HARMONY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
PLANS FOR TEXAS ARCHITECTS' WEEK
PRESIDENT VISITS CHAPTERS
BOARD TO MEET APRIL 11
TSA IS INCORPORATED

MARCH 1953
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 11—Meeting of TSA Executive
Board, 10 a.m., Commodore Perry
Hotel, Austin.
April 13-20—Texas Architects' Week.

June 15-19—84th annual convention,
AIA, at Seattle, Wash.
November 4-6—14th annual convention,
TSA, at Austin.

1
We are happy — and regretful. Happy because the acceptance and demand for this decorative fir plywood has been so spontaneous. Regretful because we can't seem to catch up with orders. It may seem odd that in a market of plywood plenty, there is, by comparison, so little Sea Swirl available. Yet this is understandable when you realize that only the most select panels qualify for this three-dimensional product that captures the romance of soft ocean beaches and of tideprints in the sand.

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HARMONY IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

A recent publication of the Associated General Contractors of America is entitled "Just And Harmonious Relationships In The Construction Industry."

Many of the key points stressed in this booklet are very well taken, and should be noted by the contractor, the architect, and the general public alike. With the total volume of new construction, maintenance, and repairs running at approximately $40,000,000,000 per year, construction is the nation's first industry and one that has a direct effect upon every citizen.

The booklet states that "Fair and bonafide competition is a fundamental service of the construction industry to which clients and owners are entitled."

You will find that The Texas Society of Architects and all architects certainly subscribe to this principle, which is clearly spelled out in the standards set up by the American Institute of Architects governing professional practice. Furthermore, there are instances in which AGC officials and representatives of the AIA have cooperated directly in maintaining the principle of fair competition, thereby protecting the interests of clients and the general public alike.

The AGC pamphlet in question stresses the need for centralizing undivided responsibility for a project in one man—the general contractor. Architects will subscribe to this principle so long as it protects the best interests of the client. They usually will agree also that bids which may be taken separately for certain phases of the work should be combined under one general contract.

The efforts which AGC officials are taking to improve relationships between general and specialty contractors are emphasized in the booklet, which indicates that AGC chapters and branches have been authorized to "initiate cooperative actions...in their areas."

This AGC publication also stresses the importance of the joint cooperative committees which are maintained with the architectural and other organizations in the industry. Among these joint committees is the one maintained with the AIA, which has in turn become a pattern for local groups oriented toward more harmony and more economy in construction.

The booklet fails to mention specifically, however, one major point which we believe is harming construction industry relationships and the interests of clients and the general public. We refer to the so-called "package deals" under which some large firms offer every service from beginning surveys through actual construction including planning and even management of the property after it has been built.

We do not believe that the "package deal" is fair either to contractors, engineers, architects, specialty contractors, or the client. It does not lead to the harmony and efficient economy which every segment of the building industry seeks. It is instead an open invitation to inefficiency and waste and to poor planning. It will defeat the principle of giving maximum value for every dollar invested in construction which is the creed of the architect and contractor alike.

We approve in general this statement in which AGC stresses the need for harmony in the construction industry, but we respectfully suggest another section: One on "The dangers inherent in the 'package deal' plan."
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Telling The Story Of Architecture In Texas
Second Texas Architects' Week Finds All TSA Chapters Busy With Projects

Members of the Texas Society of Architects pick one week per year in which to tell their fellow citizens the story of architecture. The week of April 13-20, beginning with Thomas Jefferson's 210th birthday, has been chosen for the 1953 observance, which will be statewide.

Success of the 1952 Texas Architects' Week has encouraged the 10 TSA chapters (Panhandle, Central Texas, Brazos, Dallas, Fort Worth, West Texas, Coastal Bend, Houston, Lower Rio Grande Valley, and El Paso) to extend their activities this spring in a series of projects about the profession of architecture.

Function Of The Architect

The central idea in each case is to explain the function of the architect and his place in modern life. This is done in many ways, through projects such as exhibitions or tours of architectural work, a special Chapter competition, special luncheon club programs, or showings of architectural models, materials or literature.

Some chapters will aim their project at the younger generation, either through a program based on Thomas Jefferson, the great architect-president, or a special student competition. Others are scheduling special joint meetings with some allied professional group, such as the engineers.

Regardless of the exact means used, the 10 TSA chapters are telling the story of their profession in terms of something with local interest, and they are generating good, positive reaction over the state.

The Fort Worth Plan

The Fort Worth chapter, headed by Hubert H. Crane, was among the first to complete its plans for the second annual observance of Texas Architects' Week. Here is the Fort Worth plan, which is a good example of how TSA members are taking the opportunity to explain just what architecture is and what it means to their fellow Texans.

Early in February, President Crane completed the first stage in plans for Texas Architects' Week by placing details in the hands of an overall committee directly responsible to him. As plans progressed, TSA President Albert S. Golemon was invited to attend the February meeting and discuss developments to date.

While President Golemon was in town, the mayor of Fort Worth, Hon. J. R. Edwards, signed a proclamation setting aside 13-20 April as Texas Architects' Week in his city. The TSA head then discussed with Mayor Edwards some of the chapter plans for observing the event, and spent several hours going over detailed plans with officials of the Fort Worth affiliate.

Will Honor Craftsman

Fort Worth will feature during TAW the selection of an outstanding building craftsman who is to be honored for his skill at a chapter dinner. Other allied projects will be special exhibits of work by chapter members, and the showing of a moving picture on Thomas Jefferson as an architect. Last year a similar craftsman award won editorial acclaim and did much to explain to the public the functions of the architect and how they are related to other skills in building.

(Continued on Page 12)
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At Austin, Secretary of State Howard Carney signs incorporation papers for the TSA as his first official act of office. Left to right, in the usual order, are R. Max Brooks, chairman of the legislative committee, and Arthur Fehr, TSA-AIA, both of Austin.

Incorporation of the Society was handled by Carl C. Hardin, Jr., legal counsel, on instructions of the executive board.

President Golemon On Statewide Tour Of Many Chapters

TSA President Albert S. Golemon is continuing a tour of TSA chapters which has taken him over the state for discussions of Texas Architect Week plans and other matters.

The president's itinerary follows: 23 February, Fort Worth; 11 March, Harlingen; 12 March, Corpus Christi; 16 March, Austin; 20 March, Dallas; 2 April, San Antonio.

Mr. Golemon intends to visit other chapters later during the spring and summer, to discuss TSA and architect's problems at the local level.
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News of the Chapters

FORT WORTH — President Albert S. Golemon was at the February meeting to discuss plans for Texas Architects’ Week and the year’s program and objectives. The office of Wilson & Patterson, with Edward L. Wilson in charge, showed slides of the Lamesa Elementary School job, and outlined problems from first preliminary sketches through final construction.

DALLAS — S. B. (Sam) Zisman spoke on “The Architect And City Building” at the February dinner meeting. Mr. Zisman, now planning consultant for Corpus Christi, Paducah, Ky., and Little Rock, Ark., discussed the relationship between architecture and the planning of cities and such developments as the building program on Guam.

LOWER RIO GRANDE VALLEY — Warren Suter of Mission is TAW chairman. The chapter will hold special TAW programs in conjunction with service clubs and is to meet in April with the Associated General Contractors’ group.

HOUSTON — E. M. Schiwtetz, artist and illustrator of the firm of Wilkinson, Schiwetz, and Tips, spoke on recent architecture in Mexico, including University City. Mr. Schiwetz illustrated his remarks with slides. Talbott Wilson has been elected TSA director for the Houston Chapter.

COASTAL BEND — Otis F. Johnson has been named chairman of the committee on Texas Architects’ Week.

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Executive Board
To Meet April 11
In Session At Austin

The executive board of the TSA will convene at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 11, at the Commodore Perry Hotel in Austin. The April meeting, originally set for one week earlier, was moved back in order to avoid a conflict with the Easter weekend.

Principal matters up for consideration will be final plans for Texas Architects' Week, various committee reports, and a special report by Carl Hardin, Jr., of Austin, legal counsel.

The meeting will adjourn for lunch at approximately 12 noon and then be resumed after 1 p.m. It is estimated that final adjournment will come at approximately 4 p.m.

William Ward Watkin
Memorial Library
Planned At Rice

The architectural alumni of Rice Institute have begun an architectural collection at the Fondren Library on the Institute campus to be dedicated to the memory of William Ward Watkin, TSA-AIA.

Mr. Watkin, head of the department of architecture at Rice from 1912 until his death last summer, had long worked toward setting up an outstanding collection of architectural volumes. His project will be carried on and centered in a special area at the Fondren Library, with a suitable plaque identifying the collection named for the widely-known practitioner, teacher, and author.

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Convention Coverage
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TSA officials have termed the coverage of the El Paso convention the best yet for all media. The El Paso newspapers ran 18 separate stories on the meeting, many of them on the front pages, and carried eight news pictures including five on the front page of principal editions.

The wire services had four separate statewide stories which were widely distributed, and special releases went to many state newspapers direct. The wire services carried advance accounts of the convention, excerpts from the keynote speech by Glenn Stanton, the election of new officials, and the winners of the Featherlite Competition. Follow-up stories are still being released.

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Publication Board Hears Good Report On TEXAS ARCHITECT

The Publication Board met in El Paso during the convention, with David C. Baer presiding and members Walter T. Rolfe, Ernest Langford, and Herbert Tatum present.

The board heard a report from the chairman showing a net profit for January through October, 1952, of $1,521.50, and approved the extension of printing, advertising, and public relations contracts for 1953.

Mr. Baer told the board that emphasis was being placed on increasing the average number of pages per issue from 22 to 24, and on carrying more news and pictures of outstanding work by TSA members and chapter activities. Board members indicated satisfaction with the progress being made by the magazine, which published a record-breaking 44-page convention issue.

Texas Architects' Week (Continued from Page 5)

In your own locality, TSA members will soon be announcing their plans for Texas Architects' Week, the annual observance during which Lone Star architects tell the story of their profession to friends and neighbors. The result will be a better opportunity in every part of the state for Texans to understand architecture and the part it plays in their lives.

Humphrey To Serve On National Council For School Construction

Joe R. Humphrey, specialist in school plant planning for the Texas Education Agency, has been appointed to serve on the Committee of State Services of the National Council on Schoolhouse Construction.
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