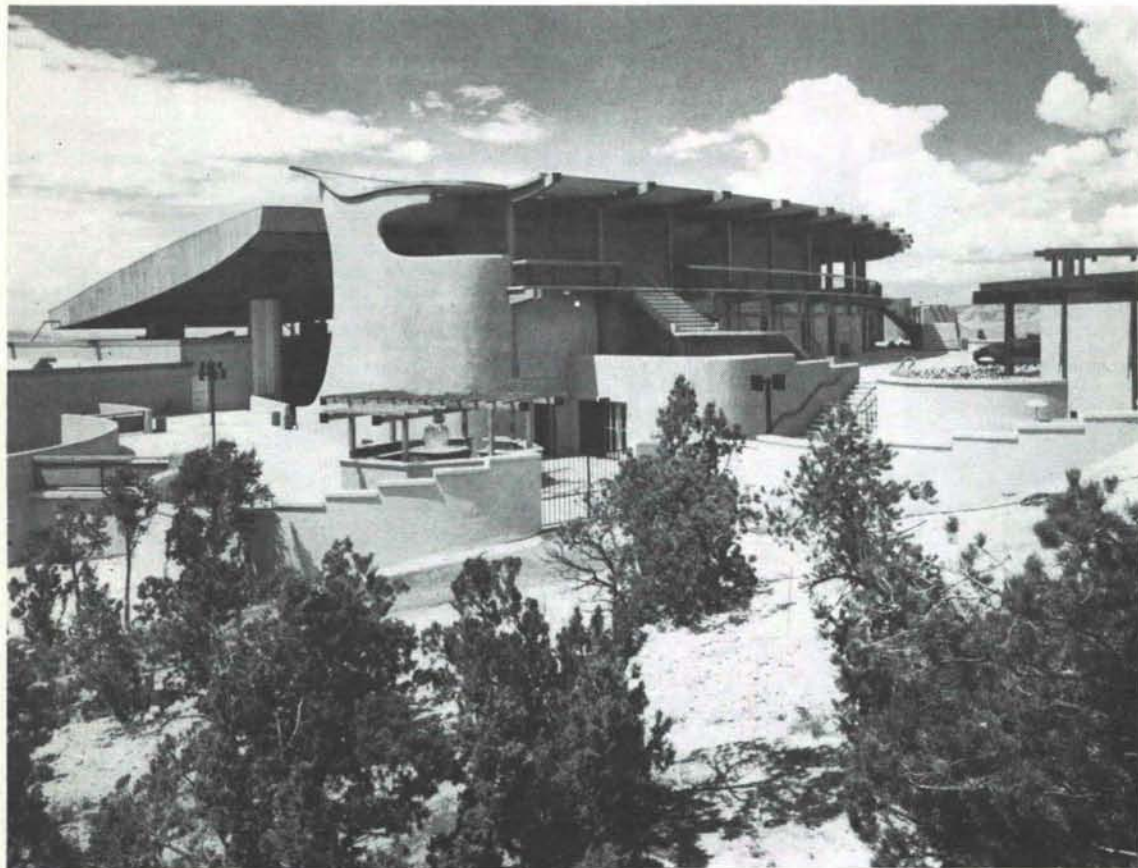


# 1970 AWARDS - - - NEW MEXICO ARTS COMMISSION

**"Award of Excellence" for New Construction**  
**Santa Fe Opera Theater**  
**McHugh and Kidder, Architects**



**"Award of Excellence" in the field of Historic Preservation.**

**Merle Clark, Chief Planner, State Planning Office**

*Upon presentation of this award, Mrs. Ernestine Evans, Secretary of State, read the following statement:*

Tonight, the New Mexico Arts Commission presents its award for "excellence in the field of historic preservation."

This award is given to Mr. Merle Clark, Chief Planner of the New Mexico State Planning Office.

The most obvious reason for honoring Merle Clark tonight is the New Mexico State Plan for Historic Preservation, the first phase of which is nearly complete and ready for the printer. This superb piece of work is second to none of its kind which has been produced in this country. More than to anyone else, its authorship belongs to Merle Clark.

The publication of this state plan represents years of work and is based upon a number of significant earlier achievements. Mr. Clark has had a dominant part in the formulation, refinement, and final enactment into law of the Cultural Properties Act of 1969, one of the most distin-

guished preservation laws so far achieved by any of the United States. His, also, was the most vital voice in the organization of the Cultural Properties Review Committee, to which he has given dedicated and inspiring leadership.

Also, this award is appropriate because of another kind of achievement. Merle Clark has given the first real recognition and encouragement to a number of public benefactors to whom the people of New Mexico owe a great cultural debt. Several of our most important architectural monuments have been preserved intact by private citizens throughout many years of public unconcern.

Mrs. Frank Hill and Janaloo Hill at the town of Shakespeare; Mrs. U. L. Clegg at the Mills House in Springer; and Mr. and Mrs. K. E. Deaton and Mrs. Betty Buck at the Dorsey Mansion in Chico, N. M.; and others have given most of their time, energy, and money to keeping intact these irreplaceable cultural documents. Through the official and unofficial activities of Merle Clark, these previously unrecognized people owned by buildings have at last some reason to believe that the people of New Mexico may finally come to know and appreciate what they have done.

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## POETRY CORNER

### WISDOM HATH NOT BUILT A HOUSE

WITH APOLOGIES ALL OVER THE PLACE

To build or not to build, that is the question;  
Whether it's smarter, after all, to live  
With rent, and clauses in outrageous leases,  
Or to take leave of this whole mess of problems  
And by owning your own thing, end them?

To build, to rent no more,  
And by this step to hope to end  
The headaches and the thousand daily shocks  
That go with renting; it's a combination  
Devoutly to be wished. To build, to sleep,  
To sleep in your own pad, perchance to dream,  
Ay, there's the catch,  
For in that sleep of debt what nightmares come  
Before we've shuffled off the mortgage bond  
Will make us stop and think. Now there's the  
problem  
That we should live so long and work so hard

For who today can pay, even on time,  
The legal fees, the contractor's low bid,  
And stand the pangs of FHA delays,  
The insolence of workmen, and the spurn  
That builders make of our requests for changes.

And all the time you know  
That you could be your own contractor  
And in a one-man office, do as well,  
(With a bare bodkin just for cutting costs)  
If you but had the time.

But who'd assail the local building code  
To grunt and sweat the current interest rate  
Just to add something real to your estate  
When you could buy a cottage in Vermont  
That undiscovered country from whose bourne  
No commuter returns, and for excellent reasons!

Decision twixt the two puzzles the will  
And makes us rather bear the bills we have  
Than contract others we know naught of.

Thus money doth make cowards of us all,  
And the great scheme we had, in full color,  
Is sicklied o'er with a thick coat of doubt  
And enterprises of great pith and moment,  
With this regard, wind up high on the shelf,  
And lose the label "active"... and never get built.

Oh well. Fair Ophelia!  
At three hourly dollars, fringe benefits,  
Fifty words a minute, and atrocious spelling,  
Up from thy teen-age orisons, and take a letter!

Robert H. Mutrux, AIA  
Wilton, Connecticut