Skylines







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SKYLINES is published monthly by the Kansas City Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and mailed without charge. Editor, Frank Grimaldi, 402 Congress Building, Kansas City 2, Missouri.

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Skylines

Volume 3 Number 2 February, 1953

FEBRUARY CHAPTER MEETING AT THE WISHBONE RESTAURANT 4455 main street tuesday evening february 17

5:30 business session 6:15 cocktails

6:45 dinner

7:30 program - - - - - Edward W. Tanner

AN ARCHITECT'S TOUR OF POSTWAR EUROPE

Mr. Tanner will tell us of his extensive travels thru Italy, France, England and Scotland, and will show color slides to illustrate his talk.

phone reservations to the office of the program chairman Louis Geis LOgan 7566

Don't miss this month's important business session which will feature the Medal Awards Competition program and other vital chapter busi-

Mark Your Calendar

FEBRUARY

12 - KC Chapter AGC Annual Meeting Muehlebach Hotel

17 - Chapter Meeting
 4455 Main Street

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 8 15 22	9 16 23	310.77	11 18 25	12 19 26	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28

MARCH Entries for Medal Awards due during 1st week of March. Check you program.

17 - Chapter Meeting
 4455 Main Street

MARCH							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
22	160	3 10 17 24 31	.11	5 12 19 26	13	14	

APRIL
21 - Chapter Meeting
Medal Awards Presentation.

APRIL							
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26	27	28	29	30			

Watch for the special mailing of the Medal Awards competition program. The committee promises to secure a good jury and will conduct a fair and honorable competition.

LAST MONTH

The Executive Committee selected members to serve on various chapter and standing committees. These committees are listed on pages 19 and 20 of this issue.

Minutes of the January chapter meeting on page 6.

KANSAS CITY CHAPTER

Associated General Contractors of America

INVITE THE ARCHITECTS
TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR

Annual Meeting

FEBRUARY 12

SEMINARS

beginning at 2:00 PM

Tea Room, Hotel Muehlebach

INSURANCE
Edwin Elliott, Chairman
Fred Brundt
C. Wells Haren
Angus McCallum, AIA
O. W. Anschutz, ASCE

SEPARATE CONTRACTS
Edwin Elliott, Chairman
Norvel E. Smith
O. D. Lantz
S. J. Callahan, ASCE
Mark Sharp, AIA

All members of the AIA and ASCE are invited to attend these seminars and participate in the discussion.

in the evening

beginning with cocktails at 6:00

Grand Ballroom of the Muehlebach

THE ANNUAL DINNER

Guest of Honor - Arthur S. Horner Denver, Colorado President, AGC

Installation of AGC officers for year 1953

followed by entertainment galore.

in the news

"A TERRIFIC INTEREST" in the "pocket size" fee schedule has been reported by Chapter Secretary Myers. He says requests for the cards have been coming in from all parts of the U.S., including some prominent men. The recommended schedule, printed in calling card size, was included with the December mailing of SKYLINES and received mention in the Octagon's newsletter Memo.

EXCELLENT PUBLICITY for the "House for You" series was afforded by station WDAF-TV January 29th on the 10:45 PM Community Forum program. Ralph Myers represented the chapter and explained the House lecture course which began on February 4th. Representing the co-sponsors on the program were Edward S. Avison of the K. U. Extension and Bruce Breland of the Art Institute. Advance enrollment listed as we go to press indicates that the series this year will probably exceed the good turnouts of the two previous years of this venture.

OMITTED FROM THE LIST of newly registered architects in the state of Missouri printed in the January SKYLINES was James E. Fennel, junior associate member of Columbia, Missouri

BOX SCORE of Producers' Council Chapters recorded in the national publication "Council News" shows the Kansas City Chapter ranked second only to New York in number of guests attending meetings. K.C. tops N.Y., however, in number of meetings II to 3 and in members attendance 242 to 138.

LIEUT. DAVID G. SCHUMACHER, son of Ramon Schumacher, recently won a second award of the Air Medal for outstanding service in Korea. He was associated with his father during the time the office of Hardy and Schumacher did the Wm. Wiedenmann house in Leawood which won an Honorable Mention Award in Chapter competition last year. He received his first bravery award in December for flights over enemy lines in a light, unarmed plane while directing artillery and spotting enemy positions.

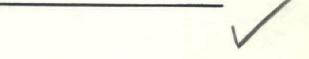
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NEW MEMBERS accepted for junior associateship last month were: Elden Keith Edwards - Burns & McDonnell

SERVING ON ARCHITECTS ADVISORY PANEL dealing with problems of synagogue design and construction is Clarence Kivett of our chapter. This national committee was initiated by New York Architect Harry M. Prince to furnish professional advice to congregations. He is former president of the New York Chapter AIA. Mr. Kivett has been on the panel since 1948.

TRAVELING IN SOUTHERN EUROPE and the Mediterranian area at present is David Mackie, partner of President Roark. Dave will be gone about three months and will visit Spain, France, Italy, Egypt, Turkey and Greece.

PONDEROSA PINE WOODWORK have announced a panel door design competition which offers a first prize award of \$2,500. Professional Advisor is John Kewell, AIA, 2907 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles 6, California, to whom requests for program (which is a beauty) should be sent.



GEORGE B. FRANKLIN, 1883-1953

Mr. Franklin came to Kansas City from Atlantic, Iowa, shortly before World War I and worked for the firm of Wight and Wight until the early '20s. For several years he practiced in partnership with Frank L. Lang. In the late '20s the partnership was dissolved and he devoted his practice to Forum Cafeteria work, completing units in St. Louis, Chicago, Cleveland, Houston, Minneapolis, Los Angeles and Kansas City. About 1935 he entered private practice and did commercial, industrial and ecclesiastical work. Mr. Franklin had four brothers, three of whom were architects. His son, George W. Franklin, a junior associate member of the KC Chapter, is with Neville, Sharp and Simon, Mr. Franklin became a corporate member of the A. I. A. in 1945. An illness of three months preceded his death on January 27.

MEETING OF THE KANSAS CITY CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS HELD AT THE WISHBONE, JANUARY 20, 1953.

President Roark opened the meeting at 5:30 P.M. Minutes of the December meeting were read and approved.

John Murphy announced the Small House Lecture Series which is being sponsored by our Chapter in conjunction with the University of Kansas Extension Division, to be held on Thursday evenings at the Art Institute, February 4 thru March II.

Two new Junior Associate Members were introduced - Ward Haylett, Jr. and Elden Edwards.

Bill Bovard made an announcement with regard to progress of the Missouri Association of Architects and stated that 45% of all the architects now registered in Missouri are members of the association. A program by the Missouri Association will be held the first week in May.

President Roark told of the Chapter's plans to sponsor a member for the Planning Commission and Zoning Board vacancies, which might possibly occur in the next few months.

The chairmen and their committee members for 1953 were announced by President Roark and he urged that all members of the organization cooperate to the fullest extent in order to make our activities for 1953 even more successful than 1952.

President Roark announced that Mark Sharp had been appointed to investigate the national insurance program for architects.

The Altman-Singleton Insurance Company presented a brief outline of their services with regard to group plan health and accident policy available to members of our Chapter.

The Secretary announced a dinner to be held by the L.E.S. on January 26th, to which all members of our Chapter were invited.

The Polio Drive was called to the attention of all members and they were urged to contribute as generously as possible and mail their checks to the Chapter Secretary, so that the contributions for the chapter members could be forwarded as a unit. (\$202 reported as of February 3.)

An announcement was made with regard to the Medal Awards Competition for 1953 and all members were urged to prepare their entries.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 P.M.

Forty-five members were in attendance.

PROGRAM

Mr. Homer Clements, Superintendent of the Jackson County School Board gave a humorous and stimulating talk on "Schools and Americans In The Making".

WHY HIRE AN ARCHITECT?

A lot of people say you waste your money. How much truth is there in such talk?

Some good answers to these questions are provided in a recent issue of CHANG-ING TIMES, the Kiplinger magazine. The article, reproduced here by permission, approaches the problem from the viewpoint of building a house, the much neglected territory of the profession, but the basic ideas of "why hire an architect" as outlined herein apply to all areas of practice and deserve much consideration from the public and the practitioner.

SOME crises — marriage, lawsuits or fatherhood — you react to almost automatically. Just ring up a clergyman, a lawyer or an obstetrician and let the particular specialist handle the matter.

But building a house is different. Sure, there are specialists handy. The nation's architects are trained and ordained to preside over the creation of houses. And your first impulse may be to hire one.

Yet you hesitate. You know that many people build homes without an architect's help. So why not you? You ask friends for advice and get comments like this:

"Architect? What are you, crazy? They'll stick you a couple thousand bucks and give you a house full of their pet ideas and none of yours. All you get is fancy blueprints."

Or you get this advice:

"Look, friend, what do most home builders do, the boys who make real money at the game? Most of them wouldn't let an architect through the gate. Why, no architect touches half of the houses built today. Just get a good builder and leave it to him. He'll have a draftsman to take care of the details."

Or perhaps you are told this:

"Forget architects. You can get ready-made plans for most any kind of house for as little as \$5. Get wise. Don't blow your money on an architect. Buy a stock plan and put the difference into the house."

There's truth in all that curbstone advice but not the whole truth by a long shot. And it's mixed with notions about architects that are

dead wrong.

For instance, take that bit about how architects give you nothing but their own ideas. That happens, but not often. No good architect forces his own ideas on a client without sound reasons based on his client's needs. And he does far more to earn his fee than turn out blueprints, as we'll see in a moment.

Likewise, there is some truth—about 50%—
in that point about how professional home
builders get along without architects. Some do.
And some of their houses aren't much to look
at or live in. But the best home builders employ

good architects.

It's true, too, that you can get ready-made plans for far less than you would pay an architect for made-to-order plans. And some mail-order plans are very good, the work of truly competent architects.

If that's so, you may ask, what's wrong with using a stock plan? Wouldn't it be smart?

Architects themselves will tell you there is nothing wrong with using a stock plan-IF. But what a list of ifs! Here they are:

A stock plan may be a good buy-

► If you can tell a good one from a mediocrity, good specifications from poor.

► If you select one that really fits your family's

individual needs.

▶ If the house can be built economically on your lot without substantial changes.

If the house can be built for what you have

to spend.

► If the house conforms to local building codes and zoning regulations.

▶ If it permits you to use the best and cheapest materials and equipment now available.

► If you can get a big enough mortgage loan without paying premium rates.

► If the house will stay up-to-date long enough to protect the value of your investment.

If you can get builders to bid on the job yourself.

► If you can select a responsible, competent builder from among those who bid.

► If you are willing to take on the responsibility of entering into a building contract and seeing

it through on your own hook.

Those ifs make you gulp? They should, for there is many a booby trap in building a house from stock plans. Every blunder can be costly. If you shy from these risks, better think about hiring an architect to steer you.

How to pick an architect

PICKING an architect is like selecting any professional man. Start by finding out which architects in your town specialize in houses. You can do that by spotting outstanding houses and asking who designed them. Ask the owners how they liked working with their architects. If an owner isn't living in a house, ask the occupants whether they find it efficient, comfortable, convenient.

Talk to the contractors who built the houses, too. They'll know whether the architects were down-to-earth, reasonable, realistic practitioners

of the profession.

Then visit the architects who interest you. Ask what services they offer. Ask about their qualifications and experience. Find out if they can take on new work, when they could start, about how long it would take to finish plans

and specifications.

Don't be skittish about fees, either. Ask about them early, because there are no set charges for architectural work. Local chapters of the American Institute of Architects, the profession's national society, have recommended fee schedules, but each architect sets his own. Most often they are a percentage of the cost of the house to be built. Fees may range from 8% to 15%, depending on the architect, locality and job.

Since you'll spend many hours with your architect, look for one you can get along with. But don't expect him to whip out preliminary drawings for nothing. Such drawings are apt to be just pretty pictures to lure you into signing up, anyhow. And most architects won't provide any drawings until they have been retained for the project.

Once you find the right architect, the work begins. You present your ideas, explain just what you want, how much you can spend. If you need to, you can bind him by contract to plan a house that can be built for a certain amount.



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Then, courts have held, you won't owe a penny if it turns out that the house can't be built for that sum.

He will analyze and comment on your ideas, point out problems, and show how you can get what you want for less, or get more for just as much. Together you work out the general idea of the house, step by step. When the conception is agreed upon, he will set to work on proliminary sketches, outlining specifications and making a rough estimate of the cost.

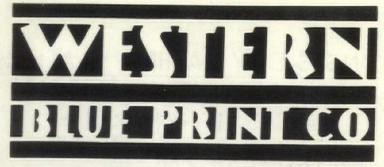
Next come working drawings, showing all dimensions and details. Complete specifications are made out, too. These will go to builders, with an invitation to bid on the job.

There's a lot of paper work at this point. You need forms for bids, performance bonds, contracts, and such documents. Most of them have legal force. Your architect can't give legal advice—he's no lawyer—but he does have standard forms available that may save you a lawyer's fee.

When the bids come in from builders, he'll analyze them and recommend the builder who should get the contract. Since an architect knows the work and reputations of local builders, he'll know which can be counted on to do a good job. He may recommend awarding the work to a man who wasn't the lowest bidder to protect you against a shoddy building job.

The architect's work is not done when the building begins. He may continue to make large-scale drawings for the builder's guidance. Often he'll be right out on the building site, supervising construction, inspecting materials, giving on-the-spot directions, watching out for defects or deficiencies.

He also acts as a sort of paymaster. As various construction stages are completed, the builder submits requests for partial payments according to a schedule set up in his contract. Your architect goes over these requests, certifies that the work has been performed satisfactorily as provided in the contract, and authorizes payments. If extras crop up, he will check the estimates for them.



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And on that happy day when the builder announces that the house is done, your architect will make a final inspection, note any last-minute details to be taken care of, and certify to the

satisfactory completion of the work.

All of this takes months, of course. As the months pass, you will be impressed by the variety of things your architect does for you. He's counselor, artist, consultant, planner, business manager, coordinator and expediter all rolled into one.

Why you come out ahead

AND when everything is added up, what do you gain by hiring an architect? You can

figure you're ahead on two counts.

First, the architect helps you make the most of the house you build. Individual planning, for your family alone, gives you a house designed from top to bottom for your own interests, activities and needs. Because he has upkeep costs in mind, you get a house that will be cheap and easy to maintain. The architect's designing skill helps arrange the house so that the space, which is expensive, is not wasted and often does double duty. Careful advance planning spares you the cost and trouble of expensive afterthoughts.

The second big gain is that you get the most for your building dollar. Your architect's plans help you get a good loan. His plans and specifications make it possible to take competitive bids. By adapting the house to the lot, you save on excavating and foundations. Because he is familiar with the vast array of materials and equipment on the market, you get the best you can afford. And because architect-designed houses ordinarily have a better resale value than scrapbook houses, you feel good about the security

of your investment.

There you have a picture of what a good architect can do for you when you retain him for his full service. But does it follow that an architect is always a must when you are in the market for a house?

Well, suppose you were buying a suit of clothes. You could have a tailor make you a fine custom outfit, carefully fashioned for you alone with every detail to your liking. Custom tailoring, however, has its price. Your budget might dictate a ready-to-wear suit instead. By careful shopping, you could get a durable, presentable suit for less money.

It's almost the same with houses-except that you do invest a lot more in a house than you do in a suit. An individually designed and built house has many advantages. But the economies of multiple production are not among them. If you can't pay the price of custom planning and building, look for a good architect-designed

builder's house instead.

But let your decision turn on whether or not you can afford to build for yourself, not on whether you think you can afford an architect's fee. If you can afford to build for yourself, you can scarcely afford not to have an architect's skilled hetp. His services may well save enough to cover his fee-and you'll have a far better house, too.

To get the most from your architect . . .

Mire the right man. Choose an architect with experience and a reputation for doing the kind of work you want done. Pick one who understands you and your problem and is sympathetic.

Wire him for what you need. Maybe all you want is advice on whether to buy or build, whether to remodel or add. Maybe you need planning but not construction supervision. Hire him for partial services as needed.

Mire him early. Every decision affects the job. Have his know-how on tap before you start making

decisions.

Put your cards on the table. Be candid about what you can spend, what you expect, your doubts, worries and reservations.

Take his advice. Don't lay down rules. Talk things over. Get all the advice you can and give it the weight that professional knowledge deserves.

- SINCE 1893 -

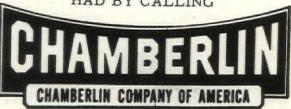
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