

AUG 15 1973

new mexico architecture

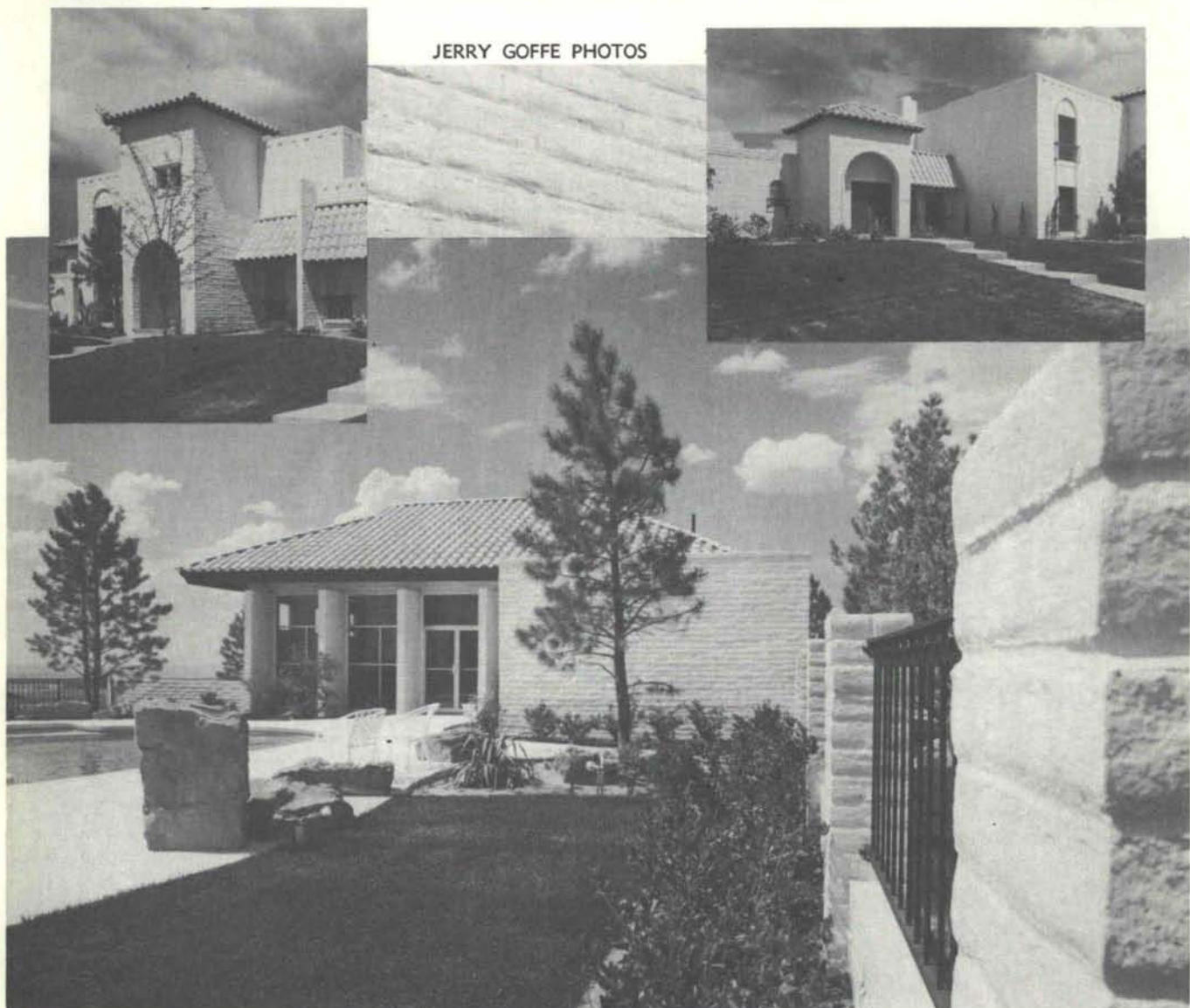
july-august 1973

1000

in this issue:
New Mexico Society of Architects
and
New Mexico Arts Commission Awards

CREGO

JERRY GOFFE PHOTOS



CREGO'S SLUMPROK — UTILIZED IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER MATERIALS, EXPRESSES A BOLD REGIONAL CHARACTER WITH ITS WARMTH, RUSTIC TEXTURE AND ITS VERSATILITY OF SHAPE AND LINE. ELMER CULLEN'S VILLA SERENA TOWNHOUSES, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO.

CREGO BLOCK CO., INC.

Phone (505) 344-3475

6026 Second St. N. W.

Albuquerque, N. M. 87107



vol. 15 nos. 7 & 8

ON THE COVER:

This ten-room residence located in Los Lunas, New Mexico was built in the early 1880's by Tranquilino Luna, a prominent sheep rancher and politician. He was born at Los Lunas on February 25, 1849. His father, merchant - farmer Antonio Jose Luna, was a descendant of Domingo de Luna who came to New Mexico shortly after the Spanish reconquest in 1692 and settled the area which bears his name. During the late territorial period, the Lunas were one of the most powerful families in the Los Lunas-Belen area of Valencia County. The property is listed on New Mexico's Register of Cultural Properties.

□ □ □ □

A few years ago we ran this poem in *NMA*. It seems apropos to reprint it here along with the book review on Nat Owings new book. (See page 16)

When asked to submit a paper on Mies van der Rohe, University of California architectural student Robert Higginbotham submitted the psalm below and received a high grade.

Twenty-third "SOM"

"Mies is my shepherd; I shall not want.

"He maketh me to lie down in glass boxes;

"He leadeth me beside sterile buildings.

"He restoreth my soul;

"He leadeth me through the universal spaces for his name's sake.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of Wright, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy marble and thy bronze they comfort me;

"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of everybody,

"Thou anointest my head with modules; my detail runneth over.

"Surely Johnson and Bunshaft shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of Seagram forever."

july-august 1973 • new mexico architecture

nma

NMA News 9

Excellence in a Vacuum—V. B. Price
The U. S. Capitol West Front, Again

New Mexico Society of Architects
and New Mexico Arts Commission Awards 12

Book Reviews 16

"The Spaces in Between"

"The Religious Architecture of New Mexico"

(Cover — *The Tranquilino Luna House* —
Richard Federici — Photographer)

—Official Publication of the New Mexico Society of Architects, A. I. A.—

Society Officers

President—Van Dorn Hooker
Vice President—John P. Conron
Secretary-Treasurer—Richard Waggoner
Director—Jess T. Holmes, Jr.
Director—W. Kern Smith
Director—Robert C. Campbell
Director—Urban C. Weidner, Jr.
Director—Ted C. Luna
Director—Charles E. Nolan, Jr.

Commission for NMA

John P. Conron—Editor
Bainbridge Bunting—Editorial Consultant
Robert G. Mallory—Advertising
Mildred Brittelle—Financial
Secretary, Circulation
John W. McHugh
James M. Murray, III

FROM CONCEPT TO COMPLETION



Exclusive distributors for TAYLOR

Consultation Planning Design Layout

Criteria, skill, artistry and experience are fused to produce laboratory furniture meeting the most exacting requirements of contemporary science educators and architects. Units immediately available and within the reach of any school or institutional budget.

Architects use our design consultation services for: Science Labs / Offices / Artrooms / Dormitories / Libraries / Auditorium Seating / Home Economics Labs / Gymnasiums

UNIVERSITY BOOK STORE ALLIED SUPPLY CO.

2122 Central, SE
Phone 243-1776
Albuquerque, N. M.

PLASCO


INC. ALBUQUERQUE

mirror closet doors • shower doors & compartments • complete store front department patio doors • fiberglass shower stalls & tubs • plate glass mirrors • bathroom accessories • medicine cabinets screen & storm doors • glass & aluminum products • acrylic lavatories & tubs • complete screen service



THE ECONOMIES OF BLOCK COMBINED WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF GLAZE

Build & finish in 1 operation. Thru-wall units, load-bearing or partition, eliminate cost of back-up walls.
Permanent glazed factory finish. 1 trade, faster job, substantial savings.
Low maintenance. Cannot peel or blister. Impervious to moisture (even steam cleaning!) No refurbishing ever!
Resistance to chemicals. Acids, alkalis, solvents, disinfectants, etc.
2-face units available for lowest cost 2-face walls.
Excellent insulation & sound-proofing.

© 4.5/Bu in SWEET'S 
Many colors, scored & design faces available. Job-site delivery.

© Reg. U.S. Pat. Off., Canada & other countries by the Burns & Russell Co.
FEATHERLITE BLOCK CO., Box 489, Lubbock, Tex. 79408. 806/763-8202
FEATHERLITE BUILDING PRODUCTS CO., Box 9977, El Paso, Tex. 79990
BUILDERS BLOCK & STONE CO., INC., Roswell, N.M. & Albuquerque, N.M.
EMPIRE BLOCK CO., Santa Fe, New Mexico

PRESTRESSED - PRECAST CONCRETE



THE PRACTICAL-VERSATILE BUILDING MATERIAL

The new offices and warehouse building for W. W. Grainger, Inc., in Albuquerque makes good use of concrete, the versatile building material. The roof contains 10,400 sq. ft. of prestressed twin tee members. There are 500 lineal ft. of precast beams, 260 lineal ft. of precast concrete columns and 600 sq. ft. of precast lightweight concrete fascia panels.

The building, designed to be expandable, offers large column free warehouse and work area, and maximum fire resistance.

ARCHITECT—G. Patrick Gates & Associates

CONTRACTOR—Burbridge Construction Co.

1304 Menaul Blvd. N. E., Albuquerque, N. M. 87107 (505) 345-2536

PRESTRESSED 
CONCRETE PRODUCTS, INC.

MONO  THERM

**SPRAY INSULATION-
ACOUSTICAL SYSTEM**

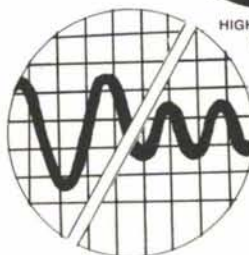
for its . . .

Keers, Inc.

**3323 STANFORD, N. E.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**



HIGH THERMAL
RATING



ACOUSTICAL
EXCELLENCE



CONDENSATION
CONTROL



FIRE RETARDANT



ARCHITECTURAL BEAUTY



EASE OF APPLICATION



**DEDICATED TO QUALITY
AND SERVICE**

**ALBUQUERQUE GRAVEL
PRODUCTS COMPANY**

600 JOHN ST. SE

**FOR THE FINEST INTERIOR
ACRYLIC LATEX PAINT
for WALLS AND WOODWORK**

**ONECOAT COVERAGE
GUARANTEED FOR 5 YEARS
HIGHLY WASHABLE**

specify **Wellborn** new
MASTERPIECE



**Wellborn
PAINT**

Albuquerque, N. M.
MFG. CO. 877-5050



Serving New Mexico For Over 20 Years

NO JOB TOO LARGE—OR TOO SMALL

**ALMOST EVERYTHING IN ROOFING
AND SHEET METAL**

**GOODRICH ROOFING IN
ALBUQUERQUE FOR GOOD . . .**

OUR CREDENTIALS . . . THOUSANDS OF
SATISFIED CUSTOMERS

FREE ESTIMATES

(505) 345-1854

**3402 Stanford Drive, N. E.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO**

Happiness is having a good roof by Goodrich

**HARRIS GLASS
COMPANY, INC.**

you can see
thru our business!



**RETAIL CONTRACT
GLASS - PLASTICS -
MIRRORS - STAINED GLASS -
ALUMINUM WINDOWS & DOORS
STOREFRONT & WINDOW WALLS**

SERVICE THROUGHOUT NEW MEXICO

**SANTA FE
1224 Calle La Resolana
Phone 982-5204**

**ALBUQUERQUE
1223 4th N.W.
Phone 247-0731**

GET THE FACTS

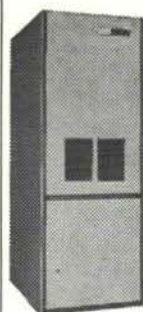
... about total comfort!

See Your...

SINGER

**COMFORTMAKER
DEALER —**

BARNETT AND COMPANY
1501 Third Street, N.W.
Albuquerque, N. M. 87125
(505) 247-2428



HEATING



COOLING



AIR FILTRATION



HUMIDITY CONTROL

DEODORIZING

Investigate Singer Comfortmaker Year Around Air Conditioning! Heating-Cooling-Air Filtration and Circulation-Humidity Control-Odor Control. All available in a single comfort system and at modest cost.



**Building: Sandia Savings
Las Cruces**

**Architect: Wall & Protz
Las Cruces**

A Comment That Is As Old As TRUS JOIST ... "real flexibility . . . and economy".

Jim Wall, Las Cruces architect said it.

The new Sandia Savings and Loan building had just been completed and two of architecture's age-old conflicts had been brought to heel — long, clear spans and economy.

Jim put it this way:

"TRUS JOISTS long spans gave us real flexibility in design and economy of construction."

TJ saves on labor costs, application techniques and time. That's known. But we have a surprise for Jim and the building owners.

There's another savings yet to appear.

That's in building maintenance costs which are due to warping and shrinking joists.

Geo. B. McGill Co., Inc.
3520 Pan American N. E.
Albuquerque 87107
Phone 505/345-4501



McGill - Stephens, Inc.
110 Festival St.
El Paso, Texas 79912
Phone 915/584-6541

TELEData Inc.

A TIME SHARE COMPUTER SERVICE

SERVING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY THROUGHOUT THE SOUTHWEST

- PAYROLL
- GENERAL LEDGER
- JOB COST ANALYSIS
- CRITICAL PATH METHOD (C. P. M.)
- APARTMENT MANAGEMENT
- CONDOMINIUM MANAGEMENT
- INVENTORY CONTROL
- ENGINEERING APPLICATIONS

We specialize in designing programs to fit your business.

With Time-Sharing, you never wait for the computer, it's ready when you are. Your jobs can be run when you need them; 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.

Computer time available by the hour, day or month.

PHONE: (505) 266-8190

WRITE: TELEDATA, INC., P. O. BOX 30162, ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. 87110

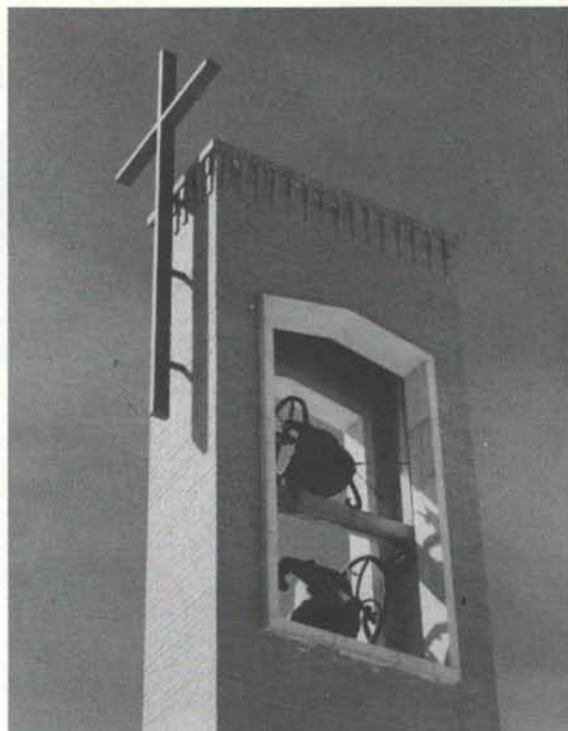
MASONRY IS SIMPLICITY

**OUR LADY OF SORROWS
CATHOLIC CHURCH
BERNALILLO, NEW MEXICO**

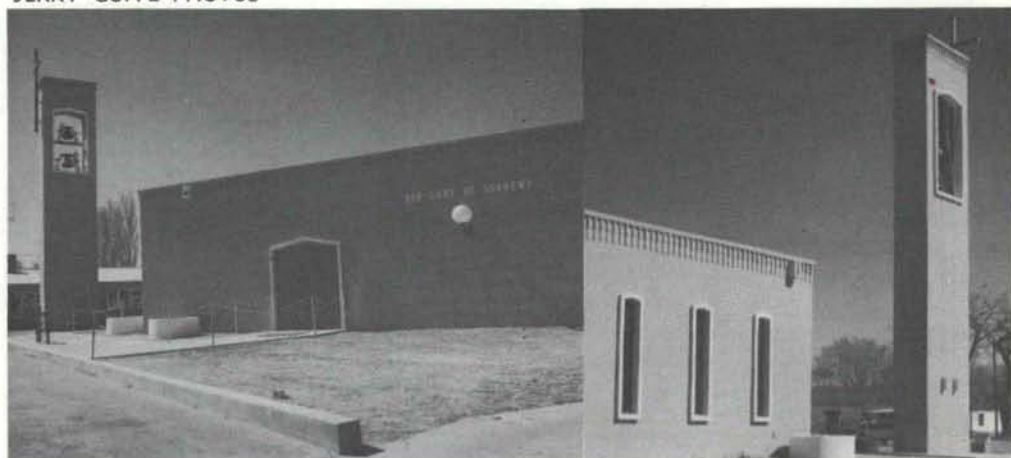
**WILLIAM H. WILSON, AIA
ARCHITECT**

**BOB RUTHERFORD
CONTRACTOR**

**LARDNER MASONRY CO.
MASONRY CONTRACTOR**



JERRY GOFFE PHOTOS



THE SIMPLICITY OF MASONRY EXPRESSES THE GREAT IDEAS OF TRADITIONAL INSTITUTIONS. ITS PERMANENCE SUSTAINS THOSE IDEAS AND INSTITUTIONS FOR GENERATIONS.

MASON CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION OF NEW MEXICO



The following article is reprinted in its entirety by permission of the regrettably too small but thankfully always outspoken weekly newspaper, the **New Mexico Independent**. The author, Vincent Barrett Price, is a regular contributor, and, its readers are well aware of his cogent observations of the Albuquerque cityscape!!!

EXCELLENCE IN A VACUUM

By V. B. PRICE

The major media's total disregard of the New Mexico Society of Architects' awards banquet last week gives a good indication why Albuquerque might be sometimes referred to as the architect's Vestibule of the Futile.

The Dantean image, though exuberant, is apropos, for to practice the art of architecture here would seem to me as cheerless and infernally frustrating as building an ice palace on the Gobi dunes.

Architects must feel at times like Dante's "folk forlorn," doomed to be a "dismal company of wretched spirits . . . whose lives knew neither praise or infamy."

That works of excellence are produced in such a vacuum is astounding in itself, but to have the recognition of such excellence buried alive in callous anonymity is not only an affront to the profession but also a disservice to Albuquerque's struggle for mature self-awareness.

The Society presented its honor

awards to *Antoine Predock* for the West Central Branch of the First National Bank, 53rd and Central NW; the firm of *Pacheco and Graham* for the underground Physics Laboratories and Lecture Hall complex at the University of New Mexico on the south side of Redondo Drive; and *Ted Luna* for the Vietnam Peace and Brotherhood Memorial Chapel, built for Dr. and Mrs. Victor Westphall in the Eagle Nest valley.

Photographs of the award winning buildings are on pages 12 through 15.

Also at the banquet, the New Mexico Arts Commission presented an award for "significant contribution to the environment" to *William Ellison and Associates*, architects, *Ernest J. Kump and Associates*, design consultants, and *Eckbo, Dean, Austin and Williams*, landscape architects, for the 1967 Residence Hall Complex (La Posada Dining Hall and De Vargas and Laguna Dormitories on the north side of Redondo Drive) at UNM. A special Arts Commission award was also presented to State Senator Tibo Chavez for "distinguished service in the field of historic preservation."

I find myself in the unlikely position of agreeing, in spirit, with the opinions of the jurors, archi-

tecs George Pearl and John Conron, and Paul Lusk of the Albuquerque City Planning Department. Matters of personal taste aside, the honored buildings all display a general quality of excellence that deserves not only public recognition but also firsthand inspection by all those concerned with the aesthetic health and creative vitality of this city's man-made environment.

What impresses me the most about the chosen buildings, and for that matter about any building of beauty and substance in Albuquerque, is the exceptional conditions under which they must have been conceived.

More than any other "non-performing" art form, architecture is a product of rapport. As most architects will tell you, their works are usually "only as good as" the goals and values of their clients. Clients hire specific architects because they agree in one way or another with the general style and attitude of the architect's work. But the architect, as I understand it, is involved not so much with performing the idiosyncracies of his own taste as he is in translating the client's needs and desires into appropriate, and hopefully aesthetically agreeable, forms.

For writers and other "artists,"

OFFICE FURNITURE

- HERMAN MILLER
- KNOLL ASSOCIATES
- JENS RISON
- AMERICAN DESK
- REPUBLIC STEEL DISTRIBUTOR
- ALL-STEEL EQUIPMENT

5021 Lomas Blvd., N.E.

Albuquerque, N. M.
87110

268-4307



design
interiors, inc.

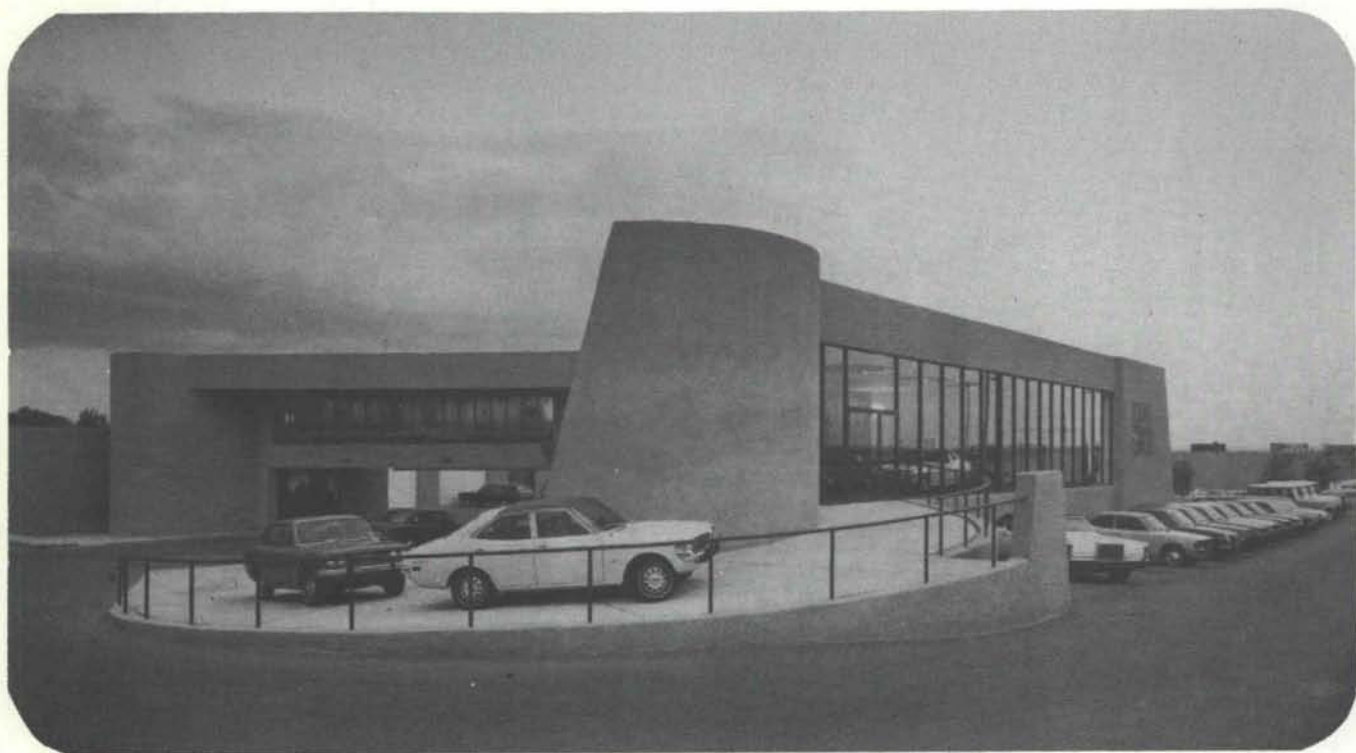
PROFESSIONAL
INTERIOR
PLANNING

RETAIL &
CONTRACT SALES

BUSINESS
FURNITURE
LEASING

DISTINCTIVE OFFICE FURNITURE & UNUSUAL FURNISHINGS FOR THE HOME

comfort - whether it's hot or cold



JERRY GOFFE PHOTO

**Julian Garcia's
TOYOTA CITY
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Stevens, Mallory, Pearl & Campbell - AIA

BECAUSE **ZONOLITE®** VERMICULITE
CONCRETE ROOF DECKS PROVIDE EFFICIENT
LIGHTWEIGHT INSULATION. BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.
ZONOLITE CONCRETE CAN PROVIDE PROPER
SLOPES FOR DRAINAGE AND PROTECTION AGAINST
FIRE — ECONOMICALLY.

ZONOLITE®
GRACE

SOUTHWEST VERMICULITE CO.
PROCESSORS

**MOUNTAIN STATES
INSULATION CO.**

CERTIFIED
APPLICATORS

A L B U Q U E R Q U E

this condition seems appalling. But then architecture is the most social of all art forms and the most utile.

The role of the client is crucial in the look of any building and in the appearance of any town, for the town itself (and all the clients that compose it) commissions architects to be, in effect, the creators of its own image and likeness. As Louis Sullivan has said, "As you are, so are your buildings; and, as are your buildings, so are you. You and your Architecture are the same. Each is a faithful portrait of the other."

That Albuquerque's city-scape is analogous to some Dantean mirage signifies not only the existence of a considerable rank of architectural hacks, but more importantly an officer corps of client drones.

The majority of Albuquerque's architectural clients can be characterized as exhibiting something closely resembling creative and spiritual parsimony — if one can judge from the buildings they have commissioned. Their criteria for success is apparently nothing other than the achievement of superlative expedience—spend as little as possible to get as much of nothing as you can.

Because, by and large, the cumulative will of the client determines the physical quality of a city, Albuquerque can be said to have been conceived in miserly feasibility that has resulted for the most part in stolid mediocrity at its numbing worst.

However, thank God, there are exceptions. In praising the buildings commissioned by the First National Bank and the University of New Mexico, the Society's jurors not only honored gifted architects, but also paid tribute to their gifted clients as well.

For as long as I've lived here, the University of New Mexico has been Albuquerque's one consistent claim to modern Southwestern civilization. Under the inspiration of such men as Sherman

Smith, UNM's vice president for Administration and Development, the University—like it or not—has aspired to architectural integrity and excellence befitting its character and function. As a client, the University has had a profound influence, I should think, on the lives and work of those architects fortunate enough to receive its commissions.

In any case, its effect on the appearance and spirit of this city can be described as nothing short of redeeming. Architecturally, the campus is an example of what comes from diligently pursuing the realization of an institutional "self-image" at once dedicated to the betterment of its surroundings and the enrichment of its self-respect.

The same holds true for the recent history of the First National Bank and is mirrored in the jury's selection of its West Central Branch—the first structure in the First's current program of the architectural amelioration of Albuquerque. I find it hard to believe at times myself—so steeped am I in the banker's traditionally negative stereotype, but First National, in partnership with its talented architects, is the first sizable institution to my knowledge, other than UNM, to seriously expend its dollars and foresight in the direction of bettering Albuquerque's man-made environment. In doing so, the First is providing a civic service vastly more important than the accumulation of spiraling assets—which, oddly enough, should come to them in the ever greater quantity as a happy by-product of their apparent ideals.

The University and First National support my contention that there is latent in Albuquerque a considerable supply of potentially talented clients who, if catalyzed by evidence that excellence does indeed pay off in service as well as profit, could do much to further catalyze the talent latent and waiting in the community of architects here.

V. B. P.

AIA ASKS SENATE TO RESTORE, NOT EXTEND CAPITOL WEST FRONT

The President of The American Institute of Architects has again asked the Senate to refuse to bury the original West Front of the Capitol Building by extending the wall.

S. Scott Ferebee Jr., FAIA, speaking for the Institute which represents 24,000 licensed architects, told the Senate Appropriations Committee that the important work of early American architects and landscape architects — Thornton, Latrobe, Bulfinch and Olmstead — will be lost if the proposed extension project is approved.

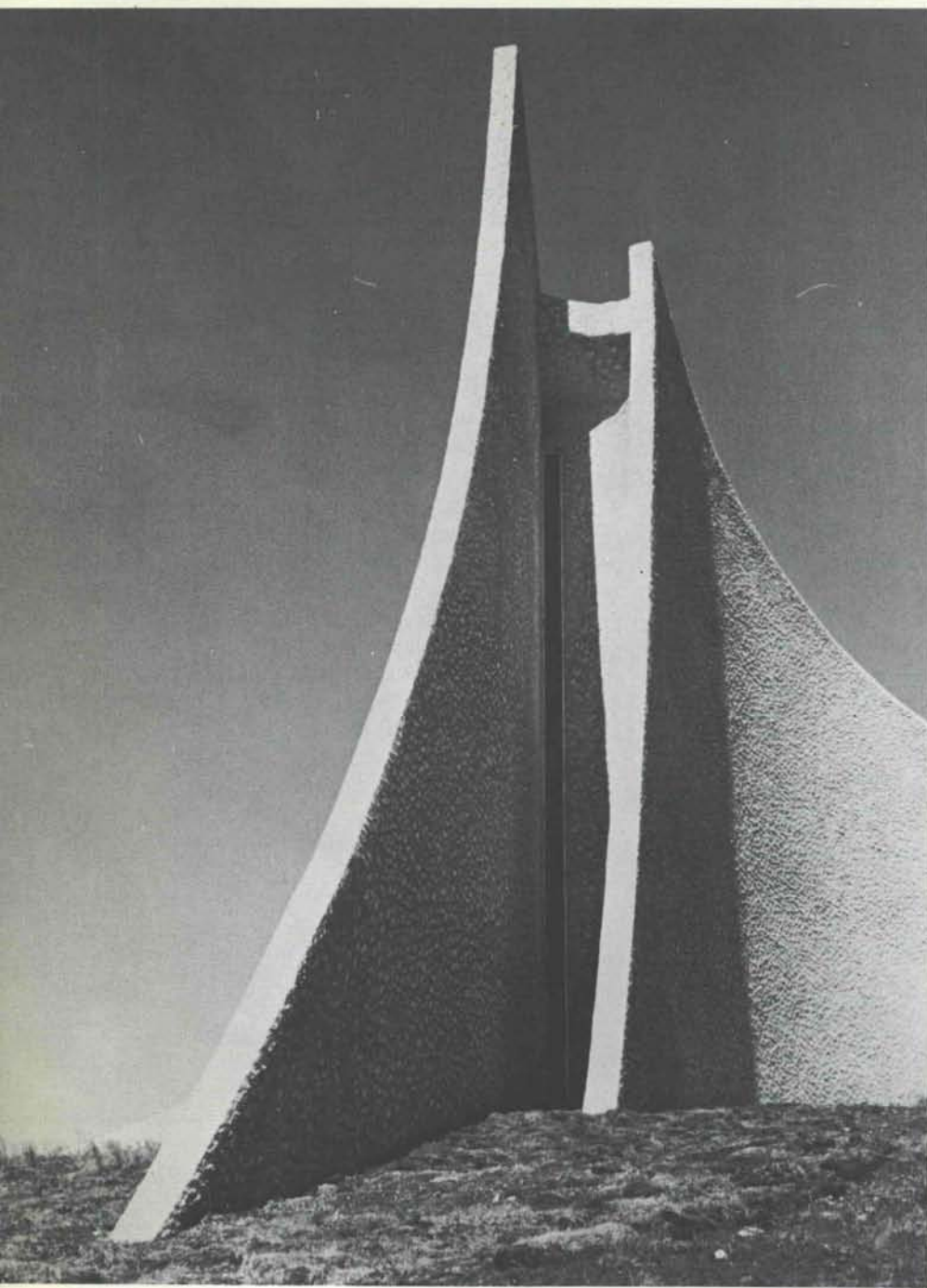
Ferebee pointed out that no master planning has been done for Capitol Hill, that is, no one has projected into the future what will be the needs of Congress and planned how to best meet those needs.

Washington architect George Hartman, who appeared at the hearing with Ferebee, said the "most immediately apparent alternative to meeting the current space requirement is the development of an underground complex underneath Capitol Hill."

Ferebee reminded the Committee that Congress "has insisted that comprehensive master planning be accomplished before federal funds are granted for interstate highways, model cities and other development programs."

The Institute expects that comprehensive planning could reveal alternatives to the proposed extension which would supply needed office and meeting space in proximity to the chambers without burying the West Front.

Hartman said an underground complex would allow "a symmetrical building to respond to an unsymmetrical need for space . . . will provide enough additional space for the foreseeable future . . . and would be unquestionably less expensive to build and operate than similar facilities above ground."



**THE VIETNAM PEACE AND BROTHERHOOD CHAPEL FOR
DR. AND MRS. VICTOR WESTPHALL**

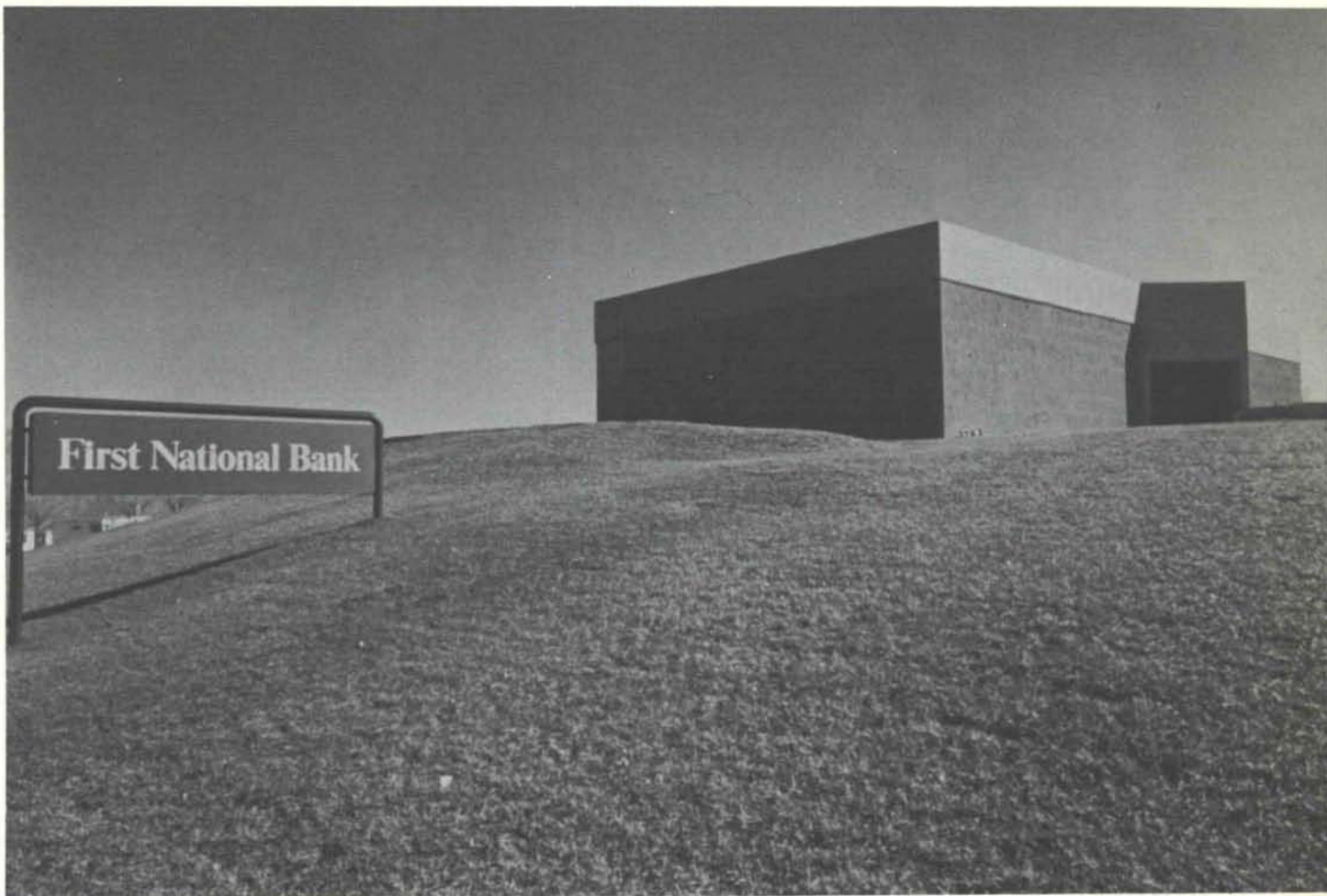
Resembling a great white bird in flight, reaching to about 45 feet at its highest peak, the memorial was built by Georg Vedeler of Santa Fe and by Dr. Westphall, a historian and retired private builder, and his family.

Aided by donations, the \$38,000 structure of cement, masonry units and gleaming white stucco was completed in late 1972 and was featured in LIFE Magazine that year. Rising on a lonely hill overlooking the lush Mora Valley, the chapel is a memorial to the courage, bravery and youth of the men who have lost their lives in all wars. To those who view it, it is a dramatic statement that peace with all men must be our ultimate goal.

Located on U.S. 64, 25 miles east of Taos and 10 miles south of Eagle Nest, the chapel is open to visitors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily except Tuesdays and Thursdays.

T. L.

**Luna-Ross & Associates, Architects
Ted "C" Luna, Partner-In-Charge**



WEST CENTRAL BRANCH — FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ALBUQUERQUE

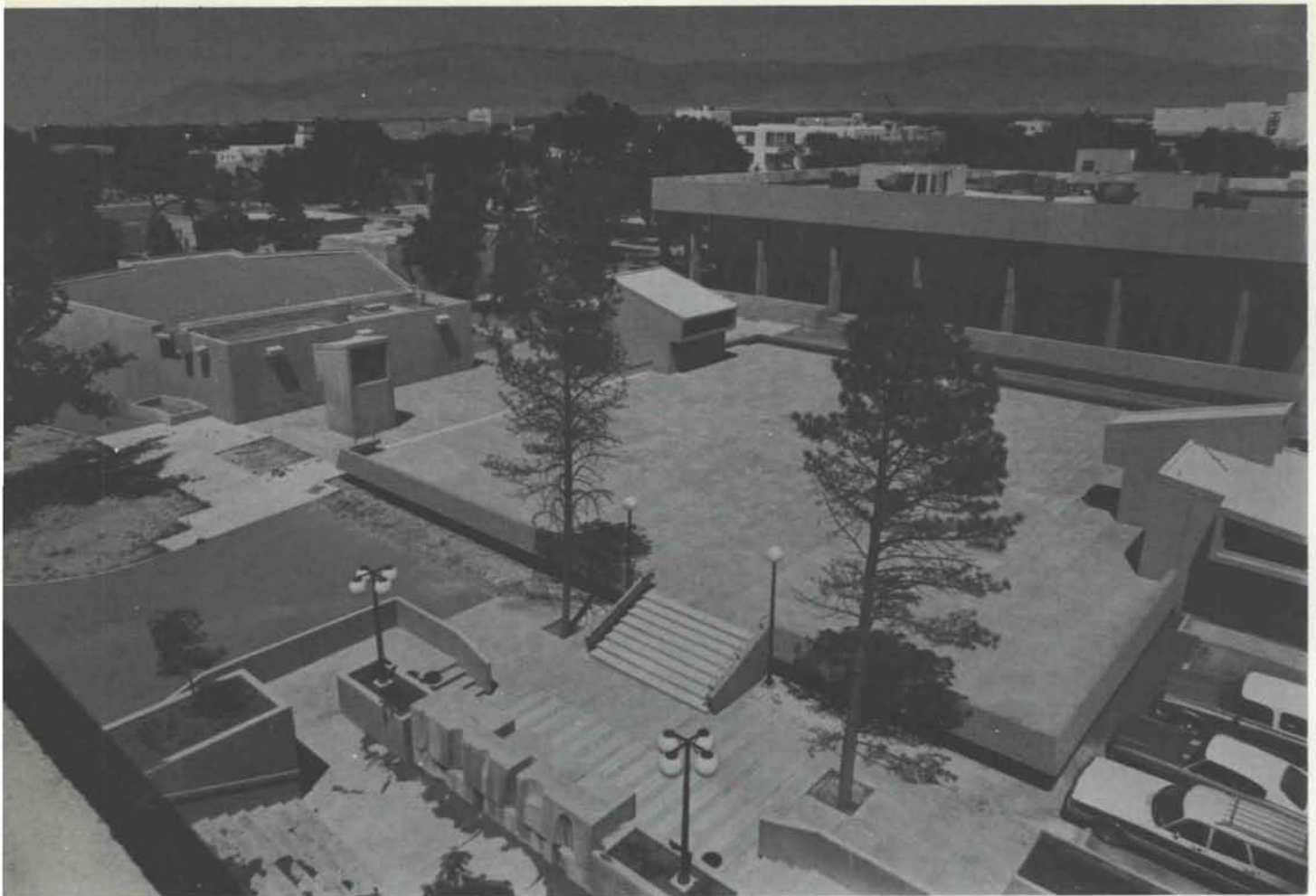
Although placed in a visually cluttered urban area, the design solution of this 3,000 square foot branch bank creates for itself a quiet and detached environment. The bank is located high on the site with a raised entry terrace reinforcing the separation. The west wall is blank in defense against impacts of low sun and wind. Customers enter this west side through a vestibule then view a glazed mountain panorama behind the tellers line. A berm to the east screens foreground poles and trailers, and acts as a visual base for the mountain view.

In the future, the angled entry will serve an "L" shaped expanded building—knockout wall panels on the west will permit the expansion to spatially connect.

Materials are split-face block and bush hammered concrete with solar-bronze glass to reduce glare.

Antoine Predock, Architect
Stanley G. Moore, Associate

Robert Krause, Structural Engineer
Allison Engineering, Mechanical Engineers
Don Fowler, Electrical Engineer
C. H. Taylor, General Contractor



PHYSICAL LABORATORIES AND LECTURE HALL FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

Pacheco & Graham, Architects

Allison Engineering, Mechanical Engineers

Donald S. Fowler, Electrical Engineer

Bradbury & Stamm, General Contractor

The new Physics Laboratories and Lecture Hall building located between Farris Engineering and the new Psychology building was planned to provide a visually open pavilion-like space to complement its much larger neighbors.

The teaching labs and storage, faculty offices, shop and mechanical areas are located underground beneath the high and low pedestrian decks. The Lecture Hall, preparation room, demonstration space and lobby areas make a transition between the lower lab area and the surface grade, providing a low profile structure. Two stairhalls and a large mechanical intake provide

vertical elements on the otherwise broad expanse of deck. The Lecture Hall has the capacity for a variety of instructional aids and seats 300 students. Located on the roof of the preparation area is a heliostat which tracks and projects the sun's rays by means of a mirror through openings in the roof and walls into the Lecture Hall area for use in demonstrations. The facility also includes two elevators with the one located in the north stairhall primarily for the use of handicapped persons. The two building elements are closely related both structurally and operationally to provide an integrated working complex.

NEW MEXICO ARTS COMMISSION AWARDS

For Excellence in New Construction

The DeVargas-Laguna Dormitory Complex is two different structures with three and four story massing enclosing a common court. Each dormitory is then divided into three houses with approximately 50 students in each house. The typical rooms are clustered into units of four which have their own study and bathroom facilities and occupy a corner of their floor. The clustering of rooms allows shorter corridors to connect the living units and establish an identity for a relatively small number of people. The stairs are collectors and establish the main entry for each of the houses. The basement links the houses together internally and the court is shared by all.

The dining hall, La Posada, is a "commons" building and is shared by the residents of DeVargas-Laguna and the other dormitories. La Posada has three dining rooms and is centered around a three-story, glass-enclosed dining room/patio.

Bridgers & Paxton
Mechanical Engineers

Lembke Construction Co.,
General Contractor



DORMITORY COMPLEX UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

William Ellison, Project Architect

Ernest J. Kunp, Design Consultant

Eckbo, Dean, Austin & Williams, Landscape Architects



BOOK REVIEWS

THE SPACES IN BETWEEN, AN ARCHITECT'S JOURNEY

By Nathaniel Alexander Owings
Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston 1973. 303 pp. \$8.95.

"... the essential quality of good architecture: Humility informed by grace and imbued with respect for neighbors."

Reviewed by John P. Conron

Reviewed for the June, 1973 issue of the AIA Journal and reprinted here by permission.



The New Mexico hideaway: "Festina Lenta"

Nathaniel Owings, FAIA, has written a book about Nathaniel Owings, but it is more. It is not a documented autobiography; rather, it is a series of lifetime memoirs and achievements, chapters of success for Skidmore, Owings, and Merrill, Architects, and for Nat Owings. He describes with wit and candor, and a bit of ego, SOM's clients and commissions, the firm's growth, partners and associates. Owings recalls with fond memory his early childhood in Indianapolis with "tree-lined vistas, broad boulevards and solid buildings..." surrounded by "...those endless oceans of windswept grain...", marked only by dark patches of farm buildings nestled in clusters of hardwood, hickory, and maple." His home, typical of that day, was equipped with now almost forgotten amenities: a front porch, a basement to hide in and an attic for rummaging in. "My outrage persists over the senseless destruction of the attic brought on by so-called contemporary arch-

itecture. The reasons, whether economic or aesthetic, do not justify the loss. It is too late to question whether this cultural genocide should be laid at the door of the architect or contractor, or fashion or mobility. With the house pared down to bare bones, we have discarded the storeroom of sentiment and lost a good many potentially valuable antiques in the process."

In 1920, when a youth of 17, Owings attended the first world Boy Scout Jamboree in London, which included a side trip to France. Here he discovered the grandeur of Medieval cathedral architecture in Notre Dame de Paris and Mont-Saint-Michel. He appreciated them "because they were there." Years later he "understood the technical aspects of the miracles of Chartres." It "lay in grasping the truth that a structure, or a group of structures, is an orchestration controlled by one great idea amplified in a thousand ways, but always one great idea which must spring from the basic needs and usages of the people at a given time. These miracles occur from instinctive drives which originate in emotional rather than intellectual impulses—never the reverse."

After a disenchanted year at the University of Illinois, and a lengthy fight for life against Bright's Disease, Owings entered Cornell University where he received his architectural education. As a young architectural graduate in the large and fashionable firm of York and Sawyer he did the "in" thing of the 1920's: he laboriously copied the details of classic cornices and capitols which adorned government and private buildings alike. Some of these face Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, where in 1970, some 40 years later, plans prepared by an Owings chaired Presidential Committee will hopefully give that avenue a new prominence as the nation's grand axis.

It was while Nat was still with York and Sawyer that Louis Skidmore, future partner, entered his

life. His sister Eloise was in Paris, and so was Skidmore. The two were "frequently observed together," a report which was most uncomfortable to Nat. "Skidmore's reputation as a gay blade, if not an outright rake, was well known; and my dear sister was, to my mind, not fitted to cope with such a past master in the art of seduction." It was not an auspicious beginning to a future close friendship and successful partnership.

Eloise and Skidmore were married in New York at the beginning of the depression with Owings and Skidmore out of work. But the resourceful Skidmore built a job for them both. Relying on a chance meeting in Paris with two key members of the Architectural Commission appointed to design the proposed Chicago World's Fair, Skidmore secured the appointment of Chief of Design and Owings joined him as Development Supervisor. The two architectural novices had landed one of the major jobs of the decade. It was during the hectic days of designing, drawing, squeezing corporations for money and participation in the Fair that Nat met and married Emily Huntington Otis.

When the Fair opened Owings became Director of Special Events. In this office he arranged fireworks, actors, events and spectacles. Occasionally, his task included helping Fair officials to escort national and world dignitaries. Nat's usual efficiency suffered somewhat on one occasion "... when, all the official cars and limousines being busy, there was still the Crown Prince of Siam in top hat and tailcoat to be transported from the Administration Building to the state luncheon at the United States Pavilion. My green Dodge convertible with the rumble seat open seemed perfect for the occasion, so I helped him in and, as he sat behind me in stately grandeur, arms crossed over his small medal-covered chest, I, acting as chauffeur, threw in the clutch and lurched into action

—concentrating, as any good driver should, on the road. I was interested to find upon arrival that the rumble seat was closed (probably jolted shut en route). Inside was our Crown Prince who, after the silk hat had been removed, made his way to his luncheon, his impassivity equaled only by my own *savoir faire*."

The Fair opened for a second year, and had been a financial and architectural success. It helped to open American's eyes to other than reproductions of Roman and Greek grandeur. "We covered the raw wallboard surfaces with the cold water paint of penurious necessity and produced a masterpiece of contemporary art, topped off by millions of yards of blood red bunting . . ."

When the Fair closed, Skid and Nat were again jobless. So what to do? Travel. Nat and Emily went to the Orient. From Japan to China to Saigon, where not even the transplanted wide boulevards of Paris ". . . lined with lush, tropical foliage could hide the sloth and corruption which the French permitted to flourish here." (Sounds familiar to reports of 1973!) They passed through Angkor Wat on to India and New Delhi, ". . . the British capitol, with the red-turbaned, spit and polish magnificence of the horsemen in the guards, so unreal as to be incredible, a stage-set capital designed and built between 1912 and 1929 and existing rather as a matter of fantasy than fact; a stage set for great theater but terribly empty when the British left and the performance ended."

They met the Skidmores in London, where, sitting on their accumulated luggage in Paddington Station, the firm of Skidmore and Owings was born. The incubation period had been those five years of preparing, executing and maintaining the Chicago World's Fair. "Witnessed by Emily and Eloise," Nat writes, "Skid and I pledged our lives to share and share alike—to try to offer a multidisciplinary service competent to design and build in part or in whole the multiplicity of shelters needed for

man's habitat, patterned after the ancient Gothic Cathedral Builders Guild. But we would build only in the vernacular of our own age, extending and expanding as men and opportunity offered, certain that the greater the base, the greater the return. The stones of our cathedral would be men, and their reason for joining us would be the opportunities we could give their talents. Our partnership would be glued together by the excitement and the opportunity to be realized by each individual. That we have succeeded is largely due to faith—and perhaps some luck."

On January 1, 1936 Skidmore and Owings Architects opened their office with no capital and one client. The owner of the building on Michigan Avenue in Chicago, in whose attic was their office, accepted their services as architects for the remodeling of tenant spaces in lieu of rent.

Their friend and drinking companion at the Tavern Club, architect-engineer John Ogden Merrill was asked to join the firm ". . . in the only role we could afford: partner." Thus the now almost legendary initials, SOM, became a reality.

With faith, luck, perseverance, Nat's experience as a World's Fair showman, and considerable design ability the firm grew. Within seven months there was a New York office of SOM. As Owings explains, it was because a new client, the American Radiator and Standard Sanitary Supply Co., had assumed that they had one!

The war brought them some defense work, as it did for many firms. "It isn't every day that someone drops into the office and orders a town." But with a staff topping 650 technical persons and three years labor SOM built Oak Ridge. Shrouded in the tightest of security, an entire town was carved out of—or better, into—the hills of Tennessee. How valuable was that early experience in planning and organization gained at the Chicago's World Fair.

Through Owings' description of the Oak Ridge project you witness

the often unreal quality of tight government security, of the efforts to confuse our enemies by staggering and funneling to five surrounding towns the huge quantities of materials with which to build a town: ". . . even the Tennessee mountaineers could see that Elsa, Tennessee, with a population hovering at the top figure of 151, couldn't use fifteen thousand toilet fixtures."

Owings book flows on and so does SOM. He explains how the experiences gained from Oak Ridge and the Chicago's World Fair form the basis for an expanded office format with full in-house architectural research, engineering, planning, interior design services, etc. New commissions follow one on top of the other; often exciting, often resulting in inventive solutions: a veteran's hospital in New York which gave as much attention to the patient as to the staff; the Istanbul Hilton—". . . a solubrious blend of strong Turkish architectural motifs and American plumbing . . ."; the squat all glass Manufacturers Trust on Fifth Avenue in New York City. All of these led to the design and completion in April 1952 of Lever House on Park Avenue in New York. This twenty-one story glass tower broke all the rules of high-rise office buildings. Of it Owings says: ". . . our best building, even now judged so over thirty years of practice." Now in 1973 Lever House, at age 21, is threatened; the rush to build higher and higher, to get more rent from each lot in Manhattan jeopardizes this almost low-rise, humanly scaled building. Historic preservationists rally round!!

In describing their work as architects for the Air Force Academy, Owings explains the problem of having democracy for a client. The multiheaded client made up of heads of bureaucratic departments, the military establishment, members of Congress, et al., all wanted their own ideas, limitations and architectural incompetency worked into the final designs. Around, through, over and about all these obstacles worked SOM. The re-

BOOK REVIEWS

sults: "... a success story. We had by-passed mediocrity, I am proud of the Air Force Academy design." And it only cost SOM one million dollars to do.

Owings describes his own life, which, through most of these years, was devoted almost exclusively to SOM; too little time was left for Emily and their four children. Divorce came in 1953. Just prior to the divorce, Owings met Margaret Wentworth Millard at a party in Santa Fe.

He writes, "... this extraordinary apparition startled me so that the glass I was offering her missed her proffered hand. Shattered between us, the glass lay in its own pool of ice, glinting a little on the red brick floor in the evening candlelight." They were married on December 31, 1953, and Margaret forced changes in Nat's life: moving to the West Coast, building a new home at Big Sur, and using the New Mexico home as an

occasional stopping place.

Life at Wild Bird, the home overlooking the sea at Big Sur, brought Nat into the world of the conservationist. Margaret fought the California legislature and won for us all continued life for the mountain lion and the sea lion. But not yet content to slow down, Nat collapsed under alcoholism. He recovered with renewed vitality and a new dedication to life.

Although, now, the only senior partner in SOM (Louis Skidmore and John O. Merrill, Sr., had both retired) Owings begins to devote only a part of his life to SOM. Much of his time is now spent in discovering the vastness of existing life. He views Hopi Indian dances and learns about their Kachina dolls and the gods which these dolls represent. Together with Margaret he fights to conserve vital pieces of our fragile world: the coast road through the Big Sur country and a small val-

ley in New Mexico. With their aid and leadership, and by the establishment of the Las Trampas Foundation, the road through this New Mexico valley was kept at a scale and design which enhances, rather than shatters, the scale of the village of Las Trampas. The Foundation protected, for a time at least, a national treasure, the Church of San Jose de Gracia, which faces Las Trampas Plaza. Owings is a bit early on his dating for the village and its church, which he says is 1704. Although one of the oldest of the northern mountain villages, Las Trampas was settled in 1751 by twelve families from Santa Fe when a grant from the governor conveyed to them some 46,000 acres of land. Because a cutting date of one piece of wood used in the church is 1735, it is possible that a settlement existed before the grant became official. Actual license to build the church was not granted



UNISTRUT

NEW MEXICO

METAL FRAMING
TELESPAR TUBING

movable partitions

wire mesh partitions

toilet partitions

steel shelving and racks

4820 PAN AMERICAN HIGHWAY, N.E. • P.O. BOX 3128
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87110
PHONE 505 345-2405

flowers
are delicate things.

That's Why So Many Greenhouses are Heated With Natural Gas.

Water vapor is one by-product of gas heat. Carbon dioxide (which we exhale) is the other. And house plants need both to thrive and grow. Greenhouse operators have known about the benefits of gas heat for years. They are also pleased that gas heats for a fraction of electricity's cost.

Heat that's good for flowers is good for people. Better for people, in fact, because central gas heating filters out the lint and dust that are a natural part of the air in every room. Which are things that dispersed electric resistance heating certainly can't do!

More than that, gas heat gives you the best in all-over warmth, floor to ceiling and wall to wall. You'll revel in the comfort of gas heat. And your house plants will thrive in it.

If you want the job done right ... do it with gas.

SOUTHERN UNION **GAS** COMPANY

till 1760 by the Bishop of Durango, Mexico under whose jurisdiction New Mexico was.

Through the pages of the book we meet those all too often, anonymous partners which have been the source of SOM's continuing vitality. Such men as Walter Natsch, Ambrose Richardson, Gordon Bunschaft, Walter Severinghaus, Charles Bassett, David Hughes, Bruce Graham, Myron Goldsmith, David Pugh, Louis Skidmore, Jr., John O. Merrill, Jr., and more. Anonymity for themselves has meant fame and fortune for SOM, and to the profession of architecture some of its finest products.

If Owings waxes somewhat boastfully, even wordy, about the work of SOM and his personal force in that firm—well why not? It is his firm and it is his book.

The title seems to have little

to do with the body of the book. But to Owings "The Spaces In Between," appear as essential criteria for future planning, better architecture, and more human environments. To him the town plaza was and is vital. First with Lever House in New York City, later with the Chase Manhattan Bank Building in lower Manhattan, and many other projects SOM has been a leader in re-introducing the plaza into the tightly walled canyons that characterize our city streets.

Occasionally, in reading the book, I became lost in the chronology of happenings, but that is minor criticism in a book of memories. To read this book is to meet Nathaniel A. Owings, his family, his partners, his clients, his ego, and his ideals. To read this book is to relax and enjoy.

—John P. Conron, FAID/AIA

to 1940, the date of the first printing. As far as I know, the only cut-off date which he observed was that of the printer's deadline.

The new outside format, a slightly increased thickness, and a new preface listing the most conspicuous contributions to the study of New Mexico churches since 1940 all suggest that the text has been revised to include the new date. Even the phrase "corrected edition" appears in the new preface. I am disappointed to find, however, that this is not the case. Text, photographs, drawings, and even bibliography remain the same as those of the original edition. In 1940 Adams and Chavez had not published the Dominguez Report, the monumental Coronado Quattrocentennial publications had not been done, and many other milestones in Southwestern history had not been reached. So we have here a reprint, only, but I am very grateful for it. I hope that my friends will all buy copies immediately so that my own will be more often home than borrowed.

One should recognize that in a work of so broad a scope pedantic inaccuracies and omissions are unavoidable. Los Lentes and Contreras, two of the most interesting churches of my area, both entirely in the New Mexican tradition, are not mentioned. The first major repairs to my own parish church of Tomé are dated at 1875, when the parish records, if one digs deeply enough, show them to have been made between 1861 and 1865. Kubler credits the rare three choir lofts in the Tomé Church to the need for greater seating capacity, and such may be true. The tradition persists among the older people of Tomé, however, that Fr. Ralliere's preoccupation with music led to the three choir lofts. The remarkable effects of voices coming from both transepts as well as the "coro" over the main door is still vivid in their memory.

Enough nit-picking. This is an enormously valuable work, and its republication fills an important need.

George Clayton Pearl, AIA

THE RELIGIOUS ARCHITECTURE OF NEW MEXICO IN THE COLONIAL PERIOD AND SINCE THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

By GEORGE KUBLER

Published for the School of American Research by the University of New Mexico Press, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 232 pages, 1973, \$15.00.

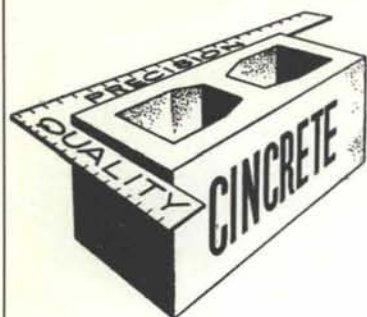
Reviewed by George Clayton Pearl.

Dr. George Kubler's book is the only single volume which treats New Mexico churches from the time of the Spanish colonization until 1940, the date of its original publication. Even if Dr. Kubler's scholarship and great understanding of the subject matter were much less, the work would be indispensable to any student of New Mexico culture and architecture. Every aspect of the subject matter is treated with sensitivity and depth. The discussion of optical effects and the treatment of light in chapter six is unique, as far as I know, in the study of Southwestern architecture. One hundred and fifty pages of text and more than two hundred photographs and

drawings are conspicuously the best existing survey of New Mexico churches.

Although the work was originally published by the Taylor Museum in 1940, I did not become aware of it until it was long out of print, and even difficult to find in major libraries. The only time I have stumped my book searcher was when she was unable to find a copy of this first edition for sale at any price. In 1962 the Rio Grande Press republished the work, without revisions. This edition has been out of print for several years, and it has been difficult to keep track of who is using my only copy when I happen to need it most.

In the Colonial Period and Since the American Occupation has been a part of the title of each edition, yet the idea persists that the work deals primarily with the Spanish Colonial Period. Actually, Dr. Kubler devotes about one-fourth of both text, photographs, and drawings to churches built since the Mexican Period and even up



serving New Mexico
and the El Paso area
with

Quality Concrete Masonry Products and many allied building materials



Modernfold Wood and Plastic Folding Doors
Hollow Metal Doors and Frames
Steel and Formica Toilet Partitions
Commercial Toilet Accessories
Reinforcing and Fabricated Steel
Commercial Hardware
Moderncote Vinyl Wall Covering
Residential and Commercial Steel and Aluminum Windows

Builders Block & Stone Co., Inc.

P. O. Box 1633
Roswell, N. M. 88201
505 622-1321

Builders Block & Stone Co., Inc.

P. O. Box 10284
Albuquerque, N. M. 87114
505 265-6085

Builders Block & Supply Co., Inc.

P. O. Drawer FF
Las Cruces, N. M. 88001
505 524-3633

Builders Block & Supply Co., Inc.

Telephone
El Paso
915 532-9695

Members: New Mexico Concrete Masonry Association, National Concrete Masonry Association



A R C H I T E C T S

There is no substitute for a good color coat stucco finish! However, a good color coat stucco finish depends on:

- The best materials
- Good building detailing
- Good specifications
- Proper application

We have the best stucco materials, which are specifically formulated for the Southwest and Rocky Mountain regions, and we can furnish you with the proper specifications. But only you can provide the proper detailing and close inspection to assure proper application.

Take advantage of the many unique textures and versatile applications of real color coat stucco—contact us for specifications and exciting new ideas.

El Rey

STUCCO COMPANY, INC.

4100 Broadway, S. E.
Albuquerque, N. M.
P. O. Box 6122
505 877-7967

Serving the architectural

profession - - - - - professionally!

SANTA FE BUILDERS SUPPLY CO.

SANTA FE

ALBUQUERQUE

ARCHITECTURAL SYSTEMS COMPANY

ACOUSTICAL CEILINGS
BUILDER'S HARDWARE
DEMOUNTABLE
PARTITIONS

Box 3624
Albuquerque
345-3491

Earl A. Boule
Gerald P. Shultz A.H.C.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN STONE CO.

*Beautiful . Enduring . Inexpensive
Natural Building Stone
.. from the Land of Enchantment*

3219 CLAREMONT AVENUE N. E.
ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO

344-2611

Congoleum®

FINE FLOORS



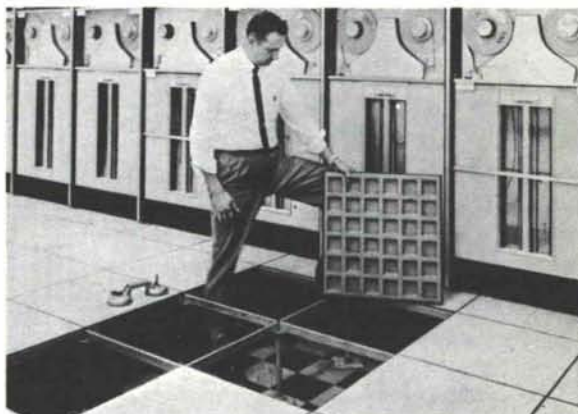
PEERLESS™

CUSHIONED VINYL FLOORS. THE ULTIMATE IN CUSTOM FLOORS FOR COMMERCIAL INSTALLATION. THE WHITE SHIELD BACK ALLOWS INSTALLATION ON OR BELOW GRADE.

ASK TO SEE THE WIDE SELECTION OF BEAUTIFUL PATTERNS IN PEERLESS CUSHIONED VINYL SHEET GOODS. EXTRA RUGGED, YET SO BEAUTIFUL.



312 INDUSTRIAL AVENUE, N. E.
ALBUQUERQUE, N. M. P. O. BOX 25111, 87125
PHONE 344-2317



THE INFINITE ACCESS FLOOR

The sensible answer to the problem of underfloor, accessibility, for cables - heating, cooling, conduit, piping, conveyors, etc.

The Tate Floor System, as installed by New Mexico Marble & Tile Co. offers the advantage of: The high strength of steel, interchangeable floor panels, fire resistance, low cost, lateral stability, permanent floor level, cut-out flexibility, dimensional stability, unaffected by temperature or humidity, owners choice of floor covering.



COOK'S BUILDING SPECIALTIES

414 SECOND ST., S.W.

243-5541

ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO • P.O. BOX 834, 87103

ALBUQUERQUE TESTING LABORATORY

Sub-soil Investigations
For Structural and Dam Foundations

**Two Drills and Crews now
available for Prompt Service**

Laboratory Analysis and
Evaluation of Construction Materials

**All work done under the supervision
of Registered Professional Engineers**

532 Jefferson St. N.E. — P. O. Box 4101
Phone AL 5-8916 Albuquerque
Phone AL 5-1322 New Mexico

new mexico architecture

nma

Published bi-monthly by New Mexico Society of Architects,
American Institute of Architects, a non-profit organization.

Editorial Correspondence should be addressed to John P.
Conron, Box 935, Santa Fe, N. M. 87501. 505 983-6948.

Editorial Policy: Opinions expressed in all signed articles
are those of the author and do not necessarily represent
the official position of the publishing organization.

No responsibility will be assumed by the editor or pub-
lishing organization for unsolicited contributions. Return
postage should accompany all unsolicited manuscripts.

Subscriptions: Write Circulation, New Mexico Architec-
ture, Box 7415, Albuquerque, N. M. 87104. Single copy
50c. Yearly subscription \$2.50.

Change of address: Notifications should be sent to New
Mexico Architecture, Box 7415, Albuquerque, N. M. 87104
at least 45 days prior to effective date. Please send both
old and new addresses.

Advertising: Send requests for rates and information to
New Mexico Architecture, Robert G. Mallory, 115 Amherst
Drive S.E., Albuquerque, N. M. 87106. 505 255-8668.

**Additional copies of NMA available from John P. Conron
AIA/FAID, P. O. Box 935, Santa Fe, N. M. 87501.**

PRINTED BY

HALL-POORBAUGH PRESS, ROSWELL, N. M.

**INDEX OF FIRMS who make possible the
publication of NMA and the page upon
which their message may be found:**

Albuquerque Gravel Products.....	6
Albuquerque Testing Laboratory.....	22
Architectural Systems Company.....	21
Barnett and Company.....	7
Builders Block & Stone Co., Inc.....	20
Cook's Building Specialties, Inc.....	21
Crego Block Co., Inc.....	2
Design Interiors, Inc.....	9
El Rey Stucco Co.....	20
Goodrich Roofing Co.....	6
Hanley Paint Mfg. Co., Inc.....	23
Harris Glass Company, Inc.....	6
Hydro Conduit Corporation.....	24
James & Cooke, Inc.....	23
Keers, Inc.....	5
Koepke, Lee A., Contractor.....	23
Mason Contractors Assn. of N.M.....	8
McGill Co., Inc., Geo. B.....	7
Overhead Door Co. of Albuquerque.....	23
Plasco, Inc., Albuquerque.....	4
Prestressed Concrete Products, Inc.....	5
Rocky Mountain Stone Co.....	21
Santa Fe Builders Supply Co.....	20
Southern Union Gas Co.....	18
Southwest Vermiculite Co.....	10
Southwestern Portland Cement Co.....	22
Spectra Glaze.....	4
Stryco Sales, Inc.....	21
Tele - Data.....	7
Unistrut New Mexico.....	18
University Bookstore.....	4
Wellborn Paint Mfg. Co.....	6

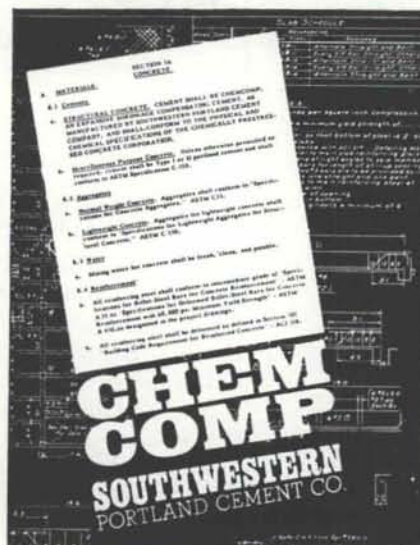
ChemComp doesn't shrink from any job.

When you want minimized
shrinkage cracking for absolute
structural integrity, durability, and
beauty, the concrete answer is
ChemComp, Southwestern
Portland's expansive cement.
ChemComp is finished cement, not
an additive or partial
replacement. It greatly reduces
maintenance and repair costs due
to cracks. It generally eliminates
the need for waterproof
membranes or surface
sealants. Check ChemComp's
many advantages.

WRITE FOR FREE BROCHURE:
BOX 392, EL PASO, TEXAS 79943.



SOUTHWESTERN PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY
MAKERS OF EL TORO CEMENTS / EL PASO, AMARILLO, ODESSA





AIR FILTRATION



AIR POLLUTION CONTROL



AIR CONDITIONING, HEATING, VENTILATING



NOISE POLLUTION CONTROL

International leader in environmental control

AAF systems and equipment are at work throughout the world in air filtration, air pollution control, air conditioning - heating - ventilating and noise pollution control.

Whatever it takes to meet your requirements for "better air"—AAF knowledge, experience and resources will get the job done.



American Air Filter

James & Cooke, Inc.

Albuquerque

El Paso

HANLEY PAINT

BEAUTY AND PROTECTION

Serving New Mexico architects & builders & the entire Southwest for over 35 years.

AMBASSADOR PAINTS . . . Finest quality, easy-clean interior protection. SUNFOE . . . Exterior paints, climate-designed for the Southwest. OLD PRO . . . Easy on, long-lasting professional paint products.



new look of color
COLOR GUARD ASSOCIATES



HANLEY PAINT MFG. CO., INC.

Albuquerque, New Mexico
1214 San Pedro N.E.
265-1542

El Paso, Texas
1531 Magoffin — 532-6921
9054 Dyer — 755-3353
7636 Gateway East
591-6031

architects...
builders...
owners...

For gas heat and electric air conditioning, check our combination unit for your next motel, apartment house, nursing home or office.

Suburban's

Dyna-Temp



GAS FURNACE AND AIR CONDITIONER

LEE A. KOEPKE

299-0047 (505)
1603 Katie N.E.

albuquerque, new mexico

THE



the original

for over 50 years - - -
from 1921

installed & serviced by

**OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY
of ALBUQUERQUE**

(505) 344-3467
2840 LOS ARBOLES AVE., N. E. 87107

Van Dorn Hooker
Box 18, University Station
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87106

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
Roswell, N. M.
Permit No. 47

Vol. 15, Nos. 7 & 8

BETTER BUILDINGS--BETTER BANKING . . .



ARCHITECT

Kruger, Lake & Associates

CONTRACTOR

Cole-Templeton, Inc.

WITH CONCRETE

The new drive-up banking facility for the Albuquerque National Bank is a prime example of the tasteful use of precast concrete panels. The eight foot panels were cast in the effect of split and rough sawed wood, in a pleasant blue-grey color by Hydro Conduit Corporation.

Results: An attractive, functional addition to the business community.



HYDRO CONDUIT CORPORATION

2800 SECOND STREET, SW - ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87103