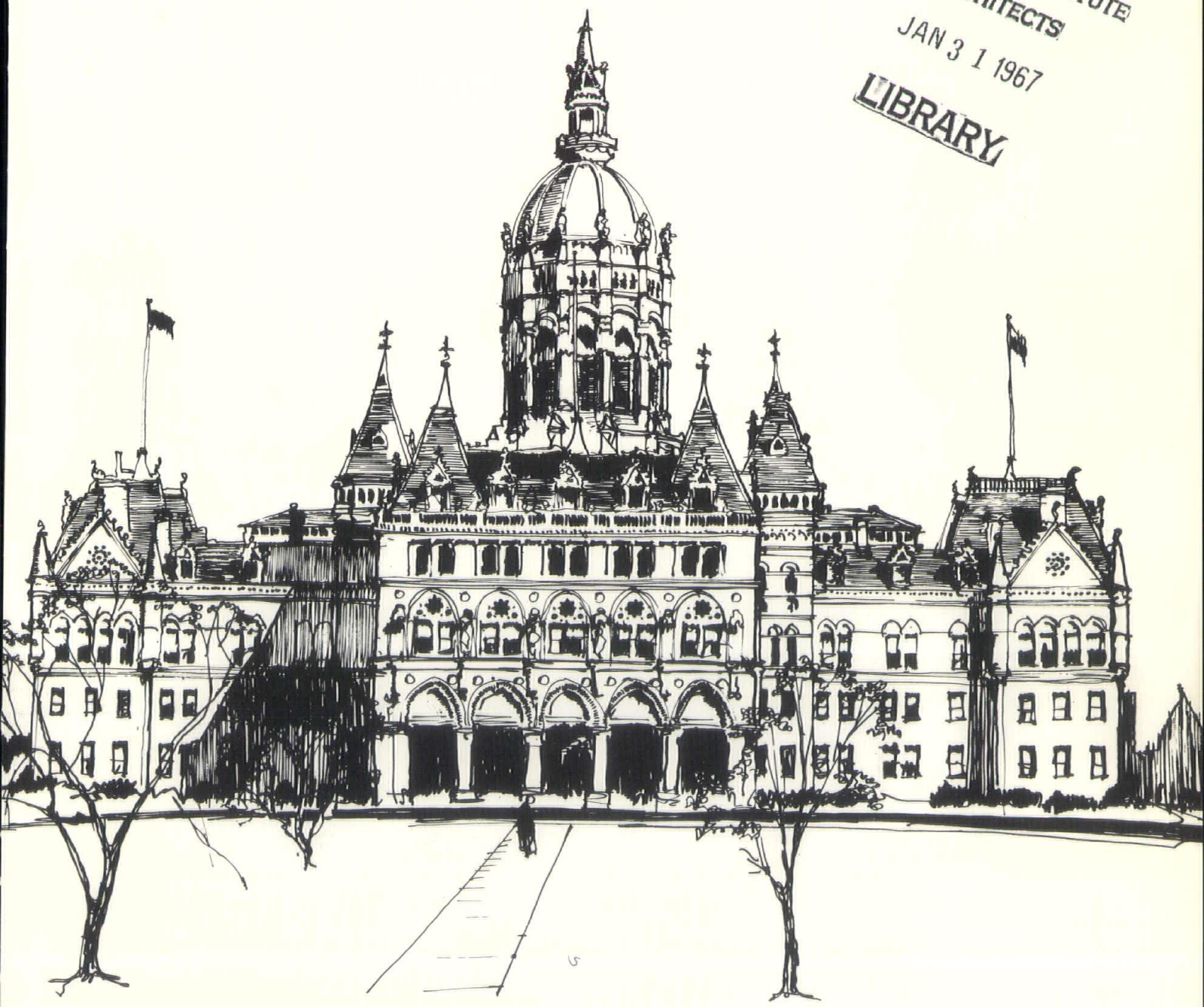
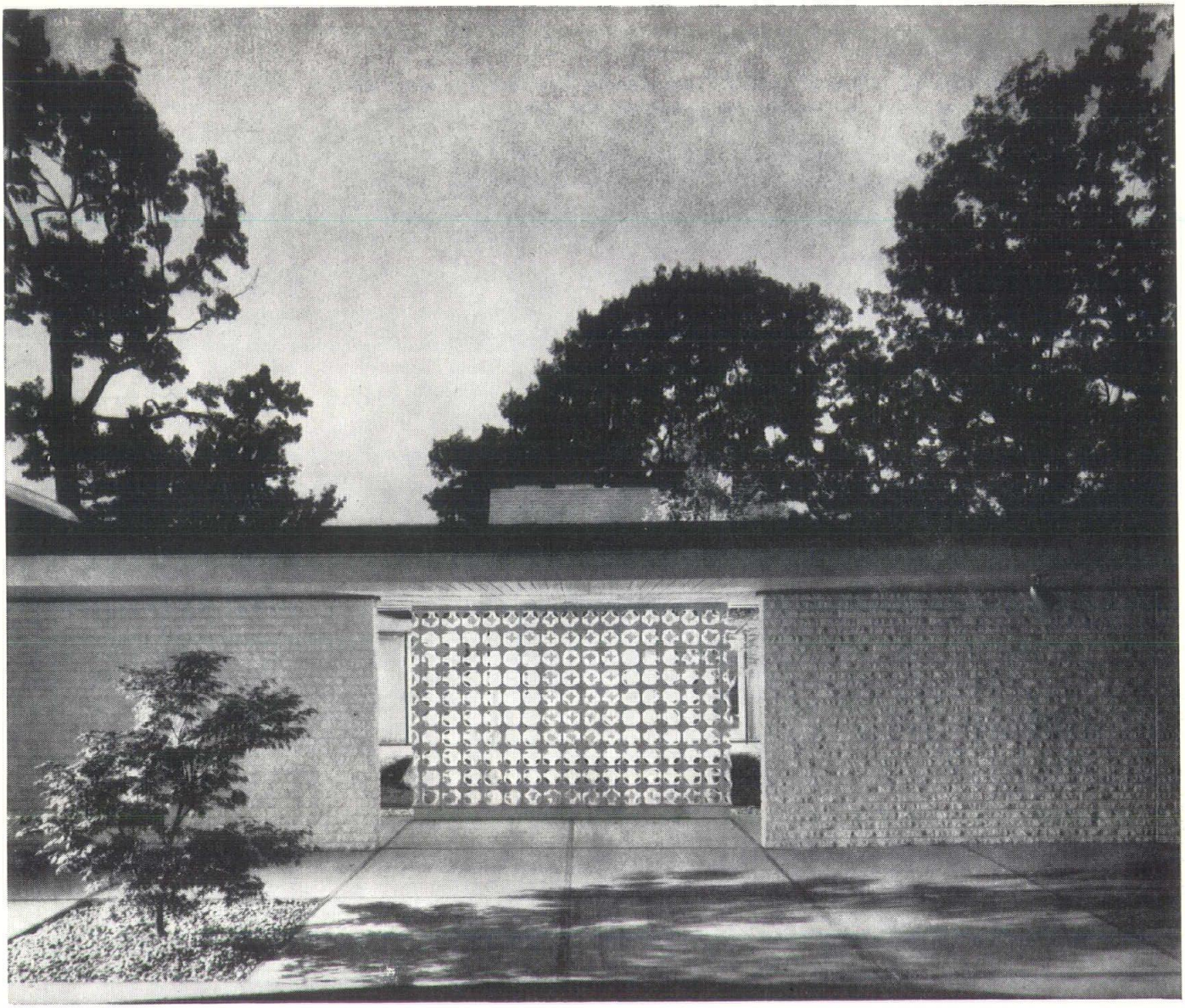
# CONNECTICUT ARCHITECT

SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1967







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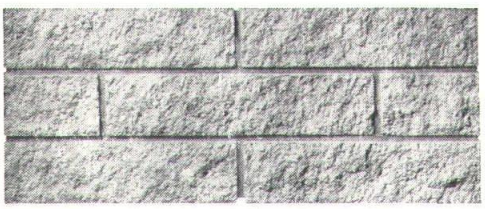

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## COMING EVENTS

To January 29
Museum of American Art, New Britain: Sculpture by Leo Jensen and drawings by Dalia Irena A. Ramanauskas.

•

January 14-February 5
Wadsworth Atheneum, Hartford: Exhibition of Connecticut Watercolor Society.

•

January 19-February 19
Yale Art Gallery, New Haven: Contemporary Art at Yale.

•

January 19-February 26
Yale Art Gallery, New Haven: Recent acquisitions, including bequest of Edith M. K. Wetmore.

•

January 28
Yale School of Architecture, New Haven: Design Concepts Seminar for architects.

•

January 31
Oakdale Tavern, Wallingford: Meeting of Consulting Engineers Society – Legislation of interest.

•

February 4-26
Museum of American Art, New Britain: Exhibition of paintings, prints, sculpture and photographs by foremost ornithological artists; recent paintings by Ann Dyson Grimm.

•

February 15
Joint meeting of Connecticut Society of Architects and Associated General Contractors – Discussion of New Documents. Place to be announced.

•

March 4-25
Museum of American Art, New Britain: Paintings by William Thomson; etchings of Philip Kappel.

New Paper

*This issue of* Connecticut Architect *is printed on a special dull coated stock in place of our customary bright coated paper. It is done as an experiment to see if the results are more interesting, easier to read, and present a more attractive appearance. We are interested in your reaction to this experiment.*

# CONNECTICUT ARCHITECT

BOX 346 · GUILFORD · CONNECTICUT · 06437

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 1 JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1967


FRONT COVER: Architect Donald J. Vigneau sketched the Connecticut State Capitol.

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# OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

**Richard S. Sharpe**

**President, Connecticut Society of Architects, AIA**

Recently, Albert Mayer in commenting on the future of the city summed up his beliefs in the essential key to sound urban and architectural design. The city "must not merely welcome variety and complexity in all their forms, environmental, social, and personal, but it must deliberately leave a place for continued rectification, improvement, innovation and renewal."

Within the framework of this ideal, I believe that the architectural profession has been provided the opportunity as never before for involvement in the redesign of our cities on all scales both large and small. No longer can a school be a warehouse for learning—it is an educational center for its neighborhood. Conversely, the commercial center no longer can be just a paved gathering place for cars and customers—it is a "people place" first and foremost.

The Connecticut Society collectively, as well as each of us individually, must be an active part of a new commitment . . . a commitment to new standards of excellence, involvement, awareness, search, and finally, expression.

As the Connecticut Society of Architects, AIA enters its second year of life, the task of defining and resolving both short and long term problems becomes the task of every architect in Connecticut — not just a few elected officers. The lines of communication must be open and active. Involvement must be every architect's responsibility.

In the year ahead, I propose public examination of several specific areas of vital importance including several conferences on the design process, a re-examination of our fee structure, and examination of some of the forces at work on the growth of our State.

Internally, at committee level, problems of immediate concern, as well as long term, must find response and action.

The welfare of our life is each man's responsibility as is the welfare of the Connecticut Society of Architects. Our profession no longer can afford the luxury of either indifference or irresponsibility. Individual participation is essential to our commitment. □

# ACTION FOR 1967

The eyes of Connecticut are turned toward the State Capitol, where a new General Assembly begins its biennial legislative task and the Governor begins a new term as Connecticut's chief executive.

The 1967 session of the legislature is the first to serve under a constitution extensively revised for the first time in 147 years, and the reapportionment of both houses gives Connecticut's cities and larger towns a much stronger voice in law-making than they have enjoyed in the past. Coming as this does when the problems of urban life—traffic congestion, air pollution, waste disposal, inequalities in housing and education, the rising incidence of crime—virtually cry for solutions, the people of Connecticut await in hopeful anticipation the results of this first legislative session under a constitution which, as Constitutional Convention Chairman Raymond E. Baldwin wrote, "looks not only to the present but to the future and the challenging years ahead."

Government influences architecture and the building industry at every turn. Not only is it the architectural profession's largest client, but the laws, codes and regulations promulgated by government agencies, departments, boards and commissions are reflected in the design and construction of all architectural works. Thus, many of the laws to be enacted or amended in Connecticut this year, and many of the programs implemented or expanded at the Governor's direction, will be reflected in the architecture and professional practice of the future.

Responsible as architects must be for shaping the environment in which we will live, a healthy interest in proposed legislation must be maintained by every member of the profession as well as the Connecticut Society of Architects. Some may interpret this to be self-interest—in a sense perhaps it is—

*Please turn to page 29*

At the recent Connecticut Building Congress exhibit in New Haven, the jury commented on this vacation house as follows: "An old theme, refreshingly and beautifully handled. Nothing extraneous in structure or materials. Well sited and serene in its mountain environment." It was awarded a plaque for excellence in architectural design.

Why did the jury make this comment about a design based on a form which has been generally misunderstood, poorly handled, badly interpreted – especially by popular "do-it-yourself" books – and repeated in poor taste on the super highway pop art scene from coast to coast? How could an architect designing a house for his own use choose such a hackneyed theme?

Architect Benjamin B. duPont, with offices in New Haven, cannot say for certain which of his many reasons for choosing the form was the stronger. One of these, he says, is a deep-rooted fascination for visual as well as structural simplicity, with a strong resentfulness of sham for the sake of appearance. Then too, the steep-roofed form was often the rule in primitive Alpine structures studied during research for the project, many of these having air-vented space between roof structures to prevent leakage from the melting

## VACATION HOME, STOWE, VERMONT

### BENJAMIN B. duPONT, ARCHITECT

### Paul and Lawrence Cote, General Contractor

snow. These roofs shed snow from highly stressed areas, to remain banked as insulation below. In Rocky Mountain areas where six to eight feet of snow are common, many flat-pitched roofs have to be shoveled clear to prevent overstress and leakage.

Perhaps one of the strongest reasons given by the architect for choosing this form is undoubtedly the least understood as a concept —witness the popular terminology "A-frame." Many builders of stock "A-frames" introduce vertical bearing walls with plates supporting discontinuous or interrupted rafters, which erradicate true triangulation of the structure in this area.

Architect duPont believes in using the system in its true context. In fact, he says, his building is not an "A-frame;" it is a delta-frame, because its structure is based on a series of triangles with bolted connections at their apexes. These might be termed "force triangles."

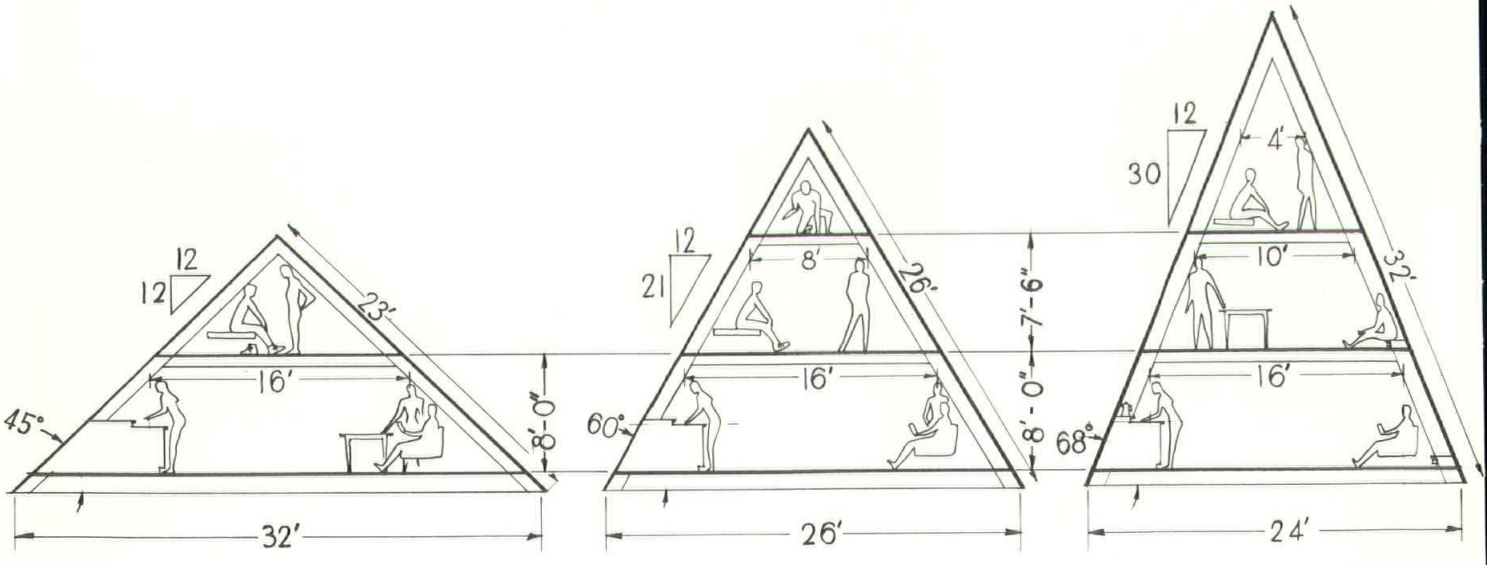
In this structure, the triangular frames are braced longitudinally by the roof skin and are supported by a retaining wall on one side and by a bearing wall and beam on the other.

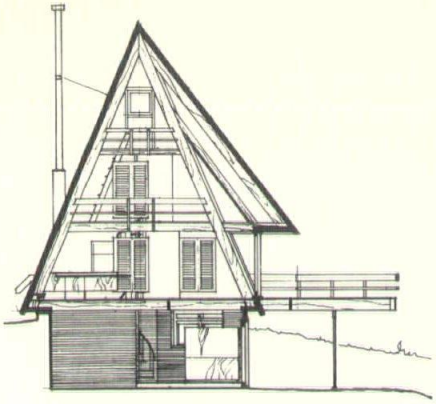
The triangle, then—most stable of all force polygons—carries its concept of simplicity to the simplest space enclosure with planes. The power of this space persists—if not foolishly disguised or deliberately destroyed—even when divided. Viewed from a distance, too, the steeply pitched roof seems to belong in the mountain woods with the evergreens. Certainly, by contrast, a variation on the Towers of San Gimignano, topped with loads of snow, would be out of place here.

Space soars upward beyond topmost balcony to farther wall.

The degree of steepness of the roof pitch in the delta-frame form greatly affects utility, economy, and appearance – specially appearance from the inside, which is related to the feeling given by the space. In exploring the aspects of various roof pitches, the architect quickly found that pitches in excess of the usual 60° often found in A-frames would far better accommodate the requirements of his program than the flatter pitches. Furthermore, the inhabitants themselves seemed more at ease in the steeper pitches *(See below).*

Certainly the steeper pitched





roof gives a freer, loftier, more majestic feeling to the interior space. The flatter pitches seem to push down, to confine, to overpower people inside. By considering a logical range of steeper pitches in relation to practical and economical considerations such as span, availability of stock lumber, stock window patterns possible for the end walls, and details of plumbing, heating, lighting and fire control, the architect finally arrived at the following roof specifications:

Delta-frames:
Fourteen frames at 4-foot centers of 3 x 12 twin rafters, 32 feet long, bolted to a laminated wood splice block at the peak and to a 24-foot, 2 x 14 joist at the base.

Alternate joists:
Set between the delta frames and continuing through the roof skin to form cantilever supports for the outside deck, giving joist spacing of 2-feet on center for the main floor.

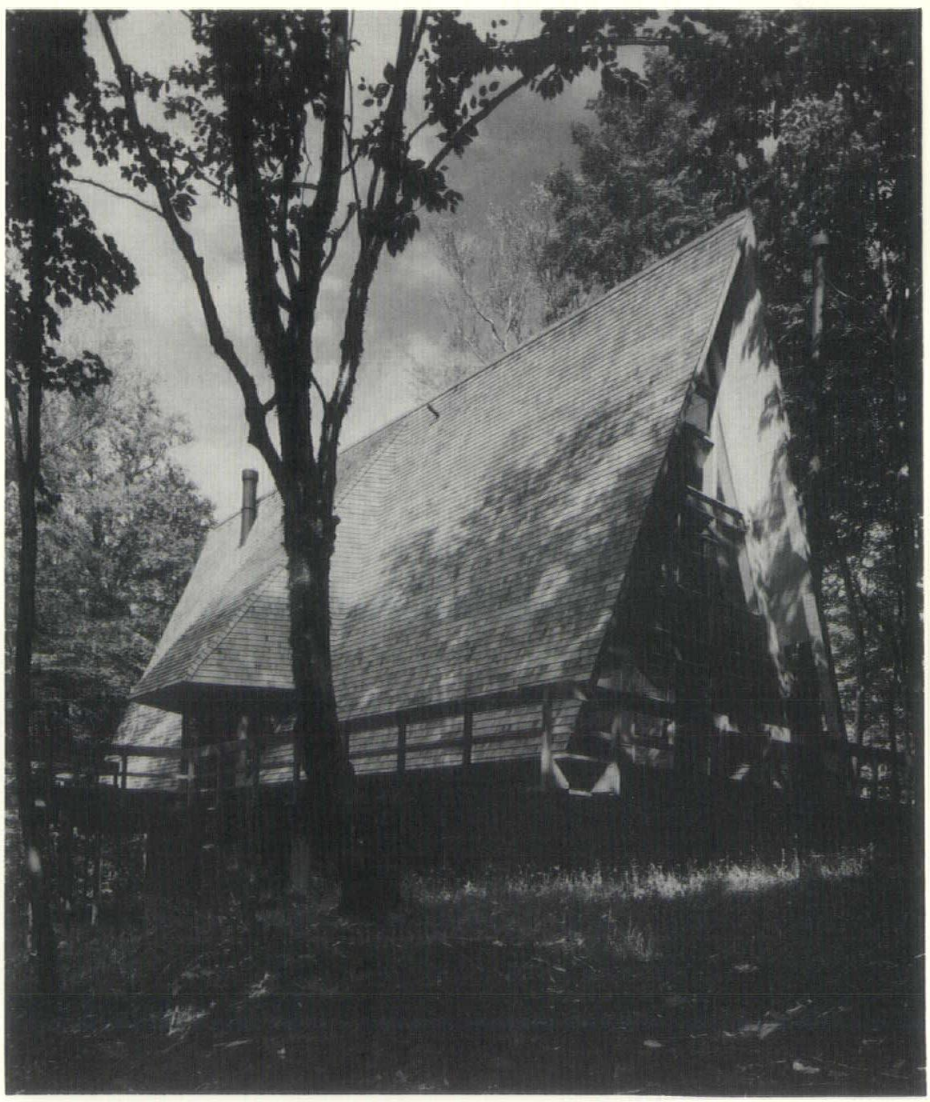
Floor:
"2-4-1" plywood, 1⅛" thick, with sponge back carpet glued in place.

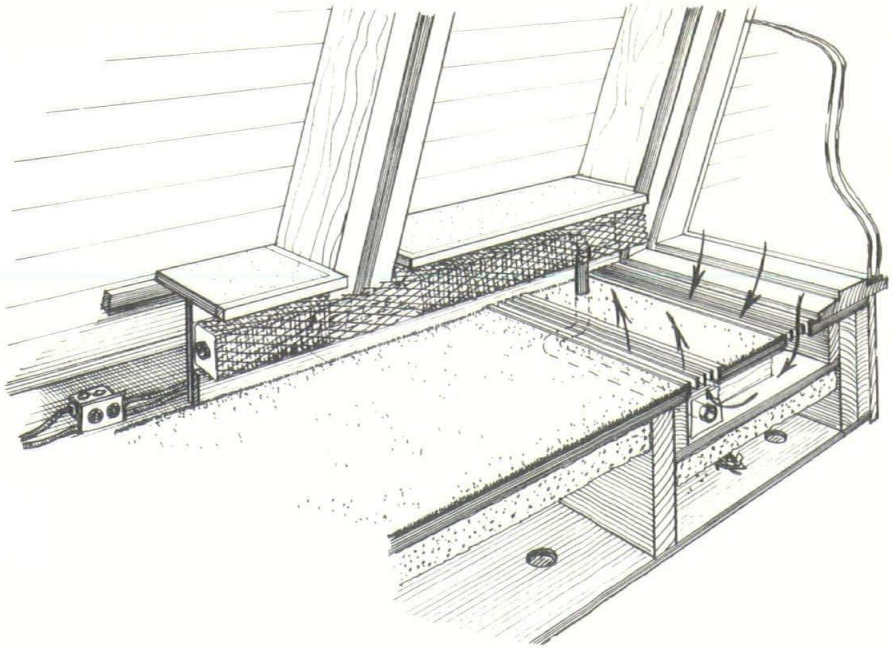
Roof:
Pitch is 29.5 in 12, or 68° from horizontal; length including overhang, 57½ feet; and total area, 3480 square feet. Decking is 2-inch T & G spruce, topped with 2-inch non-combustible Foamglass bedded over building paper; ⅝-inch plywood is furred out to leave a one inch air space and finished with red cedar shingles, 6 inches to weather.

In dealing with the space and structural rhythm thus set up, it was the architect's aim to direct and complement the space rather than to block it. The balconies, therefore, were staggered each from the one below, starting from the edge of the main deck which is essentially the main floor plane extended through the great glass wall to the outside railing. The "great space" thus extends from this floor plane up to the inside roof peak and is defined by the set-back of the second floor balcony. The space still seems to move upward to the topmost balcony and culminates at the farther outside roof peak glimpsed through the glass at the opposite end.

To provide openness at the dining area, the architect opened the roof plane without disturbing the rafters in the bay system. This was done by setting a vertical sliding glass door at floor level just outside a two-bay section, flanked by triangular glass panels at each side. The main roof plane was then swung outward over the two bays, forming a new roof line at this area with slightly less pitch than the main roof. The second floor balcony was not extended into this new interior space, allowing reflected light from the deck outside to bounce in and upward.

Roof is raised over dining area to provide spaciousness and light.

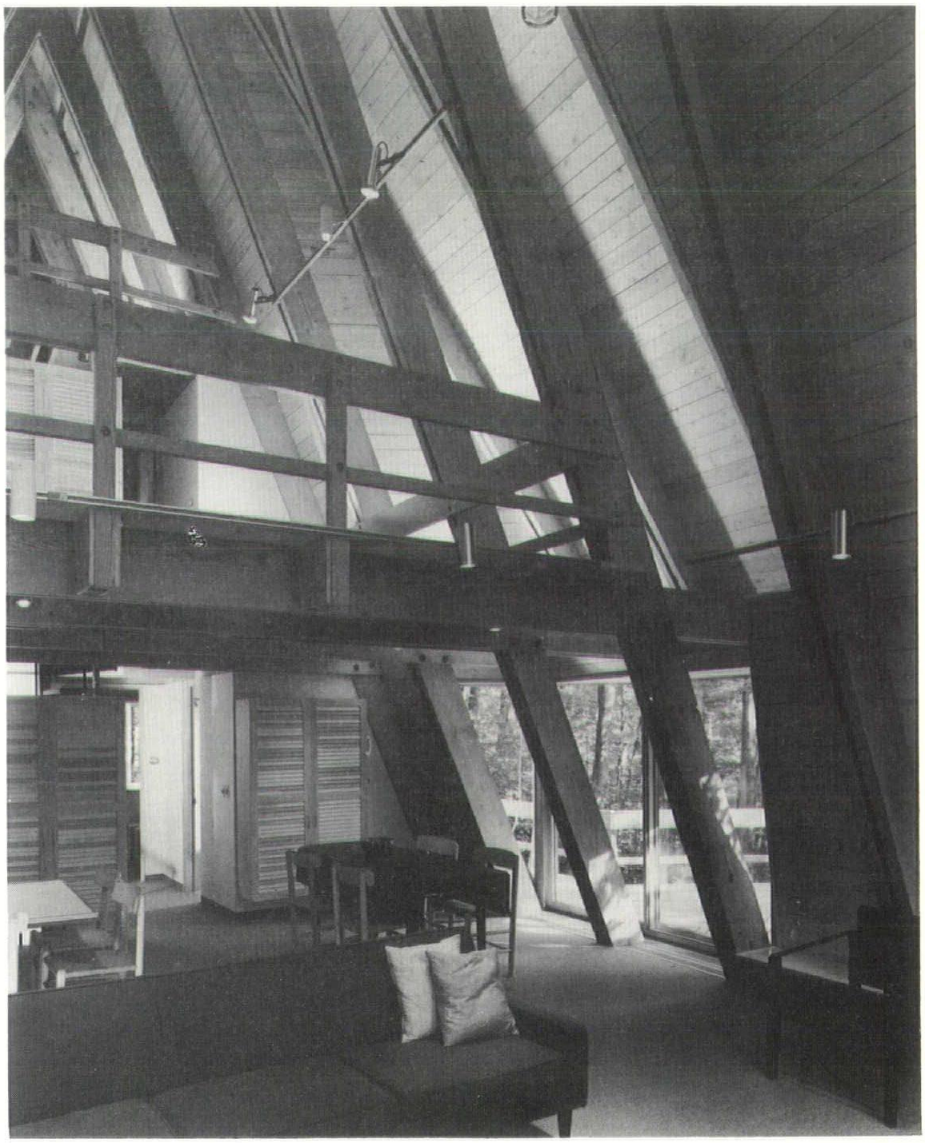




Detail shows system of heating and wiring installation on sidewalls, accomplished with no cutting of rafters. Removable top shelf permits access when needed. Wiring also can be taken aloft along rafters to feed Lytespan tracks.

Heating for end walls and dining bay door consists of two parallel floor grills with fin tube beneath inner recess (left, above). This provides for circulation of cold air from wall down and over fin tube unit, rising as heated air.

A magnificent view of Stowe Village is framed through glass wall of dining bay.

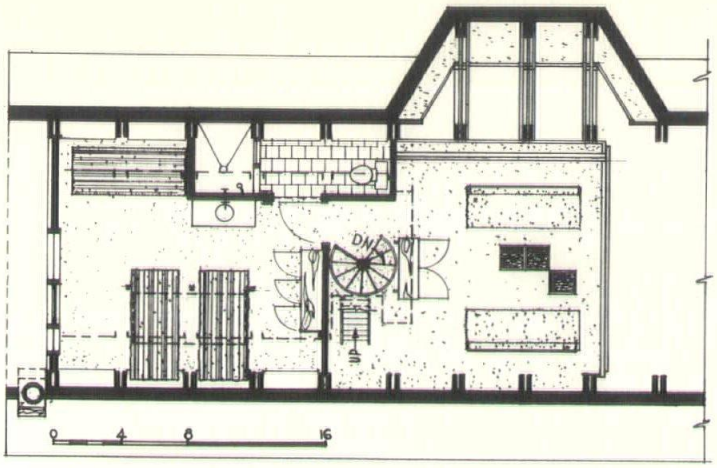


And through this glass opening is a magnificent view which varies with the time of day and the season.

Both plumbing and electrical contractors entered into the concept of carefully planned layouts for their work which would be exposed to view. Fixture placement and wire runs, fin-tube heating units, piping and drains were studied in three dimensions to involve the structure as little as possible. *(See detail above.)*

In the great space and balcony areas, lighting is provided by two levels of Lightolier "Lytespan" track. Each level runs across the front of each balcony and then at the same height, bridging the rafters, along each wall. Each level is controlled by separate dimmer switches, providing infinite variety, flexibility and intensity.

The lighting system was designed as 100 percent "down lighting," with a variety of fixtures at various heights to add to the lofty feeling of majestic space at night. This is in contrast to up lighting or general lighting which tends to draw attention to the confining structure.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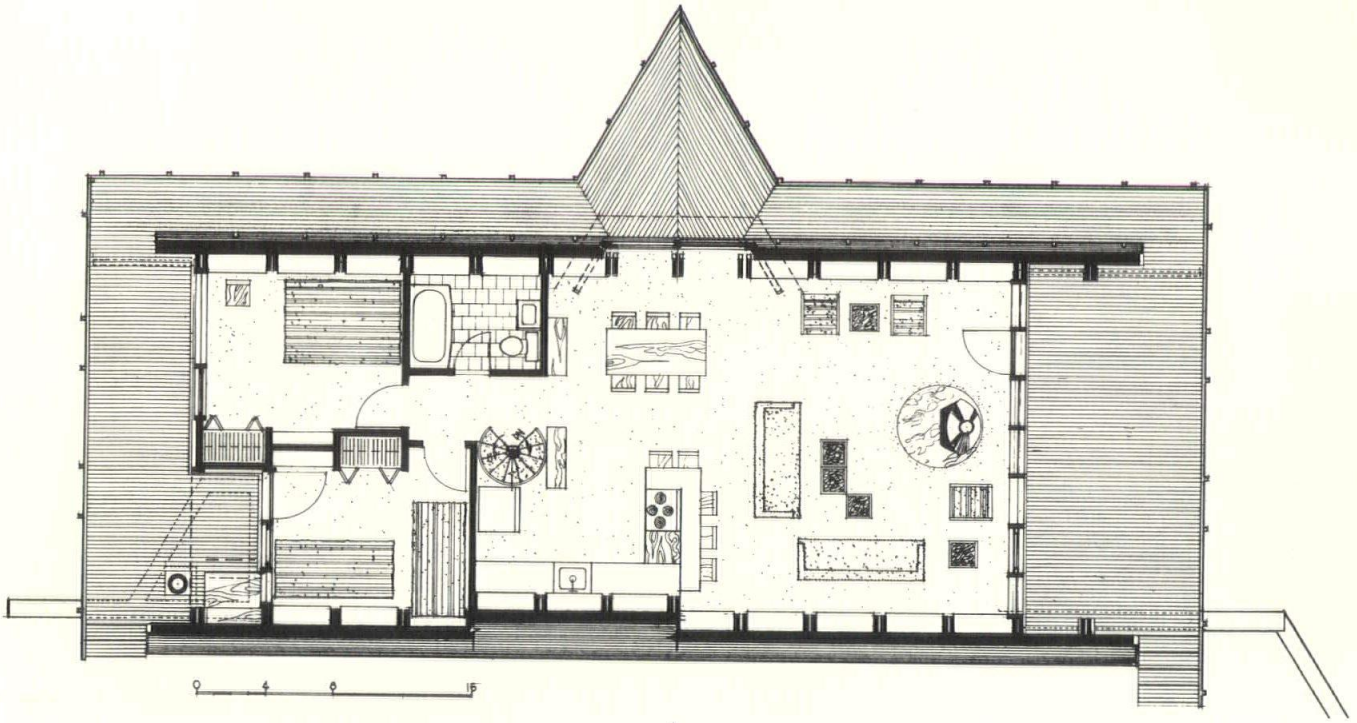
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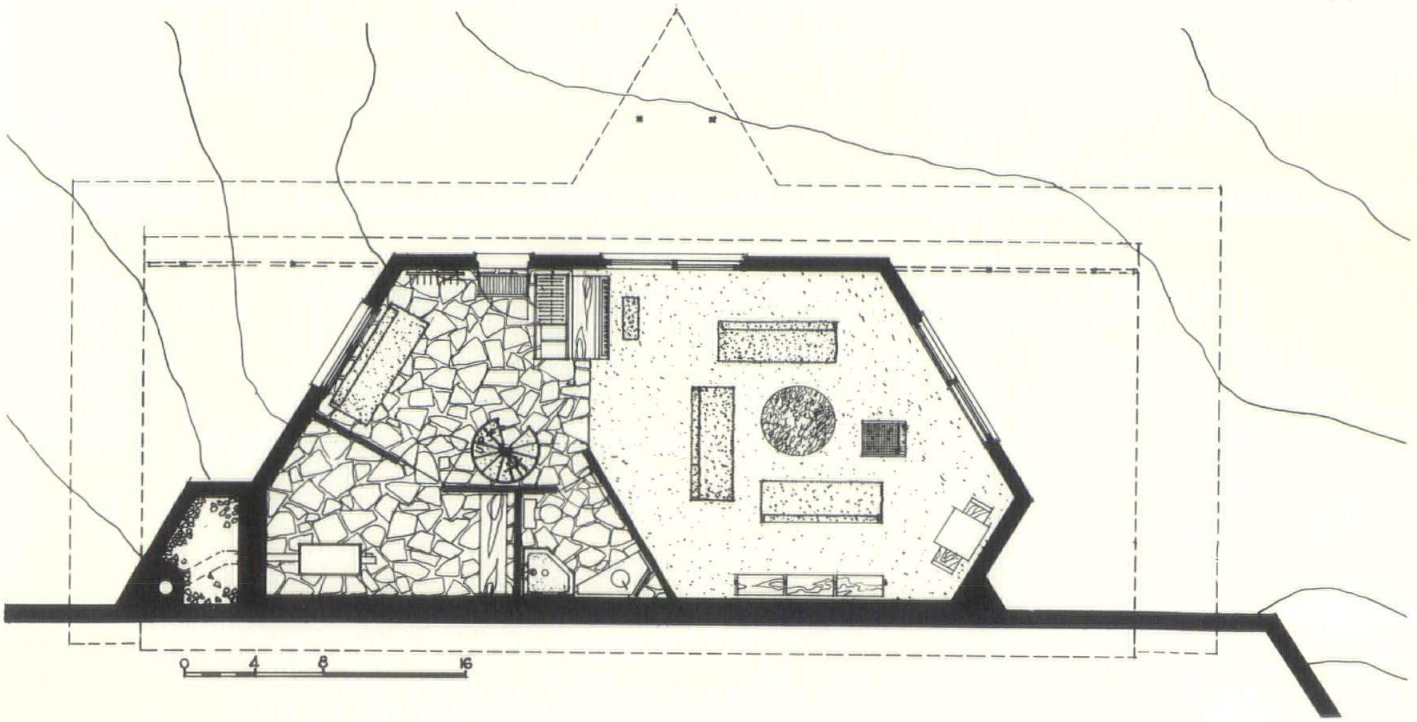
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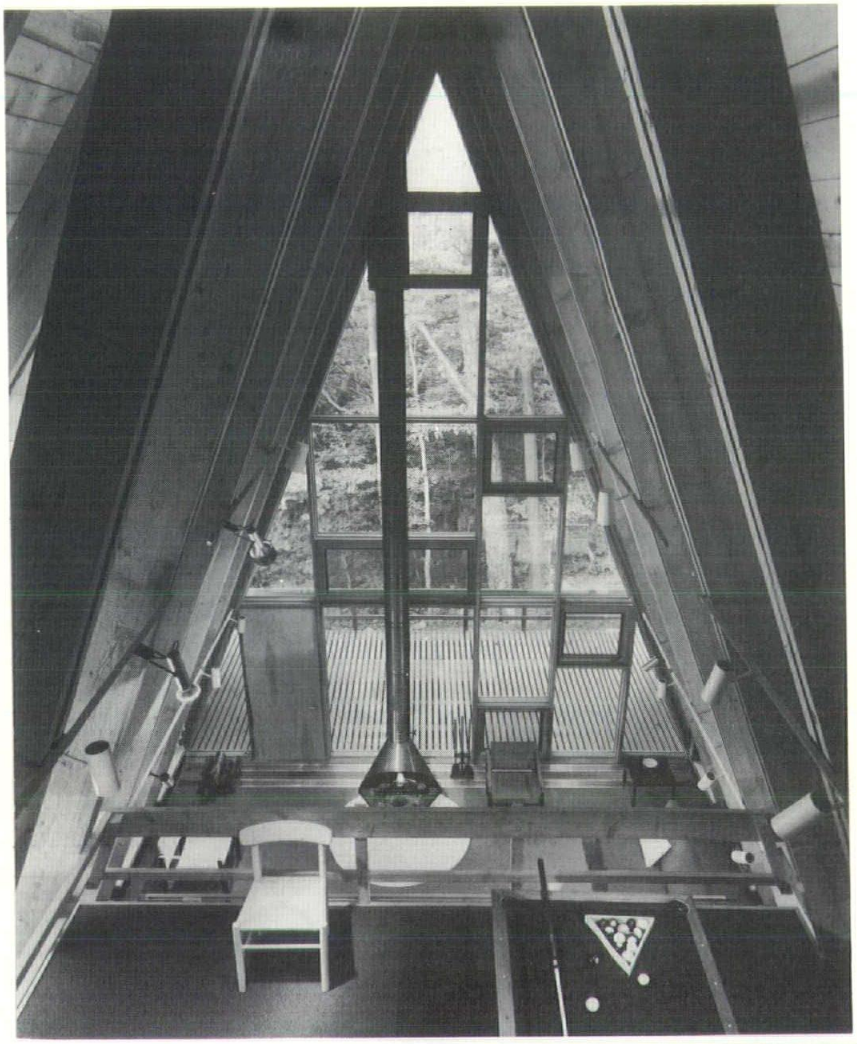
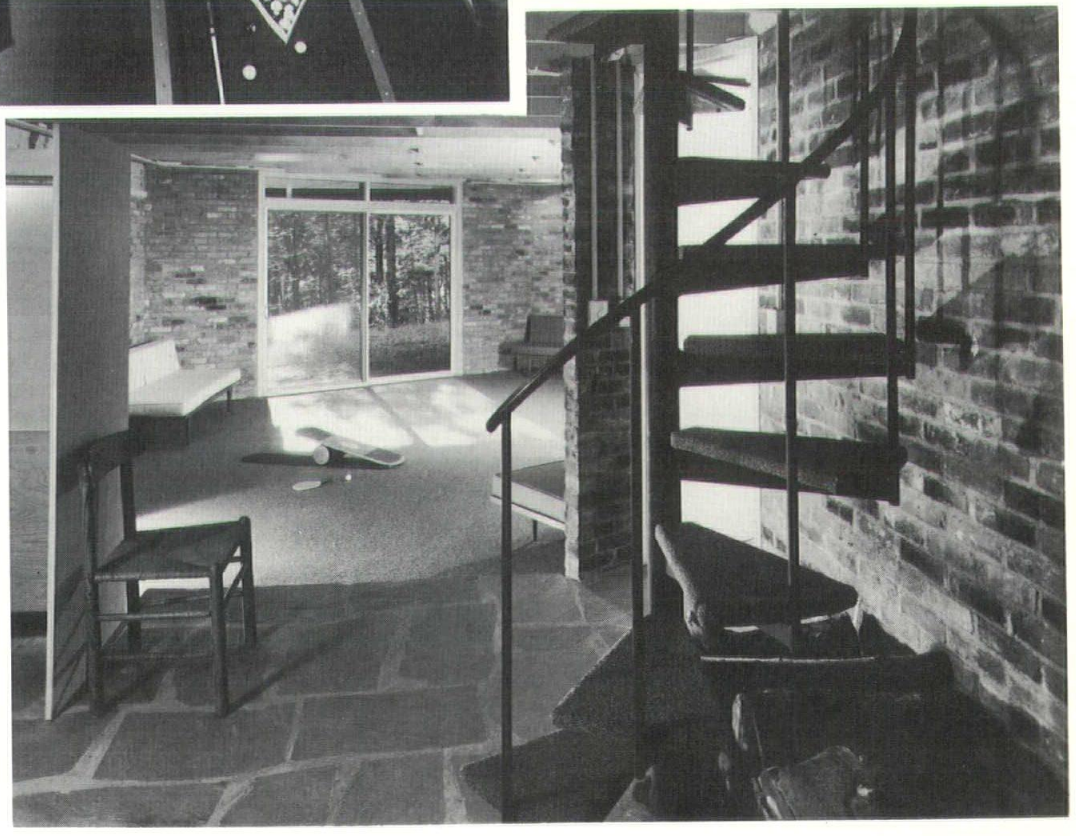
Great wall weds indoor and outdoor living.



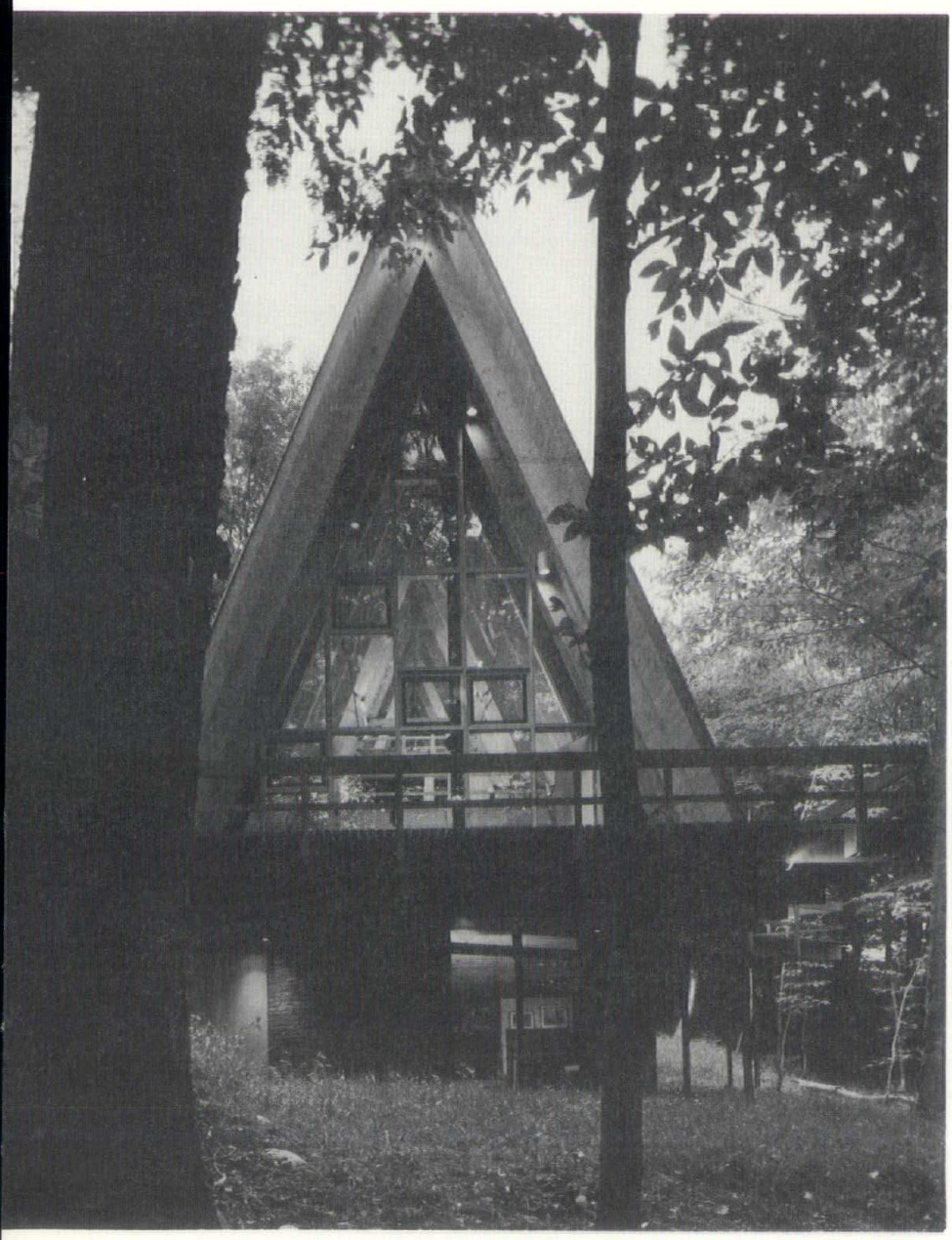
Recreation room is designed for rugged use.



One of the outstanding features of this variable intensity down lighting is the ability to balance inside light with outside lighting. The latter consists of spot-lights high up under the roof overhang, soffit lighting both at the main floor level and below the deck, and general floodlighting of the grounds—each of which has separate dimmer controls.

The results of this flexible, controlled intensity, indoor-outdoor lighting must be seen under varying conditions—summer and winter, daylight, dusk and night time —to appreciate the full range of dramatic, almost theatrical effects possible.

Roofline sweeps up from lower level to maintain identity with mountain evergreens.



Interior and exterior finish was chosen to maintain continuity of space and blending with outdoors, while avoiding the "shellacked knotty pine" appearance. After considerable experimentation, a mixture of stock creosote stains was chosen which blend with summer and winter woods. A thin white-pigmented creosote stain was used outside and a corresponding stain-wax inside.

Interior partitioning is dry wall with metal taped beads and trimless detail at rafters, door frames and base.

The spiral stair was designed by the architect and fabricated by welding at a local foundry.

The lower level is built on a radiant heated concrete slab and, in addition to bath and utility rooms, features a large game room. The main floor has a bathroom and two bed rooms as well as kitchen and dining space and, of course, the "great space." Behind the second floor balcony is a bathroom and large bedroom, and the top balcony is storage space which can be used for sleeping when necessary.

The house has been in use for over a year and has performed beyond expectation. Asked to reflect on his choice of an old theme, the architect is convinced that his choice is a happy one for its purpose, with nothing extraneous in structure or materials.

Milton Corbett of New Haven was engineering consultant and the builder was Paul and Lawrence Cote of Morrisville, Vermont.

Arlen Smith handled the electrical work and Roy Durgan the plumbing and heating, both of Stowe, Vermont. □

BENJAMIN B. duPONT graduated from Lafayette College with a degree in mechanical engineering and received his architecture degree at Yale University. Prior to establishing his own office in New Haven, he was a designer with General Electric Company. He is a trustee of The Country School in Madison and a member of the New Haven Civic Orchestra.

# A PERIOD OF GESTATION?

**Willis N. Mills, FAIA**

Last March, our Governor called a conference at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Hartford to concentrate attention on Natural and Environmental Beauty in Connecticut. It would be hard to choose more timely and vital subjects than those discussed at the conference, one of many on the same theme urged by President Johnson and held throughout the fifty states.

The conference lasted all day and was attended by 600 interested citizens, community leaders, federal and state officials—all sharing a common concern for the deplorable state of our physical surroundings. It was a good conference. It generated enthusiasm and expectation of better things to come. We would turn the corner and seek inspired planning to exploit the enormous potential that exists in Connecticut.

Now, nine months later, we take stock. We begin to wonder what difference the conference made after all, since the accomplishments following it are less than meagre. For the architect this is particularly disappointing, because these recommendations given to the Governor nine months ago seemed to us constructive, specific and practical:

1. Encourage the State Board of Education and local boards of education to reinstate art education and appreciation of environment in elementary schools.
2. Institute a massive statewide citizens' information program—using all communications media — for the purpose of educating the public on environmental problems, needs and possible solutions.
3. Recommend a study of our urban property tax structure to determine the feasibility and mechanism in Connecticut for encouraging property improvement.
4. Reassess and reshape our coastal and riverfront urban areas for better all around land use—including recreational, residential, industrial and commercial interests.
5. Establish a top-level professional Advisory Board to the Governor, for the purpose of improving the quality of public works construction in the State.
6. Encourage urban communities to prepare civic beauty plans as intrinsic parts of their comprehensive plans.
7. Establish a standard of highway design which respects community values.
8. Some specific techniques to bring beauty into Connecticut's communities are:
   a. Camouflage of unsightly elements
   b. Beautification of open streams, rather than placing them in culverts
   c. Using landmarks as accents in our city design
   d. Improving design standards of street furniture such as, traffic signs, lights, benches, paving.
   e. Exploiting every opportunity to improve vistas and approaches to our cities
   f. Establishing small parks in busy urban areas
9. Encourage the formation of citizen action groups at both the state level and in every community, for the purpose of implementing the recommendations of this Governor's conference and to establish the conference as a continuing activity.

Many of these suggestions came from the architectural profession. Being particularly sensitive to what we *see*, it is natural that such a group would respond immediately to the Governor's invitation to suggest remedies. What may not be so well understood is the basic attitude of the architect, crystallized in the recommendation to

> "Institute a massive statewide citizens' information program — using all communications media—for the purpose of educating the public on environmental problems, needs and possible solutions."

It is folly to think that the state would or should teach us what is right and wrong in the area of esthetics and creative design. But the state can help enormously. It can help by giving impetus and support to the formation of citizens' action groups. It can help by undertaking pilot programs of beautification in selected "visual sore spots." It can help by providing vigorous, effective publicity for such pilot programs.

It has been said that architects have *visual* comprehension whereas legislators and most government leaders have *verbal* comprehension. If this is true, it is clear that leadership for a program to educate the adult public in esthetics and visual discrimination must

*Please turn to page 33*

# COMMUNITY POLICE BUILDING

**North Haven, Connecticut**

**SCHILLING & GOLDBECKER, ARCHITECTS**

**A C Construction Company, General Contractor**

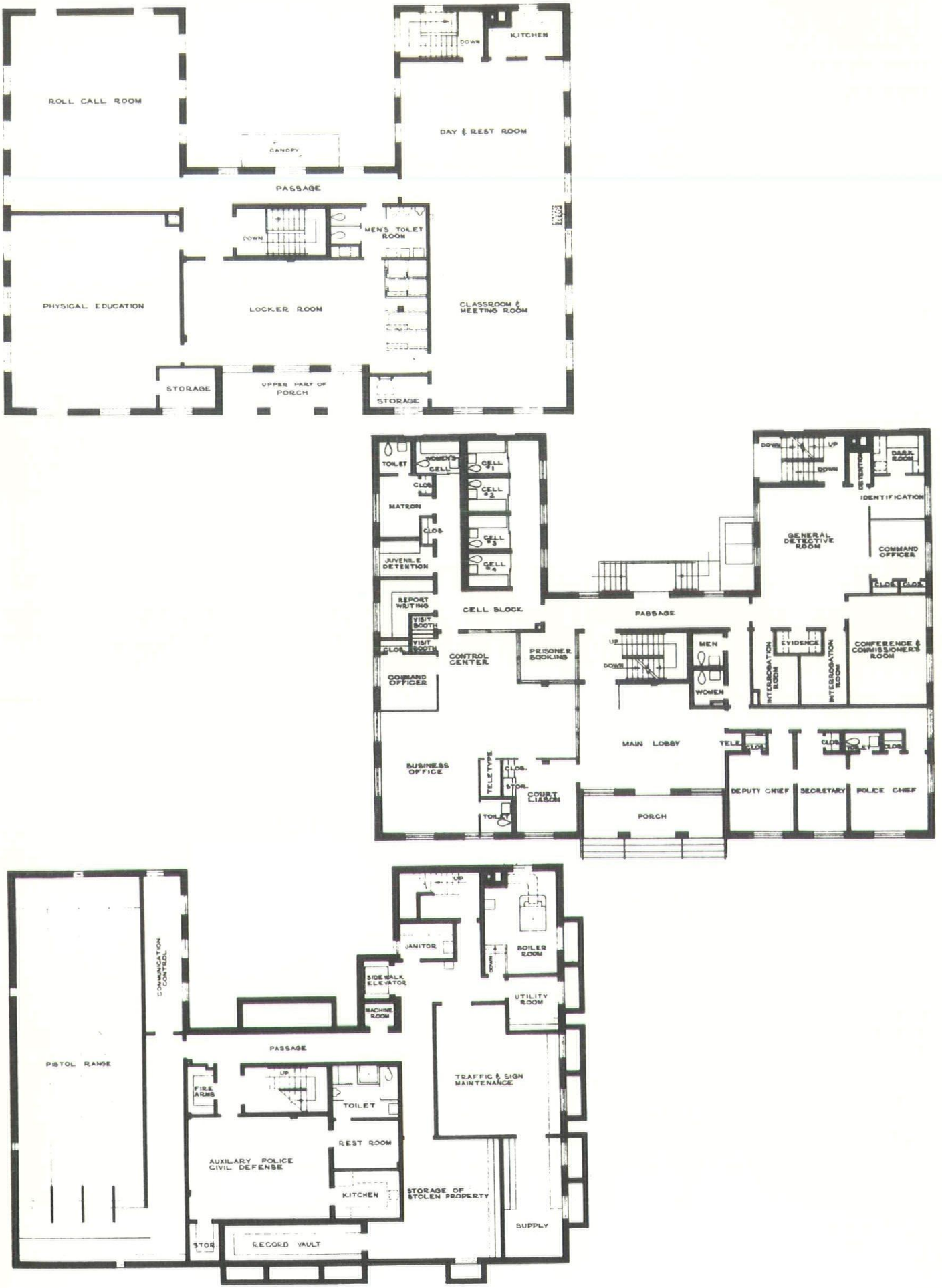

Population projection is a cogent factor in planning public buildings. In twenty years, the Town of North Haven is expected to provide homes for 30,000 people, double its present population. When that time comes, the North Haven Police Building will still be capable of housing the community's law enforcement function.

Walter H. Schilling of Schilling & Goldbecker, New Haven based architects, was confronted with four major design problems to solve:

1. Provide a workable, functional plan with limited funds.
2. Produce a building which would anticipate and handle twenty years of town growth.
3. Incorporate the plan into a municipal complex with limited space.
4. Design without precedent a modern police station for a town of similar size and projected growth.

The site is on Linsley Street, just off Maple Avenue near the Town Hall in which the Police Department was located previously. Its proximity to the Town Hall meant simple tie-in to the central telephone dial system, central fire alarm system, as well as direct line police communications.

Ample parking is provided with access to two streets. The dual circulation was integrated to serve the Town Hall, as well as the Police Department. A spacious lawn with attractive shrubs provides pleasant entourage for the building.


ROLL CALL ROOM
CANOPY
PASSAGE
DOWN
KITCHEN
DAY & REST ROOM
DOWN
MEN'S TOILET ROOM
PHYSICAL EDUCATION
LOCKER ROOM
CLASSROOM & MEETING ROOM
STORAGE
UPPER PART OF PORCH
STORAGE
TOILET
WOMEN'S CELL
CELL #1
CELL #2
CELL #3
CELL #4
CLOS.
MATRON
JUVENILE DETENTION
REPORT WRITING
VISIT BOOTH
VISIT BOOTH
CELL BLOCK
CONTROL CENTER
PRISONER BOOKING
COMMAND OFFICER
BUSINESS OFFICE
TELETYPE
COURT LIAISON
TOILET
PASSAGE
UP
DOWN
DARK ROOM
DETENTION
IDENTIFICATION
GENERAL DETECTIVE ROOM
COMMAND OFFICER
MEN
WOMEN
EVIDENCE
INTERROGATION ROOM
INTERROGATION ROOM
CONFERENCE & COMMISSIONERS ROOM
MAIN LOBBY
TELE.
DEPUTY CHIEF
SECRETARY
POLICE CHIEF
PORCH
COMMUNICATION CONTROL
PISTOL RANGE
JANITOR
SIDEWALK ELEVATOR
MACHINE ROOM
BOILER ROOM
UTILITY ROOM
PASSAGE
FIRE ARMS
TOILET
REST ROOM
AUXILARY POLICE CIVIL DEFENSE
KITCHEN
STORAGE OF STOLEN PROPERTY
TRAFFIC & SIGN MAINTENANCE
SUPPLY
STOR.
RECORD VAULT

The building contains two floors above ground and a fully functional basement. The first floor, which is five steps above ground level, is entered through a large public lobby. The general office, control center and administrative offices are connected directly to the lobby.

The U-shaped building has an open court at the rear, and to the left are four cells for men and one for women. This section also houses the matron's office, juvenile detention room, report writing area, visiting booths and toilet facilities.

To the right of the court is the general detective room, command officer's room, detention room, interrogation rooms, identification room, photographic dark room and a conference room. The administrative area to the front houses the chief's and deputy chief's offices with a secretary's office between.

Thus, all the daily public traffic of the police station is directed to and handled on the main floor.

The second floor is designed for departmental personnel use. The dayroom adjoins the classroom and meeting room area and can be used separately or together as needs dictate. On the opposite side of the floor are two large rooms, one for roll call and the other for physical education. There is a centrally located locker room, showers, toilets, two storage rooms, and a kitchen.

The completely finished basement contains a five-station pistol range, auxiliary police quarters, communications equipment, control room, traffic and sign maintenance facilities, stolen property storage room, in addition to utility equipment. A large record storage room, firearms storage room and supply room are included. An elevator is used to transport maintenance equipment and stolen property between the storage areas and the sidewalk level.

All offices and administrative areas are air conditioned, and the building is heated with a two-pipe circulating hot water system and an oil-fired cast iron boiler. A septic tank and field serve the sanitary system at present, but a future connection to street sewers has been installed.

Many lines of communication essential to the safety of the community are provided with emergency power equipment to take over in the event of a general power failure. These include service to fire and police nerve centers, telephone, hot line, intercom and others.

The building has a frontage of 90 feet and is 66 feet deep. Constructed of brick with back-up block masonry, it has aluminum sash with porcelain panels. Mullions, entrance doors and frames are treated with Duroniodic finishes, and the facing is local red brick.

The total effect is one of clean, uncluttered space utilization packaged simply but effectively in standard materials. It was completed for a total cost of $312,500, or $18 per square foot. There is adequate room for lateral or vertical expansion.

The general contractor was A C Construction Company of North Haven, and the New Haven firm of Hubbard, Lawless & Osborn served as mechanical and electrical engineering consultants. □

WALTER H. SCHILLING received his civil engineering degree from Norwich University in 1922, and bachelor of fine arts from Yale in 1925. Schilling & Goldbecker, Architects, is responsible for many public buildings in Connecticut. Mr. Schilling is a member of Connecticut Society of Architects, AIA, and of the Quinnipiack Club, New Haven.

## Women's Architectural League Officers

The Women's Architectural League of the Connecticut Society of Architects, AIA, conducted its annual installation of officers recently at a luncheon in the Mermaid Tavern Restaurant, Stratford. From left are Mrs. George Holm of Easton, president; Mrs. Gordon Griswold of Stratford, retiring president; Mrs. Joseph Slovak of Shelton, vice president; Mrs. Robert Osteyee of Bridgeport, recording secretary, and Mrs. Joseph Garrick of Trumbull, treasurer and corresponding secretary.

# The Case For A Statute Of Limitations

CARMINE R. LAVIERI
Legal Counsel, CSA-AIA

The efforts of the Connecticut Society of Architects, A.I.A. Legislative Committee during 1966 – a year in which there was no session of the General Assembly – have been concerned chiefly with the planning and preparation of a program looking forward to the enactment of a statute of limitations by the 1967 legislature.

**Background**

Until comparatively recent times, a breach of the architect's duty would give rise to liability only if there was privity of contract between the claimant and the architect. Thus, an architect was responsible only to his client and could practice his profession without threat of suit from third parties. Slowly but surely during the past few decades, the old rule has been swept away.

First the courts dispensed with the requirement of privity of contract in the field of product liability by holding manufacturers liable to the ultimate consumer of their products. This rule has since been codified by many state legislatures. During the past ten to fifteen years, courts have extended the application of the rule of liability for defective products to the area of real property, thus bringing in the architect who is responsible for the design of a building.

This new interpretation led to an increase in the number of claims against architects and many problems concerning statutes of limitations were highlighted. For instance, an Iowa court required an architect to pay damages to the estate of a window washer who was killed when a safety hook broke *twenty years after the building was built*. Some states, including Connecticut, have held that the statutes of limitations do not apply to arbitration proceedings and therefore are never a bar to arbitrated claims.

**Insurance**

Many architects sought insurance coverage to protect themselves against the new liability. At first, architects negotiated for insurance on an individual basis. It was costly and sometimes not available. Faced with these problems, the A.I.A. arranged an insurance program for its members through Victor O. Schinnerer & Co., Inc. of Washington, D.C.

By June, 1964, 6400 firms had availed themselves of the insurance. At that time the Continental Casualty Co., which wrote the policy, reported that 2742 claims had been presented with the following results:

675—settled with no payments
471—settled with no payment of damages, but settlement costs (investigative and legal expenses) of $300,000.
613—settled for a total of $3,850,000.
983—pending at that time.

A study of a substantial number of the cases showed that more than 75% of the claims are based on alleged design errors.

**Existing Connecticut Statutes**

Section 52-576 of the Connecticut General Statutes provides that an action based on breach of contract cannot be brought later than six years following the time when "the right of action accrues."

Section 52-584 provides "No action to recover damages for injury to the person, or . . . . property, caused by negligence, or by reckless or wanton misconduct, or by malpractice of a physician, surgeon, dentist, chiropodist, chiropractor, hospital or sanitorium shall be brought but within one year from the date when the injury is first sustained or discovered or, in the exercise of reasonable care should have been discovered, and except that no such action may be brought more than three years from the date of the act or omission complained of . . . ."

Although actions by clients or any persons with whom the architect has a contractual relationship are limited to the period of six years following the time when "the right of action accrues" by Section 52-576, determination of the time when the right of action accrues can be a difficult problem.

Actions brought by third parties and some types of action brought by the client would generally be based on the negligence theory. Although Section 52-584 may possibly limit the time for bringing this type of action, there is no recorded case on the subject in Connecticut and, therefore, a great degree of uncertainty.

**Proposed New Legislation**

Two bills have been drafted in the hope of introducing a reasonable degree of certainty concerning the time during which an action can be brought against an architect.

The first bill is an amendment to Section 52-584, specifically listing architects, engineers and land surveyors along with physicians, surgeons, and others. The amendment also extends the statute so as to have it apply to arbitration proceedings as well as court actions.

The second bill is essentially a Model Statute of Limitations which was drafted four or five years ago by a joint committee of the A.I.A., the National Society of Professional Engineers (N.S.P.E.) and the Associated General Contractors (A.G.C.). The proposed Model Act was adapted to tie in with existing Connecticut statutes. It limits the time for commencing actions, whether in contract or

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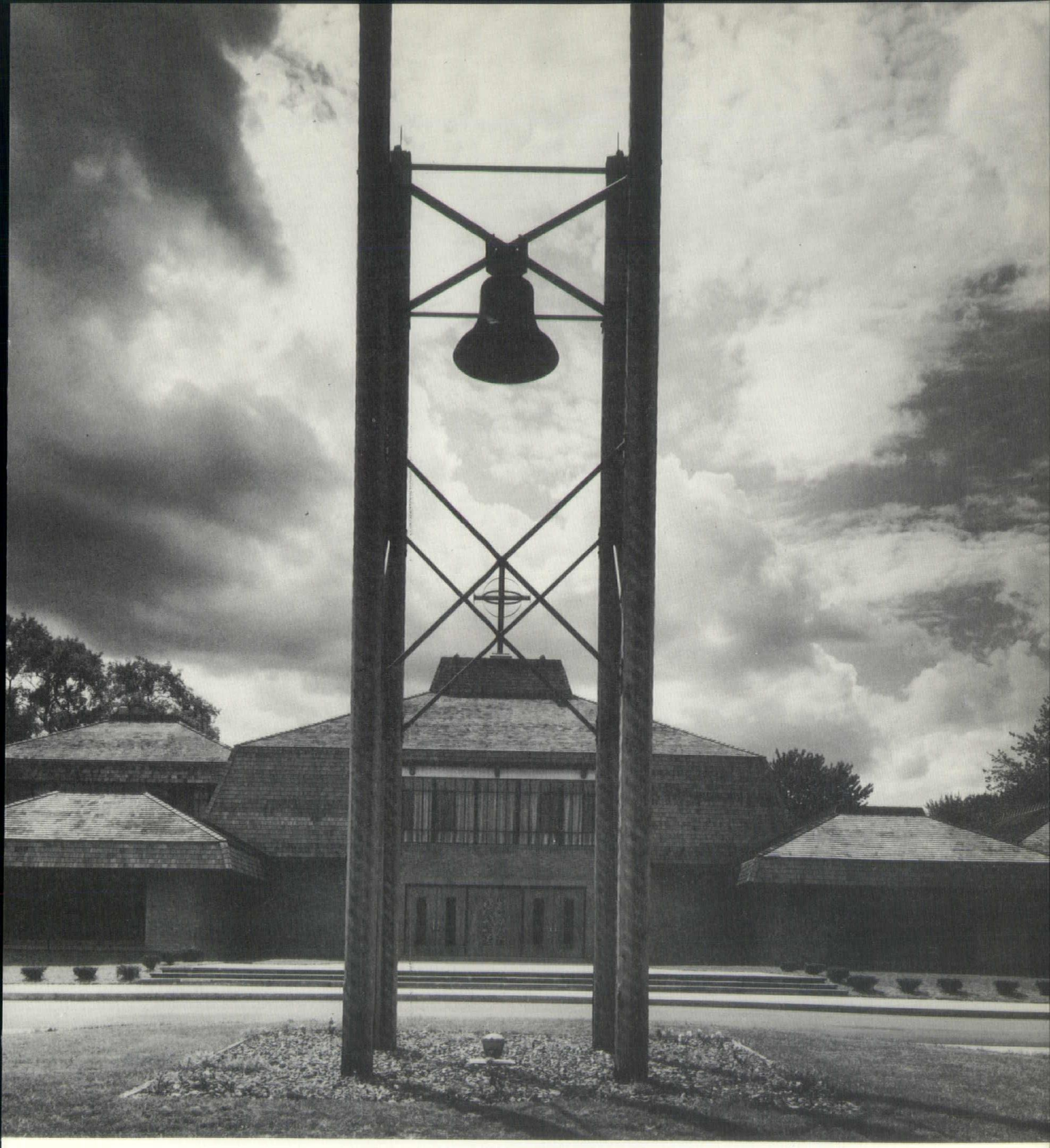
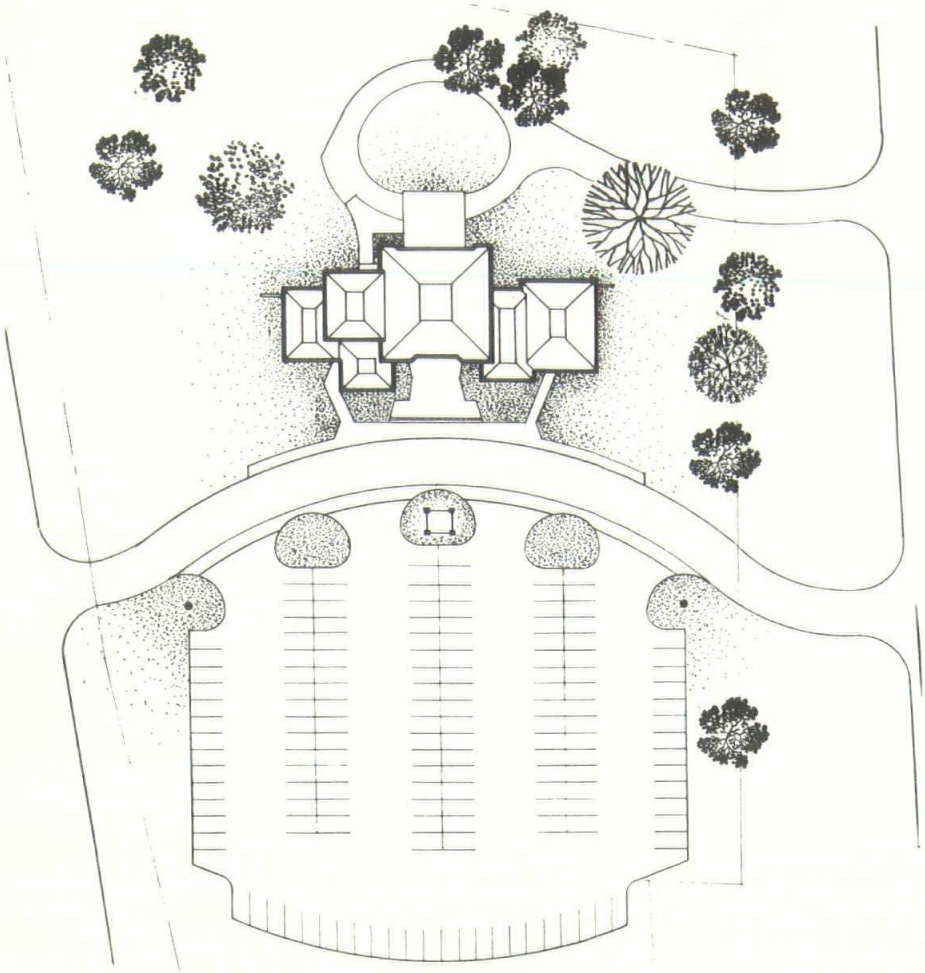


## CONTEMPORARY HOUSE OF WORSHIP

**First Presbyterian Church, Enfield, Connecticut**

**GALLIHER & SCHOENHARDT, ARCHITECTS**

**Warren C. Pease, General Contractor**

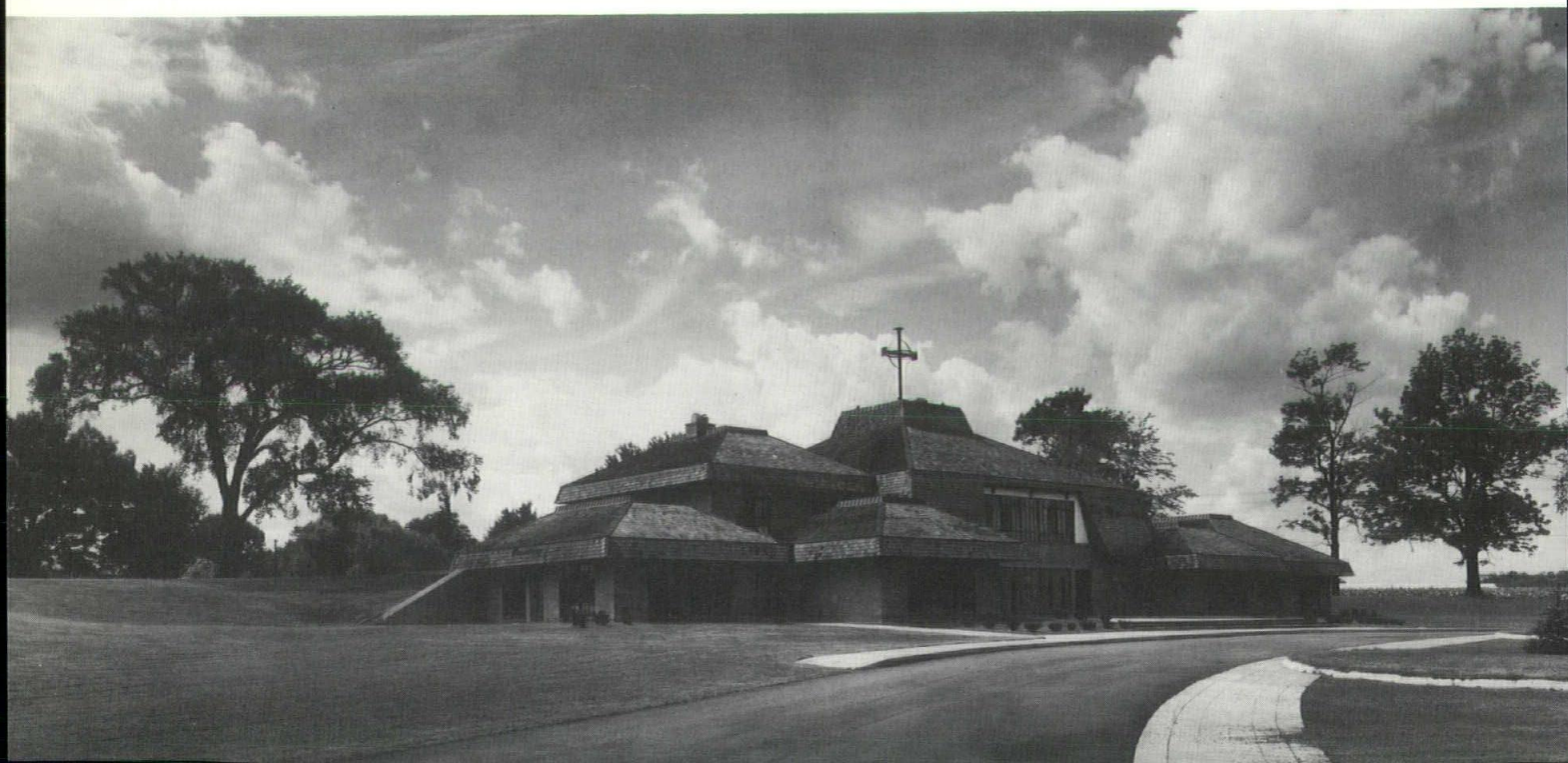


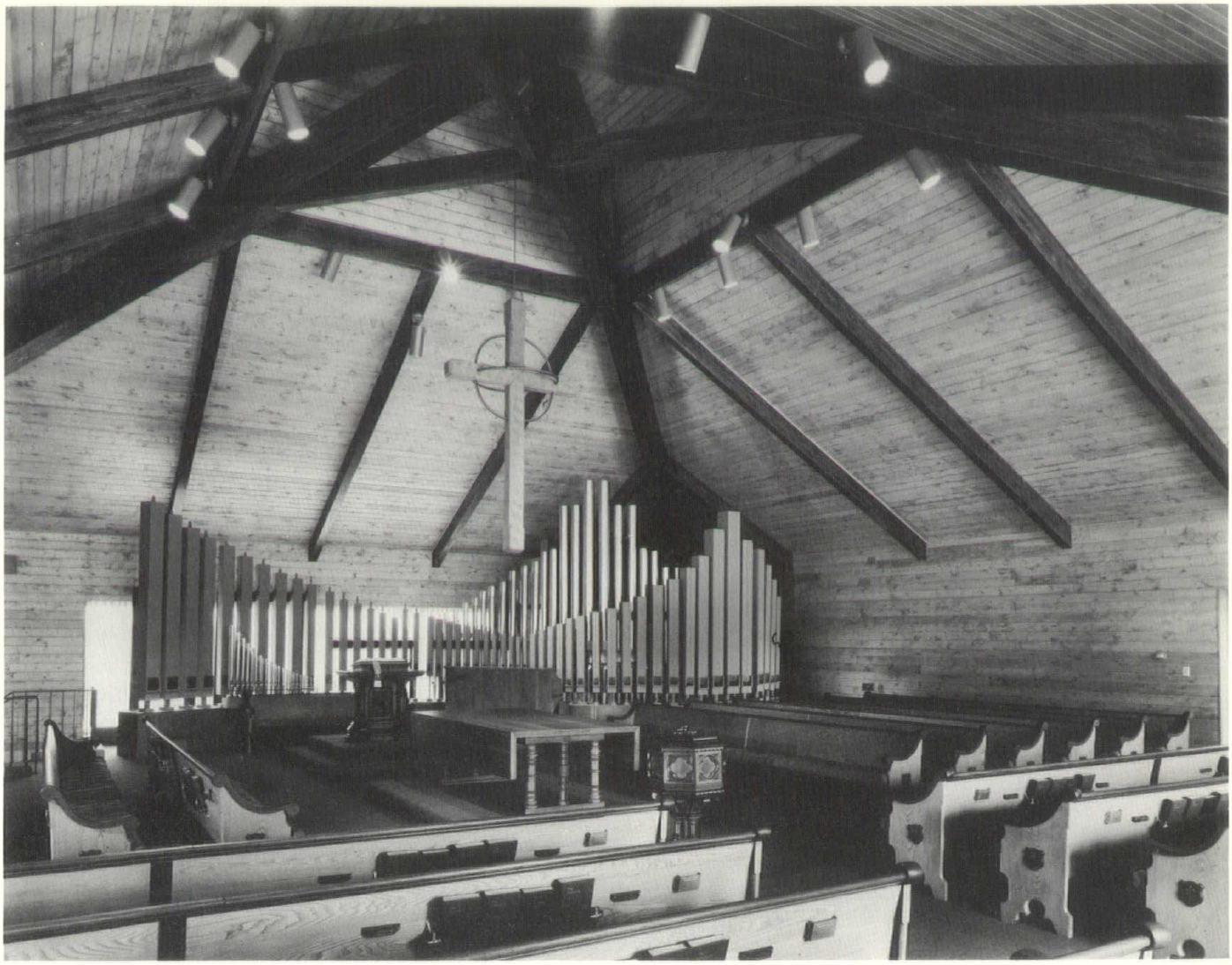
The assignment to design a new environment for the First Presbyterian Church of Enfield was looked upon as a welcome challenge by the architects, Roger Galliher and Richard Schoenhardt. They considered it a possibility for departure from the traditional plan with its outmoded forms and styles, and for expression of the valid heritage and contemporary relationship of a place of worship in the world.

The congregation was relocating from an old downtown building and had chosen a new site on the growing edge of the town. The plot of sloping land was located between residential and rural areas, and there were many small homes in the neighborhood. Here, the new church building could provide a firm expression of the new vitality of the Christian mission.

The architects' solution places strong emphasis on integration of the traditionally separate liturgical functions of worship, education and fellowship. They believed that all functions are a part of the worship service—and just as important.

Varied rooflines indicate activity areas.





Design and furnishings combine to express warmth and strength.

The varied small roof shapes resemble a clustered village center while serving to indicate activity areas and relate to and support the mass of the central meeting and worship space.

The design of the Sanctuary was guided by a strong sense of an "Upper Room." While kept basic and simple, warmth and strength were imparted by use of the handsome pews, pulpit, baptismal font and organ from the old church building. This also served to bridge the move from the old to the new with familiar surroundings. The arrangement of the organ pipes was designed by the architects to embrace the congregation gathered for worship.

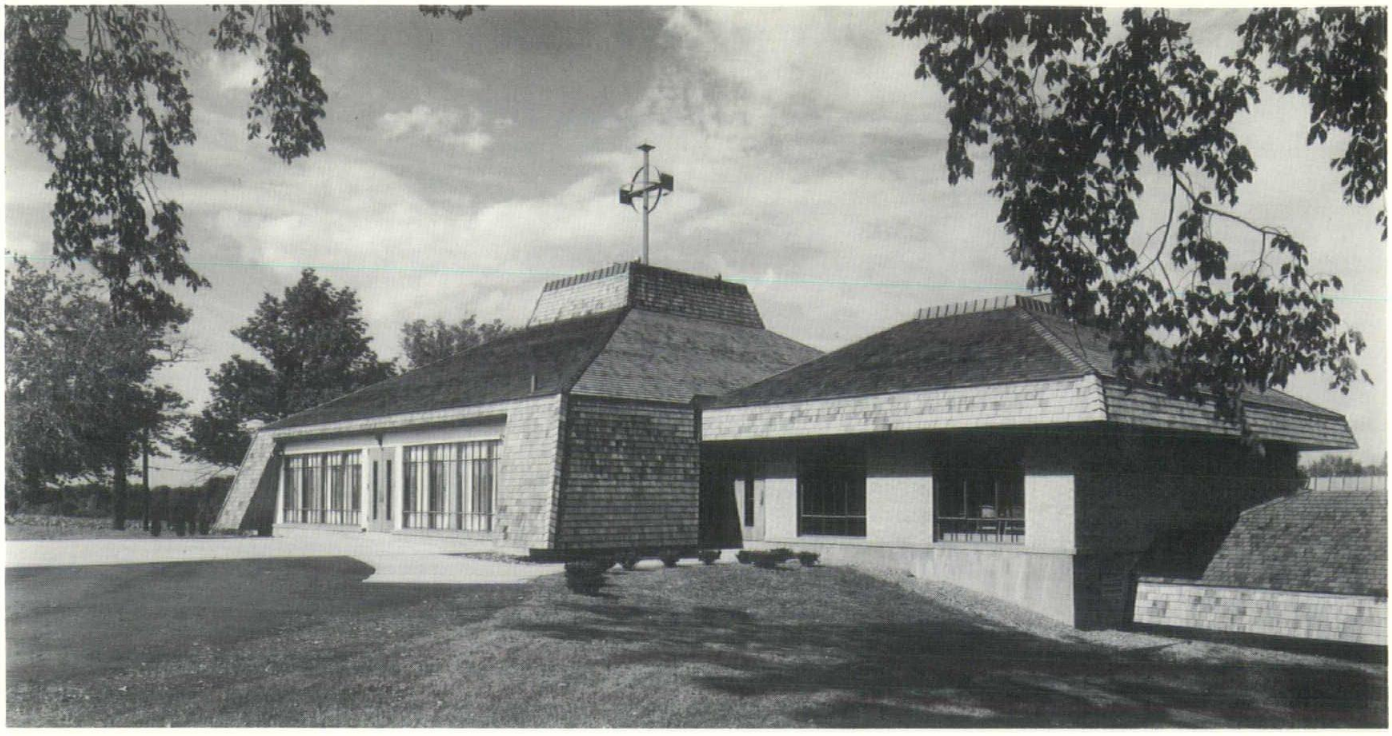
The stained white spruce walls in the Sanctuary match the roof decking and are complemented by red carpeting. The heavy faceted stained glass panels were designed by Richard Caemmerer, Jr. In the services of worship, incandescent downlights highlight appropriate areas.

On the lower level, the Fellowship Center is the focal point for informal church activities. Surrounding this large meeting place are smaller areas for offices, nursery, kitchen, library, crafts, and the like. The Fellowship Center has oak strip paneling on walls and incandescent lighting in colored glass cylinders to enhance the informal atmosphere.

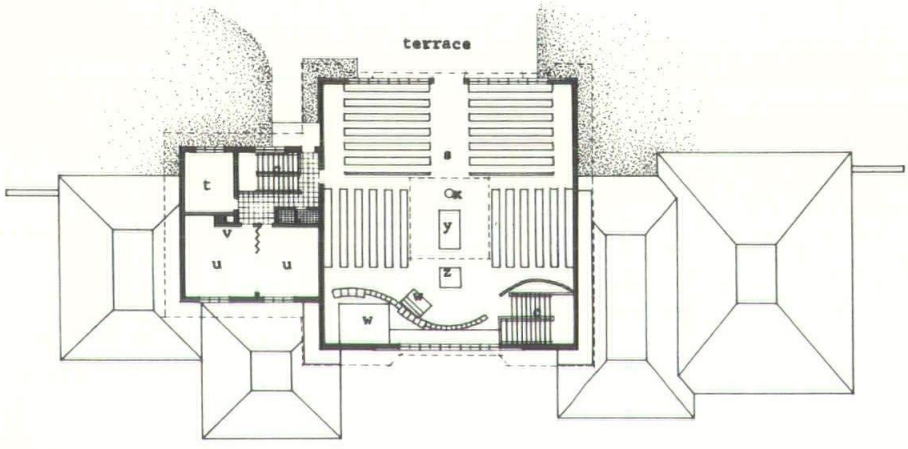
Elsewhere on this level, walls are unpainted concrete block, with vinyl asbestos tile floors and acoustical tile ceilings. Painted steel sash and stained natural oak veneer doors in steel frames are used throughout the building.

Structurally, the masonry bearing walls rest on concrete foundations, and the base flooring is concrete. Laminated wood beams are used for the main framing, and the roof has heavy timber decking. Wood trusses and plywood were used for the small roof shapes.

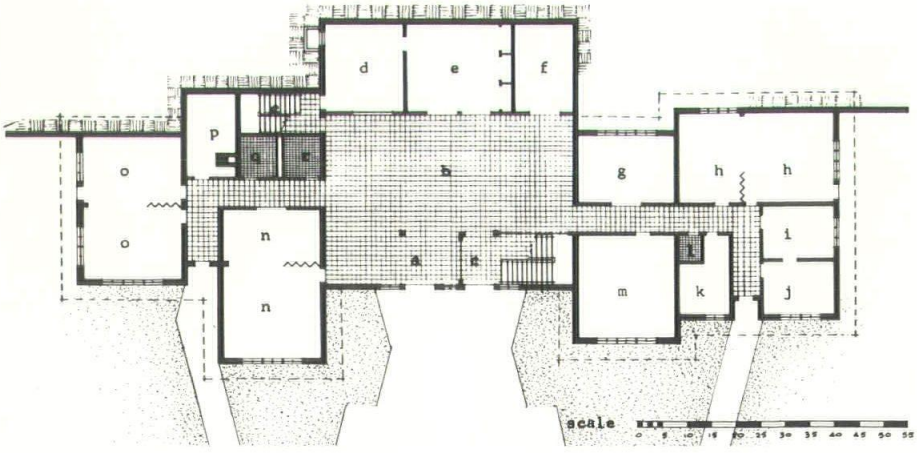
Exterior walls are brick laid in Flemish bond, with the exception of the Sanctuary which has walls of natural red cedar shingles. The combination of design and siting on the sloping plot yield a result which both pleases the eye and blends with the environment. This



Sanctuary on upper level has its own approach at rear of site.




LEGEND: (a) entry, (b) fellowship center, (c) stairway, (d) kitchen, (e) music room, (f) storage, (g) library, (h) playroom, (i) office, (j) pastor, (k) cribs, (l) lavatory, (m) nursery, (n) gameroom, (o) craftroom, (p) utility room, (q) men, (r) women, (s) worship space, (t) conference room, (u) lounge, (v) fireplace, (w) organ, (x) baptismal font, (y) communion table, (z) pulpit.




effect is furthered by simple landscaping of pines and yews, with brownstone pebble trim around the perimeter of the building, planned by Allen W. Hixon, Jr., of Simsbury.

The First Presbyterian Church in Enfield was constructed at a cost of $15.31 a square foot by General Contractor Warren C. Pease, Somers, Connecticut, with Burton & Van Houten of West Hartford as engineering consultants.

The electrical contractor was Grogan Electric of Springfield, Massachusetts.

The church building has forced hot water heating, using both baseboard units and unit heaters, installed by Gottier Plumbing and Heating, Rockville. □

RICHARD E. SCHOENHARDT and ROGER E. GALLIHER organized their partnership in 1960, and their office is located in Simsbury, Connecticut. Mr. Galliher received both bachelor's and master's degrees in architecture from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and he is a panelist of the American Arbitration Association and an alternate on the Simsbury Zoning Board. Mr. Schoenhardt also received his degree in architecture at R.P.I., and he is a member of the Guild for Religious Architecture and the Simsbury Sewer Commission. Both partners are members of the American Institute of Architects and the Hartford Society of Architects, and their office has undertaken a broad scope of projects since its formation.

# FEISS ADDRESSES CSA MEETING

Zoning is no safeguard against land pollution Carl Feiss, FAIA, planning consultant to the Connecticut Development Commission, told 100 members and guests of the Connecticut Society of Architects at the Hotel America, Hartford, on December 15.

Addressing himself "not so much to those of my own generation as to newly registered architects" and their contemporaries, Mr. Feiss distributed copies of the Development Commission's map showing the way land is now being used in Connecticut. He pointed out that, "much of this state is still 'green,' but with doubled population forecast by 2000, there will be a tremendous increase in the rate of land use."

Mr. Feiss, a trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, past member of the Board of Governors of the American Institute of Planners and teaching faculty member at Yale and Columbia Universities, predicted an irregular spread of land development, influenced by permissive regulations in some areas but restricted by natural, legal and traditional barriers in others. "In some places, a laissez-faire situation will permit almost anything to happen. Some people seem to live in a sort of 'never-never land,' thinking that the slums known in great urban centers can't occur here because we believe in the Connecticut way of life," he said.

Speaking with concern for Connecticut's natural and man-made environmental heritage, Mr. Feiss called for preservation of much we now have but, he said, "we can't build walls around it." He described the "contact environment" – that which is all about us as we live and work each day – and the "personal environment" which includes also the green areas we visit for recreation. He gave examples of changes in these two environments, particularly as related to our ever-increasing mobility. "But, just because of this ability to travel rapidly to somewhere else, we have failed to concern ourselves with the condition of our own contact and personal environment," he added.

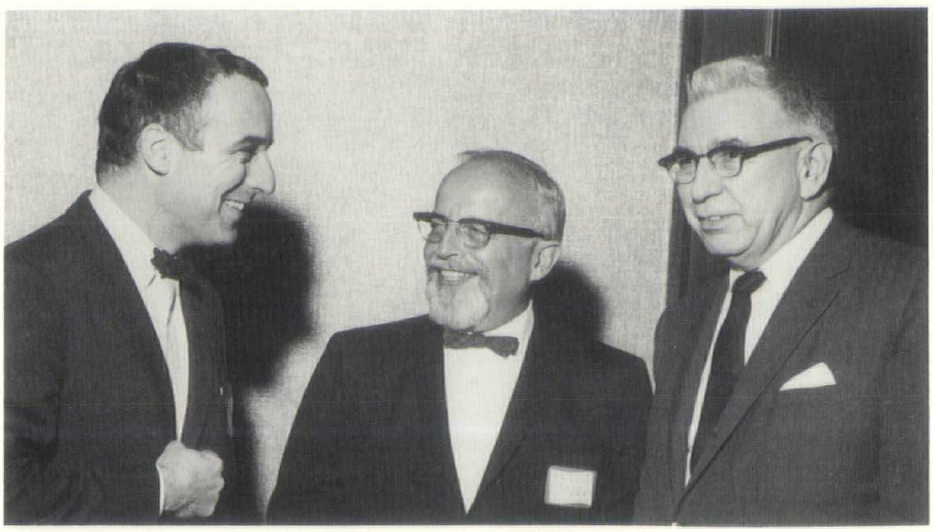
Mr. Feiss commented on the problems of air and water pollution: "The worst pollution, however, and the one most difficult to treat, is land pollution – his term for roadside blight and suburban sprawl. Zoning is expected by many to counter this degeneration of the quality of our environment, but it is not really effective. Zoning regulations stipulate lot coverage, setbacks and the like, but nobody seems to recall why such standards were established in the first place. They were not established by architects, certainly, yet they have much to do with the quality of the architecture that gets built."

The Connecticut Development Commission has studied population trends of the next 35 years. The study showed that some reasonable alternative to zoning as we now know it must be found if the qualities of living we value so highly in Connecticut are to be preserved and enhanced for future generations. Examples of such alternatives are the Commission's studies of possible linear development along the traditional north-south and east-west main lines of trade and transportation and the possibility of "new town" development as in Reston and Columbia near Washington, D. C.

"We are fifteen to twenty years behind British and other European experiments with 'new towns,' so we don't have any really good examples here to show just what can be done, but you as architects can do such things – witness Constitution Plaza – and hopefully you *will* do them. This now becomes the great challenge to the practice of architecture. My hope for the Connecticut Society of Architects, is that it will develop a system of communication with the people of Connecticut to show what *can* be built using the consummate skills of the architect and

*Please turn to page 30*

Carl Feiss, FAIA, center, planning consultant to Connecticut Development Commission, discusses his talk with Richard S. Sharpe, left, 1967 president of Connecticut Society of Architects, AIA, and Charles DuBose, FAIA, vice president, at the Society's December 15 meeting.



## Connecticut's Capitol

Although its crowning fifteen-foot figure, the "Genius of Connecticut," has long since been removed, Connecticut's State Capitol rises to an imposing 242 feet.

In a report dated January, 1878, the State Capitol Commissioners concluded their remarks:

> "To the details in the construction of the new Capitol the Commissioners have given careful thought and attention. They are satisfied that they secured not only all the conveniences and comforts attainable for State officers and members of the Legislature, but that they will soon be able to turn over to the State a Capitol so well built that it will endure for centuries, and so artistically designed that it will command the approval of the General Assembly and the public, and bear the test of fair criticism."

Fourteen competitive plans were offered in response to invitations by the Commissioners. It was stipulated that the building "should not cost the State over one million dollars." Architect R. M. Upjohn of New York was selected, and a building contract was signed with James G. Batterson of Hartford for $875,000, in 1872.

Almost at once, a further request was made for a half million dollars additional because the basic plan omitted much that seemed necessary, even then. And the contract "did not include heating apparatus, the furnishings of legislative halls, the statuary, nor the ornamentation essential to the proper finish of a building of this character."

The Legislature in 1873 ordered work on the original contract stopped, and new Commissioners "were authorized to change or abandon the contract, as they might deem expedient." They went back to Architect Upjohn who revised his design. After examining original and improved plans, $2.5 million was authorized for the work.

"There are sixty rooms . . . substantial vaults with double iron and steel doors . . . an elevator, six by eight feet in size, to be moved by steam . . . the roof is of wrought iron throughout, and the fittings are arranged so as to avoid any welding whatever." This latter innovation was designed by "Wm. C. Gunnell, civil engineer."

The report continues: "The main stairways, of which there are two, are very solid and imposing, of marble, with steps and platforms of granite. In these stairways are 46 polished granite columns, resembling in appearance the Scotch granite. The granite for these beautiful columns came from a Connecticut quarry near Stony Creek, on Long Island Sound . . . all the wood-work finish is of oak, black walnut, and ash. The white glass is of the best polished French plate."

The State Capitol Commissioners were Alfred E. Burr, Hartford, President; Jeremiah Halsey, Norwich; Nathaniel Wheeler, Bridgeport; Wm. P. Trowbridge, New Haven; and Gardner P. Barber, Hartford. □

**School Costs**

New school costs in Connecticut have been going up much less than overall construction costs according to the State Department of Education. The cost of building Connecticut schools has gone up 28 per cent over the past seventeen years. During the same period, general construction costs across the country have risen 65 per cent.

Richard L. Howland, chief of the department's Bureau of School Buildings, called Connecticut's experience a "remarkable achievement."

"Educators, building committees and their architects have undoubtedly cooperated to bring this about, and they deserve our congratulations and appreciation," he said.

Mr. Howland suggested further advances toward economy in school construction could be made by more careful long-range planning and through programming of each project. □

### *Statute*

*Continued from page 18*

negligence, which seek damages claimed to have resulted from a deficiency in the design, planning, supervision or observation of the construction of buildings.

The proposed bill limits the time for commencement of such actions to three years following "substantial completion" of the building. There is also a provision allowing actions based on injuries which occurred during the third year following substantial completion to be brought within one year from the date of the accident. Thus, the architect could be certain that no action could prevail if brought later than four years after the completion of the building.

**Program For Action**

The bills to implement the two proposals described above were introduced in the 1967 Session of the Legislature during the month of December, 1966. It is hoped that legislative committee approval of the Model Act can be obtained. Naturally, if the Model Act is passed by the Legislature there will be no need of the proposed amendment of Section 52-584. If for any reason the Model Act does not meet with approval, every effort will be made to have the amendment to Section 52-584 adopted.

A bill for the adoption of the Model Act was presented to the 1965 Legislature. The General Laws Committee did not give favorable consideration to the bill because the committee felt that we had not presented sufficient evidence of a real problem but merely evidence of something we were worried might happen. This was substantially correct, but we would like to cure the problem before devastating claims are presented. We do not want to wait until the horse is stolen before putting the lock on the barn door.

In order to meet this problem, we have asked Victor O. Schinnerer & Co., Inc. to furnish us with statistics concerning Connecticut claims which they are handling and comparable information from a few other states. We hope that these figures will enable us to convince the 1967 Session of the General Assembly of the need for this legislation. □

Newly registered architects, sitting from left, Myron L. Gilson, Raymond L. Drouin, Raymond Mojesky, Christopher Williams, Raymond Leblanc and Alec C. Frost. Standing from left, Charles W. Boos, Jr., Peter Abel, Steven Rosenfield, S. Edward Jeter, John J. Damico, Donald R. Watson, A. Robert Faesy, Jr. and Stanley S. Kowalski.





## New Connecticut Architects

Connecticut certificates were presented to nineteen architects by Registration Board President Maurice Golden at the State Office Building, Hartford, December 15. Assisting in the award of registration certificates were Andrew S. Cohen, board secretary, and Gerald G. Phelan, past president.

Mr. Golden told the newly certified architects that a high degree of responsibility and integrity would be expected of each architect by his community. "I am sure you will always live up to the confidence placed in you," he said.

Richard L. Howland, outgoing president of the Connecticut Society of Architects, said to the group: "You can learn from your fellow architects, and they from you. Our profession calls for dedication to the improvement of the society in which we live."

Mr. Phelan advised the architects that, "to keep abreast of new developments and new ideas, you must never cease your study."

Architects who received certificates following successful completion of their professional examinations include Raymond L. Drouin, Madison; Charles W. Boos, Jr., Bristol; John J. Damico, New Haven; A. Robert Faesy, Jr., Wilton; Alec C. Frost, New Hartford; S. Edward Jeter, Farmington; Stanley S. Kowalski, Farmington; Raymond J. Leblanc, West Hartford; Chido S. Licciardi, Danbury; Raymond Mojesky, Hartford; Steven H. Rosenfield, Stamford; and Christopher Williams, Middletown.

Also receiving certificates were Peter Abel, Glendale, New York, and Donald R. Watson, Dover, Massachusetts. Both are associated with Connecticut architects and expect to move to Connecticut.

Other out-of-state architects who received Connecticut licenses are Louis J. Bakanowsky, Arlington, Massachusetts; Alden B. Christie, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Myron J. Gilson, Oakland, New Jersey; Robert E. Habic, Port Jervis, New York; and John A. Sharratt, Boston, Massachusetts. □

### *Action*

*Continued from page 6*

but laws and departmental regulations which permit architects to use their special talents and abilities creatively and with relative freedom to bring order and beauty to the lives of our citizens can hardly be criticized as serving a selfish purpose.

Attorney Carmine Lavieri presents in this issue "The Case for a Statute of Limitations," explaining why architects need the protection of a law to set reasonable time limits to the liability an architect incurs in the practice of his profession A bill providing for such a law will be introduced in the General Assembly this year. It deserves the support of all fair-minded citizens and particularly those whose primary interests lie in architecture, the related design professions, or the building industry.

Also in this issue, the American Institute of Architects' outgoing New England Regional Director, Willis N. Mills, FAIA, makes a strong plea for the prompt implementation of recommendations made to Governor Dempsey in 1966 by the blue-ribbon "Governor's Conference on Natural and Environmental Beauty." The need is great for action upon these recommendations, and the opportunity for benefit to Connecticut is inestimable. All architects and friends of architecture should encourage Connecticut's Governor to continue this work as quickly as possible.

1967 should be a time of great achievement for architecture in Connecticut. Most of that achievement will be realized by the sincere and dedicated work of the architects themselves. But, a considerable effect on the profession and its accomplishments may well be made within the halls and offices of the gold-domed building on Capitol Hill in Hartford. □

R.T.R.

### *Meeting*

*Continued from page 23*

the environmental designer to promote that of which we can all be proud — to serve future generations," he said.

*New Officers*

The Society's December meeting was the occasion for presenting the gavel of office to Richard S. Sharpe of Norwich, 1967 president. Also presented to the members were the Society's new vice-president (and president-designate for 1968) Charles DuBose, FAIA, of Hartford, Secretary Carrell S. McNulty, Jr., Stamford and Norman L. Raymond, Stamford, Treasurer.

In addition to the officers and Richard L. Howland, the 1966 president, the Society's Board of Directors for 1967 includes Earl P. Carlin, New Haven; Harvey M. White, Hartford; Carl R. Blanchard, Jr., New Haven; Joseph Stein, Waterbury; Edward E. Cherry, New Haven; and Ralph T. Rowland, Cheshire.

As his last official act as president, Mr. Howland presented certificates of corporate membership in the AIA to newly elected members Charles T. Bellingraft, Harry J. Danos, Paul V. Elsbery, Jr., and Roger Small. He also introduced the Society's guests, including besides the newly registered architects and their wives, Mr. Carroll Perkins, ASLA, president of the Connecticut Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects. □

## Volume 3, Number 1

With this issue, *Connecticut Architect* starts its third year of publication. There were those who thought we would not reach our first birthday, much less our second. There were many times when the publishers had reason to agree.

While we still have some way to go before *Connecticut Architect* attains the goals we have set for it, we are heading in the right direction. The purpose of this magazine is to report and foster good architecture in Connecticut. We try to do this by doing more than just talk to "ourselves." We speak to many outside the profession. We have some 2800 readers, of whom almost 600 are architects. The rest consist of the public concerned with architecture.

Your publishers strive to maintain close contact with reality. We have a basic responsibility to the Connecticut Society of Architects, and we have responsibilities to our other subscribers and our advertisers (who make the magazine possible) as well. Hence, we strive to maintain a balance of content aimed to focus attention – public attention – on the advantages of thoughtful, imaginative, professional architecture to provide environmental stability and comfort for our burgeoning population.

Our special anniversary appreciation goes to Architects Andrew S. Cohen, Ralph T. Rowland and Cyril K. Smith, Jr., among others, who have the vision and fortitude to back up our efforts. Without their persistent help, we might have foundered.

Now, we look to our third year with a little less trepidation and a little more confidence. We even feel at times that we may make it yet.

*The Publishers*

Connecticut Building Congress award winners (reported in November-December CONNECTICUT ARCHITECT) are from left: Richard J. Shadford, Jr., Heywood & Shadford, Engineers, West Hartford; Benjamin B. duPont, Architect, New Haven, (see Page 7); and Carleton Granbery and George B. Cash, Granbery, Cash & Associates, New Haven.

## *Gestation?*

*Continued from page 14*

come from the design professions. Architects, landscape architects, planners and some educators have the talent, but lack the numbers to be effective alone. The active support of the Governor's administration, citizens' action groups, women's clubs and the press are vital if we seriously are to expect results. We believe that the goal can be achieved if the energies of these groups are well directed. To us, the architects, the goal would mean that beauty, order and conservation would be the rule and not the exception. Aware of the consequences, the citizens of Connecticut would reject ugliness, and the perpetration of another Berlin Turnpike would be impossible.

**Design Quality**

> "Connecticut should establish a top-level professional Advisory Board to the Governor for the purpose of improving the quality of public works construction in the State."

The design quality of public works in Connecticut is poor. Buildings are uninspired, ostentatious and expensive. Because this tiresome array of public structures is common to neighboring states does not make them more acceptable. Rather we are impelled to examine the system to find reasons and to suggest corrective measures.

*First*, the contractual relations between the State and architects are restrictive, penny-wise and often punitive.

*Second*, the selection system traditionally has been political rather than professional. Creative ability and professional competence should be the only criteria in selecting architects.

*Third*, the attitude of the state as a client is rigid, often antiquated and the victim of self-produced regulations. This discourages participation by creative and imaginative architects.

Therefore we recommend:

1. An overhaul of the contract between the state and the architect to reconcile it with standard professional agreements and to raise fees commensurate with the realities of architectural practice.
2. The creation of an advisory board to the Governor, which would screen applicants and recommend a list of three architectural firms qualified professionally and creatively for the project at hand. The state would make its selection from the three nominees. The advisory board should have five members; two architects nominated by the Connecticut Society of Architects, AIA., one consulting engineer nominated by the appropriate professional society, one representative from the using agency and one layman chosen for his experience, interest and sensitivity to design esthetics.

We believe that these two suggestions reach to the very core of our criticism. If they are accepted and made viable, we believe that the quality of Connecticut public works could become a source of lasting pride to our citizens and political leaders, and a shining example to others.

> "Establish a standard of highway design which respects community values."

When seen from above, our cities rarely express our poetic idea of steel and glass towers reaching for the sky. What they actually express is our current infatuation with movement. The automobile and the highway—shiny strips of new elevated roadways, relentlessly carving our cities into unrelated fragments. The havoc in the wake of these concrete monstrosities is catastrophic. They become ugly visual barriers. They concentrate air pollution and produce noise levels which are linear, continuous and hideous. They devour otherwise useful land to create a swath of depressed property values for many years to come. We charge that this method of highway design is not only short sighted, but utterly disregards true community values.

We believe that the true measure of highway planning is its human value, and that we simply can no longer afford the time-honored "economy" of highway design based on lowest construction cost. This is particularly true in urban areas where elemental human standards of clean air, reasonable quiet and vistas that do not offend are constantly eroded, while land value is downgraded and tax revenue lost through present highway planning philosophy.

Urban highways are at their best when they are obscure or invisible. True, the initial cost is heavy when they are placed below grade, occasionally covered, or subdued visually by grading and planting. But anyone who has tried to screen a highway elevated twenty feet in the air can testify to the futility of the effort. When highways are buried, visual barriers are unnecessary, noise is reduced, land values remain stable or appreciate, and the spaces above are "found land," available for parks, buildings, playgrounds and other human needs.

We recommend that members of urban planning and architectural firms join the highway planning team. We submit that design skill, a deep understanding of beauty and the qualities which sustain the best of cities, can make a lasting contribution to our own state. We hope that the Governor will encourage serious studies toward these ends.

Nine months have passed since the Governor's Conference, when we heard such brave and exciting words. Was it only an exercise in futility, or have these past months been a period of gestation, with new and better things ahead? □

*Editor's Note: Since preparation of this article action has been started on composition of an advisory board.*

## Schools Selected

The American Association of School Administrators has selected two Connecticut school buildings for the 1967 School Building Architectural Exhibit at the association's national convention.

They are the Columbus Elementary School in Bridgeport and the John Reed Middle School in Redding—both the work of Fletcher-Thompson, Inc., Bridgeport architectural and engineering firm.

Designs for the two schools will be displayed at the association's convention in Atlantic City in February. □



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# He goes to a school that's different

## *We think you'd like to design one like it.*

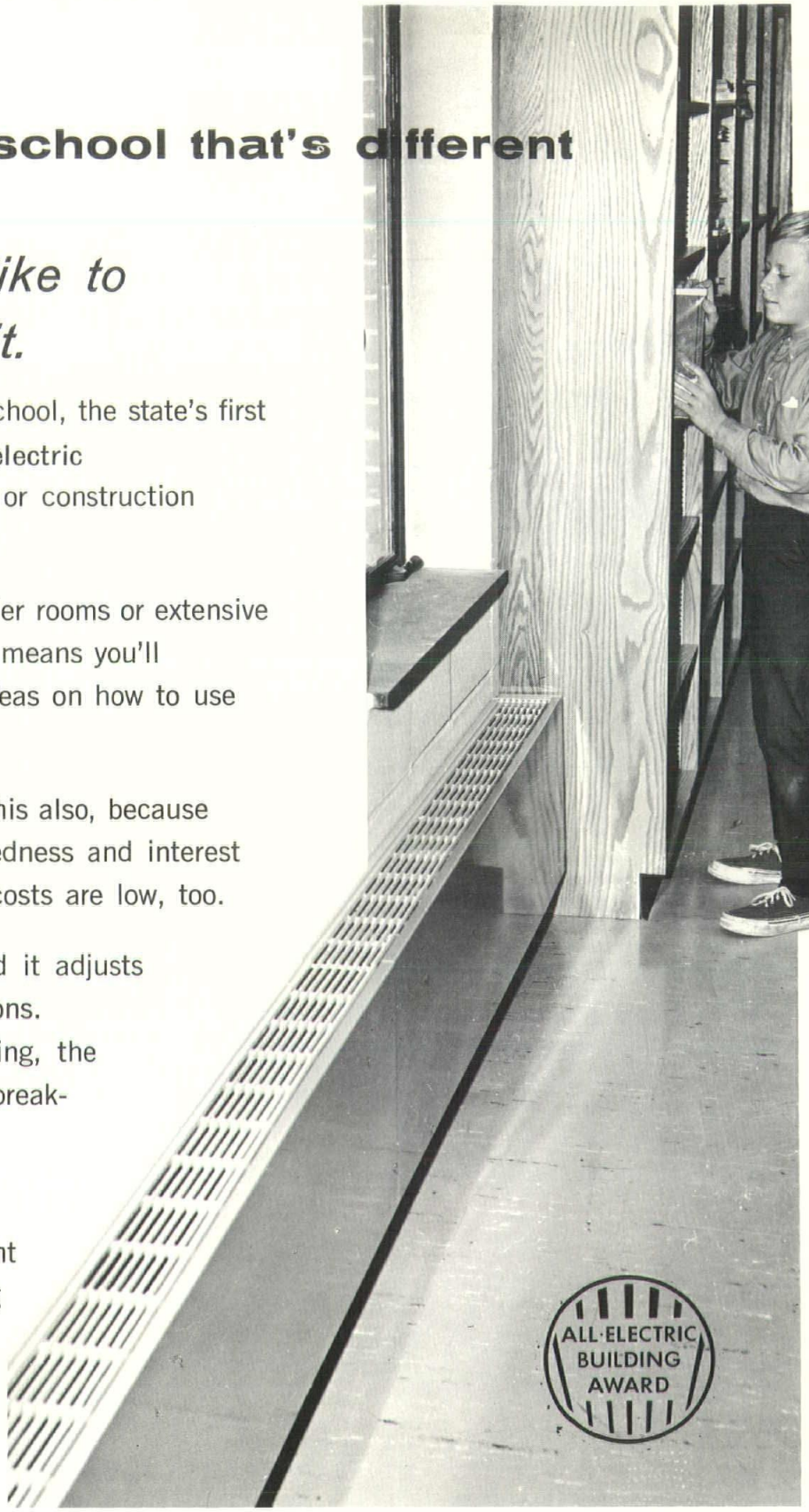
This is South Windsor's Eli Terry School, the state's first all-electric school — 16 more all-electric schools are in either the planning or construction stages now in Connecticut.

There are no boilers, chimneys, boiler rooms or extensive piping in a school like this, which means you'll have freedom in expressing your ideas on how to use space to maximum advantage.

Taxpayers appreciate schools like this also, because construction costs, bonded indebtedness and interest payments are reduced. Operating costs are low, too.

Heat is clean and comfortable and it adjusts automatically to changing conditions. And because of zone control heating, the chance of a total heating system breakdown is practically eliminated.

Consider electric heat in the next school you design. You'll build client satisfaction and offer more building for the money. The students and taxpayers will thank you.

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