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THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

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COVER

*The scaring roof of the Americana
Motel restaurant contrasting against
the rectilinear skyline of Corpus
Christi symbolizes the Coastal Bend
revolution. Architect: A. Art Williams*

Round Table Talk

"There's not enough time!" What a common
phrase!

There's not enough time for many members of the
Texas Society of Architects to read their mail, to
attend meetings, to serve on committees, to attend
a convention or a seminar.

There's not enough time to answer a letter.

There's not enough time to put a little something
back.

In my humble opinion those "who cannot find time"
enough are being cheated out of some marvelous
experiences. There's an enrichment of life that can
not be placed on a monetary scale.

Let's find time enough to say "Thank You". Let's
find time enough to be doers and not makers of
excuses.

Let's find time enough to render more than an
adequate service and in this manner help the entire
profession.

ARTHUR FEHR

Flato Pavilion

Kingsville

Taniguchi and Croft Architects



T H E
C O A S T A L B E N D
R E V O L U T I O N

A revolution is sweeping Texas. Spawned by her treasures in natural resource together with labor abundance and favorable climates, Texas is riding the crest of an economic boom dwarfing even the last decade's most optimistic forecasts. The influence of the space age, anchored on one end by the NASA complex at Houston and on the other by the giant aviation interests of the Dallas-Ft. Worth area, is being manifested throughout Texas in a new and exciting spirit of exploration and discovery.

The resulting impact upon Texas culture is loosening the bonds of tradition and convention. Broad new horizons are being probed by the daring and resourceful in every cultural and scientific field. Those who will mold and shape the patterns of the future are finding new inspiration in the "Texas Revolution".

TEXAS ARCHITECT

Perhaps no place are the results of this revolution more evident than along the state's Coastal Bend. On its skyline, almost every city in the area finds a new and unique building shape developed out of complex geometry wedded with the plastic potential of reinforced concrete. These shapes and their names—hyperbolic paraboloid, barrel vaults, domes, folded flates—had been familiar only to the architects and engineer. Yet now, up and down the coast, they have become familiar sights.

Why? Why look for new shapes or new ways to use old materials?

The architect's job is many-faceted, yet simply put, it is the solution of a myriad of complex problems of function, beauty, and economy to create space for people to use. And this gives us an answer to "Why?"—to find better solutions to these problems. The architects who have employed these shapes have done so on sound grounds—they better solved some particular space problem. Frequently they are used to achieve very long clear spans and freedom of planning and function, to create needed exterior volume, to dramatize a site or situation, or to meet a demanding budget.

These shapes fall generally into a broad category of structural designation: *thin shells*. Shells derive their strength and economy from an easily understandable principle: form is an important factor in the development of strength. For instance, lift a flat sheet of paper by one edge and it will hang limply from your fingers. However, roll it into a half circle and it can be lifted by the one edge and support itself. Or fold it accordion-like and the same thing happens. This principle applied to buildings produces enormous roof spans from reinforced concrete which may be as little as 2½" thick. The reduced weight of this roof structure may then allow economies throughout the building structural system. Indeed, the shape itself may literally eliminate other structural components.



Los Fresnos High School

Los Fresnos
Bowman, Swanson and Hiester
Architects

Photographs: B. N. Banister

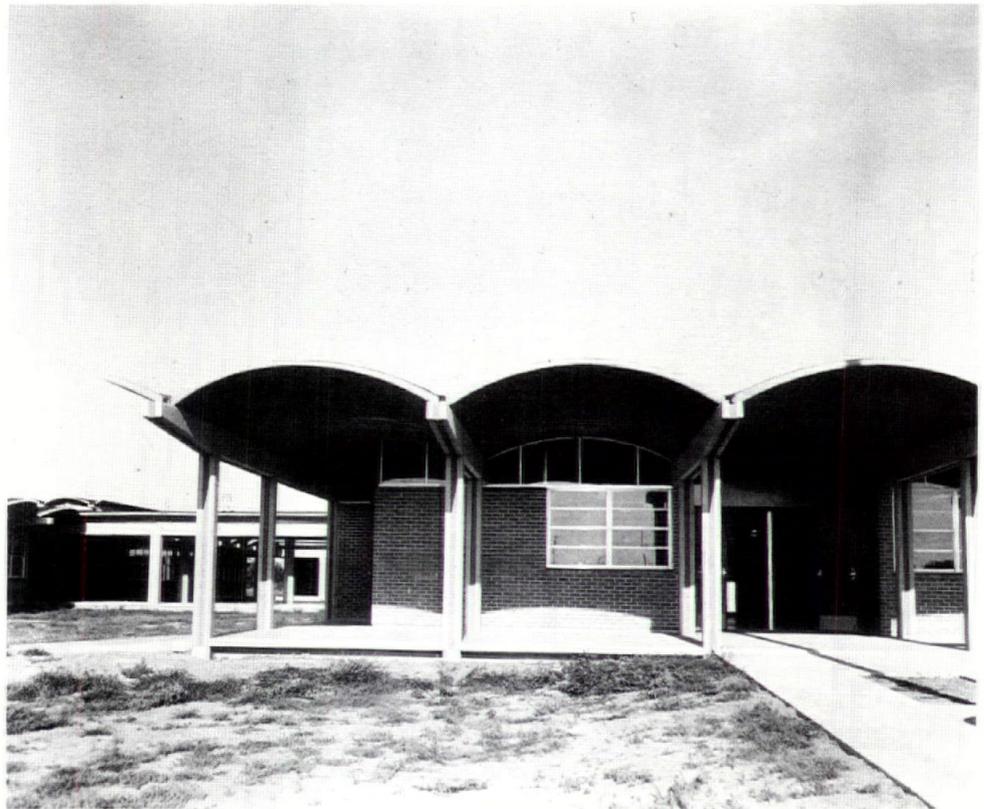
*Flour Bluff National Bank
Corpus Christi*

*William Stalter
Architect*



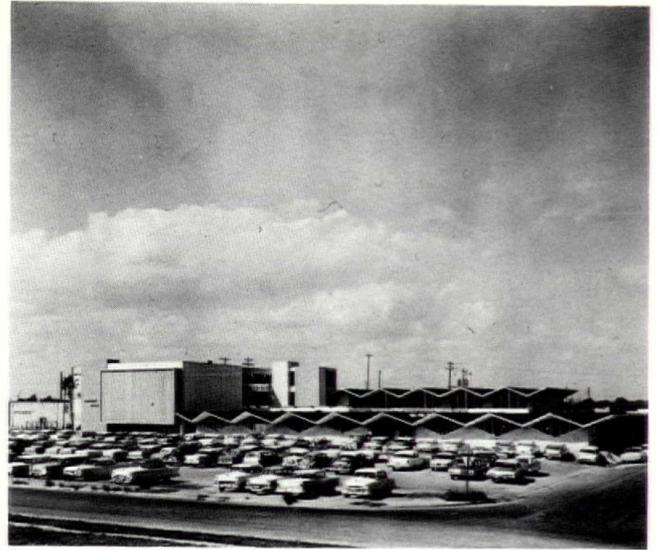
*Cookly Junior High
Harlingen*

*Bowman, Swanson and Hiester
Architects*



*The Doctors' Square
Corpus Christi*

*Jack Turner
Architect*



Though not exclusive in its use of thin shell structures, the Coastal Bend seems certainly to have employed these shapes more than other areas. Why here? How has it been possible? Usually new shapes and techniques meet heavy resistance from almost every quarter. Owners are not familiar with their appearance and may not perceive their beauty—they are certainly not *Georgian!* Architects may not see their potential; engineers may not wish to take the trouble to learn the structural design techniques; contractors may fear them and want higher prices for the untried.

The Coastal Bend has overcome these problems, because of a unique set of circumstances. First, perhaps, is its climate: concrete was a familiar and accepted finish material, resistive to the area's corrosive humidity. Then architects who had seen shells and what they could do and were willing to use this new tool; and engineers who took the time to learn how to design them; owners with open minds; and contractors who were not afraid to build these unusual buildings at realistic prices. These are some of the factors which have produced the Coastal Bend thin shells.



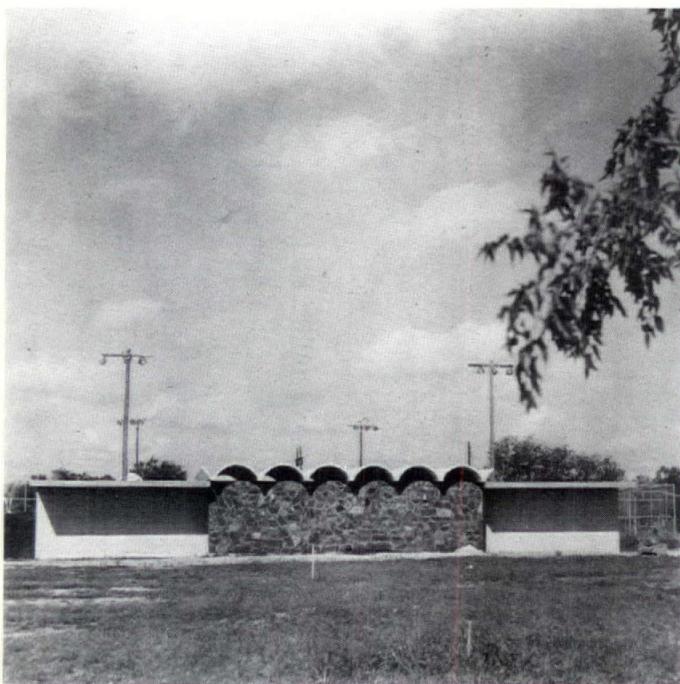
*Refugio County Library
Refugio*

*Charles P. Donnelly
Architect*



*Municipal Terminal
Corpus Christi*

*Donnelly & Whittett
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*Methodist Holding Institute
Laredo*

*Wallace B. Thomas
Architect*



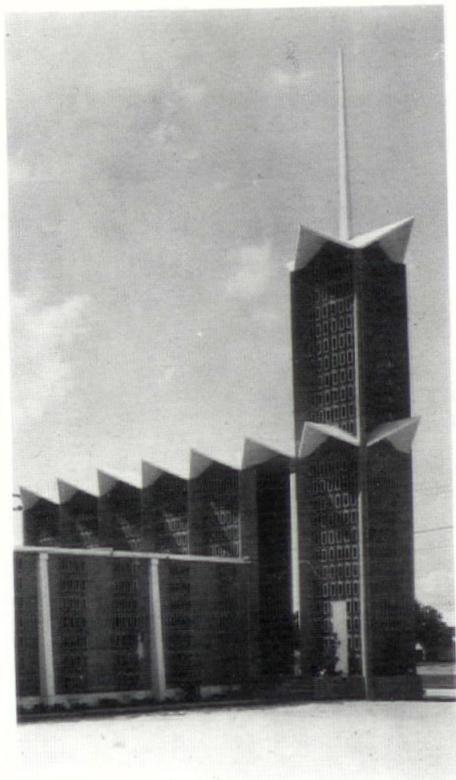
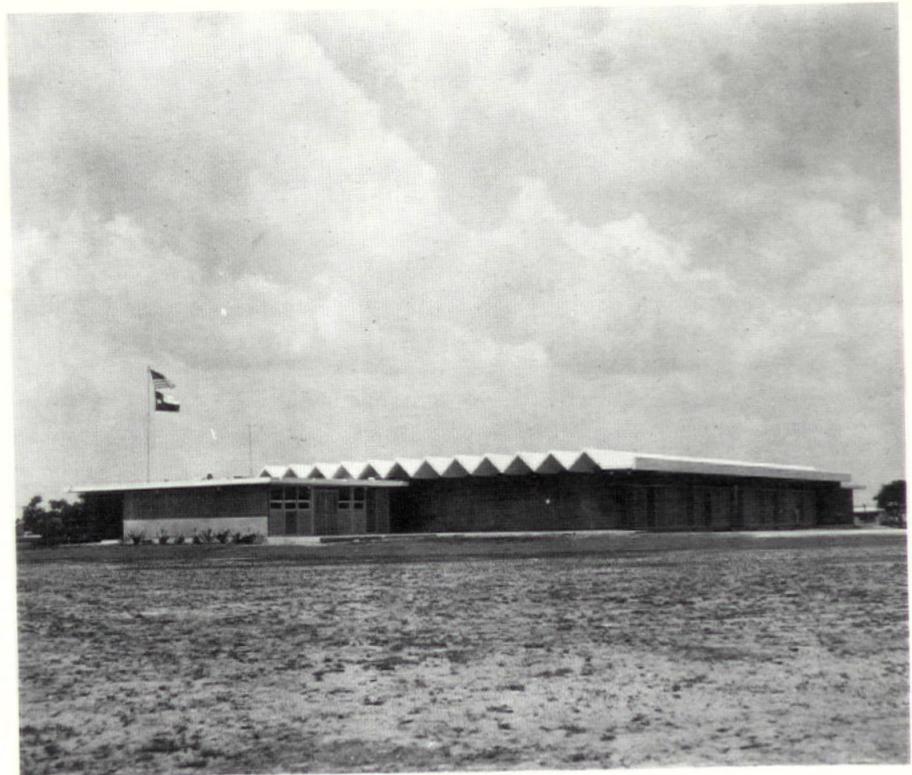
McAllen High School

McAllen

Zeb Rile

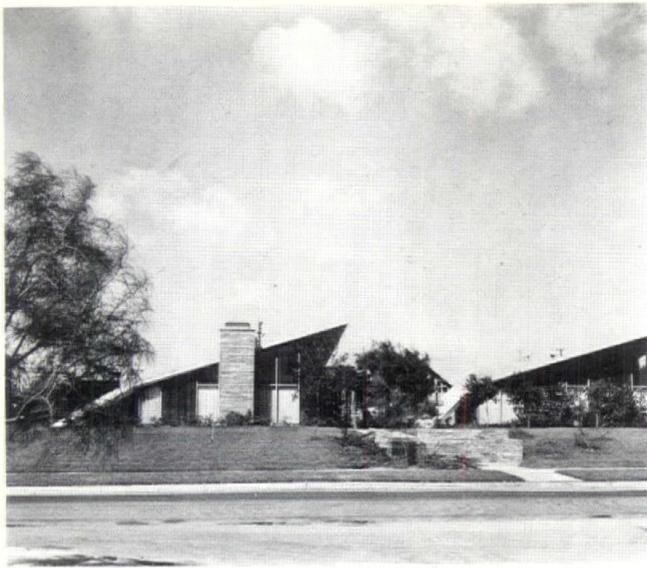
Architect

*Schannen Estates
Elementary School
Corpus Christi
Horace B. McCord
Architect*



*Parkway Baptist Church
Corpus Christi*

*John B. Oatman
Architect*

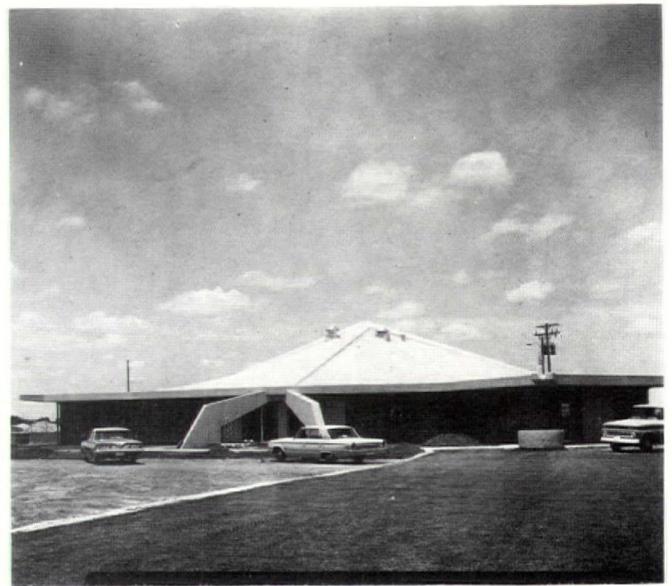


*Braselton Residence
Corpus Christi*

*Richard S. Colley
Architect*

*Knights of Columbus Hall
Alice*

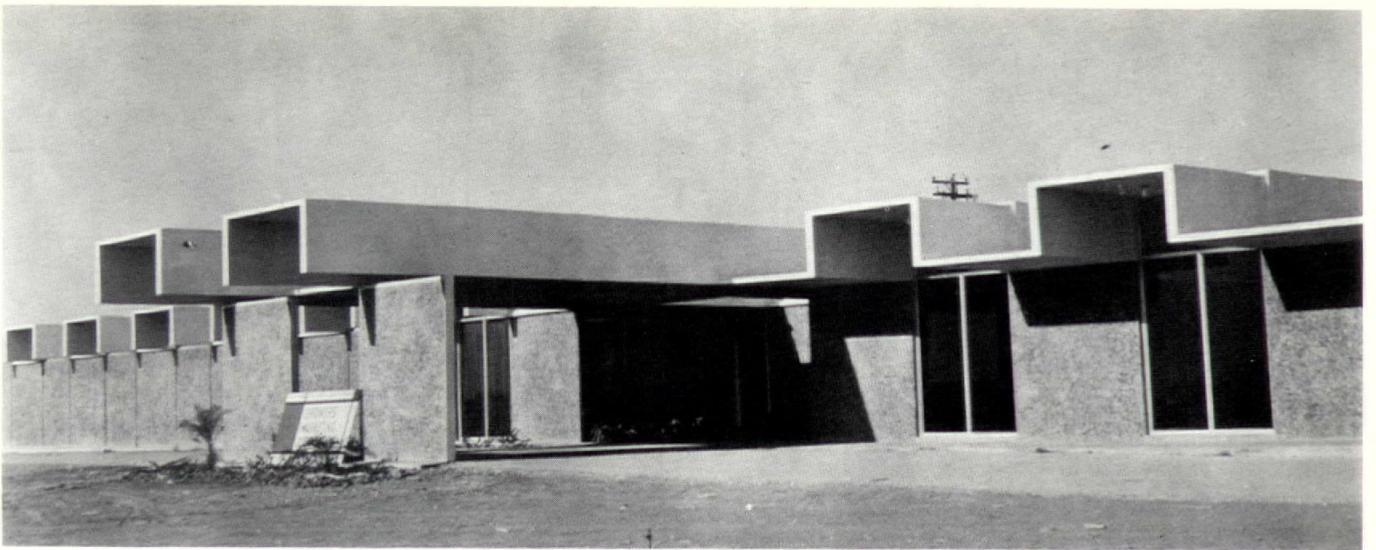
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Kenedy

Jack Turner
Architect



Tropics Motel
Rockport

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Architect



Casa Del Sol
Harlingen

Taniguchi and Croft
Architects



Mac's Cabinet Shop
Corpus Christi

Paul Epps
Architect



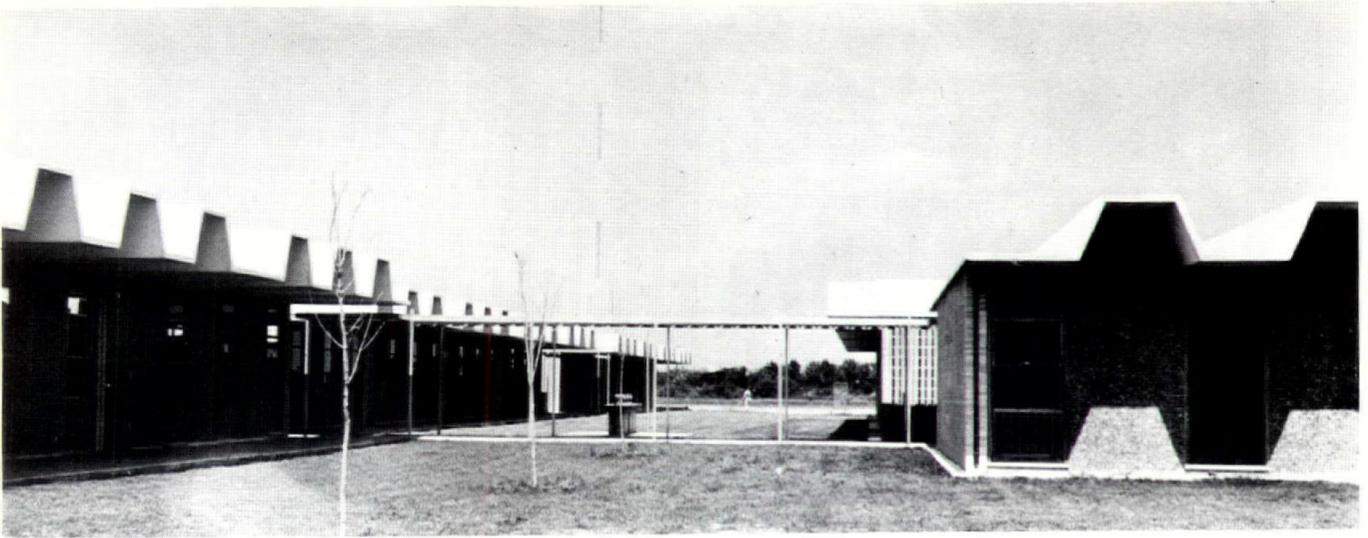
Mercedes Civic Center
Mercedes

Gene Hobart
Architect

Cameron County
Park Pavilion

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Architect





*Ben Milam Elementary School
Harlingen*

*Taniguchi and Croft, Architects
Harlingen*

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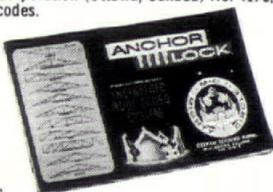
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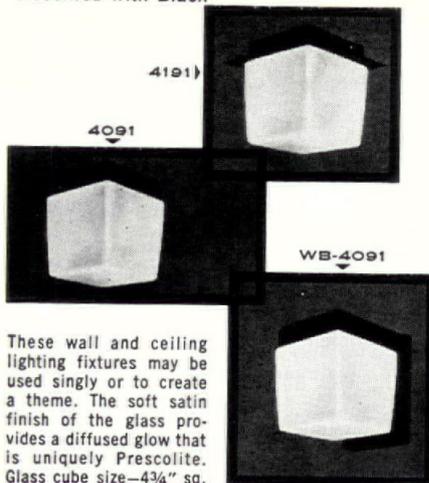
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From a fountain of concrete shells ...inspiring church design

From the lantern-like tower that floods the main altar with natural light, concrete parabolas spill out in widening rings. The second tier forms a clerestory. In the lower cluster, the arches shelter monastic side altars.

On the interior of this new chapel of the Benedictine Priory, near St. Louis, Missouri, twenty parabolas echo the architectural theme. They rise from the floor to converge at the base of the tower.

Only shell concrete, with its fluid look, could bring such easy grace and modern simplicity to this circular plan which is basically one of the most ancient used for churches.

The best ideas are more exciting in concrete

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Consultant: Paul Weidlinger, New York. Contractor:
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Welcome Aboard

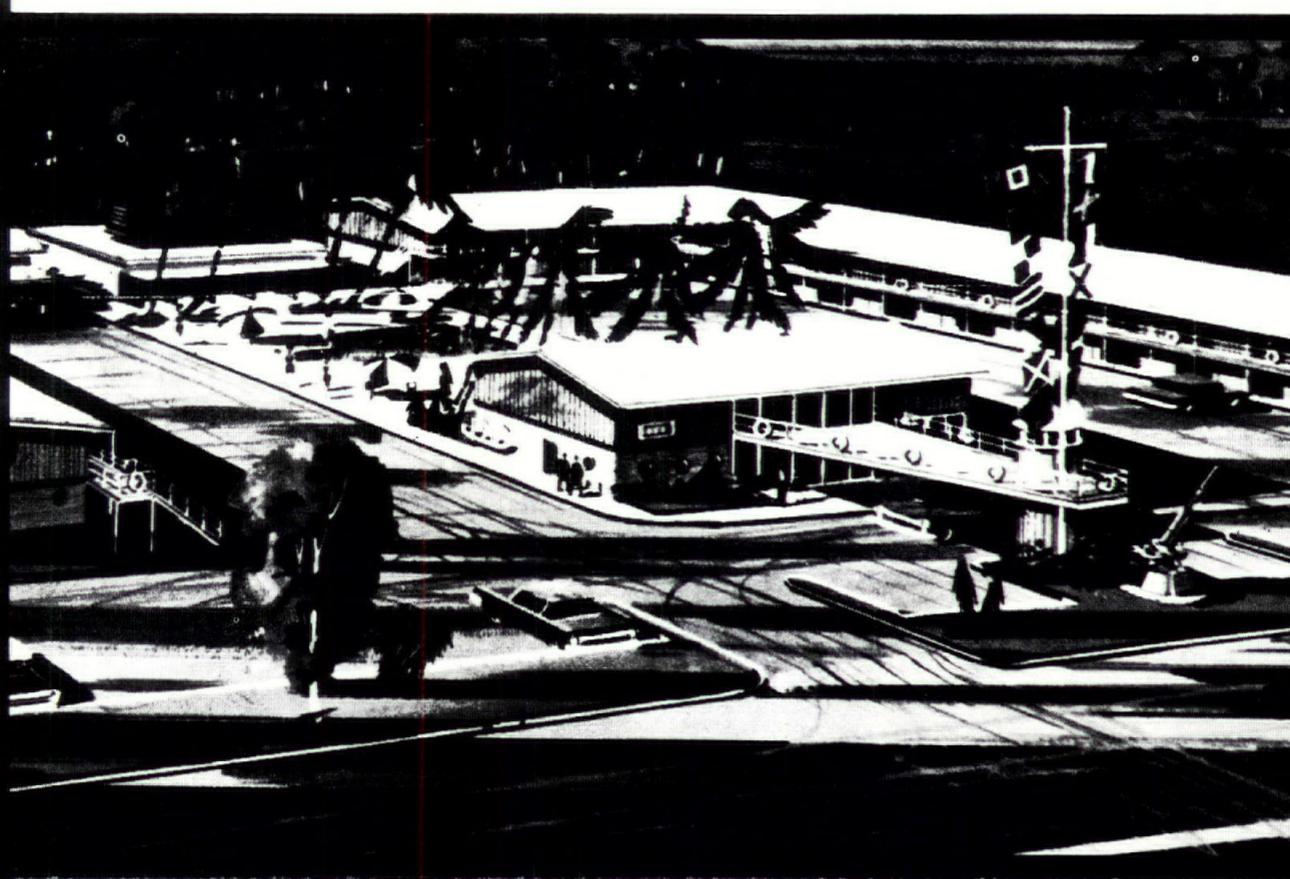
The Admiral Motor Hotel

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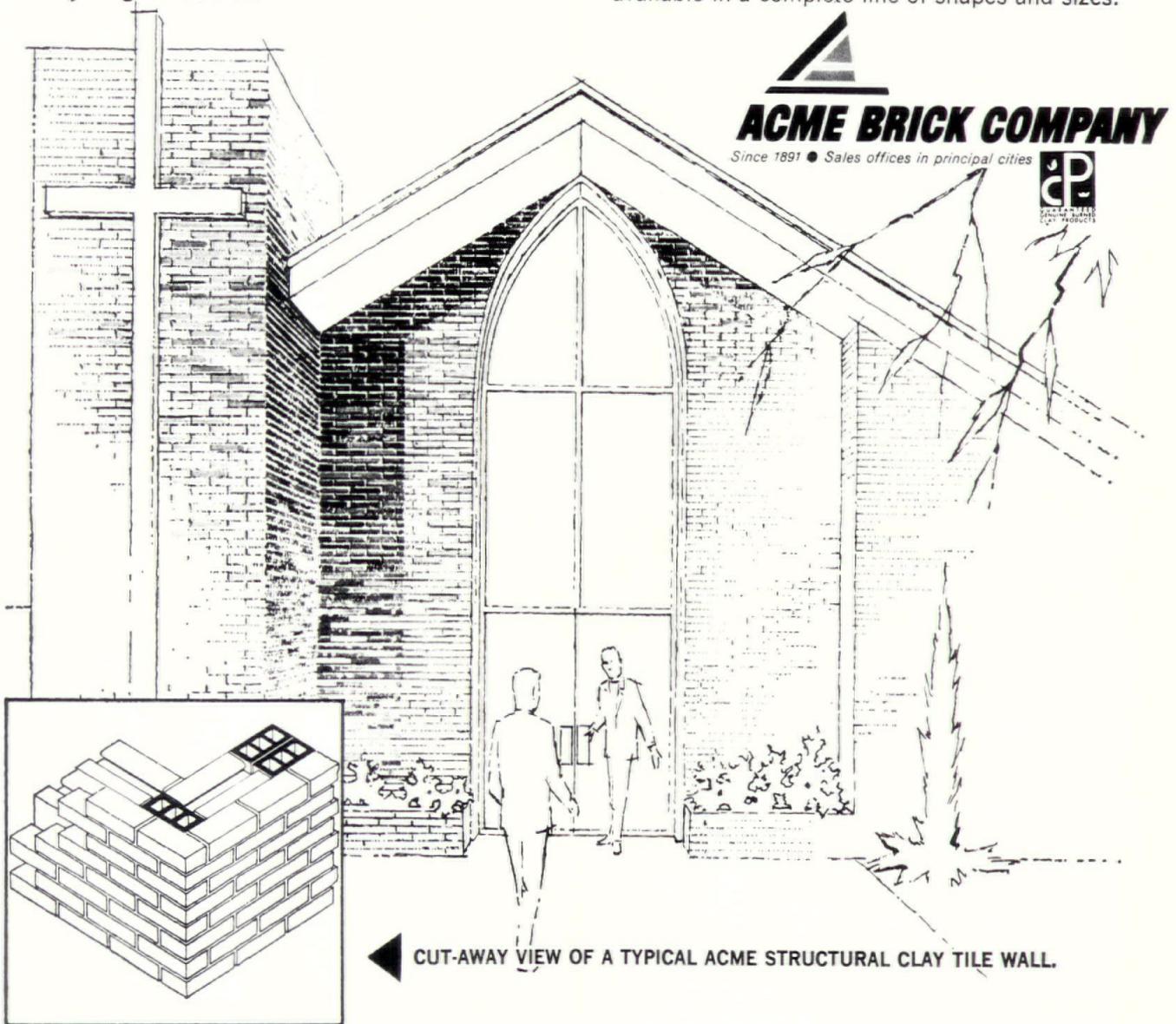
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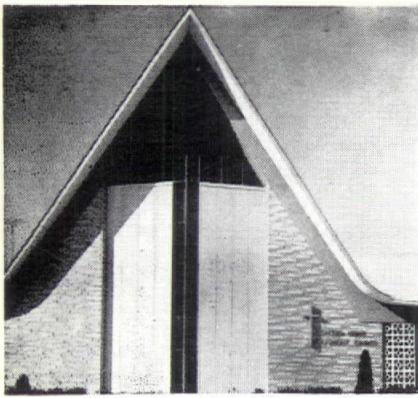
It is not unusual to see relatively new buildings with cracked or discolored interior walls — or to find evidence of much repair. This is, of course, a deplorable waste, especially when the building represents much investment, as in a church, school, or hospital.

Buildings suffering such damage usually were built with non-clay wall materials which make early and frequent repairs almost unavoidable. **They can, however, be avoided by building with Acme Structural Clay Tile.** With Acme Clay Tile, all the strength and durability of genuine new burned clay are at work to form a wall that after many years should be structurally as good as new.

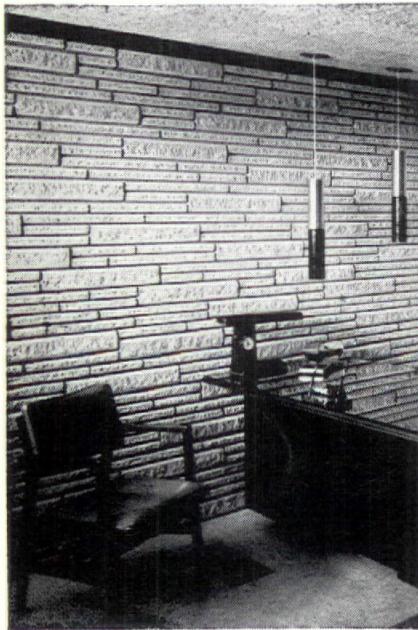
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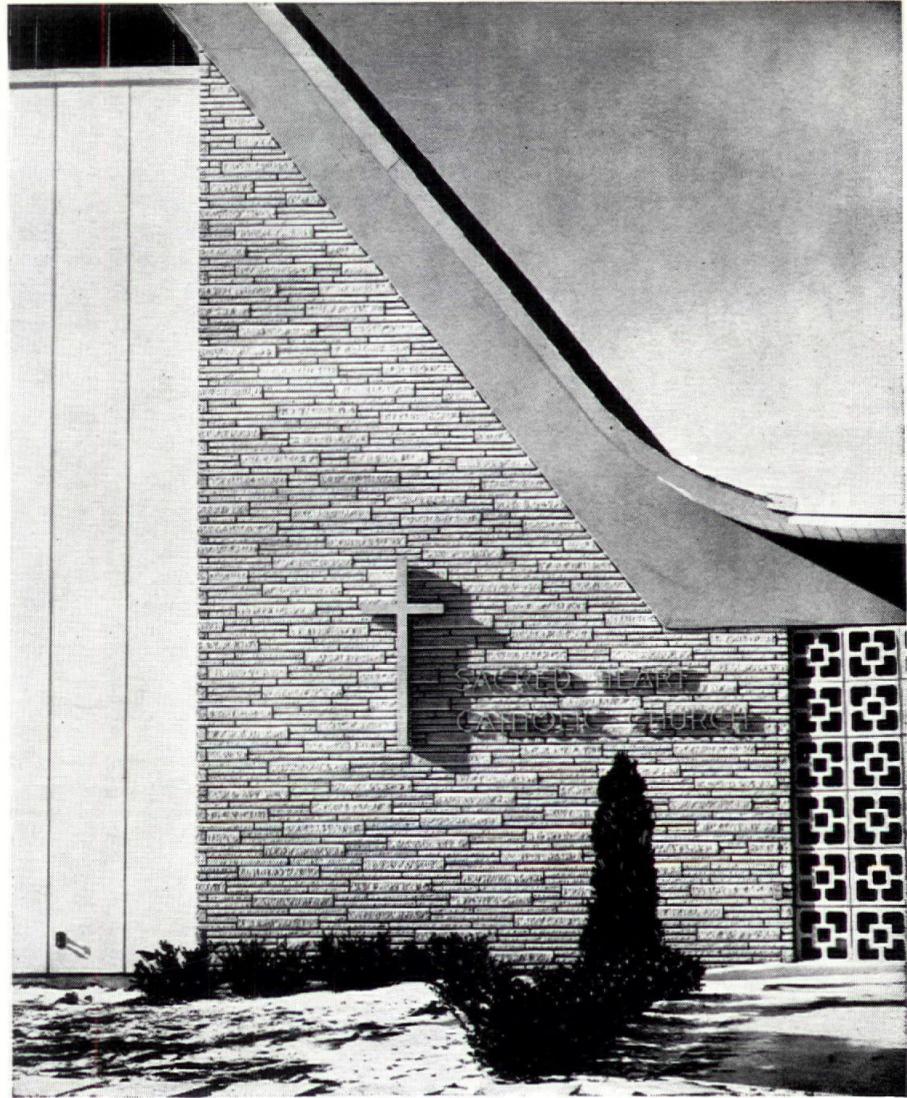




Photographs Courtesy of
Miami Stone of America



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Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Miami, Oklahoma
Architect: Jack Mann, Miami, Oklahoma

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