

ALABAMA ARCHITECT

Sept. - Oct. 1971



A Back Alley In Downtown Montgomery May Look Like This Someday


LOWER COMMERCE STREET REDEVELOPMENT, MONTGOMERY

newsletter

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Letters to the Editor

Dear Jay:

Once again may I offer congratulations and appreciation on behalf of the Alabama Historical Commission for the outstanding July-August issue of *Alabama Architect*.

The feature article on the Fort Conde Plaza reconstruction was very impressive, and we were particularly gratified to see Nicholas H. Holmes, Jr., the Alabama Council of Architects' representative on the Alabama Historical Commission, recognized for his extensive work on the project.

May we please have 25 additional copies of this issue so that each of our Commission members will have a copy?

Sincerely,

W. Warner Floyd

Executive Director

Alabama Historical Commission

Dear Jay:

The Mobile Historic Development Commission was pleased beyond words at the July-August, 1971 issue of the ALABAMA ARCHITECT.

We think the reconstruction of two bastions of Fort Conde and the architectural park are the most imaginative plans anywhere to improve the quality of urban life and provide economic benefits to the City. When this Commission obtained the first Highway Archeological Salvage Grant to expose the foundations of Fort Conde we did not foresee it could lead to such major development.

Mrs. Elizabeth Gould, Instructor, Art Department at the University of South Alabama and representing the City of Mobile on our Commission, worked hand-in-glove with the Mobile City Planning Commission in the development of their plan. She was able to supply many of the photographs and great professional knowledge in the history of architecture to the work of the Planning Commission. I would like to see her contribution acknowledged in print in the next issue of the ALABAMA ARCHITECT in whichever way you feel most suitable. We are most fortunate to have a person with Mrs. Gould's talents on the above Commission and concerned with the future of Mobile as she, especially as pertains to the preservation and utilization of our architectural heritage.

Yours sincerely,

Nancy N. Holmes

Executive Director

Mobile Historic Development Commission

Mr. Robert E. Koehler, Hon. AIA
Editor, AIA Journal
1785 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Koehler:

Three resounding HURRAHS for your editorial in the September AIA Journal entitled "Let's Get Back To Architecture." I'm certain that the views expressed represent those of an overwhelming majority of Architects in Alabama, the Gulf States Region, and the entire nation!

Sincerely,

William M. Pearson AIA,

President

Alabama Council of American

Institute of Architects

cc: Jay Leavell, Executive Secretary

Dear Mr. Leavell,

Congratulations on a very fine issue of the July-August issue of the Alabama Architect.

Enclosed you will find check to cover three more copies of this issue.

Sincerely yours,

E. W. Burkhardt

Auburn, Alabama

P.S. While the write-up is correct as far as it goes, older members also know me as Chairman of Design of the Division of Design from 1929 to assumption of other duties in 1956, also as Chairman of the then Ala. Chapter AIA Legislative Comm with Hugh Martin of Bghm and Paul Hofferbert of Gadsden as members for the Zoning and Enabling Acts put through Ala. Legislature in the early thirties, also as the *District Officer of the Hist. Am. Bldgs Survey for 4 years of the 30's, U.S. Delegate to the International Congress of Architects — Paris — 1937 of the Institute and the U.S. Dep't of State and Gulf Region Representative for three years of the AIA on the AIA Comm. on Preservation of Hist. Monuments.

E.W.B.

*Joint Project of the Library of Congress, and the Institute with the Dep't of Architecture of the then API as sponsor and by endorsement of the then Ala. Chapter.

(Continued on page 11)

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ALABAMA COUNCIL OFFICERS 1971

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Cover Design By
Don Morrison, A.I.A.

AIA Picks Alabama Architect As "Document of the Month"

For many years the American Institute of Architects in Washington sent each month to all State and local Chapter components a packet entitled "Document of the Month." It contained several pieces such as a magazine, a fee schedule, a mailer, or some particular outstanding typographic piece.

Unfortunately the practice was discontinued, but is now being reinstated. The July-August issue of ALABAMA ARCHITECT dealing with the Fort Conde Plaza reconstruction in Mobile has been selected by the Institute as the first Document of the Month to go out to some 255 components as the program is renewed. The editors and Council officers appreciate this signal honor and recognition.



Scene Envisioned for Victorian Warehouse Section of Lower Commerce Street Shows Refurbish

LOWER COMMERCE STREET IN MONTGOMERY NEAR

The old streetcar will roll again and sounds of jazz bands playing some Dixieland may reverberate along the antique cobblestones as an old paddle-wheeler lazes down the river.

Sounds like old New Orleans, but it's all planned for Montgomery, Alabama, with the proposed development of lower Commerce Street.

Intriguing little boutiques, art shops and out-of-the-way restaurants are envisioned for the decrepit alleyways in the old warehouse section along the waterfront and businessmen have also discussed having an old-timey ice cream parlor and candy store.

The section, which occupies the west side of Commerce, roughly begins at Mercantile Paper Co. and ends at the railroad tracks above the river.

Planners see it as becoming Montgomery's version of New Orleans' old French Quarter or Underground Atlanta, the difference being that the property is individually owned in the other places and this would be a project of the City of Montgomery, in part.

A riverfront park and riverboat wharf has already been designed on the banks of the Alabama River at the end of Commerce where the old steamboats once docked.

The Riverfront Development Committee, named by City Commission last year, is coordinating the plans for the historic district.

The trade buildings along the lower end of Commerce Street have been described by experts as the finest examples of Victorian warehouse architecture in the Southeast, and the

committee thinks they can become tourist attractions.

The city's proposed \$14-million convention center, which includes \$4 to \$5½ million for land acquisition, will occupy the adjacent four-block area.

It will face the warehouses on the other side of Commerce Street on the east and be bounded by Bibb on the south, Moulton on the west and Water (Union Station) on the south.

The center will seat 3,000 in the theater-auditorium which will be used for symphonies, concerts, road shows, assemblies and convention functions. It is designed by Pearson, Tittle, Narrows & Associates, AIA of Montgomery.

The parking lot, which will cover two blocks across from Union Station, will hold 1,000 cars and will also be available for use by shoppers in the area. (See back cover for site plan.)

The old train station, purchased by the city from two railroad companies, is under study to determine its use.

The city museum and the Montgomery Junior League have talked about a museum there and are discussing what type.

An Indian lore, railroad, or just a general historic museum have also been suggested.

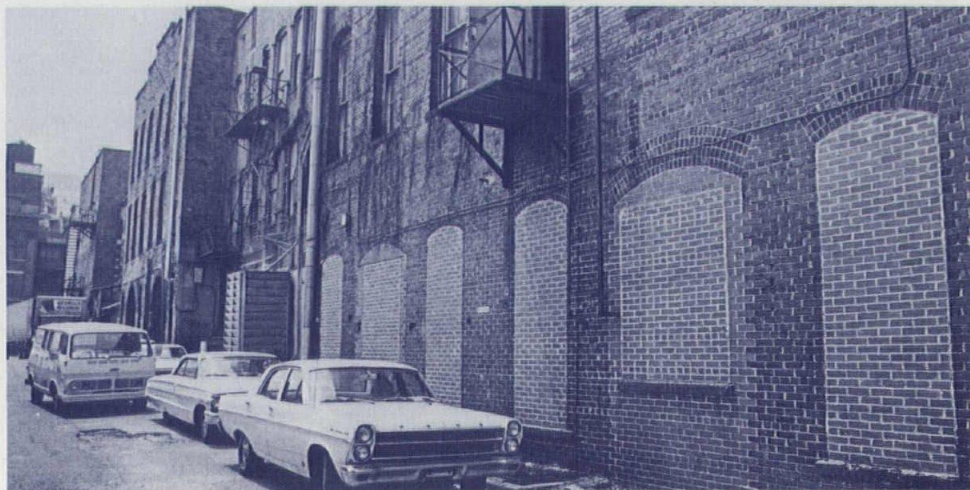
"We need something for visitors to do when they are not meeting at the convention center. They could shop, ride the riverboat, go to the museum," says Jim Inscoe, chairman of the Riverfront District Development Committee.

The committee was named to coordinate all efforts — restoration, recreation, tourist or trade — in the area and make reports to City Commission.

Other community groups working on projects include the



Sketch Depicts How Present Loading Place May Look After Redevelopment





Buildings in Blocks Beginning Above Banks of Alabama to Bibb and Tallapoosa

RIVER TO BE DEVELOPED AS HISTORIC ATTRACTION

Lower Commerce Development Committee, Tandy Little, chairman; Streetcar Revival Committee, Royce Kershaw, chairman; Wharf and Riverboat effort of the Montgomery Jaycees; Downtown Unlimited; the Chamber of Commerce; and the Montgomery Chapter of Architects, AIA.

In addition to architects and engineers, there is a 13-member advisory group to the city's committee and a financial and planning arm.

Inscoe is chairman and other members are Milo Howard, Jimmie Pruett, Jr., J. Aronstein, Jr., Rod Frazer, George Goodwyn, Carol Brewbaker and Betty Robinson.

The City Riverfront Park plans have been completed and are under study by the Parks and Recreation Board before they are let for bids, according to J. Aronstein, Jr., head of the city's Advance Planning Department which is coordinating the project.

Urban Consultants, Inc., developed plans for the park and \$50,000 federal funds are in the kitty for the project. The money comes under the Urban Beautification program.

A wharf is now being constructed along the riverbank at the end of Commerce for passengers to board the riverboat, and will be completed before the river rises this fall with the opening of the Jones Bluff Lock and Dam.

An old tunnel that runs under the tracks by Union Station will be opened to provide access to the park and wharf area, after study by structural engineers.

If it is feasible to open the tunnel, it will be well-lighted and made completely safe. It was used for bringing goods and freight from the riverboats up onto Commerce Street, where it ended near the old Capitol Wholesale building. It was filled in the mid-1930's after river traffic ceased along the Alabama to Montgomery.

The park area will be landscaped and the Montgomery Federation of Garden Clubs is interested in botanical gardens there.

There will be walkways, picnic areas and ticket and a concession stand in the park.

The Streetcar Revival Committee will have a turn-of-the-century streetcar available for tours around the historic district.

The electric trolley is an old survivor of the city's streetcar days and will run from Union Station to the Shaw House and perhaps as far as Capitol Hill.

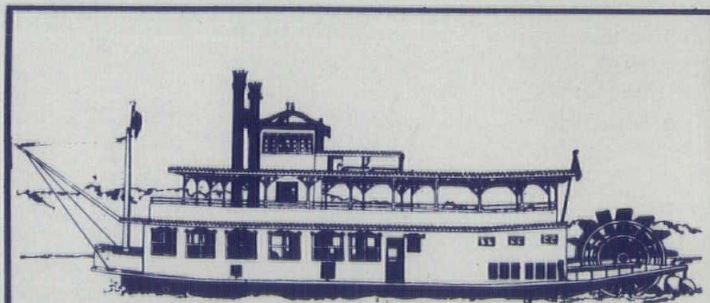
The Shaw House, another example of Montgomery's turning to the past for present enjoyment, was restored by Landmarks Foundation and the city at a cost of \$310,000.

The museum-home was opened recently for public tours and a Chamber of Commerce tourist information center is across Columbus Street from the historic structure in the Cooper-DeWolf Cottage.

Planners hope that the lower Commerce Street will eventually become a tourist area as well as furnish entertainment for conventioners.

One Montgomerian noted that many tourists visit the historic Capitol complex here and then leave. It has been estimated that if a portion of the thousands of tourists stayed longer in Montgomery, over \$1 million a year would go into the economy.

The people behind the lower Commerce restoration plan to make it a perfect place to linger.



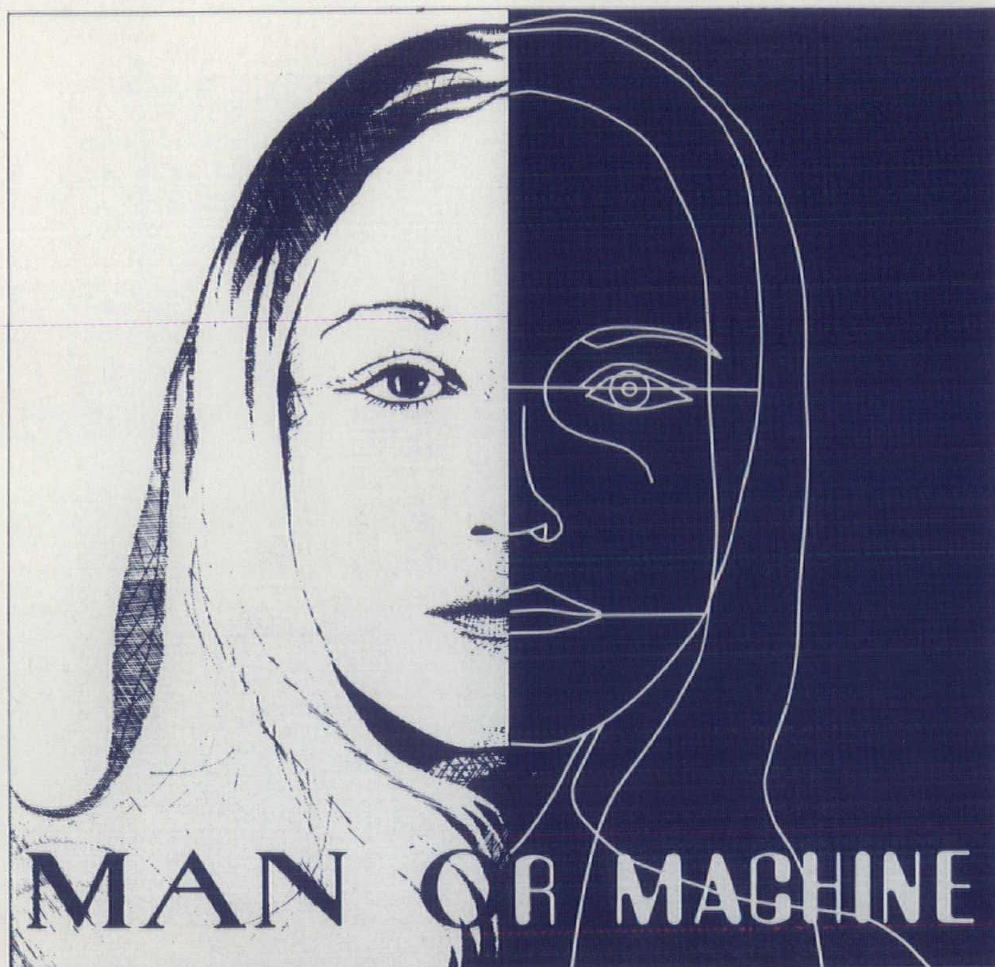
JAYCEES PLAN OLD-TIME PADDLE WHEEL RIVER BOAT

The Montgomery Jaycees' campaign to "Float the Boat" is going on now to raise money for a paddle-wheel craft.

The 90-foot boat will be built in Dubuque, Iowa, and floated down the Mississippi to New Orleans, over to Mobile and up the Alabama to Montgomery once the river is navigable this fall.

The Jaycees have enough contributions to order the old-time riverboat, but still need funds to make payments on the \$150,000 diesel-powered boat.

Some 250 passengers could travel the river as in days of yore, with modern conveniences added.



graphics by J. H. Bryant, AIA

THEME SET FOR AUBURN ANNUAL MEETING

"Man or Machine" is the theme for the statewide convention of the Alabama Council of Architects in Auburn on Friday and Saturday, November 12-13.

Professor Richard Millman, Head of the Department of Architecture at Auburn, is also serving as general chairman of the convention. Leading debates on the theme subject will be Negroponte (who will take the machine side) and Charles Colbert (who disagrees with the contention). A lively session should ensue.

The tentative program looks like this:

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12:

- 10:30 Executive Committee Meeting, Alabama Council, A.I.A. — University Motor Lodge
- 12:15-1:30 Registration — University Motor Lodge
- 1:15 Kick-off Lunch "Bloody Mary" and a Sandwich — University Motor Lodge
- 1:30-4:45 Registration — Lobby, Biggin Hall

- 2:00-3:00 The New Biggin Library Open House
- 3:00-5:00 "Man or Machine" Initial Presentations, Negroponte and Colbert — Langdon Hall
- 5:30-6:30 Cocktail Hour — University Motor Lodge
- 6:30 Banquet — University Motor Lodge
- 8:00 Program "Man or Machine" Debate and Summary — University Motor Lodge

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13:

- 8:30-9:45 "Eye Opener" Breakfast — University Motor Lodge
- 9:45 Annual Business Meeting, Alabama Council of Architects, A.I.A. — Biggin Auditorium
- 11:45 Depart for Tuskegee
- 12:15 Luncheon — Mixer with Students — Tuskegee Chapel
- 1:30 Prize Drawing (Recipient must be present) and Wrap-up

New officers for the Council will be elected to serve the coming year.

Auburn Architectural Students Survey Historic Buildings

During the past few months a group of architectural students of Auburn University have investigated and recorded historic buildings for the HABS (Historic American Building Survey). Students selected valuable structures from Tennessee, Kentucky and Alabama.

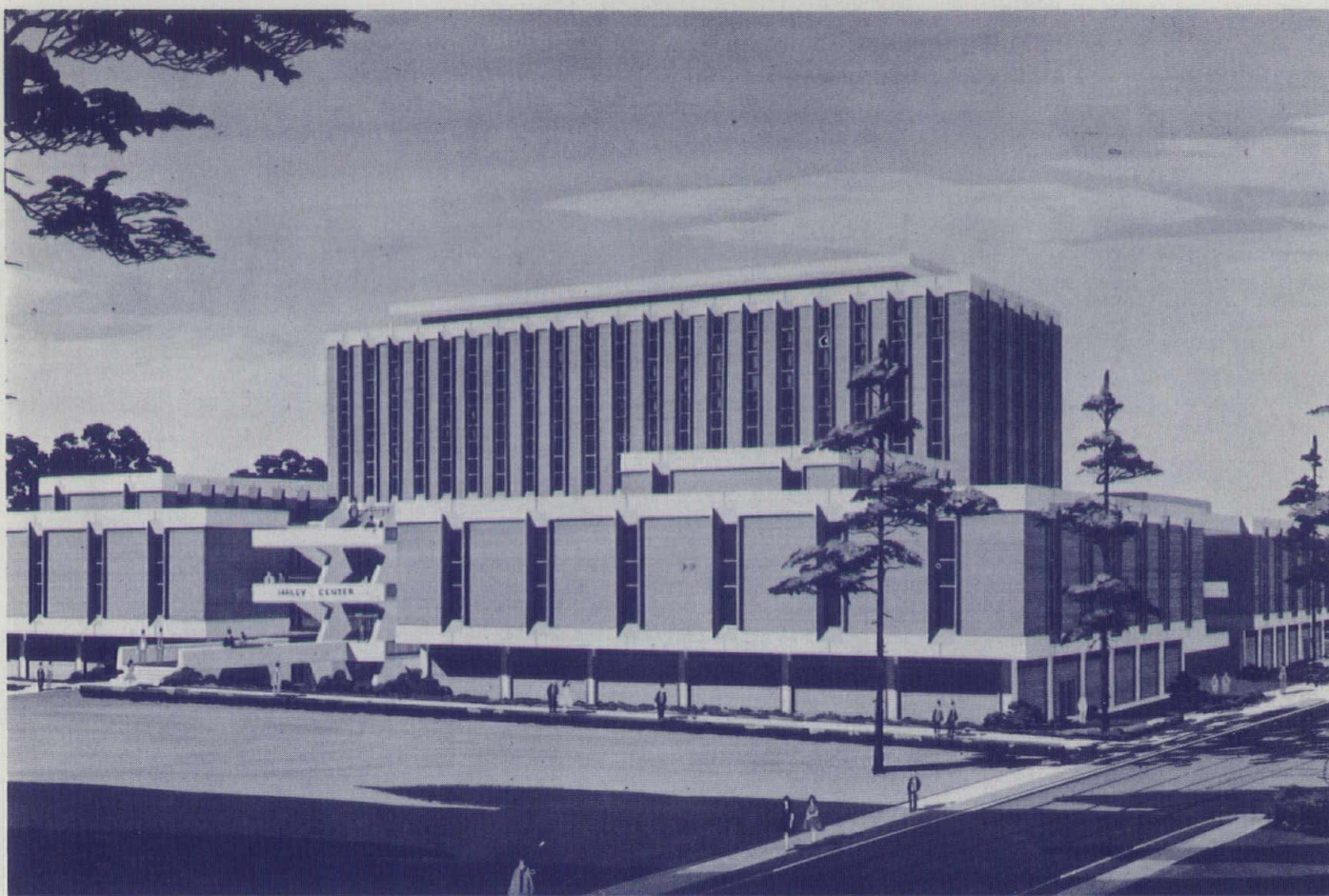
The objective of this project was the preparation of the HABS inventory sheets. The students had to record from selected buildings such facts as the general history and significance, sequence of ownership, name of architects and contractors, construction methods and structural characteristics, detail description, site location, etc.

The inventories had been made for the "National Register" administered by the HABS under the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE. In 1935 the HISTORIC SITES ACT established a "national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States." In 1953, the HABS inventory form was developed by the NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION in cooperation with the NATIONAL PARK SERVICE and the INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN ARCHITECTS.

The inventory sheets made by the Auburn students will be sent to Washington. A committee of the HABS will select a limited number of buildings of which measured drawings and professional photographs will be taken. The material is then deposited in the HABS archives in the Library of Congress and published in State and local catalogs. Considerations for preservation and renovation are usually based upon these publications.

The survey included the Gingerbread House — Opelika; First Methodist Church — Tuskegee, Ala.; Hannover Circle — Birmingham, Ala.; L&N Railroad Station — Chattanooga, Tenn.; The Old Mill — Birmingham, Ala.; Old Mulkey House (Church) — near Tompkinsville, Ky.; Goldwater Greek Bridge — Goldwater, Ala.; Meadow Mill Bridge — Beulah, Ala.; Okechobe Creek Bridge — Alexander City, Ala.; Davis Manor — Brunswick, Tenn.

Dr. Steffen R. Doerstling (Associate Prof., Department of Architecture) was supervisor of this project.



Take a lesson from Auburn University

Auburn's new Haley Center . . . the newest and most impressive landmark on the campus . . . houses the University's Schools of Arts and Science, and of Education. The ten-story, \$6.5 million facility contains 457 rooms. On its first three floors, 142 class rooms, laboratories and auditorium accommodate 8,500 to 9,000 students at a single sitting. Tower floors four through ten contain an additional 315 rooms.

Completely cooled and heated by gas, the Center features a functional arrangement which divides it into zones, permitting different temperatures in each of the zones. The two gas-operated absorption units which cool and heat the Center also serve two smaller buildings, Thach and Tichenor Halls, across the street.

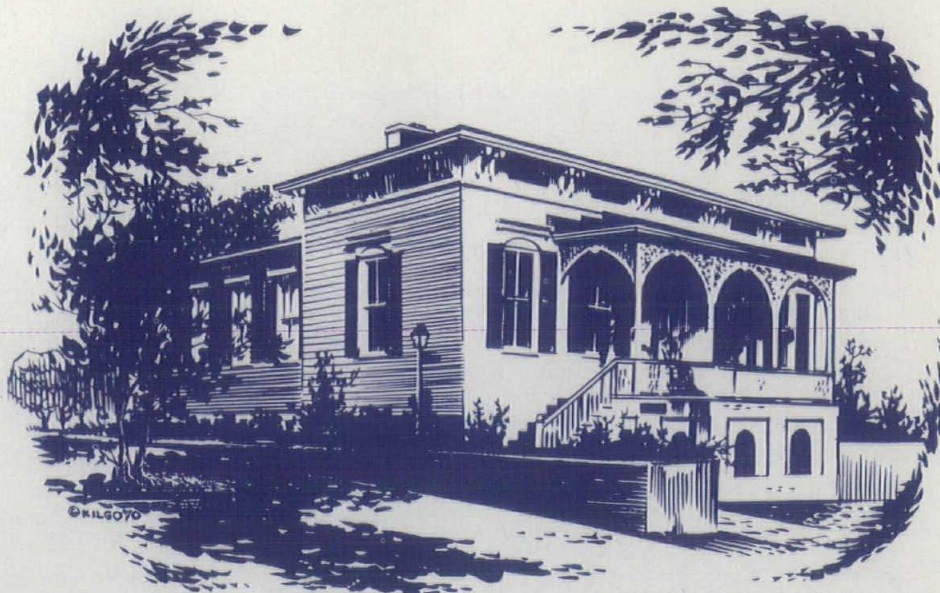
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ALABAMA ARCHITECT

The historic Falconer House is a quaint old New England cottage-style, wood frame house, built by Seth Robinson, between 1840 and 1845. The friendly little house stood for more than a century and a quarter on Lot 8, on the north side of Alabama Street in Montgomery (then New Philadelphia). The house, festooned with fancy woodwork and ornate metal eave ventilators, has been preserved for posterity by the Young Women's Christian Organization, at 428 S. Lawrence Street. Furniture of the ante bellum era is displayed in the two front parlors. Sight-seers and gift shoppers are always welcome.



BRINGING NEW LIFE TO OLD LANDMARKS

By 1967 the once-splendid United States Hotel in Jacksonville, Ore., built in 1884 at the height of Oregon's gold rush, was a hollow shell awaiting the thud of the wrecker's ball. The local historical society and other preservation-minded people hoped to save it. The question was how.

At about the same time the U.S. National Bank of Portland was making plans to build a branch office in Jacksonville. To the preservationists this was a special opportunity. With the help of architects, museum directors and other community leaders they persuaded the bank to locate its branch office in a restored United States Hotel. A nonprofit company was formed, took over the hotel building and, on the strength of a lease signed by the bank, borrowed the money for the restoration work. The bank, in turn, prepaid ten years' rent, putting the project on pretty solid financial footing.

Today the historic hotel building is a nineteenth-century showplace authentic to its ink wells and carved wooden fixtures as well as an efficient and profitable banking office.

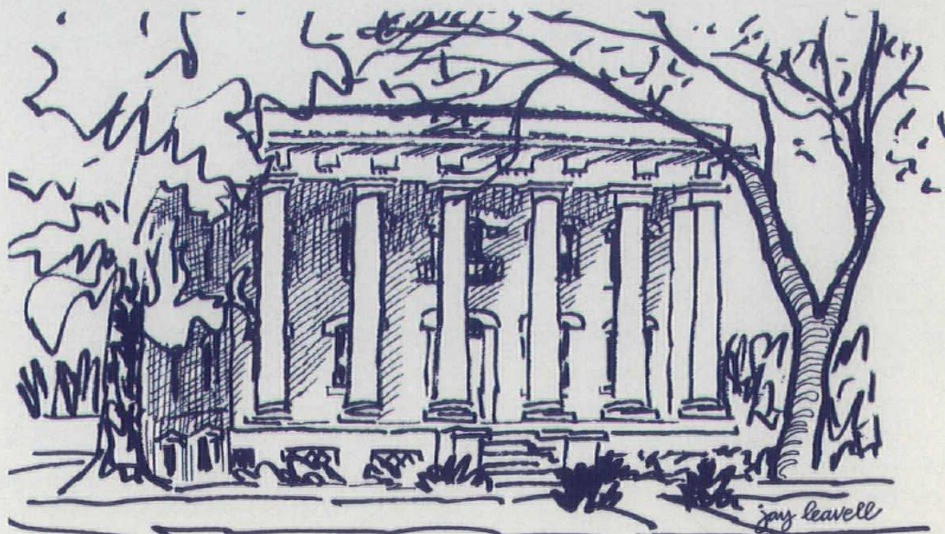
Across the country, in Atlanta, Ga., two young businessmen saw restoration possibilities in a historic section that had been the original heart of their city's business district. Since the

1920's the area had been bridged over and cut off from modern downtown Atlanta by a network of viaducts. By 1968 it had become an abandoned city beneath the streets.

First requirement for restoration was development capital. "Underground Atlanta" was incorporated and sold common stock to the residents of Georgia. It bought or leased the buildings in the designated area, helped get a historic-zoning law through the Georgia legislature, and attracted additional financial support and other cooperation from the community.

Today more than 40 shops, restaurants, museums and entertainment places operate in the authentically restored Gay Nineties buildings; room for 100 more is planned. "Underground Atlanta" has already become a major tourist attraction and entertainment center—and its real estate income value has jumped from 50 cents to as much as \$14 a square foot.

These are but two of scores of examples of how historically important, but neglected, buildings and sites can be preserved and often made profitable by being put to lively use.



The Greil Home, a Greek revival structure, has been restored and houses the Junior League Headquarters, the Alabama Historical Commission, and other offices. Architects for the restoration were Wiatt, Watson & Cole, AIA.

Perhaps there are similar opportunities in your own community. According to some accounts, there are about 300,000 buildings, sites and districts of historic or architectural significance in the United States. Many of them are endangered by freeways, urban renewal projects, suburban developments, or simply the inexorable spread of urban decay. Since 1930 one-fourth of the 15,000 buildings recorded by the Department of the Interior's Historic American Buildings Survey have been destroyed.

Many historic buildings are used as museums and showpieces. Obviously, not all structures worthy of preservation can support themselves in this way. But with imagination and plenty of will, many such places can be put to new use.

Suppose your community has some significant old buildings that are in danger of being destroyed. If you'd like to help save them, here's what to do. Get in touch with your local historical or preservation societies. Most cities and towns have them. Also check at city hall and at your state capitol for help from historical agencies or bureaus there.

You may want to contact the Interior Department, which certifies buildings as National Historic Landmarks and may, through state and local historical agencies, help evaluate the importance of other buildings; the American Institute of Architects, which designates one of its members as a Preservation Coordinator in every state; and the National Trust for Historic preservation.

Agencies like these can give you assistance on historical research and authentication, restoration construction and design, landscaping, land use and historic-area zoning and other aspects of preservation.

True antiquity is not the only criterion for deciding whether a structure is worth saving. Also to be considered are such things as its connection with the history of your community or state or the nation, or its significance as an example of an architectural style, whether it be prerevolutionary residential or early twentieth-century commercial.



The Ordeman-Shaw House, an Italianate style Town House of the 1850's in Montgomery has been restored and is a steadily increasing tourist attraction. Architects were Tiller, Butner, McElhanev, Rosa & Seay, AIA.

Costs of restoration will vary, depending on whether only the exterior of a building is restored or the interior as well; on whether structural rebuilding is involved; and on how much additional land is required for the project. Craftsmen skilled enough to do restoration may be more expensive than those who work on conventional construction.

Often banks and other mortgage lenders hesitate to finance preservation projects because of the generally higher costs involved and because the location or unproved potential of the projects makes them risky investments. There are exceptions, of course, and as the story at the beginning of this article illustrates, banks themselves have made use of restored buildings.

For a strictly private, commercial restoration project, you may have to use your own funds or exercise plenty of ingenuity to raise the needed capital. If your project involves properties in public ownership and is administered by public agencies or private nonprofit operators, funds may be available from a government agency or private foundation.

Historic-preservation organizations will be familiar with these programs and know what kinds of projects qualify for their funds. That's why it's important to contact them at the start. Guides to all state and federal assistance programs for preservation are being prepared for publication by the National Trust for Historic Preserva-

tion, 748 Jackson Pl., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. In the meantime you can request the National Trust's free current publications list. It is a comprehensive guide to a variety of preservation material—from examples of successful restoration to how-to and planning manuals.

Reprinted from Kiplinger's Changing Times.

A paddle wheeler a mill, a movie house . . .

Maybe one of these projects will give you an idea of what you could do in your town.

- The restored home of Commodore Stephen Decatur (the hero of Tripoli) in Washington, D.C., now houses — in modern quarters on its upper floors — the offices of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

- The elegant Charleston, S.C., Rodgers Mansion, noted for its magnificent mahogany paneling, has been restored for use as a computer facility of an insurance company.

- The *Sprague*, the largest paddle wheel steamer to ply the Mississippi, is now permanently docked at Vicksburg, Miss., and used as a combination theater, yacht club, gift shop and museum.

- A five-story stone mill in Clinton, N.J., that once ground grain for George Washington's troops has now become the flourishing Hunterdon Art Center.

- A mammoth, ornate movie palace built in St. Louis in the heyday of Hollywood era is now the Powell Symphony Hall.

- Tuscaloosa has plans to restore the Alabama Capitol building once located there; has already restored an old Tavern-Post House on the grounds, and is relocating the Druid City's oldest home on a corner of the property.

- Huntsville plans to restore an entire city block of early buildings, including a cabinet shop, general stores, etc., in the Williamsburg tradition. Jones and Herrin, AIA, are architects.

THE CONCRETE INDUSTRY Honor Roll IN ALABAMA

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Troy	-	ROY DUNN CONCRETE CO. WHALEY LUMBER & CONSTRUCTION
Tuscaloosa	-	BAMA CONCRETE COMPANY WILLCUTT BLOCK & SUPPLY
Tuskegee	-	SHARPE SAND & GRAVEL

Alabama Concrete Industries Association

660 ADAMS AVE. 265-2796
MONTGOMERY, ALA. 36104
Ed Armagost, Executive Secretary

CHAPTER NEWS AND EVENTS

A pot pourri of goings-on (not necessarily accurate or current, but interesting)

AUBURN

Big project for the little Chapter for this year is the upcoming "Mini" Convention on November 12-13. Dick Millman, with able assists from John Bryant in graphics, plus others on the faculty and in the Chapter, have a great program planned. Meantime architectural students have taken on the project of making a mini-park in downtown Auburn where the site of a burned-out building was. Architects attending the convention and annual meeting will have a chance to take a look at their efforts, since it's right near the University Motor Lodge, convention headquarters.

BIRMINGHAM

Don Morrison's office committee was still looking for a new Chapter Office location at last count and was welcoming all suggestions. Removal date from present office not settled.

Mike Fazio has been attempting to create interest in the Magic City for a study of historical architecture. In contrast, taking the long look forward instead of backward, Don Brown (who edits the snazzy Birmingham Magazine), has asked for an assist from architects in planning a section of the December issue of the monthly mag. This section will be made up of architects' ideas of what can be accomplished during Birmingham's second hundred years (Ed. note: Can the city be that old?) The Chapter passed the buck to Aubrey Garrison to head up a committee.

Don Horton, former Council president and transplant from Montgomery, is working on a seminar to be held in conjunction with the Progressive Farmer. He'll be glad to farm out any assignments (no pun intended).

Bob Schaefer got an OK from the Chapter to paint a mural on the concrete retaining wall across from the Water Works on Highway 280 South. Work is under way — question is if it will be done in water-base paint?

The Homewood City Council took a dim view of a home designed by Joe Giattina, denied the issuance of a permit. Aubrey Garrison proposed a resolution condemning the action, it was seconded and the Chapter passed it unanimously.

MOBILE

Virginia March, president, already is underway with committees working on plans for the 1972 Council convention in the Port City. Always busy, the Chapter hosted a social event during the Gulf States Regional Meeting at Dauphin Island on September 18th. Biggies from the Institute attended a simultaneous meeting called by Arch Winter, FAIA and retiring Gulf States Regional Director. Arthur Prince headed up the committee for this prestigious affair.

Victor Glazner, who worked so hard on the Building Code legislation, was disappointed to see it go down the drain during the stormy legislative session. His only consolation is that the Legislature didn't do much of anything else. Plans are to regroup and marshal support from other building groups around the state who are concerned, and get it re-introduced next session.

MONTGOMERY

President Dick Brunschwyler has had several important committees at work during the year. One of them, headed by David Hancock, expects to report soon on revised By-Laws for the Chapter.

Another, composed of Chairman Ross Brown and members Buddy Tiller and Howard McElhaney are studying the proposed bill to establish registration for Landscape Architects.

Vice President Gene Parsons has produced some interesting programs and one is planned for October on "Continuing Education."

Plans to reinstitute the "Workmanship" Awards to recognize excellence in the craft and building fields are underway.

NORTH ALABAMA

Highlight of the year for those both in and out of the Chapter have been the stimulating and original minutes composed and distributed by Billy Herrin, secretary. He kindly sent the state office a complete set.

In Chapter activities, definite steps have been taken to work with the City of Huntsville on sign control, and AIA members have pressed for a sign control ordinance.

A committee is also planning a meeting with the Huntsville Inspection Department and the City Council concerning a definition of "Public Occupancy," also the fee structure and other matters.

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Letters (continued)

Dear Mr. Leavell,

Arch Winter sent me a copy of the ALABAMA ARCHITECT Newsletter July-August, 1971, carrying the notice of John's sudden death, and followed by Mrs. Virginia March's Resolution of the Mobile Chapter's Resolution in tribute to John.

May I ask you if it would be possible for you to send me 6 more copies of this issue — John has 4 sisters and I would like so very much to have one for our daughter and her family of 10 children, who all revere their Grandfather, and another for my sister, also, who lives in Arlington, Virginia.

Perhaps a year ago John was in "Profile Fellows in Alabama" first in the Series. At the time, John wrote you and asked for additional copies for his family, and I do not have a copy for my file on him. Would it be possible for you to locate and send me this one copy of ALABAMA ARCHITECT Newsletter, carrying John as first in the Series?

Esther J. Carey
(Mrs. John J.)

Dear Mr. Leavell:

Thank you so much for your appreciated letter of sympathy to me, and to your high tribute to John.

It was most kind of you to send me the six extra copies of Alabama Architect's Newsletter July-August, 1971, carrying the Resolution of the Mobile Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, in memory of John. And also for the trouble and expense you went to to send me a photostatic copy of the "First in a Series" with John's picture.

John had asked you for extra copies of the issue "First in a Series" which you kindly sent him, but he gave them to his Sisters and family and so I am particularly happy to have the photographic copy you sent me.

Gratefully,
Mrs. John J. Carey

Dear Mr. Leavell

Please send me two (2) copies of your recent publication containing an article on Mobile's proposed Fort Conde. I want these copies as they have copies of illustrations done by our son.

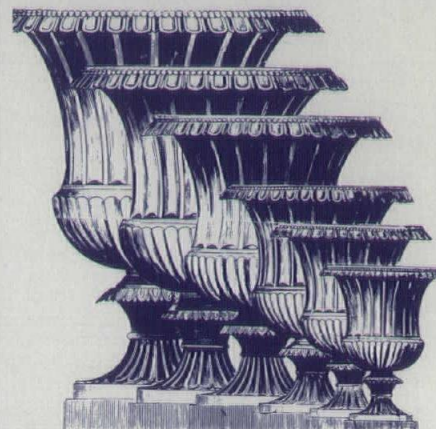
Please accept my check to cover cost of the magazines and postage. Thank you.

Yours truly,
Mrs. G. P. Hamilton
121 Myrtlewood Lane
Mobile, Alabama 36608

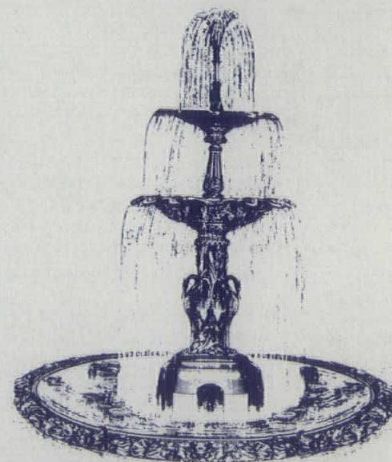
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The Plan's the Thing!

Reprinted from Ke Kaha Ki'i, publication of the Hawaiian Chapter AIA.

Gate Keeper: And on earth you were . . . ?

New Arrival: I was a planner.

G.K.: You were a planner. What did you plan?

N.A.: Cities, I planned cities. And regions. I planned regions, sometimes. But mostly cities.

G.K.: I see. That city over there . . . not that one . . . the one under the pinkish yellowish grayish cloud . . . that's where you came from, isn't it?

N.A.: Yes, that's it, good old . . .

G.K.: Did you plan that?

N.A.: That's where I came from, all right, I was the head planner there, but no, I didn't exactly plan it.

G.K.: I don't understand. You planned cities:

N.A.: And regions . . .

G.K.: And regions . . . You were the head planner. But you didn't plan the city?

N.A.: Well no. You see, a planner doesn't exactly plan cities. He makes plans for cities.

G.K.: Maybe I'm a little rusty . . . all these languages, you just wouldn't believe it, six hundred from Africa alone. Anyway, I thought a plan meant you say this is how we are going to do it. Then you go ahead and do it. They say the Other Fellow has a grand plan for sparrows and the like.

N.A.: Well, yes and no to your definition. A plan is like saying, "This is how we are going to do it." All right. Only we don't do it.

G.K.: I'm afraid I don't . . .

N.A.: You see it's this way. Planning is a process, it's continuing, it's ongoing. You have to keep updating the comprehensive plan . . .

G.K.: Comprehensive plan?

N.A.: Maybe you heard it called the master plan.

G.K.: Master plan?

N.A.: Well yes, the general plan. Once you've made it, you've got to revise it, because things change. You can't beat change, can you? You've got to accommodate to change.

G.K.: So you make a master plan, or a comprehensive plan, or a general plan. Then you fix it up a little,

erase a line here, add a line there

. . .

N.A.: It's not quite that simple. First you make a plan in, say, 1950. You start it in 1950, that is, and you finish it in 1955. But by 1955, it is out of date, things have changed, your data are obsolete. That's why the data bank.

G.K.: Then you erase a line . . .

N.A.: No, it's very technical. In 1955, you start to prepare another plan. You have to more or less start from scratch . . .

G.K.: From whom?

N.A.: Not Old Scratch. That's just an expression. Means you start all over.

G.K.: Then nothing was worth saving?

N.A.: If you had a good base map, you don't have to do that all over. Don't stint on the base map. I always say, do it carefully the first time and you can use it for a lot of plans. Except consultants, of course, consultants always have to make a new base map.

G.K.: So you start a plan in 1950, then another one in 1955, and a completely new one in 1960 . . .

N.A.: Except for the base map . . .

G.K.: . . . except for the base map. Then still another one in 1956, and then . . .

N.A.: We were really just getting going on the next one when I had to leave. I expected to have it ready for public hearing in late 1968 or early 1969 — data bank and simulation models and all the new techniques speed things up. I wouldn't be surprised if some day we got things so we could turn out a new comprehensive plan annually.

G.K.: A new one every year?

N.A.: PPBS, too.

G.K.: I beg your pardon?

N.A.: PPBS. You've got to have it if you want any Federal money.

G.K.: I see. Let's get back to that city of yours. From here it looks pretty messy — when the smog clears enough for me to see it. Now it looks that way because it got rebuilt according to a new plan every five years, is that right?

(Continued on page 14)

PROFILE Fellows In Alabama (FOURTH IN A SERIES)



Charles Francis Davis, Jr.

Charles Davis was born in Montgomery, Alabama, on December 13, 1908. He was educated at Auburn University, receiving his Bachelor in Architecture degree in 1931, followed by a Bachelor in Architectural Engineering in 1932. Member Scarab 1930, received AIA Scholarship Medal in 1931.

Worked with the firm of Miller, Martin & Lewis from 1935-38. Was with E.B. Van Keuren, 1938-46. Firm of E.B. Van Keuren & Charles F. Davis, Jr., 1946-49; Van Keuren, Davis & Co., 1949-57. Organized Davis, Speake & Thrasher in 1957. Firm changed to Davis, Speake & Associates 1966.

Registered in Alabama. Principal works include WAC Training Center, Ft. McClellan, Alabama, 1952-53; Health Sciences Research Building, University of Alabama, Medical Center, Birmingham, 1957. Also the Stringfellow Memorial Hospital, Anniston, and the Hueytown High School, Jefferson County, 1958; University Library, Auburn University 1961; Associated architect for Biological & Plant Sciences Building, Auburn University, 1960, and Haley Center, Auburn University, 1967; Howard (now Samford) University new campus, begun 1955 and still current. Recent works include: Baptist Medical Center, Montclair in Birmingham; Citizens Hospital, Talladega, Alabama; Stillman College, Math-Science Building and Residence Halls for Men and Women Birmingham-Southern College.

Civic Activities include: Salvation Army Advisory Board Membership; Board of Director's, Birmingham Boys Club; Board of Management, Five Points Y.M.C.A.; Exchange Club of Birmingham.

(Continued on page 13)

National AIA News

NATIONAL AIA BOARD INTERPRETS ETHICS OF ARCHITECTS INVOLVEMENT IN CONSTRUCTION

The AIA Board of Directors has issued an interpretation of the section of the Institute's revised Standards of Ethical Practice which deals with the architect's involvement in the construction process.

The standard states that "an architect shall not undertake any activity or employment, have any significant financial or other interest, or accept any contribution, if it would reasonably appear that such activity, employment, interest, or contribution could compromise his professional judgment or prevent him from serving the best interest of his client or employer."

The interpretation reads, "This standard provides that the architect must avoid any activity which would put, or which could reasonably be construed to put, his financial interest in competition with that of his client; activities during the construction phase are particularly sensitive to such conflicts.

"He may not engage in building contracting where compensation, direct or indirect, is derived from profit on labor and materials furnished in the building process.

"He may engage in construction management as a professional for professional compensation only.

"As a participating owner of a project, he may perform in any role legally consistent with the position of ownership.

"A real or apparent conflict of interest must be resolved in the best interest of the client.

"The Institute holds that the Standards of Ethical Practice are compromised when a member is employed by individuals or organizations offering to the public architectural services which are in any manner inconsistent with these Standards."

It should be noted that when an architect is an owner or part-owner of a project, his professional liability insurance is affected. Any architect who finds himself in this situation should check his status with his insurance carrier.

The AIA Standards of Ethical Practice were revised in November, 1970 and published as AIA Document J-330.

Copies are available from the Documents Division, AIA headquarters.

LEGAL DECISIONS

ARCHITECT DUE FEE EVEN IF STRUCTURE NOT BUILT

A D.C. Federal Court has ruled that an architect, whose compensation for services was to be based on a percentage of a building's construction cost must be paid even though the building was not built.

The architect furnished construction documents within the specified time, but the project was abandoned when the defendant realty company could not secure financing.

The realty company refused to pay the architect, claiming that "the construction cost had never been determined and that the method of payment was to be made through construction draws." It said "no money was to be paid to the architect unless financing was secured."

However, the court ruled that an estimate of construction cost used by the company in attempting to secure financing was sufficient to compute compensation for the architect.

At issue was the interpretation of a provision in the owner-architect agreement which defined the basis for computing the architect's compensation. It appeared to have been taken verbatim from the 1963 edition of AIA Document B-131.


The court recognized the estimate of construction costs which had been proffered to a finance company by the vice president of one of the defendant's affiliates. The architect had never approved this estimate, as required by the contract, but the court reasoned that this requirement was merely protection against an attempt by the owner to deflate his estimate — unnecessary, in this situation, since the architect had stipulated the estimate was accurate.

The case is *Douglass vs. First National Realty Corp.*, 437 F. 2d 666 (D.C. Cir, 1971).

CHARLES DAVIS

(continued from page 12)

Charles is an elder in the Presbyterian Church U.S. and is a member of the Board of Trustees of that denomination's Mountain Retreat Association and Montreat-Anderson College, Montreat, North Carolina.



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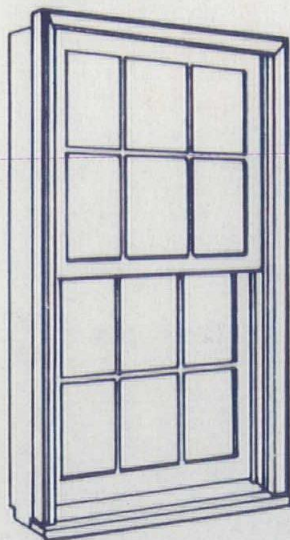


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THE PLAN (continued from page 12)

N.A.: Oh no, you don't seem to understand. You see, a plan is an ideal. You never expect the city to look like the plan. You aren't supposed to achieve it, as the saying goes, just use it as a guide to what the city would look like if you implemented the plan, which you don't. At the same time, the plan must be realistic, it must be based on what exists at the time you are making it. In five years there will be a lot of changes made. So you've got to start over.

G.K.: From scratch?

N.A.: From scratch.

G.K.: Except for the base map?

N.A.: Except for the base map.

G.K.: Well, I think I begin to see how you came here. You meant well, didn't you? Even though your plans were implemented, as the saying goes?

N.A.: Oh yes, all my intentions were good.

G.K.: You did a first rate paving job.

N.A.: Paving...?

G.K.: The road to hell...

N.A.: ... is paved with good intentions! So that's where I am, I thought

...

CURTAIN

THIS MONTH'S COVER

Drawing by Jim Inscoe gives his interpretation of the future atmosphere of Lower Commerce Street in Montgomery. No artist, Jim has nevertheless caught the flavor of restoration in his own layman's style. In real life he owns and operates the busy Jim Inscoe Agency, Real Estate.

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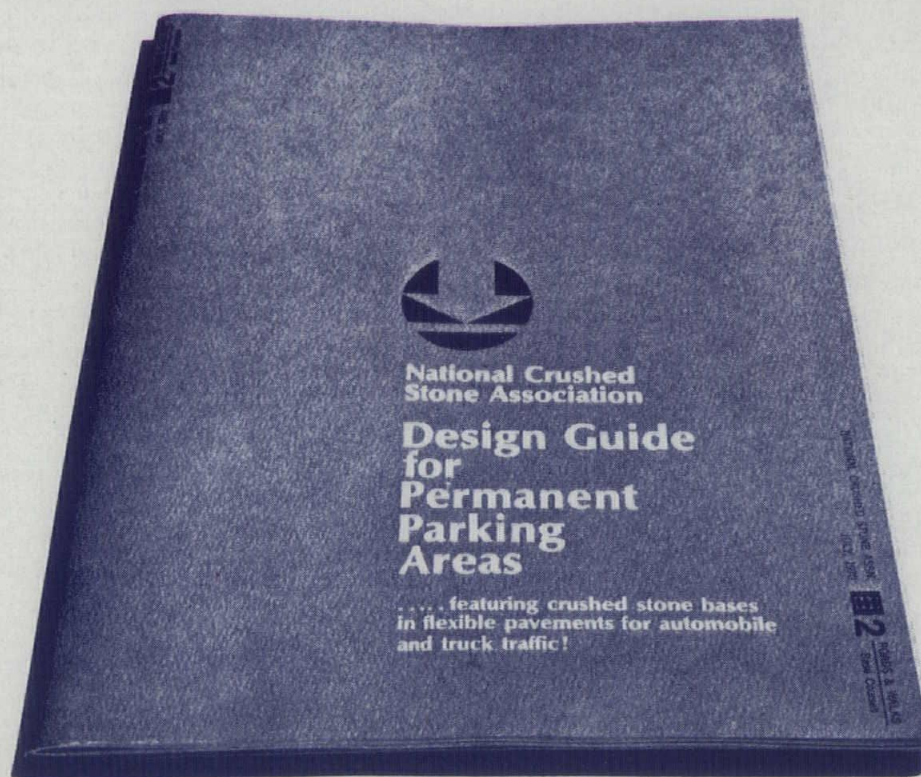
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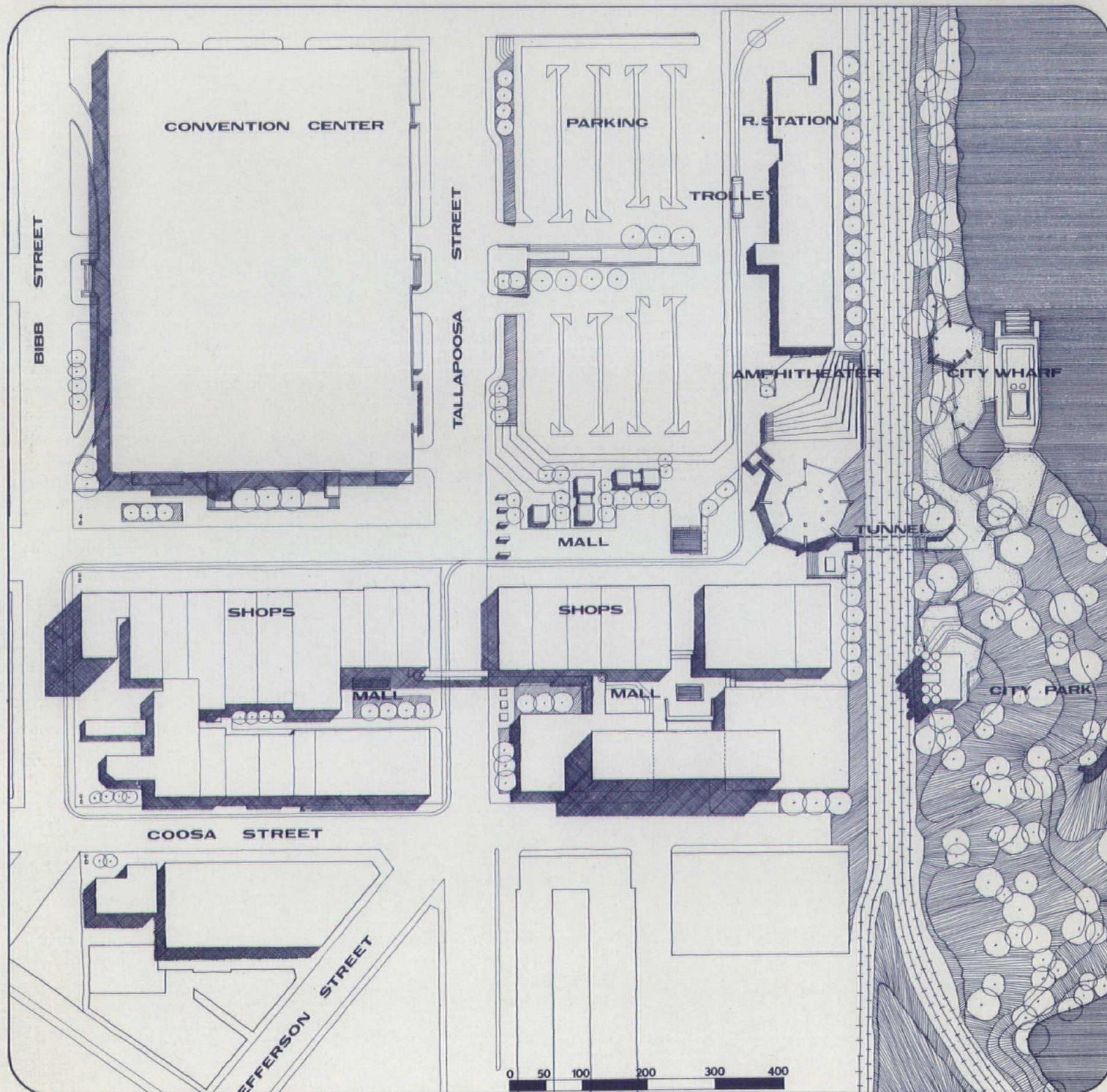
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