

ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS
OF EXCELLENCE

1961



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF STEEL CONSTRUCTION

Beauty in Steel Buildings

The Architectural Awards of Excellence were established by the American Institute of Steel Construction in 1960 to recognize and honor outstanding architectural design in structural steel and to encourage further exploration of the many aesthetic possibilities that are inherent with steel construction. This year a distinguished jury of architects selected from among many entries eight buildings representing the best architectural expression in structural steel.

In the opinion of the AISC Committee on Awards, each building represents design to the highest standards. All Awards are equal in stature. Therefore, the Award-winning architects are listed alphabetically on the following pages with pictures of the buildings for which they received commendation.

The American Institute of Steel Construction was particularly pleased with the large number of entries featuring architecturally exposed steel, as well as the careful attention designers are giving to detailing. This is evidence that architects are recognizing and emphasizing steel's strength and crisp elegance as an integral structural and decorative element in modern design.

The Institute is most gratified by the enthusiastic response to the Award of Excellence Program and plans a continuing program.

JURY OF AWARDS

THOMAS H. CREIGHTON, FAIA

Editor

Progressive Architecture

ARTHUR DREXLER

Director

Department of Architecture and Design, Museum of Modern Art

OLINDO GROSSI, FAIA

Director

School of Architecture, Pratt Institute

MORRIS KETCHUM, JR., FAIA

Ketchum & Sharp, Architects



Architect: Welton Becket & Associates, Los Angeles, California

Bethlehem Steel Company Building, San Francisco, California

Structural Engineers: Hayes & Little and John A. Blume & Associates, Engineers

General Contractor: Swinerton & Walberg Company

Structural Steel Fabricator: Bethlehem Steel Company

Cited as "being worthy of San Francisco," the building was commended by the jury for "the typical floor framing plan composed of clear bays, clearly defined." It was this over-all completeness and orderliness that won the jury's praise.

The 300,000-square-foot office building consists of a 13-story rectangular tower rising from one side of a two-story base. By suspending the tower between free-standing exterior steel columns, the architect was able to free the curtain walls from hard-to-detail joints between columns and walls. At the same time interior walls are completely column-free which provides a high degree of flexibility.

The building rises nearly 200 feet from its elevated platform. The exterior steel columns are sheathed in white marble and black granite; the spandrels are faced with black and gray granite. Black stainless steel mullions emphasize the height of the structure and contrast with the natural stainless steel window frames set with continuous horizontal bands of fixed glass windows tinted gray for sun-control.

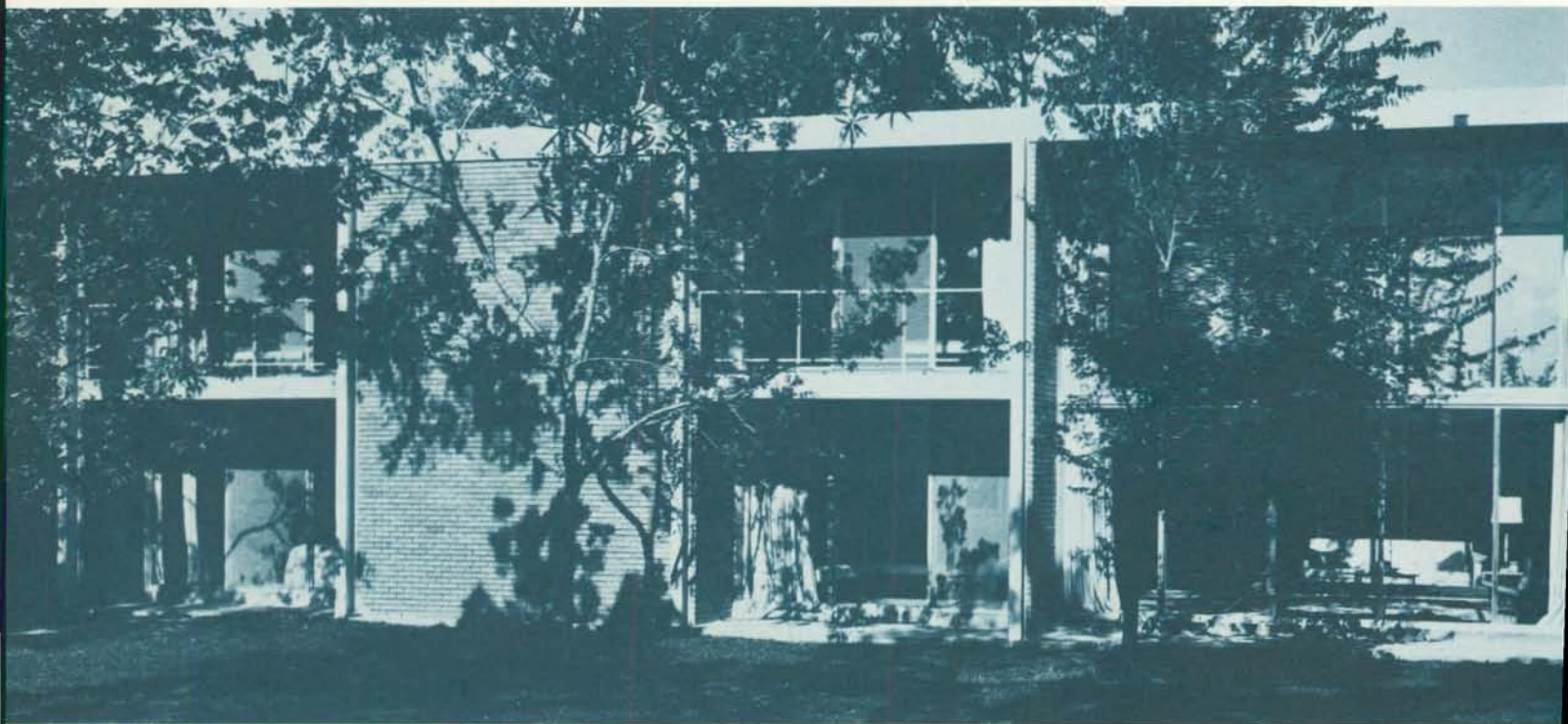


Two Houses by Bolton & Barnstone, Houston, Texas

Designed by Howard Barnstone

The jury was pleased with these two outstanding and meritorious examples of the use of structural steel in houses. The designs of the Wirtzbotham and Gordon residences are "light, clever in detail, warm and deliberately residential. The two houses indicate the versatility of steel as a building material for many different uses, and the architect has given structural steel a human scale in these two structures.

"This type of aesthetic, strange as it may seem, will increase in usage because of steel's ability to afford open, uncluttered areas and vistas," the jury prophesied.



G. S. Gordon Residence, Houston, Texas

Structural Engineer: Walter P. Moore

General Contractor: Van Cleve Construction Company

Structural Steel Fabricator: Bellaire Welding Company

A very simple steel frame is set on a concrete slab. The five bays are filled with glass and pinkish brick panels with the steel exposed and painted white. The front of the house is serene and private; a long brick wall with a louvered gate extends from the steel-framed garage to enclose a generous entrance court. The neatly geometric block of the house and trees in the court are visible behind the wall. All utilities — downspouts, ducts, grilles, etc., are fitted unobtrusively into the structure.

The Gordons say "We are living in a piece of sculpture unique in that it is spacious, comfortable, sparkling and above all—beautiful."

J. M. Winterbotham Residence, Houston, Texas

Structural Engineer: A. T. Knies, Jr.

General Contractor: The Ivanhoe Co., Inc.

Structural Steel Fabricator: Pan American Steel Co.

Steel-framed with brick and glass panels, this house is built for adult living. The architect was free to use sumptuous materials to achieve a complete formality — yellow silk walls in the living room, green damask in the dining room, stained magnolia in the library, marble in the entry — all contributing to the feeling of gracious mood and a pattern of living reminiscent of an age of luxury and competent help.





Architect: Dreyfuss & Blackford, Sacramento, California

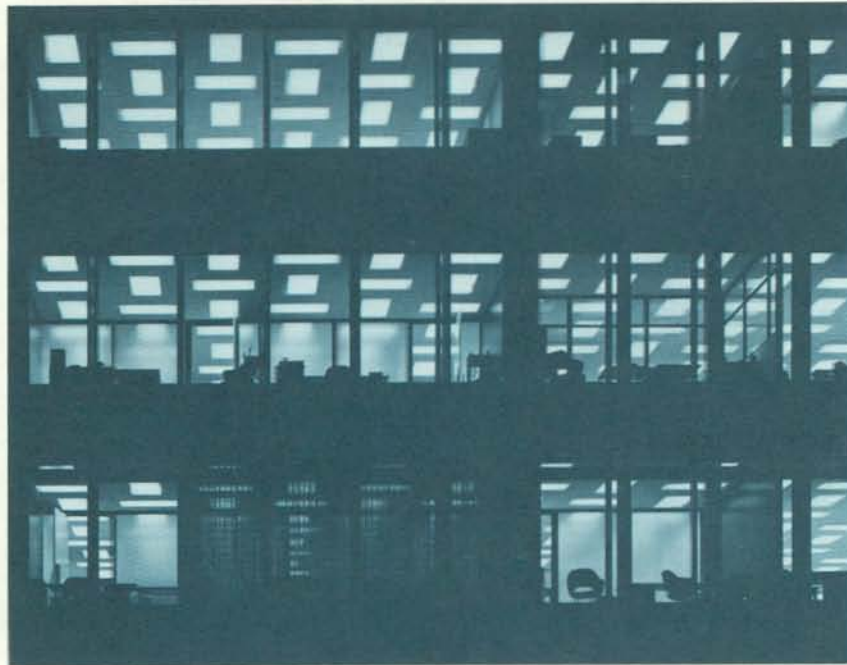
Headquarters Office Building, Sacramento Municipal Utility District

Structural Engineers Lawrence G. Amundsen and Walter A. & Walter D. Buehler

General Contractor: Continental Construction Co. and Lawrence Construction Co.

Structural Steel Fabricator: Herrick Iron Works





Behind the handsome facade of dark aluminum and white quartz is a highly functional headquarters with all the offices and departments necessary for a large public utility. The almost monumental appearance of the exterior with its massive murals sets the stage for equally striking interiors marked by clear-span spaces over the office area.

The significant program requirements included complete flexibility of floor space in the south wing which dictated a clear span of 60 feet. Elements of the composition are a four-story office slab 50 x 270 feet, a lower wing 120 feet square with two office floors atop two above-grade parking levels, and between them a service core 66 feet square and roughly equivalent to six stories high. They are grouped symmetrically with the core and joined to the slab at mid-length by a short corridor.

The jury said "What could have been a commonplace office building becomes a clear expression of the architectural elements involved — scale, balance and expression. It is spectacular because of the adept handling of a massively simple facade and the avoidance of an over-large and monotonous office block. The result is one of serenity, which includes excellent utilization of steel's lightness."

Among the devices that the jury commended was emphasizing the floor slabs by pulling them outward to form ramps connecting the building to the site. The jury also appreciated the cooperation implied between architect and municipal officials.

Architects: Paul Hayden Kirk, FAIA, and Associates with Victor Steinbrueck, AIA, Seattle, Washington

Faculty Club for the University of Washington, Seattle, Washington

Owner: Board of Regents of the University of Washington

Structural Engineer: Sigmund Ivarsson

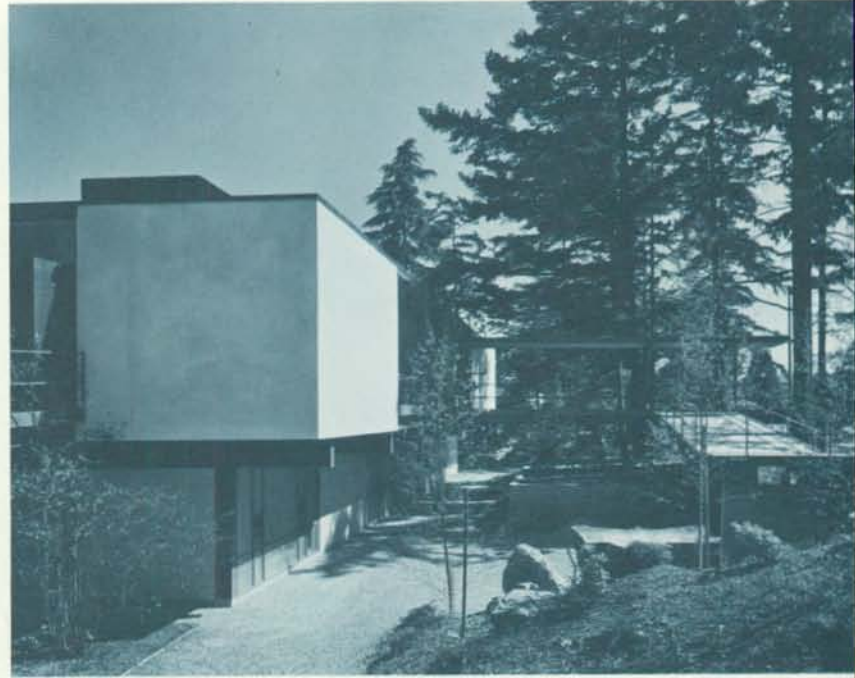
General Contractor: Wick Construction Company

Structural Steel Fabricator: Isaacson Iron Works

Because the Faculty Club is isolated from the campus proper, the architects were able to imbue it with character and deviate from the dominating Gothic style of the existing University buildings. Due to topography, parking is hidden beneath the building; and dining room, lounges and terraces exploit the sweeping view of Lake Washington.

The steel structure, with steel T-decks exposed on the interior, gives the building a feeling of permanence and structural elegance as well as meeting required fire ratings and stringent economic considerations.

The jury, recognizing the "happy marriage of the elements of site, structure and function," praised "the poetic answer to the building problem that merges indoor with outdoor space." They applauded "the graceful uses of steel wherein every member was logically and lightly handled with taste and careful thought."





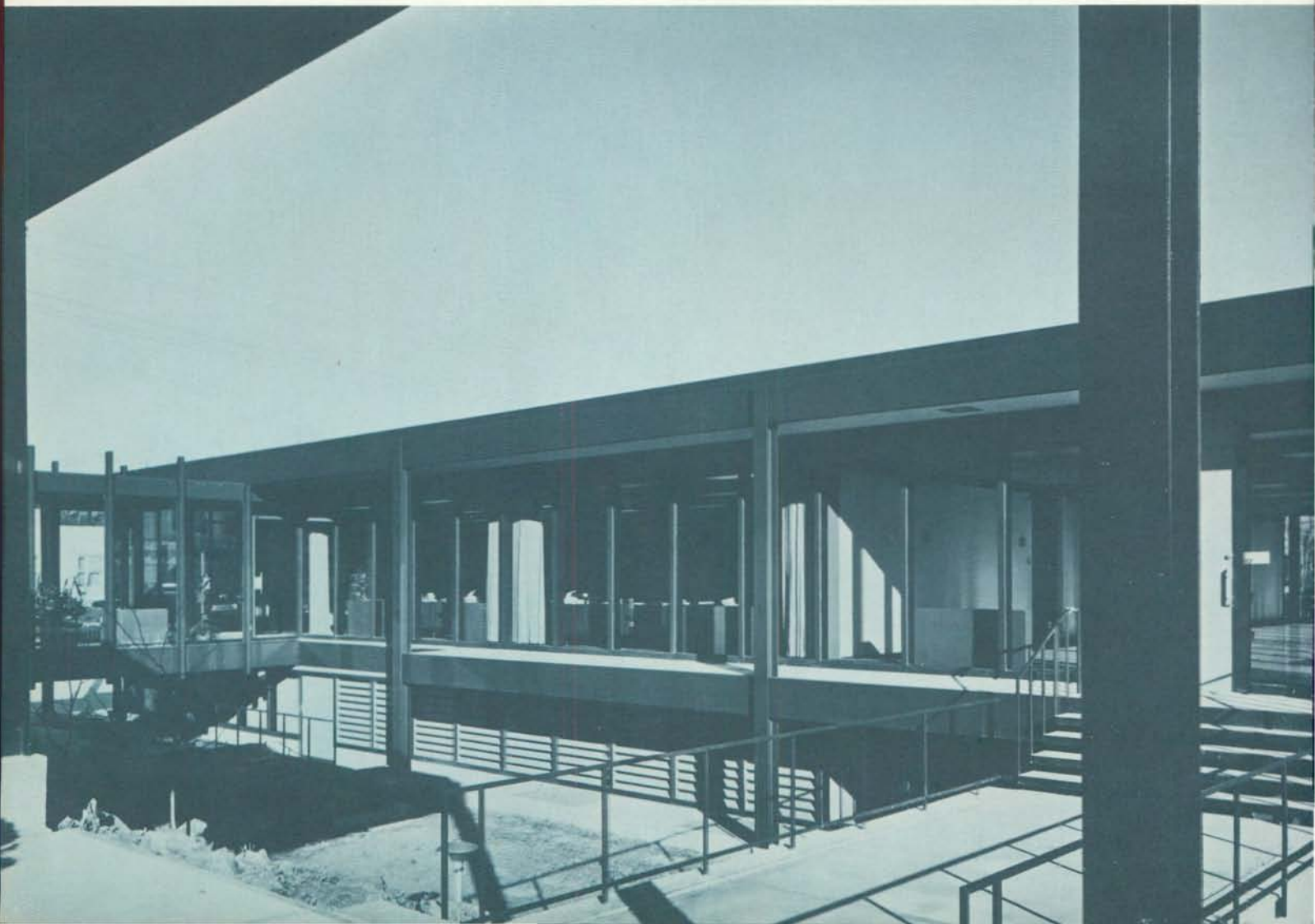
Architect: W. C. Muchow Associates, Denver, Colorado

First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Denver

Structural Engineer: Ketchum, Konkel and Hastings

General Contractor: Meyer Construction Company

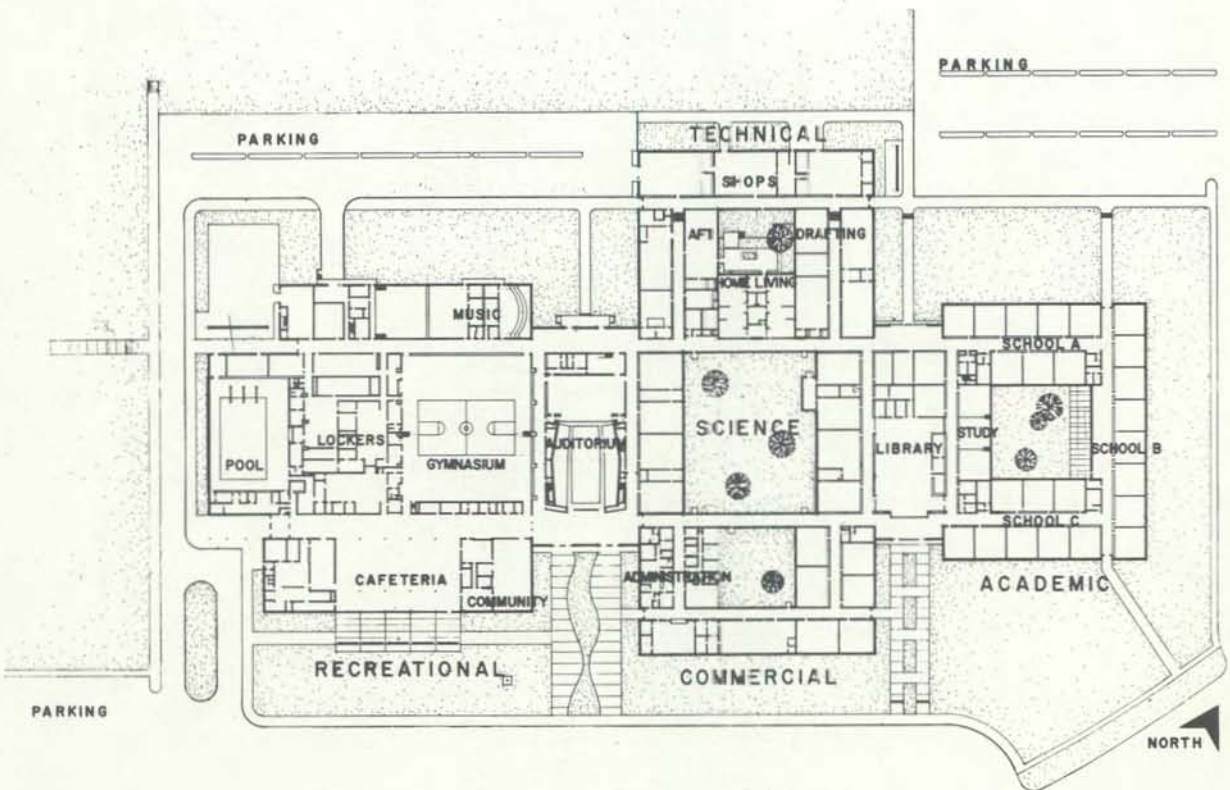
Structural Steel Fabricator: Denver Steel & Iron Works Co.

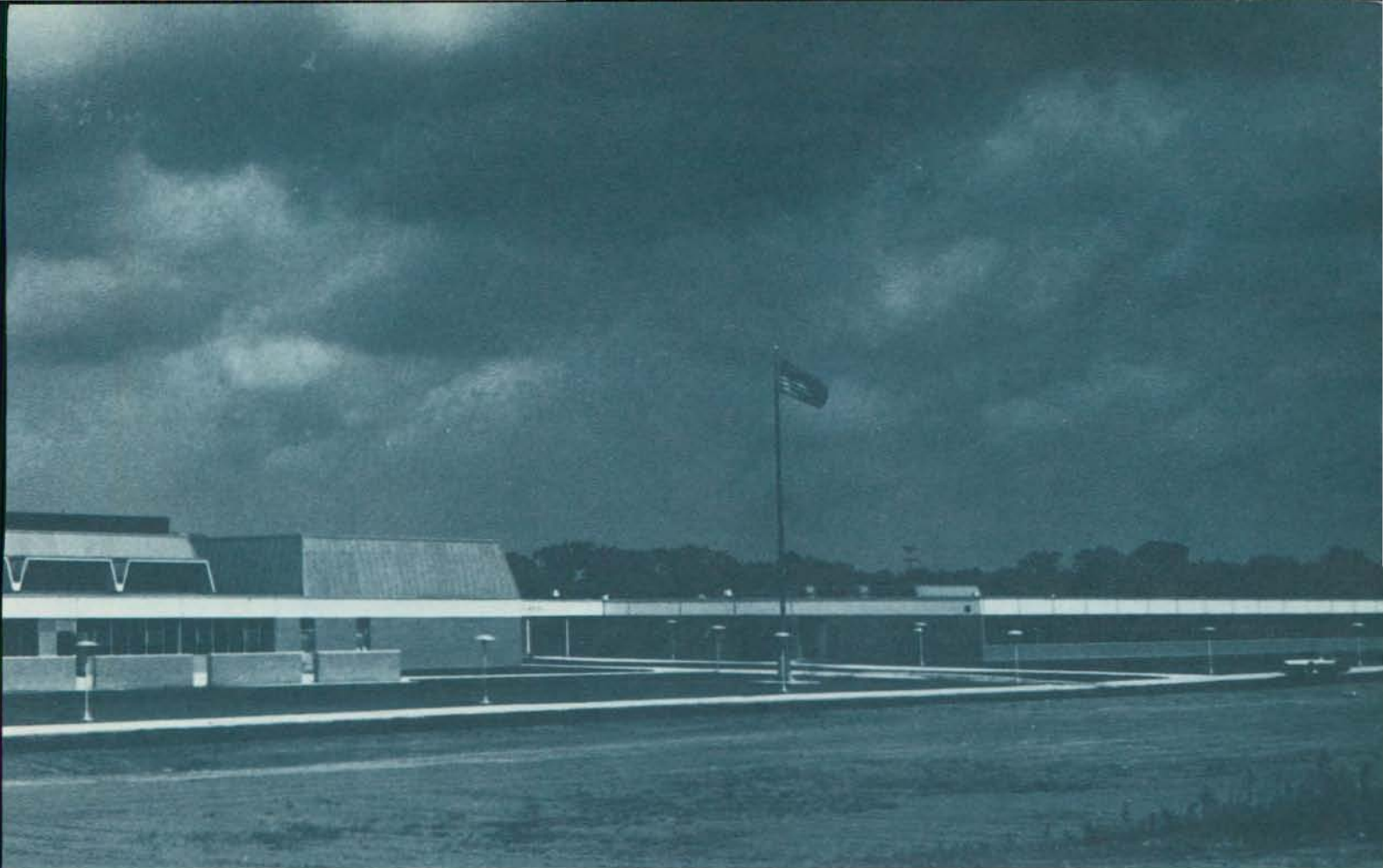




This new addition to the original AIA Award-winning Savings and Loan Building was constructed to accommodate expanding banking facilities. Exterior materials are steel and glass with porcelain-enamel panels. Interior materials are glass, hardwood paneling, acoustical plaster ceiling and vinyl tile floors. The fully air-conditioned building includes a large community room in the basement for use by local, civic and service organizations. Steel was selected both for the structural frame and the exterior facing to harmonize with the trim lines of the adjoining building.

The jury applauded "the organized continuity of design that indicated the strong conviction for using steel with great emphasis and gusto. The architect showed beautiful handling both of structure and pattern that made the use of steel become an aesthetic. The addition is further enriched by the interesting relation to the adjacent building with the lower court and bridge."





Architects: Eberle M. Smith Associates, Inc., Detroit, Michigan

Southwestern Community Technical High School, Detroit, Michigan

General Contractor: Erickson & Lindstrom Construction Co.

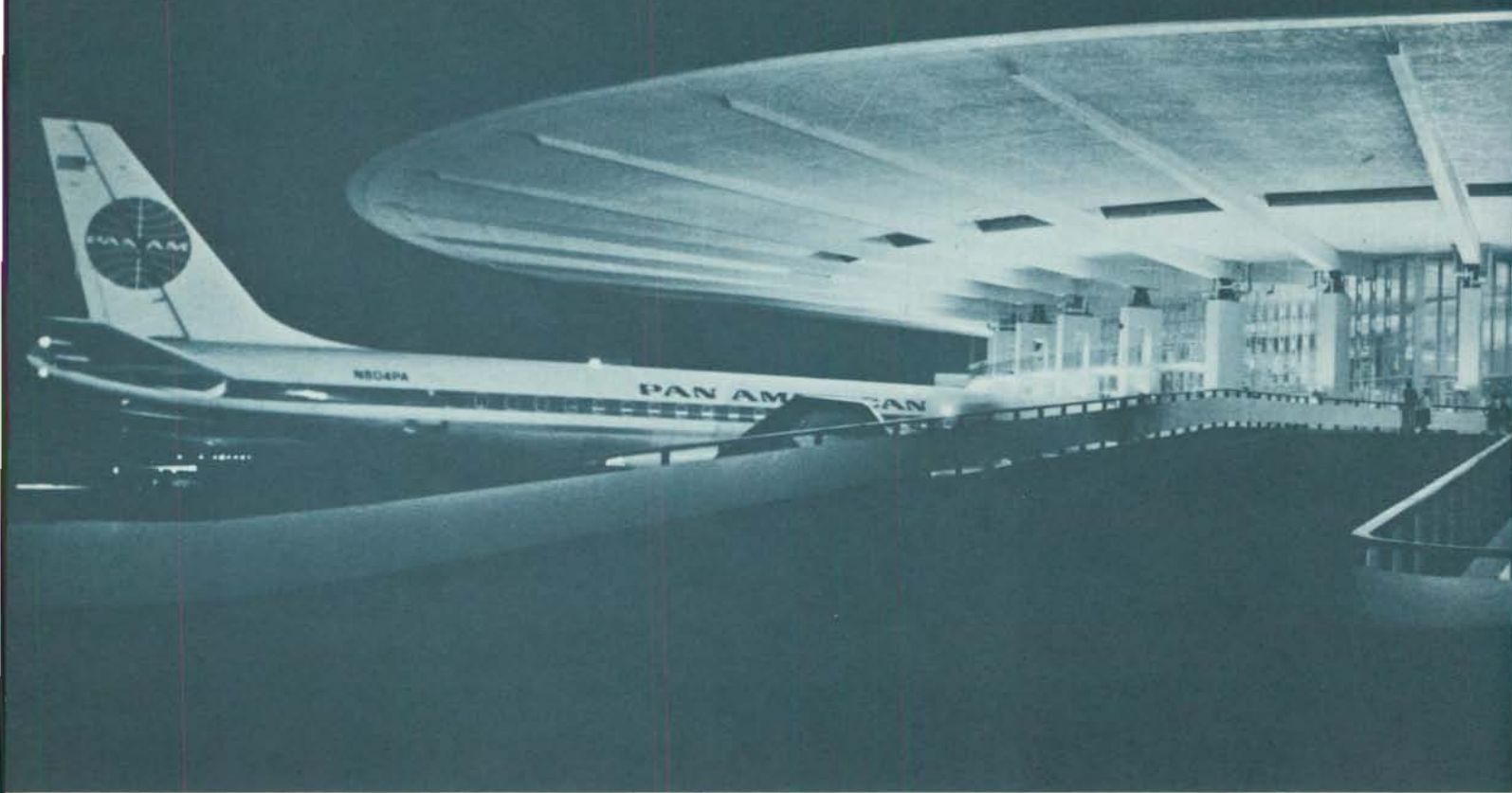
Structural Steel Fabricator: Taylor & Gaskin, Inc.

This school is designed with a "technical core" of shop, art, homemaking, drafting, science and commercial rooms. To the east of the core are three schools, each with its own guidance area, principal's office, student work-rooms, study rooms and other facilities.

To the west are recreational and community areas including gymnasium, pool, cafeteria and community rooms. The library is placed between the academic and technical areas so as to be handy to both. The auditorium is equally well-placed for school and community use and can be easily isolated from the rest of the school area for evening and summer use.

The jury praised the excellent organization of this plan and the cleverness in handling the various elevations.

Since the building is set below street level, the forms and shapes above the main roof plane were used for the principal architectural features. The walls and areas below the main roof were left simple and dignified; thus the strong forms of the exposed rigid steel frames over the gymnasiums and pool are used as important architectural features.



Architects-Engineers: Tippetts-Abbett-McCarthy-Stratton, New York, New York

Associate Architects: Ives, Turano & Gardner

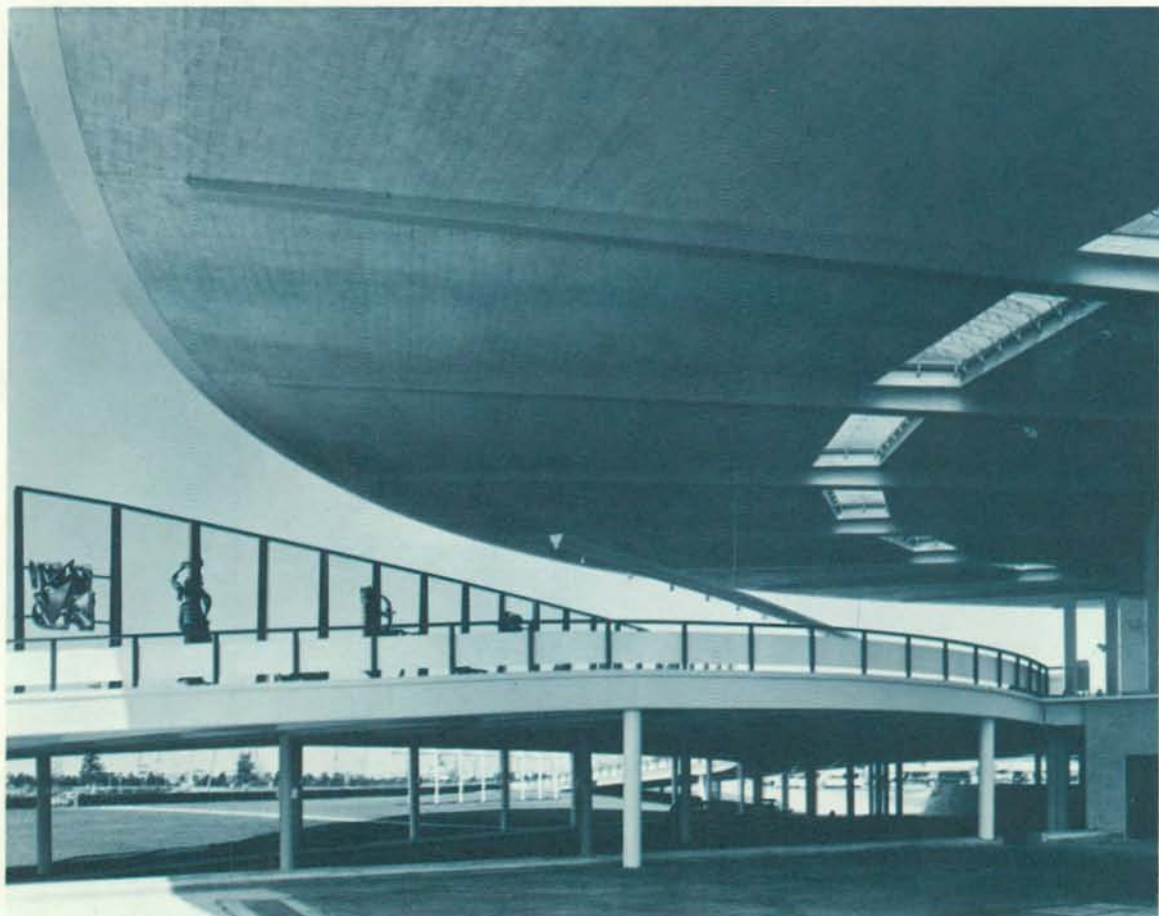
Pan American World Airways Passenger Terminal, New York International Airport

General Contractor: Turner Construction Company

Structural Steel Fabricator: Lehigh Structural Steel Company

Revolutionary in style, the Pan American Passenger Terminal is an elliptical umbrella created by 32 cantilevered steel girders radiating from a central core, their extremities tied back by cables. Supported by a steel-cable-and-knuckle arrangement, the four-acre roof appears to float over a world of glass.

The jury praised the "tremendously imaginative concept of a great umbrella to shield planes and passengers. The pure simple shape is plausible and logical, strong and provocative."





**American Institute
of Steel Construction**

101 Park Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.

