THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

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JUNE 1972
Architects were asked to design a plan to a country vacation home utilizing an existing deteriorating "salt box" farmhouse. Additions were to include two bedrooms, a bath, maid's room and entrance hall. The existing house was to be expanded to include a new living and dining area, kitchen, master bedroom and bath. A new garage was also to be added.

The house is approached off axis; as one proceeds down the drive, he becomes aware of a very classical organization of building locations. Seemingly, at first glance, there is a complex of three farm buildings, all with hip roofs and batten siding characteristic of nineteenth century Texas farms. There is a forecourt which defines the entrance to the main house.

There are two clues in the approach to the house that suggest that something is not quite typical about this little farm complex. For one thing, as one gets closer, he notices that what he first thought was a third building, is actually a wall, which seems to penetrate into the form of the main house.

Upon entering, things begin to happen. The traditional breezeway through the central axis of the house is a much more open space than one would expect: the ceiling is cut open to bring in more light, and to refocus the direction toward a very normal-sized door opening at the center of what was the back wall of a typical Texas farmhouse.

Through that door is an incredible change of form and space; an almost obsessive dedication to preserving the view of the lake, trees and hills; and yet a surprising reaffirmation of the qualities and characteristics of the original farmhouse. The form of the addition to the house is generated from one precise vantage point at that door, a plan defined by 45 degree axial views describing the extremities of each end of the lake, and thus, cupping and framing the picturesque view of the countryside.

The new form of the house intentionally distorts perspective, in order to provide interest, challenge, and a sense of extravagance. From the outside, certain views of the house seem to present a cubistic representation of reality. The use of the diagonal (the 45 degree angle), the slope of the roof, and the interpenetration of surfaces collaborate to present a picture that suggests that the normal way of seeing has been tampered with.

For the same logic that manneristic devices have been used in the house to provide the element of surprise, and synthesize historical form types, so have cubistic devices been used to create dissonance and complexity by distorting and mixing spacial locations and temporal dates.

For the sake of interest, challenge, thought, and satisfaction, the house is appropriately complex for the excitement of the activity of life itself. The interplay of new and old forms as seen from multiple points of view create an incredible sense of awareness of a new kind of environment which seemingly abstracts itself from the everyday temporal sequence, and demands readjustment on the part of the beholder.
ABILENE AIR TERMINAL

TITTLE, LUTHER, LOVING & LEE - ARCHITECTS
Problem presented to the architect was to design a commuter type air terminal for a growing West Texas city with a positive separation of the following functions:

- Enplaning passengers
- Deplaning passengers
- Baggage and freight

Client’s request for three separate areas was justified by research of past, present and future needs which indicated:

- No layovers between flights (common lobby not needed)
- Passengers are either leaving or arriving in the city
- Excessive amounts of freight due to local industrial plants

A two-story structure was selected with enplaning facilities on the top level and deplaning facilities and freight at the lower. Solution separates traffic and congestion, reduces walking distance for enplaning and deplaning passengers, and eases the handling of freight and baggage.

This initial unit can accommodate up to three airlines. For further expansion, similar units will be added to the east and each unit will become a separate terminal although physically connected.

Exterior materials include sandblasted concrete, solar bronze glass with neoprene gaskets, and aluminum with statuary bronze finish.

Interiors are sandblasted concrete, terrazzo flooring, vinyl fabric wall covering, and acoustical plaster ceilings.

Construction is a reinforced and prestressed concrete frame with drywall partitions and a built-up roof.
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TEXAS ARCHITECT
REMODEL OF THE CUMBERLAND HILL SCHOOL
Architects were commissioned to restore the oldest existing brick school building in Dallas County for use as headquarters for an international off-shore drilling, pipeline and engineering corporation.

The major architectural challenge was to unify and restore the original character of a building that had been remodeled and added to several times.

Secondary challenge was to solve the functions of a contemporary office building within the limitations of a load-bearing masonry building designed for school usage.

This was not an exact restoration but rather a unifying effort in the spirit and character of the Texas Victorian era which produced the original building. The intent was to preserve the best qualities of the existing structure while unifying the various remodelings and additions.

The standing seam roof and cupola were constructed to emulate the dominant architectural feature of the original building and to help unify it into one structure. The unification was completed by painting the several different colors of brick one color, the use of ornamental ironwork, and landscape design.

Interior of the building was completely remodeled into offices with a two story open well and grand stair forming the focal point of the interior.

Located within the central business district of Dallas, the building is a major anchor point for green space in the Polti Plan as well as a link to the architectural heritage of Dallas.
REMODEL OF THE CUMBERLAND HILL SCHOOL FOR SEDCO, INC.

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JUNE 1972
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SID W. RICHARDSON COLLEGE
RICE UNIVERSITY, HOUSTON

NEUHAUS + TAYLOR / ARCHITECTS & PLANNING CONSULTANTS

photo by Frank Lotz Miller

photo by Richard Payne
The client required a residential college providing living quarters for approximately 220 students, dining facilities, recreational areas and master's residence. The site was selected for proximity to the academic classroom area and other men's colleges on the existing campus. Client suggested a high-rise solution due to the rapidly dwindling land supply. However, doubts were expressed as to the ability to maintain individual identity and human qualities of residential quarters in a high-rise solution.

Architectural continuity with the existing campus buildings was also required. More than just "living quarters," the residential college should provide a lifestyle conducive to mixing and intermingling of university students with different fields of study. Public areas could enhance this mixture but the identity of the individual and his private quarters should not be violated.

An existing alley of trees was utilized with the tower becoming a focal point at the end of the vista. The dining hall is also centered to focus the view down the alley and back to the campus. Student lounges at each split level elevator landing provide the required group gathering areas. Student rooms have two exposures and complete privacy with double doors separating the individual's living quarters from public areas. The master's residence is incorporated in the two lower levels, as are common areas, lounges and the dining facility.

Structure is concrete frame with flat slab construction and precast concrete window boxes. Masonry is typical of all campus buildings. The total area of the building is 89,170 square feet and the construction cost was $1,950,000.
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SAUK VALLEY COLLEGE
STERLING, ILLINOIS

CAUDILL ROWLETT SCOTT / ARCHITECTS AND PLANNERS

photo by Bill Hedrich
Equal status for all academic disciplines, free and easy communication between faculty and students — combined with the severe winter climate — were the chief influences in placing the physical facilities of this community college inside a single structure. The site — a square parcel of open farmland bounded by a highway on the north and by a river on the south — led to a linear building form facing the river.

The building is arranged around a 40’ wide, three-story central mall or “student street.” This responds to the educational, social and economic requirements of the program. The mall includes lounge areas, informal study space, a snack bar, a bookstore and academic display areas, thereby providing a congenial mix of social and academic activity throughout the college. All disciplines have direct access to the mall, so that students identify with the college as a whole, rather than with an isolated department.

Structure is reinforced concrete with 60 ft. long post-tensioned concrete joists supported by pairs of girders. Exterior materials are exposed sandblasted concrete, reddish brown brick and bronzed glass.
J. Roy White of Austin, a partner in the architectural firm of Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White, has been elected president of the Austin Heritage Society. He has been active in the Society as first vice president.

Long interested in Austin restoration and preservation projects, White is the author of a book, Limestone and Logs.

Wolf Jessen AIA was named a director and Wayne Bell AIA was named to the Heritage Society’s Advisory Board.

B. RAE NESMITH

Senator John Tower, R-Texas, has announced the appointment of B. Rea Nesmith of El Paso to serve a two-year term as a member of the National Public Advisory Panel on Architectural Services.

Function of the panel is to provide advice and recommendations to the General Services Administration that will promote high standards of architectural excellence in the design and construction of federal buildings.

Nesmith is head of a firm providing architectural, planning and engineering services. He is a graduate of Texas Tech University and has practiced in El Paso and the Southwest for the past 20 years.

Besides membership in the Texas Society of Architects and the American Institute of Architects, Nesmith is a member of the Texas and National Societies of Professional Engineers and the Construction Specifications Institute.
The Texas Architectural Foundation offers scholarships in architectural education and sponsors research in the profession.

Contributions may be made as memorials: a remembrance with purpose and dignity.

BILLBOARDS

In California, an Environmental Enrichment Award was presented to the Atlantic Richfield Company in recognition of the firm’s decision not to renew contracts for some 1000 billboards across the nation.

The award was presented by the Southern California Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

H. V. "CORKY" MOSS

H. V. "Corky" Moss of Austin, sales manager for the Featherlite Corporation, has been elected president of the Texas Concrete Masonry Association for 1972-73.

Moss has long been active in TCMA affairs. He is well known to Texas architects and was chosen as an Honorary Member of the Texas Society of Architects last year.

G. Pierce • Goodwin • Flanagan

Texas Architect featured the Fire Station — Houston Intercontinental Airport on page 20 of the April issue. Inadvertently credit was not given to the office of G. Pierce-Goodwin-Flanagan AIA who were equally responsible for the project and continue to work with Goleman & Rolfe in all new projects for the City of Houston at the airport.

R. STANLEY BAIR

R. Stanley Bair of Houston, associated with the architectural firm of Leifeste and Bair, is one of 12 individuals to be advanced to the rank of Fellow of The Construction Specifications Institute.

The Institute, with headquarters in Washington, D.C., is the nation's only technical organization dealing with all aspects of construction communications. Its membership includes individuals from all sectors of the construction industry and currently stands at approximately 10,000 in 120 chapters throughout the nation.

Bair is being honored for his distinguished achievements in education as founder, director and teacher of a highly successful specifications writing course sponsored jointly by the Houston Chapter of CSI and the University of Houston; for his activities as a member and later chairman of the Institute's Education Committee; as a frequent guest lecturer at various colleges of architecture and engineering and as an author of numerous articles related to education and the art of specification writing in national construction publications. He is also being cited for his leadership as a director, Region 9 of the Institute, which encompasses chapters in Texas and Oklahoma.

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