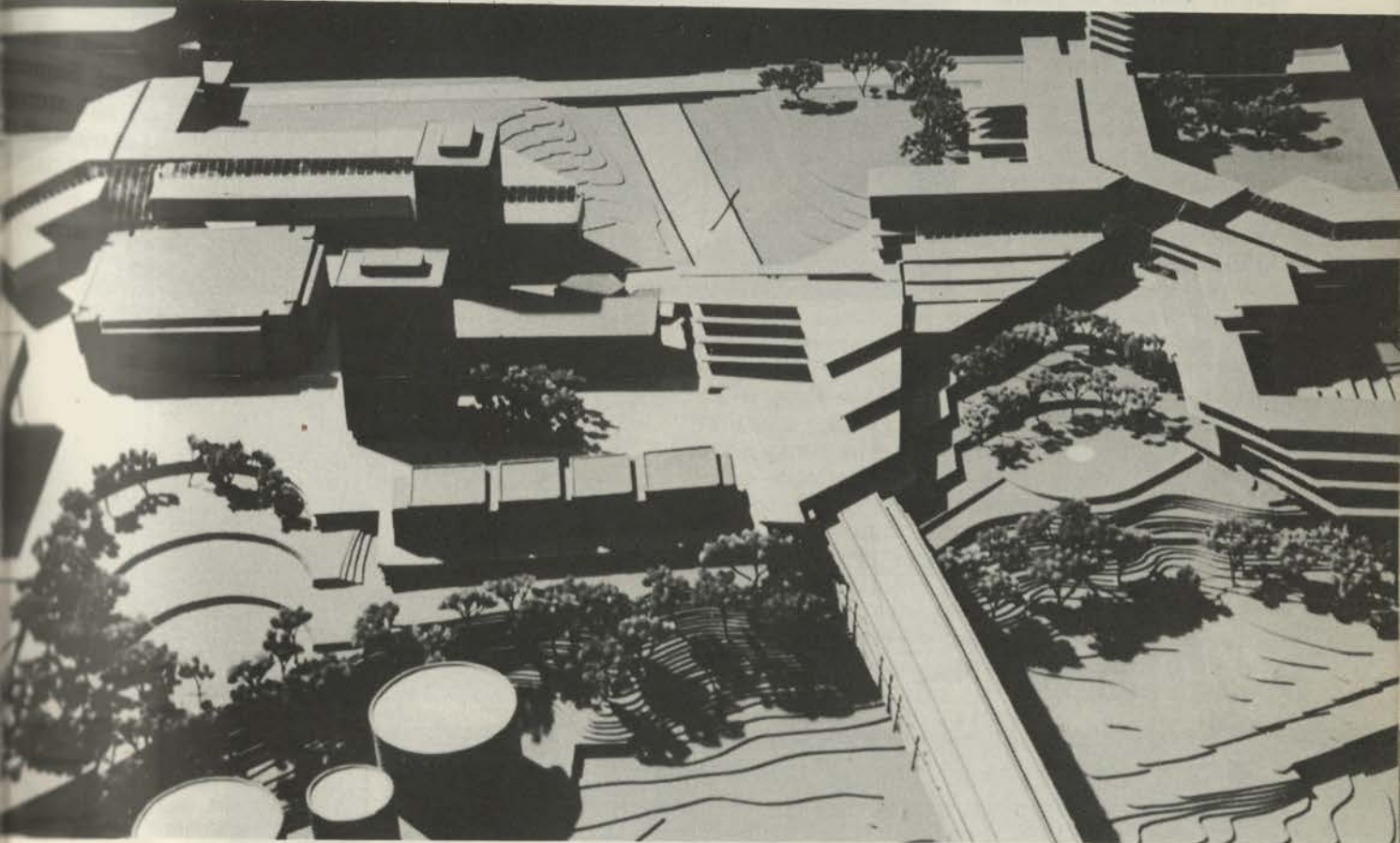


# Physical Planning and Design at the University of Minnesota

HUGH G. S. PEACOCK

Mr. Peacock here presents an overview of the building and planning underway at the biggest institution in the State of Minnesota.



The West Bank Development, shown here in a bird's-eye view of a model, is a series of interconnected elements of irregular shape fanning out from a central green space which opens toward the river. The new bridge over the Mississippi is shown at the bottom of the view. The first elements to be

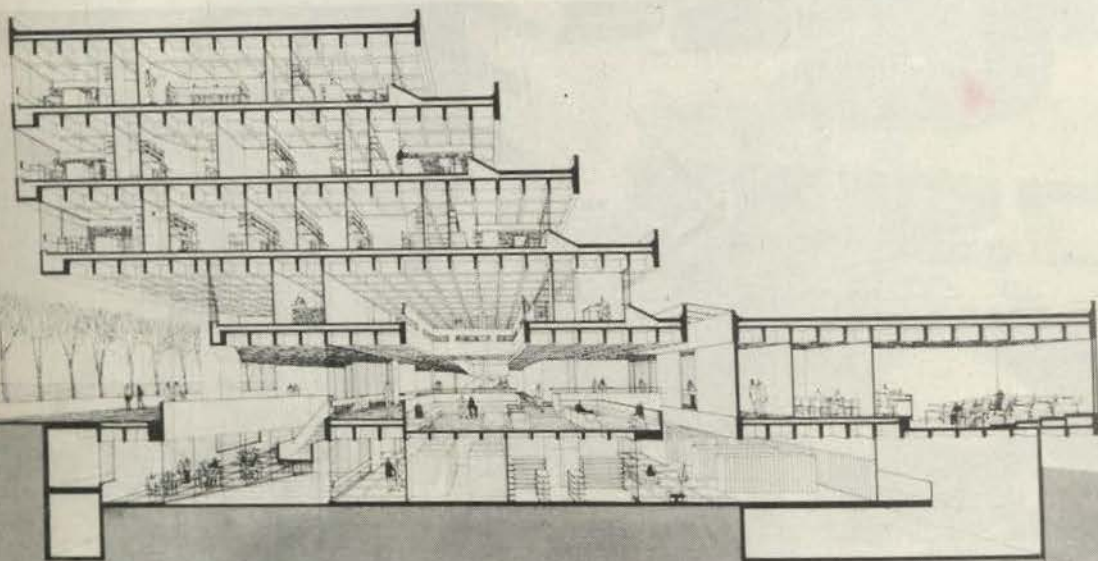
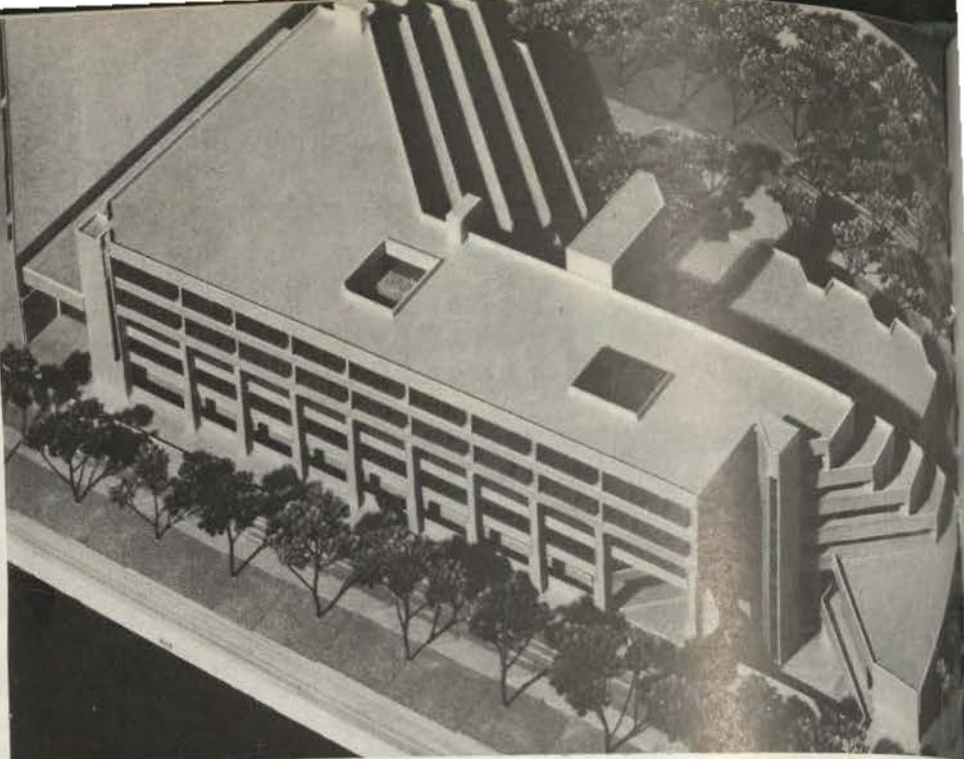
built will be the Law School Building, at the top of the complex, the Auditorium-Classroom Building, above and to the left of the open center, and the Student Union, which is built across the bridge terminal.



DURING the past 20 years the University of Minnesota has experienced considerable expansion in many areas. With this continued growth the need for a central planning office became evident and about five years ago a small planning unit was formed. Recently this unit has been expanded to include several other university departments. The Office of Physical Planning and Design is now composed of a staff of planners, architects, interior designers and others concerned with space programming and management. The office concentrates all those involved with physical planning into one administrative unit. The functions of this unit include the coordination of programming and design of new buildings, the remodeling and reassignment of existing facilities, interior design, graphics and the

Hugh Peacock, AIA, the director of physical, planning and design for the university.

The Law School Building, which will be just west of the Auditorium-Classroom Building, will contain five levels of teaching spaces, offices, a large library and related facilities. As the plan is developed it conforms in general but not in particular to the master plan; one of the virtues of the informal shapes and radiating configurations of the master plan is that this sort of variations is easily accommodated.



planning of outside spaces and related elements such as lighting, signage and street furniture. In addition to internal concerns the office works with public agencies, neighborhood groups and civic organizations which share common planning problems. This not only applies to the development of areas adjacent to the campus but also to more general problems such as transit, pollution and housing.

To facilitate planning and design work a number of new procedures have been initiated to encourage greater participation by faculty, staff and students. In addition wider opportunities are being provided for the involvement of more professionals. One example is the method by which architects or consultants are selected for major projects. All interested offices are invited to respond to the university and, based upon a number of criteria including experience and design capability, a small group is chosen for interview by a selection committee. This committee is usually made up of administrators, faculty and students and forms the core of the

advisory committee which works with the architect chosen. Since this process was first implemented in 1969 the results have proved to be excellent.

The university is involved in many new projects, including general master planning, the planning of specific buildings and the improvement of existing structures. The following are some of the major projects in process.

**The West Bank Master Plan.** In January, 1970, the office of Hodne/Stageberg was retained to re-study and up-date the West Bank Plan. They were asked to take into account new requirements due to academic changes, the adjacent private development in Cedar-Riverside and the need for accommodating new programs of the future. Their studies have produced a revised concept which includes a continuous building system developed along a series of internal streets. This system contains student spaces, and other common facilities dispersed along the streets and major connecting points to the com-

munity occur at the extremities. The plan also provides open green space between the street configurations. An additional aspect of the plan is an emphasis upon the importance of the Mississippi River and the advantageous use of this natural feature. Partial realization of this concept will be possible because of the planning program for the Law School, the Student Union and the Auditorium Classroom Building. These three buildings are in close proximity and it is hoped that they will all be completed by 1975.

The Law School is being designed by Parker-Klein Associates and forms the western edge of an academic street with the Auditorium Classroom

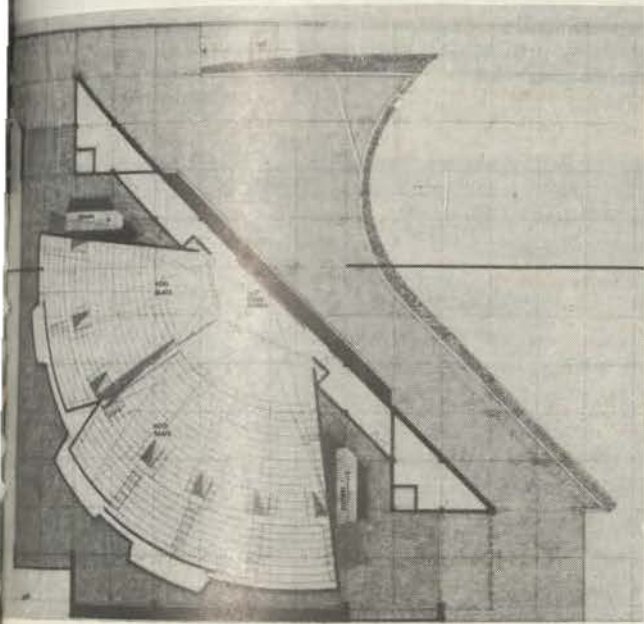
**Building.** The Classroom Building, designed by Griswold and Rauma, is now under construction, and includes a 1,200-seat auditorium which can be sub-divided to create two smaller facilities. The auditorium is a concrete structure constructed within a brick enclosure. The building also contains facilities for dining and a number of student related areas.

The Student Union will be located to the south of this building and will span Washington Avenue. It is intended that the Union will provide a termination point for the pedestrian river bridge and will link the north and south sections of the West Bank. It will also become a major junction of the pedestrian street system. The architectural firm of Kallmann and McKinnell is currently developing schematic studies.

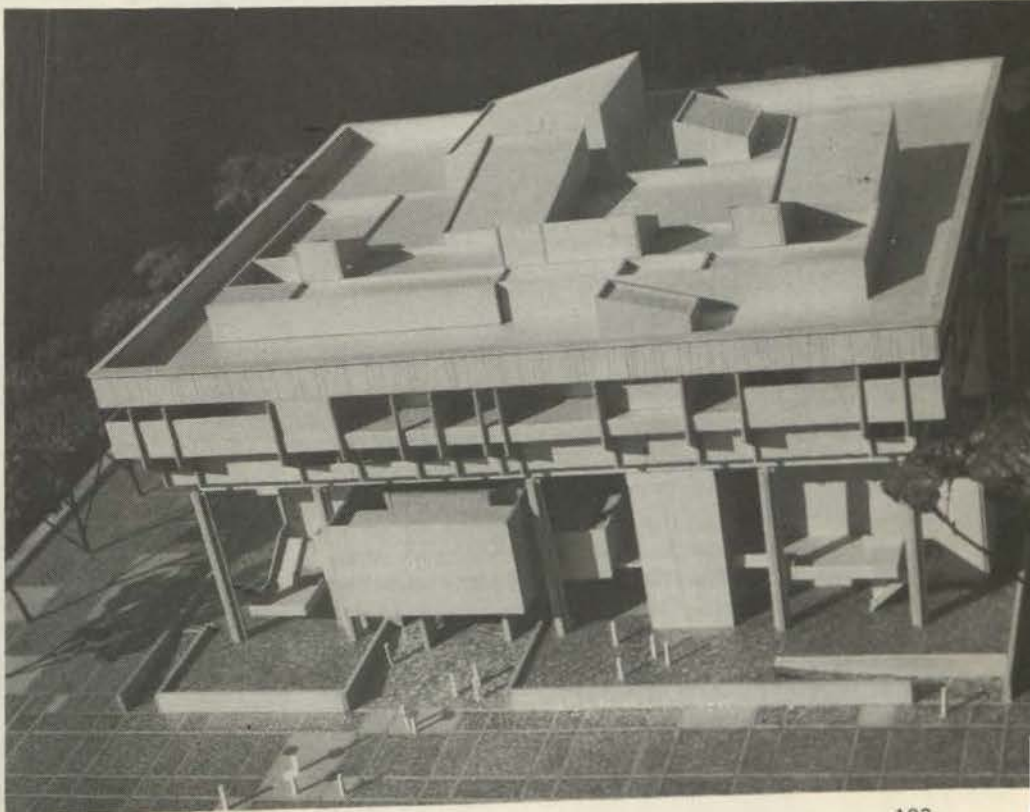
Another major project currently under construction on the West Bank is the **Performing Arts Building.** Designed by Ralph Rapson, this building will provide a significant point of termination for the main south plaza. This project includes three theaters and facilities for radio and television.

The remaining project in planning for the West Bank is a parking facility which will be constructed below grade with the roof level developed as open space consistent with the master plan. Carl Walker and Associates are responsible for developing this ramp in consultation with the master planners.

On the East Bank no major overall planning framework has been developed although the Mall stands out as a major space to be preserved. A number of sub-areas have received limited study and on the basis of academic planning, preliminary studies were prepared for the **Knoll Area** and the

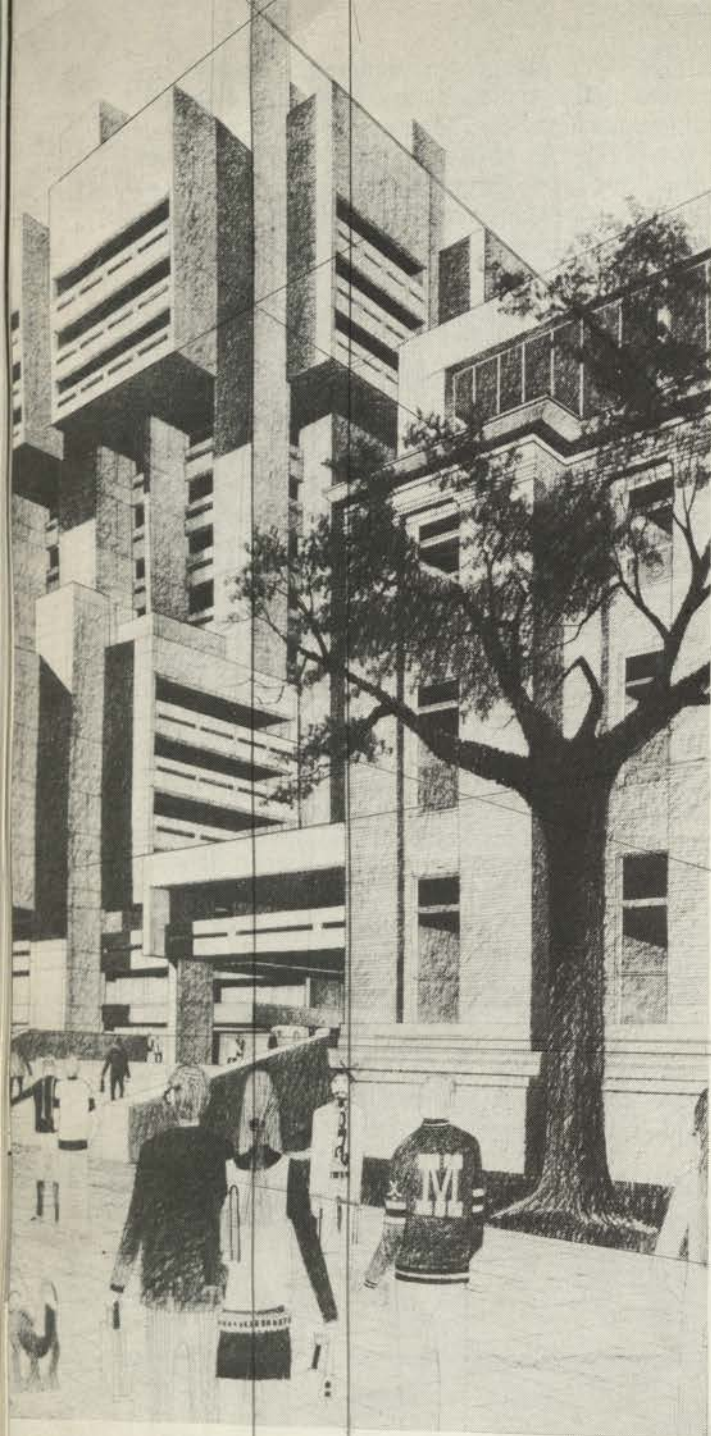


The Auditorium-Classroom Building will contain a 1200-seat subdividable hall. Below it will be study and gathering areas and a dining room which will open toward the central green space and the river.



A model of the performing arts building on the West Bank. Mr. Rapson, who heads the School of Architecture, was also responsible for redesign of the Guthrie Theater and the Arts Center in Santa Cruz, California. The architecture impresses by its dramatic form that the events it shelters are also full of excitement, vitality, variety and perhaps mystery.

Architect: Ralph Rapson  
General: Naugle-Leck Associates, Inc.



Institute of Technology. Some studies were also made of the riverbank area adjacent to the testing plant.

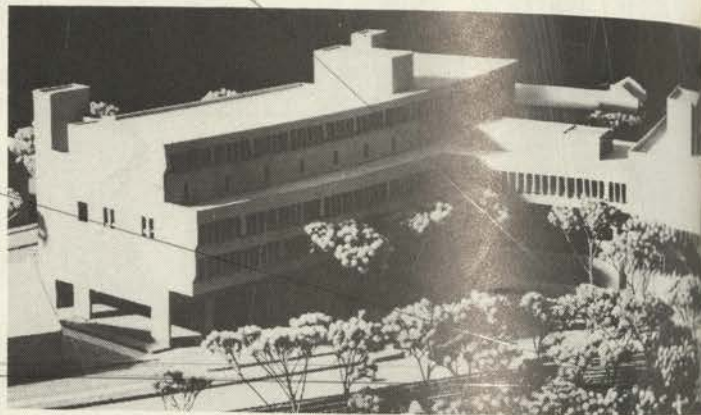
A more detailed area plan has been prepared for the **Health Sciences** which involves the largest physical development ever undertaken by the university. This project includes major new facilities for Dentistry, Pharmacy and the Medical School and additional space for Nursing, Public Health and the University Hospitals. This project has been underway for several years and the first unit is currently under construction with funds provided from both the state and federal governments. The architectural team involved in this project includes The Architects Collaborative, Cerny Associates, Hammel Green and Abrahamson and Setter, Leach and Lindstrom.

The largest building project yet undertaken by the university is the **Health Sciences Complex** of which the first unit is in construction. Ultimately it will bring together all the elements related to human health in an aggregate of new and existing buildings.

Architect: The Architects Collaborative  
 Early Steel: Paper Calmenson & Co.  
 Early Excavation: Carl Bolander & Sons

The **Psychology Building**, now being built, is of conventional height set among older buildings; the space separating them forms surprisingly pleasant and varied margins.

Architect: Parker Klein Associates  
 General: M. A. Mortenson Co.  
 Electrical: Batzli Electric Co.  
 Mechanical: Healy Mechanical Contractors, Inc.



Other East Bank projects include a new **Psychology Building** which was planned in context of the Knoll Area study and is designed to take into account the importance of the river. Parker-Klein are the architects for this building. Another major facility recently completed is a new **Chemistry Building** on the Mall. This project, designed by Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, presented an extremely difficult task because of the special site problems which existed. An area plan for Bierman Field prepared by Herbert Baldwin includes detailed development of this portion of the campus for physical education, intramural and intracollegiate athletics. Included as part of the athletic area is a new **Physical Education Building** designed by Sovik, Mathre & Madson.

A new 1,300-car parking ramp combined with commercial facilities located along Washington Avenue south of Memorial Stadium is in the early stages of planning. Work on this project is being done by Haarstick Lundgren and Associates, with consultation from Carl Walker Associates. The design questions of this particular project are extremely important because of the nature of the structure and its location along a major approach to the campus.

Finally, a smaller but very successful project has recently been completed on the lower level of Coff-



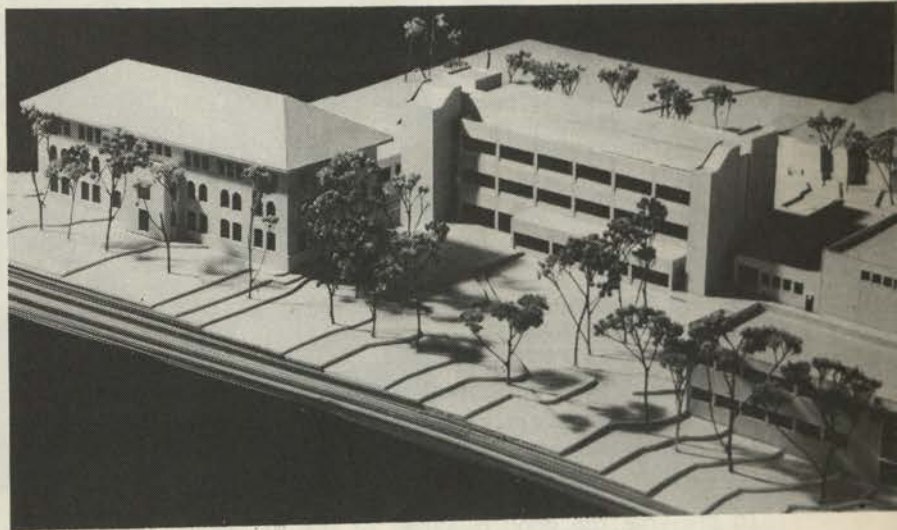
The basement of Coffman Union has a new food service — a series of imaginative rooms which have pleasant variety and a great deal of charm without the phony character usually associated with restaurants.

on the St. Paul Campus and office classroom building is being constructed. This picture showing a corridor in the interior of the model suggests how pleasant and interesting the experience of going to classes will be compared to that in most collegiate buildings. Architecture is not seen as a utilitarian shield from the weather but as a delightful and humane environment.

- Architect: Griswold & Raum-
- General: Loving Construction Co.
- Electrical: Premier Electric Construction Co.
- Mechanical: South Side Plumbing & Heating Co.

man Memorial Union. Griswold and Raum were involved in remodeling a number of dining facilities and the results have demonstrated what is possible in the renovation of older and less attractive space. The remainder of Coffman Union is currently being analyzed as part of a major remodeling program by Community Planning and Design Associates.

A comprehensive planning program is now in progress on the St. Paul Campus. The necessity for this planning effort was generated by the expansion of units already located on this campus and current proposals to increase the present student population from 4,500 to 10,000 by 1980.



On the St. Paul Campus a new facility for Animal Sciences is being built. It is connected physically to existing buildings and this pattern of interconnected shelters which is being developed where possible in the new planning is a virtue in Minnesota weather. It is related esthetically too; the new buildings are unapologetically modern in detail but they respect the older ones in scale and in special and massing relationships.

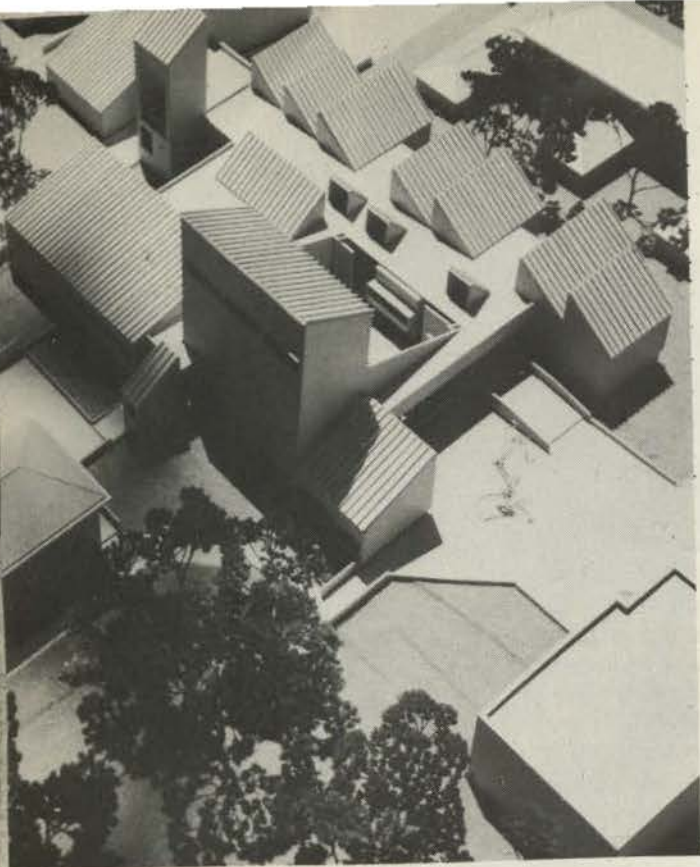
Phase I: Site Work & Foundations

- Architect: Setter, Leach & Lindstrom
- General: M. A. Mortenson Co.
- Electrical: Tony Muska Electric Co.
- Mechanical: Healy Mechanical Contractors, Inc.

Phase II: Building Construction

- Architect: Setter, Leach & Lindstrom
- General: M. A. Mortenson Co.
- Electrical: Kehne Electric Co.
- Mechanical: Harris Mechanical Contractors





The campus at Morris consists of a series of buildings grouped around a major central green space. One such group is the Theater and Art Complex with its informally arranged system of studios, laboratories, classrooms and theater. Special attention was given to the scale of this complex to take into account existing character of the campus.



The pattern of the unusual Duluth housing is shown in this picture of its model.

To preserve the good qualities of the St. Paul Campus and insure a proper growth and integration of new facilities a planning framework is being prepared by the firm of John Andrews of Toronto. Their initial analysis indicates the need for the development of a central spine to link the existing campus development. A final presentation of their proposals will be made later in 1971.

The College of Biological Sciences has a major new facility under construction, which was designed by Setter, Leach and Lindstrom. The first unit of a new complex for **Animal Sciences** is also being constructed. An office-classroom facility designed by John Rauma should be under construction in the fall. Planning for the Animal Sciences is being done by the Ellerbe Company. In addition planning is

about to begin for a new Continuing Education facility, Home Economics and Veterinary Medicine.

Related to all the campus planning is the problem of traffic circulation, parking and transit. Studies for the Twin Cities were started several years ago and are being continued. Bather, Ringrose Wolsfeld, Inc., is working on additional plans to assist the university in the development of workable solutions that will take into account its short-term needs and long-range goals.

Another major problem is student housing. This has received special attention during the past few years. A number of possibilities are being explored in the hope that additional student housing can be developed which is well designed and reasonably priced.

The university has coordinate campuses in Duluth, Morris, Waseca and Crookston, Minnesota, and a number of widely dispersed experiment and research stations.

The Duluth Campus was originally planned to accommodate 3,000 to 4,000 students; however, the present enrollment far exceeds that number. It is anticipated that Duluth will expand more rapidly than any other university unit. There are several reasons for this, including the establishment of a Medical School for which program planning is now in process by the Medical Facilities Associates. An updated Master Plan is also being prepared for the Duluth campus with the preliminary inventory stage currently being prepared under the direction of the Planning Office. The new planning framework will have to accommodate this expansion and reinforce the existing concept of interconnected facilities.

Building projects recently completed in Duluth include a new **Administration Building** and high rise housing for students. A **second new housing** development is in the final stages of planning (designed by the Architectural Alliance in association with Aguar, Jyring, Whiteman and Moser). Other major facilities about to be constructed include a new **Food Service Building** and a **Science Classroom Building**, both designed by Melander, Fugelso and Associates.

The present collegiate facility in Morris was started in 1960 and initial planning was undertaken at that time. After a thorough study of academic programs to be offered a Master Plan was developed to accommodate an enrollment of 2,000 students. This initial plan has since been updated to accommodate a cluster campus concept.

Major building projects currently being planned for this campus include a **Humanities Building** designed by Ralph Rapson and Associates. This building will include a theater, laboratories and studios for the speech and art departments. Other major projects which have been completed include a new housing facility designed by Graffunder-Berreau & Associates, a power plant and a **Dining Facility**, both designed by Cerny Associates. A second phase addition to the Library, designed by Walter Butler Construction, will be going out for bids shortly.

A Master Planning framework for the **Crookston Campus** was prepared last November. Herb Baldwin was chosen to do this study, which takes into account the placement and the functional relationships of the various existing elements. A detailed plan will be prepared which will deal with building arrangement, circulation and landscaping. The preliminary studies are currently being reviewed and revised.

Charles Wood Associates are presently preparing a Master Plan for the new Technical College and Experiment Station in **Waseca**. This work was started about a year ago and is to provide the frame-



Winston Close, FAIA, served as the chief liaison between the university and the profession for many years and gained the sincere respect of his fellow architects. He is now fully engaged in private practice with Mrs. Close and their firms.

work for locating proposed new facilities which will include a Library Resources Center.

This brief description of a few of the major planning activities demonstrates the extent of the university's planning program and the need for coordinated efforts to serve all campuses. With limited time, staff and funds available, it is important that the university seeks professional help of the highest caliber and arranges its procedures to minimize delays. In an organization the size of the university planning must be a continuous process and results can only be measured over a period of time. It is important, therefore, to establish major planning goals which respect qualities that produce a good environment. All design proposals should then be tested against these standards and decisions made accordingly.

In conclusion, it is appropriate to note the resignation this July of **Winston A. Close**, advisory architect to the university for the past 21 years. Mr. Close is returning to his private practice and we take this opportunity to express our warm appreciation for all his efforts and help and wish him every success in the coming years.