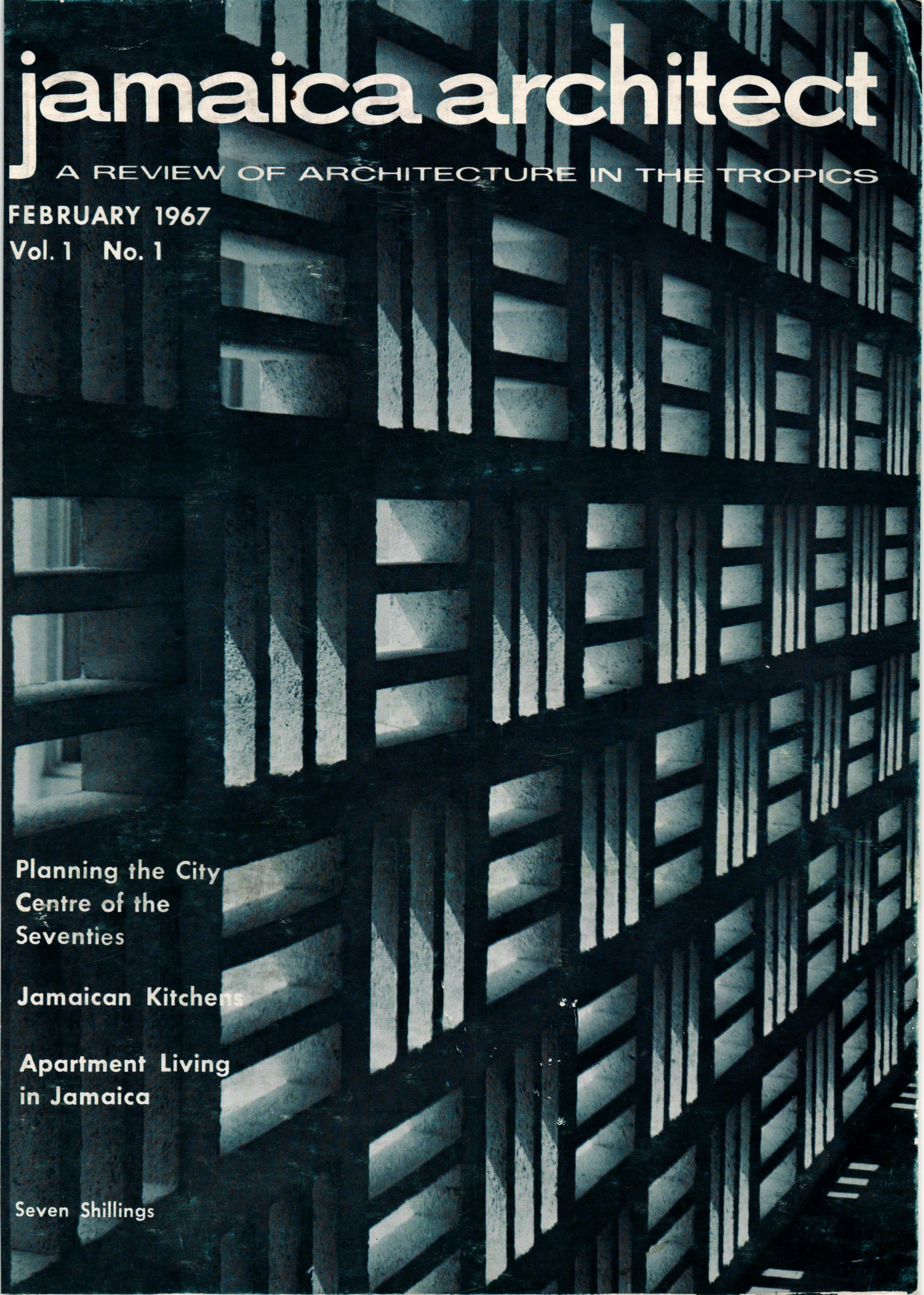

jamaica architect

A REVIEW OF ARCHITECTURE IN THE TROPICS

FEBRUARY 1967
Vol. 1 No. 1

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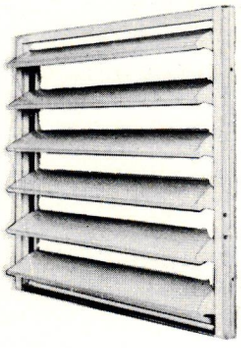

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FEBRUARY 1967 - VOL.1 - NO.1

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Editorially Speaking

The Jamaican Society of Architects, has decided to launch a magazine directed at the people of Jamaica and abroad who are interested in what is happening here in the field of architecture.

Jamaica, a land of exceptional natural beauty from the blue waters of the Caribbean to the ridge of mountains running along the length of the island, with lush tropical vegetation, presents a stimulating setting for buildings. This gentle sea island, in a semi tropical climate which permits outdoor living all the year round, coupled with a dynamic national development in the social, tourist, industrial, commercial and agricultural fields, present a unique opportunity for the development of a local architecture.

The Society, believes that recording what is being done and what can be done, will result in a better understanding of architecture and the contribution that can be made by the architects of this country.

The architect by his training, examines problems in depth. He is an expert in building, in fact, the original meaning of the name 'architect' was 'master Builder'. We hope that the buildings which we design will not only have satisfied the requirements of our clients but will also have made a contribution to the sort of environment in which we would all like to live. One of our most important functions is to co-ordinate the specific skills included in the building team and those of artists and other special designers involved in the achievement of architecture.

We invite your response in the form of letters, articles, comments or criticism which may be published in subsequent issues.

The magazine will be published quarterly and is not a purely technical magazine. It will include items of interest in:-

Urban design
Building design
Building engineering
Landscape design
Interior design
Various fields of art

Feature articles will be by local and international writers

Apart from the Editorial, the opinions expressed in this magazine are not necessarily those held by the Jamaican Society of Architects.

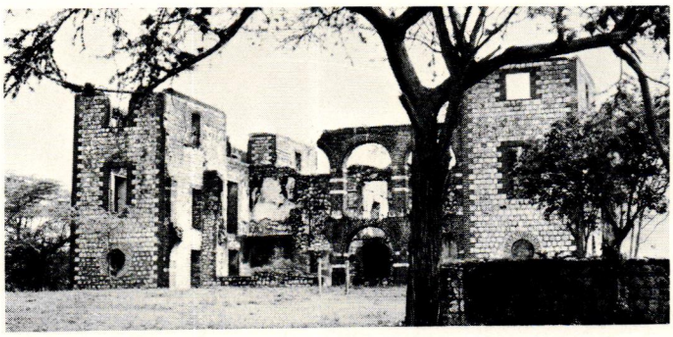
Architecture Overseas by T. A. L. Concannon, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A., M.T.P.I.

In this short introductory note to a column on contemporary work abroad, it is pertinent to recall the important contribution made by the art of building to past life in Jamaica.

It is unfortunate that so many fail to realise the wealth of good building that arose, and in many cases still stands in this country. Some of it was no doubt designed or inspired by sources abroad, but a large proportion can be directly attributed to native artisans and craftsmen, architects in the true sense, persons trained by practice in design and technique of sound honest construction.

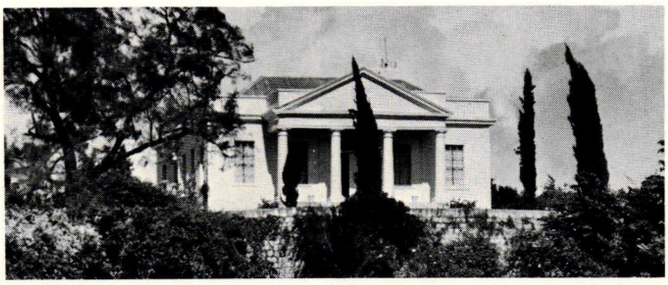
EARLY BUILDINGS

Many examples come immediately to mind, too numerous to mention in detail here. Remains of massive stone structures at Stokes Hall (St. Thomas) and Stewart Castle (Trelawny) are excellent early fortress-like houses built to resist attack; Colbeck Castle (St. Catherine) and Rose



Colbeck Castle, Old Harbour, St. Catherine. Believed by some authorities to date from circa 1670, but more likely to have been built about 1765, the largest single building in early Jamaica.

Hall (St. James), somewhat later and more refined in style are outstanding types of mid-eighteenth century plantation on the grand scale. Smaller houses, such as Marlborough (Manchester) and Prospect (St. Mary) testify to the skill of Jamaican craftsmen in adapting foreign traditions to local circumstances. In Kingston, Spanish Town, St. Ann's Bay, Falmouth, Montego Bay and elsewhere throughout the island there is much to remind us of the good things of the past; contemporary drawings made by artists in the 19th century are reminders, alas, of the many good things that have been lost. Fortunately, the Civic Square at Spanish Town is intact, if in poor condition and retaining only the facade of Old King's House (destroyed in part by fire in 1925). In this Square, Jamaica owns an official group of buildings of character and great distinction, an architectural heritage most worthy of preservation.

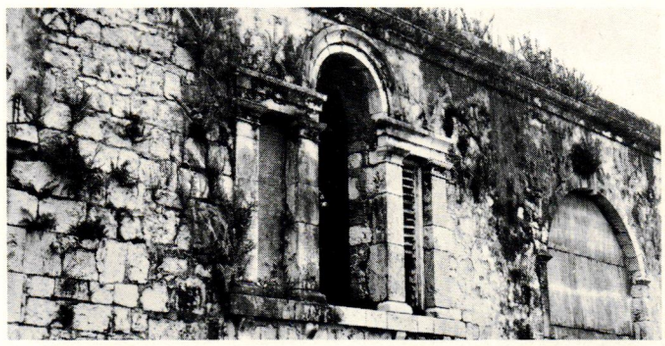


Marlborough, Spur Tree, Mandeville, a country house in Georgian style at a height of 2,500' in the Manchester hills. Built in 1792, designed probably by a Scots architect name unknown, who is believed to have designed residences in Jamaica including Cardiff Hall, St. Ann, another house in the Georgian manner.

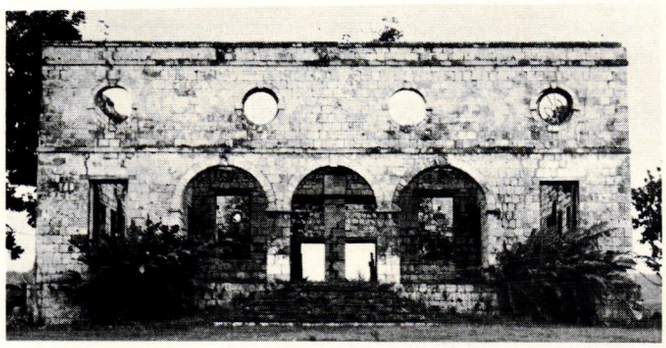
PHOTOS BY T. A. L. CONCANNON

INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS

Production of sugar has been of prime economic importance to the Island, and it is remarkable that so little interest is taken, particularly by architects, of the industrial buildings associated with this product. At Orange Valley (Trelawny) there is an almost complete collection comprising factory buildings, hospital, kiln and great house, all of splendid design and workmanship — although rapidly disintegrating through lack of use and maintenance. Rock River in Clarendon has a superb acqueduct built in brick and stone, and at Kenilworth in Hanover there stands a monumental complex of industrial buildings in stone of high quality design and execution. Many other examples could be quoted.

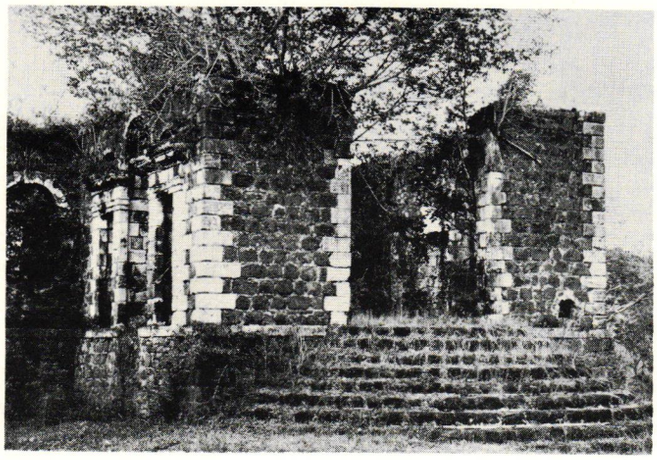


Detail of window, factory at Orange Valley Estate, Trelawny, 18th century; architect unknown, but probably E. Earl.



Slave hospital at Orange Valley Estate, Trelawny, built in 1797; architect E. Earl.

Aqueduct at Rock River Estate, Clarendon. Probably built by William Beckford, early 18th century.



Factory building (mill-house) at Kenilworth Estate, Hanover, mid 18th century; architect unknown.

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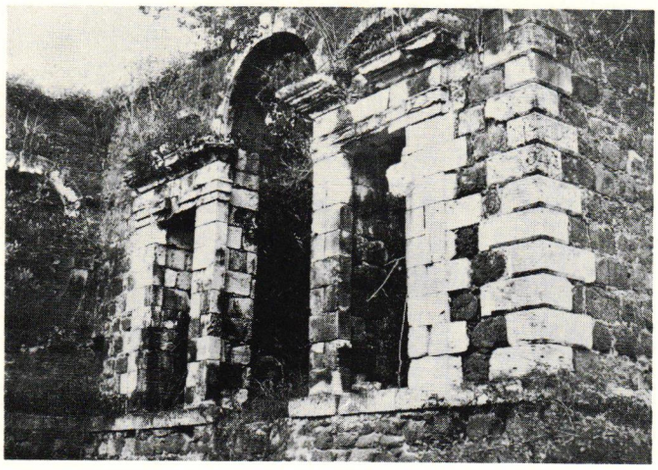


Detail of window, mill-house at Kenilworth Estate, Hanover, mid 18th century; architect unknown.

19TH AND 20TH CENTURY PERIOD

Since mid-nineteenth century few buildings of importance were erected, apart from reconstruction that perforce took place, particularly in Kingston, after havoc wrought by the 1907 earthquake. During the early part of the present century there was, however, a comparatively large amount of domestic building in towns and villages, with free and ingenious use of fretwork designs in barge-boards, fascias, balcony railings and other details.

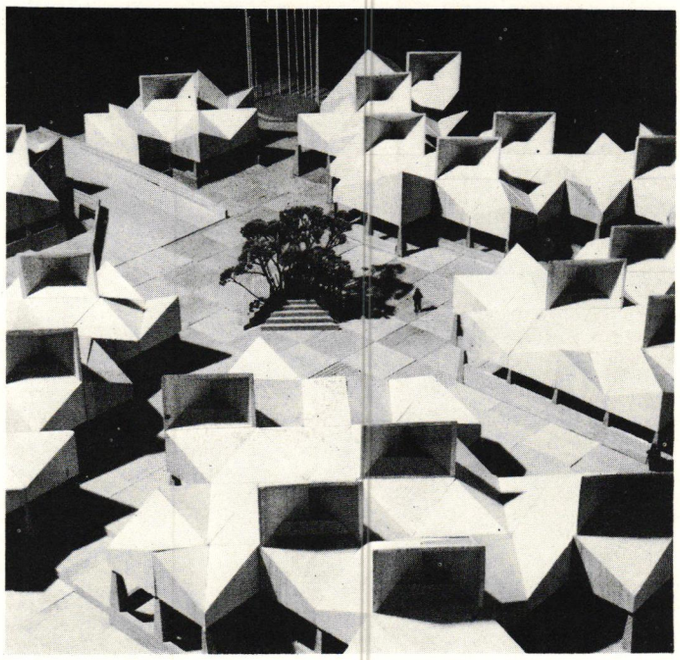
THE SCENE TODAY

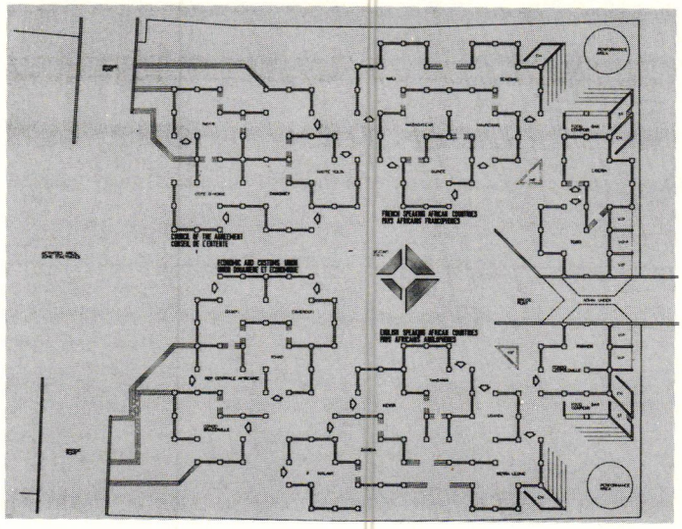
In the past few years Jamaican architects have striven to produce buildings that are functional and aesthetically pleasing, suited to local conditions using modern techniques, materials and methods of construction. Prefabrication — or what it is now fashionable to call 'industrialized building' — is playing its part (especially in mass-produced housing), and Jamaica was amongst the first countries outside Europe and America to use pre-stressed concrete (at the now disused Marlie race course, near Old Harbour, St. Catherine). Shell construction has been used on an increasing scale, and the growing acceptance of air-conditioning in homes, workplaces, restaurants and in other special buildings has had its effect on the shape and pattern of structures. Other factors that strongly influence the architecture that is emerging in Jamaica include high-intensity illumination and electronic equipment (installation of rooms for computers and the like). Architects are beginning also to show an awareness of environment and a regard for their buildings to be 'good neighbours' to others.

RECENT WORK IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The following items are taken from a selection of buildings or projects overseas of direct interest in Jamaica.

Expo '67 Pavilions for African Nations. (Architectural Record, New York, September, 1966).



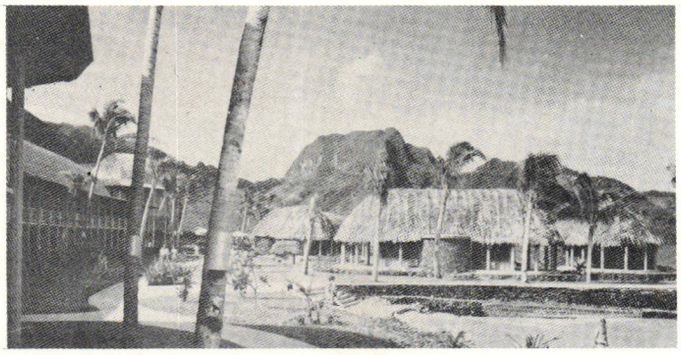


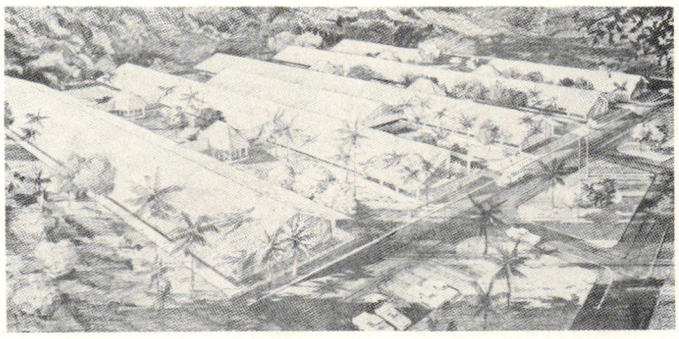
Designed by John Andrews, Australian born architect practising in Canada, these pavilions are for African nations exhibiting at Expo '67 (Montreal, Canada, 1967). Plan is based upon a modular grid of spaces each containing 1,000 square feet, arranged about a central open seating area. Cell units are on varying levels, with circulation directed so that movement of visitors can be in many different ways.

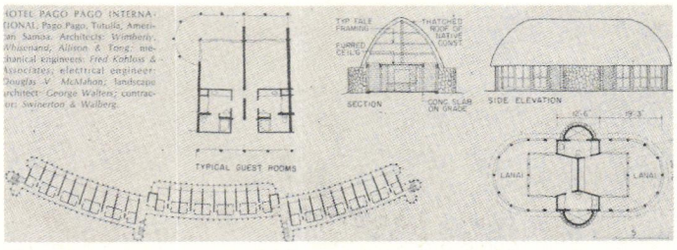
The layout suggests a series of small domes or vaults, but the architect has devised each unit with a hipped roof having a triangular opening on one side to act as a wind catch or scoop. (This feature is strongly reminiscent of the 'bad-gir' or wind scoop on houses at Hyderabad Sind, West Pakistan; it is believed that their use goes back at least 500 years in the Lower Sind District). In these African pavilions the scoops have been designed so that air conditioning will not be necessary.

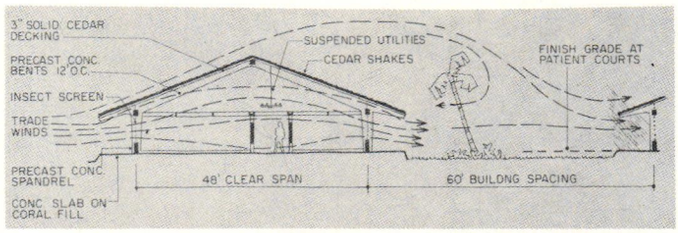
Roof construction is of demountable plywood sandwich panels, fixed to steel connectors. The article does not indicate how roof water is run-off, but presumably there is some form of down pipe at the feet of valleys.

In the words of the Architectural Record the project "needed to grow in increments to a size that could not be finally determined in the initial programme, but... it could be assumed that growth would occur in similar units... modules of exhibition space for the participating nations..."









Hotel, and Medical Centre in Samoa. (Architectural Record, New York, December, 1966).

Since 1961 there has been a marked increase in development in American Samoa, a group of South Pacific Islands ceded to the United States in 1899. Education, health and economic conditions are steadily being improved for the Islanders, and according to an article by Elizabeth Kendall Thompson "architecture has been playing a significant role in effecting a transition-without-tears from primitive to modern ways."

The climate is hot and humid, with high rainfall (200" annually), bringing attendant problems as in comparable parts of Jamaica of damp, rot and termites. Apart from the native Samoan house (called 'fale', usually oval in plan, open sided with a thatch roof) the only buildings in Samoa have been churches built by missionaries, settlers shacks with that useful abomination the tin roof (shades of Kingston's shanty town!), and some unimaginative timber framed buildings by government. The Architectural Record illustrates a picturesque hotel, with both late type and 'longhouse' structures for guests with pole supports and thatched roofs. (A similar scheme for tourist development on the lines of Club Mediterrane has recently been designed by the Town Planning Department in Jamaica for beach sites at Negril and Culloden on Jamaica's west and south coasts).

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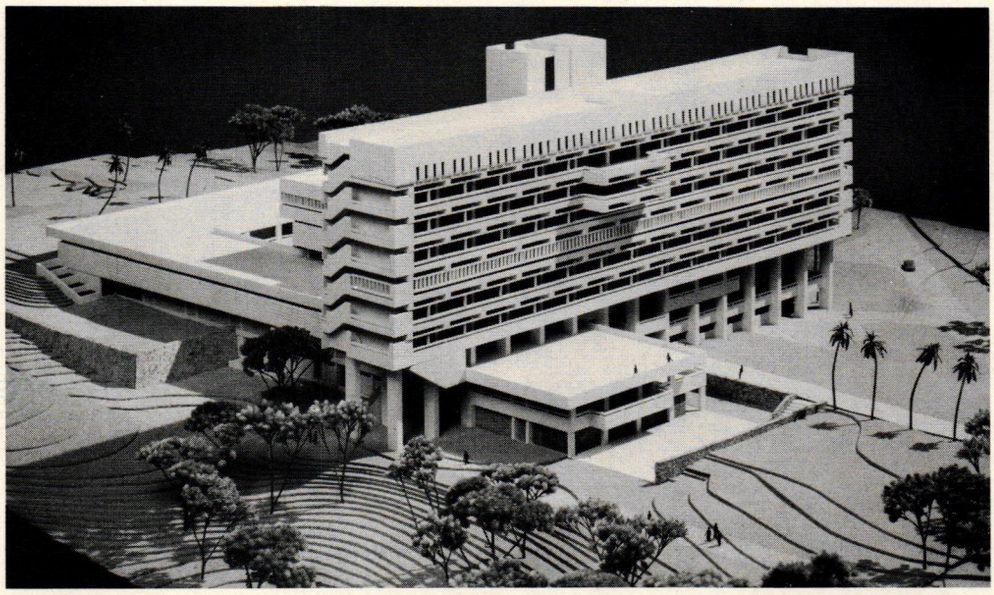
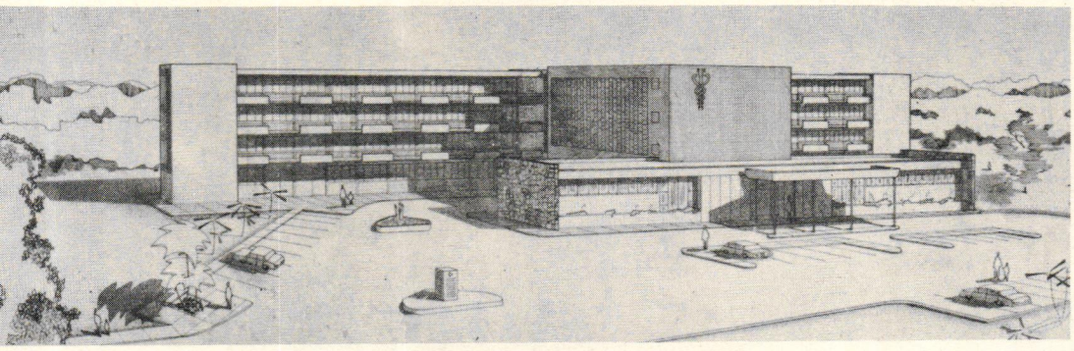
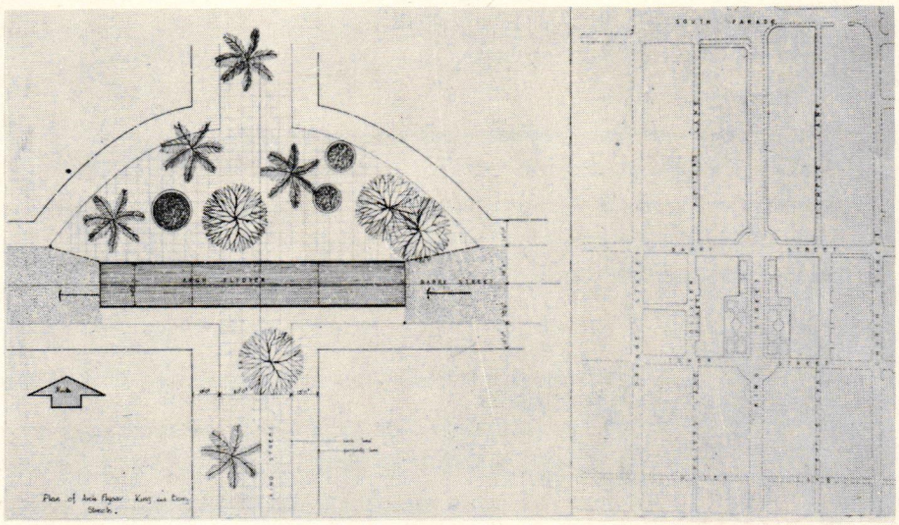


Montego Bay Hospital (Proposed)
Architects Collaborative in liaison with the Chief Architectural Branch Ministry of Communication & Works.

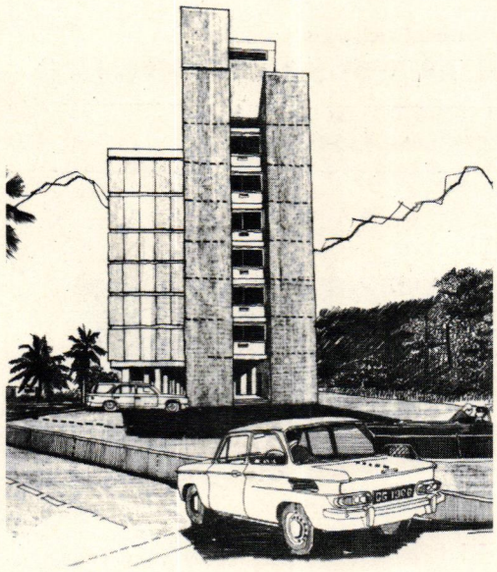
Photo - R. D. Harvey, Boston, Mass.



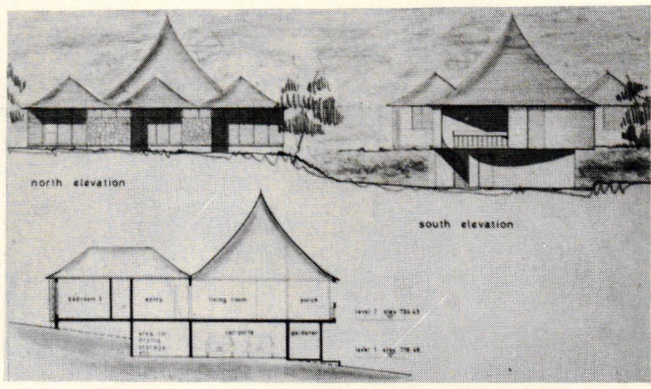
May Pen Hospital
(Proposed)
Chief Architectural Branch
Ministry of Communication
& Works
Project Architect:
L. J. Robinson, A.R.I.B.A.



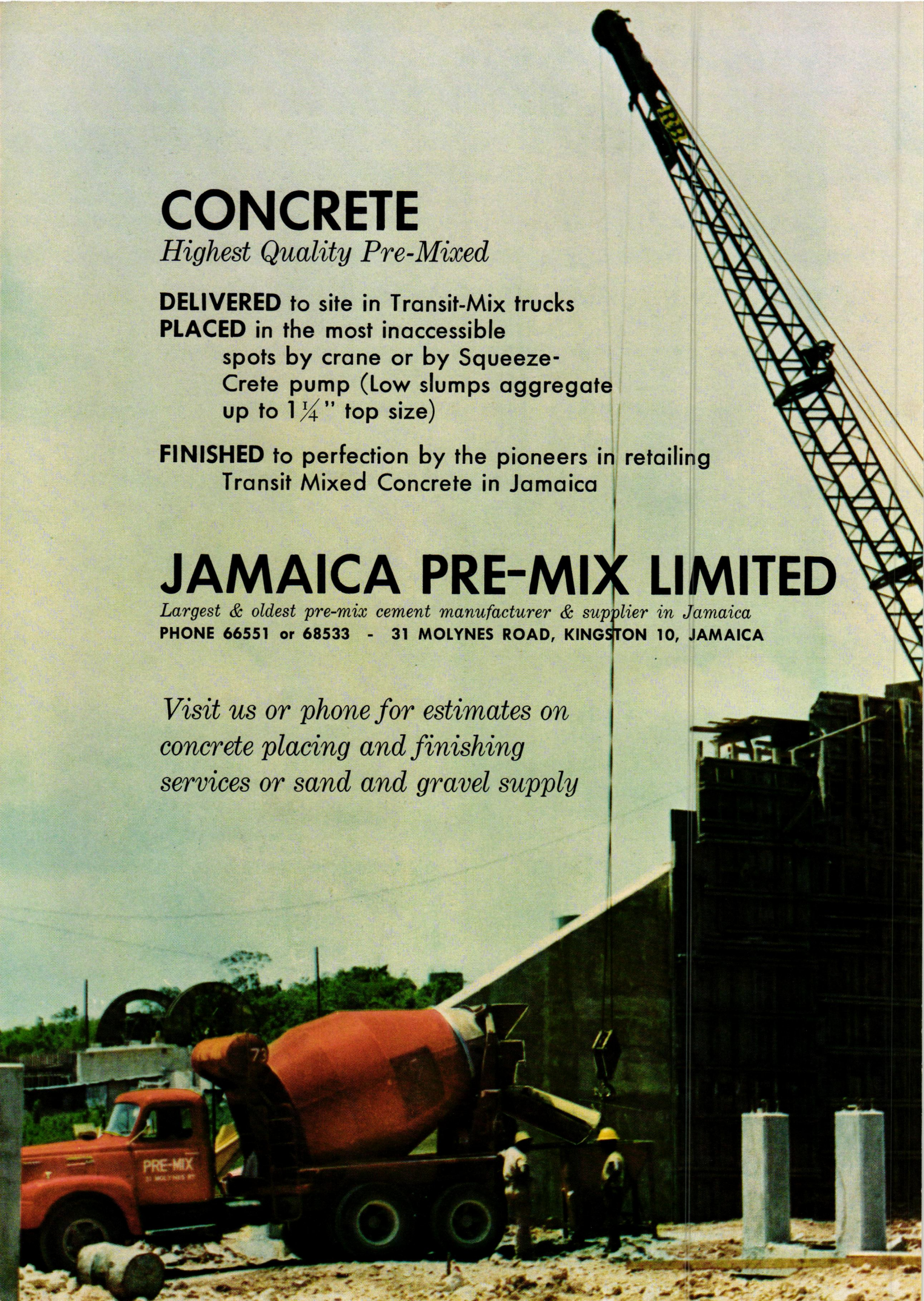
Arch Flyover, King St. Mall
Architect: Wilson Chong & Associates



Shaw Park Gardens, Apartment
Ocho Rios, St. Ann.
Architects:
Chalmers, Gibbs & Associates.



Clarke Residence
Hyperion Drive, Billy Dun.
Architects:
Michael Carter & Associates



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PLANNING THE CITY CENTRE OF THE SEVENTIES

by Tony Gambrill

This is the first in a series of articles dealing with the physical expansion and redevelopment of Kingston and suburban St. Andrew.

Subsequent studies are intended to elaborate on the King Street Redevelopment, Portmore, the Kingston Development Order, Newport East and West, Port Royal Restoration and the elevated highway development to link the northern suburbs with the city centre.

REDEVELOPMENT OF THE KINGSTON WATERFRONT

Kingston is to join the ranks of the world's truly contemporary Cities of the Seventies if a Grand Design for the redevelopment of 150 acres of downtown property is adopted and executed. The first step in what could be described as the most significant scheme since the city was first laid out in 1692, will be the submission of a draft report later this year for study by the community at large, along with a detailed outline of the first phase which will begin within two years. A period of 25 years will be required for the ultimate completion of the scheme.

The design of this redevelopment is being undertaken by Shankland, Cox and Associates, a British firm of physical planning consultants. Graeme Shankland and Oliver Cox both originally worked for the London County Council on a New Town for Hook in Hampshire, England. Recognizing the growing need for comprehensive and integrated town planning techniques, they entered private practice six years ago.

They have since undertaken schemes for Bolton Town Centre, Ipswich Redevelopment (with a sub-regional plan) and the proposed Liverpool Waterfront project.

A team of eight has been assigned to the project — this team includes specialists in architectural design, civil engineering, urban design, economics and statistics. The firm will be associated with a local team of Architect Planners when construction is about to begin. This will ensure that some of the expertise gathered in mounting this project will remain in the island. In addition, every effort will be made to allow a reasonable period for debate as to whether the final design is one which all Jamaicans will feel is suited to their way of life.

The redevelopment scheme has been launched under a technical assistance agreement with the United Kingdom Government Ministry of Overseas Development whereby the UK provides £70,000 of the total £94,000 cost for a study and development plan. Shankland, Cox & Associates were appointed by the Ministry of Overseas Development.

The area to be redeveloped comprises 150 acres South of Harbour Street, East of Pechon Street and West of Paradise Street. The basic aim of the plan is to revitalise and rebuild this area into a focal point for the best in shopping, entertainment, and commercial and professional services. Specifically, the project is expected to include nightclubs, cinemas, restaurants, amusement attractions, parks, a national dramatic theatre, a national museum, high rise apartment units, department stores, business offices and parking areas. Special features will be a seafront promenade, two new berthing facilities for cruise ships and a ferry terminal for a cross-harbour service connecting the city with Palisadoes International Airport and Port Royal. Perhaps the significant aspect of this redevelopment programme is the opportunity allowed for examination, discussion and participation by the general public in the formulation of plans for the area.

To quote Graeme Shankland, head of Shankland, Cox and Associates, "There is no doubt in my mind that this is the right moment and that such a scheme can be successful not just in creating an entirely new section of Central Kingston by the sea, but by example can stimulate the redevelopment of the older parts of downtown Kingston and so could trigger off a series of planned chain reactions to make Kingston of the latter 60's and the 70's not only worthy of its setting, but also able to play its role as the capital of Jamaica. This will not, though, be easy to organize. It is always simpler to build a new town or a suburb on undeveloped land than to redevelop an old area; there are fewer people to argue about it."

The key to the success of the first phase is expected to be the successful establishment of the Urban Development Corporation being set up by the Government. This statutory body will assemble the land and manage the operation. Initially the UDC will lay out certain areas for temporary car parks within the 150 acres of waterfront which will ultimately be replaced by parking garages. However, the principal tack of the Corporation will be to act as the client in the first instance, on behalf of the Government, and to maintain a continuing supervisory role during and after redevelopment.

The UDC will operate a strict code for the purpose of maintaining continuity of concept throughout. This will be framed in the projected government legislation setting up the body as well as in the policy maintained by its members. In addition to expecting to have representation on the Corporation's board of directors, architects will be asked to act in an advisory capacity along with other interested groups.

For the first time Jamaica will be undertaking urban renewal on a massive scale in order to, literally, "save" downtown Kingston. A warning that this has come about none too soon was sounded by Mr. Shankland when he said: "Cities cannot afford slums and decay to creep deeply into their fabric while wealthier citizens escape to healthier suburbs. Redevelopment must go hand in hand with expansion if the grim fate which has caught some American cities is to be avoided."

Significantly, the redevelopment of downtown Kingston largely became feasible with the completion of Newport West and the gradual transference of the city's wharf operations from the area to be redeveloped. However, these facilities are to be further expanded when a second area, known as Newport East, is completed. This will provide 2,551,000 square feet of land adjacent to Marcus Garvey Drive roughly between Wherry Wharf and Hunt's Bay Power Station. It is anticipated that four deepwater piers suitable for lumber operations will be constructed at Newport East, bringing to 17 the total number of piers comprising the new commercial port complex. These will completely replace the existing facilities in the downtown area and supply adequate accommodation of its type for years to come. Newport East is entirely a government land reclamation project, financial details of which have not yet been publicly released.

An expenditure of sixty to seventy million pounds is envisaged to carry out the redevelopment, but, according to the Hon. Edward Seaga, Minister of Development and Welfare, in whose portfolio it falls, the cost to the Government will be minimal since it will only primarily be responsible for public utilities. The Government is to acquire the entire 150 acres on an exchange basis for lands it retained in the two Newport schemes. Agreements with several major property-owners have already been reached. Whilst the Government would resubdivide and zone the area and negotiate the provision of road, sewerage, water supply and other essential public service facilities as well as erect its own buildings, private sector investment would be necessary for the purchase of land for commercial development.

Considerable attention is being paid to the fact that the traditional Kingston waterfront was potentially a setting of great natural beauty. In Graeme Shankland's words: "Of the world's great ports, only Capetown has such backcloth of mountains. The great sweep of the harbour extending in an almost complete circle from Port Henderson, past Kingston along the Palisadoes to Port Royal is shaped like a woman's bracelet. But at the centre of the bracelet's rim where you expect to see an ornament or jewel, lies the Kingston waterfront, no jewel in anybody's eyes, and a relic, like much of downtown Kingston, of a past epoch. Even now this blind spot seems to black out the beauty of the whole bay, just as a single building can wreck a whole landscape."

The Grand design will allow for better-shaped sites for bigger buildings, larger spaces between them and skilful landscaping to make the area a pleasing place in which to move about or sit around. A crucial factor in the planning will be to convince private developers of the possibilities of a common approach and to emphasize the part they will be expected to play. Ultimately, the planners' concern will be the achievement of zoning on a three dimensional basis so as to present a skyline feature worthy of nature's dramatic setting.

The impact of the redevelopment plan on commercial development elsewhere in Kingston and St. Andrew is open to conjecture. However, opinion generally concedes that a plan of such scope and imagination is essential if the heart of the city is to be effectively revitalized. Concomitant to this there will have to be a vast improvement in the facilities for access to downtown Kingston both in an east-west and north-south direction.

In a statement made at the conclusion of his inaugural visit to the island, Mr. Shankland stressed the vital social basis of the planners/designers deliberations.

"A good home in Jamaica has two vital features, a verandah and a front door. In the first the family entertains itself, its close friends and its neighbours. Through the second it welcomes strangers.

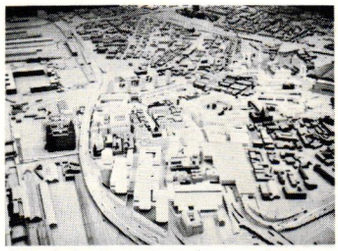
"As I see it, the first function of Kingston's new water-front should be to become Jamaica's verandah; where Jamaica meets Jamaica in beautiful and relaxing surroundings; a place for a quiet chat as well as for a party, attractive by night as well as by day and accessible to the community and not just for a few. A common meeting ground, where people come to find things they specially want, like going to a concert and meeting others who enjoy the same things, but also a place where they can get out of themselves and see new faces and new sights.

"The second social function — that of being Jamaica's main front door — is complementary to this. Here is the spot where the tourist first meets Jamaica face to face and gets his first impression. The possibilities exist. Jamaica is exceptionally placed at the crossing point of air and sea routes in the Caribbean and in the Western Hemisphere. Many tourists avoid Kingston now or pass quickly through. Yet the development of Greater Kingston and its harbour as a resort — from Port Royal to the Healthshire Hills — would be greatly encouraged by the development of a tourist magnet at the centre, and so for that matter would Jamaica's economy."

The master plan promises to provide a challenge to Jamaica as it is expected to be daring in concept and spectacular in execution. It will provide a unique opportunity which comes to a great city sometimes once in a century and, more often, only once in a lifetime.

To be continued in May Issue.

Existing Pierhead, Liverpool.



Model showing Central Area Development for Liverpool.

THE LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT
His Ways and Thoughts

JAMES E. VOSS
American Society of Landscape Architects

Landscape architects are professional practitioners. By training and experience they are qualified in land planning and development.

The major objective for home owner, institution, public official, and private developer is in the development of the land and the structures on it for optimum human use and enjoyment. To this end landscape architects apply their special knowledge and appreciation of land, water, and plant forms. Their recognition of the value and influence of these elements upon solutions of landscape design problems enable them to attain results which are structurally sound, economically feasible, and pleasing in appearance. They consider the ultimate aesthetic value of their designs as coordinated with the work of architects and engineers.

The landscape architects obtain maximum use and enjoyment of land for their clients by: consulting on land-planning problems; selecting sites; preparing plans and specifications for site development — grading, drainage, locating of structures, facilities, and planting. They provide professional supervision and approve the quality of materials and workmanship, and act as the client's agent and professional adviser.

Structures, whether they be buildings, walkways, falls, fountains, benches, or terraces are the primary concern of the landscape architect in the total design project and beautification. The plantings, although extremely important, are secondary and must enhance, soften, and settle the structures into the surrounding environment.

Kurt Waldman photos, Miami, Florida.

FLORIDA POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY
Main Office Building Miami, Florida

JAMES E. VOSS — Landscape Architect
H. JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES Architects

The building site comprises approximately 9 acres. The masses of tropical foliage frame the building picturesquely by day, becoming an integral part of the colourful light programming at night time. Ground level mercury vapor lamps silhouette palms, while multi-hued lights cast a spectrum among other trees and plants. The cluster of palms and tropical greenery are unified with ribbon-type planting beds cascading across sloping expanses of grass.

Massive boulders have also been utilized to create interesting focal points within the park-like surroundings.

In shopping plaza development, the parking and pedestrian traffic patterns are very important. There should be an inviting and pleasant atmosphere created by such items as; shade trees draping walkways, providing sun protection, as well as creating exciting shadow patterns; flowering trees emphasizing the gay tropics; restful benches suggesting relaxation and peace; lively water displays as well as quiet reflecting pools add a change of pace to what could be a monotonous vista; simple overhead arbor-like sun screens to walk under while guiding the tourist and shopper alike; hanging from the overhead sun screens would be uniform signs indicating shops and occasionally tropical plants in suspended baskets. All this with some walkways passing through a neat carpet of grass and shade trees where possible would give the natural "park-like" setting especially fitting to the "tropics".

Another extremely important factor in the modern landscape design is well planned night-lighting, whether it be in the private garden, the commercial building, or municipal parks and shopping plazas. No where in the world is adequate night lighting more important than in the tropical garden where many hours of evening enjoyment can be added to each day.

The all important item in the landscape design is simplicity. It provides for more restful viewing giving prominence to planned focal points as well as providing for a minimum maintenance program. With the right selection of plant material the landscape architect may affect all five senses and should even stimulate the spiritual sense.

Chris Hansen photo. Miami Beach News Bureau.

THE LINCOLN ROAD MALL
Miami Beach, Florida

Shoppers and tourists alike enjoy communing with nature while being provided with a relaxed atmosphere for shopping along the famous Lincoln Road Mall. Specimen planting, benches, active fountains and reflecting pools guide the tourist throughout the eight blocks of inviting shops.

PHOTO BY NATHAN TAYLOR

JAMAICA HOUSE
Residence of the Prime Minister of Jamaica

Architects:
L. A. Shearer, A.R.I.B.A., in association with Marvin D. Goodman, B.Arch.

Builders:
McGregor and Levy.

JAMAICA: the developing scene

art

by Wilf Burton

With the large scale developments planned for Kingston, there will be opportunities for artists to work in various fields in co-operation with planners, architects, engineers and landscape engineers to help shape the physical environment. A broad scale interchange of ideas on this level could establish a dynamic city fabric.

One of the leading agitators for this type of co-operation is Gyorgy Kepes, Professor of Visual Design at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who has participated in this type of group effort. Kepes produces large scale works using light and movement, his best known work being the mural in the K.L.M. offices in New York. Over fifty feet long and eighteen feet high, it is an aluminium screen with some sixty thousand perforations. Many types of lights and coloured filters behind the screen are controlled by timing and switching devices, creating endless patterns of light, movement and colour. A wonderful example of an artist exploring technical resources. I quote his words, "We need to establish new relationships in which artistic forms will be an integral part of our man-created surroundings, not more decorative face-lifting or prestige gestures. New technical tools and materials; new approaches to team work among creative individuals in the arts and in the sciences with different backgrounds and training; new awareness of the interplay of visual factors in the dynamic urban scene — these are the challenges to collaborative daring."

The art scene in Jamaica is at an interesting stage of development; there is the handful of artists, established over a number of years with good reputations and a small slice of society for an audience. Younger, not so well-known painters and sculptors are making a good effort to reach a broader section of the public. Slightly out of mainstream, and not so much affected by the ephemeral happenings abroad, they are working hard to bring some modern art forms to a growing audience.

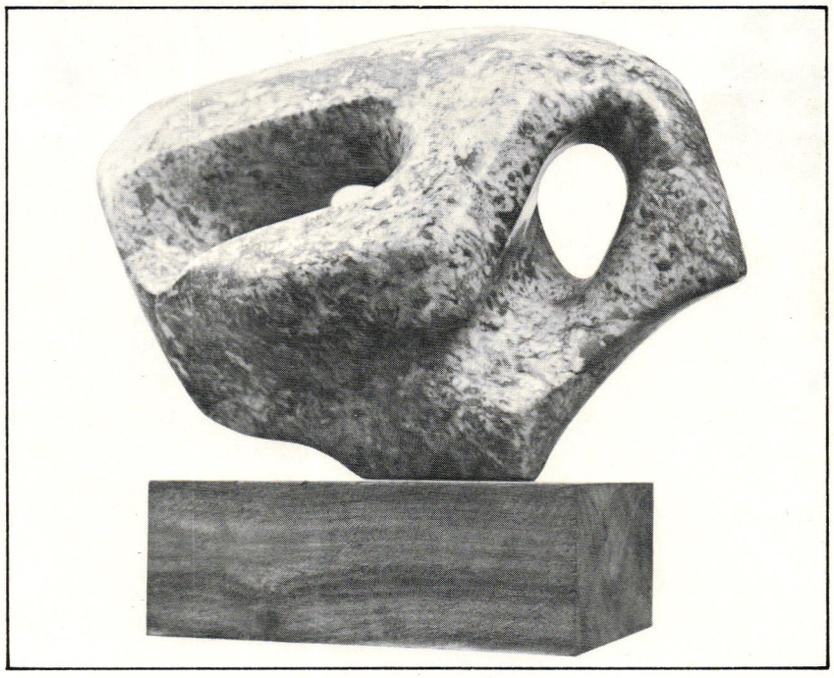
Co-operation and communication between artists here is good. Recently consolidated into a group, they re-opened 'The Gallery' on Constant Spring Road with the help of a few brave backers, under the stiff-sounding title of 'The Contemporary Jamaican Artists Association'.

The Gallery opened last year with a determined effort to stimulate the public by introducing an 'Art Week'. Seven days of frenzied activity, classical and jazz concerts, fashion shows, and discussions on radio and T.V. Rum punch providing a solid fringe companion throughout the proceedings. The important point is that it succeeded in attracting the public's attention and creating and communicating with a wider audience, success surely demanding an annual event.

Below right
Milton Harley
Drawing
22 x 19 in.

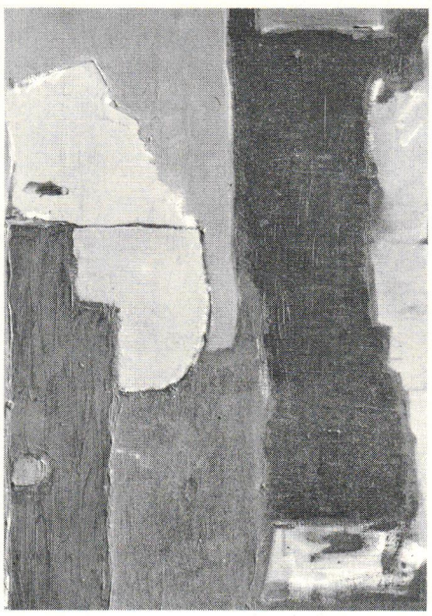
Andries Bartels
Jamaican Alabaster
14 in. high

Amador Packer photos



Amador Packer photos

Douglas Chambers *Sun Figures* 36 x 36 in.



Reg Lyn
Two Thirty
25 x 22 in.

At the moment, here, the architect's use of artists is minimal, possibly seen as an optional extra, though fortunately a situation which is changing slowly.

The paintings and sculpture illustrated here form part of a collection recently bought from The Gallery by the British American Company for its New Kingston building. Twenty-two works in all, representing a wide cross section of local work, the collection is one of the first to form an integral part of the interior design.

Two steps have been made. Firstly a widening public audience, secondly a greater recognition by architects and interior designers. This column will trace future co-operation and development.

Wilf Burton
Bagsgroove
96 x 60 in.

Amador Packer photos

Carl Parboosingh
Saturday
66 x 45 in.

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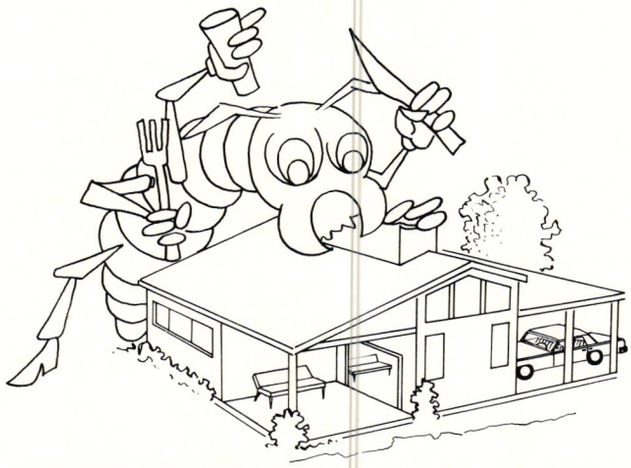

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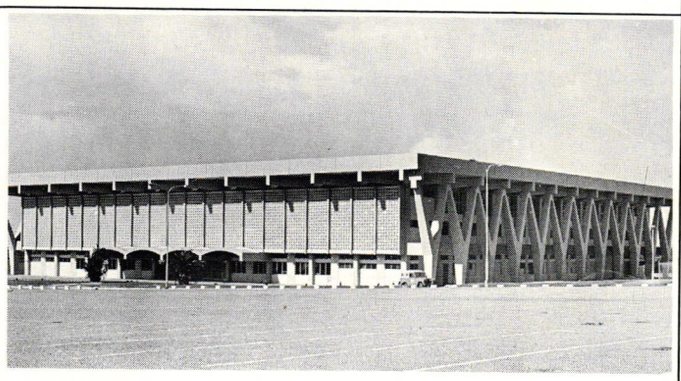

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APARTMENT LIVING IN JAMAICA

by Corina Meeks

Jamaica is a society in flux — a possibly trite statement which, nevertheless, deserves constant repetition, because this may lead to continued examination and evaluation of the many and varied problems created by the shifting patterns within our communities.

Evidence of these shifting patterns is particularly observable in public and private housing.

A mere two or three decades ago, Jamaicans were conditioned to believe that the most desirable type of housing was a single unit structure, preferably sited on an acre or two of choice land. Possibly, this is an ideal which most people in the world would still love to attain.

But the changing face of reality all over the globe and, more recently, within the Jamaican context is slowly, but inevitably, leading to different norms.

Housing schemes composed of a number of single-unit buildings with comparatively small areas of land surrounding them have been enthusiastically received in Jamaica; and apartment buildings, once anathema to the average Jamaican, are gaining more and more acceptance.

The first question that occurs is whether, in fact, apartment living is a desirable form of living.

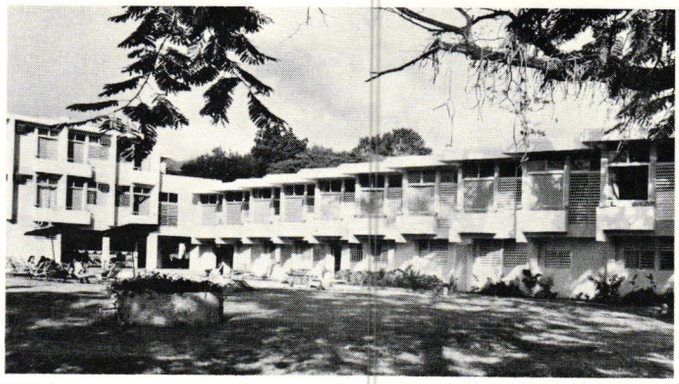
I must confess, at the outset, to some degree of bias against apartment living. As I have surveyed the monstrous, multi-storeyed apartment buildings which are commonplace in most larger cities in the world I have always had a very strong feeling that human beings were not meant to live like this; there is something quite odious about the thought of these thousands and thousands of people acting out the drama of their lives in a sticky, layer-cake setting.

On the other and perhaps more realistic side, protagonists for apartment living maintain that there are several advantages. They say that apartment living is most suitable for young couples, older persons and single persons for the obvious reason — it provides private accommodation for those who want it with a minimum of bother in the way of upkeep. And in these days when, even in Jamaica, household help is somewhat of a problem, this is a very solid and very valid point. They cite the advantages of location, since most apartment buildings are erected in urban areas conveniently near to offices, to transportation facilities, and to shopping centres.

They point out that facilities like air-conditioning which is fast being regarded as a necessity during our hot, humid months, may be provided at a relatively low rate in apartment buildings, where one central unit is employed for all apartments; that many apartment buildings offer community facilities such as swimming pools, tennis courts, restaurants, and bars which the individual homeowner might hardly be able to afford; that the type of community building offered by apartment buildings affords greater security against thieves and vandals of one type or another.

In addition, architects show the economies effected by erecting apartment buildings; the shared plumbing services, walls and floors. Given the astronomical cost of land for building, the would-be entrepreneur makes a wiser investment by erecting apartment buildings rather than individual home units, as he is able to offer accommodation at a lower cost and higher density.

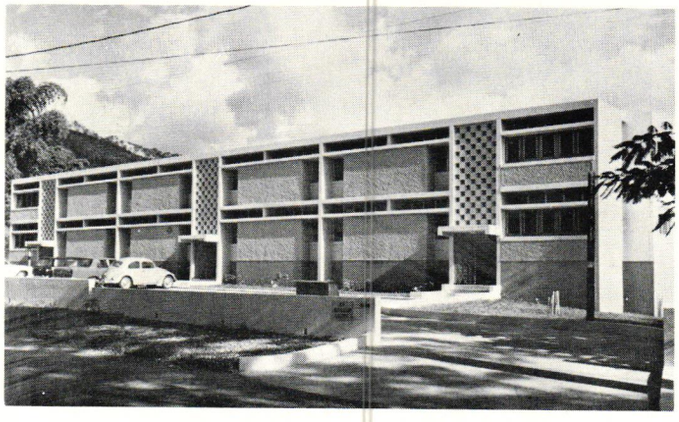
And as for the big bogeyman in the Jamaican mind — whether apartment living offers the privacy of the individual home — one Jamaican architect pointed out that a well-constructed apartment building offers more privacy to the dweller than a home in a housing scheme set on its miniature lawn.



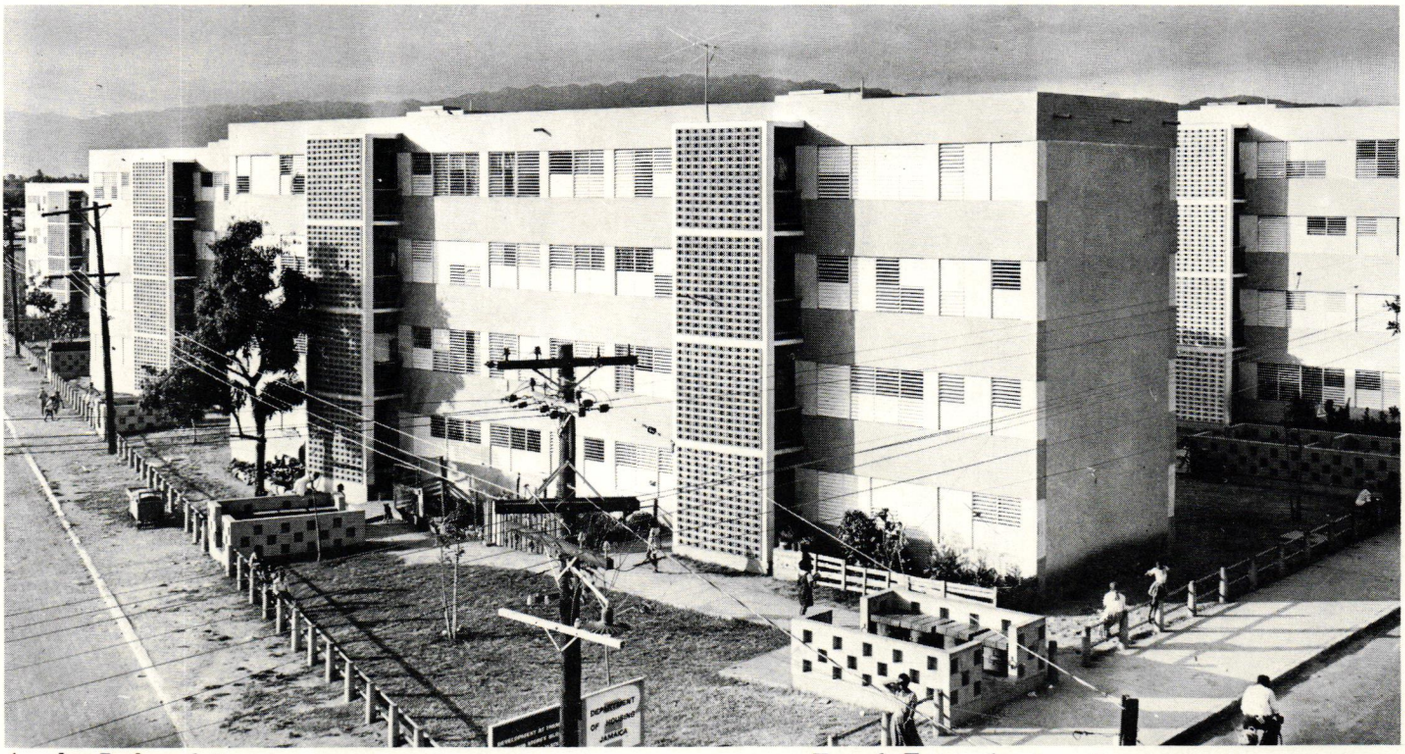
Seymour Ave. Apartments, Kingston
Architects: McMorris, Sibley & Robinson.

So, against my vague, illogical and emotional objections, there is a solid phalanx of reasons why apartment living may be considered a good thing.

The real question is, I think, whether the type of apartment building being built in Jamaica at present, is most suitable to our environment and our way of life.



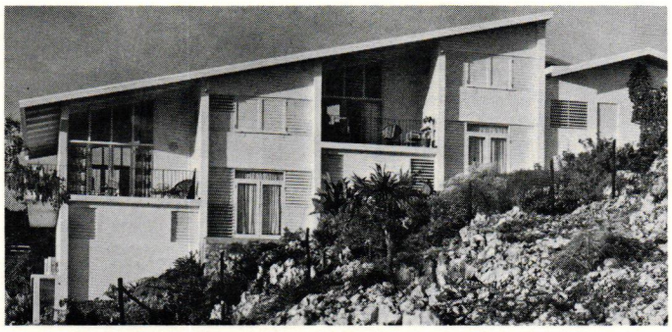
Benson Ave. Apartments, Kingston
Architect: G. Repole B.Arch. (Manitoba)



Amador Packer photo

Trench Town Apartments
Designed by Ministry of Housing
Supervising Architect: Michael Carter & Associates.

There are some twenty apartment buildings of various types in Jamaica at present, offering a range of accommodation — from the multi-storied low-cost buildings erected by Government in its slum-clearance scheme, through medium-priced buildings to the luxury buildings which are being erected in Kingston's suburban areas. But there is a certain stereotyped look about most of these buildings which makes even the untrained eye like my own, wonder whether we are not in fact merely reproducing in Jamaica the sort of building which other countries are having second, third and fourth thoughts about.



Armour Heights Maisonettes
Architect: David Kay, Dip. Arch. A.R.I.B.A.

Architects all over the world are a very vocal bunch and Jamaican architects no less than others; so much so, that even the average person is beginning to understand what this business of architecture is all about. For myself, I have gathered that it is the job of the architect to study the environment and the way of life of the people for whom he is constructing a building; with a thorough understanding of the utilitarian aspects of the proposed building, the architect, working within a prescribed budget, designs a building to meet exacting functional and aesthetic standards.

It has always seemed to me (and I believe that there is some professional opinion of this nature) that the building which is most aesthetically satisfying is the building which almost seems to be an inevitable part of the landscape; a building which is not obtrusive in any way but which seems to fit the scene as naturally as the sea and the sky and the trees and the shrubs. Can we say that apartment buildings meet this criterion in Jamaica

Are we providing apartment buildings which permit Jamaicans to enjoy all that is best in this island of ours — the magnificent vistas of mountains and tree-studded landscapes, gaudy sunsets and glorious moonlit nights? Do we honestly feel that by sticking on a verandah, which in many cases looks like an afterthought, we have met this need? Do we think that by providing a neat little area for shrubbery around the building that we have done our bit towards preserving the "tropical" atmosphere? The Jamaican landscape is distinctive as any traveller will testify. Are we capturing any of this distinctiveness in our buildings and specifically our apartment buildings?

Perhaps, in our haste to "modernise" our country and to provide all the amenities available to Western civilization, we are in fact doing violence to the Jamaican landscape.

If we accept the fact that apartment living is here to stay and there is much evidence to point in this direction, then perhaps we ought to give very serious consideration to the form that these structures should take. Perhaps the answer does not lie in multi-storied buildings at all.

As a layman, I cannot even begin to suggest what the solution might be. I should like to feel, though, that the question is being carefully studied by the architects of this country.

Amador Packer photo

Residence of Mr., Mrs. Martin *Upper Billy Dunn, St. Andrew*

SITE — Size: 1½ acres. Description: Gentle slope from north to south with natural drainage depression running east to west. Two large mango trees.

FLOOR AREA — 7,300 sq. ft.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM — Composite load bearing block walls and re-inforced concrete frame. Suspended flat concrete slab.

MATERIALS — Foundations: Reinforced concrete strip for walls with concrete pads under columns.
Walls: Reinforced concrete block with concrete column stiffeners in two-storey section.
Partitions: Plastered reinforced concrete block.
Flooring: Insitu terrazzo, terrazzo tiles and special sea pebble screed.
Ceilings: Redwood boarding and vinyl faced acoustic tiles.
Roof: Cedar shingles on wooden roof frame.
Air conditioning system: Wall units in bedrooms 1 2 & 3, guest room, study, and playroom.

SPECIAL FEATURES — Includes central vacuum system, luminous ceilings in kitchen/utility, and three bathrooms.

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD — 22 weeks.

DESIGN CRITERIA & GENERAL INFORMATION

A formal atmosphere to receive guests and entertain was required and yet provide for a family of six — two grown-ups, two teenagers and two toddlers, for the home life which is valued very highly by the Martins.

Mrs. Martin is keenly interested in house design and decoration. Over the years, she had accumulated many scrapbooks covering every room in the house, for the day when they would build their own home. For many years she had cherished a desire to build a house with a Spanish flavour. Mrs. Martin selected and created the interior decoration in co-operation with the architect, interior decorator Margaret Tyler, and Paul Methuen who supplied much of the furniture and furnishings.

The site had two large existing mango trees and interesting depressions which served the useful function of draining the land of the water that passed over it from adjoining lots, and it was decided that these natural features could be happily incorporated in the final design. The trees were in such a location that they could be related to the building to provide shade from the low east and west sun. By retaining the natural slope of the land, two levels were provided at the front, linked to the single storey bedroom section at the back by an internal garden or patio and the study/guest wing.

All the everyday living areas of the house are at one level and ancillary facilities such as carports, children's playroom, domestic help quarters and storage, are located on the lower level.

The general character of the living areas is spacious, open and tropical. The core of the living spaces is the living room which has a raised sloping ceiling.

Brilliant colours in carpet and cushions enhance magnificent carved oak Dining Room furniture.

Amador Packer photo

The internal garden has proved ideal for large dinner parties and dancing under tropical skies. The master bedroom has its own small, screened garden into which the master bathroom can open out.

One of the natural depressions to the east of the building opposite the guest bedroom and powder room has been earmarked for a future swimming pool.

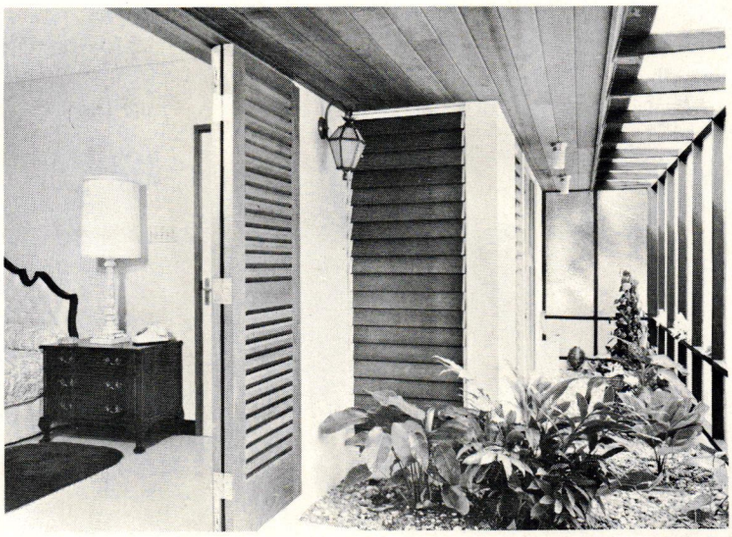
The colours in the fabric of the building are conscientiously very restrained to contrast with the rich natural wood finishes and strong texture of local riverstone, and also to provide maximum scope for selection of bold colours in the decoration.

Architect — David G. Kay, Dip. Arch., A.R.I.B.A.
Structural Consultant — A. J. Benghiat & Associates
Mechanical Consultant — None
Consultant Quantity Surveyor — Cairney, Bloomfield & Associates
Contractor — Felix Oakley
Construction Engineer — Amos Zusmanovitch

Amador Packer photo

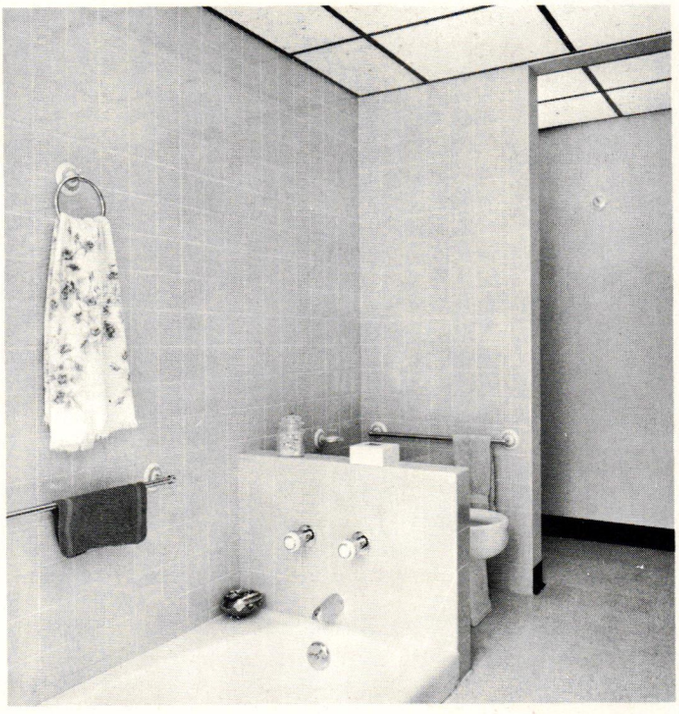
Muted green in Living Room decor emphasises tones of wood and blends with the surrounding hills and patio.

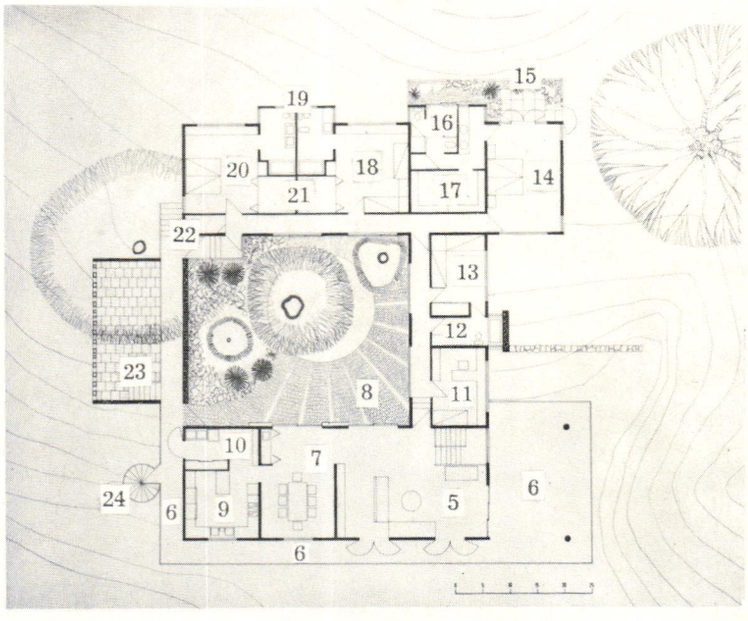
Tranquility reflected in uncluttered elegant Master Bedroom — colour scheme is white, lavender and purple.



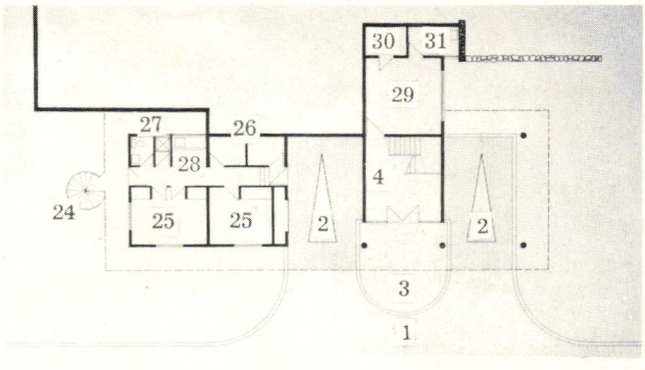
Secluded indoor garden — accessible from Master Bedroom and section of Master Bathroom (Shown Below) Kitchen also features Planning and Ordering Centre complete with desk and wall phone.

Amador Packer photos





1. Driveway
2. Carport
3. Entrance Garden
4. Entry Hall
5. Living Room
6. Balcony
7. Dining Room
8. Patio Garden
9. Kitchen
10. Utility
11. Study
12. Bathroom
13. Guest Room
14. Master Bedroom
15. Patio
16. Master Bathroom
17. Walk-in-Closets
18. Bedroom
19. Bathrooms
20. Bedroom
21. Walk-in-Closets
22. Store
23. Service Yard
24. Service Staircase
25. Maids Rooms
26. Store
27. Maids Bathroom
28. Utility
29. Playroom
30. Store
31. Bathroom



The Living Room facing north protected from afternoon sun.

Beverly Hills Residence of Mr., Mrs. Richard Henriquez

SIZE — Size: The site is approx. ¾ of an acre, partially flat and partially steep slope.

Description: The triangular shape site is on Beverly Hills with a magnificent view of the Liguanea Plains and Harbour.

FLOOR AREA — The floor area is approx. 2,200 sq. Ft.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM — Reinforced concrete frame.

MATERIALS — Foundations: Reinforced concrete.
Walls: Concrete block walls and partitions.
Flooring: Floor area polished terrazzo tiles.
Ceiling: Built-up roofing and redwood ceilings throughout.
Roof: Heavy wolmanized pitch pine beams. Logspan sarking.

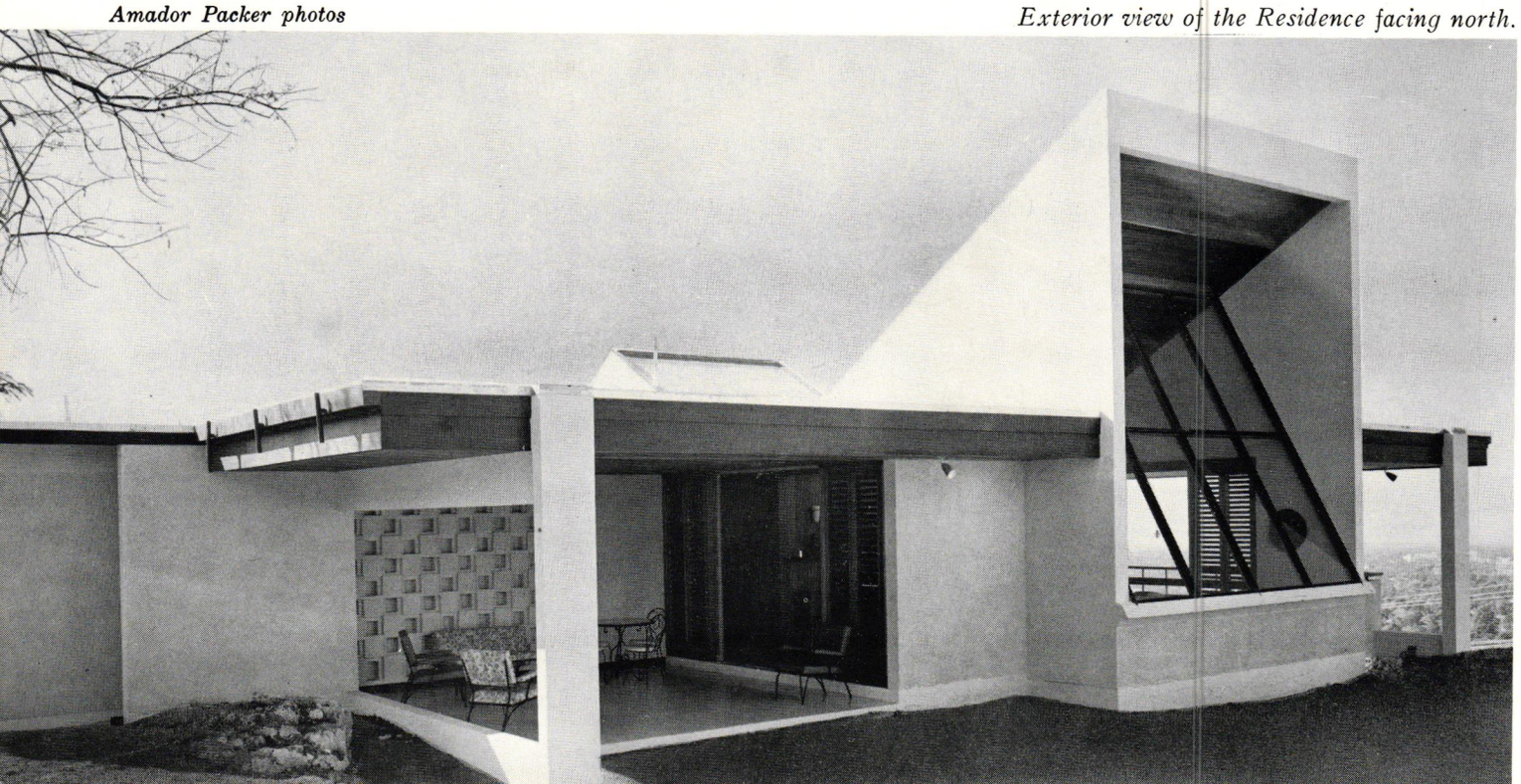
SPECIAL FEATURE — The salient feature of the house is a large sloping picture window to allow a view of the mountains. A window seat and all the furniture in the Living Room takes advantage of this window.

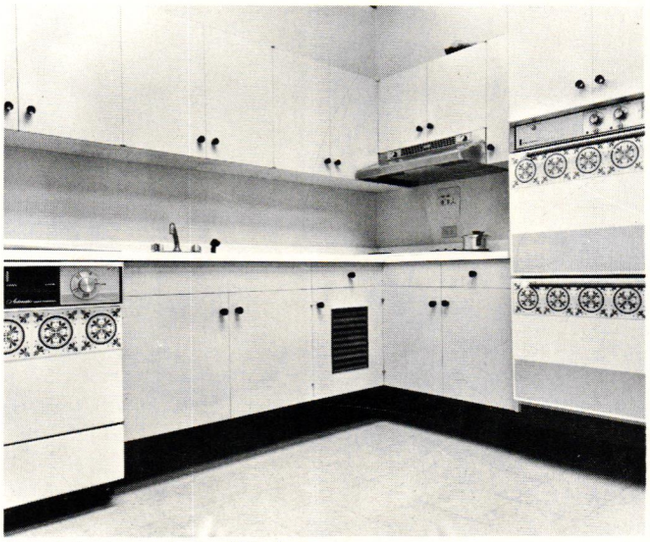
CONSTRUCTION PERIOD — Eight Months.

DESIGN CRITERIA & GENERAL INFORMATION
The design criteria included taking advantage of the magnificient view while making provisions for avoiding the afternoon sun which affects all houses on that slope in Beverly Hills.

Amador Packer photos

Exterior view of the Residence facing north.





Partial view of the Kitchen. JOHN S. LOPEZ PHOTO

Dining Room overlooking Kingston and Harbour. Amador Packer photo

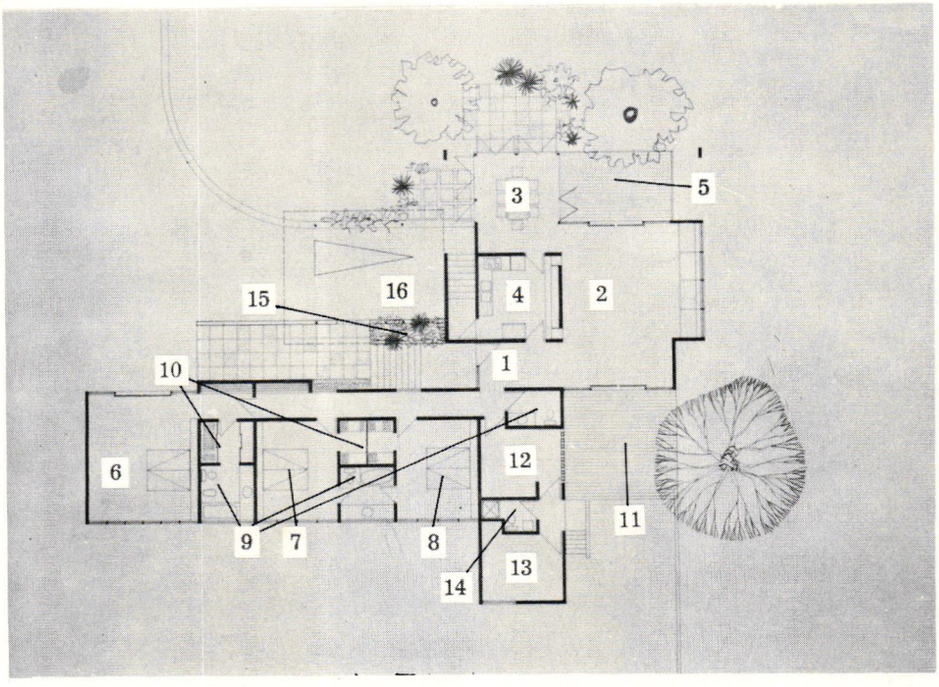
To allow for this, provisions were made for alternate patio areas. one faces the sea; the other is at the rear of the house facing the mountain view. The Living room was placed to allow equal use of both Harbour view and Mountain view terraces.

All rooms have been designed with cross ventilation and the house has been oriented to catch day and night breezes.

The house is placed at the highest point of the lot to get a view over an adjoining house, but the ground level was sloped to allow access to the neighbouring house which is owned by a relative and to permit joint use of a swimming pool.

A structural concrete form was used for rigidity and earthquake resistance. The wood roof was used to accentuate the residential character of the building.

Architect — Goodman Lowe & Associates. Architects & Engineers.
Contractor — West Indies Home Contractors.



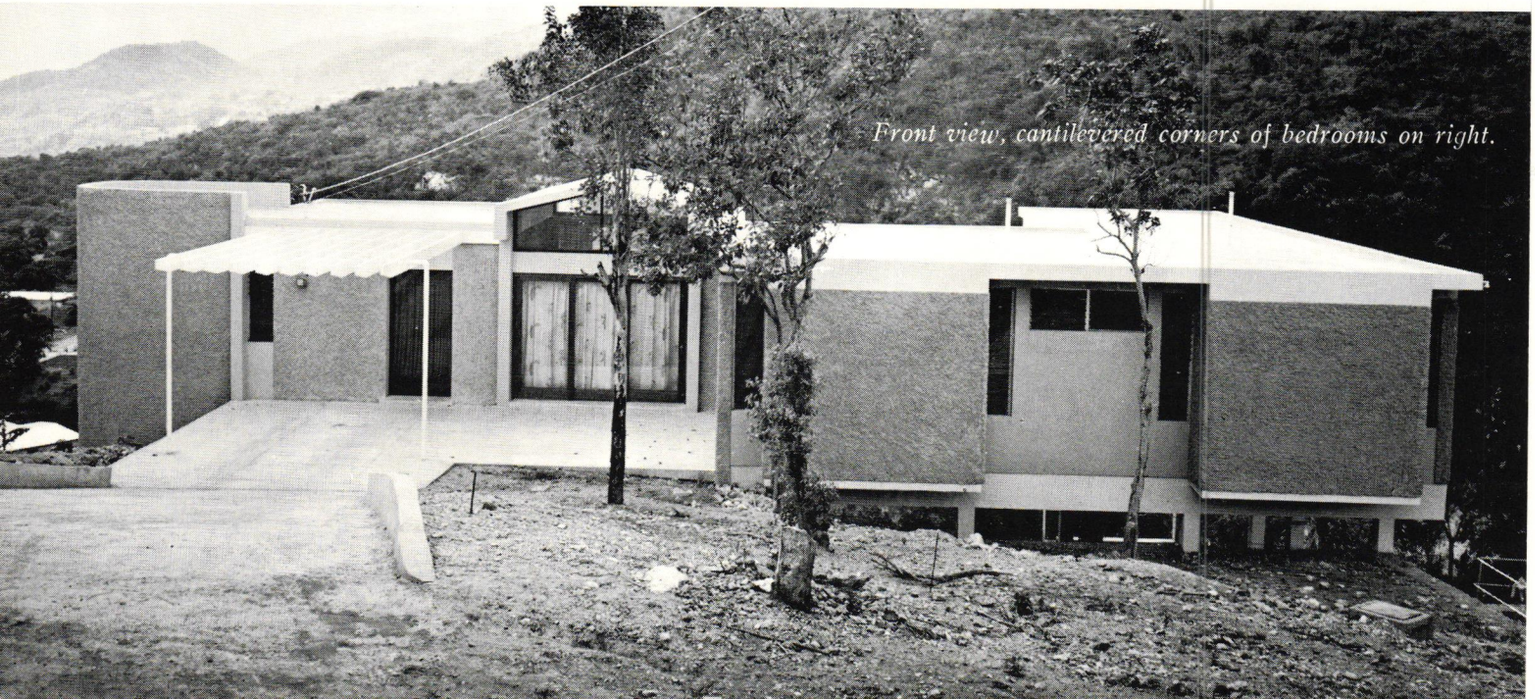
1. Entry
2. Living Room
3. Dining Room
4. Kitchen
5. Verandah
6. Master Bedroom
7. Bedroom
8. Bedroom
9. Bathrooms
10. Walk-in closets
11. Patio
12. Laundry
13. Maids Room
14. Maids Bathroom
15. Entry Planter Box
16. Carport

Amador Packer photo

CONTEMPORARY HOMES, *Havendale Heights*

SITE — Size: Lots approx. ¾ acre.
Great West House Circle — Havendale Heights.
Description: Extremely steep slopes of about 40 degrees downhill from main road. Ten houses.
FLOOR AREA — 1,400 sq. ft.
STRUCTURAL SYSTEM — Post and Beam Reinforced Concrete Floor and Roof Slab.

MATERIALS — Foundations: Reinforced Concrete Footings.
Walls: Reinforced Concrete Blocks
Partitions: Reinforced Concrete Blocks.
Flooring: Reinforced Concrete slab and terrazzo tiles.
Ceiling: Plastered.
Roof: Reinforced Concrete slab.



Front view, cantilevered corners of bedrooms on right.

SPECIAL FEATURE — Split level houses.

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD — 5 Months per House.

DESIGN CRITERIA & GENERAL INFORMATION

The clients brief called for low budget, middle income houses costing about £6,000 each. They were to be built on steeply sloping lots of ½ to ¾ acre. Each house was to have three bedrooms, two bathrooms, a maids room, carport and basement.

Natural ventilation is basically north-south through the valley. The houses face west with a hill view of West Kingston Harbour and Port Henderson. The existing topography helped datum levels to prevent blocking and afford individual privacy both horizontally and vertically. Drainage of the site was no problem because of the extremely steep, rocky nature of the terrain.

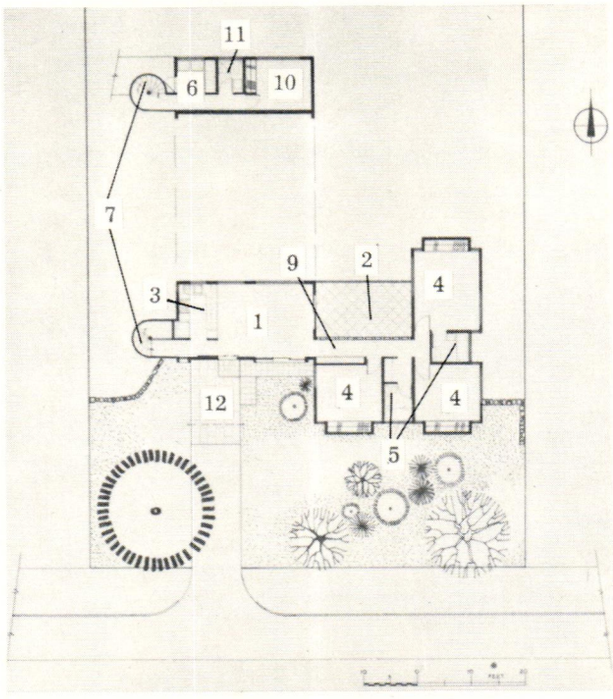
Bedrooms employ slit windows at cantilevered corners to obtain cross ventilation when they are not completely oriented to the prevailing breeze.

Concrete "stilts" had to be employed to lift ground floors high above the rocky terrain to avoid excessive filling, retaining walls, or any excavation in rock.

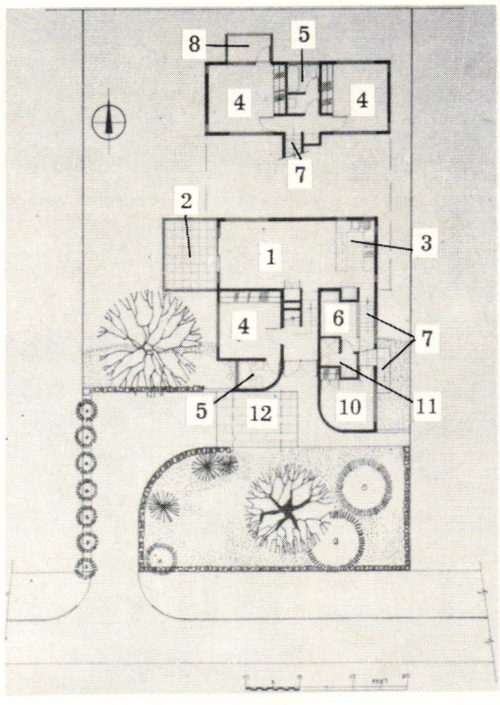
Rough texture pebble dashing has been liberally employed to combat weathering.

Living – Dining area and adjacent patio.

Architect: John Coke & Associates
Structural Consultant: Bryad Engineering Co. Ltd.
Electrical Consultant: General Engineering Services
Contractor: C. Henry & Associates.



Living – Dining Room	1.
Patio	2.
Kitchen	3.
Bedrooms	4.
Bathrooms	5.
Laundry	6.
Staircases	7.
Balcony	8.
Corridor	9.
Maids Bedroom	10.
Maids Bathroom	11.
Carport	12.



Architecture Overseas continued from page 7

For fire protection roofs are constructed with a thin concrete sheet between thatch and ribs, but it is not clear how the thatch is tied down. Traditional timber posts are simulated in concrete as a guard against rot and termites. Architects for the Hotel Pago Pago International, Pago Pago are Wimberly, Whisenand, Allison and Tong, with landscape architect G. Walters.

Elisabeth Thompson illustrates another building of interest to Jamaican architects, a medical centre to provide 160 beds for patients from offshore islands. Plan comprises single storey pavilion wards connected by a corridor spine running through interspaced fale style day and waiting rooms opening onto courts between ward blocks. Wards are 48' clear span, 60' apart, and construction is precast concrete 'bents' at 12' centres carrying a 3" solid cedar decking; this appears at first glance a questionable detail, but it follows common practice in the United States and Canada of plank and beam construction, tied by a fitted tongued and grooved joint. There are possibilities for this form, using some of the suitable native timbers, particularly for housing in Jamaica.

In the Samoan medical centre lower parts of walls are infilled with precast concrete panels, and openings are screened against insects. Lighting and utilities are suspended from the roof, which is covered in cedar shakes (shingles). Cost is given as $29 per square foot, a seemingly high figure as presumably this does not include furniture and equipment.

Given a suitable site on flat or undulating land this sort of layout and construction would be feasible in the lowlands of Jamaica, and should be considerably cheaper to build than comparable accommodation in a tower block of steel or concrete; but it would not be an economic proposition on expensive land. Architects for the Centre at Faga'-alu are Stone, Marraccini and Patterson, S. P. Marraccini partner in charge.

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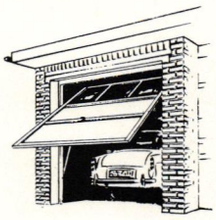

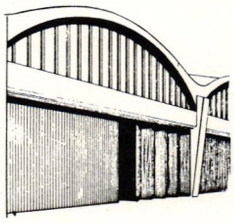

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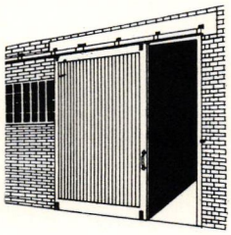

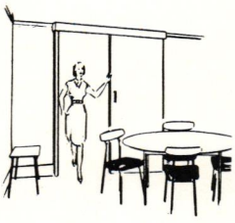

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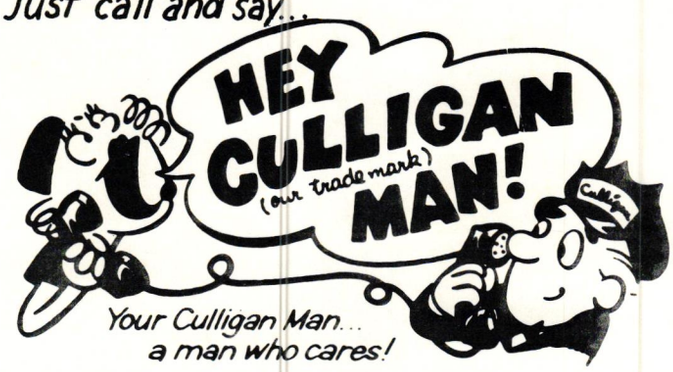

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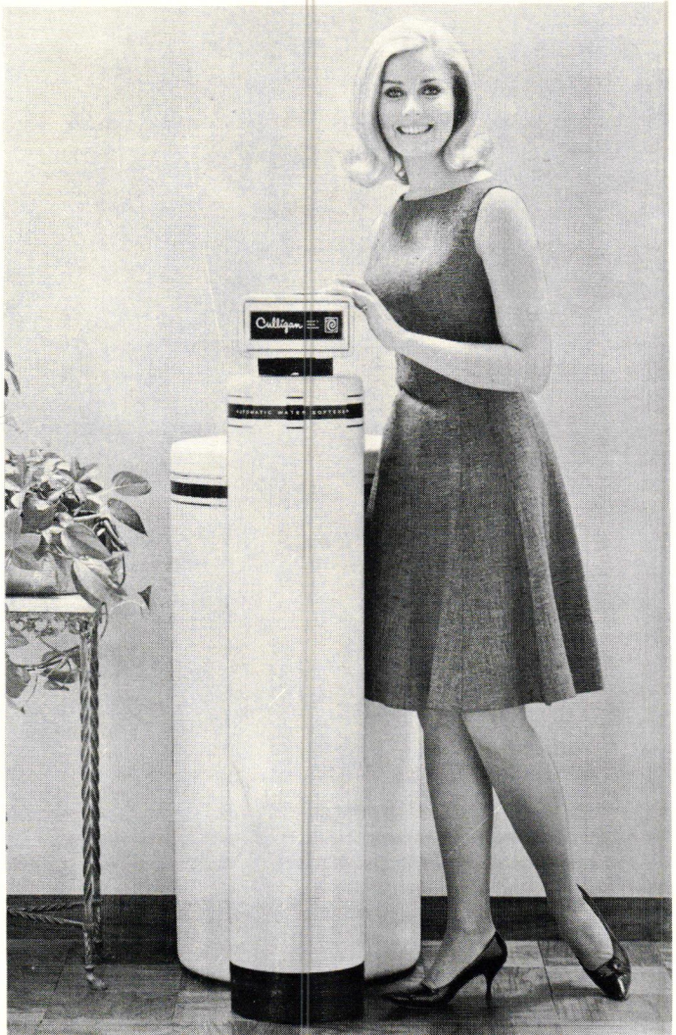
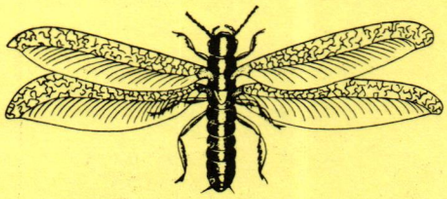


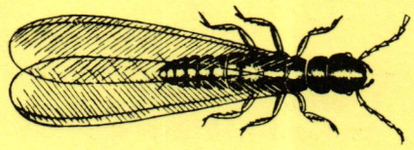
Termites, the Undercover agents

It is full time that professionals in the building industry take a second look at the termite problem. Beautiful, stately homes, with cool interiors are soon becoming a thing of the past. Replacing them are concrete slab buildings. No doubt the belief is that this type of construction will prevent termite damage. Nothing could be further from the truth, since termites have caused serious damage in every type of construction.

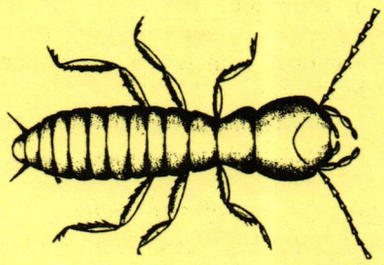
In fact, termite damage has resulted in thousands of pounds of expenditure each year yet termites can be effectively controlled and this waste prevented.



Winged adult King and Queen termites (not relative in size, the male being smaller in proportion).

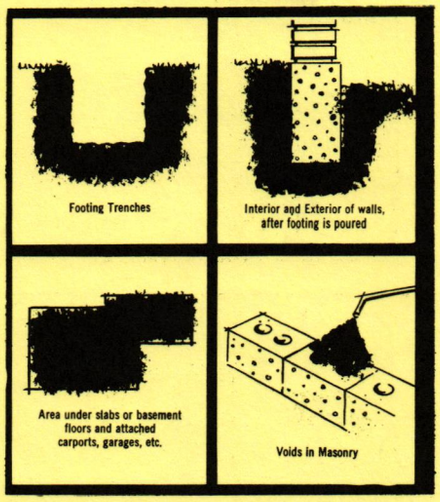


During the mating season eggs are laid to start colonies of workers and soldiers. Notice thick waist and straight antennae, they are mostly black to brown in colour, with whitish wings which are shed after mating.



Small grayish—white insect similar to ant except has a thick waist and straight antennae, not elbow-shaped. Nests underground, comes up through tunnels to attack wood and cellulose containing materials. Avoids contact with air.

These insects enter buildings through small cracks and openings in foundation walls, ravaging and destroying anything in their path — wood, paper, rubber, clothes or any other type of cellulose material. Subterranean Termites (commonly called wood ants, white ants, dock ants) are widely distributed throughout Jamaica and they cause approximately 98% of the termite damage. What is the answer to this problem. The answer is SOIL PRE-TREATMENT. This is a recognized practice in developed countries of the world. The primary aim in soil pre-treatment is to apply a chemical barrier against termites nestling in the ground.



The operation entails treating footing trenches, interior and exterior of walls after footing is poured and all areas under concrete slabs. Soil pre-treatment can be effectively done without the builder losing any time. It is easy to understand why this measure is so important when one weighs the protection that it offers against possible termite attack. Careful study has shown that buildings treated twenty years ago by this method are still termite proof.

Contributed by Peter A. Ridley, President — Jamaica Pest Control Operators Association.
Graduate of Purdue Univertsity in Pest Control Technology.

The decoration of Wood Surfaces

Decoration of wood can be put into two broad categories, Staining and Varnishing to enhance the natural beauty and application of broken colour effects over a painted or stained ground.

Oil based stains are available in a number of colours which may be readily intermixed. These are manufactured with treated oil medias and inert pigments to ensire good penetration and colour retention. Also available, are wood stains containing Wood Preservatives which, after drying to a flat finish, both protect and enhance the wood and need no further treatment. Except for protected interior locations, oil stains or natural wood if it is desired, should be protected with varnish. Recently developed Polyurethane Varnishes have many advantages over previous types, in terms of improved durability, harder surface, resistance to alcohol and faster drying. Exterior wood-work, especially in Marine conditions require the application of at least three (3) coats of varnish and there is a marked improvement in durability and appearance, if more than this are applied. However, it should be pointed out that the maximum durability for any varnish in an exposed tropical environment will not exceed 12 months. This has been the conclusion of Researchers in both the United States and Australia. The degree of breakdown occurs in direct ratio to the amount of ultra-violet or sun-light the surface is subjected to, and this is why exterior horizontal surfaces will breakdown sooner than those in the vertical plane. It is important, therefore, that wherever varnish is used for exterior wood work ample provision is made for its subsequent maintenance. When for reasons of economics or accessability this is not possible, serious consideration should be given as to whether varnish should be used at all. The alternative being the use of conventional oil paint.

In terms of pure decoration, many interesting and varied effects are possible with the use of paint and stains. On either plain or stained wood, White or Grey Distemper should be rubbed thoroughly into the grain and when dry, rub down with a very fine sandpaper or damp cloth which will remove the Distemper from all but the Sinkings in the Wood. The surface should then be protected with Varnish. Another interesting effect may be obtained on wood which is primed and undercoated in White. Rub on, with a soft cloth, a deeper and translucent colour, this is a process known as 'scumbling' and is particularly interesting on mouldings and grain textures where a proportion of the darker colour is left in sinkings and the white ground coat slightly tinted. Finally, the surface should be protected with varnish.

By T. A. NEALE:
Studied decorating and paint technology for 5 years at Willesden Technical College and obtained a London City and Guilds Institute Full Technological Certificate.

A Note on background Music

Background music which, combined with a paging system, has become an integral part of the utilities provided in modern service buildings, goes in with the plumbing. It is installed in a

A Note on background Music

(Continued)

number of Jamaican offices, waiting rooms, shops, hotels, restaurants and factories.

The system with which I am concerned, is of extremely high quality with a full sound range audible at very low levels. This is important: the whole basis of the system is that the music should be at such a low level that it really is *background* and does not impinge upon the consciousness. Indeed, background music at its most effective is subliminal in its effects upon the attitudes and behaviour patterns of people. For this reason music is selected for the particular functional end in view — to encourage people to walk or work more quickly in one case; to relax them in another. Two functional requirements of a tape replay amplifier are (1) A very low noise level in its early stages and (2) Equalisation circuits to correct the falling response at high and low frequencies. Such problems and many others have all been completely overcome by specially trained engineers. The result is that there are some 80,000 installations of the type available in Jamaica in use around the world today.

Loudspeakers matched to the output of the tape deck are generally mounted in ceilings, each unit being contained in an acoustic box. The metal grill can be painted to match exactly the colour of the ceiling. In large buildings, Volume Controls are placed wherever required to counteract immediately area ambient noise levels.

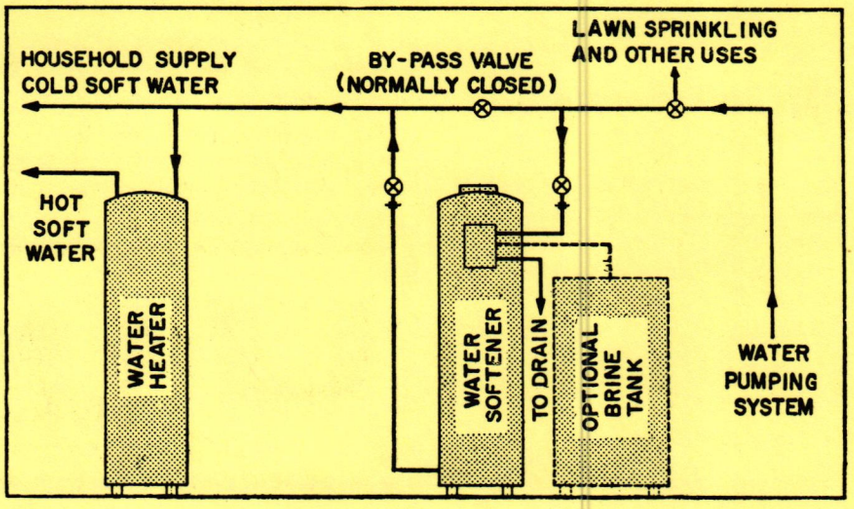
There are 41 installations at present in the island, amongst them being the new British American Life Building and Marzoucas. The British American building has over 330 loudspeakers and 5 separate paging zones. A. C. Marzoucas new building has over 100 loudspeakers with overall paging.

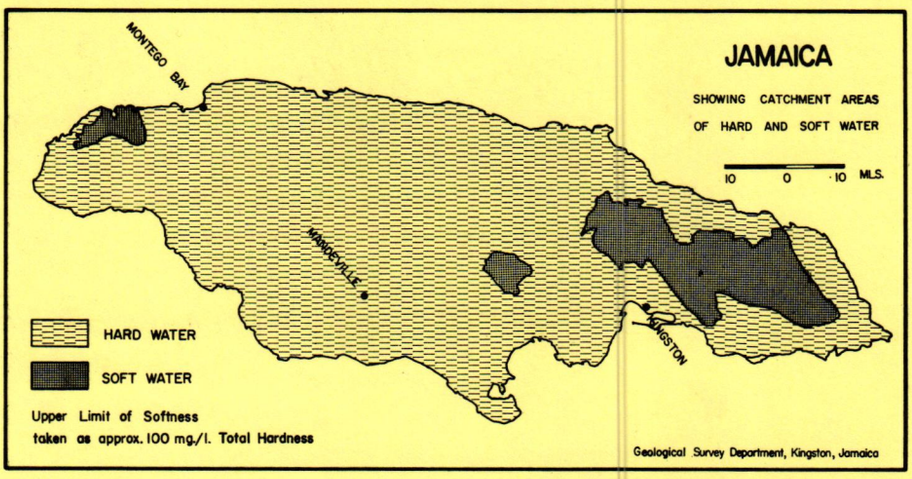
— *by Geoffrey Morrison*

Water Conditioning

Hard water requires more soap or detergent which clogs machinery and plumbing, lengthens the period of cleansing, hampers rinsing, leaves a scum on dishes, clothes, bath tub, and irritates the skin.

Hard water is made soft by adjusting the mineral content of the water. This can be achieved by the installation of a water softening system attached to the household water supply. These water conditioning tanks or cabinets are available in various sizes and degrees of automation.





The benefits of having soft water, in the home, hotel, factory or hospital are realized in greater efficiency and low maintenance costs of operating dishwashers, automatic laundry appliances, water heaters, cooking equipment, plumbing and general as well as personal cleansing needs.

Recommended Installation Proceedures for Water Softeners —

(1) Use ¾ in. galvanized pipe of equivalent water carrying capacity.
(2) Always install a by-pass line with valve and inlet and outlet valves so that the softener or filter may be serviced readily.
(3) Do not restrict a drain line or use a long garden hose. The larger the softener or filter, the more important this becomes.
(4) Do not connect the drain line solidly into any waste or sewer line for obvious sanitary reasons. It violates most plumbing codes. An open end drain is also desirable for inspection of wash water during backwashing and to check the rinsing of the softener.
(5) The Installer should load the softener, backwash, sterilize, place in operation, and check for soft water. It is not necessary to regenerate a new softener, upon installation.
(6) Comply with local plumbing and health codes.

Diagram at top of page shows TYPICAL WATER SOFTENER hookup. Note that water is softened for household uses only where required, but remains hard for lawn sprinkling and other uses.

The information and diagram are from the "PRACTICAL BUILDER" as quoted by Gilbert Byles.

California Redwood in the Tropics

Today, in our more sophisticated world, the beauty of wood is recognized as one of the more gracious, leisurely notes in our hectic way of living. Its subtle variation of texture and colour gives it an individuality exceedingly difficult and perhaps even impossible to duplicate.

Highly flexible in character and certainly adaptable to any design or style, woods of many kinds have become a part in the technological advances made in Architecture and Engineering.

It would be impossible in so short

an article to do justice to wood in general. California Redwood, perhaps the most versatile of all woods and the one material that combines both physical and aesthetic qualities, has been selected for comment.

The durable heart of redwood is a subdued brown with reddish overtones. Its grain is gracefully figured but not excessively bold.

It possesses properties which are highly desirable in the tropics. Relatively few woods have such a high degree of resistance to decay and insect attack. The United States Forest Products Laboratory classes redwood heartwood as durable even when used in conditions favouring decay. This accounts for redwood being so successfully employed for exterior siding, stadium seats, silos, decks, in fact, for most outdoors work where exposure requires a serviceable lasting wood.

The heartwood of redwood contains wood chemicals which act as natural preservatives, making it one of the most termite resistant woods available to the building industry.

It is one of the lightest softwoods commonly used for structural purposes and it is certainly an outstanding wood in that its low shrinkage or swelling under variable conditions of moisture makes it particularly suitable for exterior use under tropical weather conditions.

Redwood is not incombustible; it is highly resistant to fire because of the lack of volatile resins and oils in the wood. It is hard to ignite and even when ignited it burns very slowly developing a layer of charred wood which protects the unburnt wood underneath.

Insulation properties is another admirable quality as is its freedom from taste and odour.

The texture of redwood is fine and uniform and the grain is straight.

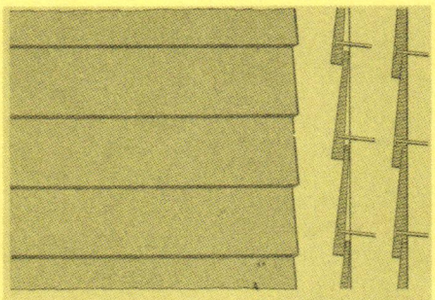
No wood surpasses it in its ability to take and hold a finish system. Because of its complete lack of pitch and resins and its open cellular structure, properly dried redwood will retain paints or other finishes longer than most other woods.

Many redwood exteriors are left unfinished. In the natural weathering finish redwood will lose its pinkish cast turning a cinnamon brown. It may also streak in damper climates where whole exposed areas may appear quite dark. In time due to the rinsing action of rains, the wood may lighten and slowly weather bleach to a driftwood grey.

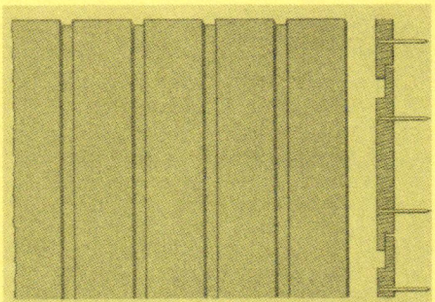
A water repellant treatment also is recommended to avoid the initial darkening stage of natural weathering. With this brushed on treatment it will gradually lighten and probably stabilize to buckskin tan or sheeny tan grey. Such repellants contain a mildewcide to prevent unsightly mildew.

Pigmented stains are available in a variety of colours, they are easy to apply, are inexpensive and do not obscure the beauty of the grain.

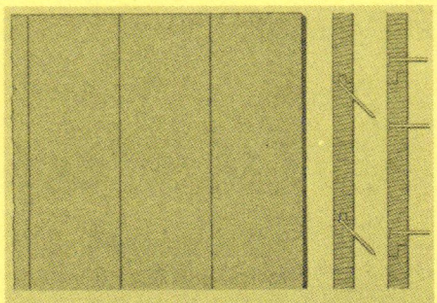
For interior use redwood panelling patterns are many. Starting with four basic patterns, variations on these themes provide an abundance of different panelling effects. As will be seen from other parts of this issue redwood for interior effects, for walls, ceilings, rafters and beams have become the accepted media in better homes. Architects are expressing new beauty with Redwood Interiors.



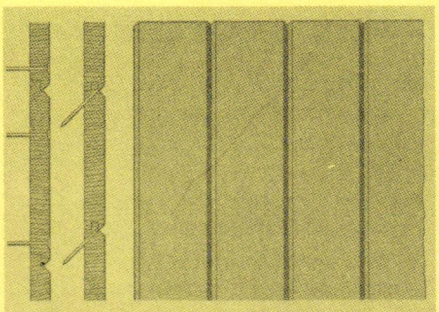
Bevel siding. A traditional siding pattern. Apply in horizontal courses. Plain bevel produces a strong shadow line, rabbeted bevel a more modest one. The rabbeted patterns provide slightly more wall coverage.



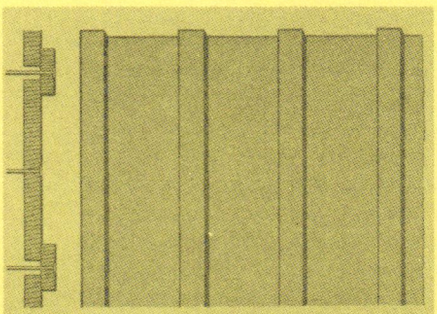
Channel Rustic. This is a shiplap variation that gives a board-on-board effect with strong patterns of light and shade. Can be applied in vertical or horizontal courses. Economically installed.



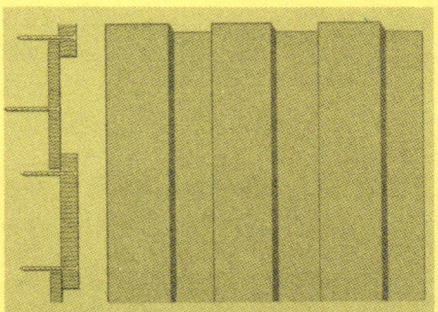
Flush patterns. Square edge tongue and groove and shiplap give the same flush appearance when installed. Can be applied vertically or horizontally. Offer the choice of a variety of widths.



Vee-joint. Same effect obtained from either tongue and groove or shiplap vee-joint. These produce a strong shadow pattern. Can be applied vertically or horizontally. Widths range from 4 to 12 inches.



Board-and-batten. Apply in vertical courses only for exteriors. Produces bold effects. Numerous variations are possible: board-on-board; reverse board-and-batten, and random width applications.



Santa Rosa siding. The thin under-batten makes this a most economical pattern, both in terms of coverage and ease of handling. Choice of saw-textured or surfaced face. Apply in vertical courses.

Variation of thicknesses, widths, patterns and finishes is almost unlimited. With a wonderful range of patterns in Clear Heart Vertical Grain Kiln Dried redwood available on the local market in quantity, the building trade has for the first time in the history of building in Jamaica an unsurpassed and highly desirable material of wonderful quality and texture. This grade is recommended for all exterior uses, in Sidings, Construction, Garden fences, Decks, Pergolas, and garden furniture.

Clear All Heart V. G. (vertical grain) is a special selection of clear All Heart grade which will show vertical grain heartwood for the full exposed width when laid. The vertical grain has exceptional resistance to

California Redwood in the Tropics

(Continued)

weathering under exposed conditions and shows the least tendency to alter in dimension and will hold finish unusually well.

Clear All Heart is 100 percent clear live heartwood ranging in colour from light reddish brown to deep mahogany. It includes flat or mixed grain. Both sides of each piece are of high quality, the reverse side of occasional pieces may have small sound pin knots.

'A' grades, unlike the above heart grades, may include clear sapwood in amounts varying from a small strip along the edge to the occasional piece which is all sapwood. Defects such as surface checks, checked birds eye, slight crooks or cups are also allowed. The sapwood is cream coloured and is attractive in panelling and of course is more suitable where economy of price is important.

Good local supplies are available of all Clear Heart Vertical and Flat Grain Kiln Dried, grade marked, paper wrapped stock, which includes panelling, square edged dressed boards and dimension and Louvre Blade stock to match all the locally produced patterns of window Louvre Hardware. Rez and other redwood finishes, stains, lacquers and paints are also available.

— by Hubert Arnold.

Sliding Doors

In the past, sliding doors were only used in Jamaican homes to divide the drawing room and the dining room, or industrially, on the covered wharves of Kingston's waterfront.

Today, however, many other types of sliding doors are being employed to meet the demands of modern architecture in Jamaica. For example, there are sectional sliding doors which turn corners to lay flat against an adjacent wall; there are doors which slide up to a horizontal position overhead, and there are sets of doors which slide and fold. All of these designs are adaptable for factories, garages, and warehouses; the sliding-folding doors are also desirable for homes, schools, hotels and offices.

The basic mechanism for sliding doors consists of a track with wheels to fit and a channel with guides. There are two basic types — top hung with bottom guides, and bottom runner with top guides.

In the top-hung type, the track is fixed to the lintel and takes the weight of the doors. The channel set in the floor keeps the doors in line. If the doors cannot be suspended, then the track of appropriate design is set into the floor and the guide is installed on the lintel. Many factors have to be considered in order to select the correct gear, viz:

(a) Nature of building — Residence, school, office, factory, garage, hotel, warehouse.

(b) System of opening — Location of opening in relation to adjacent walls and other obstruction.

(c) Type of door — Wood, steel, aluminium, utilizing solid panels, plate glass, louvres and grilles.

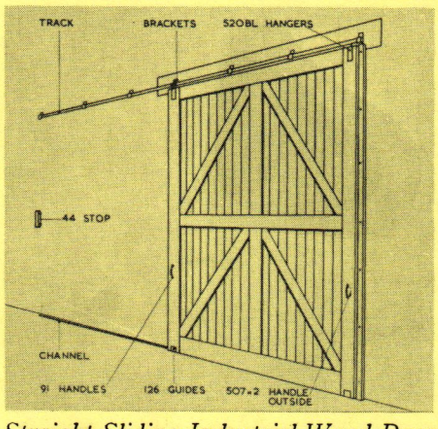
(d) Weight of door — For accurate calculation to determine available gear ranging from 2 lbs. to 2 tons per door.

(e) Type of Construction — To determine top hung or bottom rolling gear.

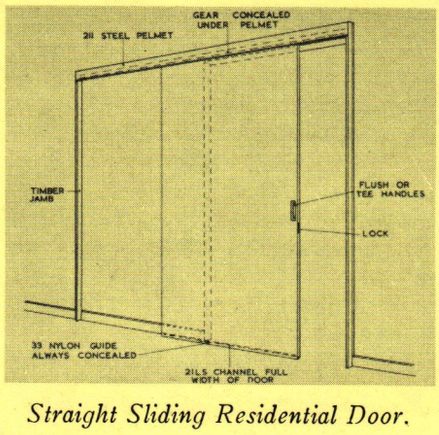
(f) Internal or external opening — External doors should be weatherproof and able to withstand hurricane force winds.

(g) The system of sliding — The number of doors to operate simultaneously or singly, also the securing of the doors when closed.

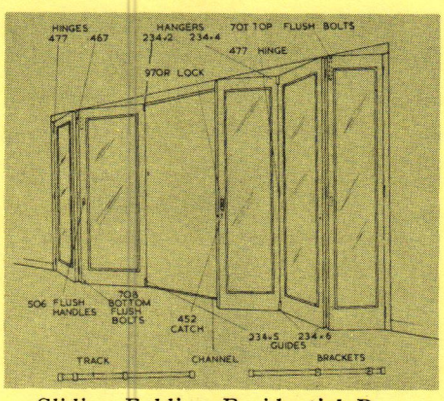
Illustrated below are some typical Doors and their Functions.



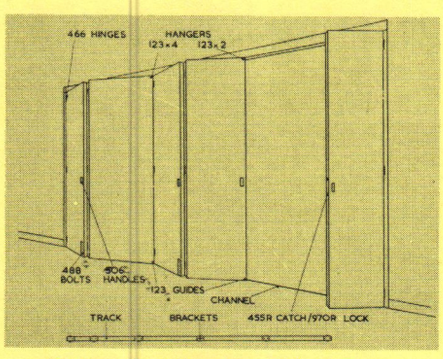
Straight Sliding Industrial Wood Door — Available in Steel also.



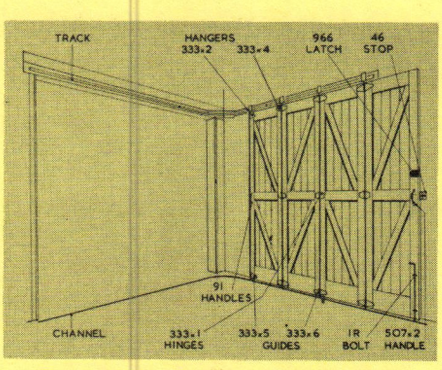
Straight Sliding Residential Door.



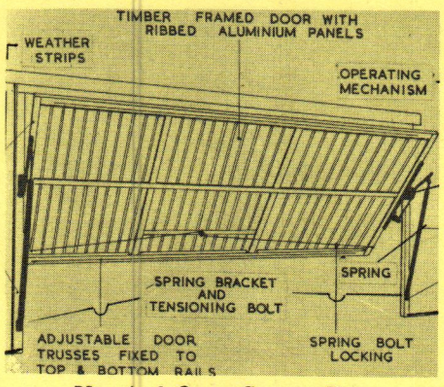
Sliding-Folding Residential Door.



Sliding-Folding Partition Door.



Round-The-Corner Garage Door.



Up-And-Over Garage Door.

Considerable savings in building costs can be realized by the use of sliding doors, due to the resultant reduction of floor area.

New techniques are constantly being developed and specialist consultant services are available, preferably given at the planning stage, to architects, regarding design, installation and cost of sliding doors.

By Douglas Orane

Patterns . . .

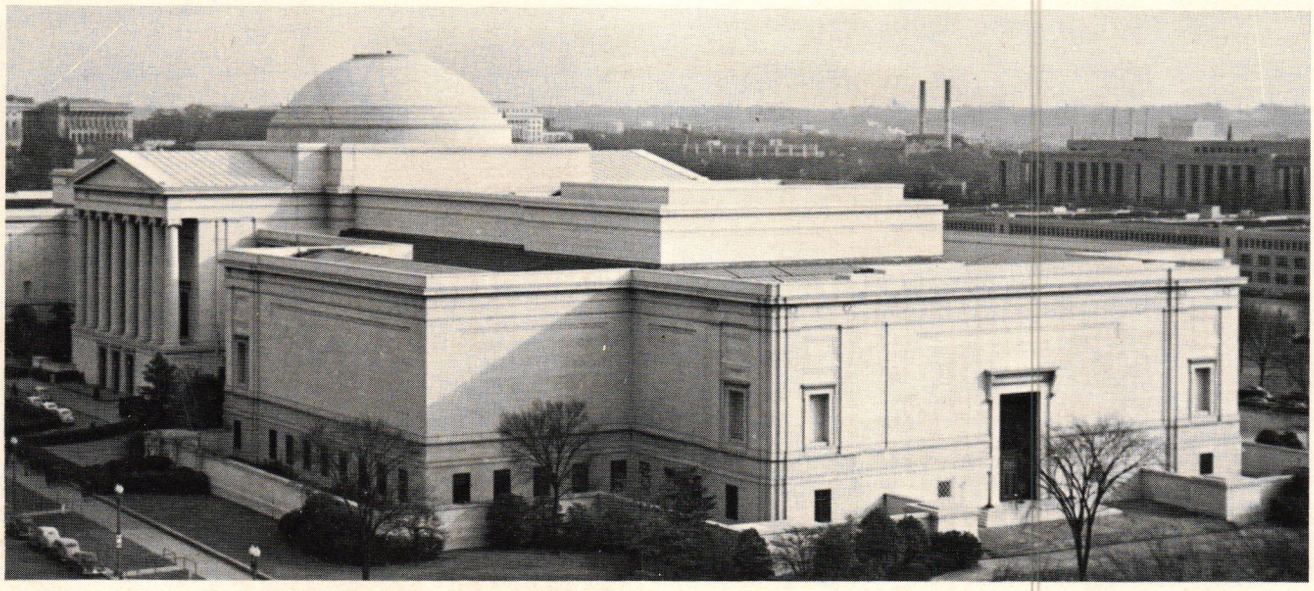
Redwood paneling patterns are as distinctive as personalities. Starting with four basic patterns, variations on these themes provide an abundance of different paneling effects. And, as you can see from these settings, redwood complements any interior styling.

One of the ways you can vary your paneling is in your choice of texture. All patterns are available with a smoothly planed (or "surfaced") face, and most of them are also available with a saw-textured (or "Factrisawn®") face. The latter process adds a softness to the wood that can be used to good effect with sterner lines of furniture.

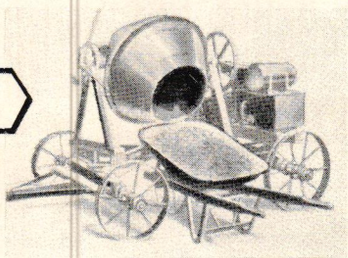
Another variation lies in your selection of grain. Combining flat and vertical grains results in interesting, figured effects, and although most shipments of paneling include both flat and vertical grain pieces, it is possible to specify only vertical grain pieces if a more subdued effect is desired.

TONGUE & GROOVE pattern with a smooth face and narrow V-groove shows off the mixed grain of the redwood paneling.

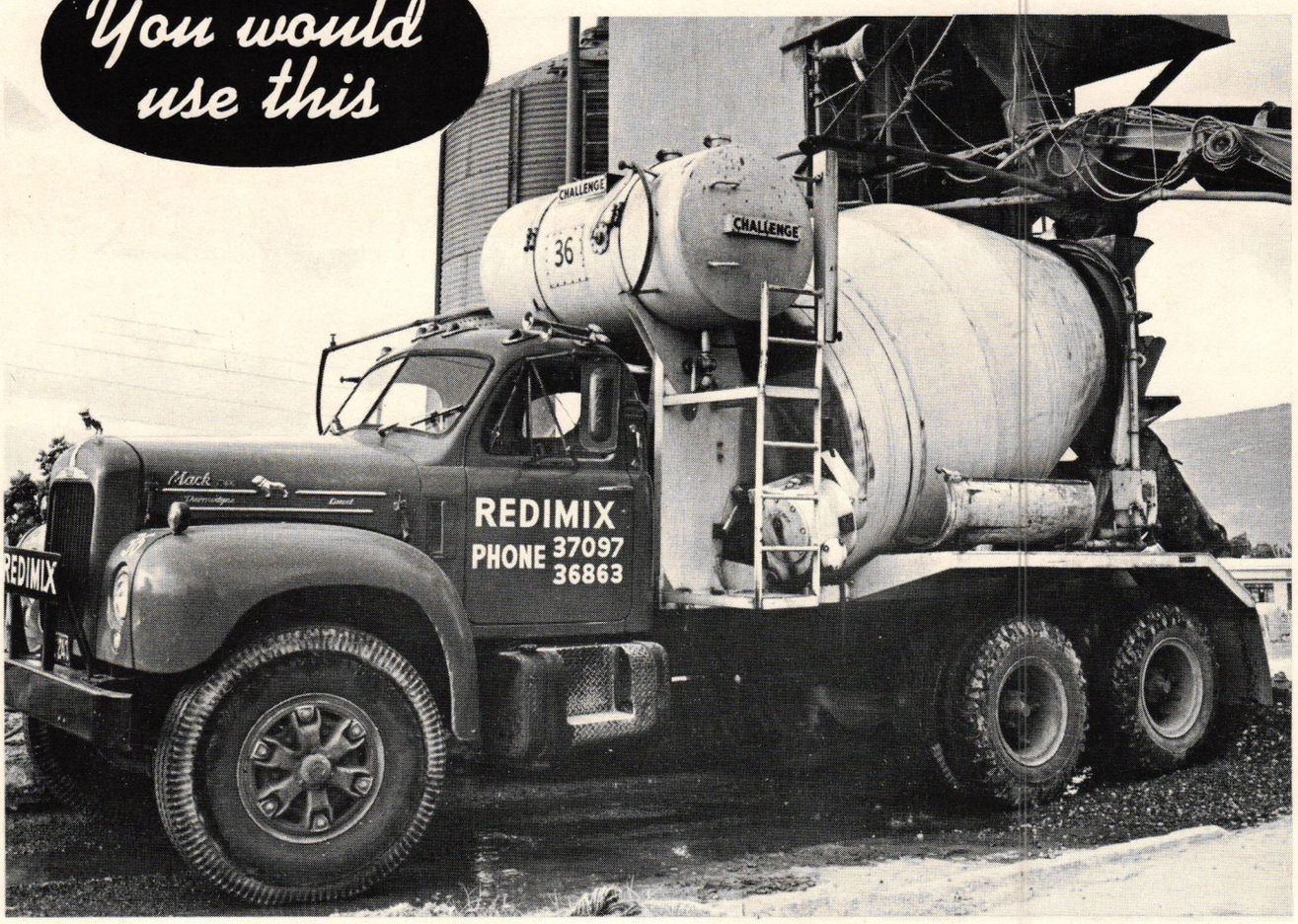
TONGUE & GROOVE pattern of a Clear All Heart redwood paneling with a Factrisawn® face was finished naturally. The beveled edges of the boards resulted in a wide V-shaped groove that adds interest to the wall, as does the combination of flat and vertical grain.



Mr. Architect... If you had this building to construct . . . . . you wouldnt use this



You would use this



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36863 (Plant) 67140 (Office) 82 KNUTSFORD BOULEVARD, KINGSTON 5

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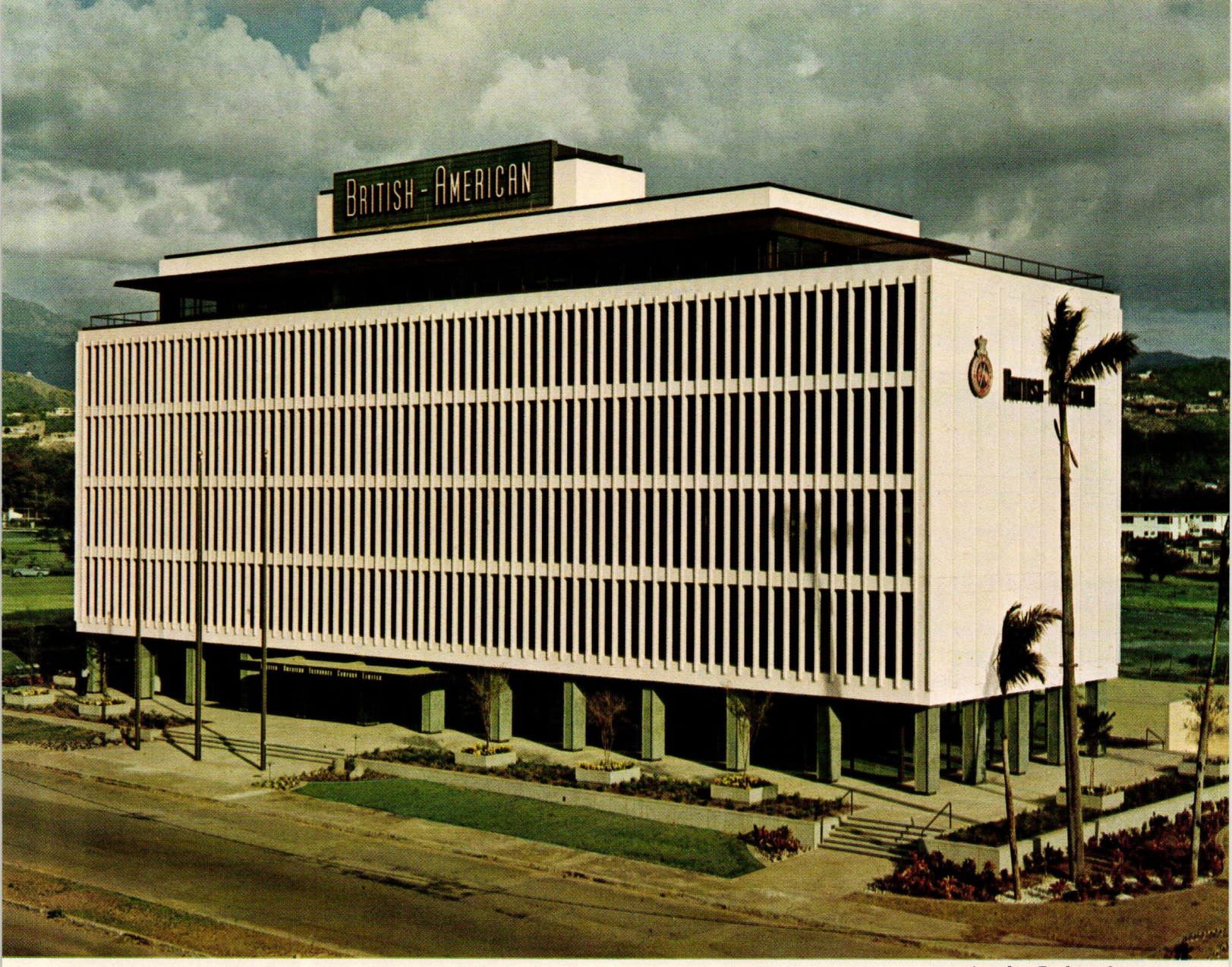


Amador Packer photo

British American Insurance Co. Ltd.

Caribbean Home Office, Knutsford Blvd., Kingston

SITE — Size: Total of 57,552 square feet.

FLOOR AREA — First Floor: Elevator lobby, 2 elevators, 2 stairwells, bank lobby, work space and office, 2 vaults, coupon booth, rental space, mechanical and transformer rooms, shop, engineers office, storage, loading platform, service area, janitors space, maintenance building, garage, corridor and toilets.

Second Floor: Elevators, stairwells, rental spaces, mechanical and telephone equipment rooms, toilets, closets and corridor.

Third Floor: Elevators, stairwells, rental spaces, mechanical equipment rooms, toilets, closets and corridor.

Fourth Floor: Elevators, stairwells, offices, waiting room, IBM managers office and machine room, program and data processing offices, correspondence lift, fire vault, mechanical room, training suite, toilets, storage, closets, doctor's suite, cashier, janitor space and corridor.

Fifth Floor: Elevators, stairwells, PBX desk and waiting space, supervisors office, large work area, and secretaries spaces, several private offices with secretarial area, conference room, Vice Presidents office, supply room, correspondence lift, pantry, files, storage, closets, mechanical room, toilets, janitors space and corridor.

Sixth Floor: Elevators and lobby, stairwell, auditorium, dining room, kitchen, gallery, perimeter deck, toilets and storage.

Penthouse: Stairwell, elevator and mechanical equipment.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM — Concrete and steel.

MATERIALS — Perimeter Deck: Dex-O-Tex surface over concrete fill.

Exterior Wall Finishes: Office Building — cast stone with white quartz aggregate. Columns, base and trim dark green with green marble aggregate. Service Building — Stucco and decorative grille blocks. Maintenance Building — Stucco.

Reception area of executive suite enhanced by walnut panelling.

Partitions: Plaster, gypsum board, decorative vinyl fabric, hardwood and limited use of marble in elevator lobby first floor. Walnut panelling was imported from England and is used in the executive suite as well as the auditorium.

Flooring: Marble, ceramic and terrazzo tile, vinyl and vinyl-asbestos tile, and carpets.

Ceiling: Acoustical tile and plaster.

Roof: Mastic asphalt roofing surfaced with gravel or stone chips over insulated concrete.

Air Conditioning: The system is designed to provide uniformly comfortable temperature and ventilation to all areas. The work areas of the 2nd through 5th floors are divided into interior and exterior systems. The exterior systems are served by underwindow units supplied with pre-conditioned primary air fan central air conditioning apparatus located in the service building. The interior systems are supplied by fan coil units, consisting of chilled water coil, fans, etc. Air distribution is through a system of low-pressure duct work with ceiling diffusion.

The ground floor and sixth floor spaces are conditioned by low-pressure dehumidifying fan and coil units.

Lighting: Specifically designed using the latest equipment to provide a modern, diffused non-glare lighting system to all areas.

Spacious, cool general office area.

Amador Packer photos

SPECIAL FEATURES

Front Entrance: Special hardcoat dark aluminum glare reducing and heat absorbing glass.

Landscaping: Completely planned to add to the character of the building.

Parking: Total of 40 spaces provided for off-street parking in addition to off-street parking already available.

Design: Contemporary design which reflects strength and durability. The design features large blue-green glare reducing and heat absorbing glass areas on the first floor specifically intended to express interior space utilization and on two facades of the upper floors a series of closely spaced vertical fins to add depth and interest. Behind these fins are windows of gray glare reducing and heat absorbing glass. Fire resistive materials are specified in order to promote safety and minimize building maintenance costs.

The sixth floor houses the dining, lounge and auditorium facilities, as well as a promenade deck where views of Kingston can be appreciated in all directions. The Kitchen facilities incorporate the latest stainless steel equipment and are adequate to serve the entire population of the building.

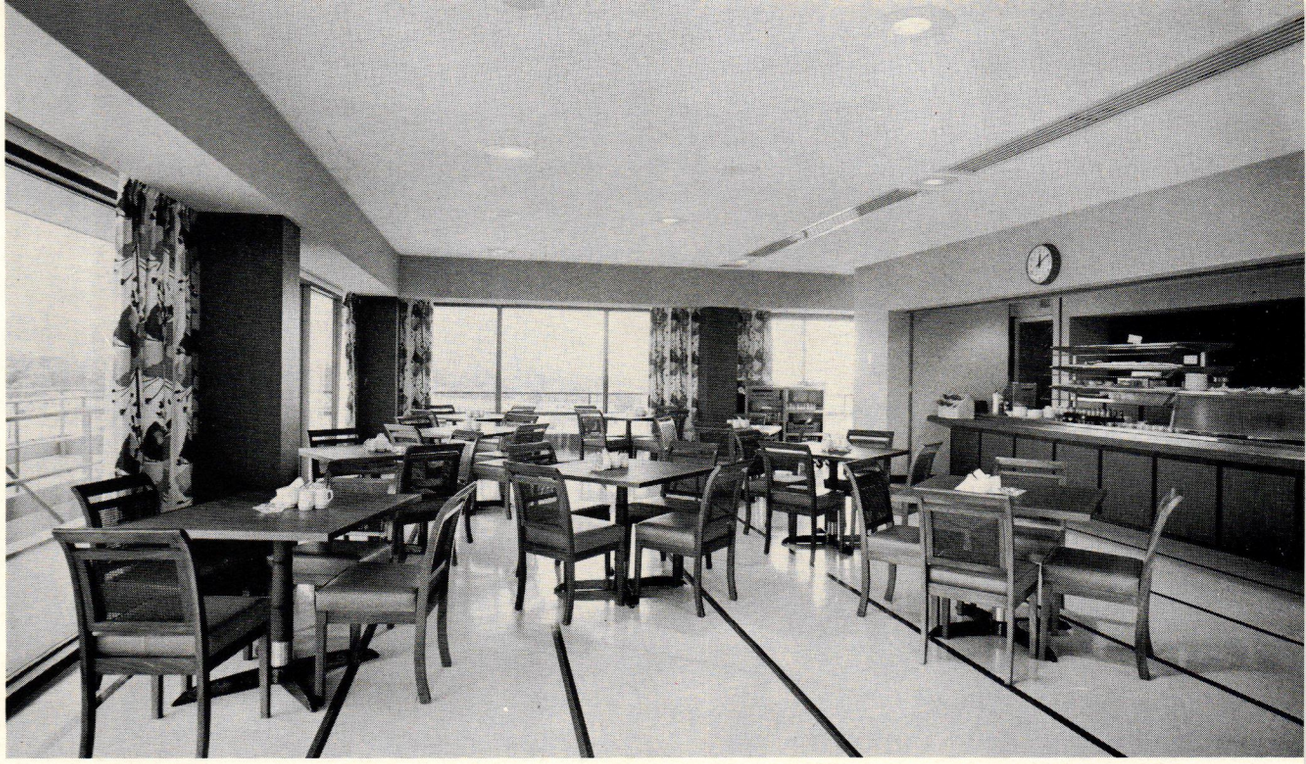
Interior Furnishings: The interiors of the entire building were tastefully coordinated in color and texture. The carpet fabrics and well coverings provide a restful and beautiful background for carrying on the business of the Company. A great deal of the furniture was custom designed and made in Jamaica specifically for the British-American Building.

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD — February 1965 to December 1966.

DESIGN CRITERIA & GENERAL INFORMATION

In 1959 the Board of Directors of the British-American Insurance Co., Ltd. decided that it would be necessary for them to consider building adequate office space in the Caribbean area to properly house a centralized home office organization serving the entire Caribbean area. It was decided that Kingston would best serve as the location for this facility and that a site should be selected in a new area where the City would be expanding. It was felt that British-American Insurance Company could help Jamaica by providing facilities which could serve as a precedent and a model for other expanding institutions to follow. It was thought that these facilities should compare favourably in design, equipment and finish to similar buildings in the United States, and that every effort should be made to utilize local talents, crafts, and materials where possible. A site was selected in new Kingston, Knutsford Park, and at that time, there were no buildings in the immediate area.

It was hoped that the new building would set a pace for other buildings to follow. The firm of Kemp, Bunch and Jackson, Architects of Jacksonville, Florida was selected as the principal architect, and the firm of McMorris, Sibley, Robinson of Kingston, Jamaica was selected as the associate architect. Kemp, Bunch and Jackson was a firm with a great deal of experience in major insurance buildings throughout the United States. The firm of McMorris, Sibley, Robinson was selected because of their previous outstanding work in Jamaica. It was decided that this building should be designed to accommodate the future growth of the company for at least the next twenty years, and that the new design and construction techniques should



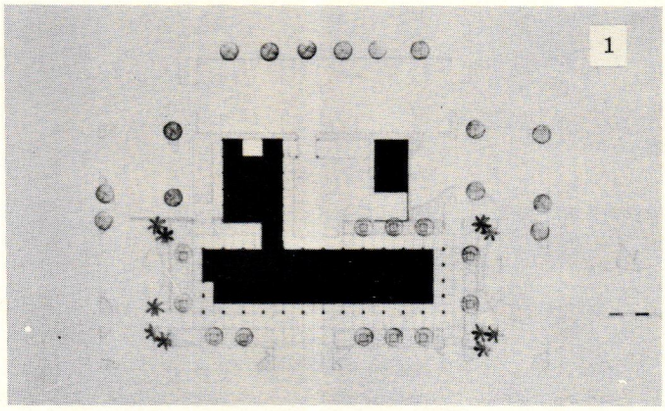
Dining facilities, cafeteria, and promenade deck overlook panorama view of Kingston.

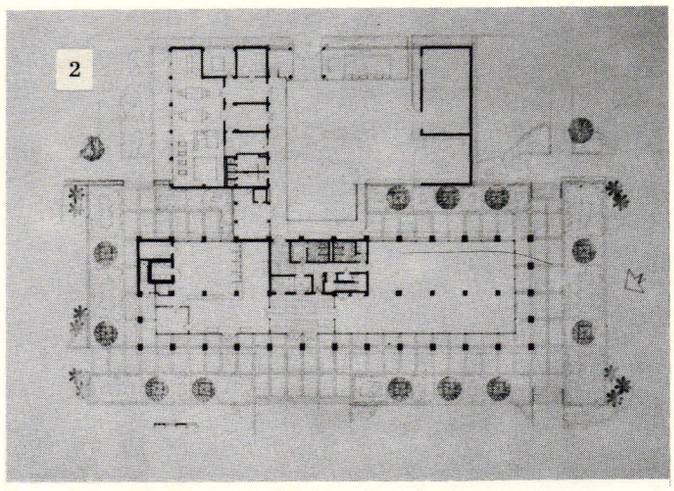
Amador Packer photo

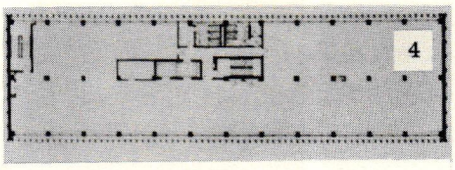
be of the latest thinking, and that the building would be modern and up-to-date in every way. The design of the building should express beauty, dignity, stability, and respect.

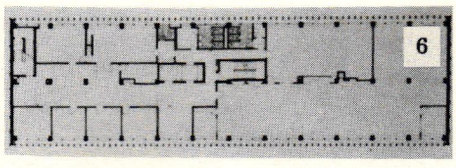
Architects — Kemp, Bunch & Jackson, Jacksonville, Florida
Associate Architects — McMorris, Sibley & Robinson Kingston, Jamaica
Contractor — Canjam (Ja.) Ltd. Kingston, Jamaica
Consulting Engineers — Van Wagenen & Van Wagenen, Jacksonville, Florida
Associate Consulting Engineers — Robert C. Lyon-Hall & Associates, Kingston, Jamaica
Quantity Surveyors — Hall & Associates, Kingston, Jamaica
Landscaping — Recovery Pen Nurseries, Montego Bay, Jamaica
Interior Design — R. Michael Brown Inc. New York, N.Y.

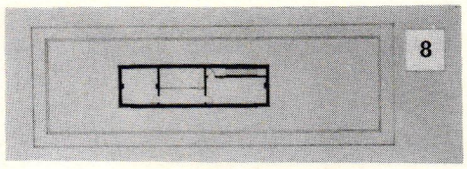
1. *Site Plan*
2. *First Floor Plan*
3. *Second Floor Plan*
4. *Third Floor Plan*
5. *Fourth Floor Plan*
6. *Fifth Floor Plan*
7. *Sixth Floor Plan*
8. *Penthouse Plan*

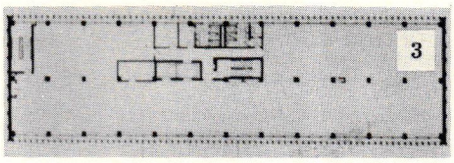


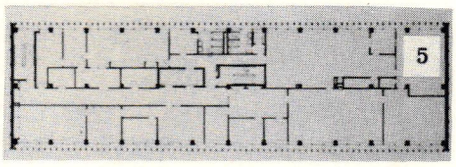


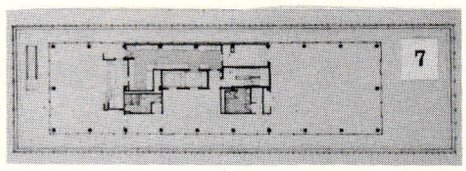












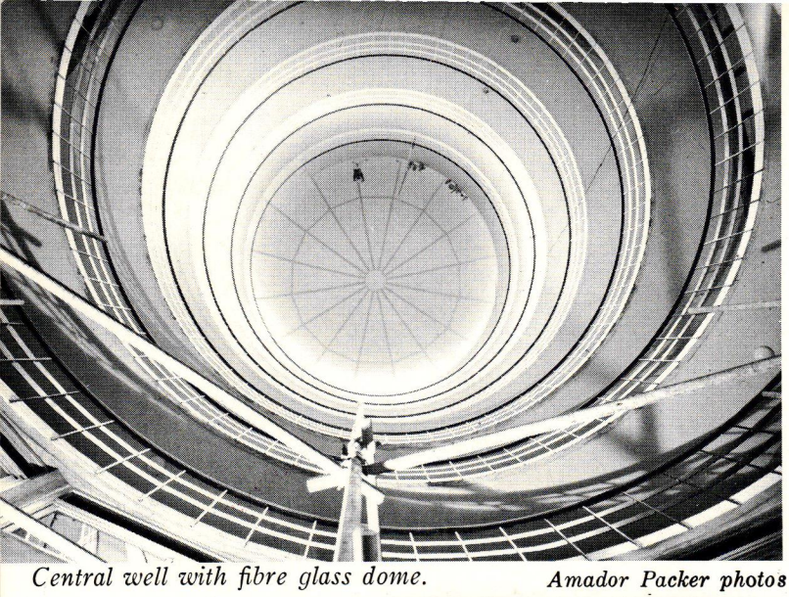
INCOME TAX BUILDING, KINGSTON

Amador Packer photo

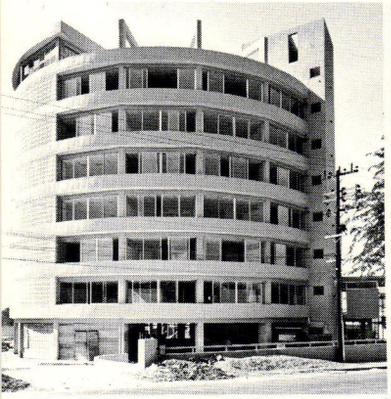
THE SITE The site is at the south-west corner of East Street and Lockett Avenue. It is approximately 30,800 sq. ft. and after initial pavement widening along the East Street frontage is almost square in shape measuring 200' 0" by 154' 0" and is fairly level with a 4' 0" fall north to south across its length. Existing on site was a brick and timber structure which had to be demolished. Two wells suggesting the existence of an underground river were sealed off.

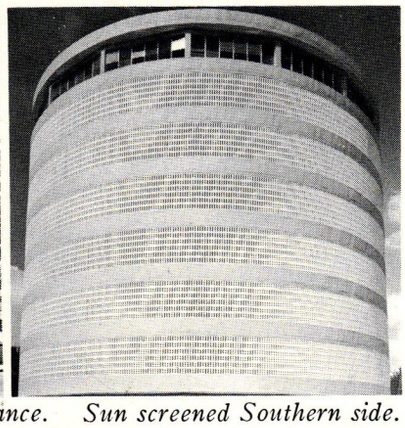
Of the total area 90% of the site is asphalted, retaining four of the original seven fruit and decorative trees; landscaping of the site calls for twenty six almond trees for shading to car parking and decoration. The site accommodates 67 cars, 14 under cover of the 1st floor and the remainder in the open under trees. Apart from the East Street and Lockett Avenue frontages which dictated some emphasising of the corner, the site to the east consists of a single storey structure with tree planting and to the south, a vacant lot.

The dominating influences on the site are East Street and Lockett Avenue, both from a pedestrian and vehicular traffic point of view as well as the approaches to the site by the aforementioned two roads.

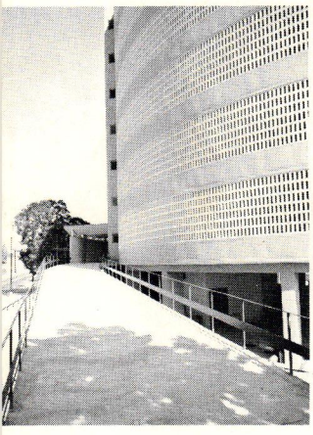


Central well with fibre glass dome. *Amador Packer photos*

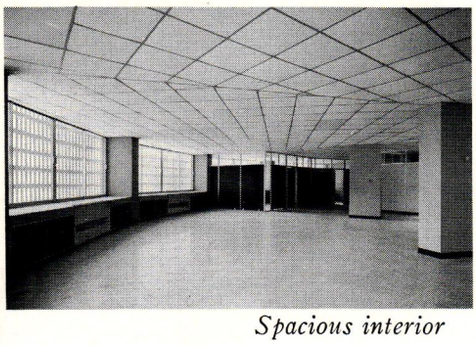




North exposure, vehicular entrance. *Sun screened Southern side.*



Pedestrian ramp



Spacious interior

FLOOR AREA The total floor area of the building under cover is approximately 51,000 sq. ft. Excluding the basement and eighth floor, the area per floor is approximately 6,250 sq. ft.

Basement:- The approximate area is 2,360 sq. ft. of which 1,700 sq. ft. is storage space. The remainder comprises Lifts, Staircases, Telephone Equipment and services.

Ground Floor:- This is at site level. 850 sq. ft. is actual building comprising Lifts, Staircases, Entrance Hall, air-conditioning and electrical equipment. The remainder of the area is covered car parking.

Floors 1 to 6:- 5,000 sq. ft. per floor is office space and remainder comprises of Lifts, Staircases, Circulation space, Lavatories, Rest rooms, ducts, Reception areas and Service areas.

There is an Entrance Hall at 1st floor level which is entered via a concrete ramp and a Conference Room on the 6th floor.

7th Floor:- 4,300 sq. ft. is under cover and comprises Dining, Kitchen, Serving Area, lifts, staircases, sub-staff changing room and services.

8th Floor:- This is the roof area containing water storage tank, motor room, air-conditioning equipment and staircases.

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:- The building is a multi-storey reinforced concrete frame structure eight storeys high, with a basement. It is circular in shape. The overall diameter is 100' 0" with an open well 29' 0" in diameter in the centre for the whole height of the building: this open well, which is the access corridor to the offices on each floor, acts as a funnel and is designed to accentuate ventilation across the building on each floor should the necessity arise through air-conditioning failure. The open well begins at the ground floor level and is covered over at the roof of the Canteen by a fibreglass dome on a mild steel frame.

The main beams span 25' 0" and radiate out from the centre to 18' 0" on the perimeter of the building. Floor to floor height is 10' 6" with beam to slab thickness 1' 6" overall.

The structure is designed to take an additional three floors whenever necessary.

MATERIALS:- The basic materials of construction are:

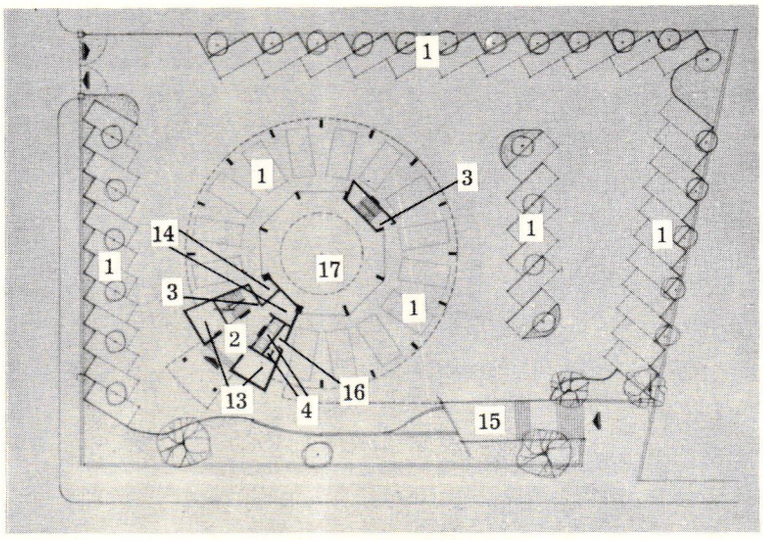
1. Reinforced concrete columns, beams, reinforced block panel walls rendered, with upstand perimeter beams which form the sill walls. Below the windows is fair faced concrete, housing the airconditioning supply pipes and air-handling units.
2. The partitioning system is aluminium demountable sections with vinyl faced gypsum panels.
3. Floors — reinforced concrete slab with terrazzo tiles.
4. Ceilings are acoustic tile in aluminium suspension system.
5. Roof — Reinforced concrete asphalted.
6. Air-conditioning — chilled water with fan coil units.

CONSTRUCTION PERIOD for building site and works was 25 months.

DESIGN CRITERIA AND GENERAL INFORMATION

The clients requirements called for the planning of new offices for the Commissioner of Income Tax and his departments. The total staff numbers approximately 218. The programme consisted of Offices, Public Areas, Related Ancillary Accommodation, Services and Car Parking, to allow for expansion at a later date.

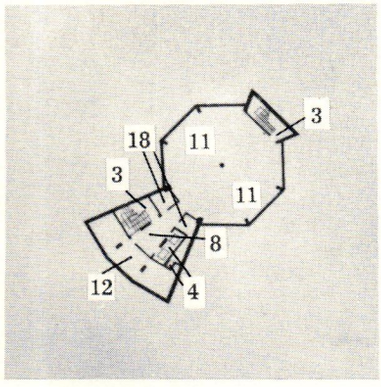
Of special interest is the use of the circular form for offices. Because of the position of the site midway between downtown and uptown Kingston, the multi-storey structure has a panoramic view of Kingston, St. Andrew, the Harbour and the surrounding hills. The restrictions of the site and unobtainable north orientation only ideal in the slab block technique, influenced the circular shape. However, the full exploitation of this type of planning on this site is somewhat limited by the decorative block sun screen to the east, south and west of the perimeter on all floors, and the real drama is only experienced on the 7th floor where there the sun screens are not necessary. The north section of the perimeter is not sun screened. All offices and public areas are air-conditioned. Also of interest is the separation of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Vehicular traffic enters

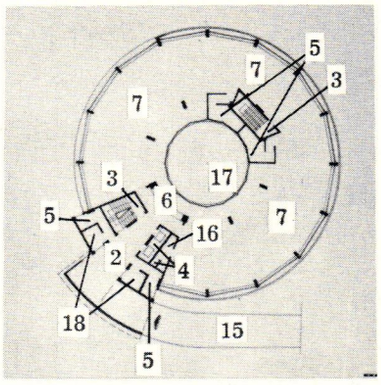


Ground Floor and Site Plan

Car Park	1	Canteen	10
Entrance Hall	2	Stores	11
Staircases	3	Telephone	12
Lifts	4	Air Conditioning	13
Lavatories	5	Electrics	14
Reception	6	Pedestrians	15
Offices	7	Duct	16
Circulation	8	Open Well	17
Kitchen	9	Miscellaneous	18

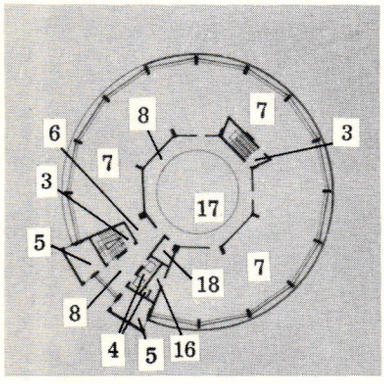
Basement Plan

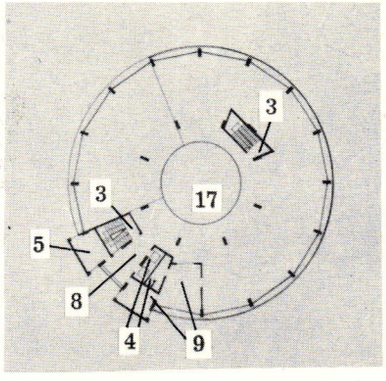




First Floor Plan

Typical Floor Plan





Canteen (7th Floor)

the site from Lockett Avenue, follows a one way circular pattern and exits on to Lockett Avenue, thus avoiding any possible traffic congestion on East Street. Occupants enter the building at ground floor level or via the car park side of the pedestrian ramp.

Pedestrian traffic enters and leaves the building at 1st floor level via a concrete ramp from East Street. The pedestrian/vehicle separation however, necessitated two entrances to the building from which elevators operate to all floors.

The building is equipped with two passengers' lifts, one freight lift, main and escape stairs, public lavatories, a water storage tank on the roof which provides a gravity feed system to all floors, automatic pumps in the basement in case of flooding, and lightning conductors. The cost of the project is in the region of £300,000.

Chief Architect	*Mr. M. F. Campbell, Dip.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., F.R.S.A.*
Architect in charge	*Mr. R. A. Brandon. Dip.Arch., A.R.I.B.A., A.I.P.D.*
Architectural Services Engineering Electrical Services Engineering Civil Services Engineering Mechanical Services Quantity Surveying Services Site Supervision	*Ministry of Communications and Works Public Works Department*
Main Contractor	*Messrs. W. V. Lynch Cons. Ltd.*

...a whole new world in the making

Just four years ago the first pictures and full details of the 258 acre Newport West foreshore reclamation scheme were released... and, lands offered for sale.

Today... this picture fully illustrates the extent of the development at the end of December 1966 and reaffirms the vital role the area will play in Jamaica's Industrial, Commercial and Economic future.

Newport Holdings Ltd.... a company created for the specific purpose of promoting and developing the growth of light industry on land on the northerly section of the picture above... to sell commercial lots... and if necessary to provide financial facilities on a 10% mortgage basis over a 10 year period.

... Another hand extended to investors to help develop a Bonanza on the Kingston Seaboard.

Foreshore Development Company Limited

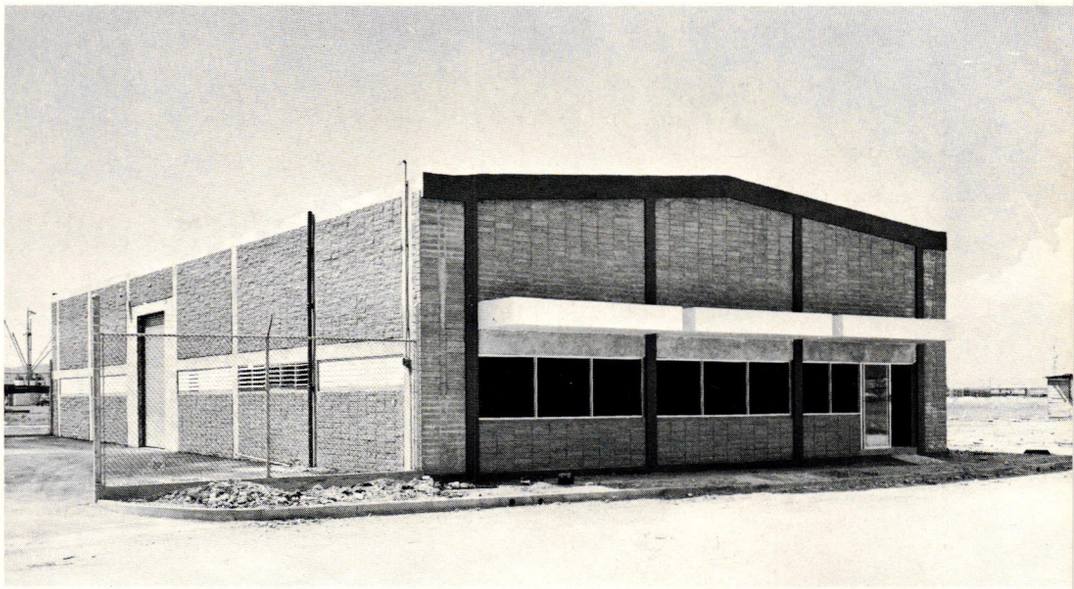
7–9 HARBOUR STREET, KINGSTON, JAMAICA
CABLE ADDRESS: "FORESHORE"

Newport Holdings Limited

7–9 HARBOUR STREET, KINGSTON, JAMAICA
CABLE ADDRESS: "FORESHORE"

PROTOTYPE WAREHOUSE

Title — Standard Warehouse Building, Newport West, Kingston
Engineers — A. J. Benghiat & Associates
Consultant Architect — David G. Kay, Dip. Arch., A.R.I.B.A.
Quantity Surveyors — B. G. W. Cawston & Partners
Contractor — S. Francis.



Maintenance free exterior and adjoining yard.

SITE — Size: 10,000 sq. ft.
Description: Hydraulically filled sand.
FLOOR AREA — 5,000 sq. ft.
STRUCTURAL SYSTEM — Composite RC and structural steel.
MATERIALS — Foundations: RC strip and pads under columns.
Walls: Split face block.
Partitions: Block.
Flooring: Concrete screed.
Roof: Concrete slab.
CONSTRUCTION PERIOD — 16 weeks.

The development at Newport West Includes three blocks from Marcus Garvey Drive to the new wharves reserved for warehousing, light industrial and commercial projects. Each block consists of two series of 100 ft. by 50 ft. lots back to back.

The developers, Newport Holdings Ltd., have undertaken a programme of constructing a number of prototype buildings within the framework of certain well defined conditions. These conditions may be summarized as follows:

1) A 'unit' was to consist of a building 50 ft. by 100 ft. together with a paved yard of the same dimensions. The yard may be on either side of the building or behind it.

2) The design was to allow for possible extension on three sides.

3) Placing of the building with any one or two of these three sides on a property boundary, was to be allowed for.

4) The front of the building was to have a uniform canopy, protecting glassed display and to permit the construction of a mezzanine in the front bay probably for offices.

5) Some toilet facilities for male and female were to be provided.

6) The roof and sides were to be of such construction as to afford a high degree of security.

7) Lighting was to be of warehouse standard and a good degree of ventilation was to be provided.

8) Although the area would eventually be served by main sewers, provision was to be made for temporary disposal.

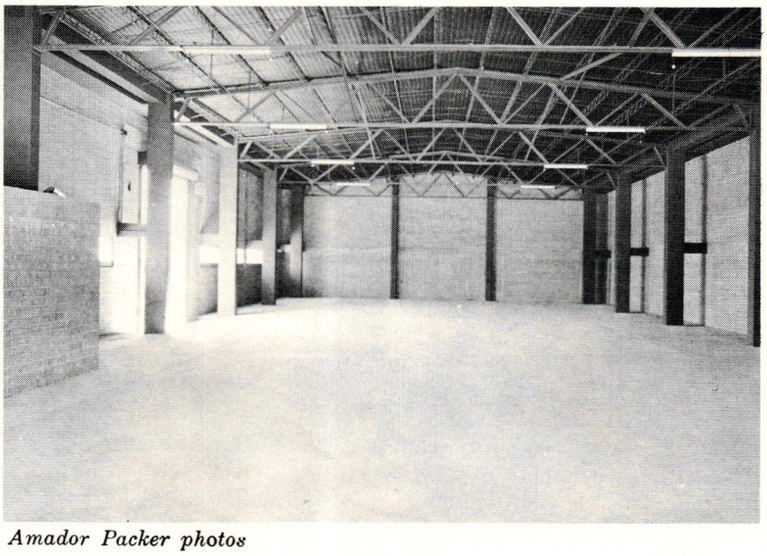
The boundary and extension requirements were the governing factors in determining column positions, whereas the security and maintenance aspects determined the wall and roof design. The structure consists of R.C. columns set in from the outside walls and supporting structural steel welded trusses. The trusses in turn support open web bar joists over which is stretched 'Steeltex', a galvanised welded mesh on a strong waterproof paper backing. The Steeltex acts as formwork for the concrete as well as providing sufficient reinforcement for the short span between bar joists. A two inch concrete slab is then cast and finished with two layers of felt water-proofing.

The walls are mostly split faced blocks in stack bond. Concrete stiffener columns and belt beams are left fair faced and unpainted in the rear and sides. The front elevation consists of split faced blocks, painted fair faced concrete and glass. Side windows are aluminium jalousies. A roller shutter is provided, as well as two roof vents letting in light through translucent fibreglass sheeting.

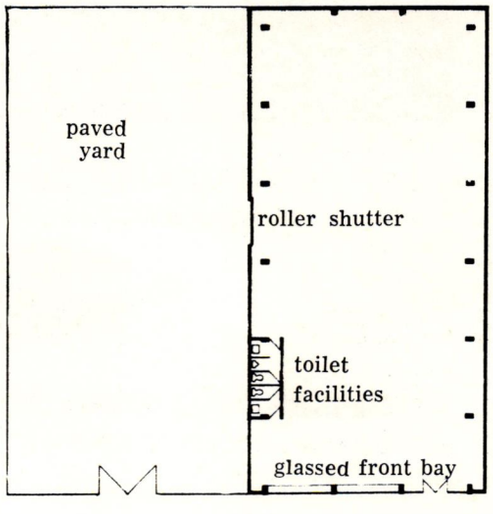
The design flexibility allows for use as a warehouse, workshop or factory with or without office, showroom and welfare facilities.

The land is sold at between 15/- and 20/- per sq. ft. depending on location. At the lower rate, a total cost including land for the standard design becomes £19,500. Only 10% is required as a down payment (about a quarter of the usual requirement for industrial buildings). The balance is made available on a ten year mortgage.

The almost maintenance free exteriors particularly on property boundaries, as well as other features of the design should contribute to the lasting good appearance of this industrial area.



Interior, suitable for warehouse, work shop or factory.



Amador Packer photos

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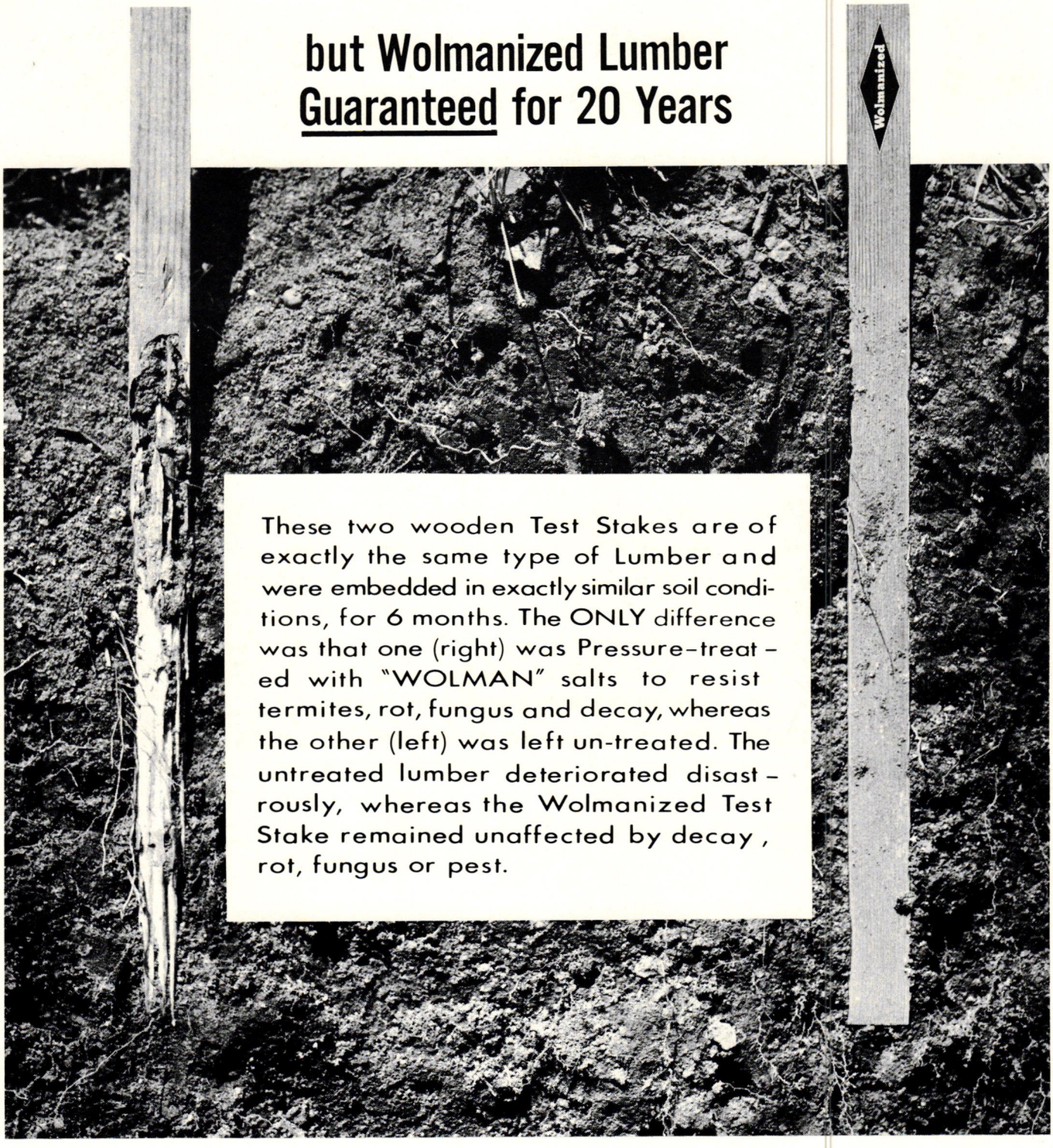

These two wooden Test Stakes are of exactly the same type of Lumber and were embedded in exactly similar soil conditions, for 6 months. The ONLY difference was that one (right) was Pressure-treated with "WOLMAN" salts to resist termites, rot, fungus and decay, whereas the other (left) was left un-treated. The untreated lumber deteriorated disastrously, whereas the Wolmanized Test Stake remained unaffected by decay, rot, fungus or pest.

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Kitchen at the Waterloo Road residence of Sir Neville and Lady Ashenheim. ● ***Amador Packer photo***
Architect: Marvin Goodman, B.Arch., A.I.A.

JAMAICAN KITCHENS

by Jeanne Shearer

The Jamaican kitchen was once a separate house linked by a covered walkway to the main building. Preparing and serving a meal was an arduous task. Today, under one roof, the Jamaican housewife can enjoy the ease and convenience of an attractive modern kitchen.

A good kitchen must be carefully planned to achieve maximum comfort and efficiency. The basic factors to be considered are the location of the kitchen, requirements in terms of appliances, the materials and design to be used for the counter and cabinet work, and finally the arrangement of the kitchen into a functional unit.

In a hot climate, proper ventilation is of primary importance. The kitchen should be situated to take advantage of the prevailing winds at the site. For instance in the St. Andrew Hills, the breeze comes from the sea during the day and from the hills in the evening. Therefore the kitchen should be oriented to permit windows or louvres facing these directions. More air movement can be achieved through the use of mechanical extract fans. These are set into the wall preferably over the stove, or built into hoods installed above the cooking area. They free the kitchen of hot air, cooking odours, and smoke. Walls remain clean.

Proximity to servants quarters, if any, as well as to the constantly used laundry, is also very necessary when deciding on the location of the kitchen. This permits operation and supervision by one person. Finally, the kitchen must be situated to serve the living pattern of the family as reflected in the design of the house and related areas. Aside from the interior dining room or dining area, the Jamaican climate encourages a variety of outdoor activity and entertainment. The kitchen, therefore, should be suitably placed in terms of serving alternate areas such as terraces, patios and swimming pool.

Appliances include stoves with burners, oven, broiler, or grill in a single unit, also counter top ranges which can be built in. Separate ovens and broilers with fast cooking infra red systems, rotisserie attachments, and 'easy-clean' features can be installed on a wall at eye level. Many ranges boast timers which can be set hours ahead to turn on, cook your meal, and turn off, while you are away. Some ovens even clean themselves automatically. Smaller cooking appliances add immeasurably to the variety and convenience of quick snacks and should be taken into account as part of the cooking equipment. Whether gas or electricity is the favoured medium, special features to suit particular requirements are revealed by comparative shopping.

The next major appliance to be considered is the refrigerator-freezer. This can be one or two units. Most refrigerators come with a fairly adequate deep freeze section but the housewife must take into account her purchasing habits and the size of her family. Separate freezers are available at counter height with top or front opening, or in an upright form matching the refrigerator if desired. A single upright unit with twin doors combining a refrigerator and freezer is worth investigating because it offers maximum convenience, occupies less space, and operates the two sections on one motor instead of two. Most refrigerators defrost themselves and some have built-in ice cube dispensers which are particularly useful in the tropics.

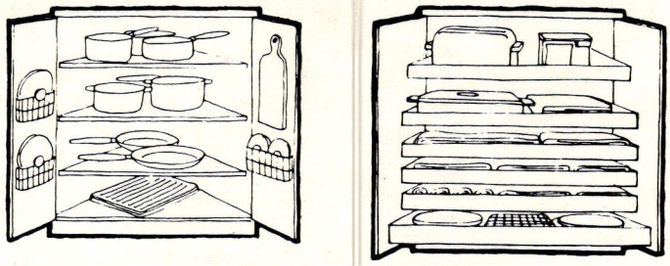
The automatic dishwasher is steadily gaining popularity in Jamaica. It is a simple matter to stack glassware, cutlery, dishes and cooking utensils, push a button, and walk away free to apply your talents elsewhere. Some models are loaded from the top while others pull out like a drawer and there are variations in capacity and washing cycles to choose from. Although it is more desireable to have the dishwasher permanently installed beside the sink, there are portable models which can be rolled out from a convenient storage corner

Much to the delight of the housewife, stoves, refrigerators, freezers and dishwashers are available in exciting colours.

In addition to these major appliances a well equipped kitchen should have an electric mixer, a blender, a toaster and a grill.

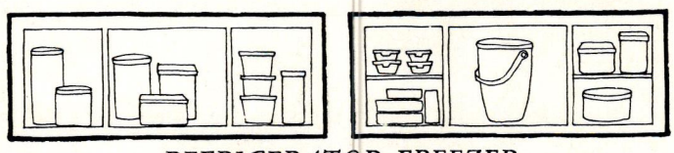
Kitchen sinks should be made of good quality porcelain or stainless steel. Some have extensions on each side for drainage while others set into the counter. There are single, double, and triple bowled models. The double or triple sinks are infinitely more convenient because they obviously increase the usefulness and eliminate the dishpan or stack and rinse operation.

Hot and cold water faucets with a central mixer spout which can swing back and forth permit awkward size utensils to fit into the sink. Instead of the usual faucet handle, there is a 'gear' like lever which controls the water temperature as it is rotated across a dial indicating hot and cold. Perhaps one of the most useful gadgets is the small spray hose which extends from its own socket beside the faucets. Some models even come with a brush and a built-in soap dispenser in the nozzle.



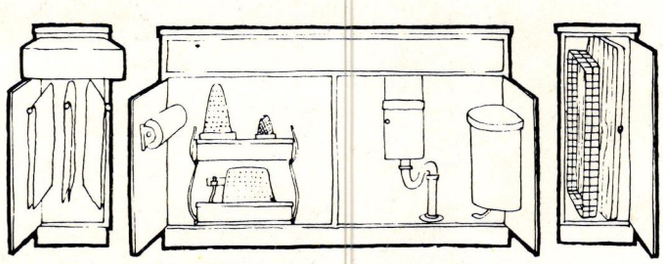
COOKING CENTRE

Saucepans, skillets
Pots
Broiler pans
Dishes
Table spices
Platters



REFRIGERATOR–FREEZER

Juice Containers
Bag storage
Plastic containers

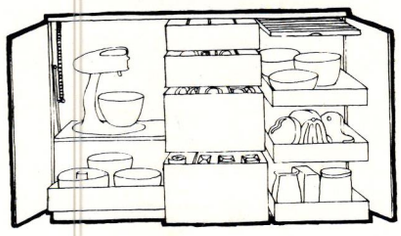


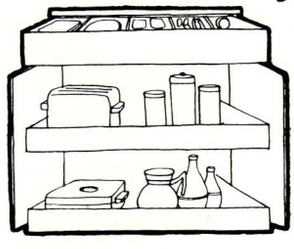
FOOD PREPARATION & CLEANUP

Cleaning utensils
Soap
Paper towel holders
Waste basket
Dish towel holders
Chopping board
Container for waste bottles

MIX–BAKE CENTRE

Roasting pans
Casserole dishes
Spices
Blenders
Mixing utensils
Cookie sheets
Cake and pie pans
Mixer
Graters
Bread pans





SERVING CENTRE

Serving cutlery
Hot pads
Chafing dishes
Coffee maker

Diagrams, courtesy of Better Homes and Gardens', Kitchen Ideas 1966.

Hard smooth surfaces which are easy to clean and resistant to heat and stains are ideal for kitchens. Stainless steel and laminated plastic are particularly suitable for counters because they provide large seamless areas. The laminates have the advantage of offering a selection of colour and pattern.

Cabinets can be precision made metal units with baked enamel finishes, or wood framed, covered with a laminated surfaces. All crevices including the edges adjoining the walls should be thoroughly sealed with glue or a caulking compound to discourage insects. Removable shelves, free of dirt catching mouldings also make cleaning easier. Doors should fit snugly and have strong hinges. Drawers for everyday silver, linens, and kitchen cutlery must be easily removed for cleaning.

Also in the interest of cleanliness, the dark damp corners created by floor level cabinets can be eliminated. If full length cabinets are desired they should be raised on a three to four inch solid cement base which is recessed for toe room. An alternative method, however, is to suspend the cabinets twelve to fifteen inches above the floor by hanging them on the wall, allowing for air circulation and unobstructed cleaning.

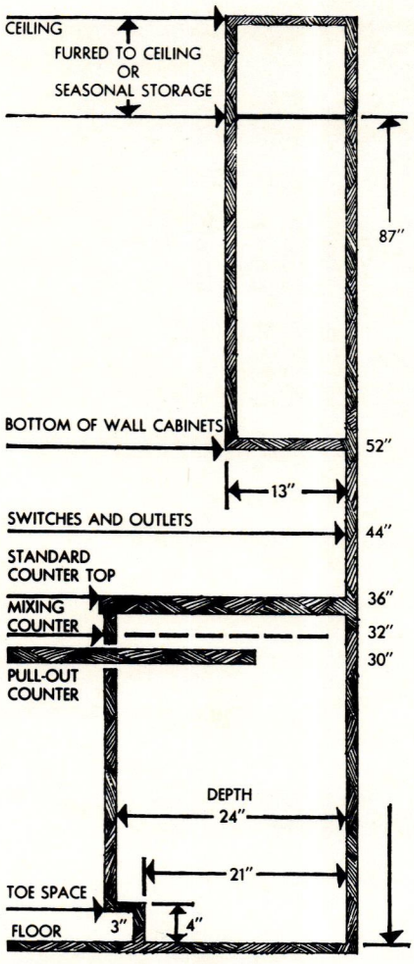
Ceramic walls, washable paint and tiled floors with cove mouldings at the edges to discourage a mop line, all add to easy maintenance.

Sunken garbage cans in a cement case with a heavy cover at ground level have many advantages. No animal can overturn this and they eliminate the unhealthy and ugly pile of containers.

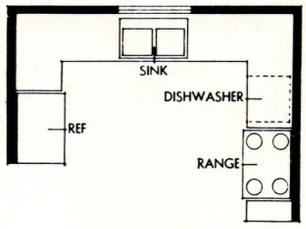
During the daytime, glass panels, windows, and louvres provide light. At night, however, the maximum in good lighting is achieved by the use of luminous ceilings.

Properly related work centres have resulted in standard layouts, as illustrated. Where space permits, an island work centre, either permanently installed or on wheels, adds flexibility and convenience. Note also that kitchen doors are carefully placed to control the direction of the traffic flow through the kitchen, to assure privacy in the dining area, and to cut down on kitchen noises.

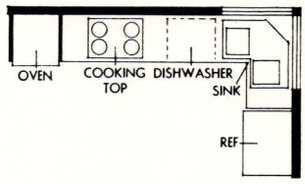
These layouts can be varied and tailored to the specific needs of the housewife.



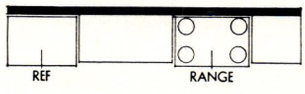
Standard Measurements

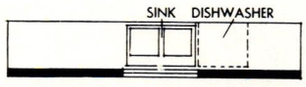


U-shaped Kitchen

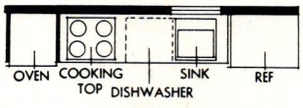


L-shaped Kitchen

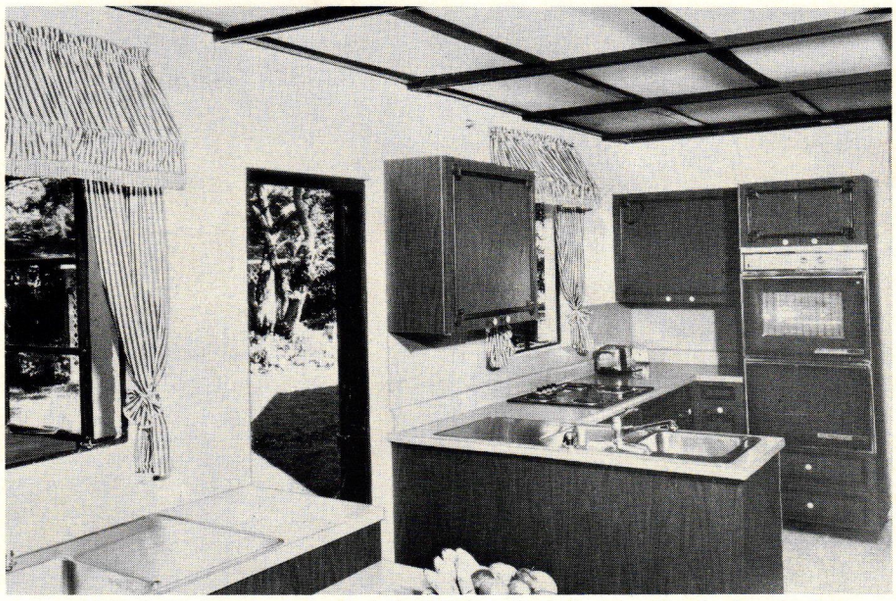




A Corridor Kitchen



A one-wall Kitchen



Partial view of Lady Ashenheim's Kitchen installed by Plastic Laminates

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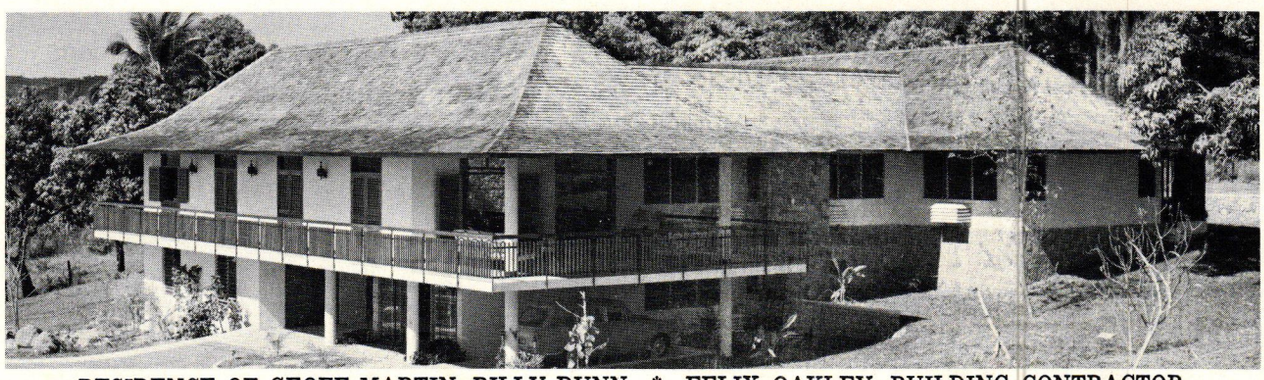

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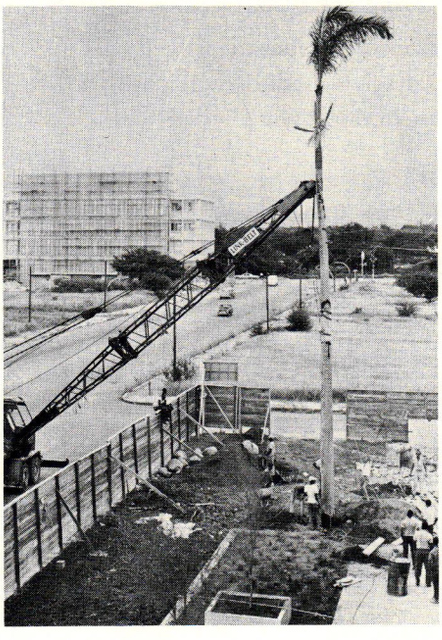

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