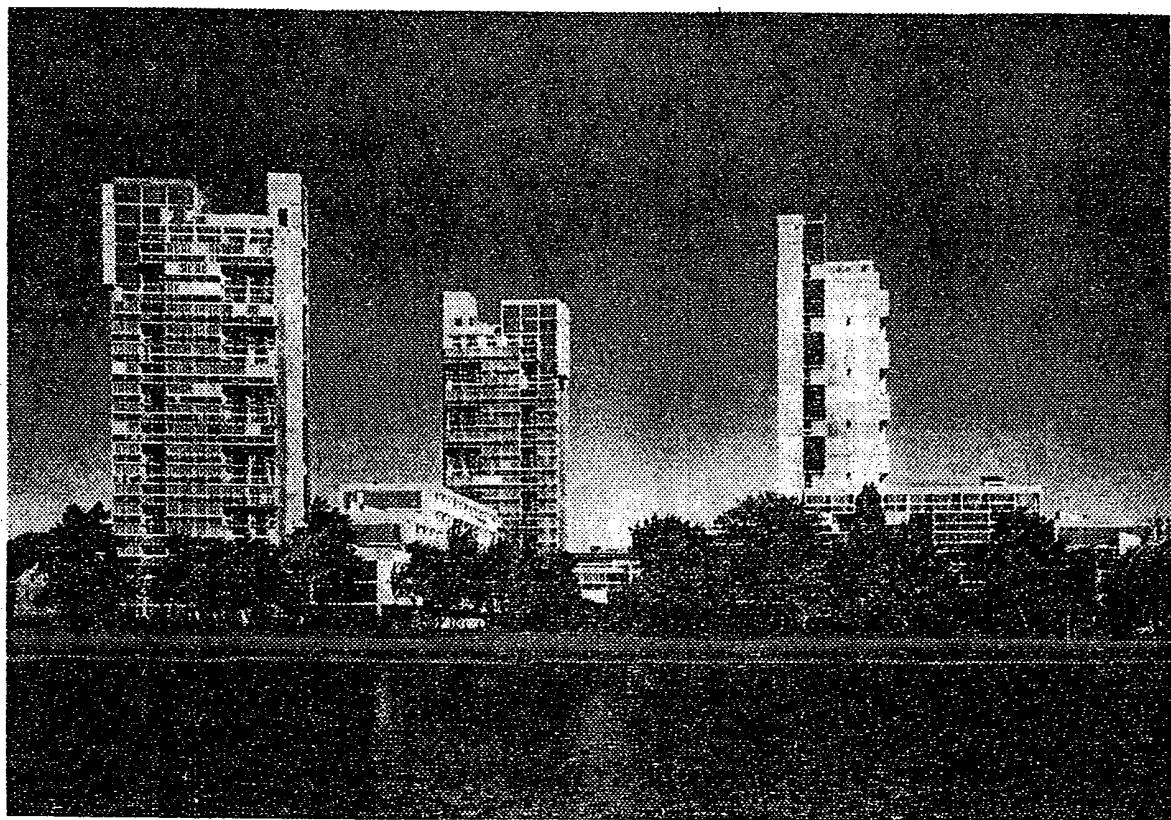


New Departures in Design Are Honored by Architects



Francis Greenwood Peabody Terrace in Cambridge, Mass., by Sert, Jackson & Gourley, winner of a top award, was one of several residential projects honored by American Institute of Architects.

TOP HONORS TAKEN BY HOUSING IDEAS

Site Plans Scored in Larger Nonresidential Buildings

By ADA LOUISE HUNTABLE

New variations on how America lives have emerged as the most significant theme of this year's Honor Awards of the American Institute of Architects. The prizes, given for work submitted by members, will be presented in conjunction with the organization's 97th annual meeting and the Pan American Congress of Architects opening in Washington today.

The jury chided the designers of larger, nonresidential buildings for poor site treatment and frequent failure to integrate new construction with the older fabric of the city. Many more modest projects, particularly in the residential field, carried off the honors.

Five of the eleven award-winning buildings are trend-setters in domestic architecture, ranging from apartment complexes to one-family houses. Each demonstrates how the quality of creative design can break the routine mold to which buyers and renters have become accustomed.

But the home-lover pursuing his favorite weekend sport of house hunting—probably second only to moviegoing in the country today—will have to travel far afield to see these examples. Two are in Massachusetts and the others are in Iowa, Texas and California, with uncharted seas of standard split-levels and monotonous high-rise towers between.

Clichés Are Shattered

What the prize winners share is the shattering of housing clichés. These houses do not settle for "the way it is done." At the same time, they offer practical and economical solutions, to design problems, particularly in the apartment units.

Their chief factor in common is the use of architects. It is estimated that 99% of the construction in the United States is done without architects, and that includes the majority of builders' houses.

The architects are responsible for a freshness of approach that ranges from the complete rethinking of plans to unusual sensitivity to site and landscape. The benefits are pleasanter living and better-looking buildings well related to their surroundings.

A First Honor Award went to the Francis Greenwood Peabody Terrace in Cambridge, Mass., built to house married students at Harvard University. The architects were Sert, Jackson & Gourley of Cambridge, with landscape architects Sasaki, Walker & Associates.

Jose Luis Sert, a partner in the architectural firm, is also dean of the Harvard Graduate School of Design. The firm's

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Ray D. Crites of Crites & McConnell, architects, received a merit award from the institute for the design he used for his own home in Cedar Rapids.

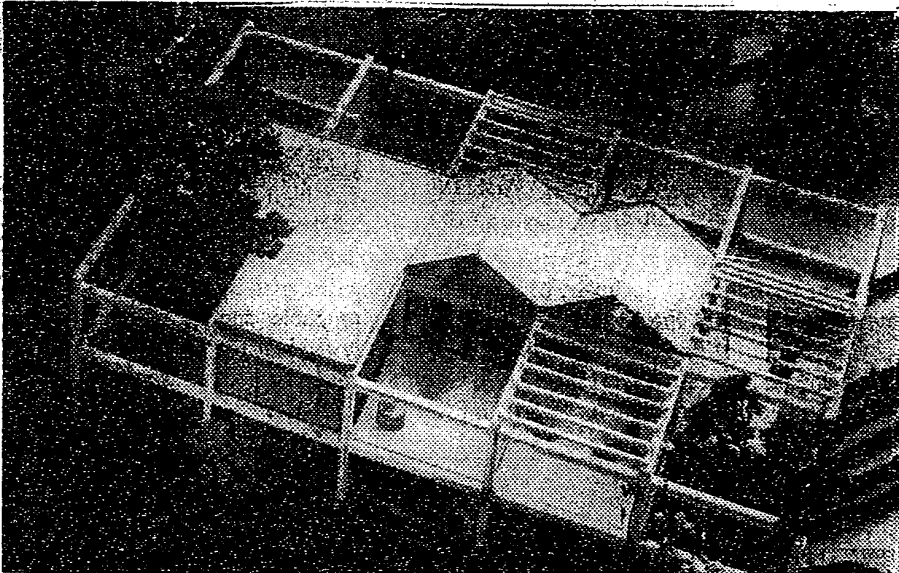


Above: R. Gommel Roessner's prize-winning design for The Oaks, Austin, Tex., sets apartments around pool, under trees.

Right: Prefabricated tract house for New Seabury community on Cape Cod was given merit award. Robert Damora, architect.



Terrace East and Terrace West in Berkeley, Calif., won award for multiple housing on small site. Ward Higgins of Roger Lee Associates was designer.



Robert Damora

ARCHITECTS GIVEN 11 DESIGN AWARDS

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chunky, concrete-framed buildings with busy, geometric patterns of color and form have brought a lively international flavor to the university and the staid Boston scene.

The jury characterized this group of skillfully and compatibly related high and low houses and the unified landscaping of its six-acre site as "not merely a solution, but a 'breakthrough.'"

"The site plan, the spaces between buildings, the consistency of scale and the thoughtful facades are some of the elements adding up to a fresh, light quality and unity of expression."

Avoids Barracks Look

It also adds up to an object lesson in how to house 500 families, at rentals ranging from \$90 a month for efficiency apartments to \$170 for three-bedroom suites, without the barrack-like institutional effect so familiar to New Yorkers.

The solution is a judicious mixing of three 22-story towers with terraced buildings of seven, five and three stories. Economies were effected through skip-stop elevators above the third floor of the towers, with connecting bridges to service other buildings.

There are community facilities, and a 350-car garage is included in accordance with local law, which requires parking for 70 per cent of the apartments. Construction is reinforced concrete.

Awards of merit were given to two single-family and two multiple-family houses. In the single-family category, the prize-winning designs embrace interesting extremes: a \$20,000 prefabricated tract house by Robert Damora of Bedford Village, N. Y., for Emil Hanslin Associates' New Seabury Community in Cape Cod, Mass., and a custom private dwelling by an architect for his own family. This is the home of Ray D. Crites of the firm of Crites & McConnell, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Study in Contrasts

The two houses are a study in contrasts. The first, a prototype for a diversified, 1,000-house development, is a neat, modular structure using a prefabricated concrete frame that can be expanded like a series of boxes for indoor and outdoor rooms.

This frame is assembled from six precast post-tensioned components to be adapted on site for different plans and topography. The walls are factory-made units of aluminum-framed glass or insulated panels.

The Crites house is an orderly jumble of massed vertical elements of stock cedar siding that at first glance looks like an

abstract super-split-level. The effect is dramatic and the plan is obviously tailored to special needs and tastes.

The extreme verticality of the structure is meant to harmonize with the surrounding tall trees, and the walls will eventually weather to the same color. A handsome, one-of-a-kind solution, it suggests imaginative design departures.

Trees and Variety

The two examples of multiple housing provide more than the usual apartment amenities. The Oaks, in Austin, Tex., developed a maximum number of units on a small site at the same time that it kept a large number of trees and included a variety of living arrangements.

The trees were a starting point for the design. Each apartment has a private view of a green, intimate court of exceptional elegance and subtly stepped levels. The jury's comment: "The use of water and preservation of trees produces an oasis in an urban setting." R. Gommel Roessner was the architect; C. Coatsworth Pinkney was the landscape architect.

Terrace East and Terrace West Apartments in Berkeley, Calif., were cited as "an example of outstanding multiple housing on a small site."

The L-shaped plot near a central city area was divided for a larger and a smaller structure, with a swimming area between. Layouts were oriented carefully toward the best views and thoughtful attention was

given to detailing the exterior interestingly and yet compatibly with smaller neighbors. Rentals are in the medium range. The architects were Roger Lee Associates of San Francisco, with Ward Higgins the architect in charge and Tak Sakanashi the landscape architect.

First Honor Awards in non-residential categories went to I. M. Pei & Associates, New York, and King & King Associates, Syracuse, for the Newhouse Communications Center at Syracuse University; Reid & Tarics, architects and engineers of San Francisco, for the Erdman Memorial Chapel, Stevenson School for Boys, Pebble Beach, Calif.; and Eero Saarinen & Associates, Hamden, Conn., for the Deere & Co. Administrative Center, Moline, Ill.

Additional Awards of Merit were given to Clark & Beuttler, architects, of San Francisco, and Charles W. Moore and Alan E. Morgan, associates, for the headquarters building of the Savings and Loan Association of San Francisco; Kirk, Wallace & McKinley of Seattle for the Japanese Presbyterian Church of Seattle; and William D. Warner of Providence, R. I., for the Gordon School of East Providence.

Jury members were Willis N. Mills of Stamford, Conn., chairman; Philip Johnson, New York; Donald Lutes, Springfield, Ore.; Nathaniel A. Owings, San Francisco; and Peter Tarapata, Bloomfield Hills, Mich.