

Building the Future

Famous architect combines structure, art with new building

BY MICHELLE MCNEELY
The Battalion

At the age of 92, Philip Johnson is still stirring up the world of architecture. Famous for designing buildings such as the Penzoil Place in Houston and the AT&T building in New York, the renowned architect will soon leave his mark on the Texas A&M University campus.

Johnson, along with A&M students, will design a new building for the College of Architecture.

Johnson came highly recommended by A&M Regent, John Lindsey. Lindsey suggested Johnson would be the perfect candidate to make the first conceptual sketch of the new building.

This semester, two sections of design students in the College of Architecture will have the opportunity to design the initial building from Johnson's sketch, while landscape students will have the opportunity to design the exterior spaces for the new building.

Ward Wells, Executive Associate Dean of the College of Architecture, said the architecture students will receive benefits from the hands-on experience.

"The project allows for the development of a number of different classes and disciplines for the architecture students at Texas A&M," Wells said.

Julius Gribou, head of the architecture department, said at the end of the semester when students are finished with their designs, Johnson will return to critique the students' work.

"Very few architecture students will have an opportunity like this in their lifetime to work with and even to be critiqued by a world-renowned architect like Philip

Johnson," Gribou said.

J. Thomas Regan, Dean of the College of Architecture, said Texas A&M University is very fortunate to be able to take advantage of Johnson's prestige and knowledge.

"It is an amazing opportunity for students to learn how a world famous architect develops his ideas and to receive comments back on their work.

"It is something that they will never forget," Regan said. "Throughout their long careers, the students will always remember this experience."

Since the building process usually takes four to five years, current students working on the project will not occupy the building. However, the design students will ultimately have the chance to visit the building as former students.

Wells said Johnson has already visited the A&M campus twice this year to talk to architecture students and faculty members. "He is an extraordinary man," Wells said. "He is sharp on his feet, quick with wit and has a very strong will."

Johnson graduated from Harvard in 1930 with a degree in architectural history. He became the founder and director of the Department of Architecture and Design of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the first museum in the United States to explore architecture as an art form.

Johnson and colleague Henry-Russell Hitchcock's exhibition, "The International Style," introduced American architects to European design. The style dominated architecture for 50 years and continues to influence architects today. Johnson returned to Harvard in 1940 to receive a bachelor's degree in architecture in order to practice on a formal basis.

Johnson's projects, both large and small,

reflect his distinctive style and creativity. Johnson's designs include the 51-story IDS Center in Minneapolis, the New York State Theater and the Crystal Cathedral in Cali-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARCHITECTURE DEPT. Architect Philip Johnson, made the first conceptual sketch of the new architecture building.

fornia. He is also famous for designing the "Glass House," a single room walled entirely in glass.

In an interview with Charlayne Gault of Online Newshour, Johnson said architecture should move people.

"Anybody can build a building, putting some doors into it, but how many times have you been in a building that moves you to tears the way Beethoven's Eighth does," Johnson said. "You know what it is like to hear a piece of music. It ought to be like that when you're looking at architecture."

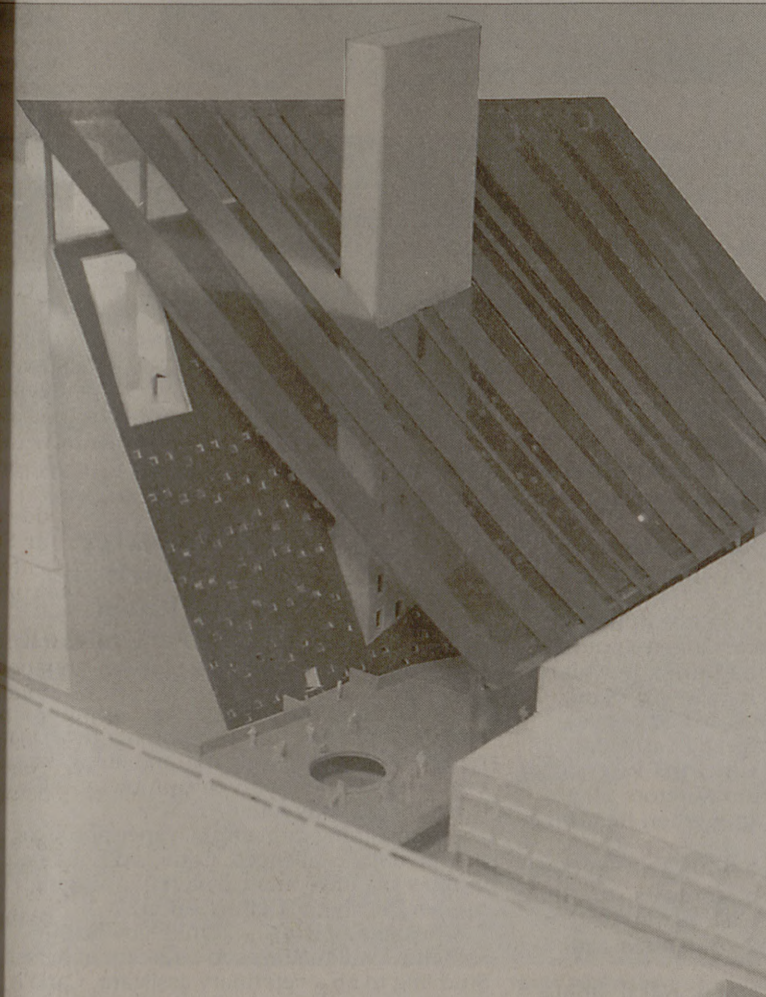


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY CARIÑO CASAS

The model pictured is a concept representation of the building designed by Johnson. The model was constructed by A&M students.

Many categories of entertainment relieve stress around the world

BY JEFF KEMPF
The Battalion

In the midst of rodeo season, it is easy to see why many Texans choose their particular sources of entertainment. Country music, beer drinking, two-stepping and bull riding are prime examples of true Texas pastimes. Contrary to popular belief, however, there is much more outside the cultural bubble of Texas.

Around the globe, young adults are immersing themselves in fun, enjoyable activities to help pass the time and overcome stress.

The words "Super Bowl" or "Kyle Field" may bring to mind visions of great football and television commercials, but to the rest of the world football is known as soccer.

Francisco Perez, a junior management major from Guatemala, said in Guatemala, "futbol" is the dominant sport and pastime.

"Soccer is huge," Perez said. "It is viewed as bigger than Aggie



ROBERT HYNCEK/THE BATTALION

football." Another important part of today's young adult culture is dancing. Clubs and bars serve as the prime source for one of the world's oldest

forms of entertainment and expression.

David Spatzier, a senior agriculture journalism major who is originally from Italy, said the "discoteques" in Italy are amazing and quite different from any club in the United States.

"The clubbing scene in Italy and the rest of Europe is so much more intense than in the United States," Spatzier said. "Sometimes you can find the party under large tents, typically in the country. The tents are filled with people and have huge speakers surrounding it blasting great music."

Spatzier said many people there take dancing seriously and try to dance anywhere they can.

"The new fashion when you go out dancing is to wear all black," he said. "Sometimes the dancing scene will be found in underground caves. It's pretty cool but bizarre."

SEE WORLD PAGE 4.

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