

GEP

TEXAS ARCHITECT

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

NEW CHAPTER OFFICIALS NAMED

SAVING MONEY IN CONSTRUCTION

HOUSTON GOLD MEDAL AWARD WINNER

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

ARCHITECTS ACTIVE IN PREVENTING SLUMS

DECEMBER
1953

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THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

VOLUME 4

DECEMBER, 1953

NUMBER 8

Official Publication of

THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The Texas Regional District Organization of
The American Institute of Architects

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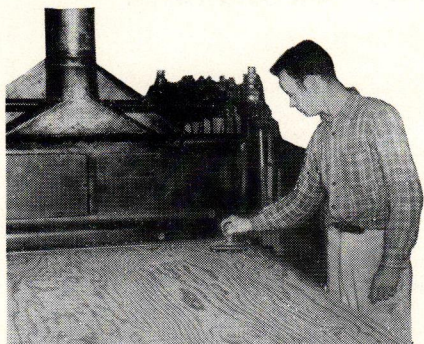
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 16-19—Winter 1953 examinations for registration to practice architecture, at Department of Architecture, Texas University, Austin.

February 13-18—School Building Architectural Exhibit, sponsored jointly by AASA-AIA, at Atlantic City, N. J.



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SAVING MONEY IN CONSTRUCTION

With current and increasing emphasis on economy, particularly on getting full value for money expended in private and public construction, it is interesting to note two recent editorials by Harold Richardson, editor of "Construction Methods and Equipment".

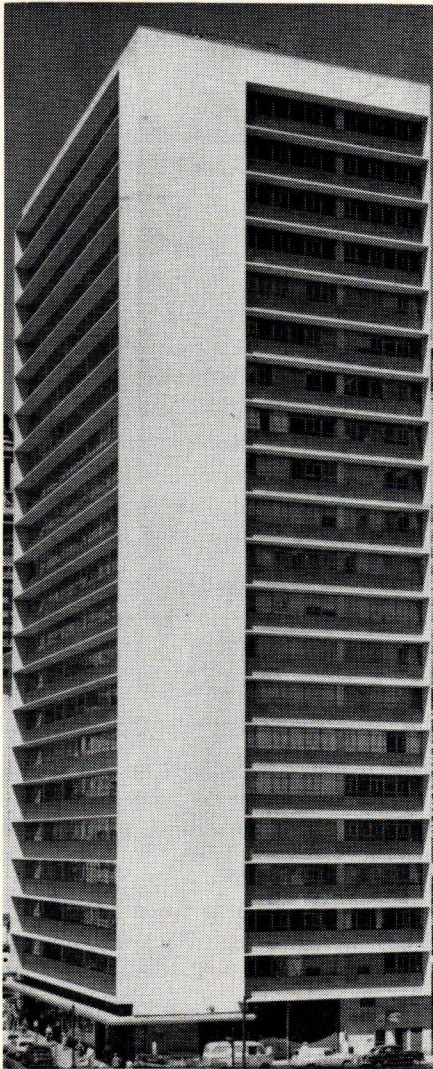
Mr. Richardson believes that one single construction union, instead of the many such unions we now have, would (1) lower the cost of building and (2) stabilize conditions and operations in the construction industry. He cites a case, reportedly brought up by a long-time union member, in which a contractor wanted a single waterpipe run through a residence wall. In order to do the job, five crafts were called upon: a carpenter removed the baseboard, brick masons opened a hole in the wall, electricians came in to remove wires, sheet metal men removed a hot air duct, and a plumber installed the pipe. Before the job is finished, it may be necessary to call all of these crafts back, and then add plasterers and painters to the roll call.

In place of this procedure, which Mr. Richardson believes is typical of the out-moded idea of separate, highly specialized crafts, he would have a single construction union broken into three classifications: unskilled, semi-skilled, and skilled.

The editor of "Construction Methods and Equipment" recognizes many of the union arguments against a single craft organization, but he still thinks it is necessary to develop all-round construction men. Otherwise, it is asserted, economic waste will inevitably lead to the extinction of craft unions.

Mr. Richardson points out many ways in which a single union could lead to substantial savings, and to stabilization within the construction industry. On the other side, he enumerates substantial benefits which could accrue to organized labor from a single construction union. Among these, for instance, might be (1) a continuous building program, instead of wild cyclical swings up and down the economic ladder (2) elimination of jurisdictional disputes (3) better trained, all-round workmen who could advance through ability and (4) more stable construction jobs in which workmen would not have to forfeit pension and welfare rights every time they moved to another jurisdiction.

The question is a controversial but an interesting one, which it might pay everyone connected with the construction industry to examine objectively, with an eye toward the future.



GOLD MEDAL WINNER—The Melrose Building, in downtown Houston, by Lloyd & Morgan, TSA-AIA.

The downtown skyscraper took top honors for the Houston architectural firm in the biennial honors competition of the Houston Chapter.

Melrose Building Took First Honors For Lloyd & Morgan

The Melrose Building, shown at left, won for Lloyd & Morgan the gold honor award in the biennial honors competition staged by the Houston Chapter, TSA. The downtown skyscraper, which has attracted nationwide attention, was entered in the commercial division of the competition.

Other awards were announced in the November issue of the TEXAS ARCHITECT. Photographs of the prize winners have been on exhibition at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts.

Frank Lloyd Wright At University of Houston January 4 in Lecture Series

The TSA student chapter at the University of Houston is bringing six well-known architects to the university during the fall, winter and spring in a lecture series.

Architect and author Philip Johnson, chairman of architecture at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City and author of "The International Style", opened the series on October 20.

Other architects slated to lecture at the University of Houston during the series are Frank Lloyd Wright, a leading figure in U. S. and world architecture for more than six decades, January 4; engineer, author, and inventor Buckminster Fuller, who designed the Ford Motor Company rotunda, February 11; Alfred Roth, Swiss architect, author and editor, April 1; and Eero Saarinen, son and partner of the Swedish architect Eliel Saarinen who is known for his General Motors Technology Center in Detroit, May 6.

The entire lecture series is open to the public. Subscriptions are available at \$10.