

# MSC design

## Pahlmann explains his work



This article appeared in the August 18, 1973, edition of the Dallas Morning News and was reprinted recently in the Student News, a student publication of the college of architecture and environmental design.

The article is Pahlmann's explanation of his design of the MSC interior. His design was critiqued last November by Richard E. Vrooman, associate dean of architecture and environmental design, in an Aggie forum (Batt guest editorial).

Vrooman offered his resignation from his associate deanship later because he said he wanted to devote all his time to teaching. He refused to comment further or answer rumors that he had been forced to resign because of his critique.

The cartoon also appeared in the Student News. It was done by Luis Jauregui, a junior environmental design student.

"I take it (the cartoon) is funny," Vrooman said. "It doesn't bother me at all."

"I would prefer to see it kept out of the news; it would be better for the college (Architecture) and better for the university. The college continually seeks progress in its fields and hopes this progress will always be expressed on this campus."

By WILLIAM PAHLMANN

A university, ideally at least, is a place where the seeker after truth finds his mind opening up and becoming available to ideas and influences which he may never have taken into account previously.

In addition to intellectual breakthroughs, hopefully a student becomes aware of living as a possible art and in this area, surroundings are of paramount importance.

One of the exciting experiences I have had in the past two years has been working on the interior designs of a complex of buildings at Texas A&M University, including a Memorial Student Center, where students gather to rap, eat, hold meetings and entertain.

Connecting with the greatly enlarged Memorial Student Center Building by an elevated covered passageway will be another group of attached buildings which will house a Theatre Center, including a large auditorium, a theatre workshop, a large exhibition hall, as well as a 12-story Conference Tower for meetings, conferences and seminars.

The best in opera, ballet, theatre and concert fare will be brought to the campus in this great complex for both students and the general public. The combined and connected groups of buildings in this unusual cultural program will be known as the University Center.

OUR WHOLE APPROACH to this project has been to engender respect and pride in those young people in their university and to expose them to excellence in surroundings in both contemporary and traditional media, in an atmosphere of graciousness and comfort.

This college is symbolic of the Southwest — always noted for its contributions to the sciences of agriculture and engineering and military disciplines (not to mention football prowess), as well as the liberal

arts. Along with the furnishing boons of contemporary technology and design, which virtually insure ease of maintenance and durability, furnishings of fine quality, well-designed china, silver and glass, I have been seeking art works in Southwestern motifs — fine animal bronzes, 19th-century landscape paintings, Western art and regional artifacts, Americana which reflects the heritage of this remarkable school and the young people who are privileged to attend it.

This has led me to many interesting galleries, auctions and off-beat emporiums where I have rarely poked, and I am now so caught up in the search that I can scarcely sleep nights.

THIS IS NOT a search for delineations of cowboys and Indians, but for a far more subtle period when the land of the Southwest came under the plow and the industrial revolution made itself felt, a time of great progress. Excellent examples of such objects of art have never been in large supply and they are increasingly difficult to locate. However, I feel this bow to the past as a suitable tribute to all that has gone before in this university, which is now noted for its curriculum of advanced sciences and electronics.

Specially designed carpets, fabrics and furnishings in these areas will also take inspiration from the Southwest. In all these endeavors we are striving for practical elegance, an atmosphere of mellowness and serenity and sound taste. Far too many college interiors resemble the departure lounges of airports.

### Listen Up

## RVs are praised by former student

Editor:

I was recently in New Orleans for the Mardi Gras activities where I saw the Ross volunteers lead the Rex parade, the most important parade of Mardi Gras.

The performance of the Ross Volunteers was absolutely astounding. There was nothing to compare with their obvious professionalism, pride and expertise. Eyes straight ahead, flawless execution of rifle drills and maneuvers, a precision work of art. By comparison all other "marching units" (including the Citadel unit) were out of step, out of alignment, and were generally playing grab-ass with the onlookers rather than performing their duties.

It is great to see that the Ross Volunteers continue to represent Texas A&M in fine fashion and reflect proudly on great tradition at

the biggest and best campus in the world.

Ken Fenoglio '70

Yea, girls

Editor:

I commend the women athletes of TAMU on their fine performances this year. Each girl has put in long hours of hard work to make it possible for a successful and winning team. The participants have shown a high spirit of competitiveness and sportsmanship. The success of those sports can be seen by looking at season wins and by counting trophies and broken records.

Women athletes should be given more credit for their fine job. How many students don't even know TAMU has a women's intercollegiate track team, volleyball team, softball team, etc. Those women work hard at their sport to bring recognition to TAMU. The least we can do is to support them!

Judy Flanary

All members of  
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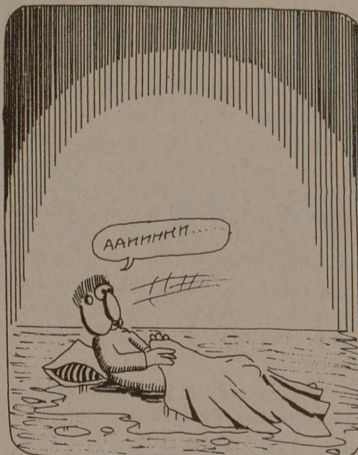
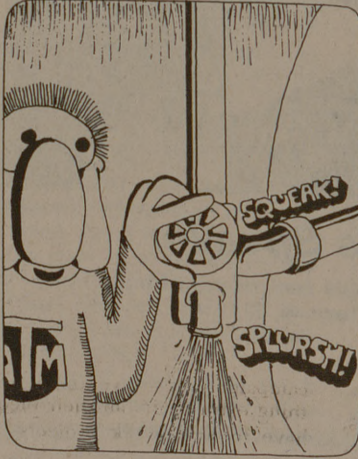
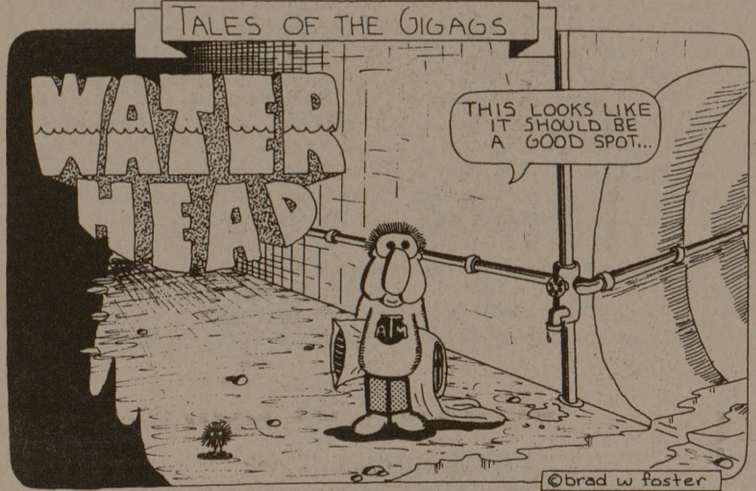
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