

# ALABAMA ARCHITECT







The Village Mall, Cleveland, Tennessee. Architect: Toombs-Amisano and Wells, Atlanta, Ga. Builder: Rea Construction Co., Inc., Charlotte, N.C.

## Concrete shells and lattices bring striking beauty to the Village Mall

Beauty is good business at the Village Mall, the new all-concrete shopping center in Cleveland, Tennessee. Twenty-nine shops and stores are thriving, more are getting ready to move in. Of 186,000 square feet of space, more than 120,000 are roofed by the graceful curves of concrete barrel shells. Adding to the architectural interest are the massive concrete beams that overhang the arcade on either side. The arcade itself is provided a dramatic play of light and shadow by the open concrete lattice work above.

Everywhere, today, architects and builders are finding the versatility of modern concrete offers opportunity to combine dramatic beauty with solid practicality. Concrete is fire resistant. No special fireproofing is required. Upkeep is low. Concrete needs no constant painting to keep it looking fresh and attractive. For both economy and freedom of expression, the choice for structures of all types is modern concrete.

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# ALABAMA ARCHITECT

Official Publication of  
ALABAMA COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTS, A.I.A.  
421 Guaranty Savings Building, Montgomery, Ala. 36104

Issue No. 3

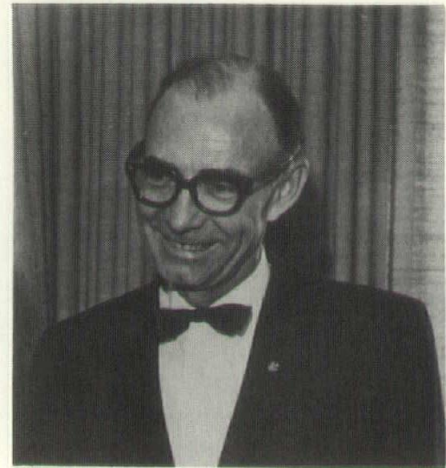
July-August-September 1968

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A. JACKSON DAVIS, AIA  
Council President

## A LOOK AHEAD

As the ARCHITECT goes to press, the members of the North Alabama Chapter are busily engaged in applying the finishing touches to the program and the many other details of planning for our 4th Annual Council Convention at the Huntsville Carriage Inn October 10-12. Lloyd H. Kranert, General Chairman, reports that all facets are running on schedule.

After attending the first annual meeting in Montgomery, it was hard to see how much a meeting could be improved. However, it seems that the succeeding conventions have each been more enjoyable and successful than the one before. From all reports, the upcoming meeting in Huntsville should be no exception. The list of dignitaries participating in the Huntsville program include Bob Durham, FAIA, Immediate Past President of the Institute, John J. Desmond, FAIA, and Professor Imre Halasz, two distinguished designers of the profession, and will be joined by two reknown scientists doing research in Space, Mr. Georg Von Tisenhausen and Mr. Rondal Crawford of the NASA, MSFC. These outstanding people will be supported on the program by Ray Gaio of the Institute staff as Moderator; Miss Jeanne Davern, Managing Editor of the "Architectural Record" as discussion leader; Regional Director, Arch Winter, FAIA; and Dr. J. Ingraham Clark of Auburn.

The program is planned to allow for free time and lots of interesting side lights such as a tour of the space facilities at the MSFC, a tour of Huntsville Ante Bellum District and an afternoon with our Products Exhibitors. The grand finale on Saturday night will feature the installation of new officers, presentation of awards and a concert and dancing by the songs and music of the famous Ink Spots. This is a must for all Alabama architects and wives.

The Host Chapter promises an exciting three days in Huntsville. I hope to see all of you there.

## COVER STORY —

### BIRMINGHAM TRUST NATIONAL BANK

Roebuck Branch, Birmingham, Alabama

FRED RENNEKER, JR., & ASSOCIATES, INC., ARCHITECTS A.I.A.

J. F. HOLLEY CONSTRUCTION CO., INC., GENERAL CONTRACTORS



*This issue of the  
Alabama Architect is  
devoted to many of  
the better contemporary  
designs by Architects  
of banking and  
savings facilities built  
within the past few  
years in Alabama.*

**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:** A branch bank serving a suburban shopping district of Birmingham. In addition to the banking chamber, facilities include five teller windows, a large vault, a "drive-in" teller, and a television monitored drive-in teller, the first of its kind in this state. The sloping site upon which the bank is located suggested the building's orientation to the road as well as the location of the auto-tellers.

**TECHNICAL INFORMATION:** The building structure is cast-in-place reinforced concrete with pan-type floor and roof construction. The ground floor is enclosed by exposed concrete; the main banking floor by aluminum and gray thermal glass. The fascia is pre-cast concrete. The ground floor has vinyl-asbestos flooring; the banking space floor is vinyl; stair and landing are pre-cast terrazzo. The officers' area is carpeted. Ceilings are acoustical tile and acoustical board. The feature of the main floor is the large vault which is covered with blue mosaic tile. The building is heated and cooled by forced air through ducts below the main floor.

July-August-September, 1968





## Colonel LaMatt keeps the Governor of Louisiana in hot water

Louisiana's beautiful new executive mansion is an architecturally faithful portrayal of the typical ante-bellum plantation home, but Colonel LaMatt has brought to it some comfort that southerners didn't know about "before the War." Down in the basement are two Ruud Copper Sanimaster model 75-360-ASME tank water heaters. They make available to the Governor's family and their guests—unfailingly—1440 minutes per day of dependable hot water service.

These lifetime automatic gas-fired heaters are connected with Ruud's Duplex Manifold and supply instant, tap-safe hot water for eighteen bathrooms and their showers and lavatories. Temperature-controlled water, up

to 180° where necessary, serves dishwashers, domestic laundry machines, and the great kitchen's service sinks and pot sinks. The Governor's hot water is crystal clear and rust-free; copper tanks and copper piping throughout the system insure that. Thirty-two years of experience enable Colonel LaMatt's staff of water heater specialists to recommend a system that will serve generations of future Louisiana governors faithfully and economically. When you have a hot water problem, large or small, Colonel LaMatt can help you. Call him collect.



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**ALABAMA ARCHITECT**





Photo by Barry Weinstein

## COMMERCIAL GUARANTY BANK

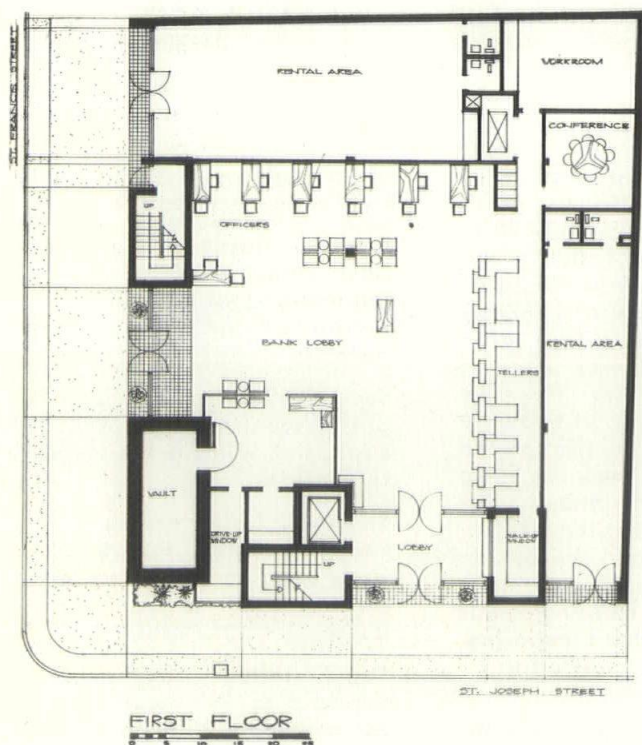
MOBILE, ALABAMA

DIETZ, PRINCE & FISCHRUPP

Architects, A.I.A.

STUART CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

General Contractor



July-August-September, 1968



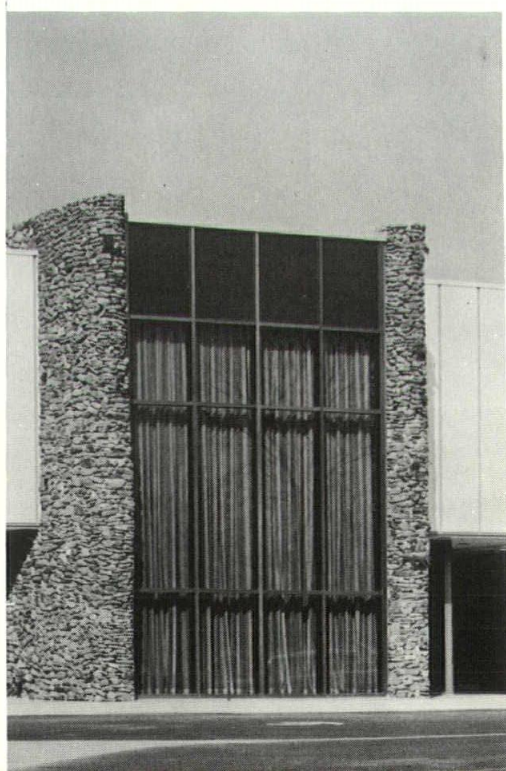


Photo by Dale Gamberg

## PRATTVILLE BRANCH, BANK OF PRATTVILLE, ALABAMA

TILLER, BUTNER, McELHANEY, ROSA & SEAY  
Architects, A.I.A.

ANDREW & DAWSON  
General Contractor



The Prattmont Branch of the Bank of Prattville in Prattville, Alabama was built to serve one of the fastest growing communities in the State. Located in a new and rapidly expanding commercial area on U. S. Highway 31, the building provides for five banking tellers, and two loan tellers in the interior of the building, as well as two drive-up teller windows. The island drive-up teller window is accessible from the second floor so that tellers may move from the main building to this station without exposing themselves to the exterior.

The building is designed for future expansion to the rear

of the building, with the vault located in a strategic location.

Exterior masonry is natural field stone, laid in such a manner so that a minimum of mortar at the joints is exposed.

Second floor exterior panels are stucco with dual purpose expansion joints acting as accent stripes.

The second floor houses Book-keeping Areas, Private Offices, a Lounge Area for employees and a Conference Room.

The first floor lobby area is exposed to the second floor by a surrounding open balcony.



# **A Home Office Building for the Redstone Federal Credit Union**

**Huntsville, Alabama**

**Alexander Rothschild & Joyce  
Architects, A.I.A.**

**Gresham, Williams & Johnson  
General Contractor**

Sited on the main artery of Huntsville's Research Park, the structure was designed to accommodate the administrative staff and banking operation of a multi-branch federal credit union serving approximately 33,000 members.

In response to a program calling for a sense of dignity and stability appropriate to the function, the architect borrowed from antiquity the colonnade form described by Vitruvius as "pseudo-peripteral octastyle" — "pseudo," since the west side columns are part of the exterior wall — rather than free-standing, in anticipation of future expansion on that side. However, this application of the classic form, in giving the slightly etched pre-cast concrete columns and clerestory section a structural role, makes the solution a product of its own time. The steel roof beams are welded to plates cast in the pre-cast sections to produce a rigid frame structure sitting upon a cast-in-place board-formed concrete podium.

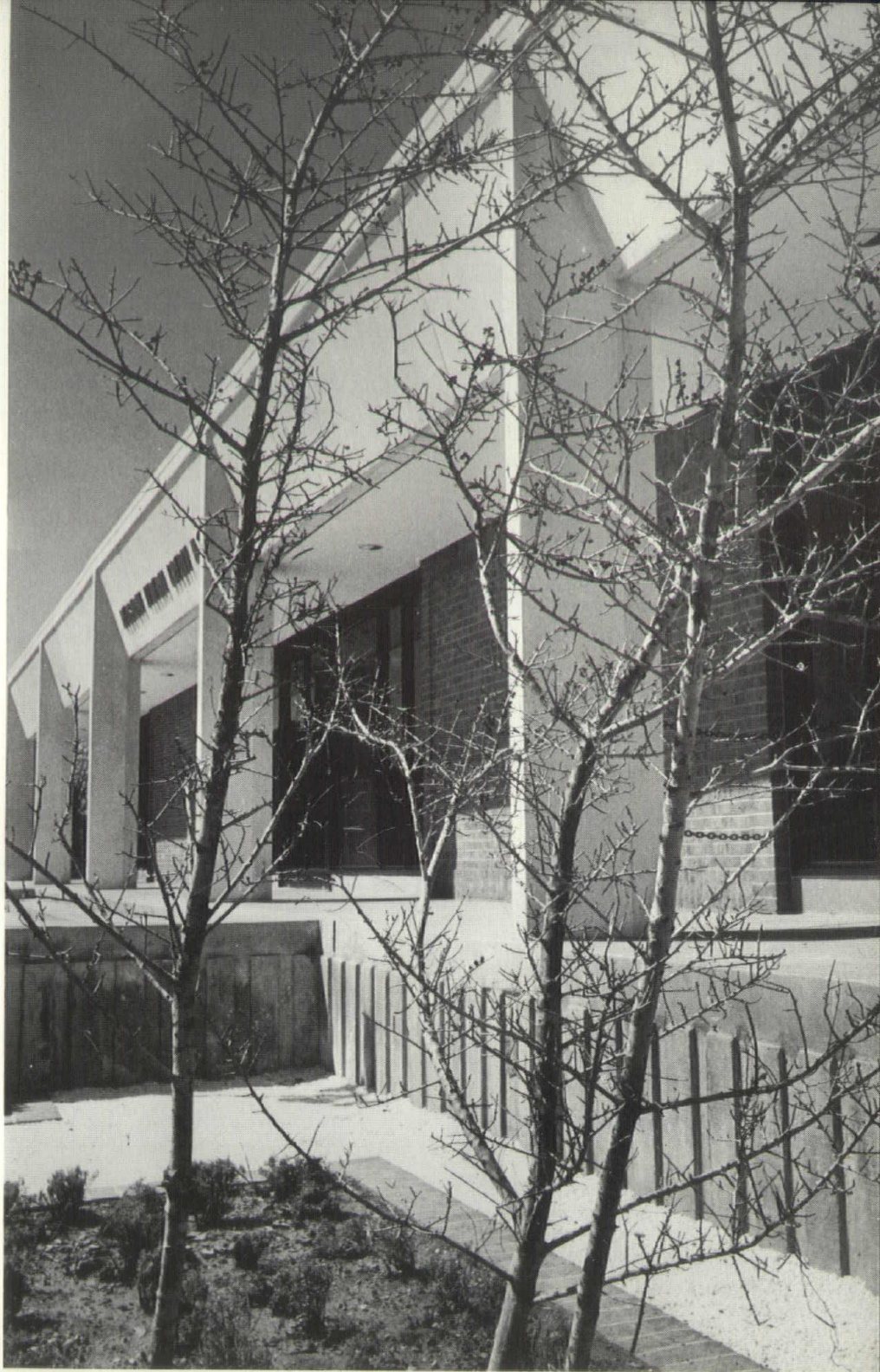


Photo by Victor Haagen



## **Statistics on the building are as follows:**

area	main level	11,081 sq. ft.
	basement	4,040 sq. ft.
cost	\$355,000.00	
design	Alexander, Rothschild & Joyce, Architects	
	Roger Chase, Mechanical Engineer	
	James Ellis, Electrical Engineer	
	Prybylowski & Gravino, Structural Engineers	
	Colman Hockman, Landscape Architect	
	Associated Space Design, Interior Design	
construction	Gresham, Williams & Johnson, General Contractor	





Photo by A. C. Keily Studio



**Lawrence S. Whitten, A.I.A.**  
**1906 - 1968**

Lawrence Whitten's architectural activities in Alabama pre-date the registration act. He finished at Auburn in 1928, and became registered in Alabama in 1932. Lawrence joined the American Institute of Architects and the Alabama Chapter in 1944 as a Corporate member.

A native of Anderson, S. C., he spent some early years there in his architectural career, but most of his practice was in Birmingham. His courtly manner, flashing blue eyes, and white hair became well known through-

out the Magic City area as he and his associates designed many of Birmingham's landmarks, among them the Bank for Savings Buildings and the Vestavia Branch of the Birmingham Federal Savings and Loan Association shown here.

He did much for the architectural profession in Alabama, and had recently headed up the Auburn Foundation for Architecture and the Building Sciences.

Lawrence Whitten died on August 26, 1968. He is survived by his wife, Arnelle Smith Whitten, and his son, James S. Whitten, a partner in the firm of Lawrence S. Whitten & Son, Architects.

## **VESTAVIA BRANCH** **BIRMINGHAM FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION**

**RIVES CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, General Contractor**  
**LAWRENCE S. WHITTEN & SON, Architects A.I.A.**

The building is surrounded by a circular moat with splashing fountains. Cars reach the drive-in teller window via a bridge over the moat. The sun screen around the eaves is made of white structural glass and aluminum with precast concrete aggregate panels above. The walls of the building are grey glass. The building sits in a landscaped park setting, in full view from the adjacent major highway. The client wanted a building that would be outstanding architecturally and would complement its suburban residential community.



## BRANCH BANK FOR MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

Mobile, Alabama

MARCH and MARCH, Architects, A.I.A.

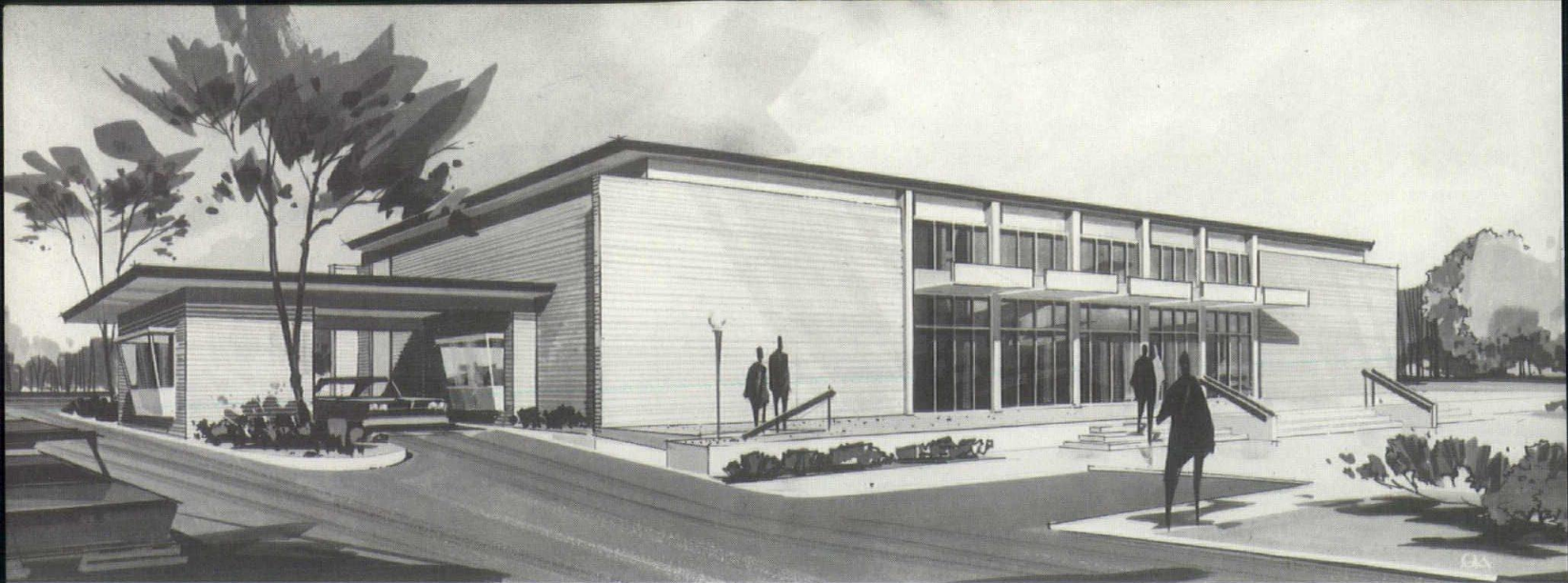
BEN RADCLIFF, Contractor

Photo by Spottswood Studios

Built in 1961 as the nucleus for a future full service bank, this first unit has 2,500 square feet with four inside tellers and two drive-in tellers. Future plans call for the next expansion to add twelve additional tellers and office space, with the third and final stage to add four more tellers and the vault. This Branch is located at the intersection of Highway 90 and a middle-income sub-division.







## AMERICAN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

### HARTSELLE, ALABAMA

**TOM B. KIRKLAND AND ASSOCIATES  
ASSOCIATED ARCHITECTS  
McCALL AND ASSOCIATE, INC.**

**RAY CHILDS, General Contractor**

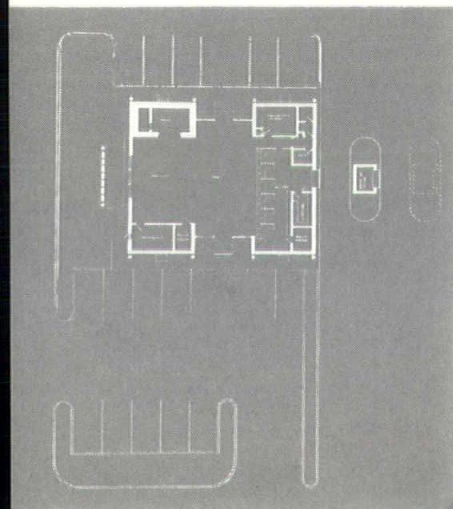
The open plan features two-story height Lobby, Tellers Area and Officers Deck. The Vault and Booth Area adjoins the Banking Lobby and are in plain view, separated from the public by walnut and bronze anodized aluminum railing.

Bank Lobby floor is terrazzo with adjoining Officers Deck and Vault Area carpeted. The Tellers Areas and Officers Deck are accented with a lowered egg-crate ceiling. Globe fixtures in square clear glass cubes on stems illuminate the

high Bank Lobby ceiling. Lounge Facilities, General Work and Supplies are concealed behind Tellers Area.

A Community Room with a seating capacity of 30 is combined with the Employees' Coffee Lounge. This area has a private entrance for use by civic groups as a meeting room after banking hours. The Community Room doubles as a Directors/Conference Room.

Two Drive-In Tellers Booths connect to interior Tellers Area in the general area of the Main Vault and Record Vault.



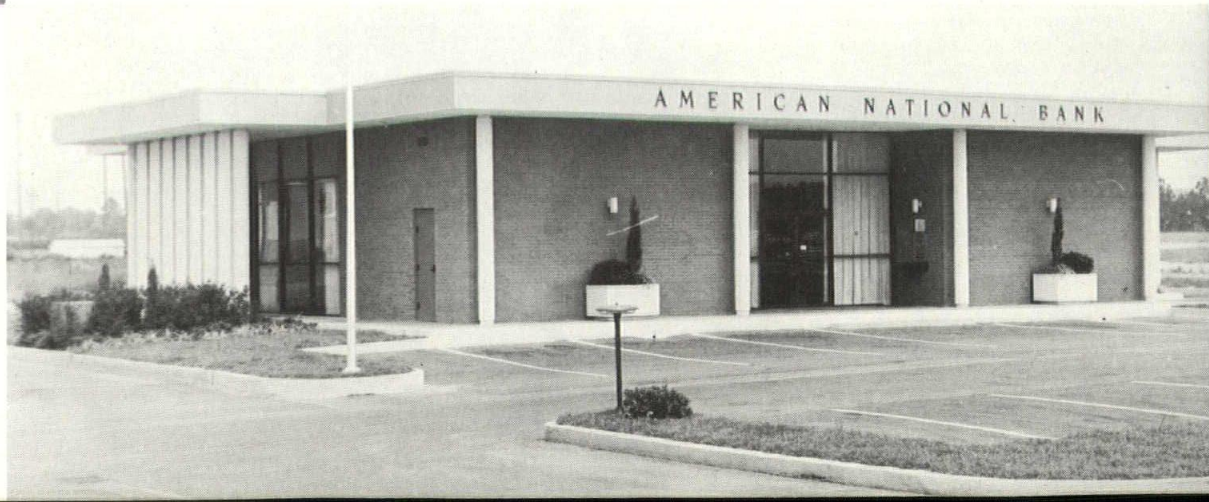
## BRANCH BANK OF AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK

### MOBILE, ALABAMA

**LETSON-McARTHUR, Architects A.I.A.  
BEN M. RATCLIFF CONTRACTOR, INC., General Contractor**

This branch bank was designed to serve the city's newest suburban business area. Public access to the building is from two directions. The building is divided into three principal activity areas, each of which has its own air conditioning control.

The exterior is of medium brown brick with exposed white marble aggregate columns and planters. The aluminum trim is dark bronze. Interior surfaces are walnut paneling, plaster with vinyl covering, carpet, and acoustical ceiling.





## Architectural And Wood Technology Students Tour Forest Industries

Students of Auburn University's School of Architecture and Arts recently toured several of Alabama's forest industries as part of a wood education program, sponsored by the Alabama Forest Products Association and progressive forest industries of the state. Wood Technology students and faculty members also participated.

In the course of the two-day tour, students witnessed the process of manufacture of forest products from the woods to the finished product. At Scotch Lumber Company, Fulton, Alabama, the group was told of the technique of forest management and witnessed the manufacture of Southern Pine lumber, Southern Pine plywood and oak flooring.

At the W. T. Smith Timber Fabricating Plant of Union Camp Corporation in Greenville, Alabama, the group viewed the actual pattern layout, glue-ups, and finishing of large laminated beams and arches. They also saw the effective use of laminated wood made by this company, in the construction of a Montgomery church.

At Koppers Co., Inc., in Montgomery, the process of pressure treating wood to insure its longevity was witnessed by the group.

Students were exposed to many outstanding examples of wood design and color slide presentations on proper specifications and use of lumber, were presented by representatives of the Southern Pine Association who jointly planned and executed the wood education program.



Auburn University architectural students examine large laminated arch being fabricated and finished in Union Camp Corporation's Timber Fabricating plant at Greenville, Alabama. Arches and beams of any design and dimension can be manufactured here.

In addition to informing the professionals of tomorrow as to the value of wood in modern design, the Program has three additional features:

1. Wood design competition for architectural students.
2. A wood industry scholarship and need.
3. Classroom lectures on the use of wood.

## GOVERNOR BREWER RECEIVES "THE POTOMAC" BOOK FROM DON HORTON AND ARCHITECTS

Donald L. Horton, immediate past president of the Alabama Council of Architects, presented the AIA book "The Potomac," on the projected renovation of the waterfront at Washington, D.C. to Governor Albert Brewer. The following letters tell the story:

STATE OF ALABAMA  
Governor's Office  
Montgomery, Alabama

July 15, 1968

Mr. Donald Horton  
Alabama Council, A.I.A.  
421 Guaranty Savings Building  
Montgomery, Alabama 36101

Dear Mr. Horton:

Just a note to tell you how very much I appreciate the book on the Potomac River which you presented me recently. I have thoroughly enjoyed reading it, and I assure you that it occupies a prominent place on my bookshelf.

I shall always cherish this beautiful volume and the thoughtfulness and generosity with which you presented it.

With warmest regards, I am  
Sincerely yours,

Albert P. Brewer  
Governor

July 23, 1968

Mr. George Kassabaum, President  
American Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N. W.  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Kassabaum:

Some time ago I received a copy of the book, "The Potomac," with the request that I present it to the Governor of our state.

As you probably know, Governor Lurleen Wallace was at that time gravely ill. With her untimely passing, Albert Brewer has assumed the responsibilities of her office, and is now our governor.

On July 10, I met with Governor Brewer and presented the book, "The Potomac" to him on behalf of the Secretary of Interior, Mr. Udall, the American Institute of Architects. I found Governor Brewer both pleasant and interested. He is very much interested in planning, having been at one time Chairman of the City Planning Commission in Decatur, Alabama, and I believe, is currently on the planning committee of the Conference of Governors.

I believe he will be active in the field of planning and I have assured him of the support of the A.I.A. and the Alabama Council of Architects in any program in this direction.

Sincerely yours,

Donald L. Horton,  
A.I.A.



July 31, 1968

Mr. Donald L. Horton, AIA  
Alabama Council, AIA  
421 Guaranty Savings Building  
Montgomery, Alabama 36101

Dear Don:

Thank you for your letter of July 23rd to President Kassabaum regarding the presentation of **The Potomac** to Governor Brewer.

We are pleased with your report of the Governor's reaction. Thank you so much for making this contact.

Sincerely yours,

M. Elliott Carroll, AIA  
Administrator  
Department of Public Services

## Chapter Activities

The Auburn architects have filed an application for a Charter for a new Auburn Chapter of the AIA. They start with 20 corporate members. Council officers hope the charter can be presented to them at the convention. The best wishes of the Council go with this young and energetic group.

The North Alabama Chapter has registered another first, as far as we can determine. An application for a charter for an Explorer Post of the Boy Scouts of America has been filed. The membership is made up of high school age boys interested in architecture. The chapter is the sponsoring agency and members serve as Post committee, advisors, and one member serves as Scoutmaster. They are off to a running start and we hope the charter presentation can be made during the convention.





### Montgomery Chapter Awards "Pride In Workmanship" Plaque In Annual Event

Jim Seay, president of the Montgomery Chapter of Architects A.I.A. presented a first place plaque in the Chapters Second Annual "Pride in Workmanship" Award to Hance Pearson of the firm of Andrew & Dawson, for his carpentry work on the Bartlett residence, Pike Road, Alabama. Architects were Wiatt, Watson, & Cole. The award was made in conjunction with the Chapter's annual Ladies Night, at the Montgomery Country Club. Other awards were presented to R. D. Robinson, Andrew & Dawson, for plastering and stucco work on the Bank of Prattville, Tiller, Butner, McElhaney, Rosa & Seay, Architects; and to Robert Lusco, Tom Neville, Inc., sub-contractor, for mechanical system (heating and air-conditioning), on the same Bank of Prattville.

### Auburn Fourth-Year Students Win First Place National Award

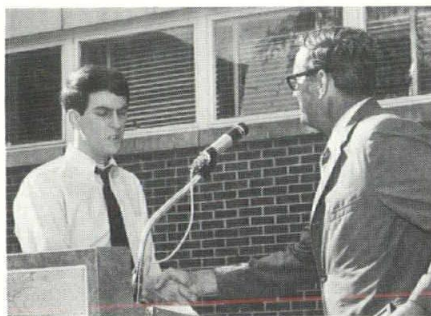


Dean J. Ingraham Clark of the School of Architecture and the Fine Arts recently received notification that two fourth-year students of Architectural Design at Auburn University have won first place in a National Institute of Architectural Education competition. The award for \$1,200 will be shared by the winning team, Robert Griffin of Youngstowne, Florida, and Larry Key of Memphis, Tennessee. The project, a Condominium for Adult Living is a retirement center for 10,000 people on the California

## NCARB Convention Report 1968

by Charles Blondheim, Jr.  
Blondheim & Williams  
Architects A.I.A.

The 47th annual convention of the National Convention of Architectural Boards was held in Honolulu, June 29-July 2. Approximately 100 delegates from 50 states attended. Representing Alabama were Martin Lide, Charles McCauley, Charles Blondheim and Board Secretary, John Morton. A program of content was presented in keeping with the Convention theme of "NCARB's Response to the Changing Profession." The program was designed in recognition of the need for change in architectural education, internship, registration and practice to effectively meet the challenges of our changing profession.



Thomas Payne of Nashville, Tenn., was awarded the American Institute of Architecture Medal in an Honors Day program held by the School of Architecture and the Arts, Auburn University. The award was made by Jim Seay, at right, Montgomery architect.



William R. Eades III of Memphis, Tenn., was presented the Alabama Gas Competition prize of \$750 in funds for foreign travel in special ceremonies held at Auburn University, under sponsorship of the School of Architecture and the Arts. The award was made by Bill Donovan, right, of Opelika, representative for ALAGASCO, and district manager.

Coast. Pictured with Key and Griffin are Professors John Kaip and Ed Pickard, design studio critics for the project.

Arthur Berger, a Member of the same class, was awarded third place in another national competition. Mr. Berger's submission was a sketch design of a Cottage for a Crystal-lographer.

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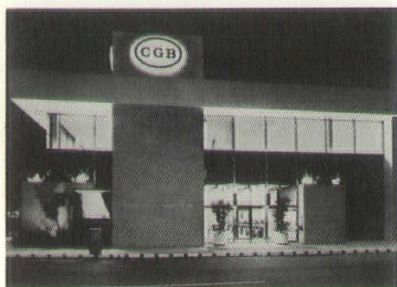
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Architects A.I.A.



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### BIRMINGHAM FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION



Architects:  
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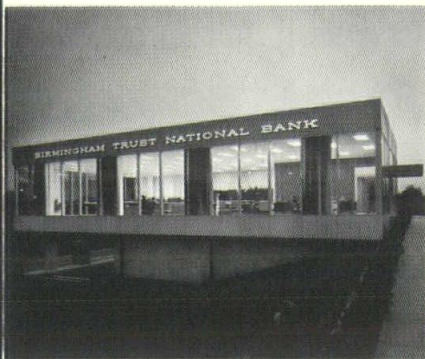
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FOR THE  
BIRMINGHAM  
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BANK**



**ROEBUCK BRANCH**

**Architects:**

**FRED RENNEKER, JR.  
AND ASSOCIATES, A.I.A.**

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**General Contractor:**

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Architects: Letson-McArthur, A.I.A.



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**MODEL MAKER**

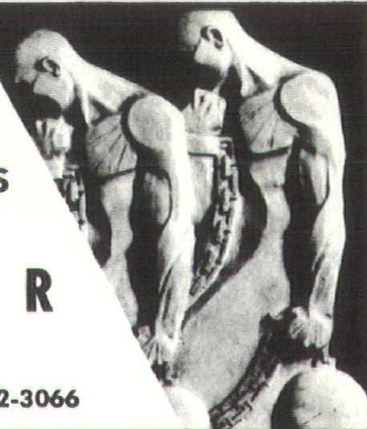
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ARCHITECTURAL**

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BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

PH. 252-3066



*Paul Robertson*

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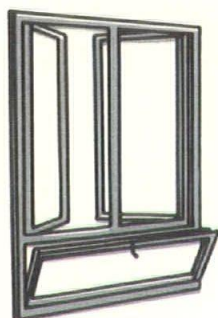
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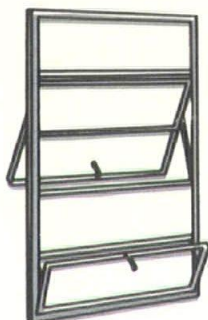
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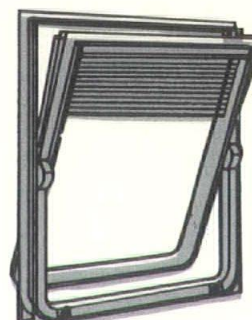
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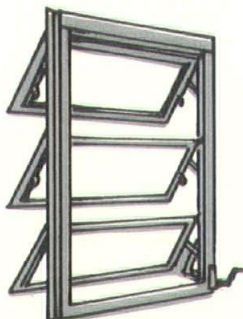
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