

tunately not attributed to Bunting) that Meem "is unquestionably the most important architect ever to have worked in New Mexico." Meem entered the New Mexico architectural scene not to innovate, but to continue forces already in motion. Archaeologists such as Edgar Lee Hewett, architects such as Rapp and Rapp, and the many artists working in Santa Fe in the first decades of the 20th century gave him the vocabulary he used so fluently. Certainly his designs are generally graceful and friendly, while in the hands of others the revival styles could become coarse, even dull.

I was surprised to learn that the elaborate mill work used in residential and public buildings, particularly in the early work, was

not done by New Mexico craftsmen. Rather it was executed by Colorado firms and shipped to the New Mexico building site. Bunting tells us of one occasion when New Mexico Indians happened, by coincidence, to be in the employ of the Pueblo, Colorado, firm producing the mill work for the Zimmerman Library at the University of New Mexico.

When one reads of the length of time taken for the design of the Colorado Fine Arts Center, or of the completion of the Zimmerman Library being delayed for three months to await the delivery of specially sized, adzed boards to conceal concrete beams, it is apparent the John Meem lived in a state of architectural luxury enjoyed, even then, by few other ar-

chitects.

The book is profusely illustrated with sketches, plans, and photographs — many taken shortly after completion of the buildings by such prominent photographers as Tyler Dingee, Laura Gilpin, and Ansel Adams. However, the quality of the photographic reproduction is poor, which is truly unfortunate in so important a book.

Bunting takes the reader on a detailed tour of many of Meem's outstanding buildings, public and private; he catalogs a significant career, and reminds us of the generosity and humanity of this architect. *JPC*

This review also appears in the winter 1985 issue of Design Book Review, published in Berkeley, California.

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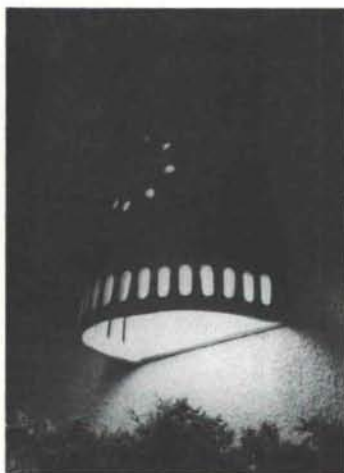
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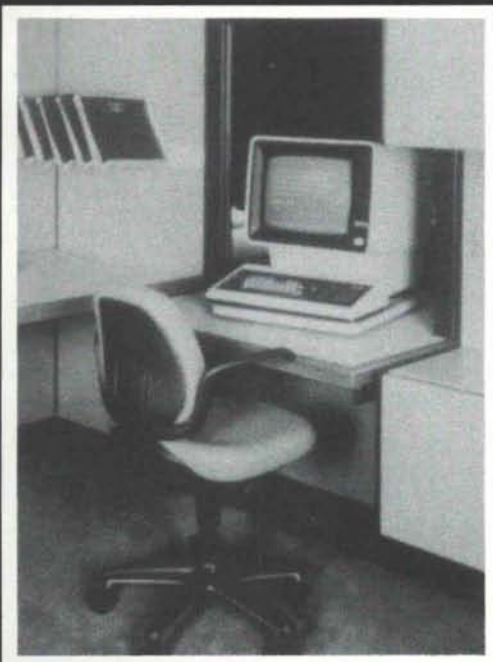


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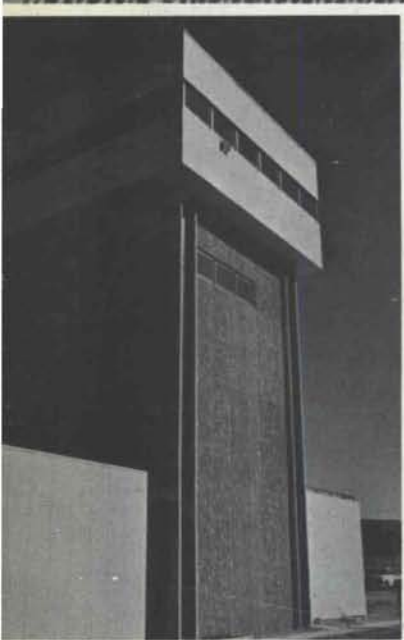
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