

P.E.S.

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

DETAILS OF JANUARY 10 BOARD MEETING

HOUSTON COMMITTEE ANALYZES SCHOOL REPORT

WHY HIRE AN ARCHITECT?

SULLIVAN AND WISCHMEYER ENDORSED FOR AIA

NEW 1953 CHAPTER OFFICERS ARE LISTED

JANUARY
1953



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 14-19, 1953—American Association of School Administrators, Atlantic City, N. J.

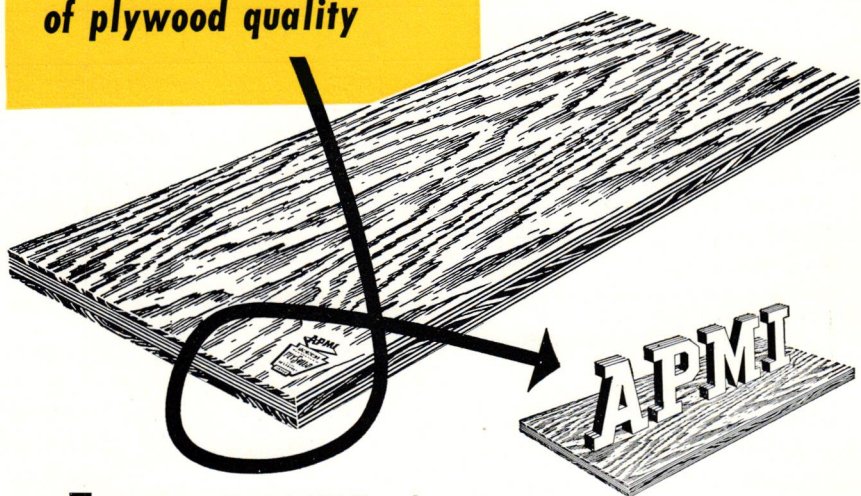
April 13-20, 1953—Texas Architects' Week.

June 15-19, 1953—84th annual convention, AIA, at Seattle, Wash.

November 4-6, 1953—14th annual convention, TSA, at Austin.

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BOARD IN FIRST 1953 SESSION

23 Present As 12 Committees Report;
Convention Set 4-6 November;
Budget of \$8515 Approved

The Executive Board, TSA, held its first 1953 meeting January 10 at Austin, with a total of 23 directors, chapter presidents, and others requested to attend present for required portions of a 6½-hour session.

Principal action at the all-day meeting, held at the Commodore Perry Hotel, included reports by 12 committees, setting the 1953 convention for 4-6 November at Austin, and the adoption of a budget of \$8515.

Five Chapter Heads Present

Albert S. Golemon, Ed Carroll, and George F. Pierce, Jr., newly-elected TSA officials, were on hand to preside over the board session, which opened promptly at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

The incoming presidents of five TSA chapters, Ernest Langford (Brazos), Charles L. Huie, Jr. (West Texas), Herschel Fischer (Dallas), Louis Southerland (Central Texas), Hubert Crane (Fort Worth), and John York (Rio Grande Valley) were present at the opening of business. They were introduced and then heard President Golemon stress the importance of chapter activity, particularly in staging Texas Architects' Week.

Other Board Action

The board also:

Agreed to share the cost of staging the State Fair exhibit, "Architecture—1953," with the Dallas Chapter and the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts, up to the budgeted amount of \$700.

Noted that the AIA regional director is to be elected this year at the annual convention.

Heard a report from Carl Hardin, Jr., legal counsel, on the 1953 Legislature which opened January 13.

Learned that incorporation of TSA is

almost completed, with final papers to be submitted to the Secretary of State before January 31.

Appointed Lee Buttrill of Temple and Reginald Roberts of San Antonio to the Publication Board of the Texas Architect.

Committee Reports Made

Action reported by or recommended in committee reports:

Texas Construction Council: President Golemon reporting for Grayson Gill. Mr. Golemon discussed his attendance at a recent TCC meeting in Fort Worth, emphasizing the areas of interest which the TCC and TSA have in common.

Capitol Plan: Chairman Karl Kamrath reported on plans to reactivate program. The committee will work closely with Legislative Committee and Carl Hardin, Jr.

By-Laws: Chairman Herbert Tatum was authorized to spend \$300 for printing revised edition of by-laws.

School Plant Study: Chairman Lee Buttrill reported that a series of pamphlets on school plant planning is now being prepared under the sponsorship of the Texas Education Agency.

Fees: Chairman Reginald Roberts reported on efforts to get fee schedule adopted by Texas Construction Council. This committee will watch particularly for any breach of fee schedules by public bodies.

Legislative: Chairman Max Brooks outlined general legislative situation and plans for close liaison with Carl Hardin, Jr.

Architecture and Governmental Relations: Chairman Robert Woltz discussed plans for liaison at local level with Legislative Committee and legal counsel.

Professional Practice: Voted against
(Continued on Page 12)

Houston Committee Analyzes School Report

Dr. W. E. Moreland, superintendent of schools, Houston Independent School District, and H. L. Mills, business manager for the District, presented last December 8 a report regarding the use of architectural services. Because the Moreland-Mills report was of such interest to architects in Houston and over the state, a committee from the Houston Chapter prepared the following analysis of it.

Donald Barthelme, Alfred C. Finn, and Albert Golemon, all TSA-AIA, made up the Committee for the School Program which prepared the analysis:

The committee agrees with the report, paragraph 1, that the employment of a full time architect and staff is an undesirable method of handling new school construction. The argument against this has been well stated in the report and is borne out by the experience of many cities where our inquiries were made. Our prime objection to this method is the restriction imposed on the free flow of ideas due to the channeling of all school building design through a single person. We do not believe that the best talent in the profession is available to such a staff and this combined with the other bureaucratic aspects of the system would surely result in a waste of public funds.

Retards Free Flow of Ideas

The committee disagrees with the recommendation outlined in paragraph 3a of a coordinating architect who prepares schematic plans (in other words, "designs") since again we feel this retards the free flow of ideas. Our basic objective is the provision of properly designed space for children and for teaching. To accomplish this all the skill, talent and experience of the individual architect should be brought into play. It seems poor policy to divide this responsibility at the outset by having one architect prepare sketches and another the working drawings. Although perhaps convenient in centralizing control, the system results in stereotyped buildings, frozen at

a given level and kind of thinking, and submits to much abuse in the wrong hands.

Renovation of buildings, mentioned in paragraph 3a, is not primarily a field requiring a great deal of architectural talent. This is work for an administrator, properly staffed, and we endorse and strongly urge the adoption of the recommendations of Dr. Moreland and Mr. Mills for the establishment of a Department of Repair and Maintenance. Renovations and small routine additions fall in this department; where additions, repair or maintenance work are of such nature as to require architectural or engineering advice, qualified professional help may be retained by this department directly. A considerable portion of current costs of rehabilitation may have been caused by the omission of proper yearly inspection and maintenance in the past.

Adequate Number of Architects

In paragraph 3b this committee agrees that architects should be carefully selected, with full importance being placed on adequate staffs and financial responsibility, but does not concur in the restriction of architects to a limited number such as the three or six that has been suggested. We suggest that there is available an adequate number of architects, interested in the problem of designing space for teaching and with sufficient skill to develop new methods and solutions. The seriousness of the selection problem warrants thorough investigation of all applicants because here, finally, is the answer to a successful building.

Finally, reading paragraph 3c, this committee does not believe in the use of repetitive plans which appears to be merely a convenience and a necessary corollary of the argument for a minimum number of architects. No small monetary

(Continued on Page 10)

WHY HIRE AN ARCHITECT?

Kiplinger Magazine Tells the Facts;
Nationally-Circulated Article
Dispels Some "Dead-Wrong" Notions

(Editor's Note: One of the most significant articles ever written on the architectural profession appeared recently in CHANGING TIMES, The Kiplinger Magazine published in Washington, D. C. Entitled "Why Hire An Architect?", the article tells the truth about what an architect can and will do and why his services more than pay their way. In doing so, it dispels many an untruth and misunderstanding.)

We believe that this article should be widely read by the general public, and that it is of real value to architects everywhere. Because of space limitations, it will be printed in two installments, the second scheduled for the February issue. The TEXAS ARCHITECT will thereby carry the article to a specialized audience of 7900 in addition to the TSA membership. We urge that you recommend the article to other readers and place it where it can be read.

The editors wish to thank CHANGING TIMES for permission to reproduce the article.)

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

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

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

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

Or you get this advice:

"Look, friend, what do most home builders do, the boys who make real money at the game? Most of them wouldn't let an architect through the

gate. Why, no architect touches half of the houses built today. Just get a good builder and leave it to him. He'll have a draftsman to take care of the details."

Or perhaps you are told this:

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

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

Much More Than Blueprints

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

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

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

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

A List of "Ifs"

Architects themselves will tell you there is nothing wrong with using a stock
(Continued on Page 12)

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Sullivan, Wischmeyer Endorsed for AIA Posts By Resolution of Society

The Texas Society of Architects membership has passed a resolution endorsing the candidacy of Maurice J. Sullivan of Houston, TSA-AIA, for re-election as national AIA treasurer, and of Kenneth Wischmeyer, St. Louis, Mo. for the presidency of the national group.

Mr. Wischmeyer is currently serving as first vice-president of the AIA.

Mr. Wischmeyer is a native of St. Louis, where he was born in 1910. He was graduated with the degree of B.S. in Architecture from Washington University in 1930, and took an Master in Architecture degree the following year at MIT.

He won the Steedman Foreign Travel Fellowship in 1931.

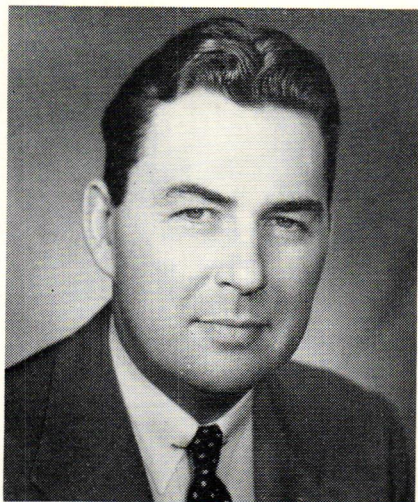
Mr. Wischmeyer is a registered architect in eight states, including Texas. A corporate member of the AIA, he is a member of the executive committee of the national body and a past second vice-president.

The St. Louis architect, well-known for his professional work and activity on many AIA committees, is also past regional director of the Central States District, AIA, and past president of the St. Louis Chapter.

Long Career of Service

Mr. Sullivan, now serving as AIA treasurer, has had a long career of service to the national organization and to the TSA. The Houston man, known for his work in the field of church architecture, was named three times to the presidency of the South Texas (now Houston) Chapter, and twice to the executive committee.

Widely known among U. S. architects, Mr. Sullivan was elected AIA treasurer in 1951 and chosen for a second term in 1952. He is currently on three AIA committees: finance, pensions, and public relations.



KENNETH WISCHMEYER

Kenneth Wischmeyer of St. Louis, Mo., now serving as first vice-president of the AIA, whose candidacy to succeed Glenn Stanton as president of the national group has been approved in a resolution passed by the Texas Society of Architects. The TSA membership also endorsed the candidacy of Maurice J. Sullivan of Houston, TSA-AIA, for re-election as AIA treasurer.

Ed Carroll Heads New 1953 Officers For Examiners Board

Ed Carroll of El Paso, TSA vice-president, has been named chairman of the Texas Board of Architectural Examiners. He replaces William C. Baxter of Weslaco, TSA-AIA, who will remain as a board member.

Mr. Carroll had been serving as vice-chairman of the TBAE.

Fred J. MacKie, Jr. of Houston, TSA-AIA, is the new vice-chairman of the Board. Bartlett Cocke of San Antonio, TSA-AIA, continues as secretary-treasurer.

Other TSA members who continue on the board are George L. Dahl, Dallas; and Harold E. Jessen, Austin.

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News of the Chapters

Principal chapter activity in final 1952 meetings was the election of new 1953 officers.

BRAZOS: Ernest Langford, president; Henry D. Mayfield, vice-president; William E. Nash, secretary; Arch C. Baker, treasurer. Mr. Langford was named TSA director.

COASTAL BEND: Joe G. Smyth, president; Otis F. Johnson, vice-president; Walter L. Wild, secretary-treasurer; C. P. Donnelly, TSA director.

WEST TEXAS: Charles L. Huie, Jr., president; Elmer I. Freeborn, first vice-president; Thomas B. Thompson, second vice-president; Clarence Rinard, secretary-treasurer; C. C. Simmons, member of executive committee.

HOUSTON: Harold E. Calhoun, president; Hiram A. Salisbury, first vice-president; T. H. McCleary, second vice-president; W. Paul Jones, secretary; Baldwin N. Young, treasurer.

FORT WORTH: Hubert H. Crane, president; George Sowden, vice-president; William R. Lane, secretary; Thaddeus E. Harden, Jr., treasurer; TSA director, Wm. M. Collier, Jr.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY: President, John G. York; vice-president, Warren Suter; secretary, John R. Ring.

CENTRAL TEXAS: Louis Southerland, president; Martin S. Kermacy, vice-president; Allwyn Gannaway, treasurer; and Emil Niggili, secretary.

DALLAS: Herschel Fisher, president; William Hidell, vice-president; Norman Crittenden, secretary; and treasurer, Raymond Feinberg.

EL PASO: Otto Thorman, president; William G. Wuerhrmann, vice-president; Robert Nelson, secretary-treasurer.

(Panhandle Chapter officers to be elected third week in January.)