COVER:
HARMONIOUS
WITH ITS
NEIGHBORS
AND
APPEALING
TO THE MASS
MARKET
THIS
SPECULATIVE
OFFICE
BUILDING
BY
ARCHITECTS
NEUHAS
AND
TAYLOR
IS A
TEXAS
ARCHITECTURE
1965
SELECTION.
Beyond all plans and programs, true conservation is ultimately something of the mind—an ideal of men who cherish their past and believe in their future.

We cannot afford an America where experience tramples upon esthetics and development decisions are made with an eye only on the present.

We must act decisively—and soon—if we are to assert the people's right to clean air and water, to open space, to well-designed urban areas, to mental and physical health. In every part of the nation we need men and women who will fight for man-made masterpieces and against senseless squalor and urban decay.

Stewart L. Udall
3336 RICHMOND BUILDING, HOUSTON

NEUHAUS AND TAYLOR

ARCHITECTS AND PLANNING CONSULTANTS
The building was commissioned by an investment builder for speculative office rental. Because the site is an expensive corner lot in a rapidly developing area of suburban office buildings, the most intensive use of land was required. A four-story building of large floors, each in excess of 20,000 square feet, was decided upon to achieve maximum efficiency with resultant competitive rental rates. Such a configuration was also more economical because of fewer air conditioning zones, lower elevator costs, and lower costs for toilet facilities. In addition, large floors have more planning flexibility, especially for the larger tenant. However, in the Houston suburban market, it is difficult to lease the interior space resulting from large floors, so two interior courtyards were created to give natural light and landscaped views to the interior offices. All spaces have windows no more than thirty feet from a typical circulation corridor. An aluminum grid sunscreen at the top of each courtyard encloses the space and creates an impressive volume, shields the glass walls from direct sun and thus reduces the number of air conditioning zones otherwise required for the courtyard glass from eight to two, per floor. Corridors and elevator lobbies also open out upon the courtyards, an amenity not possible in a typical double-loaded corridor scheme. In order to provide for on-site parking, the building was placed upon a hollow podium that covers the entire lot and contains a parking basement one-half level below grade. Eighty-nine cars are parked on top of the podium and 193 in a basement naturally ventilated by openings at the above-grade wall.
In deference to the Texas sun, fenestration is grey plate window glass and insulated black opaque glass panels in alternating panes. The penthouse floor is set back under a broad overhang to create a decorative veranda, to allow greater glass areas, and consequently to achieve rental rates higher than the other floors.
Appointment by Governor John Connally of George S. Sowden, A.I.A., president of the Texas Society of Architects, to the Advisory Committee for the First Texas Governor's Conference on Libraries underscored the importance of the participation of Texas architects in a "new look" for Texas libraries.

The one-day Conference, March 23, in Austin's Municipal Auditorium will bring together leading state and local officials to discuss the low status of Texas libraries—37th ranking in the nation in annual per capita expenditure for public libraries—and to seek ways to improve that status. Attendance will be by invitation of the Governor.

Suffering many years from low priority rating with city councils and county commissioners who budget their funds, Texas libraries spend 84 cents per year, per person, on public libraries while the rest of the nation spends $1.05 and professional standards recommend $3.50.

Majority of the libraries are housed in an old building that was bequeathed for library use by a citizen and the transformation from home to adequate library was not successful. But new faces for public libraries began to take shape under the hand of Texas architects after activation of the Library Services and Construction Act in September, 1964.

Fourteen new buildings and four remodeling projects were authorized in 1964 under the $1,438,499 building allocation for Texas. Four new libraries and one remodeling project have been approved already for 1965-66 and others are pending final approval. All projects require matching funds from the locality requesting the grant.

New building fund allocations in 1964 were: main buildings at Brownwood, Cameron, Killeen, LaPorte, Eagle Pass and San Antonio; branches: Corpus Christi, 1; San Antonio, 1; Fort Worth, 5. Under 1965 allocations, new buildings will go up at Port Neches, San Marcos, Colorado City (Mitchell County Library) and Pharr (Pharr County Library).

Remodeling was approved in 1964 for Denison, main building; Houston, 3 branches; and construction of a resource center at Houston. Approval was given in 1965 to remodeling Austin Public Library main building.

The first two building projects under the program broke ground in October. Cameron began its $80,000 building for which David R. Carnahan of Waco was architect. Brownwood began its $175,000 structure. T. Z. Hamm of Fort Worth was architect.
Funds for Texas under the LSCA Act are administered by the Field Services Division of the Texas State Library and are underwriting expenses of the Governor’s Conference.

Although the federal money has provided the first bright spot in many years in Texas library construction, it is obviously a drop in the bucket—18 new buildings approved in two years—when there are 342 public libraries in the state.

Far from being able to provide funds for a new building, most Texas libraries are holding salad suppers and auctions in efforts to raise funds to provide operating expenses. Many of them are open as little as one day a week.

And that is the reason for the Governor’s Conference on Libraries. Governor Connally has emphasized in his education program the importance of excellence and has characterized libraries as the “touchstone” of that excellence. He has expressed the conviction that Texans will be willing to improve their libraries if they are informed of the extreme need for improvement.

Twenty-eight Texas counties have no public libraries, and 85 per cent of the citizens of Texas have to use public libraries with inadequate books and staff. More than half a million public school students do not have a central library in their school.

Public libraries will not be the only topic of discussion for the Conference. All type libraries—elementary and secondary school libraries, college and university libraries, and special libraries will be evaluated.

Governor Connally will keynote the Conference program with an address on the Conference theme, “Library Excellence: Today’s Necessity.” Chancellor Harry Ransom of The University of Texas will discuss library development in Texas. The president of the nation’s professional library group, the American Library Association, Robert Vosper, who is also UCLA librarian, will discuss the responsibility which must be shared in library support. Mrs. Weldon Lynch, nationally known library lecturer from Oakdale, Louisiana, will address a luncheon session on citizen support, and Former Governor Price Daniel will pinpoint financial sources for libraries in a talk to the afternoon session. Discussion groups will invite questions and ideas from the participants and Governor Connally will greet participants at a reception concluding the day’s activities.

A Steering Committee composed primarily of the state’s professional and lay library leaders is guiding policy for the Conference. Support and ideas for this committee are being given by the Advisory Committee composed of the presidents of the state’s civic, education, business and professional organizations with a relation to library development.

Dorman H. Winfrey, State Library director, is coordinator for the Conference and heads the Steering Committee as co-chairman with Heartsill Young, president of the Texas Library Association and assistant director of The University of Texas library.

It is the first Conference on libraries in Texas and the first in the United States in 1966. Seventeen other states have held such conferences.
DE WARE FIELD HOUSE, COLLEGE STATION

MATTHEWS AND ASSOCIATES
ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS
The small wood framed building enclosing the Handball courts at Texas A&M University was to be demolished, in its place the University planned to build a new olympic size swimming pool.

This decision rippled a hundred yards to another old building, the 36 year old DeWare fieldhouse, used only sparingly for basketball practice. DeWare contained some 20,000 square feet of area and had an interior peak height of 63 feet interrupted by trussed arches every 20 feet.

Initial analysis by the Architect, Matthews & Associates of Bryan, indicated that the fieldhouse volume above the basketball court could house the five Handball courts lost by construction of the new pool, plus 7 or 9 additional courts.

Design data on the existing structure was not available. On site inspection revealed that it would not be feasible to use the existing structure or walls. A completely new structural system was designed to fit within, and be free of, the existing structure.

The existing basketball court was retained, together with one half of the spectator seats. Fourteen regulation Handball courts were sandwiched into the volume between the basketball practice space and the existing structure.
Open land is vanishing and old landmarks are violate. Worst of all, expansion is eroding the precious and time-honored values of community with neighbors and communion with nature. The loss of these values breeds loneliness and boredom and indifference. Our society will never be great until our cities are great.

President Lyndon B. Johnson

Preservation deals with more than historic structures and landmarks—as important as these are to our culture. The wider view requires our involvement to preserve the heritage of our land, forest, water and resources.

Preservation serves not to remind us alone where we have been and where we are bound, but to remind us that our children soon to inhabit this land will by our hand live in beauty or chaos.
Our story has been peculiarly the story of man and the land, man and the forests, man and the plains, man and water, man and resources. It has been the story of a rich and varied natural heritage.

President John F. Kennedy
Most American cities and their suburbs are ugly or dreary. Each city has some areas of charm or gaiety or grandeur. But each could have more. Each could achieve a unique character by developing a satisfying visual form.

Such achievement, however, can result only from the actions of the people who live and work in the city and who govern it. They give the city its form; they make its character and spirit.

Having made cities that for the most part are ugly, they are capable also of making ones that are pleasantable and beautiful.

Martin Haugen
FACE OF THE METROPOLIS

Americans must become aware of the need to preserve and enhance the landscape of the country.

Jan Nairn
We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a commodity to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.

Aldo Leopold—
'A Sand Country Almanac'
IMAGE, the student magazine of the School of Architecture at The University of Texas, is now in its fourth year of publication. Its purpose is to reflect the many facets of architecture, as seen from both a Professional and student viewpoint. This year our emphasis is on the relation of the architect to other similar professions—such as the City planner, the Landscape Architect, the Developer, and those in related sciences. Other articles of a varied nature include emphasis by Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson on the need for improving our visual environment, and some poignant remarks on the "Social Responsibility of the Architect" by J. B. Jackson, Editor of "Landscape" Magazine. On the lighter side, Ogden Nash noted for his limericks has some whimsical comments about architecture. Following is a list of our article contributors for the 1966 edition, published in April:

- Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson, Washington, D. C.
- Ogden Nash, Poet
- J. B. Jackson, Editor of "LANDSCAPE" Magazine
- Philip Johnson, Architect; a student interview
- Sam B. Zisman, City Planner from San Antonio
- Ken Steffa, Tom Daly, Royce LaNier, Bob Mabry, Jim Smith; all studying, or working overseas in Peace Corps.
- Robert Mather, U. T. Arch. Faculty, writing on Arch. Education
- Anatole Senkevitch, U. T. Arch. Student, writing of experiences in Russia with State Department tour on American Architecture
- Hugo Leipziger-Pearce, U. T. Arch. Faculty
- Charles Moore, Chairman, Yale School of Architecture
- Jan Rowan, Editor of "Progressive Architecture"
- Juan Cotera, U. T. Arch. Student writing on "the aesthetic value of Pago"
- Joseph Escherick, Architect, San Francisco
- Sibyl Moholy Nagy, Professor, Pratt Institute
- Charles Thomsen, Associate with Caudill, Rowlett & Scott, writing on the "Computer myth in Architecture"
- Paul Baker, dramatist from Trinity University in San Antonio

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Beauty and the budget get together in this all-concrete school

The Avocado Elementary School in Homestead, Florida, demonstrates again the advantages of concrete in even a small size plant.

The structure is striking, yet tastefully modern ... with 22 classrooms, cafetorium, library and administrative spaces. For 35,210 square feet, the bid price was $398,390, or $11.32 per square foot.

The precast concrete folded plate roof, supported on prestressed columns of concrete, provided not only an outstanding design feature, but brought important economy. Walls are concrete masonry, stuccoed on the exterior, plastered inside for decorative effect. And included in the modest cost is the elegance of terrazzo floors in the cafetorium.

For school boards seeking, at realistic cost, esthetically pleasing facilities that are also durable, firesafe and easy to maintain, concrete offers the ideal solution. Portland Cement Association

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An organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete, made possible by the financial support of many competing cement manufacturers in the United States and Canada
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