

Local



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

The modular constructions of Neeley, Hobby, Haas and McFadden halls has saved Texas A&M University about one-third of the cost of conventional construction and took six months to a year less than conventional construction. Resident advisers in Haas and McFadden halls say mosquitoes and mold that once plagued the dorms are no longer a problem.

Modulars save time and money

By LYDIA JOHNSON
Battalion Reporter

Texas A&M University not only saved money by building modular dormitories, but helped decrease the shortage of housing space in a shorter time than would have been possible with standard construction.

Haas, McFadden, Hobby and Neely halls have larger and better facilities than most of the other dorms on campus, said Ed Peel, director of system facilities planning and construction.

"These dorms have larger rooms for two students than the other dorms and they have a private bath, which is really nice. They've got more closet space, and the construction keeps out a lot of noise because of the thick brick walls," Peel said.

Peel said this type of pre-cast dormitory has been around for a while and will help meet the demand for housing.

"This type of pre-fabricated dorm isn't new. But they're the kind you use when you really need something fast," Peel said.

Modular construction, as opposed to conventional construction, results in substantial savings, he said.

"There are so many variables involved in trying to determine a dollar and cents savings," Peel said. "I think having the facility a year earlier and the rent a year sooner is a part of that savings. But, a rough estimate of the savings is about one-third less expensive per square foot."

"This type of quick construction lowers the cost per square foot, the time required for construction and the labor costs are lowered because they are constructed on an assembly line basis rather than on the site."

"This type of construction is done in one year as opposed to the conventional construction which takes 18 months to two years."

Other universities are learning from Texas A&M's

examples of using modular dorms as a method for meeting an increased need for dormitories while trying to save money, Peel said. For instance, representatives from the University of Texas and San Angelo State College have visited the campus to see the dorms.

Resident advisers from Haas and McFadden said conditions have significantly improved from last year when mold and mosquitoes were rampant. Resident advisers from Neely and Hobby said the dorms haven't been plagued with any major problems and there aren't any complaints about the condition of the dorm.

Stacy Surles, a resident adviser for Haas, said the only problems are minor ones.

"The biggest problem was the air conditioner," she said. "For a month it only blew cool air and we couldn't adjust our thermostats, but the thermostat has been fixed."

The mold problem has practically disappeared, Surles said, and only a few rooms still need painting.

"At the beginning of the year there were lots of crickets," said Mary Hincepie, a resident adviser for McFadden.

"They were real bad on the first floor and it seemed like they just came up the stairs. But they weren't as bad the further up they went. They gave us some type of spray disinfectant which helped get rid of them."

Hincepie said the dorms needed spraying more than once a semester for roaches. "They're getting bad because of the food in the rooms and the moisture, and the trash can outside with the empty Coke cans."

Amy Winston, a resident adviser for Hobby says there isn't anything to complain about in her dorm. "There aren't any problems at all, no bugs, nothing," Winston said.

"We had a few crickets at the beginning of the year, but they're just about gone. Everything is going real good."

Batt staff positions open for spring

Anyone interested in getting a little newspaper experience and making a little money next semester can apply for a Battalion staff position until this Friday.

Dillard Stone, nominated Battalion editor Tuesday, said he hopes to pick his staff by Friday night. Staff positions include managing editor, copy editor, city editor, assistant city editor, layout editor, morning news editor, front page editor, staff writers, photographers and a typist.

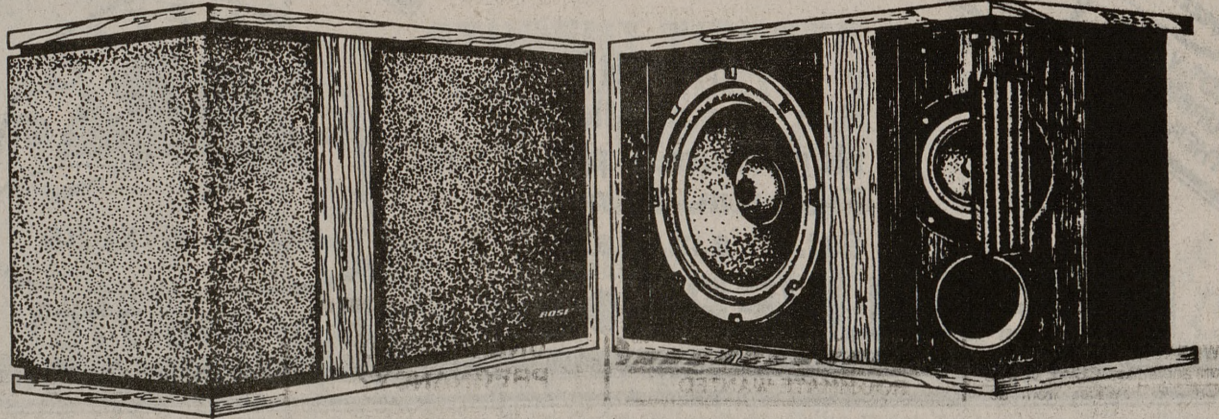
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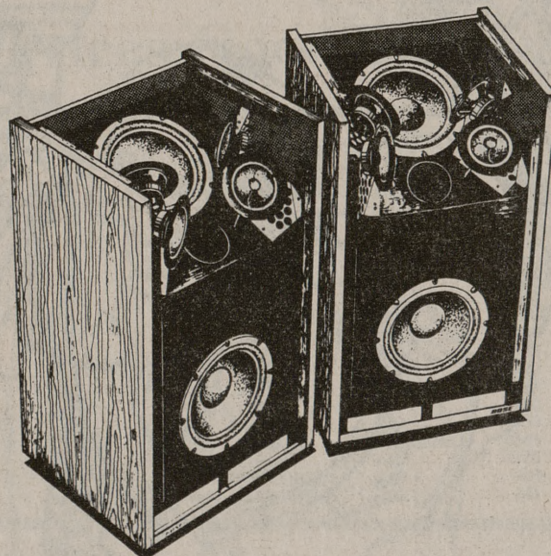


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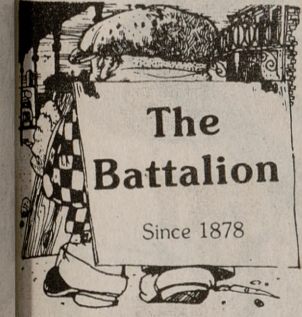
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