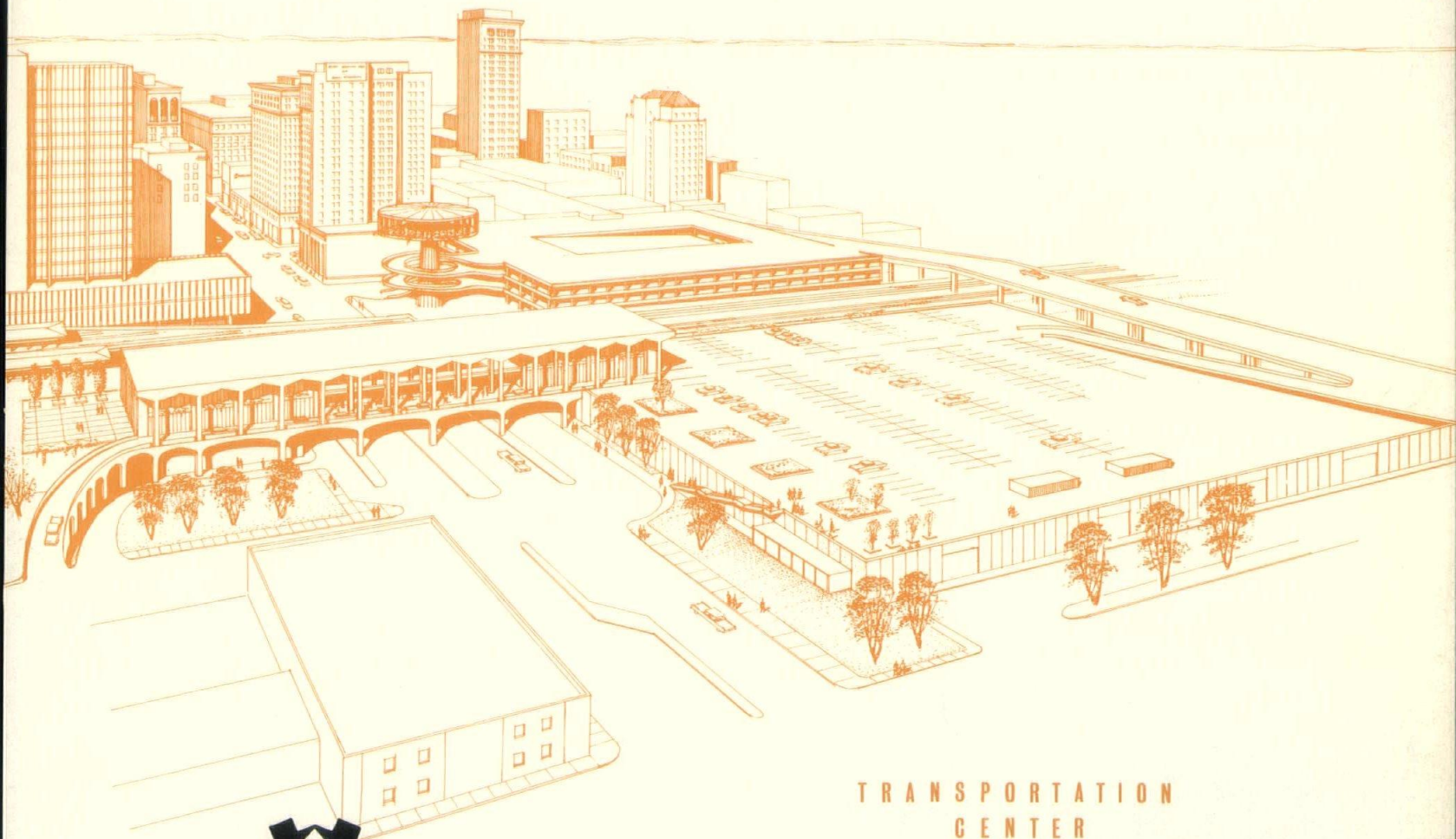


ALABAMA ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA COUNCIL
OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

MARCH - APRIL 1965



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IN THIS ISSUE:
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EDITORIAL

With this first full-fledged issue, architects in Alabama realize the fulfillment of a long expressed desire—that of having their own publication.

As the population increases, as public awareness of good design and the need for a better environment increases, as the building of cities and suburbs continues apace—so the need for more and better architecture increases.

It is to help give a voice to those whose concern is to build a better environment in which people can live, work, and play in compatible surroundings, that ALABAMA ARCHITECT seeks its purpose.

Primarily, the purpose of this magazine is to advance the profession of architecture within our area of effectiveness, both within and without the profession.

Within, we will present material which will assist the architect to improve the quality of his design; increase his technical competence; strengthen his business management procedures; fulfill his obligations to his community; increase his awareness of matters of professional concern.

Outside the profession, we will present material which will seek to improve the climate in which architecture is practiced by explaining the role of the architect; informing the public of the architect's position in civic affairs and on matters affecting public health and welfare.

It is our hope that architects will make full use of the scope of ALABAMA ARCHITECT. Read it. Comment on it. Write us letters of agreement or disagreement. Send us articles, photos, ideas, suggestions.

And keep in mind that we are indebted to those manufacturers, suppliers of products and services, who advertise in the columns of ALABAMA ARCHITECT and make possible its existence financially. You are urged to consider their products and services and make use of them whenever possible.

ALABAMA ARCHITECT is your voice and your magazine. We urge you to use it.

—THE EDITORS

March-April 1965

ALABAMA ARCHITECT



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ALABAMA COUNCIL
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MARCH - APRIL 1965

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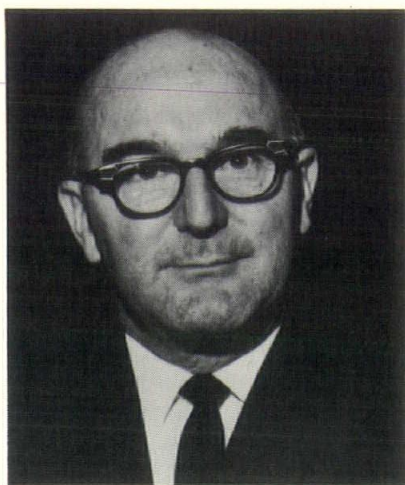
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Throughout history, the Architect has been associated with the design of cities.

Today social advances, technological progress and the rapid expansion of communities present a challenge and new opportunities to the Architect. As a consequence of urban renewal, development of new communities, road building and gigantic construction programs, the Architect together with all design professions and the entire building industry share a common responsibility in planning and building a better environment in which to live.

The AIA strongly advocates thorough, comprehensive advance planning. Further, it believes that architectural services for advance planning should be rendered by architects in private practice.

States and other governmental agencies should be urged to provide legislation for advance planning of all needed public works, and to include in the funds for all such programs a proper percentage for advance planning.

The AIA holds the position that architects are essential to creation of improvements to the human environment within cities, towns, neighborhoods, and countryside. Its members have an obligation to bring appropriate architectural services and the benefit of their professional competence into the whole field of Urban Renewal, Community and Regional Planning.

The Alabama Council of the AIA urges its members and Chapters to assume their share in fulfilling these responsibilities.

HUGH W. ELLIS, President
Alabama Council, AIA



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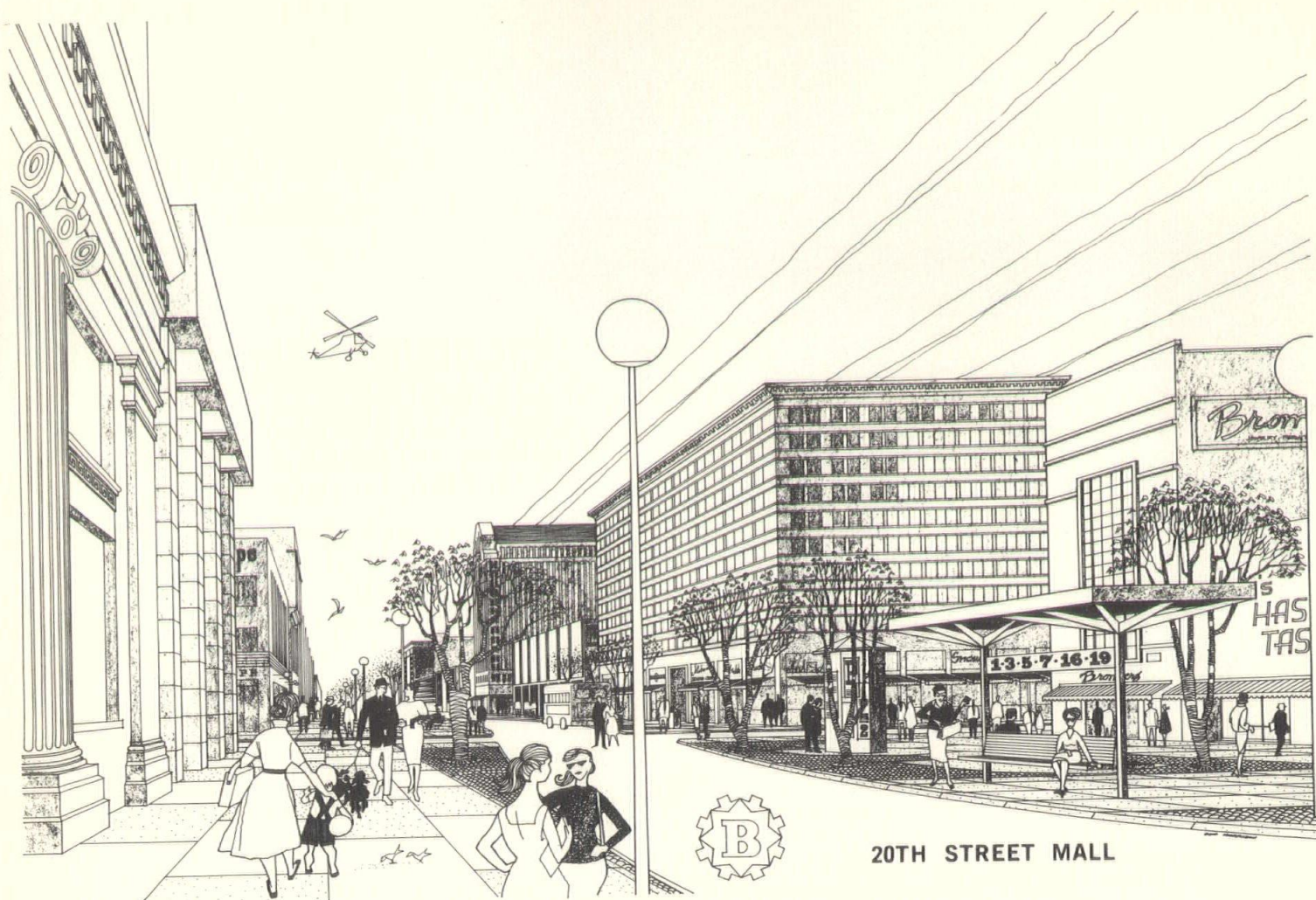
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Operation New Birmingham

Guest Editors: Edward J. Bondurant, President, Birmingham Chapter AIA; Bill Williams, Councilor, Birmingham Chapter AIA.

AIA in action through one Chapter's concern for their community—

Over two years ago Birmingham's Architects committed themselves to 5000 hours of donated services. In collaboration with the Birmingham Downtown Improvement Association, who furnished \$18,000.00 to cover the various expenses of the project including the salary of a full time coordinator, the architects undertook the task of planning the Central Business District of Birmingham.

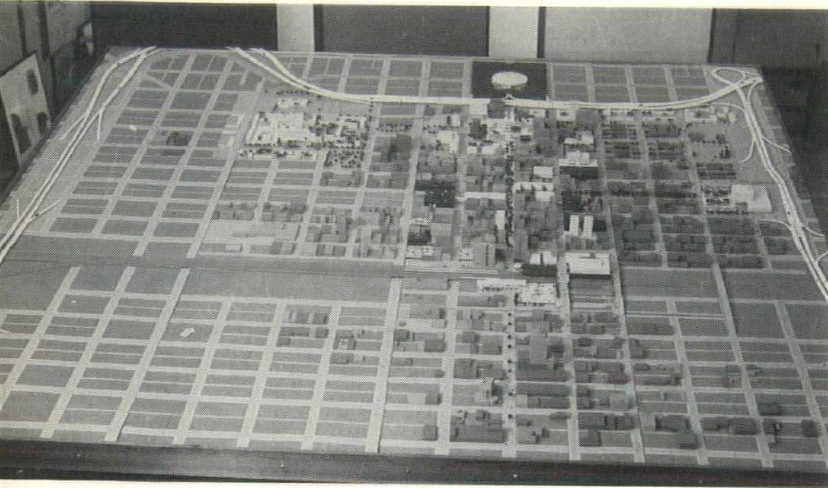
While not immune to the national afflictions of slums, increasing crime rate, migrating population, and throttled transportation, thanks to a superior Police Department

and to good government, these had been held to a lower-than-average level in Birmingham. Yet creeping economic stagnation and spiralling costs of city government in the face of declining tax dollars from the central business district strongly indicated that the time was past due to take definite action to prescribe and undertake a cure.

Starting with the recommendations set forth in the Comprehensive Plan of 1960, ONB concentrated on the simple diagnosis that the *People aren't there*. How can people be brought back into the Central Business District? How can we make downtown once again a cross-roads bazaar, an adventure, a place of fun, easy-to-reach, attractive, awake to the needs of people, a center supplying goods, entertainment, education, culture and a place for desirable living?

Several basic objectives were clearly defined before ONB developed plans and recommendations: The best use of

Traffic Circulation System



Central Business District

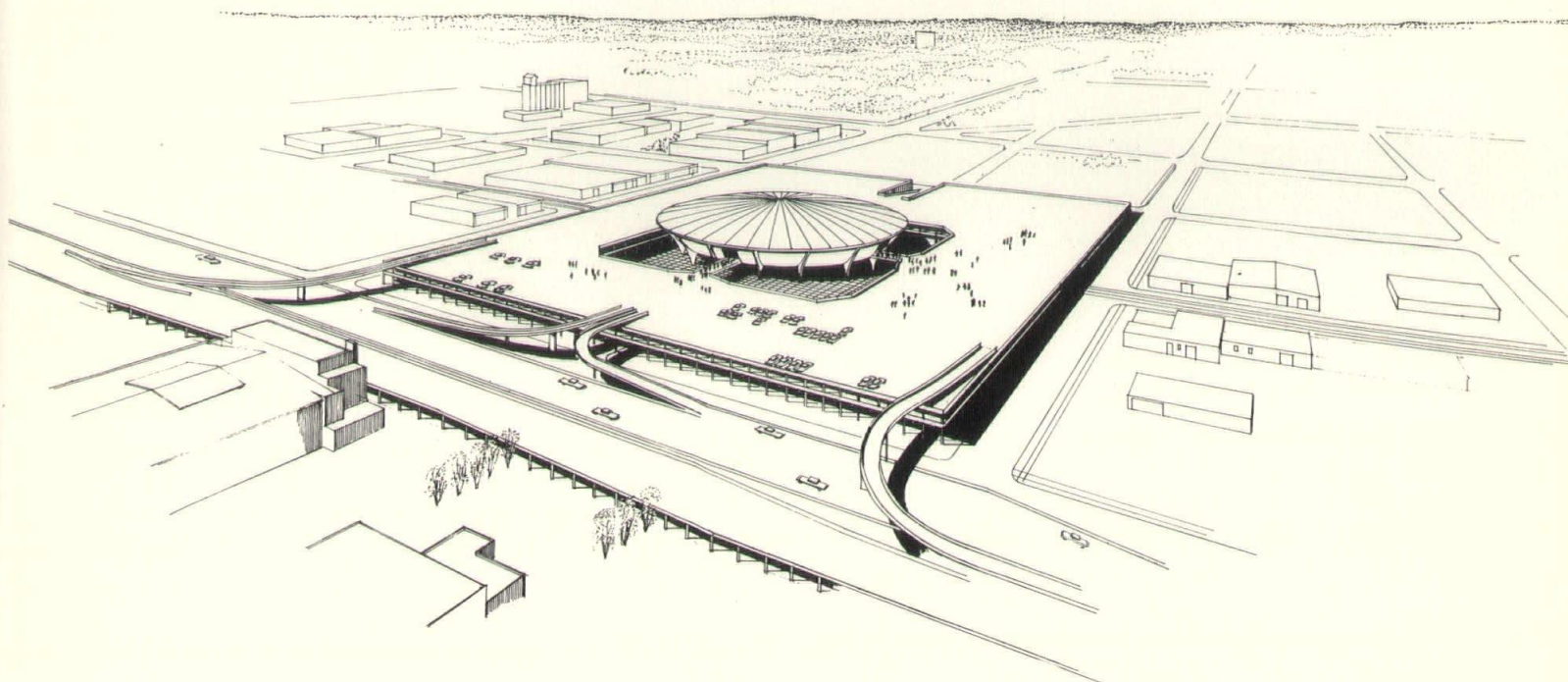


land, a good traffic circulation system, adequate parking, a functional street pattern, rehabilitation of declining areas and the construction of certain facilities which would inject new life, new activity and hundreds of people into downtown Birmingham.

The necessity of easy access to and egress from the Central Business District will be provided by Interstate Highway 65 on the West, Interstate Highway 59 on the North and the Red Mountain Expressway on the East. Ramps on and off these expressways feed into one-way streets affording unhindered access and good internal traffic circulation, as well.

Planned at the intersection of 20th Street and the railroad tracks is a Transportation Center. Designed to accommodate passengers arriving by cross country railroads and bus lines, it also has provision for future rapid transit connecting to nearby population centers. Direct connections to any mode of travel can be made at the Center, whether taxi, automobile, city transit, or the projected shuttle bus, running at 3 minute intervals, tying the Central Business District together and providing quick access from the large parking complex at the Civic Center.

An integral part of the transportation plan is adequate provision for parking. Proposed parking structures to provide this are located in the fringe of the core, within



THE ARENA

acceptable walking distance of stores and office buildings in the core area. These are tied to 20th Street, the spine of the Central Business District, by enclosed walkways bridging streets and alleys. Twentieth Street itself will be given new character to make it a unifying element of the entire core area. Enhanced by plants, benches, fountains, textures and the limiting of traffic to public conveyances including the convenient shuttle bus; 20th Street will become a pleasant mall stretching from the Civic Center on the North to the Transportation Center at the South.

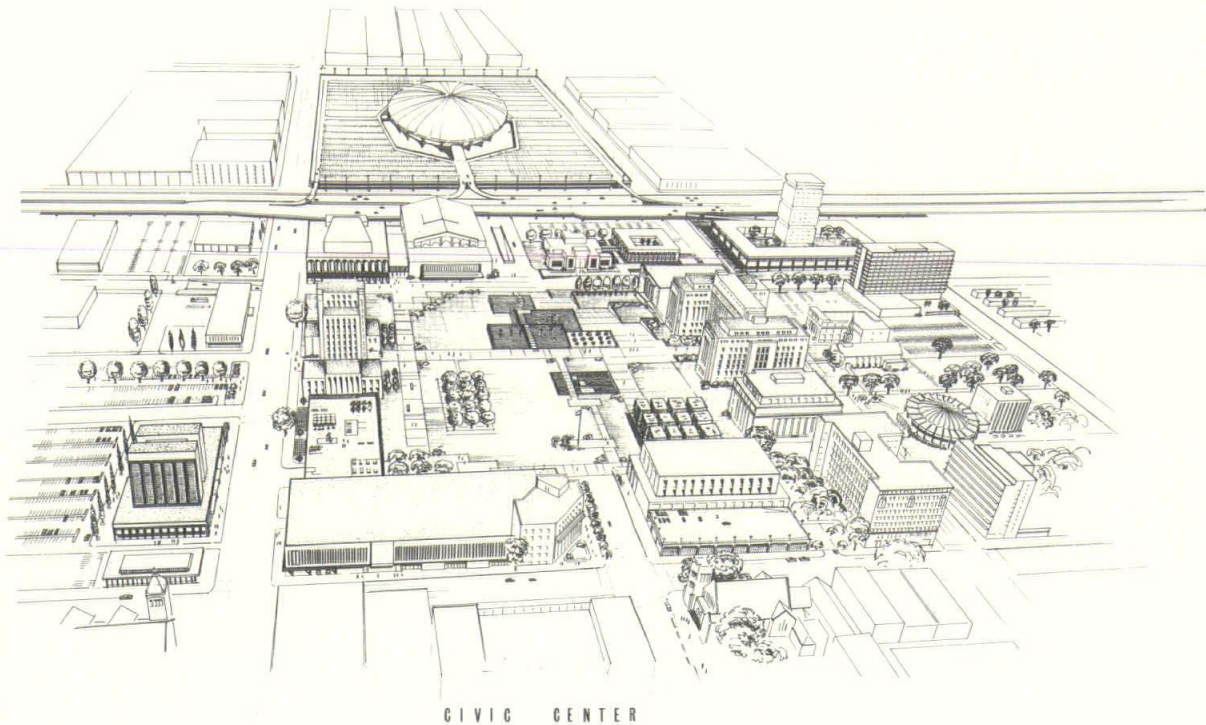
As a part of an expanded civic center, a civic activities center complex consisting of a 12,000 seat arena with adequate parking and a concert hall, which together with the existing auditorium and an enlarged art museum are designed to make Birmingham the choice convention city of the entire southeast.

Eastward from the 20th Street Mall is the proposed new Postal Facility. This assured four-block redevelopment will be tied to the spine by an avenue that ends there, cleared of on-street parking and beautifully planted with trees and shrubs along widened walks.

There is an increasing demand for in-town living accommodations, and there has been provided for this demand westward from the Civic Center, a super block of high rise apartments intermingled with town houses and

Civic Center

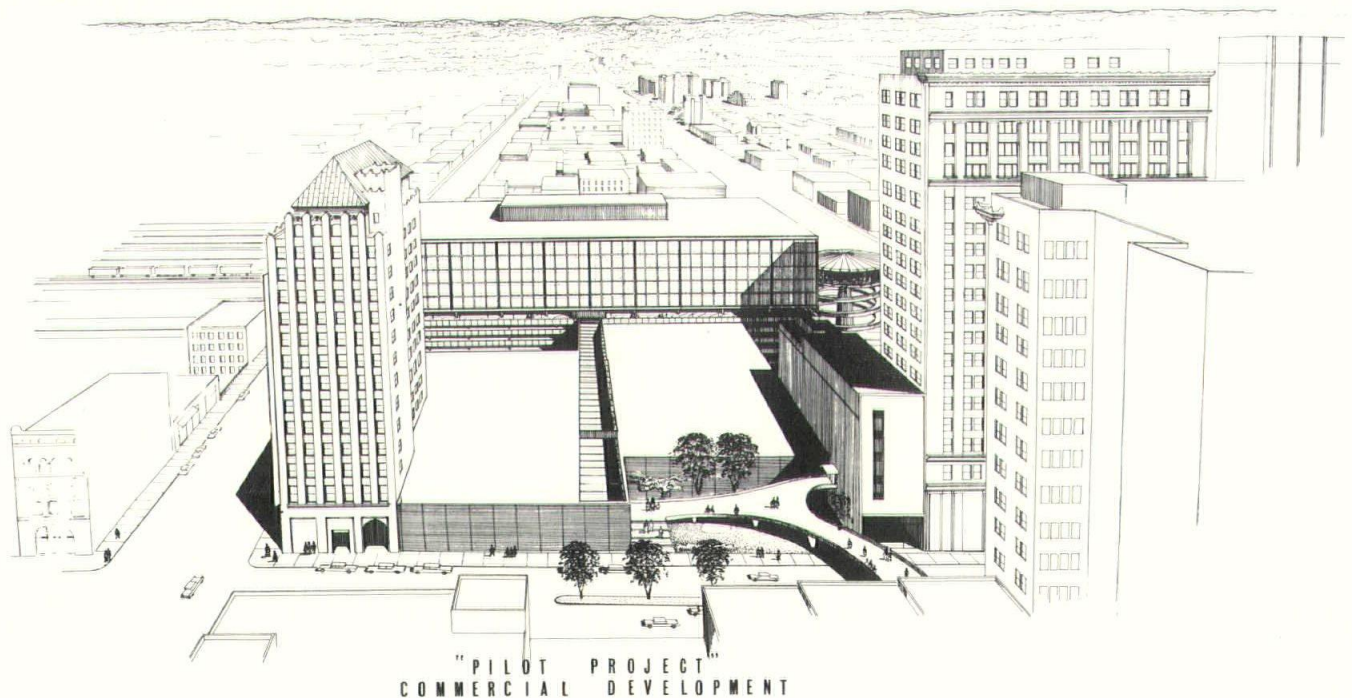




the related facilities such as schools and churches. A similar housing complex is recommended for the extreme northwest corner of the Central Business District.

Other facilities proposed by the architects are a trade mart near the transportation center, a home decoration center, several new office buildings, a public safety building and new state office building in the civic center in addition to the redevelopment of the park to extend it as a unifying element "to the door" of each building.

On January 25, 1965, the Architects and the BDIA presented the ONB project to the City as a "Design for Progress" culminating two years of meetings with various civic groups, many hours of designing, drawing and model building, and thousands of hopes and dreams for making our City a great City. Was all this spent in vain? Only time will be able to measure the full worth of such a project, but faith has its reward.





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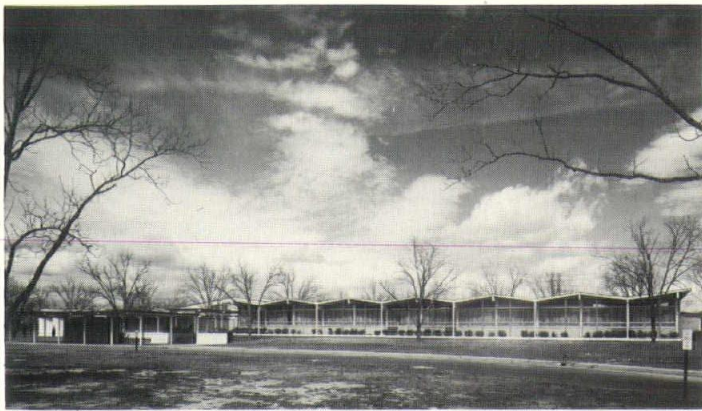
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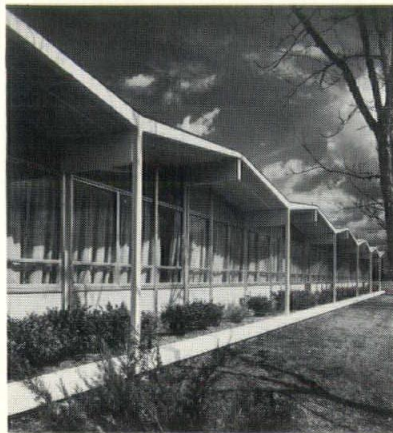
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DYNAMIC CIVIC CENTER PLANNED FOR BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham, Alabama, is the highly fortunate recipient of Design for Progress, an exciting example of Americana in application.

Blueprint for a rejuvenated city, the Design for Progress was formulated through Operation New Birmingham, a joint undertaking of the Architects' League of Birmingham and the Birmingham Downtown Improvement Association, a group composed of forward-thinking business men.

During the past two years, Birmingham architects have given in excess of 6,000 hours of professional time without monetary compensation. The BDIA has provided guidance, work quarters and funds for operating expense. This progressive collaboration has produced a practical plan for a new Birmingham, incorporating excellence in city planning and architectural design.

Paramount in the concept, and slated for early construction is the vital Civic Center, a many faceted complex of governmental and civic buildings. Planned multi-million dollar facilities will house a vigorous program of cultural activities and entertainment, thereby enriching the lives of Birmingham citizens and attracting thousands of visitors.

A fine Concert Hall adjacent to the existing Municipal Auditorium will mean that Birmingham can admirably host more theater, more ballet, concerts and performances of diverse sorts.

A great arena north of these facilities will house giant spectacles . . . sports events . . . trade shows. A multi-levelled parking structure encircling this arena is linked with the Auditorium and Concert Hall by ramps and moving sidewalks.

A new wing planned for the Museum of Art will provide much needed space for this active, growing cultural facility.

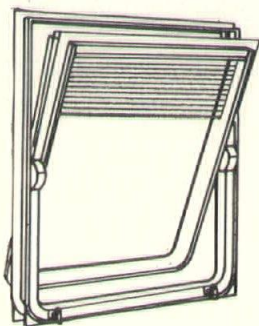
An integral part of the total concept is a redesigned central park, with new textures, new planting and restful pools creating a new visual quality, the functional design suiting the area for outdoor concerts and exhibits.

Southward from the park stretches Twentieth Street, the spine of Birmingham. A concentration of plants, benches, fountains and textures will transform the busy thoroughfare into an idyllic transitway connecting the Civic Center to the shopping complex and hotel-motel facilities. Traffic will be limited to public conveyances, including a small maneuverable shuttlebus. The new Mini-bus will run at short intervals, knitting downtown Birmingham together and providing quick, low-fare access from large parking complexes on the fringe of the core.

Target date for completion of these and related developments is 1971, Birmingham's Centennial Year.

The enthusiastic support of the Design for Progress by the city government, the state government and the man-on-the-street reflects the area's intense interest in and concern with culture, beauty and vitality. Execution of the Design will create an ideal setting for the presentation of distinguished artists from around the world, making Birmingham a major cultural center—a living monument to the indigenous hope and vision of a community.

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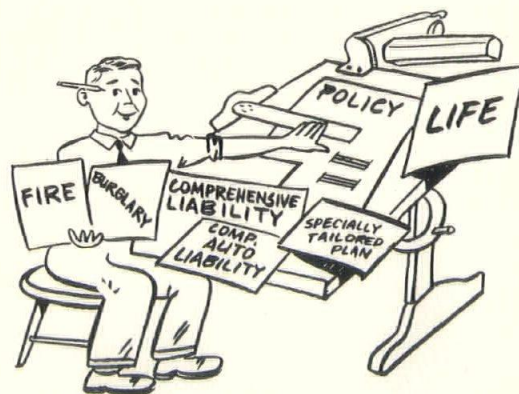
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CHAPTER NEWS

• AROUND THE STATE •

BIRMINGHAM—The Birmingham Chapter began the new year with its annual meeting in January which included a seminar on fees, regular business meeting followed by a dinner to include wives and guests. This meeting was so successful that the same format will be used for our meeting on April 11. This meeting will be held, as are our monthly luncheon meetings, at the RELAY HOUSE, one of Birmingham's newest private clubs, located atop the Bank for Savings Building.

Dean William A. Speer was the speaker at the meeting on March 11, and discussed Auburn University's new Architectural curriculum.

Birmingham's entries in the Gulf States Awards program were prejudged by the staff of the Department of Architecture at Georgia Tech. This judging will also serve to make awards for our city's Festival of Arts to be held in April. An Awards Dinner will be held in conjunction with the Festival.

An annual "Architects' Ball" is in the embryo planning stage. Such an affair to be held for the two fold purpose of scheduling an evening of uninhibited fun and providing (as interest increases over the years) revenue for such things as Chapter sponsored scholarships.

OPERATION NEW BIRMINGHAM, for the past two years Birmingham Architects' project for the revitalization of downtown Birmingham, is being continued in broadened scope. Now ONB includes, in addition to Architects, leaders of the business community. Efforts of these combined forces will now be toward the implementation of the ideas presented by the Architects.

MOBILE—The Mobile Chapter AIA meets at 12 noon the last Friday in each month, at a place to be announced. Always extremely active as a Branch, the Chapter now feels that it has about reached its current potential in number among Corporate members, and is pressing for attendance at meetings and activity among the membership. With an ambitious program before it, the Chapter will be making its influence felt more and more. The July-August issue of ALABAMA ARCHITECT will be assigned to Mobile for editorial content, and Edward Baumhauer, AIA, who serves as Council vice president as well as chairman of the Mobile Chapter Public Relations Committee, is heading up this activity. Working with him are the Committee on Preservation of Historic Buildings through members Harry Inge Johnstone, Dewey Crowder, and Wayne McRae. Also serving on this issue will be Eugene Gray, Thomas Bealle, and Norman Grider.

MONTGOMERY CHAPTER—Off to a good start with an organization meeting at the Holiday Inn Midtown on January 13th, attended by a record crowd of architects and guests, including Council president Ellis, North Alabama Chapter president A. Jackson Davis, Dr. Jim Polychrone of Auburn, Hugh Adams, Director of the State Building Commission, and others. Parker Narrows presided, outlined aims of the Montgomery Chapter for the year. On February 10th, the Chapter held its second meeting, at which Mrs. Elizabeth Wright, director of the Capitol City's Urban Renewal program, discussed plans under consideration and future proposals of this activity in Montgomery. Don Horton, Council secretary, reported that the last quarter Council meeting would be held in Montgomery, with the Chapter as host, and that the meeting would be in the form of a Convention, with speakers, exhibits, and a planned program. In connection with the Convention, the Montgomery Chapter will be responsible for editorial content in the September-October issue of ALABAMA ARCHITECT. The new Recommended Minimum Fee Schedule, as adopted by the Council, was presented and adopted by the Chapter. At the third meeting, on March 10, at Holiday Inn South, the program was presented by Dr. Jim Polychrone and Dean William A. Speer, who discussed the new curriculum in Architecture at Auburn, and how it is being implemented. Charles Humphries, chairman of the Honor Awards program, congratulated the Chapter on its large number of entries (eighteen), and presented Certificates to local winners, as judged by the Mobile Chapter. An excellent article and photos of prize-winning buildings appeared the following day in the local newspaper.

(Continued on page 14)

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CHAPTER NEWS *(Continued from page 12)*

NORTH ALABAMA—The North Alabama Chapter AIA held its organizational meeting on Friday evening, January 29th, at the Holiday Inn East in Huntsville. A large crowd of architects, wives, and guests attended to hear an address by G. Scott Smitherman, Gulf States Regional Director, who presented the Charter to the group. Others attending were Council president Hugh Ellis and members of the Council, who held the first Alabama Council meeting that afternoon. The second meeting was held at noon Wednesday on February 10, at Dale's Restaurant, with Dean Y. Matthews, who heads the Huntsville City Planning Office as guest speaker. He spoke on esthetics of planning and discussed the previous action taken, present action existing, and reviewed what action will be taken in the future by the Planning Commission. The North Alabama Chapter will be responsible for editorial content of ALABAMA ARCHITECT for the May-June issue, with William Dickson and Clyde Fleming assigned to coordinate the information. There was no official March meeting, but members attending the meeting on March 11 of the Northeast Alabama Chapter of the Alabama Society of Professional Engineers, hearing a program in the form of a panel discussion of registration laws. Mike Rutland and Elwyn Reed represented the architects, and Ray Roberts and Carl Jones the engineers.

NEW MEMBERS: Frank H. Neville, Dothan, accepted as Professional Associate in Montgomery Chapter. Sixteen new Student Associates at Auburn University also accepted for membership by Montgomery Chapter.

Harvie P. Jones approved as Corporate member in North Alabama Chapter. Graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology, member of firm of Dickson, Jones & Davis.

William W. Herrin, Jr., approved as Associate member of North Alabama Chapter. Graduate of Auburn University, member of firm of Thomas, Jones.

Hugh Ellis Named to AIA Committee on State and Chapter Organization—Alabama Council president Hugh Ellis has been appointed to serve on the Institute Committee on State and Chapter Organization for the year of 1965. As a part of this duty, Ellis attended a meeting in Washington on February 15-16 at which responsibilities were discussed and programs for the year outlined.

FHA Needs Registered Architect—The Federal Housing Administration is looking for a registered architect to supervise staffs in FHA insuring offices on the northeastern seaboard. Entrance salary is \$12,075 plus fringe benefits. Requirements include degree, registration, and experience in design and construction supervision. If interested write the Director, Architectural Standards Division, FHA, Washington, D.C. 20411.

Paul Speake Sets Up Council Books—Again Paul Speake has done an excellent job in setting up the Treasurer's Books and Accounting System for Alabama architects. The first budget for Alabama Council, AIA, was worked up by Paul and adopted by the Council. (Some years ago, the Alabama Chapter AIA books were originally set up by Paul on the Institute accounting system and has served well all these years).

Distribution of Alabama Chapter funds, including the method and mechanics of distribution of the pro-rated funds to new Chapters, has been worked out and adopted. The Council is indebted to Paul Speake for his time, effort, interest and concern.

Nelson Smith, FAIA, Talks ONB to Jackson (Miss.) Architects—In a brief trip to Jackson, Miss., Nelson Smith, FAIA, carried the story of Operation New Birmingham to neighboring state architects on March 9th, who are interested in starting such a program of their own. According to the prepared script which Nelson sent ALABAMA ARCHITECT a copy of, the Mississippi counterparts received the entire story in a thorough, detailed, and extremely interesting fashion.

Regional Director AIA Reports on Alabama Progress—G. Scott Smitherman, Gulf States Regional Director of the American Institute of Architect, in his Official Report to the Institute, stated: "As of January 1, 1965, the Alabama Chapter AIA has reorganized into four local Chapters and a State Council. This is the culmination of three or four years work and tremendous effort by numerous officers and members of the Chapter. They are to be congratulated, as the new organization will undoubtedly advance the position of the profession and its programs in that state."

14th Annual Gulf States Regional Conference AIA Held in Biloxi March 24-27—The Buena Vista Hotel in Biloxi, on Mississippi's Gulf Coast, was the scene of the 14th Annual Gulf States Regional Conference in late March. Each Alabama Chapter had the opportunity of submitting entries for the Honor Awards. Results of the Awards, as well as other pertinent information, will be reported at a later date.

LETTERS

(Editor's Note: With this prosaic heading, we launch what we hope will become one of the most vital parts of *ALABAMA ARCHITECT*. The "Letters" column ought to provide a launching pad for open end discussions, air gripes, provoke controversies, and serve as a high level "pop off" valve. What we are groping for is a heading worthy of such a pot-pourri, and descriptive in the bargain. All and sundry are urged to send in titles for consideration. We promise no prize should any be accepted, but we do offer grateful recognition. The floor is now open—both for suggested headings and comments in general.)

Sir:

Thanks for sending the pilot copy of *ALABAMA ARCHITECT*. It is a welcome addition to our publications and I shall look forward to seeing it regularly.

J. WILLIAM GRAHAM
Director Information & Publicity
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KARL ELEBASH, Editor & Publisher
Tuscaloosa Graphic

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HARRY BRANDT AYERS
The Anniston Star

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DAVID LACY, Managing Editor
OHIO ARCHITECT

Gentlemen:

You are all gracious in your comments. With the splendid cooperation of Architects in Alabama, we hope to keep a lively, interesting and highly readable publication coming at you. Reactions to this first full issue will be appreciated.

JL

Sir:

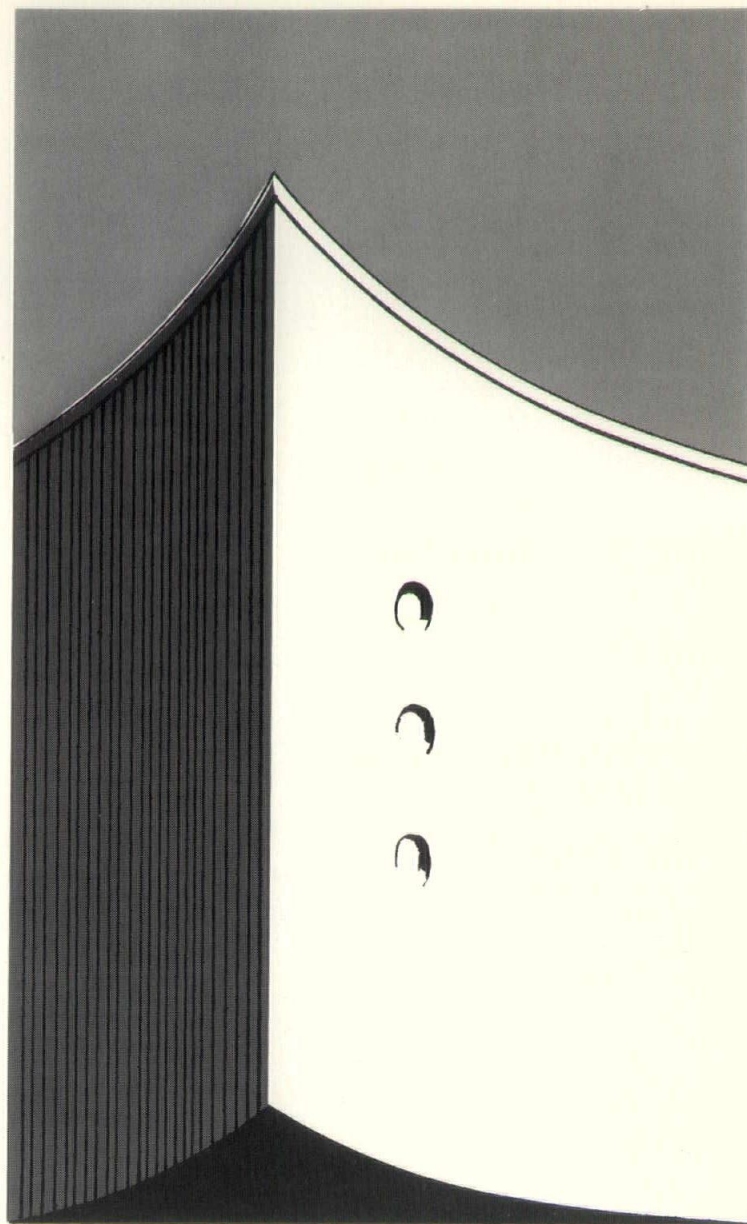
Congratulations on the pre-publication sample and an automatic slap on the wrist for failure to include name of designing architect in the advertisement. I'm sure protests will be received from every quarter. Let's hope there are no "cancellations" of subscriptions until you have a chance to demonstrate undoubted good faith toward a needful profession. Incidentally, it should be possible to find buildings within the state worthy of being featured by advertisers (you might have to work on this). Best wishes for success.

NELSON SMITH, FAIA

Sir:

We have promptly turned the other wrist, and count ourselves lucky to have received no protests or cancellations. Your point is well taken and will call for closer scrutiny of future advertisements. That we do have buildings in Alabama worthy of feature by advertisers is evident in the architectural photographer's ad in this issue.

JL



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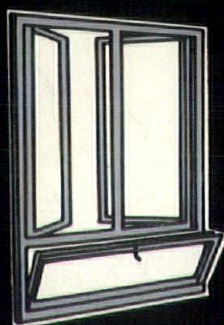
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

PERMIT No. 286

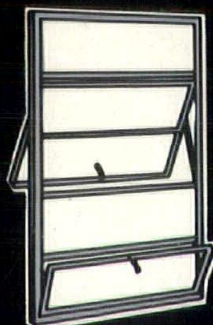
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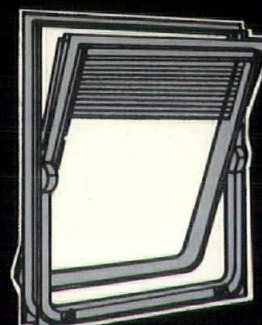
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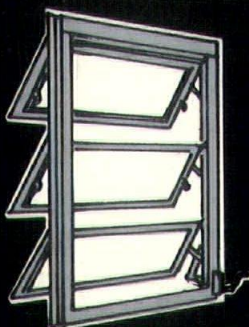
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