

BUILDING SCENE

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BUILDING SCENE'S NAMES & PLACES

Orchard retires

M.E. (Ernie) Orchard, president of Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, the Livonia consulting engineering firm, retired Jan. 1 after 44 years in civil engineering.

He began his career with the Wayne County Health Department, worked as superintendent of the Redford Township Water and Sewer and later for a land developer in Washtenaw County.

In 1960, Orchard, a Farmington Hills resident, formed his own consulting firm, Orchard Engineering. In 1962, he joined two other engineers to form the firms currently practicing as Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment.

Orchard had been president and CEO of the firm since 1972. During that time, the original 20-person firm expanded to 110 staff members. He was active in the Southern Michigan Water and Sewer Utilities Association, the Michigan Chapter of the American Public Works Association and the American Water Works Association.

In 1991 he received the Presidents Award from the Consulting Engineers Council of Michigan for his years of service. He was also elected a fellow of the American Consulting Engineers Council for his contributions to the engineering profession.



Orchard

State AIA directors

AIA Michigan, a society of the American Institute of Architects has named several area men to its board of directors.

Steve Vogel, president of the Detroit firm of Scheravish, Vogel Merz, has been named president of the board. Eugene Hopkins of Architects Four, Ann Arbor, has been elected vice president/president designate. Lincoln Poloy, who practices under his own name in Ann Arbor, has been named secretary, and Graham Dickens of the Detroit firm of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls Associates, will serve as treasurer.

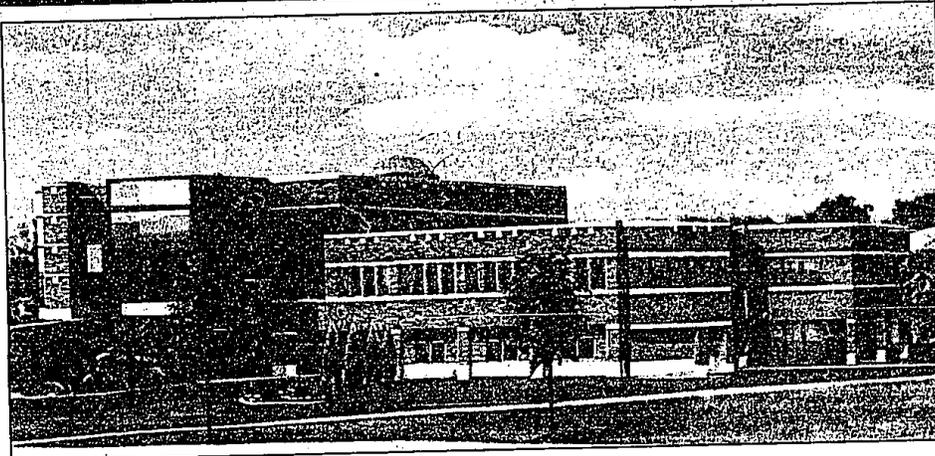
Steve Whitney of Birmingham serves as past president. He is a project principal and chief of architectural development at Albert Kahn Associates, Detroit.

Detroit chapter directors are Daniel Redstone, West Bloomfield; of Louis G. Redstone Associates, Southfield; Benedetto Tiseo of Tiseo & Associates, Farmington Hills; and Robert Ziegelman, Birmingham, of Luckenbach/Ziegelman, Birmingham.

Hospital contract

Barton Malow, Southfield construction manager, has been awarded a \$10-million patient tower and heliport project contract at the Washington Hospital, Washington, Penn.

The project will consist of constructing an 80,000-square-foot addition atop an existing structure and will include cardiac, obstetrics and oncology medical-surgical floors with a mechanical level and heliport facility.



Computer visualization: This picture of a college services building to be built at Schoolcraft College resulted from combining traditional architectural drawings with photographs taken at the proposed building site.

Computer imaging: buying, selling tool

■ If a picture's worth a thousand words, what's the value of computer imaging, which can merge a site with a building drawing to give a client a more complete view of the finished project?

By DOUG FUNKE
STAFF WRITER

Computer visualization technology isn't reality, but pretty darn close.

Redstone Architects, a Southfield firm, recently used computer visualization to put finishing design touches on a college services building to be constructed for Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

The technology enables designers to mix computer files of traditional floor plans and specifications, actual photographs of a construction site, and different exterior treatments to present a more complete view of how a project will look and fit in with its surroundings.

"It's another element to show clients what they're buying," said Daniel A. Redstone, president of the firm.

"It's a great interpretive tool for the layman," added Michael D. Shea, marketing director for Redstone.

Computer visualization was especially useful in the Schoolcraft project. The building was originally designed in 1990 but put on hold until state funding came through this summer. Several new trustees joined the board in the interim.

"We were going to start back up," said Thomas A. Platz, project manager for Redstone. "(Schoolcraft President) Dick McDowell was concerned how it would look in relation to other buildings on campus."

"His goal here was, 'How can you convince me that this is the right design and right choice of materials and colors and how can we convince the trustees this is the best product?'" Redstone said.

"They could see the project unfold right before their eyes," Platz said. "They all tuned in very much."

Computer visualization can show how things can be by combining im-

ages of what is and design possibilities. "Software allows you to mix floor plans and photos literally on the screen," Redstone said. "It gives you a sense of massing."

The 60,000-square-foot building will house a computer lab and classrooms on the lower level. Counseling, admissions, financial aid, career planning/placement, registration, cashier and women's resource center will occupy the middle level. Accounting/purchasing and a business development center will be on the upper level.

With the financing delay and board turnover, computer visualization was the icing on the cake as far as making sure everyone knew exactly what they were getting, Redstone said. "I think some entries have changed, colors, skylight, window treatment," he said.

"These are things in the artist's rendition we were really having trouble envisioning," said Adelard Raby, vice president for business services at Schoolcraft.

"What we saw before was an art-

ist's rendition. What the (visualization) process did was create a picture image of the building, then set it down on campus.

"As time went by, it enabled us to take a better look at the exterior of the building and then let us look at actually how it will be built on that site."

"Everyone was very impressed at how real it looks and it gave everyone a much better feel that building will fit into the campus," Raby said. "I think it was more a reassurance."

Groundbreaking is scheduled for late spring. Targeted completion date is September 1994 at an estimated construction cost of \$6 million.

Initial costs for hardware, software and training for computer visualization technology ranges from \$30,000 to \$40,000, Platz said. Most architectural firms here don't have it, he speculated.

Interactive computer graphics — of which visualization is only a part — will become more and more part of the design process, Redstone said.

Survey focus: housing dreams

It's back to the drawing board for Observer & Eccentric readers interested in participating in Landmark Design's Dream Home survey.

After the results are tallied, Landmark will design a national 1993 Dream Home. Because area preferences vary widely, Landmark will also custom design a home to meet the exact specifications selected by Observer & Eccentric readers. Where response is high, plans for small, medium and large houses will be drawn.

The attached form includes the same types of questions architects, designers and real estate agents ask to determine their clients' housing needs and desires.

Readers are also encouraged to attach letters, sketches and any comments — the more details the better — that come to mind. In the 16 years that Landmark has been design-

DREAM HOME SURVEY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Type of home

One Story Two Story Split Level Basement

Size of home

1000 & less 1001 to 1500 1501 to 2000

2001 to 2500 2501 to 3000 3000 & up

Budget for home (land excluded) \$ _____

Lot location

Standard Lot Acreage Other _____

Exterior style

Contemporary Country Spanish Ranch

English Tudor Colonial Victorian Other _____

Exterior material

Brick Stone Wood Stucco Other _____

Garage

Number of cars _____ Shop Storage RV Parking

LIVING AREAS

In addition to kitchen and living area I would like the following rooms in my home:

Formal Entry Formal Dining Recreation Family Room

Media Room Exercise Office Den

Guest Suite Library Utility Nursery

Number of Bedrooms _____ Number of Baths _____

Other rooms: _____

KITCHEN FEATURES

Style and shape

Country U-shaped Walk-Thru Other _____

Amenities (in addition to standard appliances)

Breakfast nook Pantry Eating Bar Recycling Center

Appliance Center Island Double Oven Trash Compactor

Garden Window Freezer Grill Other _____

MASTER SUITE FEATURES

Located from OR Adjacent to other bedrooms Patio

Private bath with the following features:

Tub/Shower comb. Bathub Shower Oversized Tub

Two wash basins Skylight Bidet Spa Other _____

MAIN BATH FEATURES

Tub/Shower comb. Bathub Shower Oversized Tub

Two wash basins Skylight Bidet Other _____

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Fireplace Woodstove Spa Indoor Swim Pool

Computer Center Deck/Patio Airium Security System

Vaulted Ceilings Skylights Other _____

I would conserve energy by taking advantage of:

Minimized Windows Passive solar Active solar Extra insulation

DEMOGRAPHICS

Number in Household _____ Age _____ Marital Status _____

Do you own a home? Yes No Are you going to build a home? Yes No

Builders see continued momentum

By DOUG FUNKE
STAFF WRITER

The momentum of a 21-percent increase in residential construction activity last year should continue during 1993, according to an annual forecast by the Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan.

But not quite as big a jump as in

'92, said Fred Capaldi, BASM president, who predicted an increase of 12 percent and a total of 13,000 residential building permits this year.

Capaldi and David Seiders, chief economist for the National Association of Home Builders, addressed the BASM membership last week after consulting their crystal balls.

"There is no better time to buy a new home than now," Capaldi said. "Interest rates will remain low. There is a pent-up demand for new homes. Consumer confidence is increasing. Homes are affordable."

"Home buyers are still following

See MOMENTUM, 2F

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