

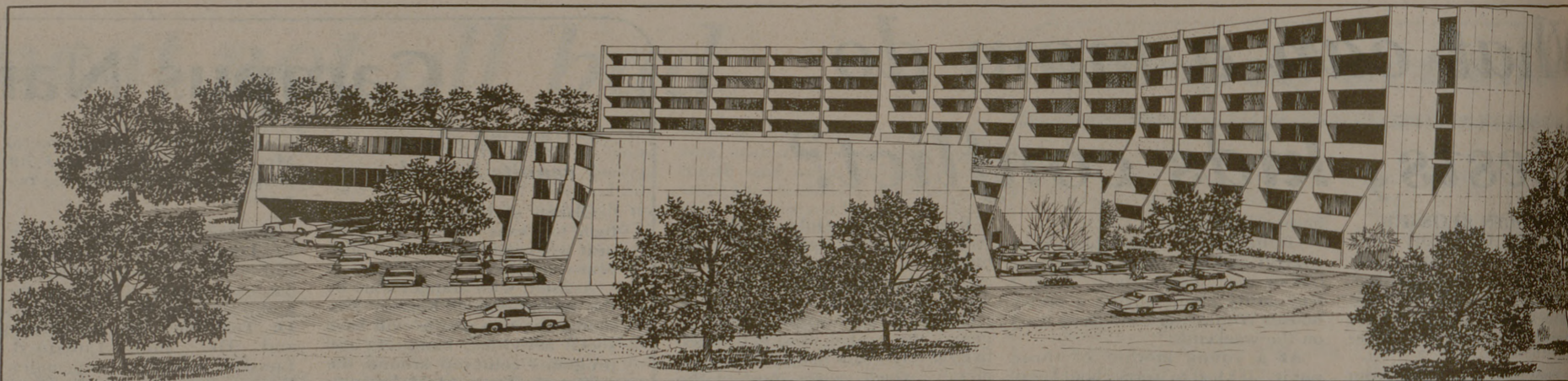
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1016 Texas Avenue — Bryan



This design of a combination shopping mall and apartment complex won third place in national competition. Charles Porter, a graduate architecture and

environmental design student, entered the design in the 1976-77 Architectural Precast Concrete Student Design Awards Program.

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## Student architect wins award

BY JEANNE GRAHAM

A Texas A&M University architecture student received national recognition for his design of a multi-million dollar combination shopping mall/apartment complex. The project was designed for the corner lot of Villa Maria and Cavitt streets in Bryan.

Charles Porter, 23-year-old graduate student, designed the development proposal for a project last spring in his Architecture 606 class, and submitted it for national competition in the 1976-77 Architectural Precast Concrete Student Design Awards Program. His design was awarded third place out of 33 entries representing 18 schools of architecture.

"I entered because I wanted to see where I stood with the rest of the nation," Porter said. "And I was really a little disappointed with third."

The project evolved as a mixed-use development proposal for

the 3.15 acre site at the corner of Villa Maria and Cavitt Streets, Porter said. The architecture class chose this community site and did a feasibility study on it to decide what type of design would work.

Each student assumed the role of architect-developer, and the class jointly developed a statement of the problem—what can be put on the site to maximize its utility for the city, developer and users. Each student then designed the project in the way he envisioned it.

"I was the only one to carry the project through to the final point of submitting it for national competition," Porter said.

His third prize included \$500 and air fare expenses to and from St. Louis, Mo., to receive the award.

Porter's design represents a \$9 million building with 1,800 square feet of retail space, 3,900 square feet of office space, and 150 apartments including three-bedroom, two-

bedroom, one-bedroom and efficiency units.

"The apartments sit over a parking garage," Porter said, "and include tennis courts and a swimming pool." The mall of the designed complex includes retail stores, offices and a restaurant and bar.

"I was limited to a seven-story structure because the fire equipment in Bryan won't reach any higher than that," he added.

"It was really designed with students in mind." The complex would provide things to do, a young atmosphere with the restaurant and bar, and it would be on the shuttle bus route, Porter said.

The class worked on the project for seven weeks during the spring semester. Porter worked for three more weeks to meet the June 1 deadline for competition.

Each design was judged on how well it could be built by the precast method (construction with pieces that are made elsewhere and brought to the site to be pieced together) and on how broad an understanding each student had of architecture and his project.

Porter said he figures his design would give a developer a 39 percent rate of return on investment, but as yet there are no prospective buyers.

Porter is taking 12 hours of graduate courses and working a 20-

hour assistantship to the dean of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

In addition, he is part of a member design team with six other members of the design team. Porter is a member of the American Institute of Architects and the American Society of Professional Engineers.

The winner of the competition will receive \$50,000, and the runner-up will receive \$25,000. Porter is being honored for the nation of Iran, in addition to being the first of a national public system," Porter said. The date for entries is Dec. 15.

Porter says he will have one more design project submitted this before he will finish his graduate studies at Texas A&M.

Porter is considering designing a continental airport.

Though his graduate work is not finished in May, Porter has submitted plans for work.

"The convention in St. Louis is a big step," he said. "I was at the Cour four jobs, but they all had to be pre-constructed that's what I want to go to." "I'd like to go to work for a year at architect for about five years. I think about setting up my own business, perhaps in Denver, Colo."

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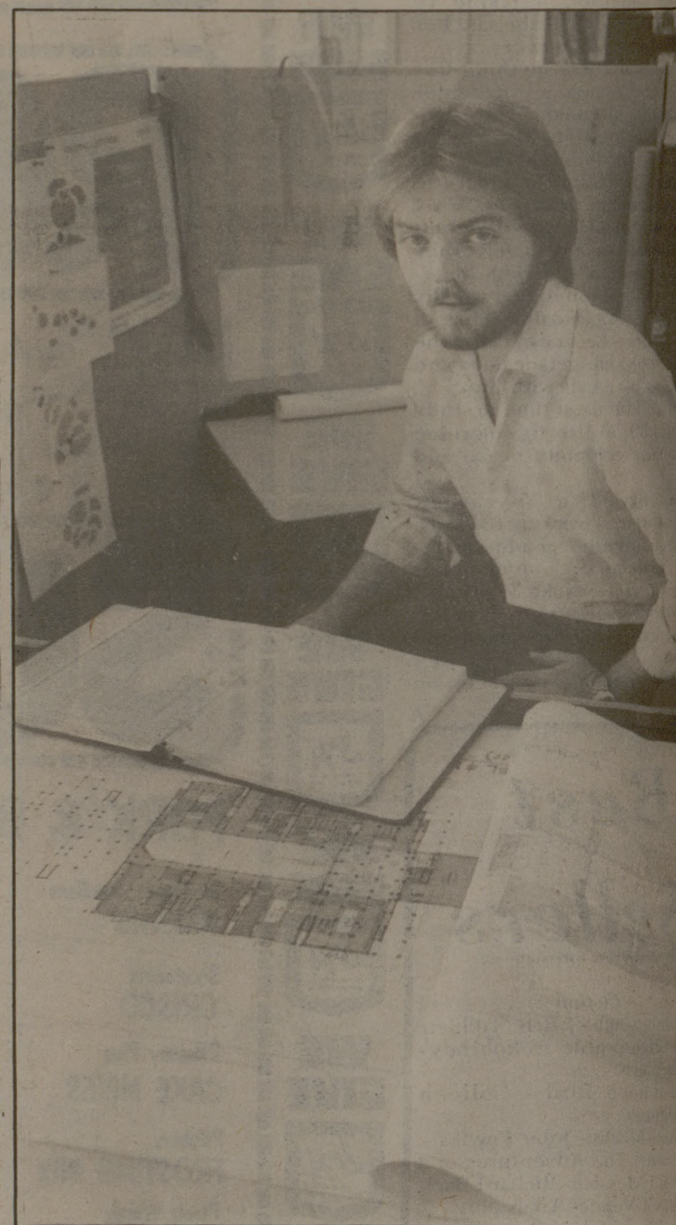


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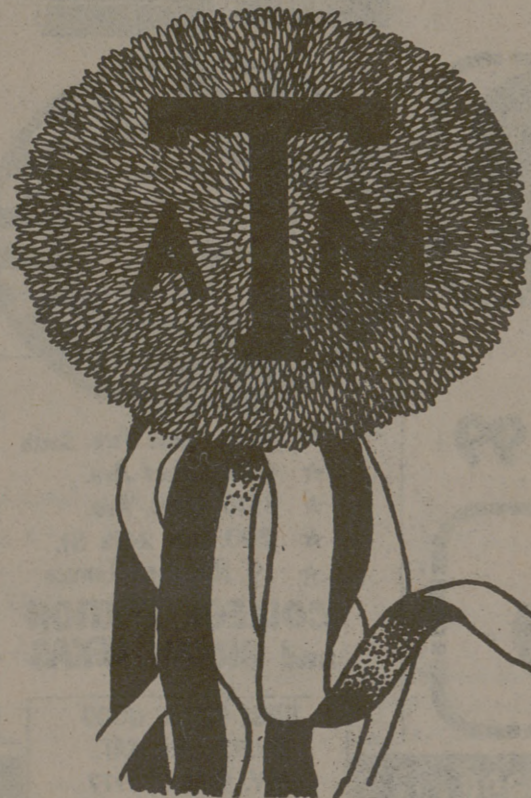
Charles Porter, 23, is a graduate student in the College of Architecture and Environmental Design. Porter won third place in the 1976-77 Architectural Precast Concrete Student Design Awards Program. His winning design was one of 33 entries representing 18 schools of architecture.

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