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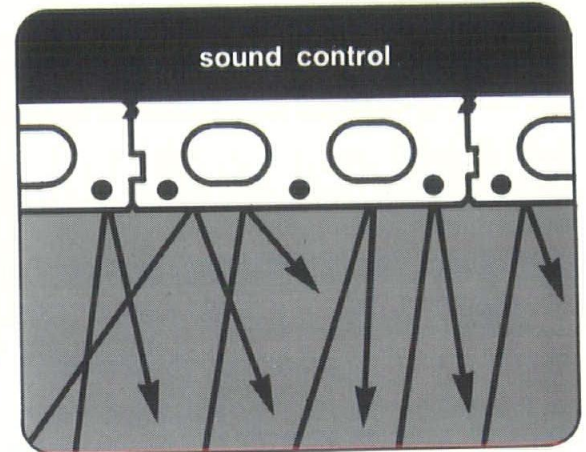
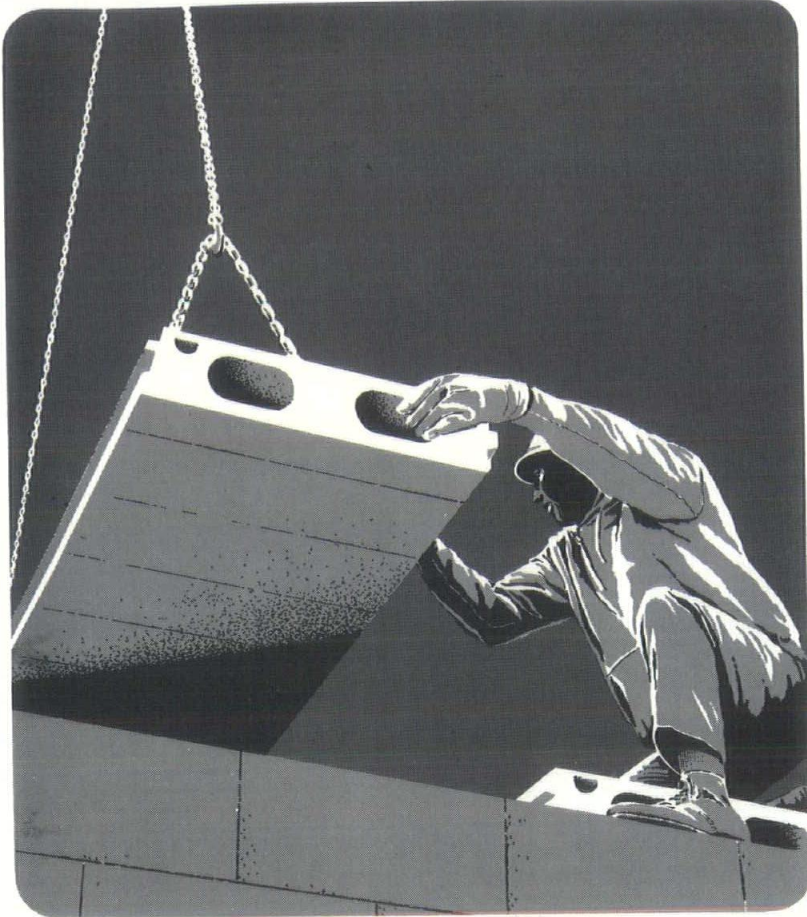
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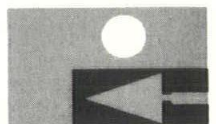
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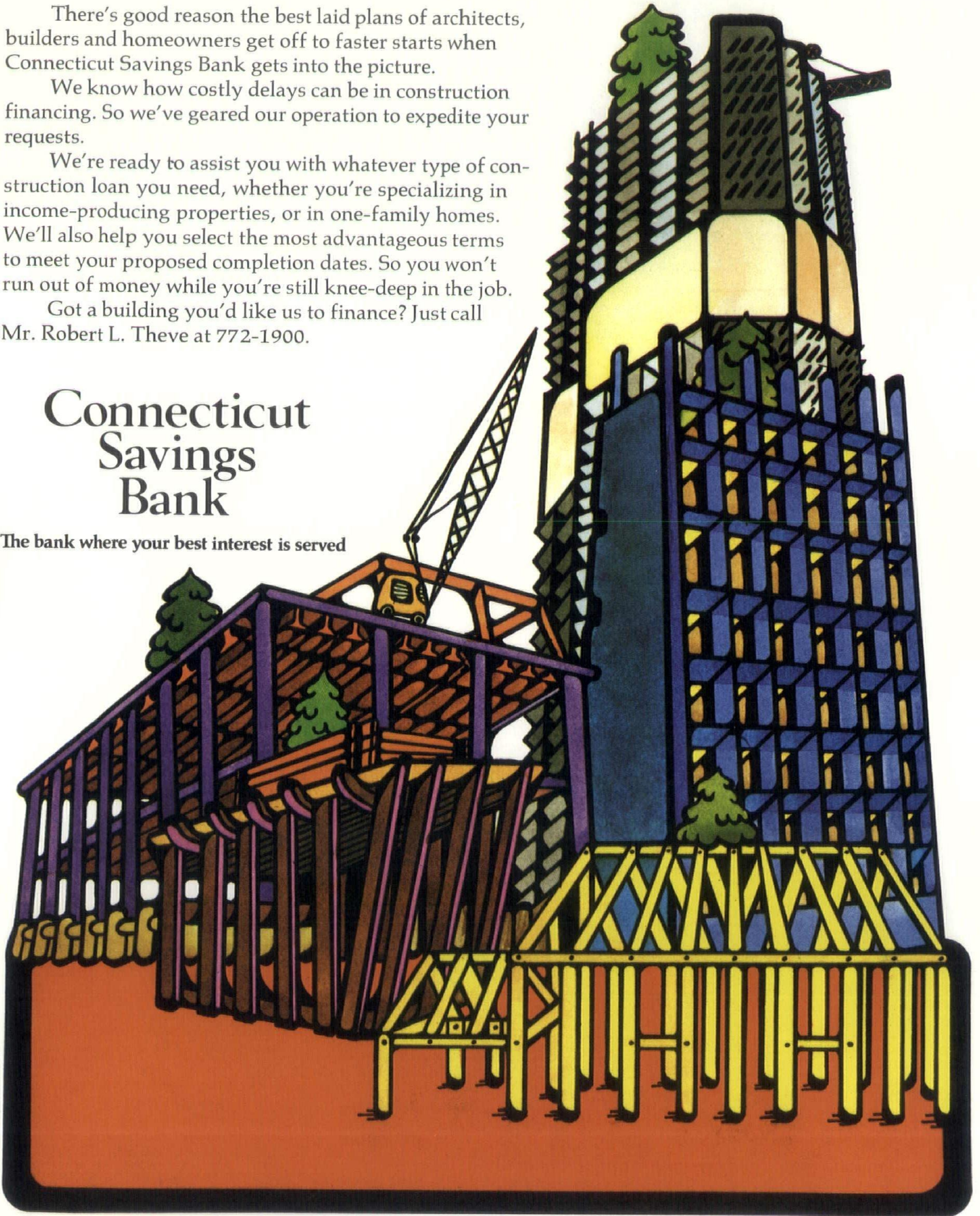
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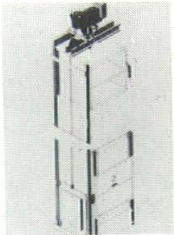
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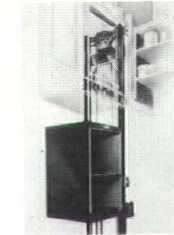
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Publisher's Uneasy Chair

The greening of Connecticut this spring has been an exciting reprise of an annual performance. Despite Watergate, Ellsberg and countless other messy things and venal people, spring did come to Connecticut and, we understand, even to Washington.

The design and structure of a bud developing into a leaf, slowly, purposefully and nobly, is a master feat of heavenly engineering. First the swelling on a twig and then the green is everywhere punctuated by the yellows, pinks and lavenders of early spring flowers. It is also the season when chain saws and bulldozers thirst for petrol to de-petal the green magnificence.

We saw such a "heil" to the environment the other day in Bristol. A clear brown swath had been cut through a woods. The top soil was piled neatly. Nothing remained to get in the way of the builder. Very efficient. We are sure that when the condominium, as it was billed on a sign, is completed and the dirt bulldozed back there will be seeding and plantings. These will almost certainly include trees which in fifteen years or so will be almost as tall as some of those which were destroyed. Replacing the larger trees should not take more than forty or fifty years.

Carroll Hughes of DEP touches on developers in a constructive fashion in his article in this issue of *Connecticut Architect*. What it boils down to is that if we take note of all the bases before we throw the pitch, we're more likely to make the best choice. Bob Mutrux takes us to Paris in his own inimitable fashion and peers with nostalgia at a vanishing architectural species. Combustion Engineering's new Stamford headquarters makes it clear why some companies which build in Connecticut contribute to the state's physical environment. We have an office profile of a small New Haven architectural group which designs impressive and livable structures with a flair for doing things right, and with dedication to principle.



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VOLUME 9, NUMBER 3

MAY-JUNE 1973

FRONT COVER: Three years ago Gilbert Switzer & Associates won a design competition for Middletown's major urban renewal project. Sbona Tower, a 129-unit high rise elderly housing tower, low rise apartments and a community senior center are the desirable and pleasing result of this people-oriented complex which will be an enduring asset in Middletown. See story on page 12.

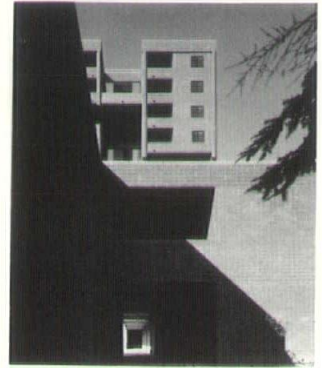


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Development Activity Can Be Environmentally Sound

Carroll J. Hughes

Development activity of any nature in the State of Connecticut must not only comply with present regulatory activities, but also exercise responsibility in protecting the natural resources.

There are numerous sound actions which can be taken by Connecticut developers to eliminate potential environmental problems. These actions, many of which are not now required by law, can help reduce present and future pollution problems. This can be done by using our natural resources in a complementary way compatible with present trends in development activity.

The first environmental factor to be considered in development activity is the selection of the site. As basic as this may sound, it is not as simple to make a proper environmental choice as it may be to select a site considering only economic factors.

It is imperative that no development activity occur in inland or coastal wetlands. The wetlands are a balance between land and water resources — probably the most important resource of our ecosystem. The wetlands serve as a natural flood control device and a water purifier, as well as a reservoir for water in times of drought. The wetlands also are the sustaining source for fish and game. It is estimated that over 80 percent of the food supply for marine life begins in the coastal or tidal wetlands.

In a pure economic sense, the wetlands are an unstable settling base for buildings. They offer potential future health problems when building activity occurs and wetlands are blocked from normal water flow resulting in stagnation. Dampness and wet cellars are very much the rule in buildings located in wetlands. The very undesira-



bility of buildings in wetlands results in a limited market for buyers and undesirable long-term investment.

Water courses, which directly supply wetlands, share importance with wetland areas. Although important to site selection, water course use decisions are critical to site development. Any decision to change the course or pipe a stream or river can have serious environmental consequences. A 'piped' brook can increase speed as well as direction, affecting the immediate natural area and other sections farther downstream. Using a stream in this way may also result in elimination of the natural flood plain area, which is so vital to lessening the impact of future flooding. When constrictions are made in water courses through structural changes, increases in water speed and flooding points rise substantially.

Also important to a development site is the geology and hydrology of the general area. There can be no on site, 'walk of the land', which is as suitable as knowing the characteristics of the soil, rocks, underground springs, aquifers, which have extensive ramifications for any type of development. The U.S. Soil Conservation Service and some state and local agencies are able frequently to provide specific geological information.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection recently began development of a natural resource data center. The center will provide specific information to municipalities, industries and developers about the natural features of land areas of Connecticut. In this way, pertinent information can be given to those who will have a major impact on the land resources.

In making decisions on the use of the natural resources of our state, it is important for a decision maker to know what is ecologically or naturally valuable in Connecticut. Certainly wetlands, water courses and flood plain areas are important, but so are various other natural features.

A number of environmental planners recommend no building activity on a grade of more than 25 degrees because problems of excess storm water runoff might occur, abetted by wetland erosion or septic sewage problems. Also recommended by environmental planners is the non-use of land areas where unique natural features or resources may be found. These include special forest areas or unique stone features or possibly a scenic area of rare significance. Prime agricultural land where the top soil and fertilization make the area highly productive would be better

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NEW CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS

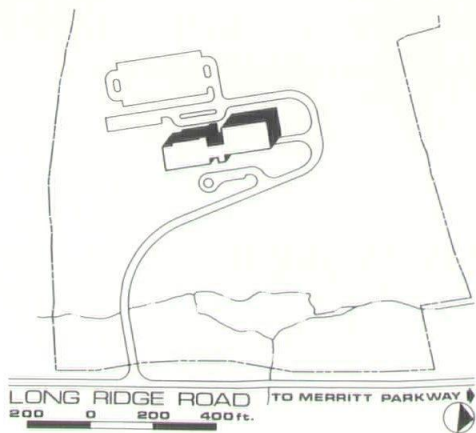
Combustion Engineering, Inc.

Stamford, Connecticut

CE MAGUIRE, INC.

ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, PLANNERS

The E & F Construction Company, Inc., General Contractor



Accessibility was the key to the relocation of Combustion Engineering, Inc.'s corporate headquarters from New York City to Stamford. Top management of this diverse corporation, whose principal operations center is in Windsor, had established itself originally in New York to be close to the country's financial hub. It was soon discovered, however, that the combination of urban sprawl and metropolitan conditions was discouraging necessary close relations and personal contact with the Windsor office.

Stamford offered a compromise between these two priorities. An hour's drive from Manhattan and two from Windsor, Stamford hosts a growing colony of corporate headquarters similar to C-E. Many of C-E's corporate staff already resided in the general area, and all were eager to defect from the legion of commuters and the daily problems of the mass transit systems. As it developed, reducing travel time added substantially to working time, and the company has realized a ten to twenty percent increase in the executive, in-house work week.

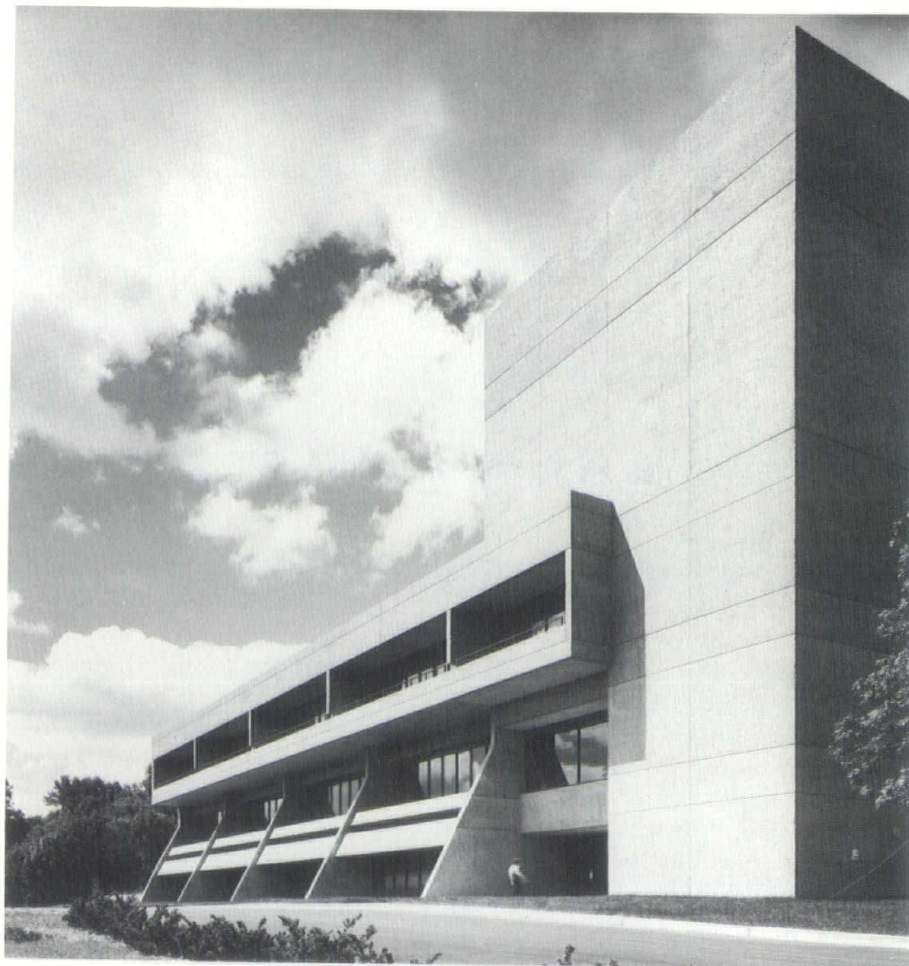
The forty-acre site chosen by C-E promised to be difficult — but potentially rewarding. Bounded by the Merritt Parkway to the north and Long Ridge Road (Connect-

icut Route 104) on the east, it features a steep hill which rises 125 feet above a small, marshy pond.

Much of the land had been stripped of topsoil for use in construction of the Connecticut Turn-

pike. This disfigurement of the site, combined with the presence of several abandoned farm buildings, had led area residents to at least occasional use of the foot of the slope as a dump. On the plus side, the

East elevation of south wing stands boldly against the sky.





From the south, the building fits its site.

site was basically open with some trees and ledge outcroppings. Heavily wooded areas surround the property, providing a good buffer to contiguous residential areas, and a stream traverses the lower east side to provide a pleasant point of interest.

After buying the land, Combustion Engineering selected C. E. Maguire and Associates as architects-engineers for the building project. (During the course of the work, C-E acquired the Maguire firm as a wholly-owned subsidiary.) The client's main charges to Maguire were to shape a functional tool for administration of the company and to design a building that would project a positive and vigorous corporate image. Since C-E is a decentralized company, the new office was to house the corporate president and his staff, including those vice presidents not involved in the operation of a division. Total occupancy of the 50,000 square-foot building is currently about 100 persons.

A bold architectural solution was particularly important for this property because the proposed building, sited near the top of a treeless hill, would dominate visually the valley below. In addition, the property was zoned as a "designated commercial" area. Since

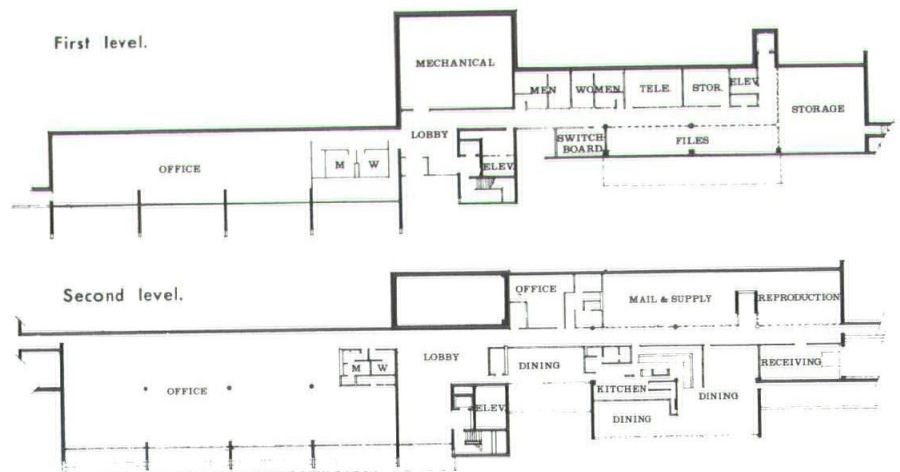
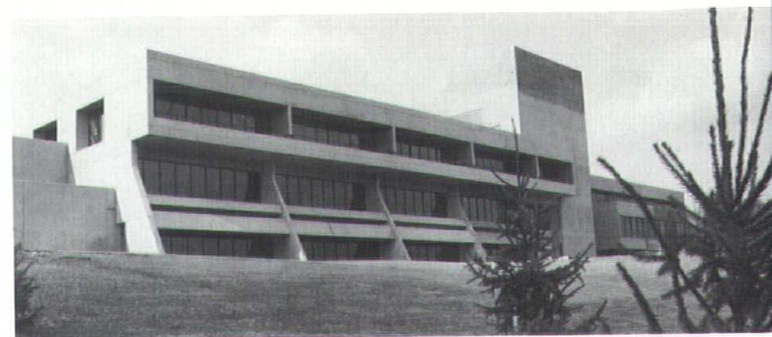
most of such a neighborhood is residential, any non-residential structure must first be reviewed at a public hearing, then at a meeting of the zoning board. This procedure requires a complete presentation by the architect of the building's exterior, including site and location plans, a list of exterior ma-

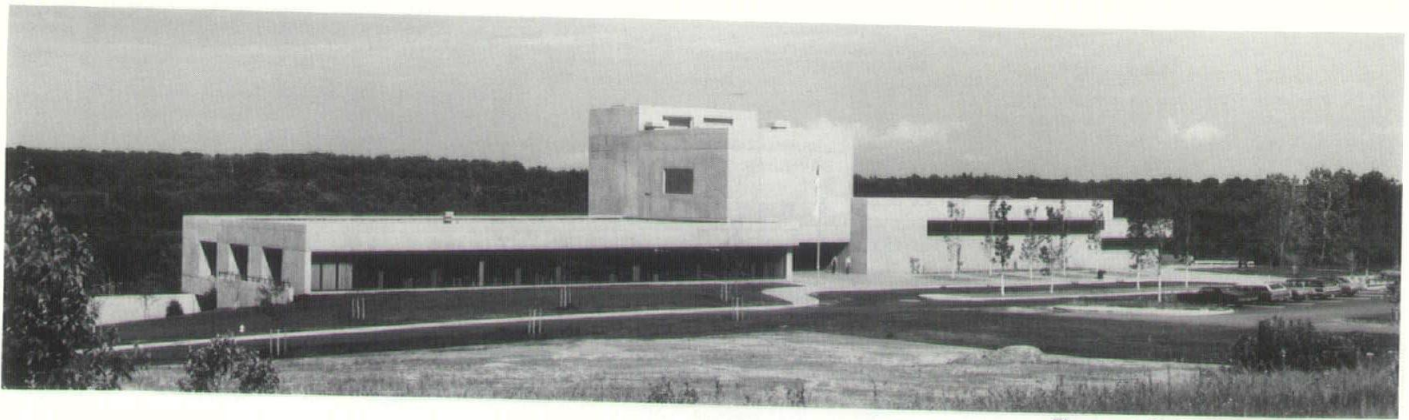
terials, elevations, and sections. Once approved, no changes are permitted in the design scheme without repeating the submission process. Therefore, the pressure was on the Maguire team to get it right the first time around, which, happily, was accomplished.

The building location, near the top of Long Ridge, has two advantages: it permits on-grade access to each of the three floor levels, while concealing the main parking lot from the road. The relationship between the hill and the building is a sensitive one. Visual and structural requirements coincide on a solution which establishes stability and permanence and resolves the uneasy tension created by the steep slope. A strong sculptural expression results through extensive use of concrete retaining walls. This transformation of structure into sculpture is best illustrated by the battered concrete fin walls which support the south wing, screen the lower levels, and frame the magnificent east view into the valley.

The dominant vertical element

Front of C-E headquarters faces the morning sun over a sweeping lawn.





The rear of the building faces west.

Main lobby is spacious and comfortable.



anchors the building to the site through its massive, windowless bulk. Exposed concrete surfaces throughout the building are expressed directly with a bush-hammered finish.

One of C-E's chief goals for the new headquarters building was to promote intra-company communication. Accordingly, the designers went to an office landscape plan to involve the support staff in this design concept. Facilitating communication also justifies the building's

visitor orientation. The central block encloses a generous lobby on each floor. In these lobbies, exposed, bush-hammered, concrete walls frankly continue the strong exterior expression. These spaces are humanized through use of brick paving, with the warm, rusty color of the brick repeated in every corridor and on the large terrace at the rear of the building.

Also located in this central core block are the vertical utility functions such as the main stairway

and the elevator. The fourth story of this element houses the heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems. The latter includes 350 tons of cooling capacity, electric coils in the air system for heating, and steam-fed humidifiers in the duct systems.

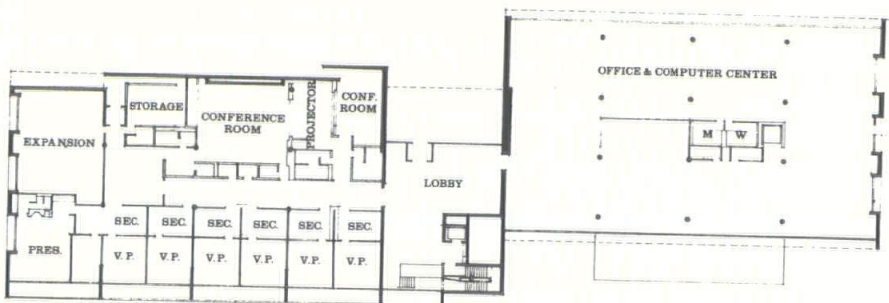
The south wing is devoted to general office space on the first two floors, with the executive offices on the third. Red carpeting was used in the office areas to maintain color continuity.

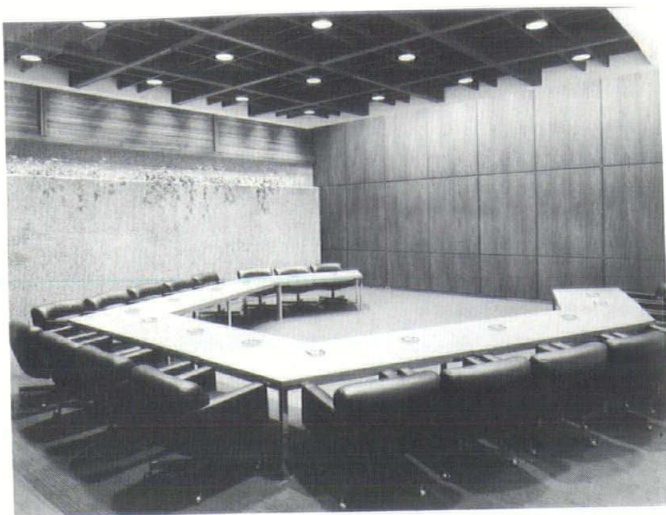
The executive area is the heart of the building, and the president's office is located in the southeast corner. Next to it are six vice-presidential offices facing toward the valley. Across the corridor from these offices are large and small conference rooms, finished in matched teak veneers and equipped with concealed, rear-projection systems.

The north wing contains support services on the first and second floors and an office area and computer center on the third. Service functions such as switchboard, general files, mailroom, reproduction, receiving bay, and storage areas also are located here. Other facilities in the building include two kitchens and dining rooms.

In both wings, floor-to-ceiling glass walls along the east face provide an expansive view of the countryside, and solar bronze glazing is used throughout. An electronic master control center provides centralized control for power, lighting, HVAC, master clock,

Third level.





public address, and emergency systems.

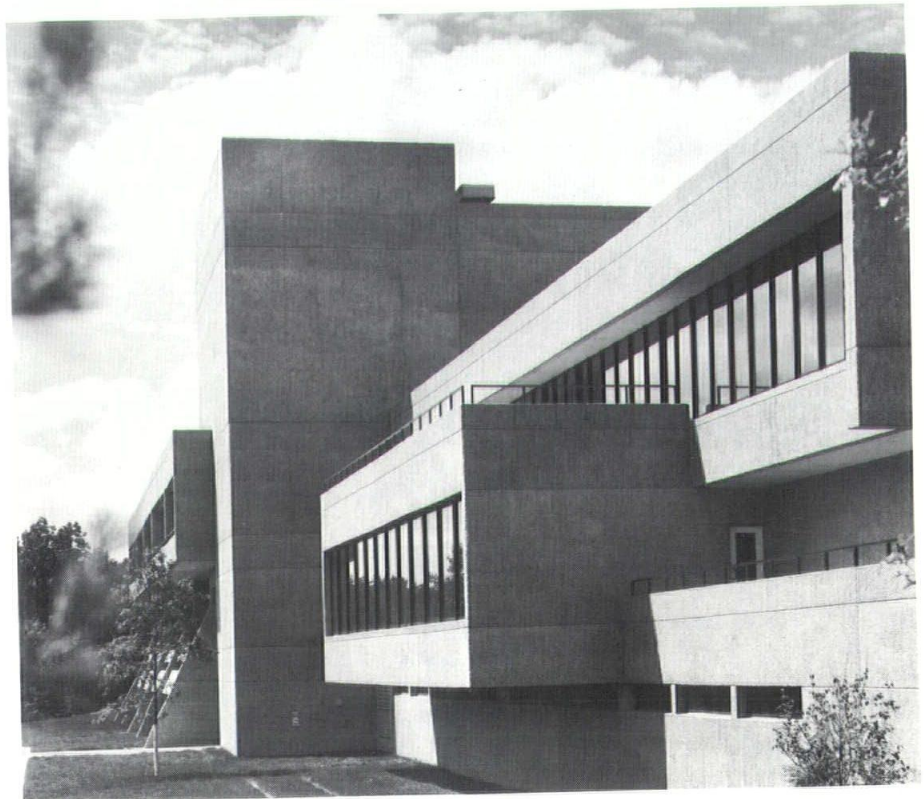
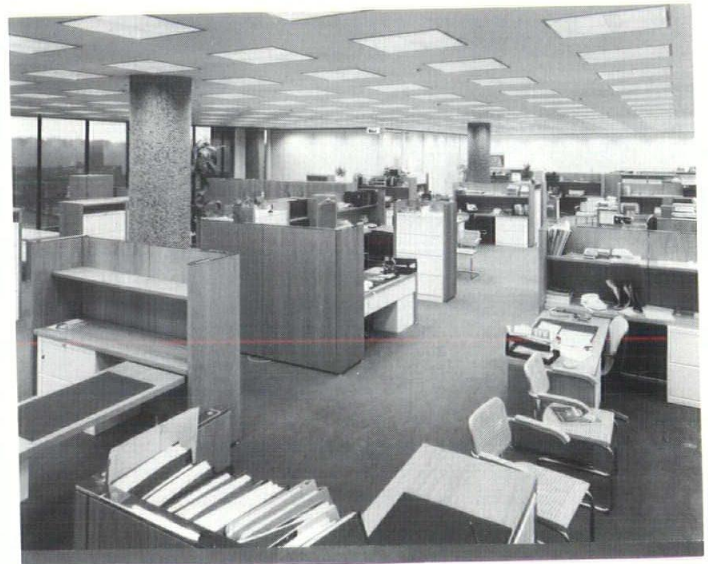
The expansive brick-surface plaza with planters features the third floor entrance to the executive offices. This spring, an extensive landscaping program is underway which will blend the building even more deeply into the site. The pond is included in the program.

The building project was carried out under a fast-track program, calling for a highly cooperative effort among client, architect, and contractor in design, engineering, budgeting, and material selection. Benjamin M. Hunter, AIA, was principal in charge for Maguire, and Jim Kelly and Jim Buckley, served as client representatives. For The E & F Construction Company, Michael Parente was project manager and James Epifano job superintendent. The Cambridge firm of Bolt/Beranek/Newman served as acoustical consultant. □

CE MAGUIRE, INC. was established in 1938 as Charles A. Maguire & Associates and acquired as a wholly-owned subsidiary by Combustion Engineering, Inc., in 1970. The multi-discipline firm has nearly 1300 projects to its credit, representing a total building cost of more than a billion dollars and maintains offices in Waltham, Massachusetts, Providence, Rhode Island and Miami, Florida, in addition to its Connecticut office in Wethersfield. Benjamin M. Hunter, AIA, is a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

ABOVE: Main conference room invites participation. ABOVE RIGHT: Visitors' dining room has commanding view.

RIGHT: Typical office area is well designed. BELOW: East elevation from north shows trim geometric structural interrelationship of building elements.



The Passing Of An Era

Robert H. Mutrux, AIA

Some forty years ago I had the opportunity to live in Paris, not for the mere fortnight's overview of the tourist, but for the full range of seasons, long enough to taste and absorb and marvel at the spatial and spiritual dimensions of that extraordinary city. This year, after an interval which included a world depression, a dozen or so world's fairs, and at least one acknowledged world war, I returned to re-live the days of my youth. I was impelled, naturally, to compare the Paris of a wide-eyed impressionable student with that of a somewhat tired but still reasonably receptive sexagenarian.

To my utter amazement and intense pleasure, I found that Paris has not changed. Despite an occasional rather self-conscious gratteciel, a high-speed thruway through the city's center, and the total absence of skirts, the Paris of today is a living, moving testament to the veracity of the well-known dictum, "Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose." I soon realized that there was no reason for surprise. After all, how could a single fleeting generation scratch a surface that has been built up over two millenia?

The cathedral and the palaces and museums have been cleaned, it is true, but, rather than the eyesore that numerous vociferous philistines had predicted, they reveal a golden vision of an age when all other human considerations were willingly set aside in favor of an eternal moment of breath-taking architectural splendor. Parenthetically, the faith that inspired them, and for that matter the full pageant of France's magnificent creations, is still embodied in the presence of those patient fishermen who line the Seine's embankments.

For days I reveled in the same



Le Pissoir.

romantic euphoria that had enveloped me in my previous visit. I found that today's experience matched perfectly my youthful reminiscences. I visited the animated kaleidoscope of outdoor markets that still liven the fashionable Boulevard du President Wilson as well as the Boulevard Raspail. I visited the Halles which, for the most part, are still there, as are impressive "forts" who manipulate whole sides of beef with a combination of abandon and conscious theatricality. I savored the continuing orchestration of form, color, sound and smell that still goes on under the authoritative baton of the gendarmes (who, today, appear incredibly young).

I watched the stimulating drama with its cast of seven million experienced actors, enacted in that superb outdoor theatre, where every metro entrance provides a permanent marquee listing the entire repertoire of comedy, tragedy, and history as well as the names of the actors who have performed there. The *mise-en-scène* is the

opposite of contemporary practice; the sets remain in place while the players and the audience move about in an endless ballet of unpredictable happenings with no script, no intermission, and neither direction, plot nor dénouement.

I cherished the memory of one *entr'acte* in particular. I was approached, on two occasions, in the most friendly fashion by eminently attractive ladies many years my junior. I was deeply touched — and no less flattered — to learn that what they were soliciting was not my autograph. Paris itself has not changed; it must be that change, like beauty, is in the eyes — and the years — of the beholder.

But as the days went by I became aware of a strange new sensation. There was nothing altered in the atmosphere itself, but there seemed to be a void in the total picture, a void difficult to pinpoint, but still quite in evidence. This was noticeable particularly in the early afternoon. All of Paris seemed to be searching for something, and the search was characterized by a change of pace, a subtle and pervasive restlessness, even a note of anxiety. The men in particular seemed unusually preoccupied, and it introduced a change in the city's personality which undermined the basic mantle of noblesse oblige and outward insouciance which is basic to the national tradition.

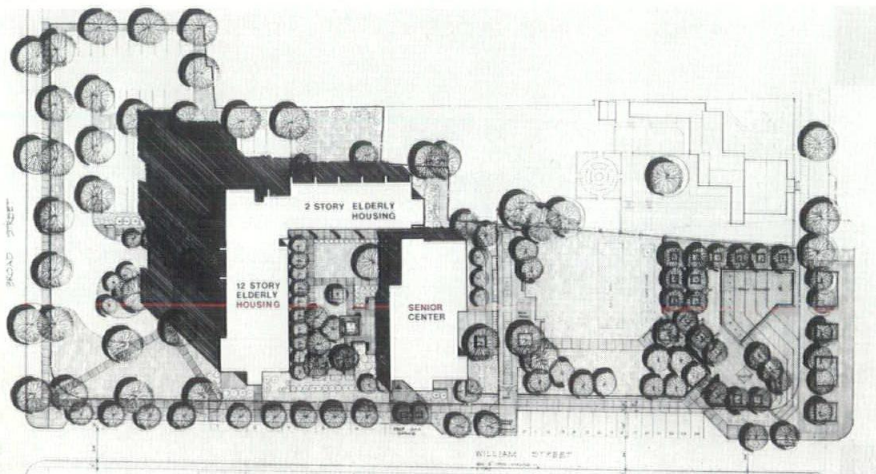
What was most odd was that this reaction was clearly reflected in myself. I, too, was caught up in the air of nervousness and uncertainty. I found myself walking a bit faster, and I noticed a tingling sensation, persistent and uncontrollable, in my extremities. It was not unlike a premonition of disaster which I was unable to explain or define,

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Gilbert Switzer & Associates

Architects

ABOVE: Sbona Tower, Middletown's new elderly housing and senior citizen's center as seen from Main Street, is result of design competition sponsored by the town. BELOW: Site plan shows relation of elements.



"Does your whole family eat meals together?" "For special events (guest, birthday, Christmas), what room or rooms are used most?" "Would your children prefer small bedrooms (almost like bunkrooms) and a separate play space . . . or would they prefer larger bedrooms and no other play space?" "Do you feel it is important for your apartment to have two entrances?"

These questions are not part of an intrusive government questionnaire with the results to be buried in someone's file system. They are part of the design process in the office of Gilbert Switzer and Associates, and they were part of a user preference study sent to all families presently living in a housing project (Chicomansett Village, Chicopee, Massachusetts) which is scheduled for redesign by the architectural office. The project will

be financed by the Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency.

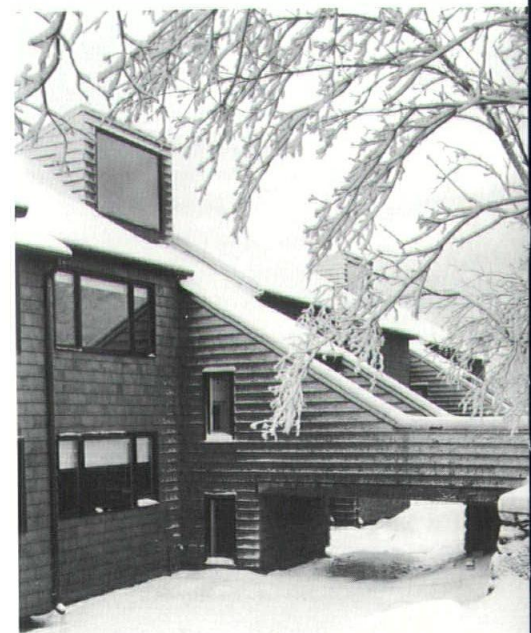
"We are fortunate in this particular instance to know exactly who will be living in the units we are designing, since the people who now live in the existing, rapidly deteriorating co-operative apartments will be the owners of the new lower, middle income and market rate co-operative," said Gilbert Switzer, senior partner of the firm. "We were able to get a fairly accurate profile of the kind of accommodations our clients really want. Usually, when we design large numbers of housing units we have no way of knowing the preferences of the future tenants. But we always try to get the best possible input from people who are affected by the projects and people with housing expertise, i.e., neighborhood residents, tenants or owners of similar units, and, if necessary,

sociologists, environmental experts and social workers. And of course we have the experience of analyzing our own previous projects."

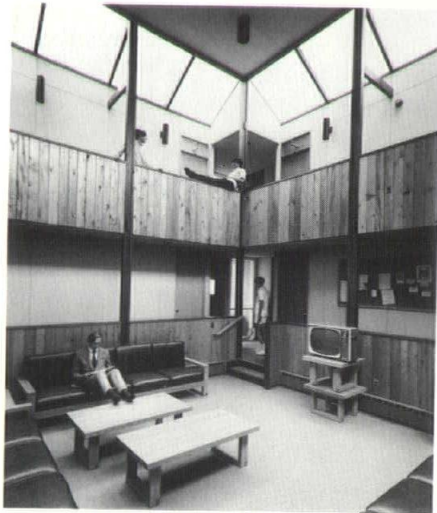
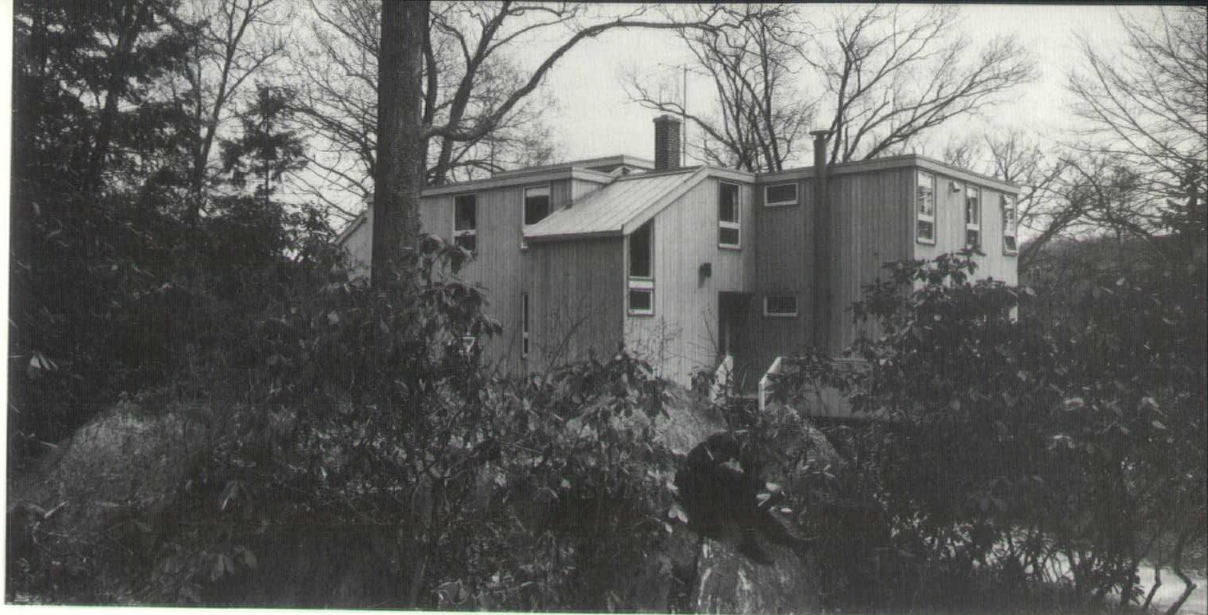
Although the firm's practice includes many building types . . . libraries, schools, office buildings, industrial buildings and even a police station and funeral home, its emphasis during the past ten years on the problems of the cities has inevitably led to a major involvement in housing.

During a twelve year period beginning in 1961 when Mr. Switzer opened his office as a one-man operation, the firm, which now includes

Dogwood Hill, low rise apartments designed for Turnkey Realty, Inc. in Hamden, received an award from Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection.



RIGHT: Prototype dormitory to house sixteen boys and one faculty family at The Gunnery, a private school in Washington. BELOW: Two-story common living room is typical of dormitories built for The Gunnery.



a partner, John Matthews, has had contracts for more than 3,000 housing units, representing a construction cost of approximately \$54 million. In addition to the two partners, there are three associates: Thomas L. Elliott, Herbert M. Short, and Jerome Stefani; plus designer Roger Manny; and Sharon Matthews, an interior and graphics designer; as well as additional draftsmen as required by the overall work load of the office.

The firm's housing projects range from privately financed luxury rental apartments, co-ops and condominium town houses to low income and elderly public housing financed by HUD. Matthew Ruopolo Manor, one of its HUD turnkey projects for elderly residents, was recently cited by the CSA-AIA for design excellence, as was John Matthews' own residence, a reno-

vated Victorian house in New Haven (*Connecticut Architect*, January-February, 1973, pages 8-9). A very high percentage of projects are actually built; few are cancelled because of cost overruns, conflicts with clients or contractors or most of the other obstacles that can prevent an architect's drawing from becoming a family's home.

"If anyone asks us why so few of our projects fall through in spite of the difficult and often frustrating government programs under which many of them are built, our answer would be 'planning,'" Mr. Switzer said. "Typically for each job, we carefully analyze the client's needs, the program under which the project will be built, possible community repercussions and

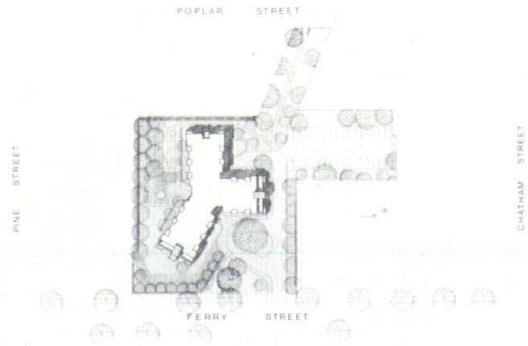
other factors that might impede or speed up completion of the project. Every man in our office has a special skill. For instance, Herb Short has a background in community organization and sociology, as well as in engineering and architecture. He was responsible for the Chicomsanett questionnaire and is analyzing the results. He is able to assess engineering problems and coordinate their solutions with structural and mechanical engineers. Jerome Stefani has a strong background in business administration as well as architecture. He does a thorough feasibility study of any project before we put the first line on a sheet of drafting paper. Tom Elliott is an expert in office organization and supervises the rest of

Jefferson Street rendering shows open space surrounded by 144 condominium units on bowl-shaped site in Poughkeepsie, New York.





LEFT: Interior view of community room at Matthew Ruoppolo Manor, 116-unit elderly housing project in New Haven, which was cited for excellence of design in 1972 CSA-AIA awards program. ABOVE: Site plan shows relationship to existing trees and houses.



our crew through the working drawing stage, co-ordinating any outside consulting work that may be needed. Both Herb and Tom also have had extensive experience in field supervision.”

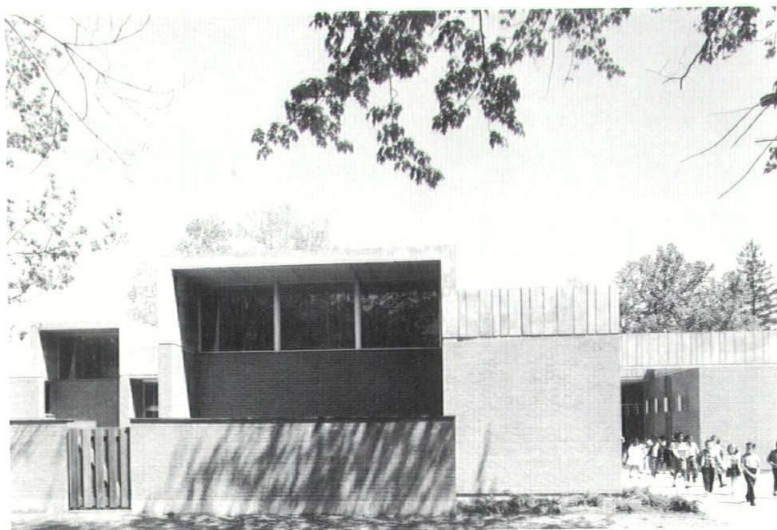
“John Matthews and I, in addition to the overall responsibility of managing the firm, are responsible for the initial design work and client contacts in the development phases of each project. While I am primarily involved in the initial conceptual design along with John, he usually takes the projects through the design development stage and monitors the follow-through as the construction documents are prepared. Roger Manny, in addition to his design talents, is an experienced model maker who builds study models of the project as we proceed with schematics.

We often go through a whole series of these study models before presenting a project to a client. We also use more finished models and various photographic techniques as part of our presentation to clients and members of the community at public hearings.”

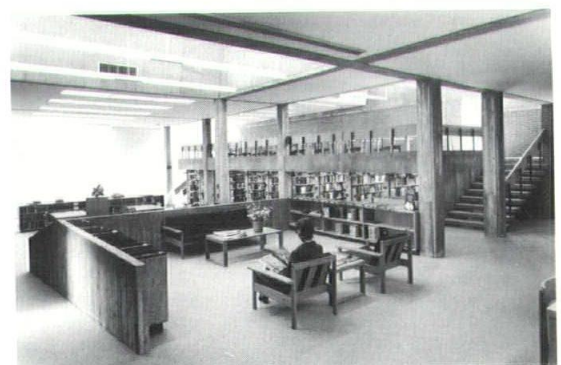
Within the past several years the office has redesigned a whole neighborhood in Springfield, Massachusetts. Pynchon Terrace, a 607 unit, high and low rise project at a construction cost of \$13,500,000. Under the sponsorship of the Interreligious Housing Corporation of Greater Springfield, Inc., this project is being constructed under several government programs and hopefully will rescue a rapidly deteriorating section of the city. Because of the variety of programs, it is expected that the area will re-

gain its former healthy population mix of residents ranging from middle income to low income, from young families to senior citizens.

The philosophy of the office has been to retain as much of the original community as possible. The Brightwood renewal area, in which Pynchon Terrace is located, had several strong assets: tree lined streets, some fine back and front yards and a view of the Connecticut River. Almost no trees have been sacrificed, houses that were useable though dilapidated were rehabilitated and in-fill housing was used to occupy empty lots and areas where the old houses had deteriorated beyond the point of salvage. The scheme also calls for the development of access for residents of Brightwood to parklands which border the river on one side of the



LEFT: 35,000 volume Mitchell Library in New Haven showing main entrance, garden gate and special light monitors. BELOW: Adult reading area inside 10,000 square foot library.

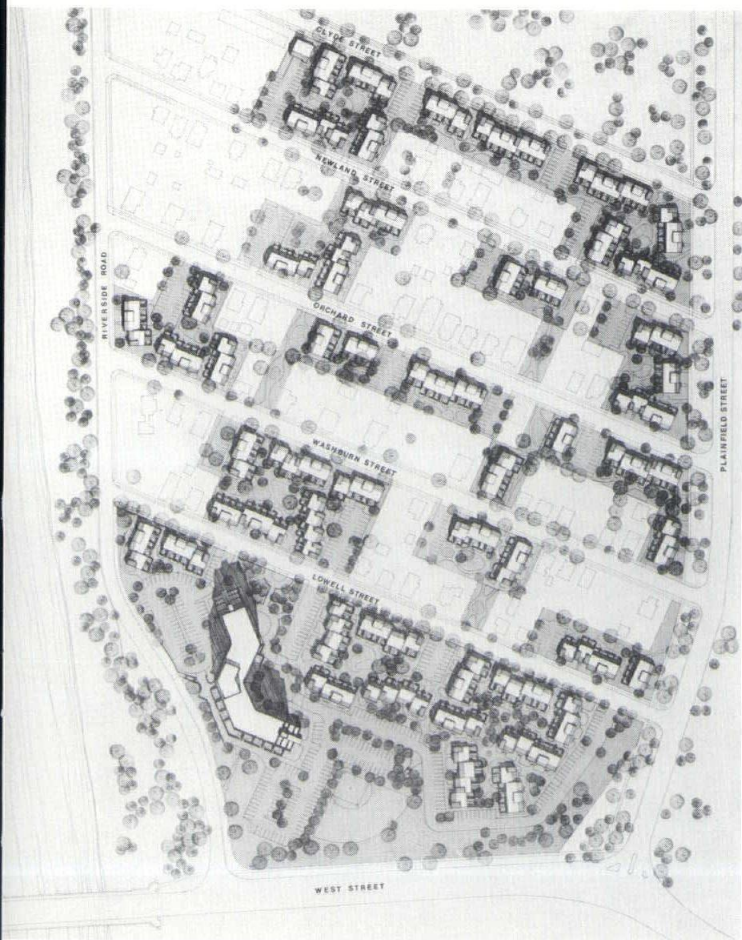


project. "We don't believe in bulldozer urban renewal," Mr. Switzer said. "We feel that what's good and constructive in a neighborhood should not just be maintained but enhanced."

Design philosophy may have been one of the reasons why Gilbert Switzer and Associates has won eight state and national design awards in the last three years, including a HUD Biennial Honor Award for eighty units of 221(d)3 project in the Dwight Urban Renewal area of New Haven. The same project also won a Connecticut Society of Architects Honor Award (*Connecticut Architect*, January-February, 1970, page 8). Three years ago, the office won a design competition to undertake one of the largest urban renewal jobs in Middletown, Connecticut, which includes a high rise tower of 129 units for elderly citizens, low rise apartments and a community senior center. This complex



Typical unit with private parking at 400-unit Woodland Hills condominium project in Branford.



LEFT: Plan view of Pynchon Terrace in Springfield, Massachusetts, showing the more than 600 units of low rise housing on scattered sites, and large building for one bedroom units. ABOVE: Low rise units relate to street fabric at Pynchon Terrace. BELOW: Rendering of 267 units of high rise housing at southwestern portion of project.



has recently received a merit award from the 1973 Homes for Better Living Awards Program. Citations for excellence of design have also been received from the Connecticut Environmental Protection Agency and the Connecticut Building Congress.

"We use the same careful re-

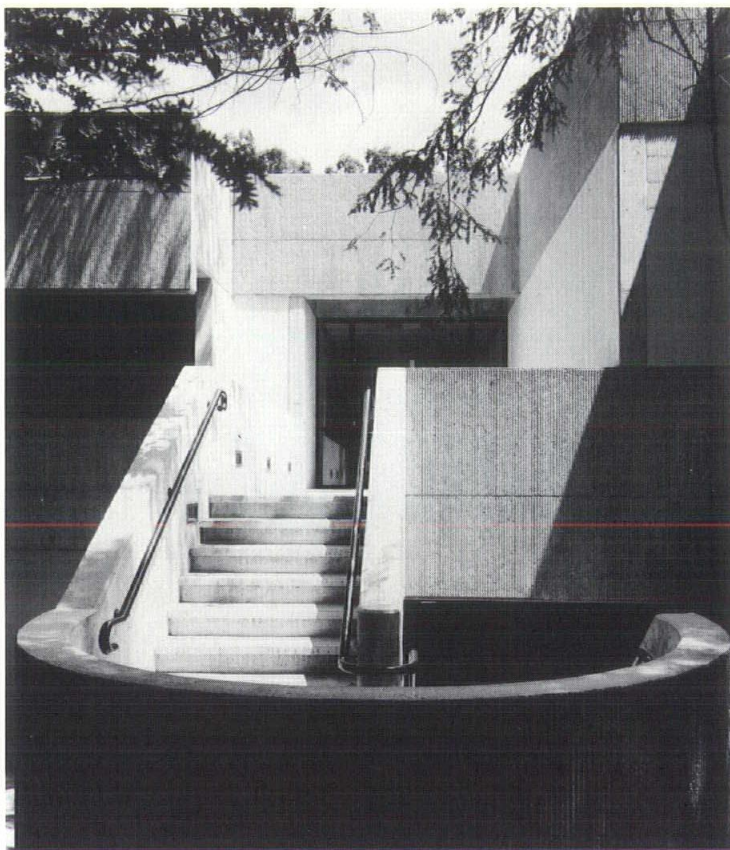
search approach on small jobs as on large ones," Mr. Switzer said. "For instance, when we designed the Donald G. Mitchell Library, the first new library building to be constructed in New Haven in over 40 years, I and members of our staff spent days in various libraries in the city watching what the li-

brarians and library users did. By the time we started our design, we knew a good deal about the particular functions of a neighborhood library. We knew some of the assets of the older buildings and most of the problems. We asked a lot of questions, and librarians as well as users were only too happy to share their difficulties with us. We avoided a lot of the mistakes that had been made earlier."

Right now the office is designing a new police station for the Town of Madison. John Matthews and Gilbert Switzer have personally talked to almost every policeman on the force. "Madison is not exactly a high crime area," Mr. Switzer said. "The police there function partly as a social agency as well as a law enforcement group. They are often asked for help with family problems, alcoholism, and destructive or truant children. That meant the building had to be accessible and open to the community. It called for an entirely different kind of design than a police station in an inner city area where the officers have to worry about possible community hostility. So far no one in the office has asked the police chief if one of us can spend a day riding around in a police cruiser or a few hours in the town jail, but we're thinking about it."

Projects now on the drawing boards are no longer confined to Connecticut and Massachusetts. Both Switzer and Matthews are certified by the NCARB, and several new jobs will be getting under way in New York State and other parts of the country soon.

"All of us feel that architecture should combine esthetics with practicality and art with community service," Gilbert Switzer said. "We really want to design buildings that will add something to the lives of the people who will use them, whether these people are tenants in a public housing project, purchasers of an expensive condominium, librarians, youngsters in a school, or policemen." □



LEFT: Sculptural stairway to entrance of science and classroom building at The Gunnery, Washington. BELOW: Concrete frame building with masonry infill for the Science Department at the Washington private school.



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OSHA Conference

A conference for architects and engineers on the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA) will be held June 25-26, at the Statler Hilton Hotel, Washington.

Co-sponsored by The American Institute of Architects, Consulting Engineers Council/USA, National Society of Professional Engineers, and the American Society of Civil Engineers, the conference is aimed to help design professionals understand OSHA better. Also, its purpose is to reconcile OSHA provi-

sions with the necessities of practice, and to influence its development where possible.

Information about the meeting is available from Steven Rosenfeld, AIA, 1735 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006. □

1972 Construction Up

Construction activity in Connecticut reached a new high of \$1.2 billion in 1972, according to the Connecticut Development Commission. This is a twenty-six percent increase over the figure for the previous year. □

Firms Merge

Drakos & Greene & Associated Architects, Inc. has been formed by the merger of two Hartford area architectural firms, Louis J. Drakos and Associates and Walter F. Greene, Jr.'s firm, Associated Architects.

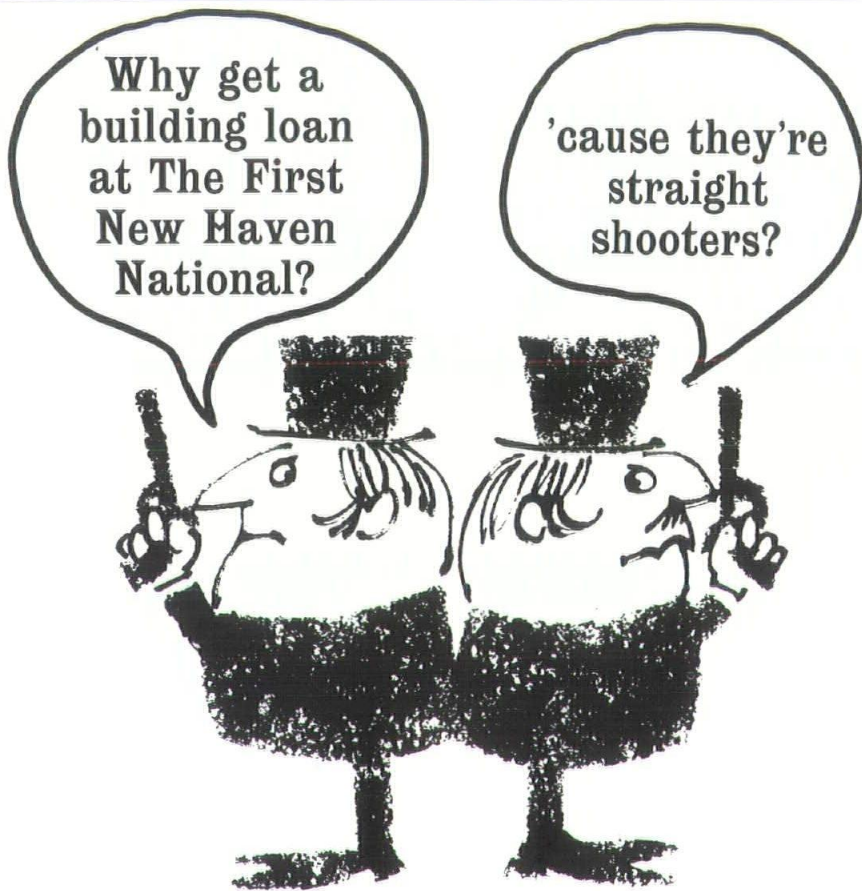
In the new association, Mr. Drakos will have primary responsibility for administration, and Mr. Greene will be responsible for client relationship and design.

Designs by the two firms have included master planning for commercial, industrial and residential projects; urban renewal studies and master planning; industrial plants and financial institutions; and commercial, religious, educational, municipal, and recreational facilities. Architects associated with the new firm are registered in nine states and with the National Council of Architectural Registration Board, according to the announcement.

Drakos & Greene & Associated Architects, Inc. will maintain offices at 9 Lewis Street, Hartford, and at Spring Lane, Farmington. □

Cost Rise

The cost of construction materials and labor nationally increased an average of 9.3 percent for the year ended March 31, compared with 7.4 percent a year earlier, according to McGraw-Hill's F. W. Dodge Division. Accounting for the twelve-month climb was an average of 9.8 percent rise in building materials cost, plus a lesser rise of 7.3 percent in wage rates. A year earlier construction wages increased 9.2 percent. □



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Gores Made Fellow

Landis Gores has been elected to the College of Fellows of The American Institute of Architects, a lifetime honor bestowed for outstanding contribution to the profession.

Mr. Gores started his architectural career in 1945 with Philip C. Johnson in New York and in 1952 began his own practice in New Canaan. He has been a member of the Connecticut Society of Architects since his arrival in the state and has served as co-chairman of its Activities Committee, 1958-1963; co-chairman of "The Next Twenty-Five Years" task force in 1967; and chairman of the Visual Education and Environmental Awareness Committee in 1969.

He received an award of merit at Boston Festival of Arts (1956), honor award at New Haven Arts Festival (1959), and award of merit at first honor exhibition, Connecticut Chapter AIA (1964). His projects have been published in *Architectural Forum*, *Architectural Record*, *House and Home*, *House*



Landis Gores, FAIA

and Garden, *House Beautiful*, *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, *This Week Magazine*, *Holiday*, *U.S.A. No. 1/Show Magazine*, and *Connecticut Architect*. Also, he is the author of a number of articles and essays.

A director of Citizens' Continuing Conservation Committee since 1968, Mr. Gores was a member of Resources Unlimited and served as president of its New Canaan Chap-

ter and president of the national organization.

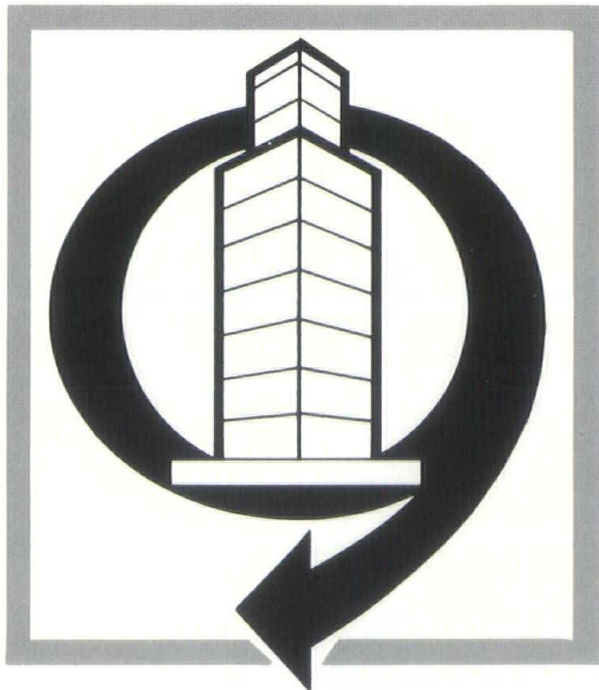
Mr. Gores is a summa cum laude graduate of Princeton University, where he earned membership in Phi Beta Kappa his junior year, and a graduate in architecture of Harvard Graduate School of Design where he earned the AIA school medal. He taught at Pratt Institute in 1947-48 and 1952-53.

Asked about his practice, Mr. Landis said that his "best executed and probably best regarded architectural efforts have been in medium-to-upper bracket private residences, and more recently multi-family housing."

He has also produced educational, commercial office and institutional buildings in his practice which "has consistently been small-town, both in the location of my office and the location of my executed work."

Of sixty-four members awarded the Fellowship honor by AIA this year, Mr. Gores is the only Connecticut architect given this highest professional honor. □

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Workshop

A loss prevention workshop conducted by V. O. Schinnerer's Office for Professional Liability Research will be held on June 12, at 7 p.m., at New Haven Motor Inn. Sponsored by the Connecticut Society of Architects, the workshop will be concerned with reduction and prevention of liability losses.

Reservations to CSA Office must be made by June 8.

AISC Awards

The 1973 "architectural awards of excellence" competition sponsored by the American Institute of Steel Construction has been announced. Closing date for entries is August 23, for buildings framed with domestically produced and fabricated steel and completed between January 1, 1972 and the closing date. Details are available from AISC, 101 Park Avenue, New York 10017.

Engineer Advanced

John F. Barnaby, P.E., has been named senior associate in charge of the West Hartford office of Dubin-Mindell-Blome Associates, P.C., consulting engineers.

He will replace Harold L. Mindell who has been partner in charge for the past ten years. Mr. Mindell will represent his firm in Israel for a year to oversee construction projects at the University of Tel Aviv.

Mr. Barnaby joined the firm four years ago following a thirteen year period of managing his own Massachusetts firm.

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Job Service

The Connecticut Society of Architects conducts a job clearing house as a service to its members. This includes experienced professional practitioners, those starting their architectural careers, and architectural school students seeking temporary summer employment.

According to Executive Director Peter H. Borgemeister, CSA has a number of resumes from architectural students who desire career-related work this summer. Full information may be obtained from either Mr. Borgemeister or Executive Secretary Peggy Hall at CSA headquarters, 152 Temple Street, New Haven 06510.



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60th Reunion

J. Gerald Phelan, FAIA, who is president of the Class of 1913 at Pratt Institute Architectural School, attended his 60th reunion on May 17 at Pratt Manhattan Center in New York. Mr. Phelan's fiftieth anniversary with Fletcher-Thompson, Inc. was featured in the May-June 1966 issue of *Connecticut Architect*.



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Passing Era

Continued from page 11

and equally powerless to ignore. The city's effect on me was strangely colored; it left my mind in the late evening, but only to return the following afternoon.

Then one day we embarked with some friends on an excursion into the provinces. As I was admittedly unaccustomed to the Gallic way with motor cars, I accepted the job of navigator and I found myself showered with those superb Michelin maps. As I was anticipating our course, I came upon the unusual name "Issoire." My mind, alerted by je sais très bien quel natural impulse, unconsciously supplied the explosive initial consonant "P", and voilà, like a flash of lightning, the mystery was solved. They were gone! Those islands of instant comfort, those promises of inner poise that formerly beckoned from every third street corner have been completely removed from the Paris scene. Gone forever is that forthright response to man's primitive needs; gone is that welcome haven for spontaneous youth, for the undisciplined middle-aged oenophile, that oasis in reverse for the aging and incontinent boulevardier.

Paris has not changed, indeed, but it has entered a new phase. The weather is as unpredictable as ever, and the scent of the boulangerie still hangs pleasantly on the air. But the city that once achieved the near-perfect balance between the godlike virtues and the human frailties has traded that distinctive emblem of inner security for le drug store, le parking, le

pressing, and le supermarchè. And in a world fraught more than ever with tensions at all levels, the exchange has been a tragic error in judgment. The city, its inhabitants, and its visitors have been made victims of a distorted sense of social values and a complete ignorance of the fundamental human aspects of urban planning.

Those historic symbols of personal ease are gone, never to be replaced. A few are still to be found to appease the sentimental archeologist. There is one at the confluence of St. Germain and Sèvres, another at the western extremity of Latour-Maubourg, and it is rumored that one has been mercifully retained, for the driver's use, at the end of each bus line. But for the most part, where once I could stand, and frequently did, on an equal albeit somewhat humid footing with Balzac, Rodin, Courbet, and even César Franck and Pierre Curie, to share a moment's intimacy with no introduction and no pretensions, there remains but a blank, anonymous section of sidewalk framed between two tidily-pruned plane trees.

Soon Les Halles, too, will be gone, and after that the Marché aux Puces, and we may yet live to see the Champs de Mars given over to a massive low-income housing project.

But if Paris' most universally appreciated contribution to man's daily confrontation with nature must go, I only hope that at least one of them, complete with its montage of ads inside and out, will be properly enshrined by some perceptive curator in some well-attended museum.

This most recent of endangered species, along with the fast-disappearing art-nouveau entrances to the subway, deserves a permanent place of dignity and respect among France's — and the world's — monuments historiques.

New Firm

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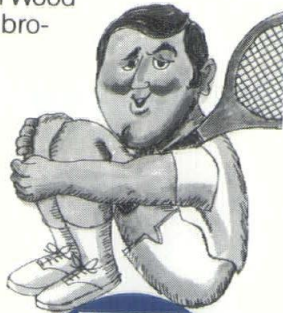
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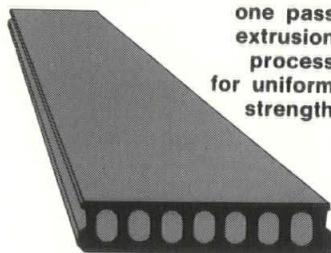
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F-T Appointments

Ralph T. Rowland, AIA, has been elected a vice president and director of Fletcher-Thompson, Inc., and Roy J. Mascolino, R.A., has joined the Bridgeport architectural and engineering firm as chief draftsman.

Mr. Rowland, who started with Fletcher-Thompson in 1964, will head the firm's newly formed project management division. He will coordinate the activities of F-T's project managers in a program aimed to improve client services, according to the announcement by John G. Phelan, president of Fletcher-Thompson.

Mr. Rowland studied engineering at Manhattan College and architecture at Columbia University. Before joining F-T he headed his own architectural firm for seven years. A past secretary, vice president, and president of the Connecticut Society of Architects, he has served as chairman of *Connecticut Architect's* editorial board since 1966. He is a member of the



R. J. Mascolino



R. T. Rowland

Bridgeport Association of Architects and its executive board, the American Association of Hospital Planning, and the American Society of Planning Officials. In 1966 he was cited by the American Institute of Architects for "contribution to the profession of architecture."

He is a member of the Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Planning Agency and served as its chairman in 1969, is a member and past president of the Hamden Chamber of Commerce, and also has served as chairman of both the Cheshire Planning Commission and the Cheshire Community Action Plan.

Mr. Mascolino, prior to joining Fletcher-Thompson, was associated with the architectural firm of Edward Durell Stone & Associates in New York where he headed its production and construction departments. In his new assignment he will manage the firm's technical staff with responsibility for scheduling, coordinating and expediting the preparation of construction documents for projects throughout the country.

He is a registered architect in New York State and a contributing editor to a new dictionary of architecture and construction soon to be published by McGraw-Hill. He served as resident architect during the construction of the National Geographic Society Building in Washington and was project manager for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts there. He also was project manager for the University of Massachusetts Library in Amherst and the Buffalo Evening News Building in New York State. □

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Development

Continued from page 6

saved than an area where sand and gravel compose the dominant soil type. Beaches or scenic cliffs are included in this category as unique irreplaceable resources. In some areas of Connecticut and other states, a unique wildlife condition is found which might be destroyed if disturbed.

Once a site is selected for development, there are provisions which can be implemented to protect more fully the environment. The installation of an adequate sewage treatment system, if not municipally provided, is essential and required by law. Trees and other flora are necessary not only for visual considerations, but also for protection of ground water runoffs which might cause siltation of streams and brooks..

In completion of the development site, the environmental protection can best be served by a well-landscaped natural area. The more natural planted areas, the less water runoff will occur. Trees also provide for a lower surface temperature, resulting in a cooler building. Where industries or large apartment complexes are concerned, man-made lakes have been created to retain storm drainage water on the premises.

Building design should consider environmental factors such as adequate provision for natural light and ventilation to decrease energy needs for lighting and air conditioning. The choice of heating for a building should be evaluated carefully in terms of environmental concerns as well as efficiency and cost.

The overall evaluation and development of any construction project should utilize professional talent to maximize sound environmental planning. Retention of a qualified landscape architect to provide adequately for the site can lessen costs and provide for a sound environmental and financial investment.

Obviously, there are development situations where some en-

vironmental damage will occur. Decisions which minimize or eliminate this will accrue benefits to Connecticut and all of its citizens.

The State of Connecticut is now in the process of setting its standards for protection of the natural resources in construction activity. Through an executive order issued by Governor Thomas J. Meskill several months ago, the state will develop guidelines for projects which have a significant effect on the environment. This action will set an example for local communities and others to follow. It will certainly place Connecticut in a leadership position among the states in this important area of preventing environmental damage. □

CARROLL J. HUGHES is assistant commissioner, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and responsible for DEP information and education. Appointed to this post in 1971, he served previously on the Governor's Commission on Services and Expenditures and worked for Greater Hartford Corporation as an urban affairs specialist and manager of communications. A graduate of University of Bridgeport with B.A. and M.A. degrees in political science, he also has served as an assistant to mayors in Hartford and Milford.

Sidewalk Show

The Sidewalk Art Group Exhibition on the lawns of the New Britain Museum of American Art, June 9-10 will show paintings by New England artists. □

Awards Competition

Outstanding architectural uses of concrete made with white cement will be recognized by Portland Cement Association in its 1973 competition.

Winners will be selected in each of PCA's eight regions by a panel of architects and engineers. Entries will be judged on the basis of total design concept, esthetics, and the structural and non-structural use of white cement.

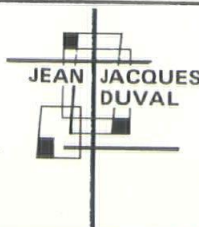
Entries, for buildings completed and occupied during 1972, must be submitted by July 31. Details are available from James A. Frohlich, PCA, Old Orchard Road, Skokie, Illinois 60076. □

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Housing Honors

Two Connecticut architects were honored with awards in the annual Homes for Better Living program sponsored jointly by the American Institute of Architects, *House and Home* (McGraw-Hill), and *American Home* (Downe Publishing).

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Willis N. Mills, Jr., AIA, Wilton, received an award of merit for a year-round custom house in Wilton, and Gilbert Switzer and Associates, New Haven, received an award of merit for an apartment building in Middletown (see page 12).

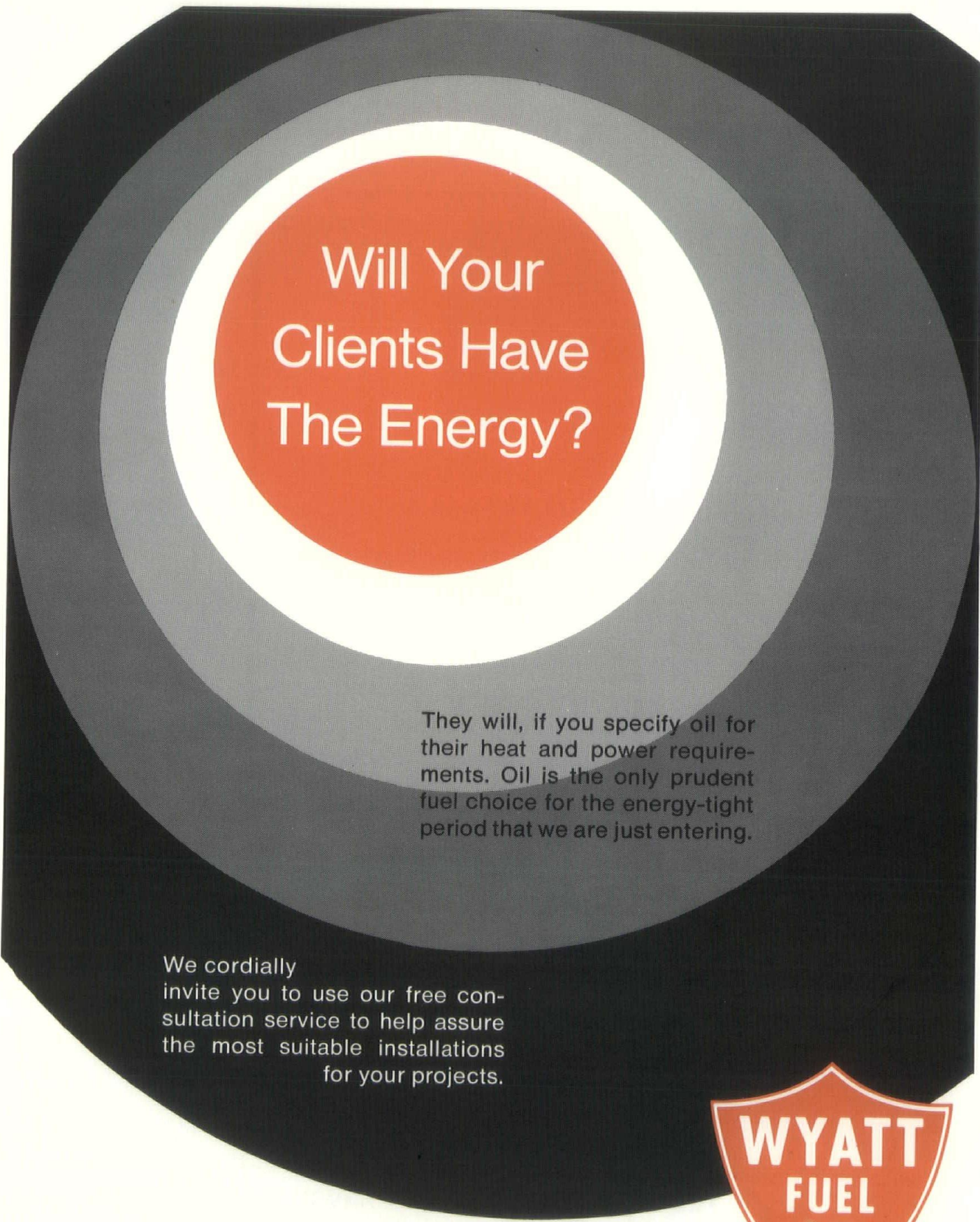
Associate Named

E. Stuart Baxter has been named an associate in the firm of Carlin, Pozzi & Associates, Architects, New Haven.

Mr. Baxter joined the firm in 1960. He is a graduate of Yale School of Art and Architecture and also attended Reed College and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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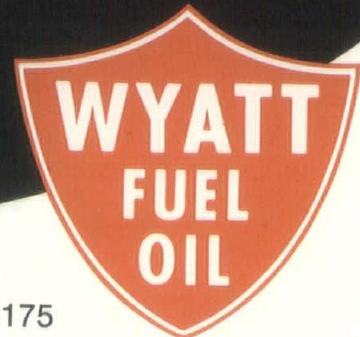
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