems. There is a total of 700,000 sq. ft. of floor space.

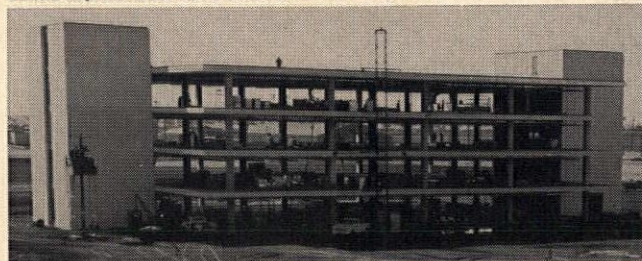
The floor system has spans up to 28' in two directions, with 8" flat slabs post-tensioned in both directions. Central stressing was used where needed to simplify construction or speed up concrete placing. Post-tensioning eliminated slab deflection and allowed greater flexibility in placing interior walls, and elimi-

nated many columns in the parking garage, allowing easier self-parking.

Central stressing tendons varied from 4 wire to 10 wire Prescon Type X (central stressed) tendons, with conventional Type S (standard end stressed) tendons used where central stressing was not required. Blockouts for stressing the Type X tendons were formed of plywood with each side sloped slightly to facilitate early removal of the form and allow reuse. Blockouts were located at approximately the quarter point of one of the spans near a point  $\frac{2}{3}$  the length of the tendon. Exact location was determined by the position of the nearest quarter point of a span near the 60' dimension.

The stressing blockouts for adjacent tendons were located on alternate sides of a column strip. This prevented any conflict of blockout forms and reduced the chance of temporarily weakening the slabs. The first two elevated slabs terminated against an embankment supported by sheet piling. Conventional end stressing was impossible in this area. Type X, central stressed, tendons terminated at this point with dead end anchorages, allowing the concrete to be placed hard against the sheet piling. Spacing of tendons averaged approximately 36" on center in the middle strip, and 24" on center in the column strip.

Owner: San Mateo Civic Center Associates, San Mateo, Calif. Architect: DeWolf & Associates, AIA, San Mateo, Calif. Structural Engineer: T. Y. Lin, Kulka, Yang & Associate, San Francisco, Calif. General Contractor: Stolte, Inc., Oakland, Calif. Owners Representative: Alex Groszard, Menlo Park, Calif.



**Collins Radio Corporate Headquarters** post-tensioned with Prescon tendons. Twenty columns support a prestressed concrete area of 25,000 square feet per floor in the four-story headquarters in Richardson, Texas. This remarkable, yet simple structural system yielded an economical and functional building with a long span, thin floor system for clean, crisp lines.

Large column-free areas enabled flexible office arrangement. Bays are 41'-8" x 37'-6", floors and roof slabs cantilevered 8'-4" beyond the north and the south column lines, and 12'-6" beyond the east and the west column lines to reduce heat load and sun glare. Live load requirement was 100 pounds per square foot.

Analysis by the Owner's Construction Division determined that a post-tensioned waffle slab offered the best solution to cost, time, and construction depth requirements. Such construction would also allow deflection control by choice of size and positioning of the Prescon tendons. The waffles were 3'-5" square with a 9" wide rib 16" deep, plus a 3½" slab.

Concrete for each floor and the roof was placed in two days. Tensioning began when concrete reached 3000 psi which was 5 to 6 days later. Forms and shores were then immediately removed. Some reshoring was required while concrete was placed at the next level, and remained in place until the new slab was stressed.

It is estimated that 2 weeks were saved in constructing the frame, and \$25,000 in costs by using a post-tensioned prestressed concrete structural system.

Owners: Collins Radio Co. Consulting Engineers: Terry-Rosenlund & Co., Dallas, Tex.

*The advantages that often can be gained by post-tensioning prestressed concrete makes it important that the Prescon System be considered in your project design. Write for literature.*

## THE PRESCON CORPORATION

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On Readers' Service Card, Circle No. 389

# PRODUCTS

## ACOUSTICS



### Solid-state circuitry for sound reinforcement in auditoriums.

A new solid-state, control console provides better sound control in auditoriums. It makes possible a multitude of sound reinforcement operations: volume control for 13 to 18 loudspeakers (stereophonic or monaural), a cueing system for tapes and discs, monitor and intercom systems for the technical staff, tape recording from live or recorded programs, and dual metering. The controls are under a locked lid. The whole system can be set up on site within two hours, claims manufacturer. Acoustical Laboratories, Inc., 509 W. 2nd North, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Circle 100, Readers' Service Card

## AIR/TEMPERATURE

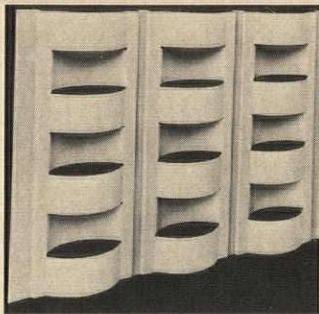


**Cooling fountain.** Floating spray device converts ponds into water cooling facilities. Main advantage of submersible propeller pump unit, anchored by cables, and powered by submersible electric cable, is its simplicity in converting existing ponds to cooling facilities—no piping, or discharge nozzles are necessary. Unit sprays cool subsurface water into the air, where it evaporates, producing the cooling effect. Welles Products Corp., Roscoe, Ill. 61073.

Circle 101, Readers' Service Card

## CONSTRUCTION

**Exterior refacing panel.** The C/A Alumatex II building refacing panel is fabricated from sheets of 16 gage aluminum. Two basic panel patterns are available: diamond and elliptical. These may be alternated, staggered, or inter-



mixed for variety. For additional variations, each pattern may be elongated; and each is available in clear or color finishes. Pattern modules measure 8" x 3" x 3", and panels, 8" x maximum 12'-6". They are designed for installation by screwing the tongue-and-groove panels to horizontal members. Construction Specialties, Inc., 55 Winans Ave., Cranford, N.J. 07016.

Circle 102, Readers' Service Card

## DOORS/WINDOWS

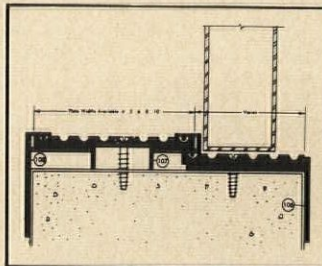
**The side slide door.** Store doors can now slide automatically to the side, leaving up to 63" for passage without using valuable interior floor space. Installed with single or double



door panels, the "Auto-Slide" is said to take half the installation time of comparable doors because of special head and jamb design. Positive door alignment is maintained by heavy-duty one-piece extruded aluminum construction with built-in rollers, claims manufacturer. The compact pneu-

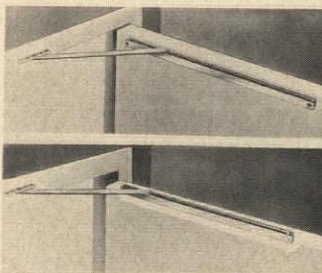
matic operator adjusts sliding speed to suit store traffic. The Stanley Works, 195 Lake St., New Britain, Conn. 06050.

Circle 103, Readers' Service Card



**Adjustable sill.** Two-plate aluminum saddles for roof-exits and fire doors telescope to fit nonstandard sills. Either plate may be specified to adjust to sill depths from 6" to 20". Zero Weatherstripping Co., Inc., 415 Concord Ave., New York, N.Y. 10455.

Circle 104, Readers' Service Card



**Door holders.** Overhead door holders fit doors up to 48" wide. Extruded bronze units may be attached to door surface or concealed within it. They are applicable to both exterior and interior doors, and are available in friction and nonfriction models. Some units can be made to hold door open by merely turning a knob. Sargent & Co., 100 Sargent Dr., New Haven, Conn. 06509.

Circle 105, Readers' Service Card

## FINISHES PROTECTORS

**Garage deck coating.** Garage decks can be protected from salts dripping from cars, and from oil and gasoline spillage by a low-cost deck coating. Costing 10 to 15¢ per sq ft, it is said to penetrate and seal surface pores of the concrete. It thus remains effective despite concrete wear. Application is in two steps: a base coat seals the concrete pores, and a finish coat provides added resistance to corrosive

substances. Coating can be applied to freshly placed concrete. Dewey and Almy Chemical Division, W. R. Grace & Co., Cambridge, Mass.

## FURNISHINGS



**Various vinyls.** Five vinyl flooring textures are added to Amtico's line: "Cabochon" is a pebble-like mosaic swirl of ever-widening circles. Colors include pearl, topaz, and emerald mingled with sapphire. "Kaleidoscope" is a pattern of tiny polished pebbles in 50 colors. A tartan-like pattern, "Plaid," features a criss-cross of shiny streaks against a rough background. Selection also features "Carbouche," and "Basketry." American Biltrite Rubber Co., Inc., Trenton, N. J. 08607.

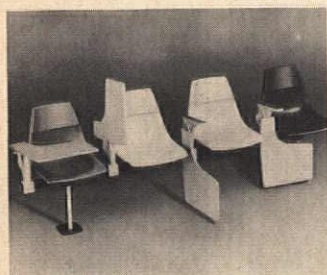
Circle 106, Readers' Service Card



**Table for tots . . . and adults.** A children's game table, part of a collection of "play and study furniture for the kindergarten child," is also useful as an occasional table for adults. One molded polyether plastic piece forms both legs and oval top measuring 24" x 36" x 18½". Also in the collection: a stylistic rocking horse, a swing, and stacking chairs with white tubular steel legs. All plastic available in

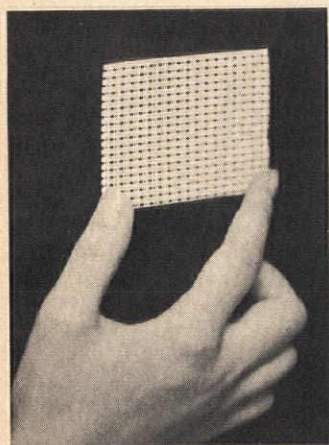
red or blue. Hank Loewenstein, Inc., P.O. Box 12383, Dallas, Tex. 75225.

Circle 107, Readers' Service Card



**Classroom seating.** Floor- or riser-mounted molded glass-fiber seating for classrooms, in two-, three-, or four-unit groups, have backs said to be contoured for posture support. An ample writing surface folds aside to the storage position, uncovering an armrest. Krueger Metal Products Co., Green Bay, Wis. 54306.

Circle 108, Readers' Service Card



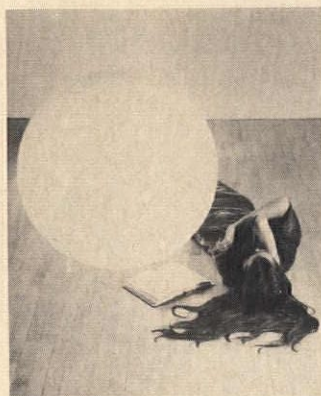
**"Comfort shade."** Woven shade of weather-resistant, vinyl-coated glass-fiber yarns keeps solar heat under control and air-conditioning costs down, without blocking outside views. Yarns are locked together by a heat-setting process that stabilizes the fabric pattern. It is said to be durable, to act as a protection against insects, and to reduce fading of draperies and furniture. Joanna Western Mills Co., 2141 S. Jefferson St., Chicago, Ill. 60616.

Circle 109, Readers' Service Card

**Non-tear paper.** An innovation in paper, a spunbonded Olefin, is virtually impossible to tear but cuts easily without snags or tears. "Tyvek" has a smooth matte surface, and can be hung with any common wallpaper adhesive. The nine

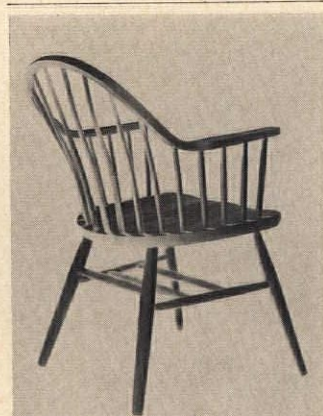
hand-print designs include a plaid and several gay flower patterns in clear, bright colors. Suitable for residential use and intimate public areas. Cost is somewhat less than cloth-backed vinyls, manufacturer says. F. Schumacher & Co., 939 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Circle 110, Readers' Service Card



**Like a rolling sun.** A 36"-dia globe-shaped lamp, which, claims the manufacturer, is "the largest seamless (one piece) plastic ["Lumacryl"] globe in existence," sits directly on the floor. It accommodates a 200-w bulb that gives multidirectional light; the cord (not visible in photo) has a foot switch and thus maintains the clean lines of the globe. Also in the line is a 12"-dia, 52"-high, closed-topped cylinder accommodating a 600-w bulb. Habitat, Inc., 341 E. 62nd St., New York, N.Y. 10021.

Circle 111, Readers' Service Card



**A touch of Windsor.** Descendant of the classic Windsor chair is constructed of steam-bent ash with precompressed dowels for solid joints. Sturdy, simple design by Claud Bunyard is suitable for colleges, hospitals, libraries, and other public areas. Lacquer or an oil sealer finishes the wood, which can be left

natural or stained. Also available without arms. F. W. Lombard Co., South Ashburnham, Mass. 01466.

Circle 112, Readers' Service Card



**Versatile tables.** Group of end and coffee tables for offices, lounges, or reception areas is designed to fit in with many furniture styles. Teak, walnut, or plastic tops are available in rounds as well as the square and rectangular shapes shown. Robert John Co., 821 N. Second St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19123.

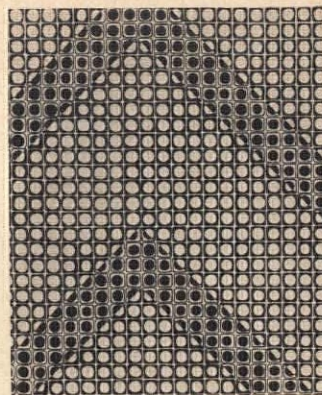
Circle 113, Readers' Service Card



**Electric blanket for windows.**

An electric drapery liner called "WindowWarmer" will help eliminate those hard to control winter drafts, claims manufacturer. Designed to create a warm-air shield at even the most drafty windows, the Fiberglass WindowWarmer is controlled by out-of-the-way thermostats. The result of six years of testing, it is said to be easy to install, is fireproof, and uses currents of 80 w, 115 v, and 60 cycles. Available in 5 lengths ranging from 54" to 95", with prices from about \$20 to \$30 a pair. Cameo Curtains, 260 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10001.

Circle 114, Readers' Service Card



**Fabrics with a foreign flair.**

In both bold and subdued custom-dyed colors, large-scale patterns keynote collection of upholstery and drapery fabrics, the work of five designers. The group suggests flavors of ancient Greece, the Renaissance, and the Orient. Patterns are 50" wide, and linens are the predominant fabrics used. Isabel Scott Fabric Corp., 979 Third Ave., New York, N.Y.

Circle 115, Readers' Service Card

## LIGHTING

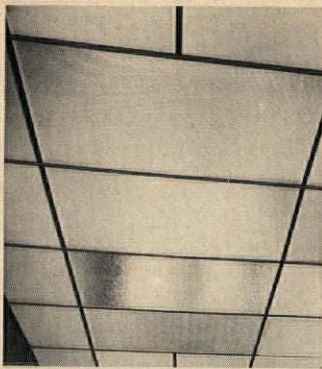


**New light on the convalescent.**

A low-cost lighting fixture, "Convolaire Jr.," is designed for hospitals, convalescent homes, and dormitories. The wall-mounted fixture with a walnut finish has acrylic lens and casts non-glare light both up and down. An optional plug-in arm for reading and examination light is available, as is a remote-operated switch. Electro Systems, Inc., 171 Minna St., San Francisco, Calif. 94105.

Circle 116, Readers' Service Card

**Prismatic panels for luminous ceilings.** Two reversible ceiling panels are available, either clear or translucent. These polystyrene panels have a geometric, prismatic surface on one side and a pebble surface on the other. When the prismatic side is facing up, it re-



fracts light and the pebble face disperses it to the room below, producing a luminous crystal-line effect. When the prismatic side is facing down, there is a high intensity of light, with low surface brightness. Alternating reversed panels produces 3-D effect. Samples available. Artcrest Products Co. Inc., 255 W. 79 St., Chicago 20, Ill.

Circle 117, Readers' Service Card

#### SANITATION PLUMBING

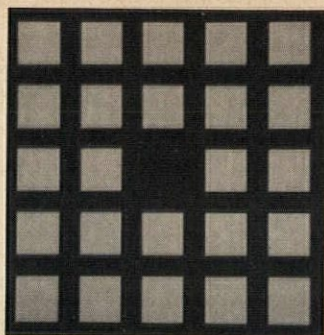


**Hands off.** Foot-controlled lavatory leaves hand free. Stainless-steel unit, available with or without accessories (cabinet, light, towel and cup dispensers), measures 20" wide and fits into a 4" wall. Suitable for commercial and institutional installations. Bradley Washfountain Co., 9193 Fountain Dr., Menomonee Falls, Wis. 53055.

Circle 118, Readers' Service Card

#### SERVICES

**Graphics.** Architects may commission graphics of all kinds from a group of British print makers represented in this country by London Arts, Inc. The artists work in woodcuts, lithographs, serigraphs, and etchings in a number of individual styles — including the geometric pattern and abstract shown. Forms are generally crisp, colors clear and



fresh. Size varies. The aim is to make good graphics available at modest prices, and an edition of prints commissioned by an architect might run from \$10 to \$25 each. London Arts, Inc., Drawer H, Lenox Hill Station, New York, N.Y. 10021.

Circle 119, Readers' Service Card

#### SPECIAL EQUIPMENT

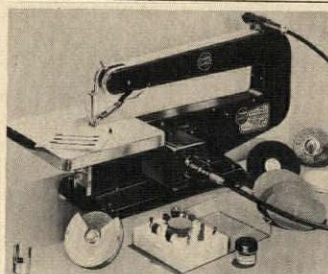


**An Inner Voice.** Interoffice telephone poses a triple threat: It can be used as a loudspeaking intercom system, as a low-level conference telephone operated quietly from a distance of 3' or so, and as a conventional hand-held telephone. Known as "Triphone," the unit can be tilted at a slight angle to channel calls to a secretary, or placed horizontally to cut off calls completely. In addition, manufacturer states unit can be operated in connection with loudspeakers or connected to a piped music system. ELC International, Inc., 16 E. 40th St., New York, N.Y. 10016.

Circle 120, Readers' Service Card

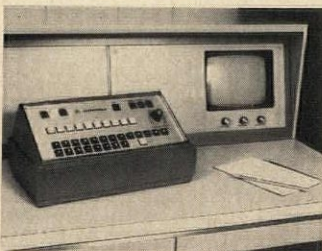
**Giant fireplace damper.** An 8' damper offers possibilities for increased fireplace sizes. Constructed of cast iron, damper is designed to provide a correctly proportioned passage for smoke and fumes. It is shaped with splayed ends to reflect heat back into the room. Steel or cast iron valve plate is hinged at back to check downdrafts. Damper comes with either a poker or rotary control. The Donley Brothers Company, 13900 Miles Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44105.

Circle 121, Readers' Service Card



**Portable model-maker.** Scale models of buildings can be handily made with the "Moto-Shop." This quiet-running workshop combines jig saw, disc sander, bench grinder, and buffing wheel in a unit so small it can be set on a drawing board. Unit includes a flexible shaft attachment for drilling, grinding, routing, sharpening, deburring, and carving. The 15"-throat jig saw can cut plastic, light-gauge wood, or metal. Depth of cut up to 1 3/4". Uses of fine blades for precision work. The 10-lb unit is especially appropriate for the architect wanting to make only an occasional scale model. Price is \$33.95. Dremel Manufacturing Co., Racine, Wis.

Circle 122, Readers' Service Card

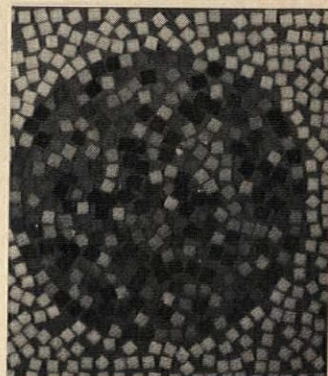


**Keeping track of hospital bed assignments.** To cut down paper work and improve hospital efficiency, the "Medi-Scan 220 Census Control System" transmits information on bed occupancy and availability to key personnel on accounting, admitting, house-

keeping, and dietary staffs. Information is fed into the system's display panels located at nursing stations. Motorola Inc., Communications Div., 4900 W. Flournoy St., Chicago, Ill. 60644.

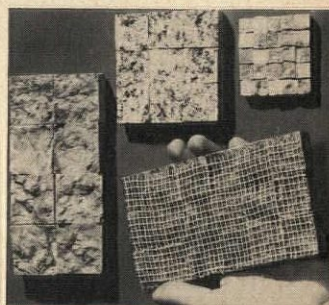
Circle 123, Readers' Service Card

#### SURFACING



**Paving and wall slabs.** Venetian glass tile, exposed aggregate, and slate panels are suitable for walls, malls, courtyards, and walkways. Venetian glass tile panels, of either standard or custom design, come in the following sizes: 24" square, 24" x 30", 24" x 36"; 2" thick. Slate panels are available in two random patterns and in 12" x 12" squares with various color combinations. Special aggregates include marble chips, quartz, granite, and tumbled stone. Duracrete Block Co., Inc., 1359 Hooksett Rd., Hooksett, N.H. 03106.

Circle 124, Readers' Service Card



**Marble "tile."** Split-face, polished, or rough-cut marble squares are mounted on mesh for easy installation. Fifty types and colors of marble can be mixed or matched, to designers' specifications, in three sizes, and in panels of any size up to 12" x 12". Manufacturer claims that cost is approximately the same as ceramic tile. Walker and Zanger, Inc., 100 Hudson St., New York N.Y. 10013.

Circle 125, Readers' Service Card

It might do the job at first. But gradually there's a loss of insulation efficiency in low-cost, water-susceptible insulation. Heating bills and cooling costs go up, and up, and up.

Here's what happens. The bargain insulation gets water-logged and loses its insulation value. Vapor barriers aren't enough. Movement of a building will split them, allowing moisture-laden air to penetrate the insulation. Moisture forms through

condensation, reducing insulation efficiency. What to do?

Specify STYROFOAM® brand extruded foam. It's the finest, most modern insulation you can buy. Never loses its effectiveness. Always stays dry. Requires no vapor barrier. Doesn't rot, mold or deteriorate. Flame retardant. Lightweight and easy to install.

As for application, you can use the

Miller System; apply paneling or decorative wallboard directly on it; use as a base for wet plaster; or as a perimeter insulation for foundations and slabs.

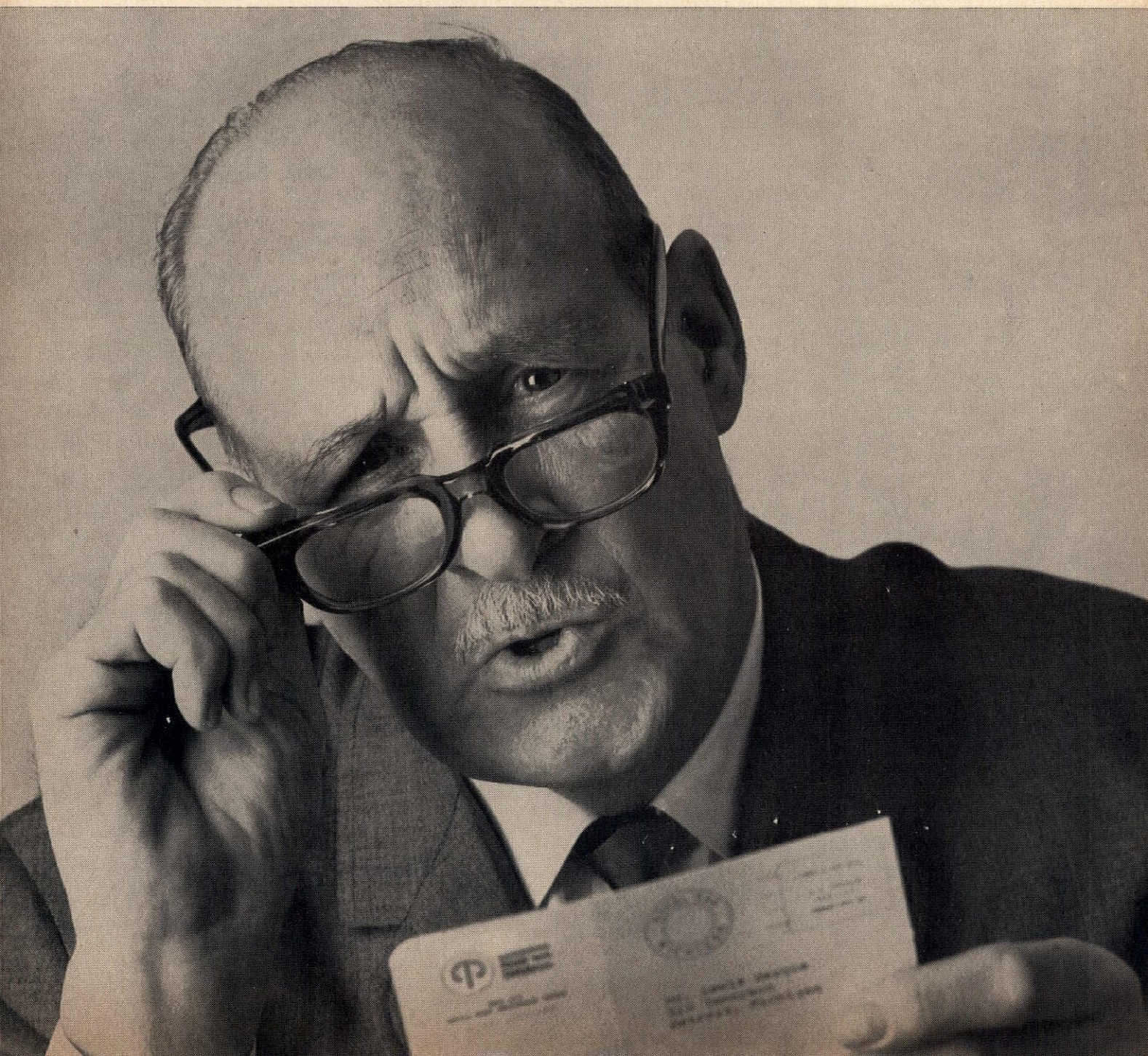
The next time why not specify STYROFOAM brand insulation... one of a family of rigid foam insulations offered by Dow. For more information, write to The Dow Chemical Company, Construction Materials Sales, Dept. 71300, Midland, Michigan 48640.



## No one will know you installed bargain insulation.

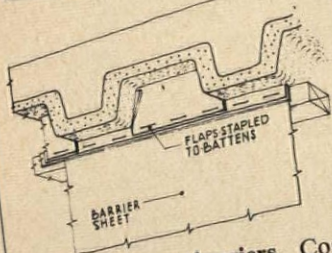
(until the owner heats up)

On Readers' Service Card, Circle No. 333



# MFRS' DATA

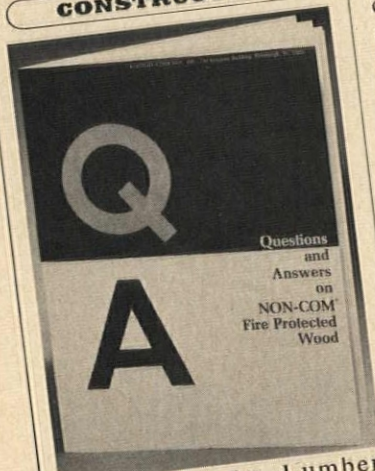
## ACOUSTICS



**Lead plenum barriers.** Cost estimates for an installed acoustical barrier of lead is about \$1 per sq ft. Booklet recommends lead as an efficient noise-stopper, flexible, and easy to work. Normal thickness for plenum barriers is  $\frac{1}{4}$ " which weighs about 1 lb per sq ft. Descriptions and details are given for seams, joints, installations under pan-type floors (shown), and around ducts and pipes. Comparison graphs show sound attenuation with and without lead insulation. 8 pages. Lead Industries Assn., Inc., 292 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

Circle 200, Readers' Service Card

## CONSTRUCTION



**Wood against fire.** Lumber and plywood, pressure-impregnated with mineral salts, has a fire hazard classification of about 15, which is roughly comparable to gypsum wall-board. Questions and answers about "Non-Com" fire-retardant wood cover such subjects as species of wood suitable for treatment, finishing and working of treated woods, testing, fire-resistance ratings, insurance rates, cost, code recognition, and specifications. Although fire-treated wood goes back to the turn of the century, recent improvements have made it more efficient,

more workable, cleaner and less hygroscopic, says manufacturer, and, when exposed to fire, it retains its structural strength for a longer time than unprotected steel. 14 pages. Koppers Co., Inc., Lumber Sales, 750 Koppers Bldg., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219.



**"Krinklglass."** Glass-fiber reinforced plastic sheets with a textured surface are available in 54 solid colors and 18 mixed-together combinations, random striations, and geometric patterns. Suitable for interior and exterior applications, the material was used in structural panels enclosing the U.S. Pavilion (shown) at the New York World's Fair. Color chips of representative shades and patterns, sheet sizes and thicknesses are contained in folder. Price list and samples of product are available. 4 pages. Dimensional Plastics Corp., 1065 E. 26 St., Hialeah, Fla. 33013.

Circle 201, Readers' Service Card

**Wind load data.** "Tentative Standard for Design Wind Loads for Walls of Rectangular Buildings" discusses standards for buildings with three basic types of exposure: urban, suburban, and open country. The National Association of Architectural Metal Manufacturers considers these standards much more realistic than the ones they replace. Height, geographic location, and negative corner loads are covered in the text; wind velocity map of the U.S., and wind pressure tables for the three exposure types plus height and exposure-factor table are included. National Association of Architectural Metal Manufacturers, 228 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

Circle 202, Readers' Service Card

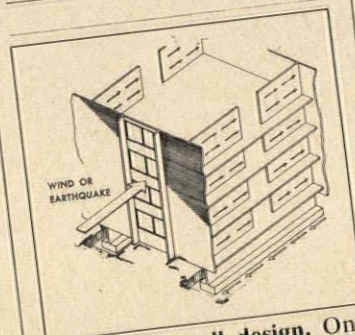


**Translucent marble.** The crystalline structure found in some marbles permits them to transmit light. A broad range of whites, buffs, pinks, and some greens are available, and colors can be varied by using different light sources. Folder discusses briefly the marble, its recommended sizes and uses. Three buildings with architectural details of marble installation are shown as examples. Above is the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale, by Skidmore, Owings and Merrill. 6 pages. Marble Institute of America, Pennsylvania Bldg., Washington, D. C. 20004.

Circle 203, Readers' Service Card

**Stainless-steel roofing system.** Booklet tells how to design and specify stainless-steel built-up roofs. Drawings of flashing, gutter, coping, and seam details illustrate text; tables compare characteristics of various roofing and flashing metals. 20 pages. Republic Steel Corp., 1441 Republic Bldg., Cleveland, Ohio 44101.

Circle 204, Readers' Service Card



**Brick shear wall design.** One of a series of "Technical Notes" on uses of brick, this pamphlet discusses lateral forces (wind and earthquake) on shear walls, distribution of those lateral forces, rigidity of shear walls, coupled shear walls, and test data on shear strength of nonreinforced brick masonry walls. Drawings, tables, technical data, and a number of references for various technical books and publications. 7 pages. Structural Clay Products In-

stitute, 1520 18 St. NW, Washington, D. C. 20036.  
Circle 205, Readers' Service Card

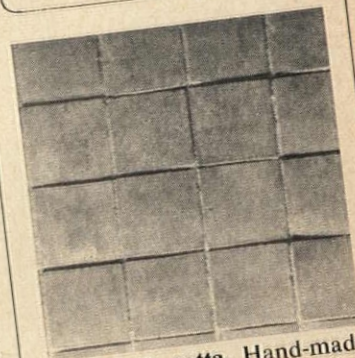
## ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT



**Two-faced or straightforward.** Eight electric or battery-operated clocks, single- or double-faced, are intended primarily for institution use. The clocks may be flush mounted, surface mounted, or attached to wall or ceiling brackets. Measuring 14" in diameter, they come with concave acrylic covers to reduce reflections. Clock bezels come in 12 colors and various anodized finishes; clock housings are clad with wood veneers. A special control makes possible the simultaneous resetting of hundreds of clocks from one central location. Several numeral types are available. Folder contains photos and table of faces, finishes and prices. 4 pages. Peter Pepper Products, 22422 S. Avalon Blvd., Wilmington, Calif. 90745.

Circle 206, Readers' Service Card

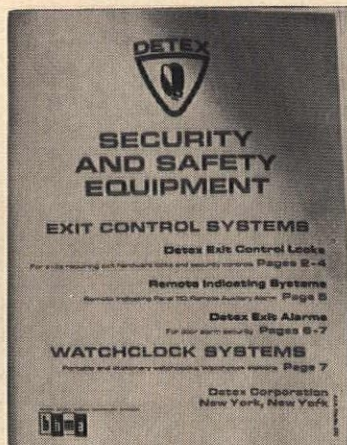
## FLOORING



**Viva terra cotta.** Hand-made Mexican floor tile retains all the color variations and minor imperfections of unsophisticated Mexican handicrafts. Carrillo tile is fabricated in squares, hexagons, and several other shapes; sizes from 2" to 16"; unglazed natural terra cotta colors, plus chocolate. Glazed tile for floors or wall

September 1967

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April 1967 reprint—Circle #435

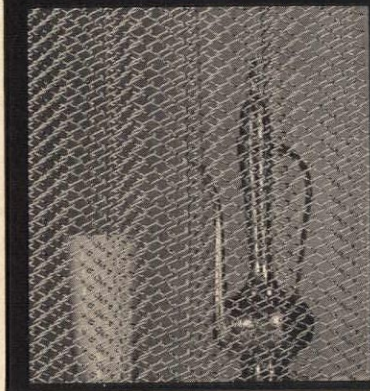
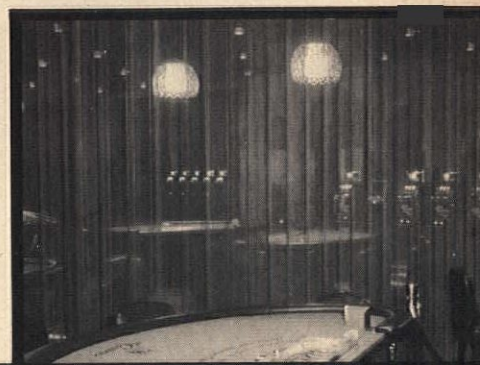
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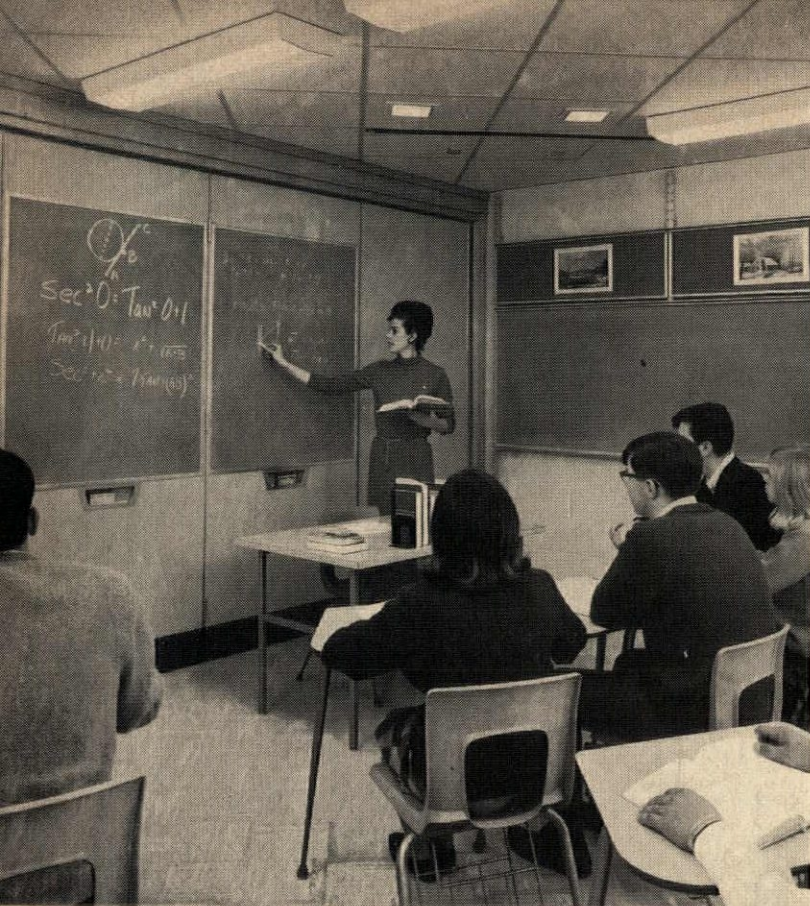
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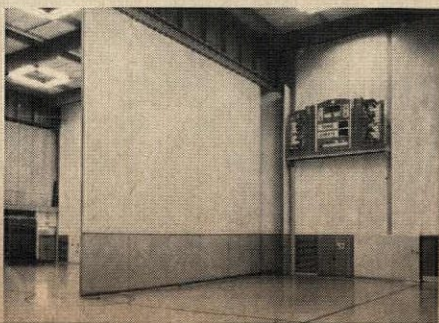
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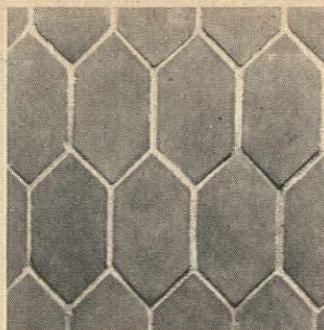
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is in 9 solid colors: oyster white, blue, green, yellow, black, mustard, mauve, terra cotta, and chocolate. Decorative, hand-painted tile also available. Full-color photos illustrate brochure. Elon, Inc., 246 E. 53 St., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Circle 207, Readers' Service Card

### FURNISHINGS



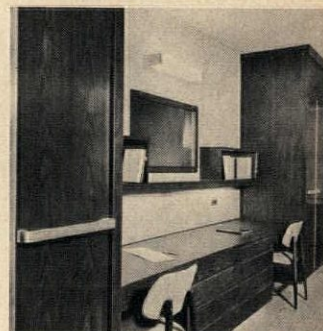
**A feast of tables.** A catalog/price list of all-wood-construction tables lists square, rectangular, and round designs in 1" modules (from 18" x 15" x 12" to 96" x 48" x 30"), making approximately 45,000 combinations, available in four wood finishes and 16 lacquer colors. Manufacturer uses as lacquering technique an old Italian method that utilizes lacquer and gesso and that results in a deep "translucent" color. Brochure features photographs, description of lacquering technique, as well as prices. 6 pages. Intrex Incorporated, 341 E. 62nd St., New York, N.Y. 10021.

Circle 208, Readers' Service Card

**Flocked carpets.** Indoor-outdoor carpeting has a low, dense pile (obtained by an electrostatic flocking process) bonded to a vinyl backing. Fine, nylon pile is pleasant to the touch, and is available in rolls or tiles. Weather-resistant French import comes in shades of blue, green, red,

beige, and grey (*flanelle et éléphant, par exemple*). Sample card, folder and data sheets describe material, its installation and upkeep. Durkan Carpet Corp., 208 E. 60 St., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Circle 209, Readers' Service Card



**Dorm-in.** A thick packet of catalog sheets covers manufacturer's line of built-in dormitory furniture—daybeds, wardrobes, desks, bookshelves, chairs, storage units, and accessory hardware. Floor plans, drawings, photos, and extensive information on materials, construction, sizes, and installation is given. Furniture is surfaced with plastic laminates in solid colors or woodgrains; color samples included. Thonet Industries, Inc., One Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10016.

Circle 210, Readers' Service Card



**Old World tiles.** From France comes natural terra cotta floor tile in many traditional shapes, in brick colors or in bright-color glazes. From Italy and Portugal, wonderfully ornate hand-painted glazed tile in a host of colors and patterns for walls and floors. Brochure gives sizes and generous sampling of tile patterns in full-color photos. 4 pages. Country Floors, Inc., 214 E. 26 St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

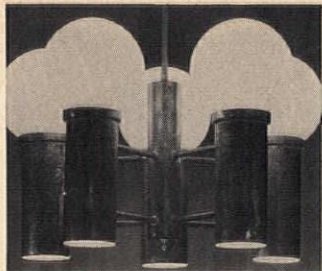
Circle 211, Readers' Service Card

September 1967



**Knoll scroll.** Brochure/catalog from the House of Knoll is a selection of pieces from most of their distinguished designers — Bertoia chairs, Eero Saarinen tables, the Mies chairs, Florence Knoll desks, the Richard Schulz outdoor furniture, and so on. Shown above is the steel-wire design by Warren Platner — also available in tables, ottoman, and an easy chair faced with upholstery from head rest to seat cushion. Dimensions and photos. Knoll Associates, Inc., 320 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

Circle 212, Readers' Service Card



rusted iron and hand-blown crystal globes, or translucent opal spheres as shown above. Also in pewter, oil-rubbed bronze, and a black finish, the basic design is available in a number of variations with different numbers of arms. Downlights are concealed in the cylinders. Catalog illustrates text with drawings and photos and includes several other fixture designs for wall or post mounting, and for hanging. Robert Long Lighting, 2 Gates Rd., Sausalito, Calif. 94965.

Circle 214, Readers' Service Card

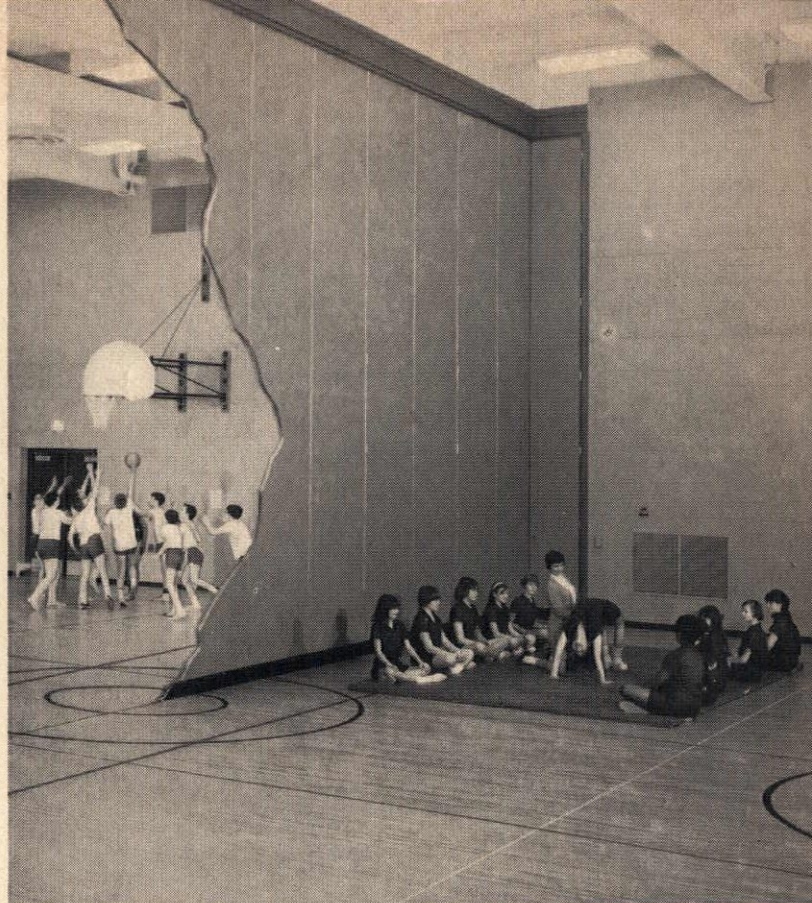


**The outdoor generation.** Among much traditional leafy scrollwork and imitation bamboo, are some simple metal furniture designs for terrace, poolside, and garden. "Radar Sta-Out" (above) has tubular frame with punched mesh tabletops and chair seats in 12 standard finish colors. "Catalog No. 49" lists chairs, tables, love seats, and chaises; photos and dimensions; sample swatches of cushion materials — expanded vinyl, plastic "Strawcloth," and sailcloth with Zepel finish in nine strong colors. 34 pages. Salterini, Div. of Walter Kidde & Co., Inc., 216 N. Main St., Freeport, N.Y. 11520.

Circle 215, Readers' Service Card

#### LIGHTING

**Lighting maintenance.** Brochure describes planned maintenance of lighting fixtures in industrial plants, offices, stores, schools, and other pub-



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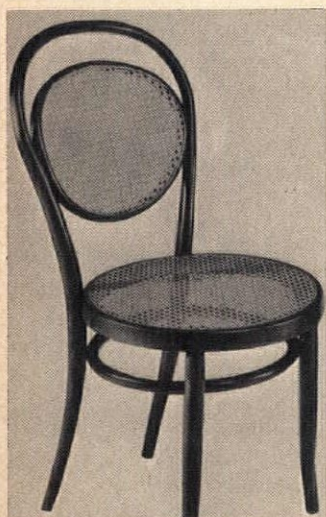
CHALKBOARD/ DISPLAY SYSTEMS

FOLDING WALLS

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**Chair fair.** Classic bentwood arm and side chairs with woven cane seats (above), and ladder backs with rush seats, among fussier styles, are suitable for contract installations. Also, tall-legged, rush-seated stools for counters, bars, or drafting tables. Italian imports. Photos, price list, dimensions. 8 pages. Piazza Originals, 225 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10010.

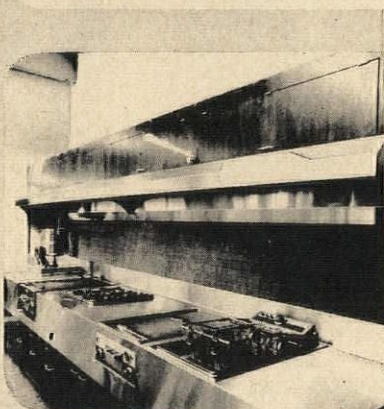
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**Bold chandeliers** achieve a kind of rough elegance in

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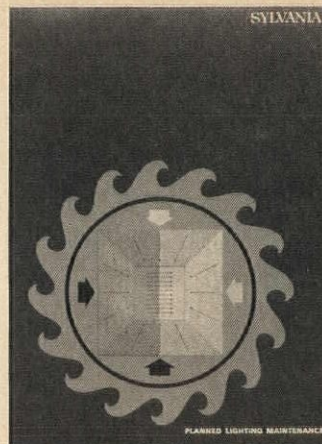
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lic buildings. Some of the information on cleaning and relamping programs is not pertinent to design, but other data will provide an insight into how lighting can be designed for more efficient and economical upkeep. Discussions of maintaining incandescent, fluorescent, and mercury lamps, and recommended lighting level for industry, stores, and offices. Text and graphs. 20 pages. Sylvania Electric Products, Inc., 1100 Main St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14209.  
*Circle 216, Readers' Service Card*

### **OFFICE EQUIPMENT**



**Drafting equipment.** "Catalog 85" lists 1700 items for draftsmen, from papers, pencils, scale rules, and drawing instruments to drafting machines and lamps for drafting tables. Photos, and catalog information. 96 pages. The Lietz Co., Div. of Paxton National, Inc., 330 Corey Way, South San Francisco, Calif. 94080.

*Circle 217, Readers' Service Card*

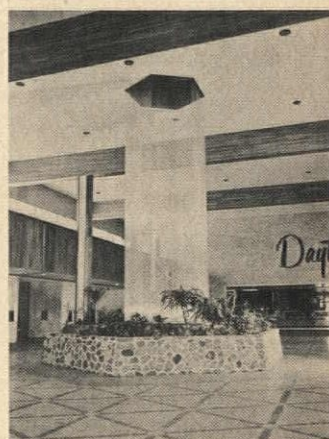
### **SPECIAL EQUIPMENT**

**Food service systems.** Full range of modular countertop and kitchen equipment for restaurants and cafeterias includes griddles, fryers,

ranges, ovens, steamers, waste disposers, and a controlled-temperature trunion kettle. Catalog contains photos, dimensions, and technical data. 36 pages. General Electric Co., Dept. 762, 14 & Arnold Sts., Chicago Heights, Ill. 60411.

*Circle 218, Readers' Service Card*

**Locker room planning.** "Fully enclosed lockers with a few louveres pressed into the door . . . are as outdated as the 'pot belly' stove," says locker room equipment consultant, Donald Dickey. He recommends mesh-type athletic lockers with sides, fronts, and backs (where possible) of open mesh, wire screening, for the best visibility and ventilation. Also, bright colors should replace the rather dismal olive green. Booklet discusses customizing standard lockers, lockers on wheels, dressing and box lockers, locks, and so on. Although addressed in simple language to school and college personnel, it contains helpful tips for the architect as well. Cost: \$1.50. Donald D. Dickey, P.O. Box 6630, Minneapolis, Minn. 55420.



**Fountains of nylon.** System of nylon filaments down which slides a "special liquid" to form "hanging" columns and other shapes limited only by a maximum angle of 25° from the vertical. The "fountain" liquid is clear but may be dyed if so desired. Although manufacturer suggests various filament patterns, final designs are up to the architect. Booklet includes text on functioning of "WonderFall," plumbing schematics of recirculating system, lighting suggestions, typical mounting details, and guide specs. Installation shown is a

Victor Gruen Assoc. design. 18 pages. Navan Inc., 1320 E. Imperial Hwy., El Segundo, Calif. 90245.

Circle 219, Readers' Service Card

**Sauna samples.** Prefabricated panels or entire free-standing sauna units, have redwood interiors and mahogany veneer or marine plywood exteriors. Cast-in-place urethane insulation forms core of 2 1/4" wall sandwich panels. Brochure and a series of data sheets describe 5 models ranging from 25 sq ft to 80 sq ft, and UL-approved heaters and control panel; short specs. Am-Finn Sauna Inc., Haddon Ave. and Line St., Camden, N.J. 08103.

Circle 220, Readers' Service Card

#### SURFACING

**Vinyl tiles and sheets.** Small four-color folders, one each on floor tile, sheet flooring, and countertops, show Good-year's all-vinyl line designed primarily for residences. New are "Mirada" countertop (either sculptured or smooth), which matches Mirada floor tile, and "Roman Villa," a sculptured random stone pattern set in an aggregate of small pebbles. Also available is a black-and-white brochure on the flooring line called "Go for Growth." Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., Akron, Ohio 44316.

Circle 221, Readers' Service Card

**Tile and trim.** Standard ceramic tile, vitreous accessories, and trim shapes are listed and illustrated in catalog. Base trim is suitable for installation with resilient flooring or thin set and conventional ceramic floors. Color photos show 14 standard colors. 4 pages. Marshall Tiles, Inc., P.O. Box 1119, Marshall, Texas 75670.

Circle 222, Readers' Service Card

#### PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE NEWS REPORT

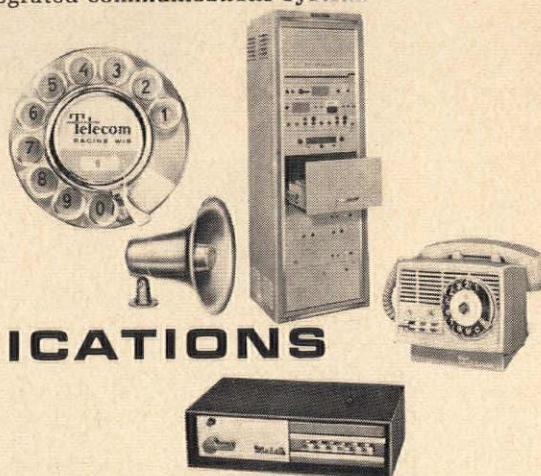
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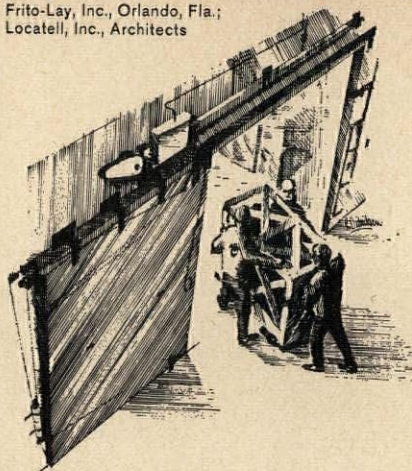
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## **NEXT MONTH IN P/A**

**THE NITTY-GRITTY OF CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION.** Our complete issue on the design and use of concrete last October drew such a wealth of attention and controversy that we are following up this October with a major investigation of down-to-earth, day-to-day concerns of concrete in architecture. Architects, engineers, fabricators, and builders have contributed invaluable do's and don'ts—generously illustrated with graphic details of proper (and improper) concrete usage. Among those speaking out will be Morris Ketchum, Emery Roth & Sons, George Santry of Schokbeton, James Shillstone, the winners of the recent Prestressed Concrete Association awards, and many other architects and industry experts.

**THE RETURN OF "OLD JEFF."** In these days of "tear it down, it don't pay," it is gratifying to be able to present a notable example of building salvation and re-use. Greenwich Village's Jefferson Market Courthouse is a fine example of High Victorian Gothic that was about to go the way of all older structures until a group of "friends" rallied to its defense, persuaded the city to re-use it as a branch library, and encouraged architect Giorgio Cavaglieri in his tasteful renovation of the interiors. An encouraging tale for any community.

**WHAT THE GANG IS UP TO.** The continuing adventures of the Rover Boys of the new architecture: Hugh Hardy, Charles Moore, Paul Rudolph, David Sellers, Bill Rienecke, Louis Mackall, Frederick Romley, Charles Hosford, Robert Venturi, et al., this time with the emphasis on super-mannerist interiors.

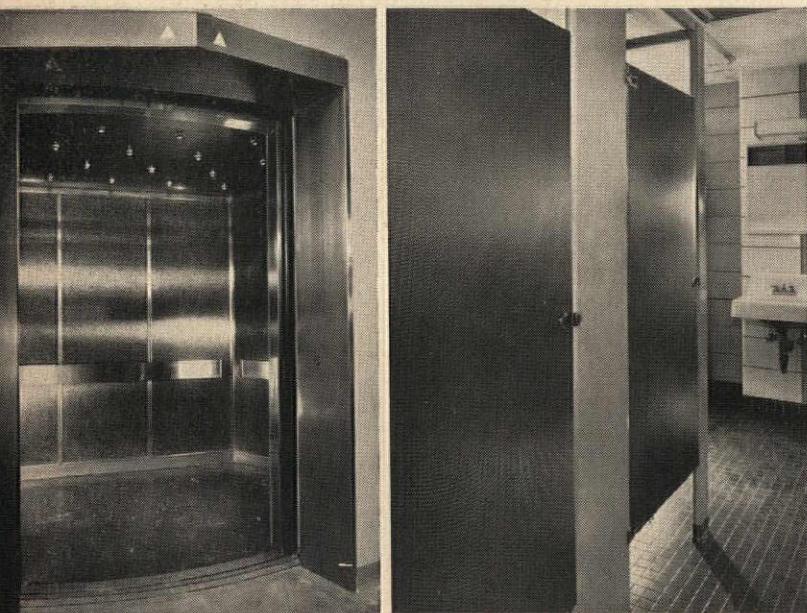
**AND MORE . . .** Robert H. Mutch, gadfly-at-large, again hectors his colleagues constructively in "The Medium is Willing, But the Message is Weak" . . . A quietly evocative Episcopal Parish Hall in Sausalito by Henrik Bull is shown and discussed. . . P/A News Report brings you up to the minute on late-breaking excitement in architecture . . . P/A Observer reveals the get-out-of-the-studio-and-build technique of new Yale students, and digs into a few other lively happenings.

**WHY RESIST ANY LONGER?** Relax and enjoy architecture's most idea-provoking, gutsy, controversial, and rewarding magazine. Fill in and send in the subscription card at the rear of this issue and you will begin receiving a dose of architectural adrenalin every month.



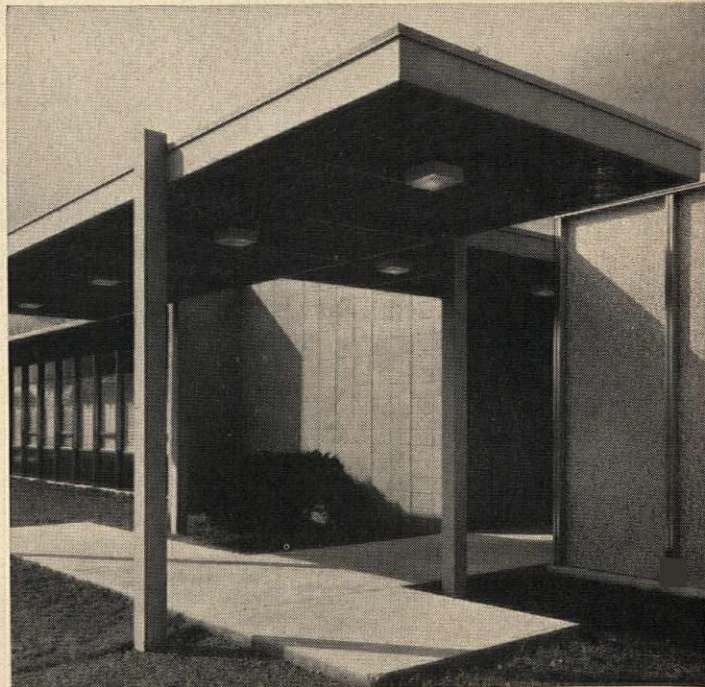
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