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Page 2
We Do Have a Fine Arts Commission

What can our Fine Arts Commission place on the agenda? First of all, seek out the historical structures. Do not wipe out community history by destroying those things that the pioneers produced under difficult conditions. Look at your circulation patterns. Could our downtown areas and walkways be more attractive with some vegetation—even if it is only a potted tree now and then? Can we illuminate our streets with a better lighting pattern? Can we establish a uniform awning system? Can we beautify our commercial signs and not let them become a hodgepodge? Are our parking patterns sensible? Can we install a more attractive method of showing merchandise? Every merchant wants customers on the inside of his store. Make your shop so attractive that no one will want to pass it. Stimulating displays will bring on impulse buying. The market place can be beautiful.

Arthur Fehr

Cover

The brilliant contrast of bright sunlight behind this old stained glass window and the darkened interior of Gethsemane Lutheran Church make our cover.

Photograph by Eugene George, AIA
A CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE

During the summer of 1961, the Gethsemane Lutheran Church of Austin, Texas, was recorded for posterity. Measured drawings, along with large scaled details were accurately drawn by a team of men under the direction of Eugene Geroge, A.I.A., so that future generations will be able to study these records in the Library of Congress, and hopefully gain some insight into our precious architectural heritage. This heritage we are losing building by building as we continue to remove pieces of the past to provide places for the future.

This building is of importance and was recorded, not because it represented any particular or singular historical significance in itself, but because it is another example of the fine architecture which the early settlers of Texas were able to produce out of the times in which they lived.

Further, this structure is soon scheduled for demolition by the expanding Capitol Building Program. As soon as this information was known the National Park Service made funds available through the Office of Historic Structures (Charles St. George Pope, Supervising Architect) to at least preserve the architectural records of this building for the future.

To have allowed this church to be demolished without at least making this final gesture would have been in a broad sense the act of wiping out some of our state’s historical past. For in truth, the history of our state is recorded partly in the history of such buildings.

Records show that during the year 1838, Swedish immigrations to Texas were inaugurated by Swante Magus Swenson. Inspiring other groups from his native Smaland, he caused the local Swedish communities to grow greatly in size. At this time most of the Swedish immigrants were being absorbed into church congregations other than their native Swedish Church.
This article is published because it deals with a situation typical across the state: the destruction of all evidence of our heritage and the history of the proud people who built this Texas of ours.

This handsome old building, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, stands near-by the Capitol in Austin lending its charm and sense of history to the entire area; this is its value. To destroy this building would be to destroy one more small link with our past. Ed.

Later in 1867, following a large wave of immigration from Jonkoping to Texas, it was decided to establish a Swedish Congregation. On December 12, 1869 the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Gethsemane Church was duly organized with Swante Palm as its first secretary. This was the first Swedish Church in Texas, with most of the German Lutheran Churches being established at a later date.

At first the congregation occupied a small structure on West 9th Street for a time, but this location soon proved unsatisfactory. Lots were then purchased, where the present structure now stands, on the Southwest corner of 16th Street and Congress Avenue.

When the Augustana Synod was established at Rock Island, Illinois in 1875, the Austin Congregation joined, and the Archbishop in Sweden was requested to send a pastor. This he did not do, and the Church was served by transient pastors—first, a Mr. Kerleen, and later a Mr. Tillman.

During the year 1883, five years before construction of our present Capitol Building, the present church structure was built. August Swenson, a cabinet maker, was head of the building committee and in charge of construction.

Built with loving care, using brick, wood and stained glass windows, the building today stands proud and erect.
Having served its role well during the years, it now awaits the final decision, destruction.

Can the church be saved? Should it be saved? These are difficult questions to answer. To save it the legislature would have to certify it is worthy of preservation. Perhaps this would mean that the monies used in the purchase of this church would have to be re-appropriated and put back into the Capitol Building Program. Or, the State might consider selling it to some organization for the purpose of preservation. If such a group or organization could be found, Gethsemane Church might yet be saved.

As a building it could serve as a chapel for the people in the Capitol Area—a place for meditation in the midst of the working world. It would serve as a reminder to visitors to the State Capitol of our past and our heritage in the building of a great State. Tying the old to the new it could further remind us of Ruskin's words: "... when we build, let us think that we build forever. Let it not be for present delight, nor for present use alone; let it be such work as our descendants will thank us for, and let us think, as we lay stone on stone, that a time is to come when those stones will be held sacred because our hands have touched them, and that men will say as they look upon the labor and wrought substance of them, 'See! this our fathers did for us.'"

Merely to ask that this building be saved is not enough. For in taking this first step others follow. Money will have to be found to renovate and refurbish this church so it can serve as a chapel for all people. Finally, it will have to be maintained properly through the years, and again money is needed for this, for to do less would be more unkind than to allow its eventual destruction.

It's still not too late; hopefully something can yet be done. Get in touch with your representative; tell him you care.

PHOTOGRAPHS: EUGENE GEORGE AIA
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APRIL, 1963
This handsome building demonstrates vividly the potential of industrial buildings. Faced with the problem of designing the offices and processing facilities for a major coffee company on a flat, treeless site, the architects have produced this outstanding plant, an asset to its owner and the community in which it stands.

Placed far forward on its site to avoid a geological fault, the office portion of the building was elevated to "dock height" to tie in with the plant. This raised podium was extended to the front to create a covered patio.
Interior courtyards afford light to interior spaces and define and separate the office area from the plant area.
Texas A. & M. College began its program in Architectural Research in 1949 when a far-sighted professor sensed an acute need for information relating to the physical environment of post-war schools—particularly in the area of natural lighting, natural ventilation, and sound. In an effort to help solve some of the pertinent problems, the Texas Engineering Experiment Station appropriated funds for the establishment of the Architectural Research Group and for the construction of a full scale 30' x 30' classroom. Subsequent to this, other facilities were developed to support and expand the research. The program was and is intended to (1) enhance the teaching program, (2) provide the architectural profession with new knowledge, and (3) assist the people of Texas by helping to build a better architectural world.

Research connotes exploration; to be important, it should explore potentially important ideas. Architectural Research attempts to extend the frontiers of knowledge with such exploration and feed it back to architects, students, planners, and builders to be used as a tool for total environmental design. It attempts to give the architect something that will make his assumptions, guesses, and decisions much more educated than they are now. It attempts to enlighten builders and contractors with new concepts and insights into how to form the architect's creations. It attempts to give the citizen data and information which will help him understand the potentials of new ideas and techniques. It attempts to promote intellectual rigor and healthy skepticism in the student.

Architecture is very broad and consequently the areas of investigation for architectural research are very broad. Hopefully, there will one day be a national research program that will include and touch upon all of the essential areas. The program at Texas A. & M., as one of the first such research programs in the United States, has been primarily concerned with environment and technology, both of which are especially important to the southwestern climate. As the program grows and matures, other areas for research will be pursued, also.
Architecture involves the synthesis and solving of many, many problems. Architectural Research, therefore, attempts to attack the solution of research problems by considering all of the architectural facets of the problem simultaneously, just as an architect must consider all of the facets of design simultaneously.

Perhaps the unique thing about architectural research at Texas A. & M. is that it brings together personnel from many disciplines who work together as a team to conduct architectural research. The academic atmosphere provides personnel and facilities that are well suited to these kinds of problems. Personnel from such fields as landscape architecture, physics, engineering, education, sociology, physiology, art, business, economics and journalism have worked into the architectural research program when needed.

PROGRAM
The basic program at A. & M. consists of two phases. One phase involves the area of fundamental research and testing methods. Here the fundamental physics of such things as light, air, and sound are investigated. Methods have been developed for studying these elements and their relation to architecture under controlled conditions with scale models. Continued development of model testing techniques and equipment is an important function. Research sponsored by foundations, industry, and government of a fundamental nature is carried out under this program.

Phase two consists of architectural investigations which help evolve design data. Studies of methods for application of research data are carried on. The model testing facilities and trained personnel are made available to the profession to assist in solving specific problems such as may arise in the lighting, ventilation, and acoustics of a particular building. Research into the fundamental applications of design data is often sponsored by foundations, industry, or the government. The entire program, whenever possible, attempts to bring undergraduate and graduate students into the research laboratories so that they might learn and gain insight into the basic problems of the profession and so that they might develop a sensitivity for the solution of basic problems.
FACILITIES

The Architectural Research Laboratories will soon move into new quarters. There will be a new building for teaching and a separate, connected, new building for research. Facilities will then include:

1) A new simulated sky dome, some thirty feet in diameter, for studying the natural lighting of buildings with small models. This will be one of the most up to date domes of the several in existence around the world and the only one in the U.S.A.

2) The low speed wind tunnel will be moved from its present location to the new building and recalibrated for an extensive program in air flow studies with models. Powered by three 1 horsepower electric motors and three 42-inch Hunter attic-type fans, the tunnel provides an amazing flexibility for all kinds of air flow studies.

3) The full-scale experimental, 30' x 30', building is located at Easterwood Airport. This flexible building has been adapted and remodeled for many different uses and remains a useful tool for studies that must be done at full scale.

4) The new building will have ample space both indoors and outdoors for work of all types. Coupled with this space will be complete shop facilities with small power tools for woodworking and metal working.

5) Instruments for sound analysis include octave band analyzers, sound survey meters, sound level meters, random noise generators, amplifiers and speakers, and the Sanborn low level amplifier and oscillograph recorder.

6) The shop area includes concrete working equipment for experimental hatching along with equipment for spraying lightweight concretes.

APRIL, 1963

PROJECTS

1) A grant from Educational Facilities Laboratories, Inc. has been received for a study on the feasibility of using the Lift-Shape construction process developed at A. & M. for a new classroom building for Caldwell, Texas. The results of this project will provide data that will be of value not only to Caldwell, but to other cities, also.

2) Model tests are currently being conducted for the Caddo Parish School Board of Shreveport, Louisiana, to determine the natural lighting characteristics of a proposed new school building and to determine the pattern of air flow due to mechanical roof ventilators.

3) A survey and analysis of noise conditions on a piece of property adjacent to Love Field is under way for a developer in Dallas. Acoustical problems will be significant in the motel, soon to be designed, because of the airplane traffic.

4) Negotiations are under way for a project involving a study on the use of field-sprayed plastics to be used in conjunction with the Lift-Shape construction process, particularly as might be applied to housing for underdeveloped countries. This project may involve several chemical companies and research personnel from the School of Architecture at the University of Michigan.

5) The Building Research Institute is considering the possibility of supporting a study at A. & M. College on air pressures on tall buildings and groups of tall buildings. This project is intended to provide designers with more accurate data with regards to wind forces on tall buildings.

6) The feasibility of high-rise schools for metropolitan areas is another project under development. This will involve a study of the various factors that might influence the design of a tall, downtown school building.

These are but a few of the typical projects currently in process and being considered by the Architectural Research Group at Texas A. & M. There are many more that have already been completed and many more awaiting execution when time and finances allow it.

CONCLUSION

The architectural profession is continuing to improve itself by study, experimentation and analysis. As research organizations such as the one at Texas A. & M., bring to light new concepts and new information, the profession will continue to improve its ability to create a more pleasant and comfortable environment.
The Dallas firm of Harrell & Hamilton will receive an Award of Merit in the 1963 AIA National Honor Awards program. The winning design is for the 2300 Riverside Apartments in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

This year—the fifteenth year of the program—jurors selected from a field of 411 entries. Five First Honor Awards and eight Awards of Merit were made by the jurors.

The award-winning tower, a 17-story structure rising on a six-acre, park-like site, is located in one of Tulsa's finest residential neighborhoods, and cost approximately $4,000,000. Each of the eighty-one apartments in the building has its own outside terrace, overlooking the landscaped site, the Tulsa skyline, or the Arkansas River. George F. Harrell and E. G. Hamilton, the principals in Harrell & Hamilton, have been associated since 1956, and both are active in professional activities. Harrell, a Fellow in the American Institute of Architects, is Vice President of the Texas Society of Architects, while Hamilton is President-Elect of the Dallas Chapter of AIA. Among Harrell & Hamilton's current and recent architectural projects are the Republic National Bank Tower in Dallas; the American National Bank and the Petroleum Building, Beaumont, Texas; the Republic National Motor Bank in Dallas, Texas, and the First National Bank of Pueblo, Colorado.

The award-winning projects will be displayed in Miami at the National AIA Convention in May. Members of the jury judging the competition were: Robert L. Durham, FAIA, Chairman, Seattle, Washington; William W. Caudill, FAIA, Houston, Texas; Mark Hampton, AIA, Tampa, Florida; Ernest J. Kump, FAIA, Palo Alto, California, and Hugh A. Stubbins, Jr., FAIA, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
A famed British architect, four prominent American architects, three architectural critics and a noted anthropologist-psychologist will participate in the professional program of The American Institute of Architects' 95th Annual Convention May 5-9 in Miami Beach, Florida, it was announced today by President Henry L. Wright, FAIA, of Los Angeles.

Theme of the convention, which is expected to draw 4,000 architects from all parts of the country, is "The Quest for Quality in Architecture: The Role of Architecture as an Art." Within this framework, program participants will explore the criteria for defining quality, the influences—both internal and external—on architectural quality, and the means through which quality is attained.

The professional program will begin Wednesday morning, May 8 at the Americana Hotel, convention headquarters, following two days of AIA business sessions. Permanent moderator for the entire program will be Burnham Kelly, AIA, dean of Cornell University's College of Architecture.

Speakers at one session will continue as panelists in succeeding sessions to provide unity for the entire program.

“What is Quality?” will be discussed at the opening session by Sir Basil Spence, who has received international acclaim for his design of the new Cathedral at Coventry, England; S. Robert Anshen, FAIA, partner in the San Francisco architectural firm of Anshen & Allen; Paul Rudolph, AIA, chairman of Yale University's Department of Architecture; and Dr. Edward T. Hall, anthropologist-psychologist, who has written a number of books, including "The Silent Language," and is now engaged in writing a new book on the language of space.

“What (and Who) Influences Quality?” will be the topic of the second session Thursday morning. Speakers will be British Author-Critic Nikolaus Pevsner, whose book "An Outline of European Architecture" is considered a model in the field of architectural history; Karel Yasko, newly appointed Assistant Commissioner of Design and Construction for the General Services Administration; and George McCue of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, one of the country's leading specialists in the field of architectural reporting and criticism.
The Texas Architectural Foundation offers scholarships in architectural education and sponsors research in the profession.

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Ralph M. Buffettong, architect of Houston, received a number of awards and honorable mention for his architectural designs displayed at a church buildings and architecture conference this month in Nashville. Shown here are Buffettong (L.), with his design for the Pearl Harbor Baptist Church, Honolulu, Hawaii, and W. A. Harrell, secretary, church architecture department of the Baptist Sunday School Board who made the awards.

TEXAS ARCHITECT

ROWLETT

John Rowlett, a founding partner in the architectural, planning and engineering firm of Caudill, Rowlett and Scott, will fly to the Philippine Islands next week to serve as a consultant on planning for a university there.

He will be accompanied by John Young, a fifth-year architectural student at Rice University who also will assist Mr. Rowlett.

They are going to the Philippines under a Ford Foundation grant to advise on long range development plans for the Philippine College of Agriculture which is a division of the University of the Philippines located at Los Banos, 60 miles from Manila.

"We will be working with the dean of the college to help with their problems of growth in making the school an educational facility for all of Southeast Asia," Mr. Rowlett said.

Mr. Young is taking the trip as part of the newly inaugurated preceptor training program at Rice University. Under this system, an architectural student lives in the home of a practicing architect and works with him for two weeks to gain practical experience.

BUFFINGTON

Preston Bolton, AIA, has received an "Award of Excellence for House Designs" from Architectural Record for the design of his own residence in Houston.

The honored houses, named after considering the designs of hundreds of architects throughout the United States including Alaska and Hawaii, represent the designs of 20 different architects in 12 states. The price of the development houses range from $11,000 to $50,000; the custom houses range in price from $15,800 to more than $150,000.

Architectural Record's "Award of Excellence for House Design" will be presented to each of the architects—as well as each owner—of the award-winning houses in mid-May.

Space arrangement to provide comfort, pleasant surroundings and efficient traffic flow was one of the major criteria used by the panel in selecting the trend-setting houses. Other criteria included distinguished appearance—interior as well as exterior, structural design, and use of new materials and construction methods.

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