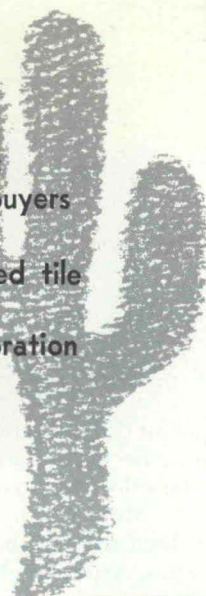


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Albuquerque National Bank, East

A business-stimulating combination of beauty and functionalism has been achieved by W. C. Kruger Company in the new Albuquerque National Bank branch building at Central and Washington Streets in Albuquerque.

Of particular significance in the design and planning of this bank is the powerful influence which the automobile played in the design concept. This bank building is specifically and ingeniously geared to the automobile borne client. Its three drive-up teller windows are designed to perform all routine banking functions while the client remains in his car. Traffic flow has been carefully plotted, and for those who wish to do business within the bank, ease of entry from the 71 parking spaces has been provided by opening up both the back and front of the bank interior.

The bank exterior has a jewel-like quality—with a sparkle and glitter that catches the eye of the passing motorist. Much of this glitter comes from aluminum accents and glass areas which stand out against the stacked bond brick and Arizona sandstone walls. A pleasing element of warmth is further emphasized by the use of colorful mosaic tile at front and rear entrances and in gray, blue and white tile spandrels over the drive-up teller windows. The bank's exterior mood is also emphasized through the extensive use of planters, which completely encircle the building, softening its lines through the use of flowers and shrubs.

Said Architect Kruger, "Our objective was to give the client the design dividends that result from combining order, utility and beauty in such a way that bank customers are first of all attracted, and then, once inside, are given a feeling of elegance and restraint. We have sought to make discriminating decisions in the use of space, form, color, texture, and proportion in such a way that the structure of this bank will project a feeling about the effectiveness and worth of its function to its clients."

The interior of the bank is paneled in black walnut, which is made lightly elegant through the use of aluminum accents. Walnut furnishings for the officers' platform opposite the tellers' windows, and drapes which provide a translucent color accent, were specified by the Architect. The interior layout is effectively functional, with a bookkeeping area 115 feet long directly behind the curving teller counter. Special areas are provided for all banking functions, while the open plan gives the client a feeling of easy accessibility and official friendliness.

A full basement offers extensive storage areas, employees' lounge and dining areas and mechanical equipment rooms. Carrying out the bank's overall concept of being a community service institution, the basement also includes a community room which is available for meetings and all types of customer activities.

Central Office

