

ALABAMA ARCHITECT

NEWSLETTER



MARCH-APRIL 1971

NEWSNOTES

● "Designing With Wood" seminar will be presented at Auburn University on April 12, 1971, from 2 to 5 p.m. in the auditorium of Biggin Hall. The faculty contact for the seminar is Professor Richard Millman, Head of the Department of Architecture.

The program consists of illustrated presentations by representatives of the four non-profit trade associations in the subject areas of lumber, plywood, laminated timber and preservative treatments. The purpose of the seminar is to provide students in construction-related curricula practical and factual information on the use of wood in construction. Sponsors are The American Institute of Timber Construction, American Plywood Association, Southern Forest Products Association and Southern Pressure Treaters Association.

● Thirty-five students of architecture and interior design at Auburn University are taking an extensive field trip to New Orleans, Baton Rouge, and Houston during the break between quarters of study.

The group will visit outstanding examples of contemporary and historic architecture, including Jones Hall, the Astrodome, and the new Houston Intercontinental Airport.

They will also spend some time in the offices of well-known architects in those cities and see the Schools of Architecture at Tulane, Louisiana State and Rice Universities.

Robert Samuelson, assistant professor of architecture, made arrangements for the tour and prepared a tour guide of the stops.

Partial support for the field trip was provided by the Alabama State Board of Registration for Architects, and the Southern Brick and Tile Manufacturers Association.

A Look At The Direction Of The AIA

by Francis D. Lethbridge, FAIA

Francis D. Lethbridge, FAIA, Vice President of the American Institute of Architects, delivered the keynote address at the Annual Honor Awards Banquet on Saturday evening, October 10th. He is a partner in the firm of Keyes, Lethbridge & Condon, Washington, D. C., and is well known for his architectural achievements (including AIA First Honor Award 1966) as well as his service to the profession. No longer an officer of the AIA (his term expired in 1970), his talk is reproduced here in answer to many requests from those who heard him as well as those who did not.

Where Are We Headed?

I'll do my best to give you some personal observations on the state of the Institute, and maybe some thoughts on where I think it is headed — or where I think it ought to be headed.

As fellow architects, we unquestionably share many individual interests and concerns. Most of us feel, in addition, that we should bear, together, certain responsibilities to direct our collective efforts in behalf of our profession. This sense of responsibility, together with the simple human desire to belong — to join together on both sociable and embattled occasions — led the Architectural profession to form the American Institute of Architects more than a century ago.

A most important question and one that must be reexamined from time to time, is: to what ends should we direct these collective efforts?

I would like to suggest, first a definite order, or heirarchy of concerns.

First: To strengthen the professional standards and skills that justify continued public recognition of our role as professionals. We should never lose sight of the fact that public acceptance of protective legislation (in the public interest) was a hard-won gain in status and responsibility that took the greater part of the last century to achieve.

Second: To speak and act collectively as a professional organization in support of or in opposition to, existing or proposed public policies that are directly related to the **public trust we hold as professionals.** This follows directly from the first premise. If the public has granted us professional status to help protect the public welfare, it becomes a responsibility to protect that privilege, and conversely, to avoid abuse of the public trust. Note that this implies a very special kind of special interest group — a group acting only to protect its ability to effectively discharge its professional responsibilities.

Third: To speak and act collectively as **citizens**, who are **also architects**, on public issues for which we believe we bear special responsibilities because of our role as architects — issues on which we believe we share a greater than average competency, concern or ability to judge what is in the best interests of the community at large.

This last area of legitimate collective professional concern and action is unquestionably the least clearly defined, and by its nature the most controversial. **How Do Our Activities Relate?**

Let us examine, for a moment, how some of the major present activities of the Institute relate to these three proposed orders of concern:

Institute activities in the area of architectural education, professional standards, practice research and communication fall within the first priority of in this category of activities but if relative importance is to be measured by the commitment of effort and money devoted to them, the present order of effort is probably the reserve of the order of concern that I have postulated. "The wheel that squeaks gets the grease" and for many years the loudest squeaks have

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THE ALABAMA ARCHITECT IS PUBLISHED FOR THE ALABAMA COUNCIL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS TO ADVANCE THE PROFESSION OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA.

Direction of the AIA

(Continued from page 1)

come from the wheels in public relations, social responsibility and political clout.

Research and education have received small effort and less money, if one excludes the scholarship programs which today are directed principally toward the achievement of social objectives — an altogether worthy program I would maintain, but quite apart from efforts to expand our professional knowledge and skills through basic research and improvements in the process of professional education.

Inter-professional communication, through the efforts of the Institute, is generally effective, but oriented to serving strictly professional objectives only to the degree that they are acted upon or reported. On the whole I believe that the Institute has served its members well in this regard and with respect to the development and publication of documents which help to make office practice more efficient and less burdensome. Professional standards, including that body of fact and folklore known as Ethical Standards, are an area of concern on which the profession, or at any rate, the directors of the Institute — representing the profession, have exhibited considerable schizophrenia. I am not confident, in my own mind, that we have at present a document that is strictly compatible with the intent of professional practice as exemplified at state registration laws. We should be cautious and should examine critically any proposals to loosen standards, broaden categories of professional membership or to dilute or diffuse professional responsibility in an effort to open new business or promotional opportunities, or to create a more powerful special interest lobby. The ultimate price of weakened professional standards is the loss of professional status. There are

plenty of architects who would welcome an open season on all business game, with no holds barred and their own choice of weapons, but there are probably still enough who feel the more traditional requirements and procedures of professional practice still serve the best interests of the public.

What about the next category of useful collective effort — of justification of the existence of our professional organization — "to speak and act effectively as a professional organization . . . on policies that are directly related to the public trust we hold as professionals.

The second and third largest programs, and share of the budget of the Institute be or seem to be in this area — Government Relations and Public Relations. I would be inclined to take a fairly broad and liberal view (or interpretation) of what our legitimate responsibilities are in the field of public relations. Publication of our concern for better places to live, clean air and water, better schools and the like, are clearly enough related to our professional aims, and in seeking to affect public opinion and, indirectly political decisions on these matters, we act in our own "enlightened" self-interest, for as design professionals we would benefit, indirectly from greater national and local commitments to these goals. Perhaps even more importantly, this kind of public relations is considered by most people a form of public service and a "good thing", per se — redounding to the credit of the profession.

I am very much in favor of the non-partisan political involvement of the Institute — in informing its members, and other persons concerned with the exercise of the democratic process, of public issues on which the Institute membership has taken policy stands, but I believe just as strongly that partisan politics have no business in the Institute and that architects who are acting as spokesmen for the Institute should remain scrupulously free of any possible misinterpretation of their motives.

The line that separates our professional concern for issues that are strictly, or principally, professional in nature, and those that are of general concern to us as citizens and individuals is always likely to be blurred and indistinct. We should make an effort to keep it as clear as we can, and I believe that recent decisions on the part of the AIA Board to begin to move the funding of programs related to what is known as the area of social responsibility from direct contributions

from the membership in the form of dues and assessments to voluntary contributions through fund-raising campaigns to be a healthy one.

Summing Up

Some of the important questions relating to the structure of the organization may be summed up as follows:

Is the Institute responsive to the wishes and needs of the majority of its members?

To what degree should it be responsive and to what degree should the "organization" lead the profession in its responsibilities?

Is the present structure of the Institute representative? — Should it be reorganized on a one-man/one-vote basis? Are we perpetuating what amounts to a one-party system of representation?

Is the present structure of the Institute efficient? Is efficiency to some degree at odds or in conflict with a desire for fuller representation? Can the Institute structure cope with continued growth — more members — more chapters — more regions?

Is the Institute structure responsible? Are the Board and the Staff held sufficiently accountable for their actions? Is there a need for structural checks and balances similar to our National Government of Executive, Congressional and Judicial branches?

Is the Institute structure stable? Is there a danger of self-perpetuation in the executive hierarchy — a closed system that will become too complex and too expensive to challenge short of pulling down the entire structure of the Institute?

These are questions that I cannot reasonably try to answer tonight. They are questions that you should think about and form your opinions — let these opinions be known to those who represent you — and direct them to make them known to the Board and to your spokesmen at the Convention of members at which these issues of representation and structure will be resolved.

I think that we can take not comfort, but encouragement in the fact that the Institute is not moribund or weak. It is afflicted with problems of growth rather than decay and may require some selective pruning as well as continued nourishment if it is to shape up in a form that will best support and sustain the aspirations of its members. ■

CHAPTER NEWS AND EVENTS

AUBURN CHAPTER AIA

As I mentioned briefly at the last Alabama Council meeting in January, we are attempting to develop a good program aimed at environmental education for high school students in the state. Several faculty members are involved under the Chairmanship of Steffen Doerstling. The general idea is to produce a film and/or slide show which will "localize" the current national concern for environmental problems. We hope to spend time this summer getting the right message on film and organizing a presentation so that it will be ready to go "on the road" in the Fall.

We plan to write a proposal and submit it by April 1 to several national agencies which are promoting environmental education. In order to strengthen the proposal we would like to show that the program has the support of the Alabama Council, AIA. We do not hope for financial support, but only the Council's blessing. Tangible support from council members might be in the form of the loan of colored slides and photos, help with local arrangements for presentation in the high schools and service clubs, and help with advertising and coverage in the *Alabama Architect*. A demonstration showing of the complete presentation might be run at the state convention in Auburn in November. Some of the other Chapters in the state may be interested in using the material for educational purposes in their respective Chapter areas.

If you saw the February 15 Issue of TIME, "B" edition, this whole program fits neatly into the environmental awareness instruction being promoted by the National AIA. What we are attempting to do is to crystallize the current interest in environmental pollution, etc., and to relate it to the local scene by illustration of problems in the immediate area.

BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER AIA

The meeting on 4 February 1971 was called to order by president Bill Blake.

Jack Munger was recognized as a new Associate Member.

Committee Reports

Allen Bartlett, Committee on Professional Society, reported on his new committee development on membership. There are 96 present members and approximately 28-30 potential members, all of whom will be approached for membership.

Joe Keeton, Committee on Public Affairs, reported that press releases will be made on all noteworthy events. T.V. spots will be purchased for showing on gratis basis with local stations. This committee will also coordinate with Aubrey Garrison's and Nelson Smith's committees. Bill Blake noted that only committee chairmen have been selected. Each chairman needs full co-operation of entire membership.

Emory Kirkwood's Council Committee report from the January 29th meeting in Montgomery: The Council will work on relationship with Professional Engineers. For the Annual Convention a mini-convention will be held at Auburn, tentatively planned for November 12-14, 1971. This is an off-game weekend. This would be a working convention with speakers only, no exhibits.

Aubrey Garrison, Governmental Relations Committee — Sign Ordinance, reported that he needs about 8 committee members. They will research existing sign ordinances and coordinate with local planning commission.

Bill Williams noted that the Architects participation in the recent Art Museum drive was most successful. Our support amounted to \$1,700.00.

Program:

Marshall Haynes, Vice President of Moulton, Allen & Williams Realty Co., addressed the Chapter on visual pollution. Topics covered were:

- Effective sign control and why needed
- Spread of unscreened junk yards
- Encroachment of trailer parks into residential areas
- Birmingham Green (Project for downtown redevelopment)

The March meeting was held in 4 March 1971 at the Chapter Office at 4:30 p.m. Lou Sloat of Southern Forest Products Assn. and Martin C. Garrison of American Plywood Association spoke on the new wood grading standards.

MONTGOMERY CHAPTER AIA

The regular March chapter meeting was held at the Montgomery Country Club at 5:15 on Thursday, March 11th, following an Executive Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. During the business meeting, chapter activities were discussed. Members of the Commissions and Standing Committees were announced as follows:

Commission on the Professional Society — Comm., Murray Watson; State and Chapter Organization Committee — David Hancock, Chr.; Attendance and Membership Committee — Floyd Puckett, Chr.; Ethics Committee — Mark Tiller, Chr.; Honor Awards Committee — Frank Rosa, Chr.

Commission on Education and Research — Comm., Gaines B. Hall; Academic Training Committee — Douglas Baker, Chr.; Commission on the Professional Practice — Comm., Ross Brown; Programs Committee — Gene Parsons, Chr.; Office Procedures Committee — Ross Brown, Chr.; Relations with Building Industry Committee — R. O. Jones, Chr.

Commission of Architectural Design — Comm., Gene Parsons; Aesthetics Committee — Gene Millsap, Chr.; Collaborating Arts Committee — Al Williams, Chr.; Hospital Architecture Committee — Frank J. Bollinger, Chr.

Schools and Educational Facilities Committee — John Farris, Chr.; Residential Architecture (Housing) Committee — William P. Davidson, Chr.; Urban Design Committee — John R. Chambless, Chr.

Commission on Public Affairs — Comm., Sam Butner; Governmental Relations Committee — Parker Narrows, Chr.; Public Relations Committee — John Gandy, Chr.; Preservation of Historic Buildings Committee — Jim Seay, Chr.; Codes Committee — Bob Smyly, Chr.

MOBILE CHAPTER AIA

The Mobile Chapter activities so far in 1971 are being focused on:

SIGN CONTROL: Two A.I.A. members are working with the City Planning Commission to draft a sign control ordinance. Also our films on the subject are being used in an effort to build up public support in getting the ordinance passed.

SCHOOL ARCHITECT SELECTIONS: The School Board has asked A.I.A. help in setting up guidelines for selections of architects for school projects. A five man committee is working on a report that we feel will make a strong statement on the value of professional service.

EXHIBITS: March 20, 1971, there will be a slide show in Bel-Air Mall, using the A.I.A. Honor Awards exhibit, as well as local architects' work.

HUMAN RESOURCES COUNCIL: John McArthur represented this chapter at the HRC meeting in Omaha last month. So far no program has been set up to participate in this activity, but John will keep us informed and perhaps later this year, will have something to report.

TURNKEY HOUSING: A special A.I.A. meeting was held to discuss this, but delayed taking a stand with local offices until National A.I.A. takes a position. However, City Commissioners and Housing Board members both, are presently inclined toward conventional methods of architectural service and contracting.



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We hope you're listening. **ALABAMA POWER** 

Council News

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the First Quarterly Council Meeting, the Executive Committee was empowered to act for the Council between regular quarterly meetings. This Committee is composed of the 4 officers (President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer) plus two elected members. This year they are Arthur Prince, past president, and Richard Brunschwyler, Montgomery Chapter President.

Honor Awards Available

1. Honor Awards from the 1970 Convention are available to all Chapters in the form of a slide show. Auburn students will view these slides. Honor Award Exhibits are available in the form of slides. North Alabama Chapter and Birmingham Chapter has viewed them at their respective Chapter meetings. A permanent set of slides will be made at Auburn by Prof. Richard Millman's direction to be kept in Library.

2. Malcolm Smith will critique 4th year Design Class (Competition-Ala. Gas Co.) on two different occasions, once during Design Preliminaries and at conclusion.

3. John McDonald will critique on small office practice.

4. Virginia March will make a presentation to the State Registration Board.

5. Sherlock, Smith and Adams will critique approximately four times with third year Design Class.

By-Laws

Current copies of the Council By-Laws are available from the Council office on request.

Council Plans & Goals for 1971

President William Pearson has outlined the following goals for this year.

1. Continue to follow up on **Practitioners Assistance to Schools**.

2. **Set up Legislative assignments** — Charles Blondheim to organize.

3. **Relations with Engineers** — new direction.

4. **P.R. Program** — expand through Council and Chapters.

5. **Insurance Program** — To be put into effect.

6. **Alabama Architect** — new direction.

7. **State Convention** — Ask for attendance and support.

The Council will review these and other activities at the next meeting at the Holiday Inn Southwest on April 30th at 10:00 a.m.

STATE PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

A. State Public Relations Committee established as follows:

Chairman: David A. Crow; North Alabama, Billy Herrin; Birmingham, Joe Keeton; Montgomery, Renis Jones; Auburn, Jim Johnston; Mobile, Victor Glazner.

B. First meeting held in Birmingham — October 23, 1970

Present: David Crow, Joe Keeton, Vic Glazner, Renis Jones, Billy Herrin, Jay Leavell, Norbert Adler, Assoc. Minutes of this meeting on file at Jay Leavell's office.

Basic discussions were as follows:

1. Public Relations should be aimed at
 - a) Prospective clients (developers, realtors, lending agencies, etc.)
 - b) General public and government organizations
 - c) Education (grammar school through college)

2. The problems were defined as

- a)* How to get to the decision makers
- b) How to convince the public that architects are professionals concerned with shaping our environments and solving problems at all levels of our environment.
- c) How to establish a storehouse of public relations materials
- d) How to finance a strong public relations program
- e) How the public relations program can be beneficial to architects in building up his image and his bank account.
- f) How to best develop a continuous public relations program.

*It was Norman Adler's contention that this item should be dealt with on the individual level, however, I disagree and solicit the councils' opinion on the matter. Incidentally Daniel Boone (National Chairman of Public Relations Committee discussed this at length at grass roots and seems to be more in agreement with me than Adler).

3. Committee members were asked to submit a report to the chairman as to the public relations work that has been done on the chapter level. A report from Vic Glazner is on file at Jay's office. We ask that chapter presidents encourage their respective committeemen to submit their reports as soon as possible.

C. Since this meeting Norbert Adler has expressed his desire to conduct a follow-up session on public relations this spring. If this is possible, it would be desirable to have a Public Relations Committee meeting at the same time. Comments from architects as to the advisability of such a repeat seminar are welcomed.

David A. Crow
State Public Relations Chairman

RESIGNATIONS

The following architects have resigned from the American Institute of Architects:

*G. Ross Hammond, Mobile Chapter AIA, effective December 7, 1970.

*Wilmot C. Douglas, Birmingham Chapter AIA, effective December 15, 1970.

*Robert I. Cole, Montgomery Chapter, effective February 3, 1971.

*Paul
Robertson*

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GRASS ROOTS '71

THE CHAPTER PRESIDENTS SPEAK OUT

In January of this year, all chapter Presidents attended Grassroots '71 in New Orleans. This annual seminar brings together all newly elected Chapter (and State Component) presidents to meet with AIA officers in a free-wheeling discussion about Institute programs. Their comments are printed here, and all members should read them to get a sense of the Institute's direction.

AUBURN CHAPTER

Richard G. Millman, AIA, President,

Of special interest to me was the report by Mr. Joe Siff, the new President of the ASC/AIA, and a student at Rice University. The practicing professionals will find Joe Siff much more to their liking than the previous two presidents of the Student Chapters' Association. His hair is only moderately long and his attitudes are quite reasonable. He will not please the student radical faction of the ASC/AIA.

Joe Siff reported the four primary concerns of the ASC/AIA which evolved at the National Student Forum in Berkeley, California. They are:

Architectural education. More concern for real problems and real involvement as opposed to ivory tower designs.

Social responsibility. Professional services should be made available to all whether they can pay for the service or not.

Public education. Survival of the profession, as well as the total environment, depends upon the re-education of the public to the need.

Finances. The students will not make demands on the professional group to finance their programs. They will seek ways to finance their own activities, with nominal support from the AIA.

The Chapters and the regional associations of the AIA are encouraged to involve more students in their committee work and their activities.

Human Resources Council

The announcement was made about the forming of the new AIA Human Resources Council. The new Council was formed by AIA and will assist AIA in meeting its commitment in the area of social responsibility. It will, however, be financially self-supporting. Council membership is to include (1) a representative from each AIA chapter, (2) representatives of AIA firms which participate in the special fund drive, (3) the entire Professional Responsibility to Society Task Force, (4) AIA Board of Directors.

6

New Membership Classification

The proposal for the establishment of the classification of Professional Associate Member at the national or Institute level did not seem to hold water upon close examination. The proposal suggests that the category be terminated after three years. So after that time we would be right back where we are now. Professional Associate would be continued as a chapter category of membership but not a national category.

The new classification at the Institute level of Associate Member makes more sense. This membership classification is intended to accommodate recent graduates from accredited Architecture Schools so there is not a long period of isolation for these people from their Student Chapter membership days to their final corporate membership status.

BIRMINGHAM CHAPTER AIA

Bill Blake, AIA, President

For the first time in the history of Grassroots the delegates (with some prior application of their time) knew, or could have known of the Institute's programs, operations, task force and committees proposed for the coming year. This information was available in the "AIA Planning Committee Report 1971" that was mailed by the Institute to all component presidents prior to Grassroots.

This report could have been the result of one of the major criticisms of last years Grassroots; that we really didn't know what the Institute programs were so how could there be any dialogue. But it could have been due to the fact that this is the way Bob Hastings operates. More than once in talking with Board members it came out loud and clear that Hastings is an organizer and makes it possible for things to happen.

In my opinion this was the big difference between Grassroots '70 and '71. This year the groundwork had been done so that it was possible to have "conversation" on programs. The Institute received "feedback" and "input" (two very

"in" words) and it was due to a better informed group of delegates. We were better informed because Hastings and crew had started working back in April, '70.

The session on the proposed structures change was one of the more interesting sessions. George White presented the Task Force Report on the proposed changes and it was with mixed feelings that I read in the paper that President Nixon has appointed him as Capital Architect. I'm delighted that he received the appointment but I hate to see his activities curtailed as far as the Institute is concerned. In my opinion he is one of the most able people we have at the Institute level. Regarding the proposed changes in the structure of the Institute, the feeling was almost unanimous that change was overdue and basically most were in agreement with the Task Force Report with some few exceptions. This year, I didn't feel the "frenzied approach" to our social responsibilities that was so evident last year. This is not due to less commitment but I hope to a more realistic appraisal of the problems and how we can help solve them.

Robert Nash, the first black vice president in the history of the Institute, is one helluva fine person. He is chairman of the newly formed Human Resources Council which will carry the load in this area.

One of the real benefits of any Grassroots is in meeting Institute staff personnel and getting to personally know the people you will be calling on for help and advice in the future. There is the unmistakable feeling that more and more emphasis will be placed on Grassroots in the future and this is as it should be. As far as benefiting the individual chapter, the National Convention is a disaster, but Grassroots is a workshop that really works.

MONTGOMERY CHAPTER

Dick Brunschwyler, AIA, President

In my opinion, the Grassroots '71 held in New Orleans was presented in a much better manner than the one held in St. Louis the previous year. Also, I was much impressed with the leadership offered at the national level.

The response from Chapter Presidents in the various discussion groups was very favorable.

The discussion on "PUBLIC RELATIONS", led by Daniel Boone, FAIA, left me with a feeling that much more effective work will be done in this area this year.

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The "PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE" seminar with S. Scott Ferebee, Jr. presiding was most productive to me. His explanation of the Master Specifications for Divisions 2 through 14, with sample copies of same, impressed me. I feel sure they will be most beneficial to Architectural offices, both large and small.

The question of communication between AIA members and the Octagon caused quite a stimulating discussion in the "INSTITUTE OPERATIONS" meeting, represented by William Slayton, Ex. V.P. The question of "film" presentation at Chapter levels which kept members up to date on Institute operations would appear too costly. The "Kiplinger" letter process was discussed, but many voiced the opinion that it found its way to "File 13". There was no real satisfying solution offered to this problem. My suggestion was that Chapter presidents be asked to offer possible solutions through study by Chapter committees and forward same on to the Institute.

Arch Winter gave a good account of himself on the discussion of "ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS". It is my feeling that the Alabama Council should investigate and pursue a plan to elevate Mr. Winter to a vice presidency in the Institute.

All in all, I would say that this "Grassroots" was one of the best yet.

General Comments:

It would seem to me that in as much as travel to and from meetings is one of the more demanding expenses for grassroots as well as work shops, that it might be desirable to extend the time for grassroots meetings and include regional workshops, hence better attendance for both.

NORTH ALABAMA CHAPTER

David Crow, AIA, President

**Discussion Period One — 2:00-3:50 P.M.
January 15th.**

Discussion of Government Relations by William Marshall, Jr., Chairman of Government Affairs Steering Committee:

In addition to the usual federal government programs of lobbying, news reports, minuteman, etc., a new effort this year will be made in the area of State Government Relations by establishing a clearing house with information from all States as well as Federal Government. This new program will attempt to render

service on both the city, county and state levels. Components are requested to appoint State Professional Representatives and also furnish names of local attorneys to receive information relative to local problems.

Comment

While I fail to see any strong correlation between the activity of the legislative minute man program as to passage of legislation I continue to support the idea mainly because by our show of interest at this point, we as architects, may be heard to a greater extent in the future.

Question whether or not we should not better co-ordinate with other elements of the building and development industry to provide a unified front and better lobby in congress.

The two step and turn key approach to federal programs continues to be bad at best, in that the choice in the end result seems to be based entirely on cost with complete disregard to aesthetics. Perhaps this could be rectified by establishing a high and low price, with the Architect being the prime contractor.

Comment

Should not training programs for minority groups (federally financed) be noted as for "poverty areas" as opposed to "minority groups."

Community design centers should encompass the responsibility in rural areas. It is my opinion that through active design and federally financed economic programs in the rural or less urban areas, the migration to the urban areas by impoverished people might be thwarted hence to a great extent alleviating the genesis of the problem.

Discussion of Student Affairs by Joseph T. Siff, President of ASC/AIA:

Three primary goals in the 1971 program for the ASC:

Study new methods and procedures in Architectural education.

More involvement in community development centers.

Establish courses in Architecture at the primary education level, so that future school boards and council members be better informed about Architecture.

Comments:

Joe Siff, national president of ASC/AIA is an outstanding representative of the student affiliate. While vocal in his

opinions, he was obviously there to establish a rapport with the professionals. He presented the point of view that the "Architect" does not necessarily have to be the practitioner as we know it today, but should encompass a wide range of activities, i.e., developer, social worker, government employee, etc., and further that education of our architects of tomorrow should reflect this point of view, and further that the students should not necessarily be burdened with the nuts and bolts training (design, drafting, presentation, etc.)

It seems to me that, if we the architects are to be an integral part of the decision making element of our society we must prepare ourselves to reach out and control fields of endeavor related to the practice of architecture as we know it today. As we look at other industries, the conglomerate survives. It is inevitable in my opinion. Are we to control the conglomerate or is the conglomerate to control us? I therefore agree with Joe Siff, that our educational process must be broadened and that the term "architect" might encompass other disciplines but I feel that this should be on an expanded architectural program and that the nuts and bolts of architectural education should be retained.

MOBILE CHAPTER AIA Virginia March, AIA President

Mobile Chapter

George White's report on the proposed restructuring was one of the most interesting given. There was almost a universal acceptance of the restructuring, provided that a state would be the minimum unit.

Public Relations shift from a very soft "motherhood" statement to a more architect-architecture oriented program raised some questions as to whether a hard sell program was in the mill. However, Dan Boone assured us that professionalism was to continue to be stressed. Under his guidance, I feel sure this will be so.

The new president of ASC/AIA, Joe Siff, left me with the impression that there still is a majority of the students who go to architectural school to equip themselves to enter a profession.

Robert Nash presented a very enthusiastic report on the Human Resources Council, but although he elicited sympathy and encouragement during the session, the informal discussions that

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HUMAN RESOURCES COUNCIL

A report by M. L. Holland, AIA, Tuskegee, Alabama

Much has been written recently on the pages of nearly all architectural publications about the AIAs somewhat newly formed Human Resources Council. The Council has set as its primary goal, the obtainment or stimulation of the release of funds and services from all possible sources to implement programs of the AIA's Task Force on Professional Responsibility to Society.

These Task Force programs are, at present, organized in three broad categories:

1. Community Development Centers — Assistance to community based organizations which provide professional architectural and planning services for those who otherwise would not be able to afford such services and, needless to say, need these services most.

2. Architectural Education — Assistance in providing greater opportunity for minority citizens in the architectural professions by promoting further development of predominately black schools of architecture and providing disadvantaged candidates with scholarships for architectural education.

3. Constraints to Building — Development of a program to identify and remove constraints to the quality and adequate quantity of construction; particularly housing for low income groups. Primary constraints exist in financing, regulations (codes zoning and red tape), unions and self-imposed design limitations.

The first meeting of the Human Resources Council occurred in Omaha, Nebraska on February 27, 1971, and was attended by eighty-four representatives of AIA chapters or other components; seven members of the Task Force, the HRC executive committee and AIA staff.

The group as a whole strongly agreed on the importance of Task Force programs and continuing the momentum started by the meeting. The necessity of architects and an interdisciplinary team adopting the proper open-minded attitude required for solving our problems were acknowledged.

Much dialogue occurred during the meeting relative to how Task Force programs were being implemented at various locations across the country. There was information made available which is national or local in significance.

Of national concern were a series of suggested items such as: providing continuously assembled information on local programs and experiences to be distributed to all members for reference, applying political pressure or support when and where necessary, assistance in applying for government funds, and providing any assistance needed in local establishment of Task Force programs.

ALABAMA PARTICIPATION

However, of more direct concern to Alabama architects is the information which relates to local chapters and agencies. One who is optimistic in his outlook can see that some improvements are being made in the state. At least the lines of communication are being opened with the advent of the Tuskegee-Auburn visiting critic program, the recent accreditation of Tuskegee's Department of Architecture and the ever-increasing discourse between black and white and student and practitioner.

Nevertheless, much remains to be done. If Alabama architects and other professionals can accept the serious challenge of taking leadership in solving some of the basic problems of our era, we stand to avoid many of the problems besetting other parts of the nation today.

The items that follow are suggested guidelines for our further involvement in each of the Task Force categories:

A. Community Development Centers (CDCs)

1. Contact local community groups (and national AIA) to explain CDCs and determine need and support. Enlist community representatives.

2. Commit volunteer time to existing or new CDC efforts. Encourage firms to contribute some portion of their employees' time to local CDC.

3. Commit some chapter funds to CDC — should be enough to give some physical identity (i.e. workshop location, etc.) around which additional resources can mobilize.

4. Seek support and assistance from other professionals — planners, lawyers, real estaters, contractors, bankers, etc.

5. Establish contact and working relationships with other community agencies, such as: Model Cities and urban

renewal committees and related citizen committees; Community Action Agencies, non-profit housing corporations, economic development corporations, etc.

6. Investigate local funding sources for CDC, i.e. city agencies, foundations, industry and commerce, individuals. Investigate national funding sources.

7. Enlist and coordinate support of local universities, especially schools of architecture.

B. Educational Programs

1. AIA/Ford Scholarship for Minorities (\$1,000,000 now in effect)

- a. Contact high schools, junior colleges, and firms for recruitment of possible candidates.

- b. Assist candidates in applying for scholarship:

- (1) nomination to the program

- (2) application to schools of architecture

- (3) additional local financial assistance (matching) from: AIA chapter — firms — schools/universities — other scholarships — individual grants

- (4) follow-up guidance for candidates

- c. In addition, the same range of assistance should be made available to youths who are turned down by or are not eligible for Ford/AIA program so as to find other ways of attending school.

2. Minority Schools (Tuskegee)

- a. Contact school to see what assistance is needed in overall curriculum development

- (1) Much help is needed with student scholarships.

- (2) Chapters and firms can make library materials available.

- (3) (Many firms have recently been contacted in reference to critical need for expanded physical facilities.)

- b. Assist the school in raising funds from various sources: AIA chapters — state legislature — federal programs — foundations — individual grants (all grants can be tax-deductible)

- c. Send a youth to school

- d. Assist in finding summer and graduate employment for these students.

3. Many other opportunities exist in the areas of career guidance in high schools and technician training and architectural development programs offered by junior colleges.

- a. Coordinate and organize programs that expose local high school students to architecture as a profession which affects their environment.

- b. Give disadvantaged students the opportunity and awareness to continue

(Continued on page 11)

Gulf States Regional Set

CHAMPAGNE & HOT TAMALES

Five years ago some smart aleck architect from Mississippi was in Hot Springs eating hors d'oeuvres and sipping champagne at the Gulf States Regional Convention. Feeling the part of the proud host, I asked him what he thought of how we lived up here in Arkansas. His reply was that it was the first time he'd ever had "champagne and hot tamales".

The moral of this is that we go all out to satisfy a pooped architect's most diverse desired when we host a Regional Convention. And since this is not only the 20th anniversary meeting but also the last annual convention, we're really going to pull out the stops this time.

If you've never savored a cocktail on a terrace as the sun set in the beautiful Ouachita Mountains . . . if you've never tasted crab meat kona kefer seven floors up on the pool deck on Hot Springs Mountain . . . if you've never played golf on one of four P.G.A. Championship golf courses . . . if you've never had cold beer on Dan Cowling's houseboat while cruising Lake Ouachita . . . if you haven't done all or any of these wonderful things, then come to Hot Springs on May 27, 28 and 29. It's your very last chance and we'd love to have you.

Sid Frier,
Gulf States Regional
Convention Chairman

HONOR AWARDS DEADLINES

Entrance Fee
(\$25.00 per submission) April 14
Submission May 20
Rules have been mailed to all Corporate members.
We still need photos or slides of past Honor Awards winners.

Grassroots (Continued from page 7)

evening were not very optimistic as to the program's success.

The "Institute Operations" seminar revolved around the nuts and bolts of getting printed information from the Octagon to the Chapters in a more file-able form. Also there were requests for less literature.

Generally, the informality and rapport with staff personnel and national leadership is as much a part of success of Grassroots as the presentations of the reports. ■

BOOK REVIEW

by Felton Moreland Collier, AIA

Parking Economics and Design

by Richard C. Rich

Richard C. Rich and Associates, Inc., Detroit, Michigan; 47 pp. illustrated with charts, drawings, photographs, \$7.50; 1968

This book is one of the shortest and yet one of the most valuable professional references which I have reviewed for the ALABAMA ARCHITECT. The 47 pages of typescript and illustrations comprise a really distinguished analysis, with practical examples, of the usual problems encountered in the design of parking structures.

Mr. Rich is a highly qualified engineer who has specialized in parking garages for two decades. The book is the revised text of a lecture which he gave some two years ago. His examples offer the economics of three types of parking structures, with careful attention to the factors of demand and of distance to major "generators" of automobile traffic. His studies of the use of air rights over parking structures, of maximum acceptable walking distances, and other feasibility items are useful and are stated in clear,

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The theme for the AIA National Convention this year is "The Hard Choices." Each Alabama Chapter will have representation in Detroit, and Council president William Pearson will also attend. Dates are June 20-24, 1971.

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concise terms. *Parking Economics and Design* is enthusiastically recommended as a working manual for any architect's library.

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LETTERS

Dear Jay:

The new format of the ALABAMA ARCHITECT is very attractive. The only suggestion I have is to use white instead of colored paper.

To use a Newsletter to exchange news about individual architects and chapter activities is so obviously sensible, it is apt to escape us. But that use is well illustrated in the January-February issue. Although you may present buildings from time to time — certainly Honor Awards — and special features, such as the Lethbridge talk at the Alabama Council convention, news exchange should be the steady fare.

One suggestion is that you might occasionally publish pieces of architectural comment or criticism, illustrated, naturally. Such a piece need not be a tearing up of a particular building, but it could call attention to trends, good or bad, and comment on them. As a beginning, someone might take the Mansard Roof: Does it have some new function that eludes most of us? Will it replace the Heavy Overhang?

Congratulations on a clear, readable magazine.

Arch R. Winter
Director Gulf States Region

Editor's Comments: Suggestion adopted, white paper used in this issue.

Other comments are invited—good, bad, or indifferent. We want to know your opinion of the Newsletter, which replaces the former ALABAMA ARCHITECT. Meantime, who will undertake an article such as suggested by Arch Winter? Our pages are open.



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§ 1971 CONVENTION §

This year's convention will be held in Auburn on November 12th and 13th — as Auburn will be playing football in Athens, Ga. at that time. Principal speakers contacted are Nicholas Negroponte, Full Professor at M.I.T., and Charles Colburn. The Saturday a.m. Program will be by the students from both schools, Auburn and Tuskegee. There will be a program for the ladies. Mark your calendars now.

HUMAN RESOURCES

(Continued from page 9)

their professional education at schools of architecture if they so desire.

C.Constraints to Building

An AIA Task Force is examining all factors involved in building constraints as referred to above. At present, local action in this area should include:

1. Active participation on regulatory agencies such as zoning boards, city planning commissions, city councils, etc., by architects.

2. Examine housing for low income groups and consider what can be done about it.

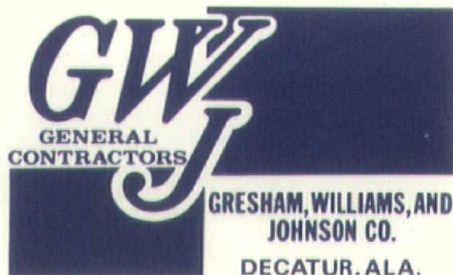
The time is right. The means are available. Why not do your part in improving the quality of life in Alabama?

THE CONCRETE INDUSTRY Honor Roll IN ALABAMA

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Andalusia	-	ANDALUSIA CONCRETE PRODUCTS CO.
	-	ANDALUSIA READY MIX, INC.
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	-	RUSH CONCRETE AND SUPPLY
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	-	JACKSON CONCRETE CO.
Greenville	-	GREENVILLE CONCRETE CO.
Heflin	-	* FARMERS SUPPLY CO.
Huntsville	-	SOUTHERN PRESTRESSED CONCRETE
Jasper	-	NORTH ALABAMA LUMBER CO.
Mobile	-	RADCLIFF MATERIALS, INC.
	-	UNDERWOOD BUILDERS SUPPLY
Montevallo	-	HILL CONCRETE & SUPPLY
Montgomery	-	BUILDERS SUPPLY COMPANY
	-	FORMAN READY MIX COMPANY
	-	HODGSON CONCRETE CO.
	-	MONTGOMERY READY MIX
	-	SOUTHERN PRESTRESSED CONCRETE
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Pensacola, Fla.	-	SOUTHERN PRESTRESSED CONCRETE
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Robertsdale	-	COASTAL CONCRETE COMPANY
Russellville	-	RUSSELLVILLE READY MIX
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	-	WILLCUTT BLOCK & SUPPLY
Tuskegee	-	SHARPE SAND & GRAVEL
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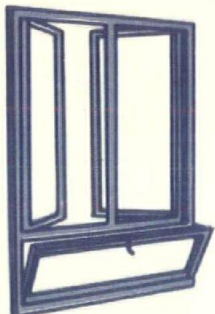
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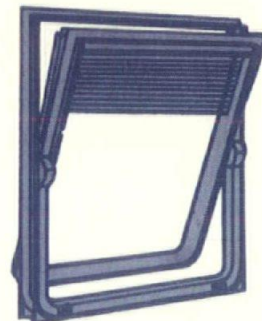
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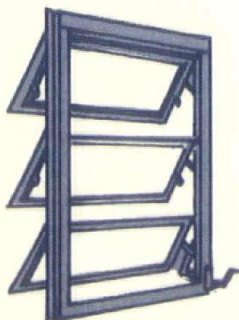
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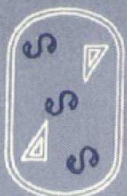


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