

1965
ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS
OF EXCELLENCE

American Institute of Steel Construction



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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 in steel construction. This year a distinguished jury selected, from more than one hundred entries, eleven buildings representing the best architectural expression in structural steel.

In the opinion of the AISC Committee on Awards, each building represents design of the highest standards, and 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 jury was particularly looking for the utilization of structural steel for its maximum architectural potential, and the jurors chose these buildings as outstanding examples of aesthetic leadership and direction. The architects used standard framing methods in many cases, but they used them superlatively. The successful use of steel requires a stringent attention to detail and orderliness in design. That this quality is not a restriction is demonstrated by the Award winners.

The Institute is most gratified by the enthusiastic response to the Architectural Awards of Excellence and plans to continue the program.



Jurors listed l. to r. below

JURY OF AWARDS

JOHN LYON REID, FAIA
Reid & Tarics, Architects-Engineers
San Francisco, California

DR. RALPH G. OWENS
Dean of Engineering and Physical Sciences
Illinois Institute of Technology
Chicago, Illinois

ARTHUR G. ODELL, JR., FAIA
A. G. Odell, Jr. & Associates
Charlotte, North Carolina

RICHARD M. GENSERT
R. M. Gensert Associates
Cleveland, Ohio

HUGH STUBBINS, FAIA
Hugh Stubbins and Associates
Cambridge, Massachusetts

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WELTON BECKET AND ASSOCIATES
General Electric Progressland Pavilion

WILLIAM F. CODY, FAIA
Shamel Residence

PHILIP SHERIDAN COLLINS, AIA
New Jersey Tercentenary Pavilion

CURTIS AND DAVIS
Curtis Residence

EGON EIERMANN
Chancery for the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany

CRAIG ELLWOOD
Rosen Residence

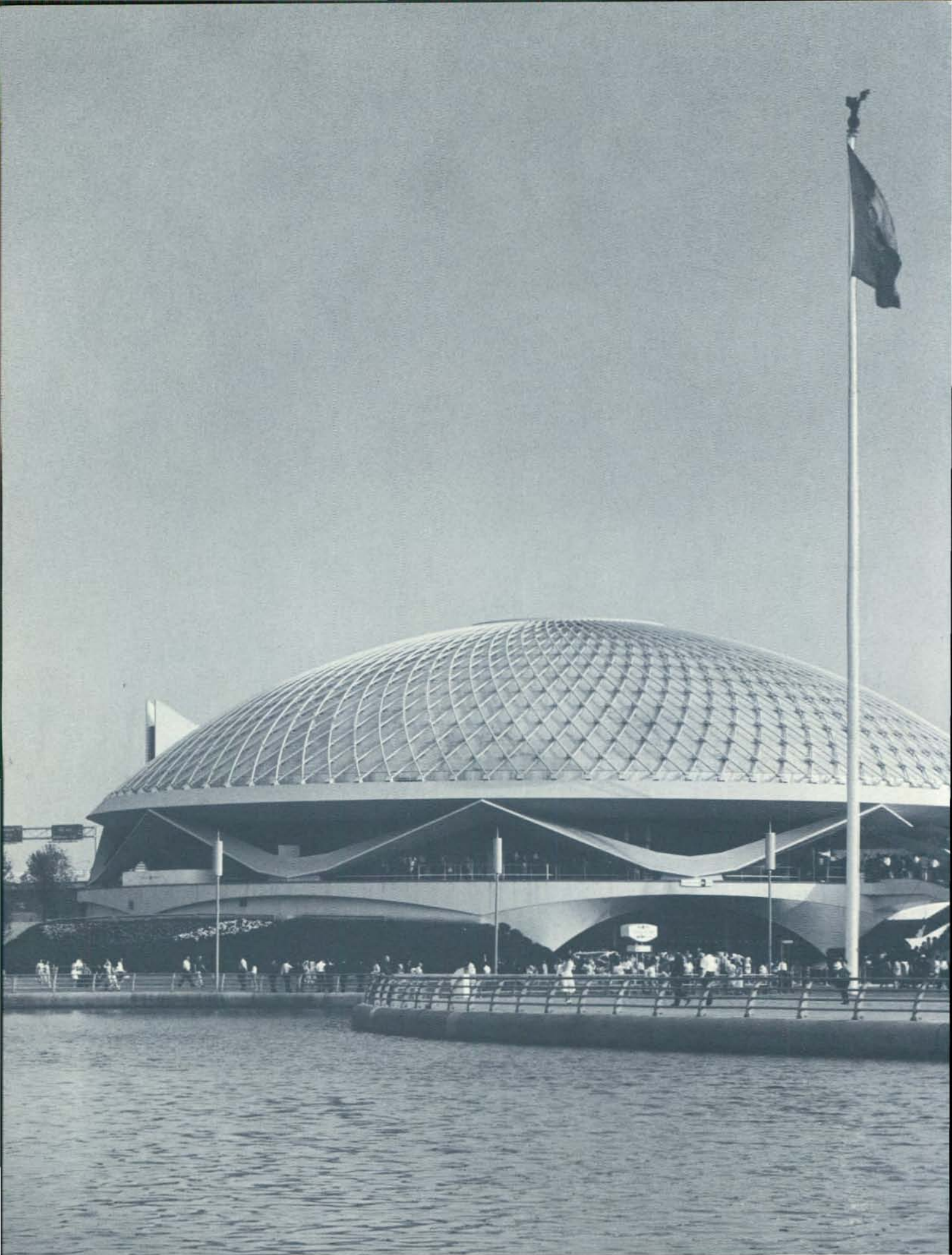
HAMMOND AND ROESCH, INC. AND WILLIAM V. KEHOE (ASSOCIATE)
Emery Air Freight Terminal

HARRISON AND ABRAMOVITZ
Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Building

NEUHAUS AND TAYLOR
First State Bank & Trust Company

EERO SAARINEN AND ASSOCIATES
Deere & Company Administrative Center

PAUL THIRY, FAIA
Seattle Center Coliseum





ARCHITECT Welton Becket and Associates, Los Angeles, California

GENERAL ELECTRIC PROGRESSLAND PAVILION

New York World's Fair, New York

Owner General Electric Company, Schenectady, New York

Structural Engineer Richard Bradshaw, Van Nuys, California

General Contractor Turner Construction Co., New York, New York

Steel Fabricator Bethlehem Steel Corp., Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION Design of this pavilion evolved from a desire to provide a valid architectural concept which would be more than merely decorative. The resulting structure completely expresses its function — the nature of the exhibit and the manner of its presentation providing the basic influence on its design. The architect attempts to evoke curiosity through creation of an exciting and intriguing exterior while revealing nothing of the interior attraction. The dome consists of an exposed geometric spiral webbing of thin-wall steel tubing from which a steel deck roof is suspended. By placing the frame on the exterior, literally turning the dome inside out, the spiraling pipe ribbons are exposed, suggesting the motion of the carousel theatre while providing a smooth interior dome surface for projection.

JURORS' COMMENTS *A building that carries out its purpose. It is not a permanent structure, but an exhibition building that is more powerful, more direct and simpler than the average exhibition building. It has a unique roof and the building intentionally displays a certain amount of exhibitionism. Yet, the design is logical, forthright, with a firm and direct relationship to its immediate site. The progressively changing position of intersection points in this type of lamella structure reflects the variation in stresses within a dome, but not their magnitudes. Thus, it plays with one's sense of structure as is fitting for a festive building.*



ARCHITECT William F. Cody, FAIA, Palm Springs, California

SHAMEL RESIDENCE, Palm Desert, California

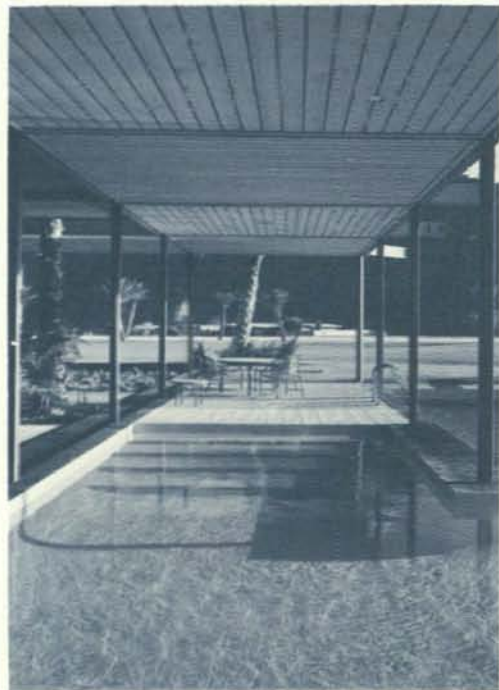
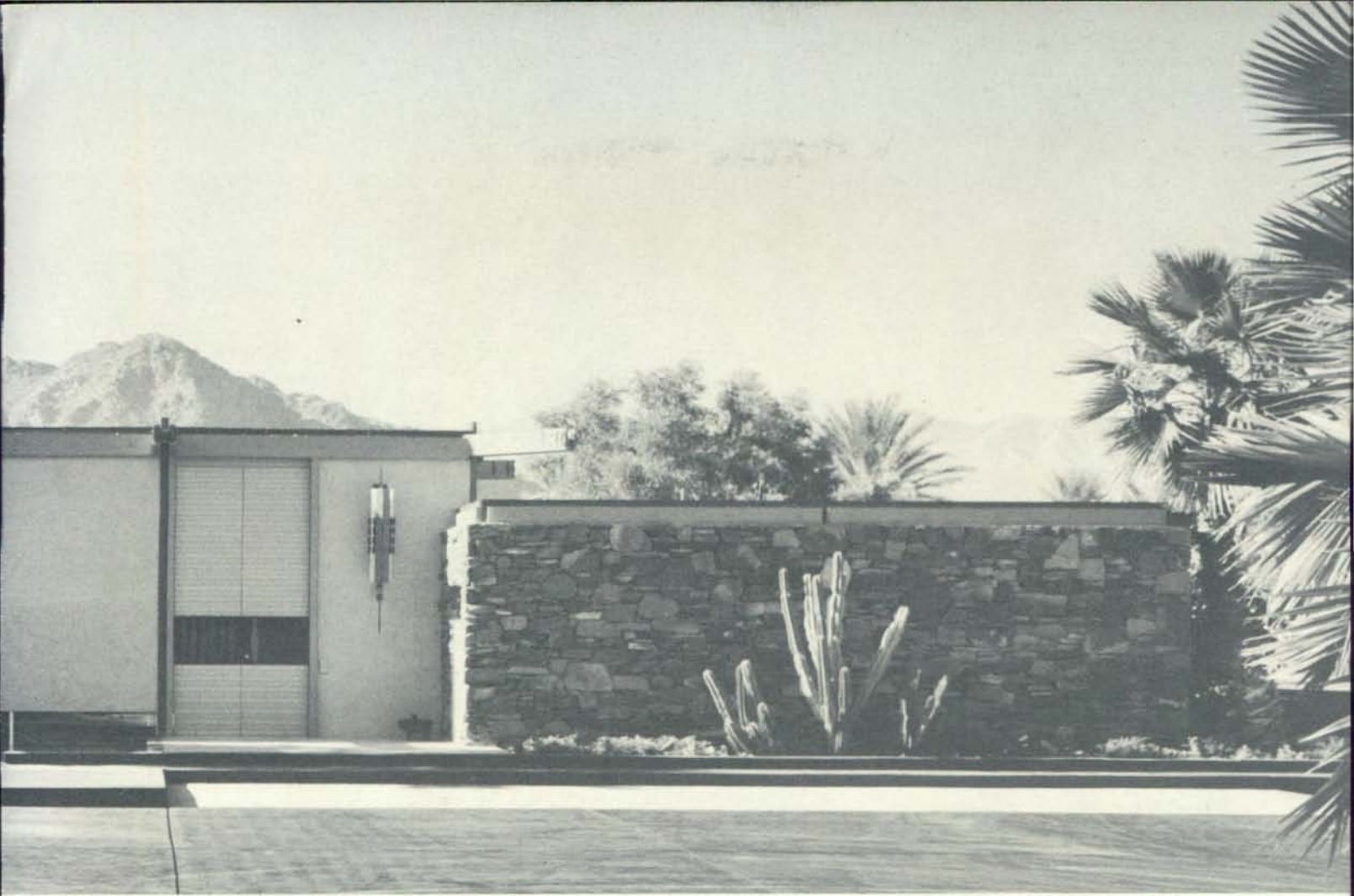
Owner J. B. Shamel

Structural Engineer William Porush, Los Angeles, California

General Contractor Design Development Corporation, Palm Springs, California

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION This is a winter residence for the desert placed on a site of irregular shape and bordered on three sides by golf course fairways. The owners desired an open plan for informal living and a close relationship to the golfing activities which were primary to their choice of site. A deed restriction prohibits walls at a prescribed distance from the fairways; therefore provision of privacy for the occupants was a problem. Consequently the house is designed to encircle an interior screened court. This permits outdoor privacy, protection from occasional wind, and a secluded view of outdoor space for all living areas. Entrance to the house is through this court, along the pool and into the entry hall. Appearance of the building is enhanced by the smaller and better proportioned columns made possible through the use of steel. Due to earthquake consideration in this area, steel provides a rigid frame structure with extensive glass areas creating an open, floating effect of the roof.

JURORS' COMMENTS *Its design reflects the infinite variety of life that takes place in a house of this kind. It is an unpretentious and straightforward solution to a beautiful location — simple, direct, straight to the point.*







ARCHITECT Philip Sheridan Collins, AIA, Princeton, New Jersey

NEW JERSEY TRICENTENARY PAVILION

New York World's Fair, New York

Owner State of New Jersey

Structural Engineer Normal J. Sollenberg,
Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

General Contractor Harold A. Brandt, Inc., Manhasset, New York

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION The New Jersey Pavilion is intended to attract the visitor by its open, festive, "Fair-like" design. The visitor approaches the Pavilion through a grove of willow oaks under hanging lanterns, and reaches the exhibit area by crossing a series of bridges and small islands. The twenty-one cantilevered exhibit platforms, representing the counties of the State, rise at varying levels from a continuous reflecting pool which mirrors the rhythms of the Pavilion as well as the nocturnal brilliance of the Fair. Roof canopies over each platform and over the central performing arts area are stretched on steel frames suspended from twelve 80-ft tapered booms, grouped in clusters of three. The roofs appear to float above the platforms since the only connections between the two are corner tie-down cables. Within the complex are intimate gardens whose tables and chairs are set amidst ornamental trees and shrubs, fountains, and sculpture.

JURORS' COMMENTS *It has a lot of variety, a lot of surprises — special surprises — structural surprises. It is exactly the kind of structure you would expect to see at the Fair. It is gay, and refreshing, with no pomposity at all. The use of structural steel is sprightly and imaginative. The tapered steel tubes in compression and the steel cables in tension represent steel being used at its maximum in a dynamic expression of mutual equilibrium.*





ARCHITECT-ENGINEER Curtis and Davis, New Orleans, Louisiana

CURTIS RESIDENCE, New Orleans, Louisiana

Owner N. C. Curtis, Jr.

Steel Fabricator Orleans Materials & Equipment Co.,
New Orleans, Louisiana

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION This residence for an architect and his large family is located in a large Southern city in an old residential neighborhood. The structure is basically two living units, surrounded by brick walls and connected by a galley. All spaces are oriented towards private courtyards, thus allowing the immediate environment to be completely controlled. The first unit is a living pavilion, open in plan, accommodating the facilities used by the family as a group. The second unit is a two-story sleeping unit, containing seven bedrooms and four baths. In order to achieve an honest expression of the plan in three dimensions, the structural system is expressed and exposed. Slender steel columns are stiffened by an arched steel support. Thus the required strength for the supports is achieved without sacrificing considerations of delicacy and beauty. The rhythm of the repetitive module for the spacing of the columns was carefully selected. From any viewing point, one can immediately know exactly how the house is framed structurally.

JURORS' COMMENTS *A delightful and imaginative use of a highly restricted site. It has charm, and results in a very pleasant place to live. The designer has captured something of the Mississippi Delta architecture and it is quite convincing as an outstanding example of attractive residential design.*





ARCHITECT-ENGINEER Egon Eiermann, Karlsruhe, Germany

CHANCERY FOR THE EMBASSY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY
Washington, D.C.

Owner Federal Republic of Germany

Structural Calculations and American Working Drawings:

Lublin, McGaughy & Assoc., Norfolk, Virginia

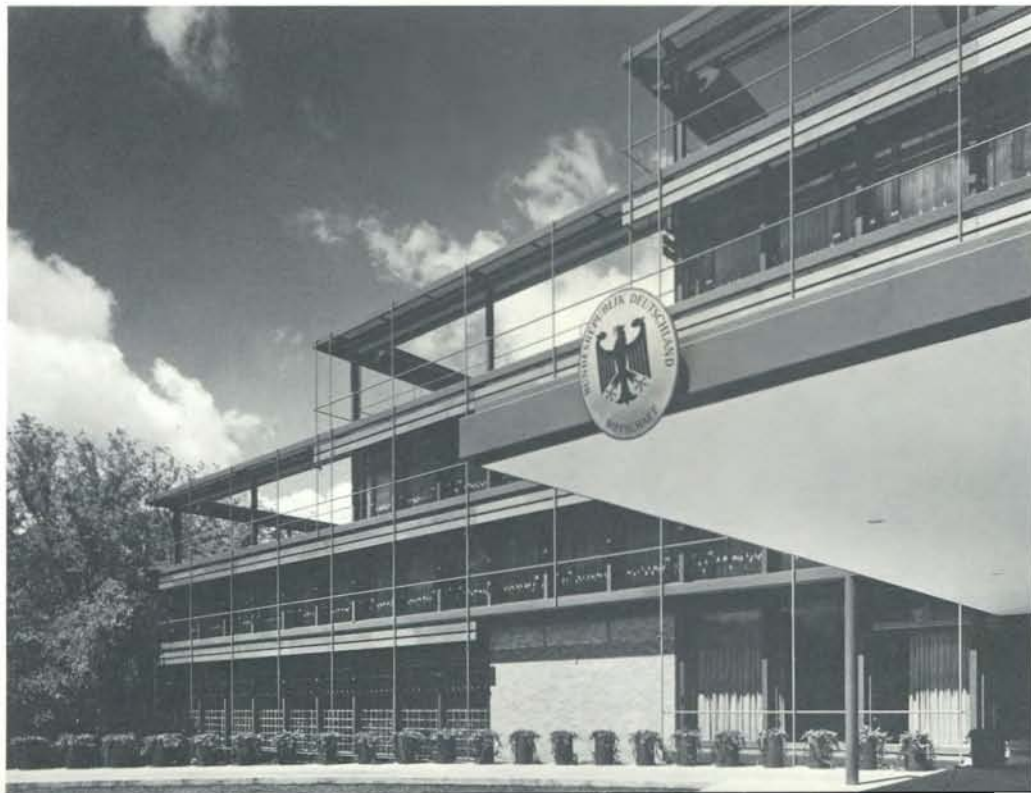
General Contractor Wm. P. Lipscomb Co., Inc., Washington, District of Columbia

Steel Fabricators Bethlehem Steel Corp., Bethlehem, Pennsylvania (Structural Steel)

Globe Iron Construction Co., Inc., Norfolk, Virginia (Balcony Framing)

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION The new chancery for the German Embassy is located in a residential neighborhood on a steeply sloped terrain, and the form of the building is a response to the site and environmental conditions. This is a structure only fifty feet wide and two stories high, rising gradually to six stories at its highest point by means of terraced recesses. Internally, the setbacks allow functional flexibility of office space and each floor accommodates a self-contained department. Architecture here is pure structure — the steel, which is the building's only decoration, is externally visible, pure, and natural in profile. The materials, glass, wood, and steel, erected on a modular basis within precision tolerances, are expressive of German technique and as composed, are the design signature of Professor Eiermann. The floors are horizontally emphasized by continuous sun screening steel balconies with the facade given a further dimension by a pattern of thin steel piping. The exposed steel is painted a dark grey, the pipe framework a lighter shade, and the wood window frames and wood sun shades are natural Oregon pine. The outstanding warmth of the overall structure, created by the Architect's refined composition of wood and steel, fits the building harmoniously into the character of its residential neighborhood.

JURORS' COMMENTS *It is dignified, attractive, and has none of the pomposity normally associated with earlier embassies. It is an inviting building in the democratic tradition, and one that makes good use of its site.*





DESIGNER Craig Ellwood, Los Angeles, California

ROSEN RESIDENCE, West Los Angeles, California

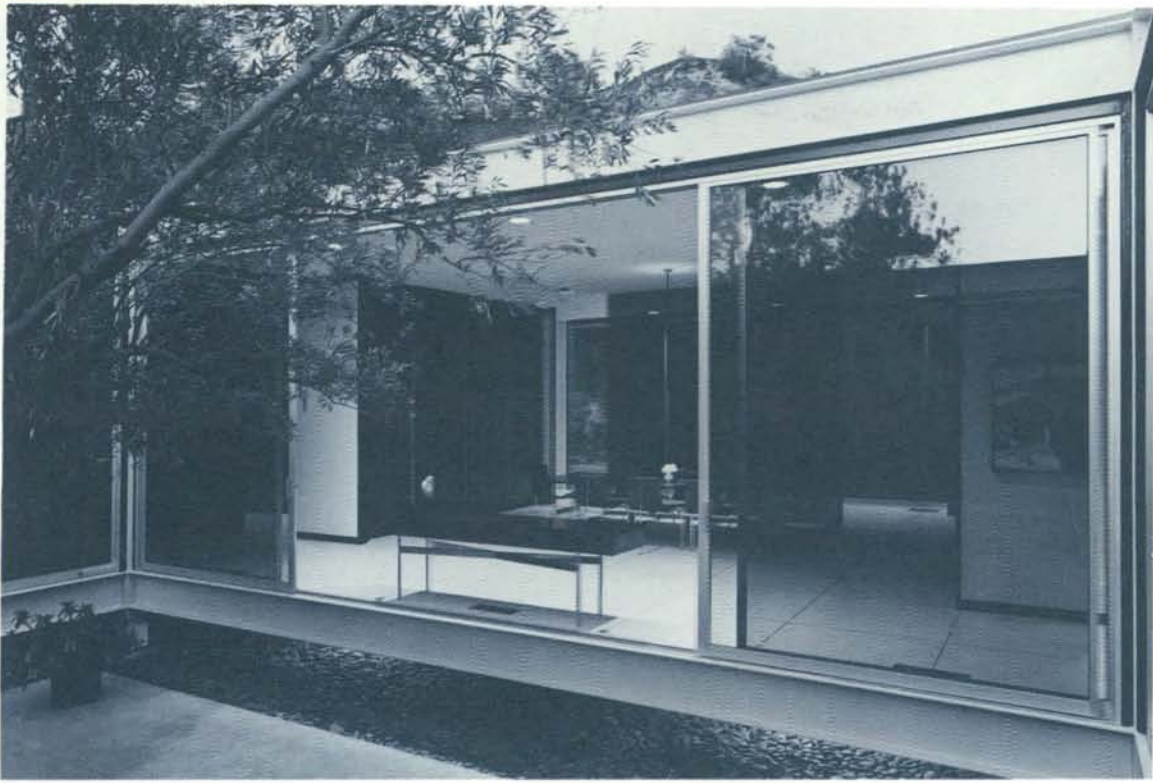
Owner Arlene and Gerald Rosen

Structural Engineer Robert Marks, Los Angeles, California

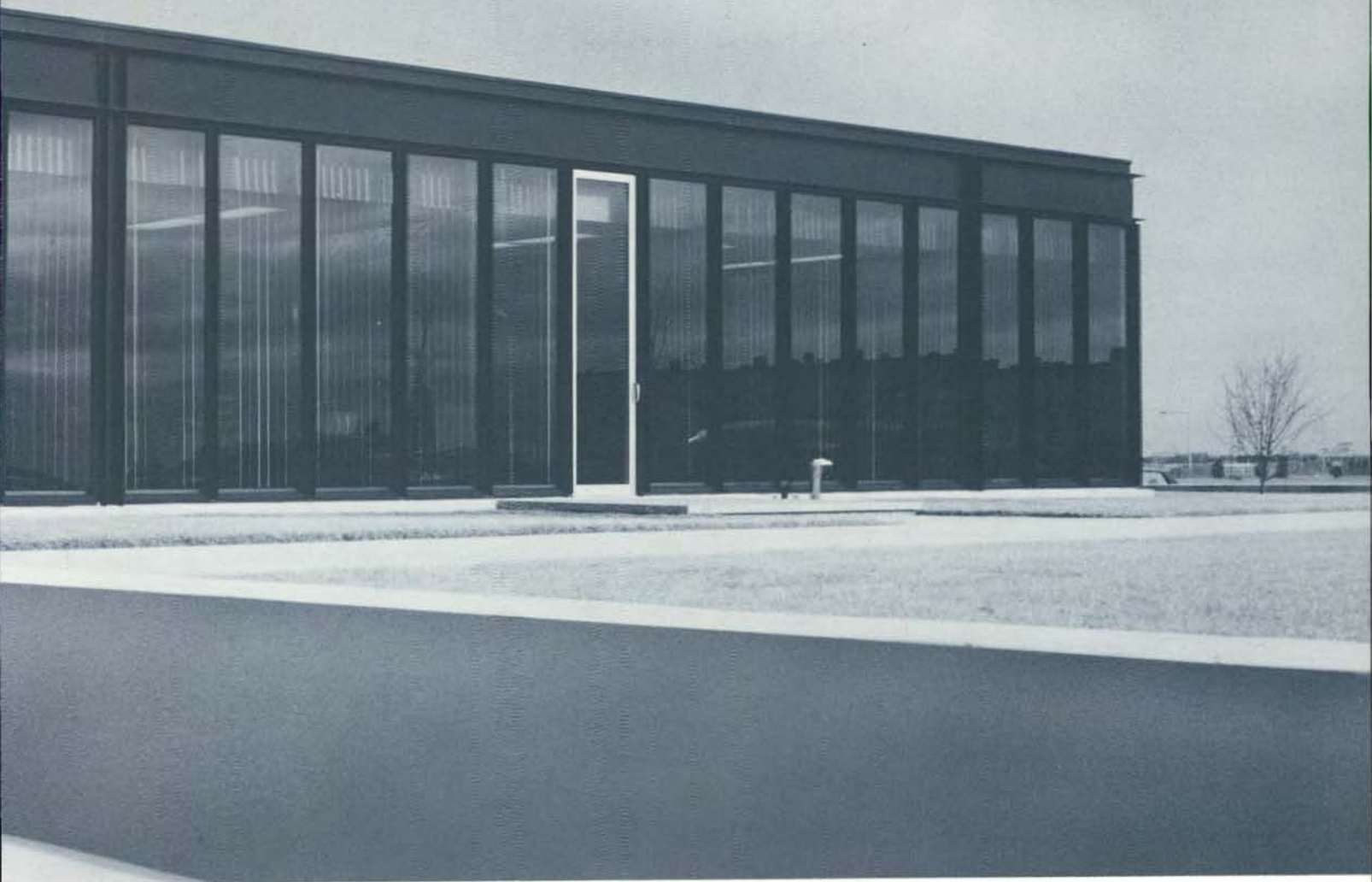
General Contractor Gattmann & Mitchell, Sherman Oaks, California

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION This extremely elegant and well-detailed house is a good example of fulfilling both rigid aesthetic principles and the owners' utilitarian needs. The basic concept of this house is that of a raised, lightly-framed and carefully balanced pavilion, surrounding a central court or atrium. The structure is elevated above grade to gain a better view down the canyon to the sea. The water-worn charcoal rock podium (or base), which surrounds the structure, flows in under the house and through the atrium. Only two interior partitions touch the exterior wall. The enclosed space therefore "reads" as a total, and walls "read" as free-standing planes or volumes within this total. This search for architectural clarity is further emphasized by sharp contrasts in color and texture of the exposed structure and the enclosing wall panels and partitions. The trim steel frame is painted white, exterior walls are charcoal-colored ceramic-faced brick, and interior walls are walnut paneling and white plaster.

JURORS' COMMENTS *A practical, restrained and orderly steel frame residence which is handled with discipline and restraint. The architect has designed a structure that fits its present setting, but which would also fit many other alternate settings. Although other materials have been used, the building is basically steel and shows it in its design concept. It is an extremely orderly job, laid out with a great deal of care and precision.*







ARCHITECT Hammond and Roesch, Inc., and William V. Kehoe, Associate Architect, Chicago, Illinois
EMERY AIR FREIGHT TERMINAL. O'Hare International Airport, Chicago, Illinois

Owner Emery Air Freight Corporation, Wilton, Connecticut

Structural Engineer The Engineers Collaborative, Ltd., Chicago, Illinois

Generator Contractor Erik A. Borg & Company, Chicago, Illinois

Steel Fabricator Rosman Iron Works, Franklin Park, Illinois

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION It was desired to create a light open appearance for this air freight terminal consistent with the modern technology of which the Emery Air Freight operation and O'Hare Field, a major metropolitan airport, are a part. Strength and quiet, orderly rhythm were a central objective in the building's design. A steel frame structure was selected as best suited to the functions to be accommodated in this building. Steel provided minimum beam sizes and weights, long clear spans for the industrial type operation and for large clerical areas. Effort was made to clearly express the nature of the steel and to refine detailing to the utmost.

JURORS' COMMENTS Obviously, a steel building with simple, careful detailing resulting in a pristine quality. It shows what an architect can do with a small industrial building. It is clean and attractive. It should serve as an image builder for the occupant and a prototype for many low-rise industrial buildings on the outskirts of cities.



ARCHITECT Harrison & Abramovitz, New York, New York

PHOENIX MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE BUILDING
Hartford, Connecticut

Owner Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company, Hartford, Conn.

Structural Engineer Edwards & Hjorth, New York, New York

General Contractor George A. Fuller Company, New York, New York

Steel Fabricator Bethlehem Steel Corporation, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION The Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Building consists of a thirteen-story elliptical tower set on a three-story block-square base. The pedestal provides a public promenade above street level which is linked to an adjoining plaza by a footbridge. The tower, in effect a lenticular hyperboloid, measures 225 ft from end to end and 87 ft across at the widest point, and has a high ratio of usable space to the total area of about 10,500 sq ft per floor. It rises on slender steel columns from an open court at the base of the structure. The structural framework is A36 steel. The twenty columns are 12 in. and 14 in. and are spaced at 27 ft centers about 13 ft from the building perimeter. Double girders are faced with a non-load-bearing skin of metal and glass. Floors are 2½-in. poured concrete over a cellular steel decking. The columns at the plaza level are enclosed with stainless steel covers.

JURORS' COMMENTS *In a sense it is a nice piece of sculpture. There is an interesting play of light over the curved surfaces which adds to its sculptured quality and offers a contrast to the surrounding buildings. As an architectural form, it is very smooth, very clean, very pristine. It relates very well to its surroundings.*





ARCHITECT Neuhaus and Taylor, Houston, Texas

FIRST STATE BANK & TRUST COMPANY, Edinburg, Texas

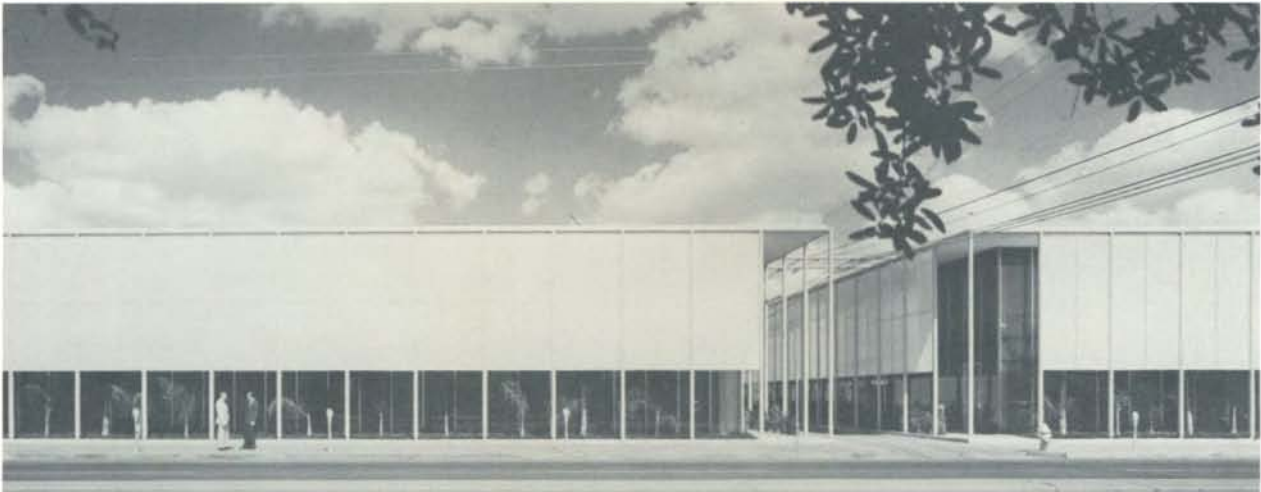
Owner First State Bank & Trust Company, Edinburg, Texas

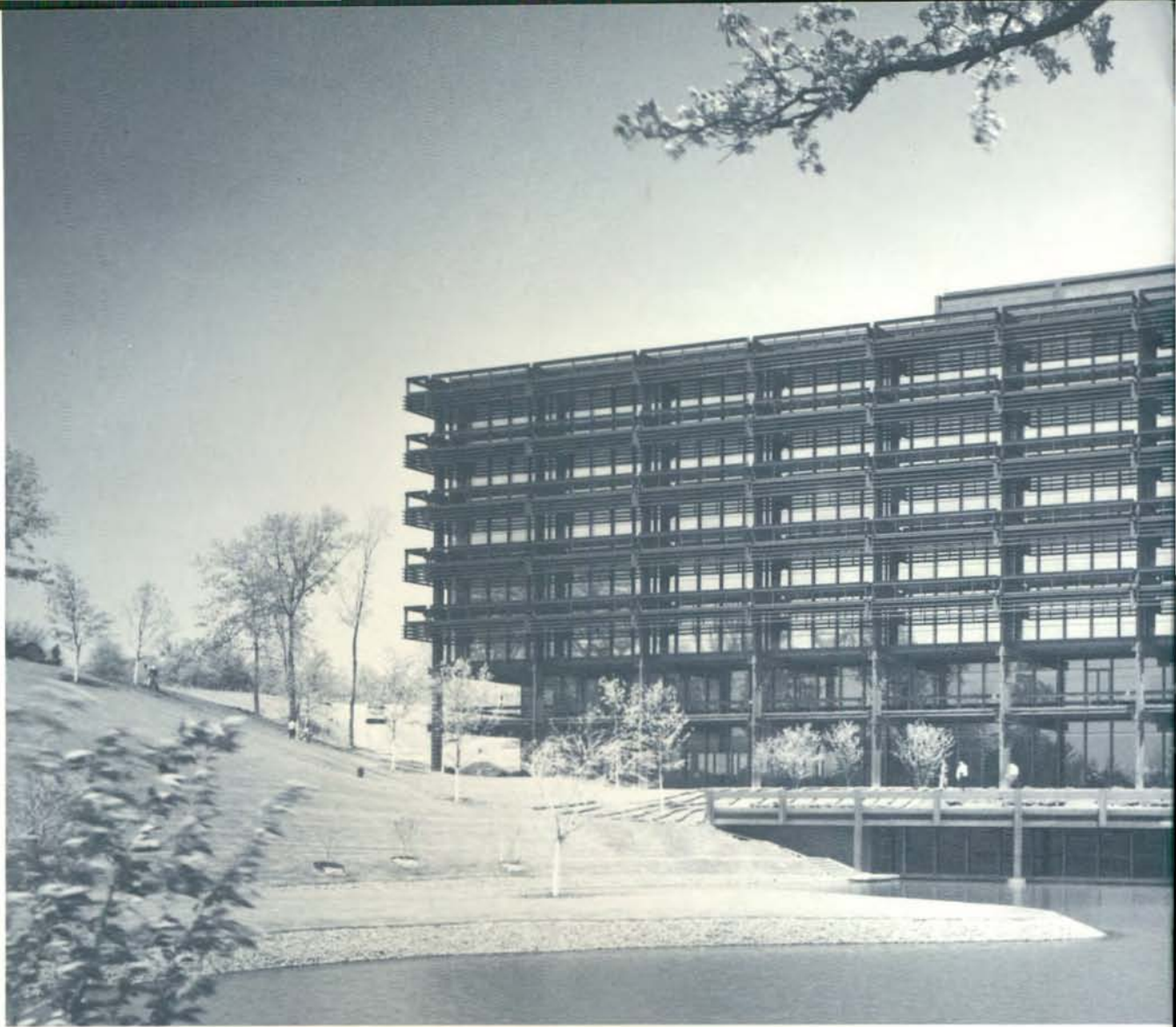
Structural Engineer Vogt & Clouse Engineers, Houston, Texas

General Contractor Koen Construction Company, Edinburg, Texas

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION The bank building required an entrance on the town square in addition to an entrance facing an existing office building, with access to the parking area. The building was to be as open as possible to "invite" customers to enjoy the building outside and within the structure. Due to the configuration of the property and the necessity of entrance at each end of the site, it was decided to maintain a two-story banking lobby for the entire length of the building. On the ground floor, the Architects located the tellers area, the bookkeeping area, safety deposit and money vault, and the small loan department. Overlooking the two-story banking lobby, on the mezzanine level, is the commercial loan department, the officers area and the employees lounge area. The basic exterior of the building is grey glass with a hue white glass sun screen between the colonnade columns. This colonnade provided the necessary sun protection and visual extension of the two-story lobby to the landscaped courtyard beyond.

JURORS' COMMENTS *A simple and modest steel panel building that is appealing to the eye. It uses local materials that lend a certain richness and indigenous character to the building. While it is not completely unique, it is a kind of architecture that is delightful and refreshing in its discipline and restraint.*





ARCHITECT Eero Saarinen and Associates, Hamden, Connecticut

DEERE & COMPANY ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER, Moline, Illinois

Owner Deere & Company, Moline, Illinois

Structural Engineer Ammann and Whitney, New York, New York

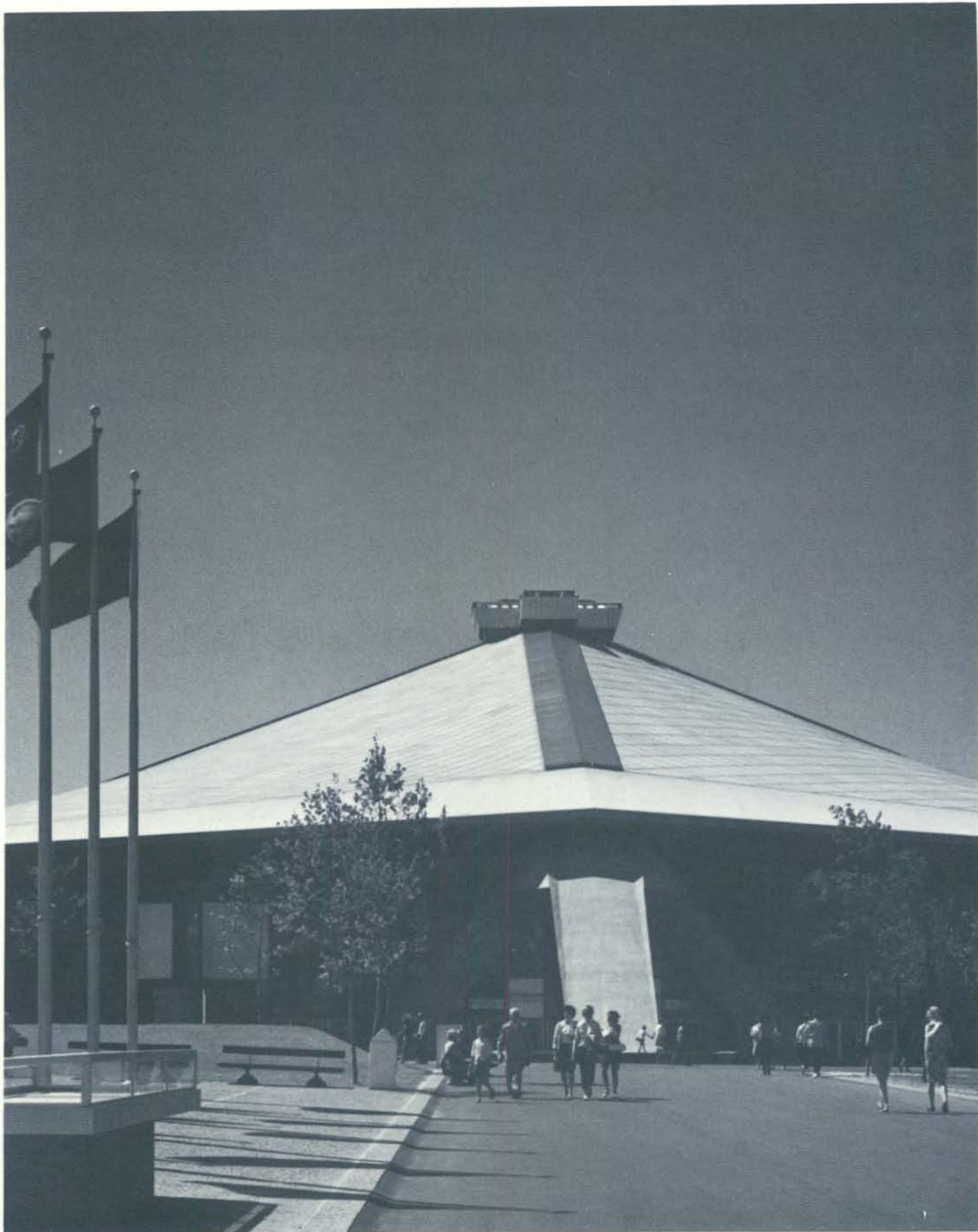
General Contractor Huber, Hunt & Nichols, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana

Steel Fabricator Allied Structural Steel Company, Hammond, Indiana

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION In these buildings the late Eero Saarinen provided a new dimension for the steel-and-glass pattern which has become such a familiar part of modern architecture. He introduced the use of exposed, unpainted, corrosion-resistant, high-tensile steel as the major exterior element of the design. The steel doesn't require paint or other protection because it forms a tight dense coating which protects against further oxidation. As it weathers, the steel develops a deep hue similar to that of oak trees. Saarinen selected this steel for the Deere buildings because he wanted "to build an iron building that would recognize the special character of Deere & Company". The same steel is used to build a grillwork of sun screening on the exterior of the building, designed so that it does not block the view from the inside, yet provides protection from the sun.

JURCS' COMMENTS *One of the great buildings of this country. It is open, and it is an honest expression of a steel skeleton with a sympathetic skin. The beam and post framing of structure is expressed throughout as load supporting and sun screening elements resulting in a delicacy of appearance that is soft in character. The detailing of intersections and connections of the steel skeleton is expressive of the material used. Cantilevers flow over their supports and are not tacked on. Beam reactions are transferred to their supports by shear connections that do not hide their function. The building blends with the landscape and takes full advantage of the natural beauty of the surroundings. The building was built of steel and looks it.*







ARCHITECT Paul Thiry, FAIA, Seattle, Washington

SEATTLE CENTER COLISEUM, Seattle, Washington

Owner City of Seattle

Structural Engineer Peter H. Hostmark and Associates, Seattle, Washington

General Contractors Howard S. Wright Construction Co. and
Wick Construction Co., Seattle, Washington

Steel Fabricators Isaacson Iron Works, Seattle, Washington and
Joseph T. Ryerson & Son, Inc., Chicago, Illinois

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION The Seattle Center Coliseum is one of the world's longest clear-span buildings. A 400 ft x 400 ft roof is supported on a two-way steel cable system which in turn is supported by four steel triangular truss members. The cable system forms four hyperbolic paraboloids. The vertical cables are in suspension, while the horizontal cables rigged over the vertical cables provide a rigid, self-supporting roof. The unique triangular truss system provides its own bracing, which eliminates the costly smaller members required for sway bracing of a rectangular truss. Built of high-strength, low alloy structural steel, the trusses provide walking space and easy access to lights, ventilators, and other utilities.

JURORS' COMMENTS *This is an unusual use of steel. It is utilitarian and serviceable but also has aesthetic appeal and depicts an economical use of material. The unique steel roof members result in an exceptionally orderly and attractive ceiling.*



American Institute of Steel Construction
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