

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA, WINNIPEG

By Ernest J. Smith

THE design of the new School of Architecture Building at the University of Manitoba, was indeed a challenge. A building for Architects—for the teaching of Architecture, with Professors of Architecture the clients and critics.

From a carefully framed program by Director John Russell and his staff (and the usual close budget), the building was conceived as a one-unit structure, two storeys in height, with an inner court into which major plan elements essentially introvert. Calm, almost classic form and proportions were striven for in an effort to create a piece of architecture which would have a certain timeless quality, and one which would live easily with the complexity of architectural styles which surround it on the prairie campus site.

The building measures 210'6" x 116'4", and is set on a recessed base, cantilevering over this base 10 feet at its north and south ends. The structure is a steel frame, which is boldly expressed directionally on the north and south façades of the building. The outer structural bays

are 21'0" x 36'6", with central bays of 21'0" x 44'0". The plan module is 5'0¼".

The building entries are approached from north and south by means of raised bridges, 22 feet wide and 61 feet long, enabling a raised transition externally before actual building entrance. The end of the main north bridge is designed to receive a piece of sculpture, developed by sculptor Cecil Richards during the building design. The entrance concourse, staff offices, staff lounge and library surround the inner court at the west end of the main floor, with the east end housing seminar and lecture rooms, which flank exhibition and assembly spaces.

The second floor contains student drafting studios capable of seating a maximum of 350, student lounge which overlooks the court, student washrooms, sample rooms and work rooms. In the partial basement, the freehand drawing studio, photo lab, workshop, sculpture and general studios are housed, in addition to mechanical and storage spaces. A ramp feeds to a service area and elevator at the basement level at the east end of the building.

The exterior walls of the building are essentially a

Architects and Engineers

Smith Carter Searle Associates, Winnipeg

Interior Designer

C. Grant Marshall

General Contractors

North American Building Ltd, Winnipeg



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curtain wall construction, detailed as a wood core with aluminum extrusion sections, with a combination of clear glass (gray on south elevation), translucent glass with opaque asbestos sheets behind for opaque walls. The spandrels and columns are covered with precast concrete sections, having a texture of fine limestone aggregate reading through. The total effect of the building exterior is a subdued composition in grays, sparked by the aluminum mullion fins, a complement and background for trees and landscaping now being planted.

The walls of the interior court are a complete curtain wall of clear and opaque glass facing, set in aluminum extrusions, creating a crisp sparkling effect to a delightful inner-outer space, both day and night. The court floor is paved with large sections of precast exposed pebble aggregate slabs, set in a crushed limestone matrix. Planting areas for trees and flowers have been designed within the paved area, and a precise sculpture screen is located to give privacy to the staff lounge at the west end of the court.

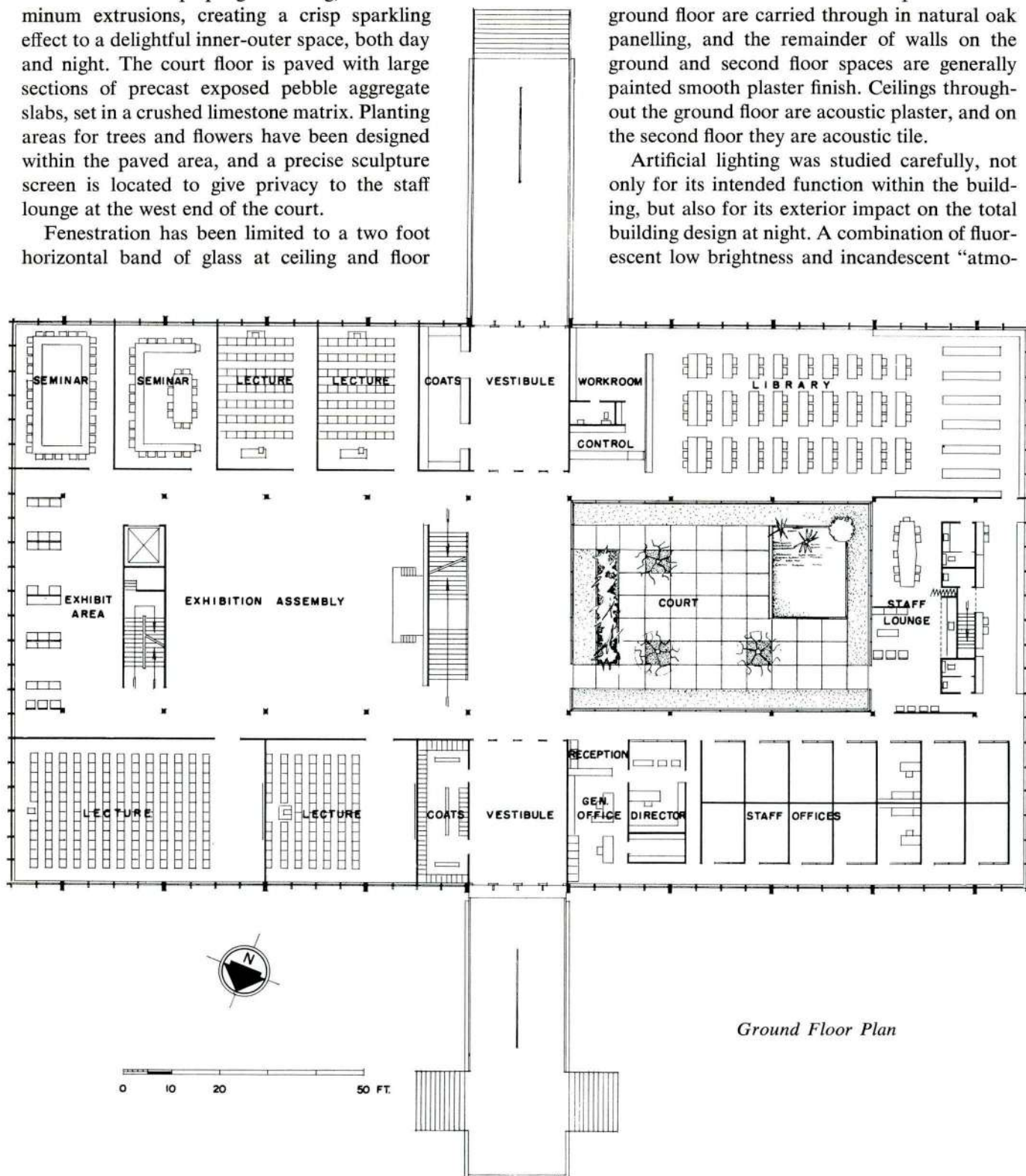
Fenestration has been limited to a two foot horizontal band of glass at ceiling and floor

throughout the drafting studios, and on the exterior walls of the building, limiting the broad prairie vistas to the outside. Floor to ceiling glazing has been limited to entries, staff office areas on the north, and to the inner court. Lecture and seminar rooms and library have glass only as a two foot horizontal band at the ceiling.

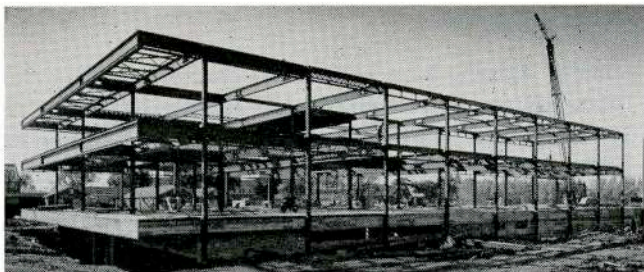
Floor finishes consist of terrazzo in main public traffic areas and washrooms and vinyl asbestos or asphalt tile throughout the remainder.

Walls in the main entry vestibules carry through the opaque glass curtain walls of the exterior. Walls in the main concourse and exhibition spaces on the ground floor are carried through in natural oak panelling, and the remainder of walls on the ground and second floor spaces are generally painted smooth plaster finish. Ceilings throughout the ground floor are acoustic plaster, and on the second floor they are acoustic tile.

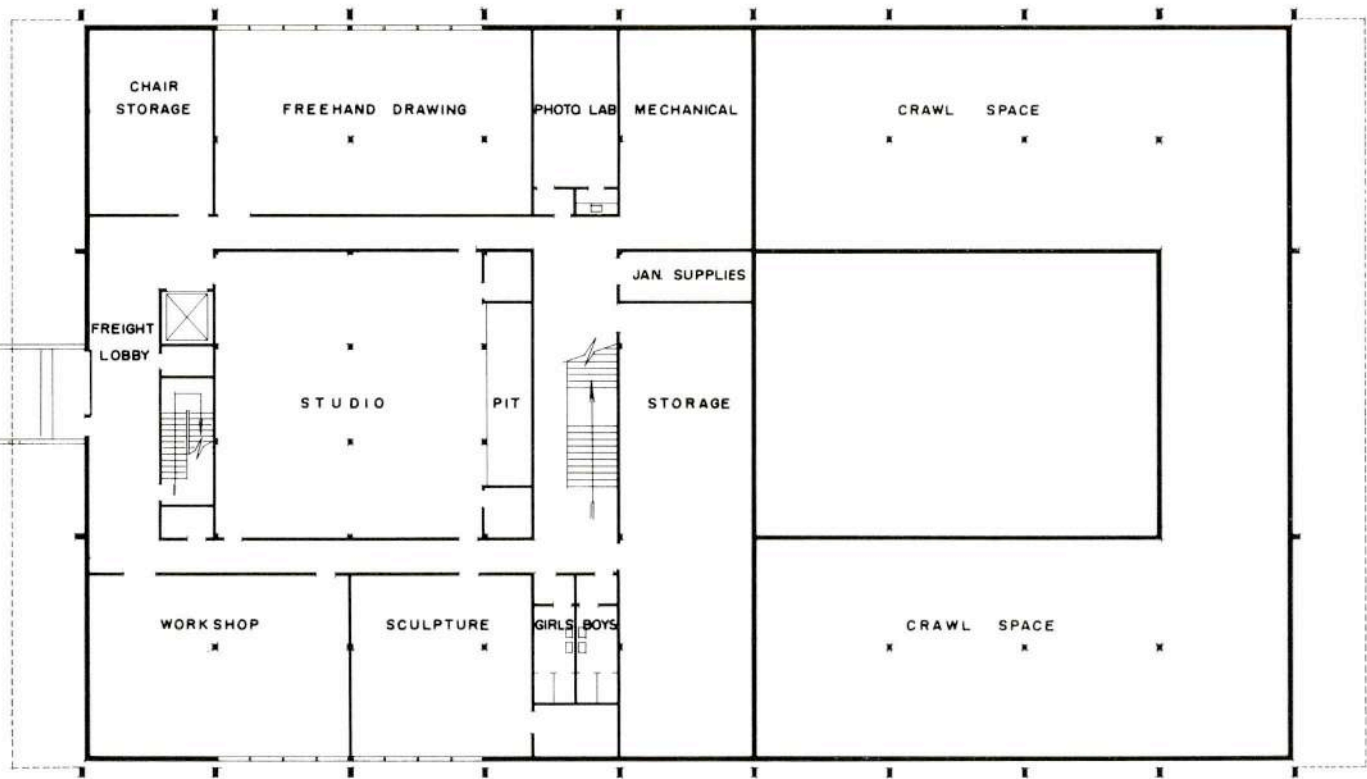
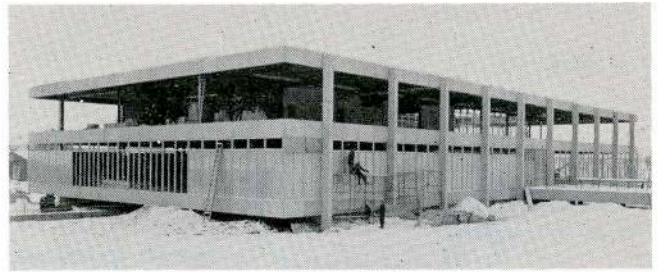
Artificial lighting was studied carefully, not only for its intended function within the building, but also for its exterior impact on the total building design at night. A combination of fluorescent low brightness and incandescent "atmo-



Ground Floor Plan

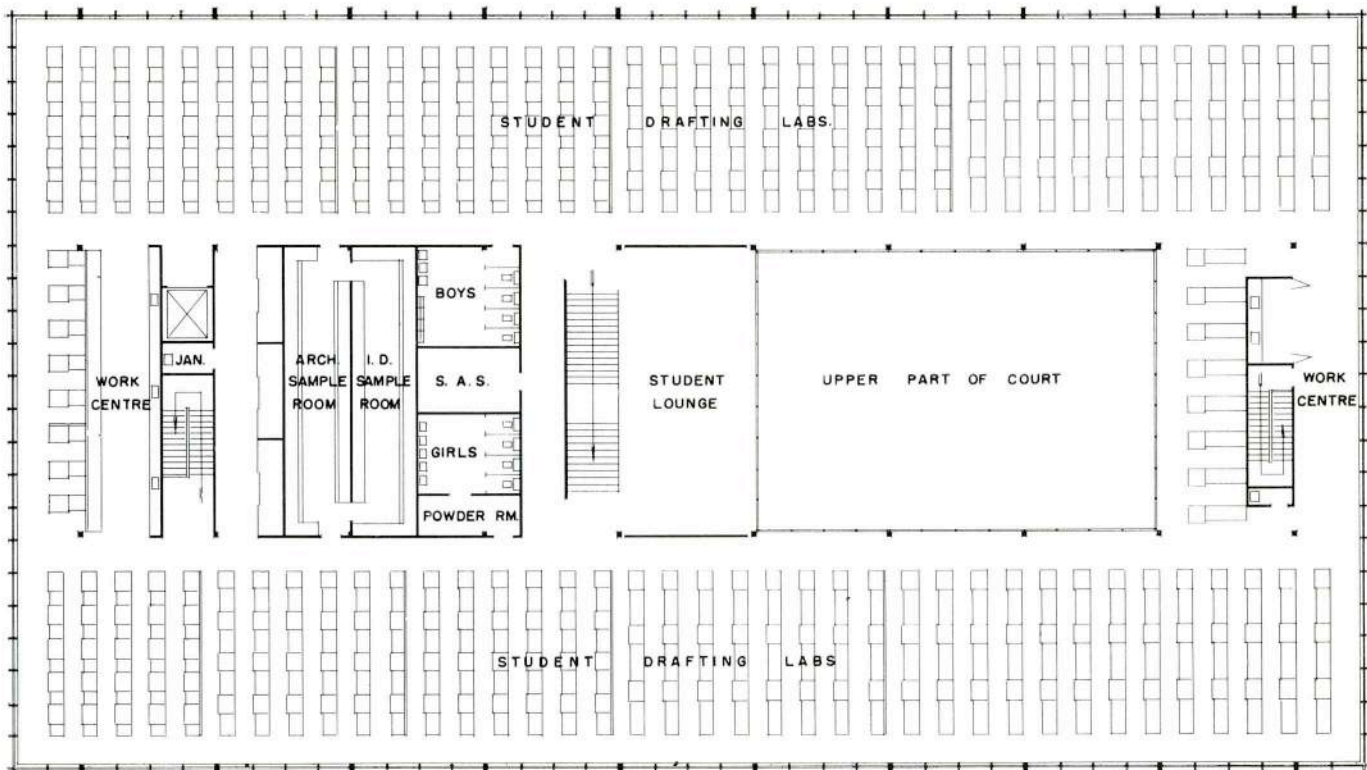


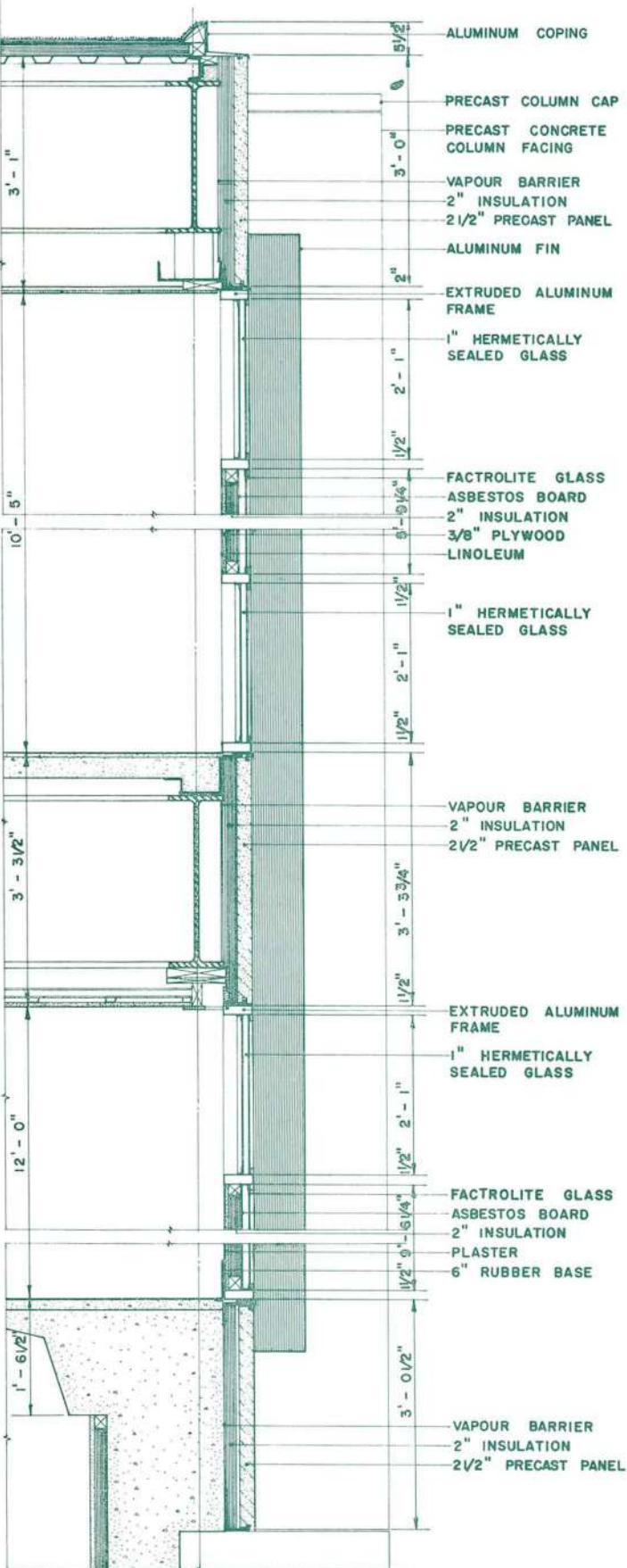
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Basement Plan

Second Floor Plan





sphere" lighting have been used. Drafting studios, staff offices, lecture and seminar rooms and library employ the low brightness fluorescent; while entries, lounges and exhibition areas have been carried through with various forms of incandescent units. Exterior lighting in the inner court is effectively handled by incandescent flood "can" fixtures, located on the aluminum mullions at the level of the upper spandrels.

Heating of the building is a hot water system fed through low wall type or floor type continuous convector units. The building is completely ventilated from main fan units housed in a penthouse on the roof of the building. Air is introduced generally through ceiling diffusers which have been carefully organized with the total ceiling pattern. Certain areas of the building have been designed for future refrigerated ventilation.

Interior detailing and furnishing have been carried through to properly complement the architecture of the building. Vertical venetian blinds and sheer drapes dress appropriate window walls of the interior court and staff offices. Furnishings in lounges and library are in carefully chosen teaks, oaks and walnuts along with some complementing chrome leg tables and accent colored and textured upholstery fabrics. Potted plants are strategically placed as effective foils throughout lounge and library areas.

Drafting tables in drafting studios are detailed as black metal continuous stands, onto which can be placed drafting boards and under which can be fastened drawer units for individual students. Division panels have been designed which form separations and pin-up display boards throughout the drafting studio areas. Interior furnishings were handled in collaboration with Interior Designer Professor Grant Marshall. The construction cost of the new school, without movable furnishings, was \$913,500 — \$16.10 per square foot.

Interior of Library, view west



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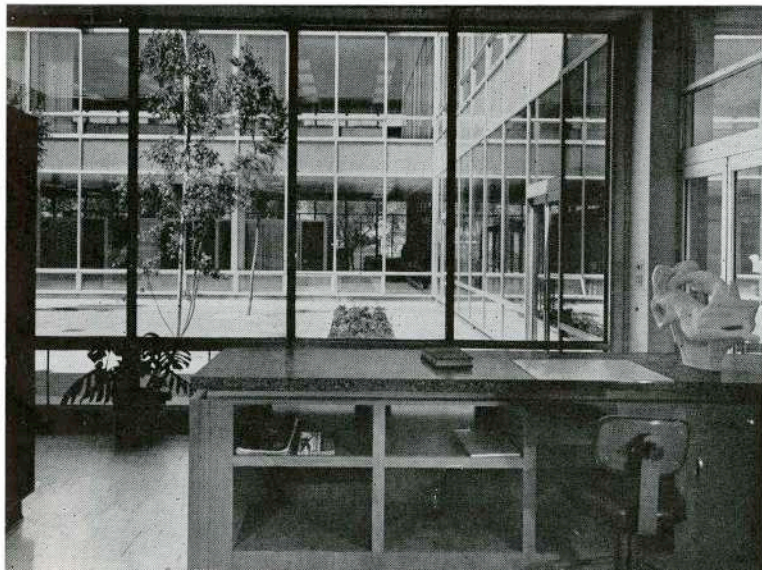


South Wall of Court and Library

Director's Office from the Court



View from Librarian's Desk





Exhibition Area and Auditorium

Students' Lounge



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Staff Lounge

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Conference Area and Staff Lounge



*Maquette of Sculpture by Cecil Richards
for North end of entrance platform*

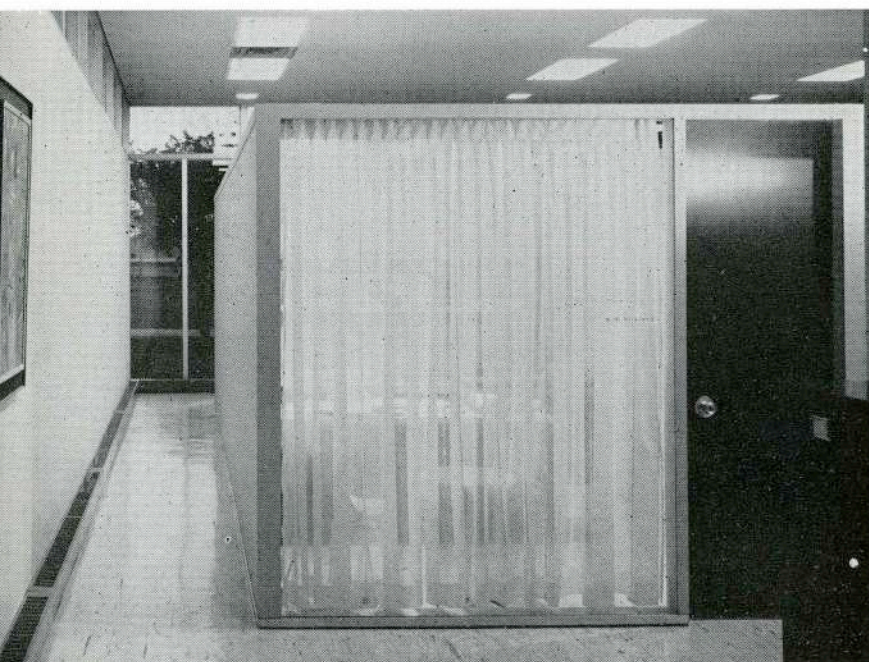


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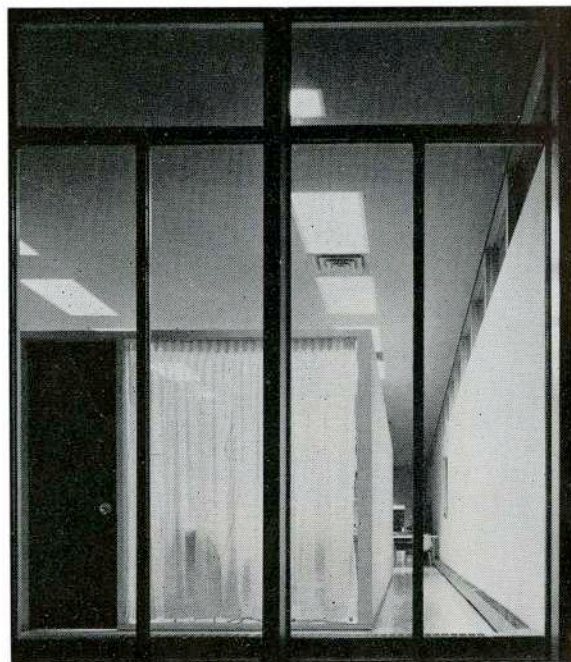


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Administrative Offices



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