

The Battalion

## Architectural tradition, structural problems featured in Langford

BY KATIE MISH  
The Battalion

Langford, the home away from home for Texas A&M architecture and environmental design students, has a rich history and unique design that has made it stand out on the Texas A&M University Campus since it was first introduced in 1963.

The building was first opened for classes in 1963, then a 3-story, 47,000 square foot structure, costing \$900,000 designed by Harold K. Smith.

The building's features included marble, brass, steel and brick structures and innovative design studios.

It was dedicated on Nov. 28, 1963 by guest speakers University President Earl Rudder, T. Harrington and Ernest Langford, for whom the building was eventually named.

Prior to the building's opening, architecture students used space on the fourth floor of the Academic Building. As the number of architecture students increased, the need for a new facility became apparent.

The building was formally named for Langford, Class of '13, on Sept. 8, 1976. Langford served as the head of architecture from 1929 to 1956.

In 1977, 102,000 square feet were added to the facility in at an approximate cost of \$5 million.

Another \$110,000 was donated in 1978 to make further renovations to the structure.

More renovations were made in 1991, including the addition of research labs and reconstruction of the building's center.

The structure is now separated into three separate buildings.

Building A houses upper-level studios, the architecture department, the undergraduate department and landscape architecture studios. Building B houses woodshop and research studios for graduate candidates.

Building C houses lecture areas, classrooms and lower level studios.

Buildings A and C also house the Department of Visualization Sciences.

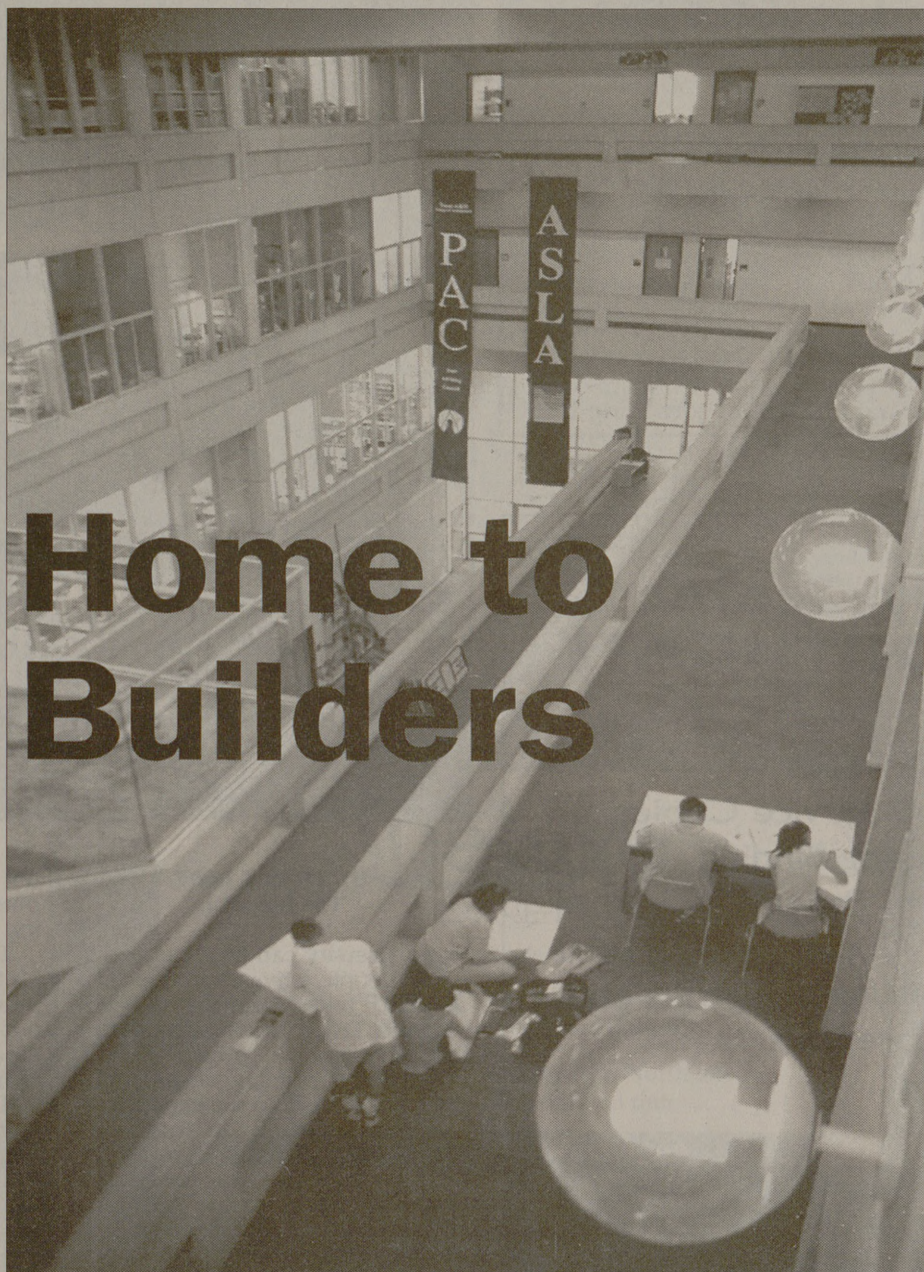
The original structure featured an air-flow chamber to test natural effects on building models, a dome for a "simulated sky" effect with lights to create different stages of sunlight and gray glass that goes from floor to ceiling allowing natural light in and block glare.

The original design also allowed for varied floor space using movable partitions, depending on class size.

The building has been plagued with problems through the years. Past complaints from students and faculty include leaks, noise due to window ventilation, cracks in the joints and dangerously steep steps.

Karen Rogers, Senior Academic Business

The third floor of the Langford Architecture Center as seen from the fourth floor. Over the years, the center has expanded into three separate buildings. Built in 1963, the building is home to architecture, environmental design and construction science students.



## Home to Builders

JAKE SCHRICKLING/THE BATTALION

Administrator for the College of Architecture, said she does not think there is anything significantly wrong with the structure.

"All buildings on campus have structural problems," Rogers said. "The floor is coming up on the second floor, and the roof leaks, but other than that, I don't know of anything else wrong with it. It just has a few problems, like anywhere else."

Vivian Paul, associate dean and a professor in the architecture department, said she does not know much about problems with the building, but said the building is not ideal.

"I think it's an ugly building," Paul said. "It's just not a real livable building."

Mike Garron, with the Physical Plant, said recent renovations have improved the architecture building.

"We made changes in the urban landscape and architecture lab," Garron said. "We walled it in and made it more of a formal classroom and wired it for computer tables

and better light."

Garron said there have been a few other changes, such as the conversion of the photo lab to office space and equipment repair space and classroom enhancements in Architecture Building C this past summer.

He said he does not know of plans for future changes.

Carroll Claycamp, an architecture professor of design of structural development, said rumors of structural problems with the Architecture building are unfounded. He said the problems include poor acoustics, leaks and annoying birds but nothing that is seriously wrong with the construction.

He said problems with the building are either controllable or not worrisome, and it is structurally secure.

"The architecture building has suffered from continuous pigeon problems and roof leaks, but it is not unsafe," Claycamp said.

SEE LANGFORD ON PAGE 5.

## Wehner houses most high-tech classrooms on A&M campus

BY MICKEY SALOMA  
The Battalion

Tucked away somewhere between the West Campus Library and the J. Reynolds Medical Sciences Building lies one of Texas A&M's most technologically advanced and student-friendly buildings — the E.L. Wehner Business Administration Building.

According to the Texas A&M University Archives, in the late '80s and early '90s, the Blocker Building was beginning to be too tight a squeeze to house the Texas A&M Business College, and the idea of the Wehner Building was formed.

Wehner was built in order to provide the Texas A&M University Lowry Mays College & Graduate School of Business a state-of-the-art facility to enhance business students' education.

Ground breaking took place in Fall '92, and the facility opened its doors for classroom instruction in Spring '95.

Edward A. Segura, the Wehner Facilities Officer, said it was the most advanced building on campus when it was opened.

"It was the only building on campus in which every single classroom and office was network accessible with ethernet which interconnects students, faculty and administrative offices and provides access to Texas A&M mainframe computing and the Internet," he said.

The Wehner Building is named for E.L. "Pete" Wehner, Class of '41, from Del Rio.

In addition to his many dona-

tions, Wehner also served as president of the Texas A&M Development Foundation and as a member of the Mays College and Graduate School of Business Development Council.

The Lowry Mays College and Graduate School of Business is ranked in the top 10 business programs by the *Gourman Report*.

In Fall '97, total enrollment in the college was 7,693, and the undergraduate program, with a total of 7,027 students, is one of the largest business colleges in the country.

Segura said the four-story, 190,000-square-foot building cost \$23.5 million to build and houses 65 to 75 percent of all the College of Business classes. It also is where the office of the Dean of the College of Business is located.

The biggest room in the Wehner building is Room 158, also known as the auditorium. According to the Wehner Building Web site (<http://wehner.tamu.edu/media>), the auditorium is the largest, regularly scheduled teaching facility at A&M.

The auditorium is equipped with every form of audio/visual equipment, including a Pentium PC computer, laser disc player, slide projector and overhead projector.

All audio/visual equipment and room lighting can be controlled by the instructor from the computer touch pad mounted in the podium on the stage or from the projection booth in the back of the auditorium.

SEE WEHNER ON PAGE 6.



The Wehner Building, located on West Campus, was built in 1995 to accommodate for the large number of students in the College of Business.

ERIC NEWMAN/THE BATTALION

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WHO'S WHO AMONG STUDENTS  
IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES  
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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Who's Who applications are now available for both undergraduate and graduate students in the following locations:

- Commandant's Office (Military Sciences Building)
- Student Programs Office (2nd floor MSC)
- Student Activities Office (125 John J. Koldus Building)
- Sterling C. Evans Library
- Office of Graduate Studies (125 Teague)
- Office of the Dean of each College
- Office of Graduate Studies (128 Teague)
- Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs (10th floor Rudder)

Completed applications must be received by the Student Activities Office no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, October 2, 1998. They may be hand-carried to the Student Activities Office, sent through Campus Mail, or sent through U.S. Mail. (See application for addresses.) Questions may be addressed to Sandy Briens in Student Activities at 845-1133.

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