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Every building is its own statement, and as such represents the values held by the owner at the time of its construction. With this in mind, the selection of my ten

# OUR TOWN

## My Favorite Buildings

favorite buildings is necessarily based toward those values, which I believe are important for us all to take note of, and, hopefully, require in our future buildings.

As a teacher at LSU, I am always encouraging students to study local examples of good architecture. This article gives me the additional opportunity to state that we are all students of architecture. I have always resented the general notion that "if

you're not an architect, you can't intelligently comment on the architecture." Architecture is a complex art; however, it is foremost a public art. Architecture is for and representative of people.

With this second in a series, Gris Gris has asked me to choose ten favorite (and one worst) buildings in the Baton Rouge area. I hope you enjoy the selection—I think they all deserve a second glance.

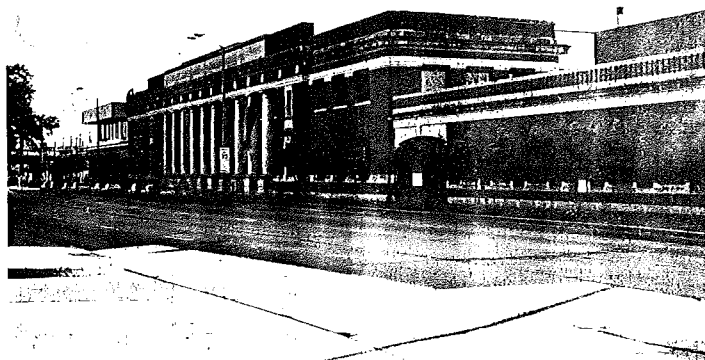


◆ Kevin Harris



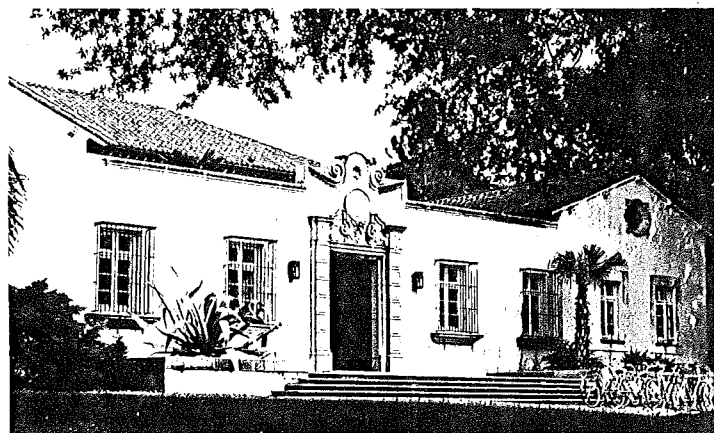
◆ OLD ALUMNI HOUSE

A nice, respectable building currently in danger of being demolished by the LSU administration.



◆ LASC MUSEUM—TRAIN STATION

An example of a new building happily wed to its historic predecessor.



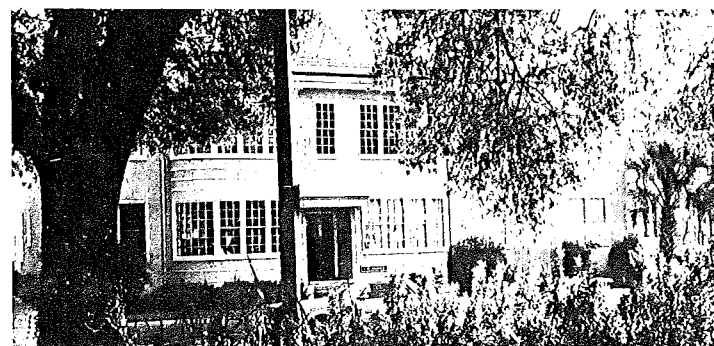
◆ OLD ACADIAN DORMITORY

The original stucco and tile finished courtyard entry captures in a believable way the cultural essence of Louisiana life, our climate, our heritage.



◆ NEW LSU BUS STOPS

(Near Student Union, Home Economics and Journalism buildings) While exhibiting a restrained post-modern influence, these small additions to the university campus reflect the materials, proportions and laissez-faire attitude of the original buildings in such a way that, without a second look, one would assume they came with the original complex. (A polite gesture in contrast to the more common arrogance of many recent additions.)



◆ THE PRINCE APARTMENTS

One of those little jewels of a building which results when a well-defined style is employed with disciplined restraint.



◆ MATTHEWS, ATKINSON, GUGLIELMO, MARKS AND DAY LAW OFFICE

A very recent building which promises to represent a cutting edge in Baton Rouge architecture. One which speaks of appropriate contextual scale concurrent with a monumentality appropriate for a large law practice.

# OUR TOWN



## ◆ LSU QUADRANGLE BUILDINGS (WITHOUT MIDDLETON LIBRARY)

Perhaps the finest resultant space created by buildings in Baton Rouge, the classrooms are organized on two cross-axes—Arts and Sciences (north to south) and Body-Mind-Spirit (east to west—the Gym-Armory, the Hill Memorial Library and the Memorial Tower). The intersection of these two axes was to be the greatest resource of the University, its student body. With the insensitive placement of an equally insensitive design for a library the concept is somewhat destroyed. The only redeeming factor is that the building is named/blamed after the individual who forced the location decision so that "... the students would trip on the \*\$%! thing!"

Revival architecture in the South. A building detailed and finished on all sides. Carries an aura of the chivalry of antebellum times.

## ◆ NEW STATE CAPITOL

(PICTURED LAST MONTH)

A fine building which marks the end of an era of Beaux Arts design. A bold statement of prosperity and optimism, building upon the strength of its predecessors. An attitude considered too compromising by architects, that is, until quite recently.

## ◆ MAGNOLIA MOUND

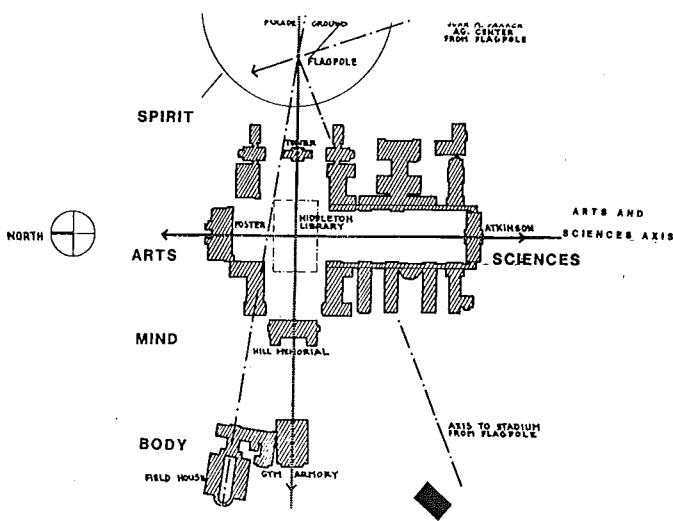
(PICTURED LAST MONTH)

Our very own antebellum home. One which is rich in straight forward, no-nonsense details and exhibiting well-proportioned composition. A visit here is a reflection on the positive values of our past heritage.

## ◆ OLD STATE CAPITOL

(PICTURED LAST MONTH)

The finest work of a major 19th-century architect who was instrumental in the spread of Greek



## ◆ WORST—MIDDLETON LIBRARY

Not only does this building destroy a fantastic space by its placement (see diagrams), but it gets an "F minus" on most every programmatic requirement: the plan, acoustics, solar control and shading, and ornament (gold anodized windows?). In addition (or is it subtraction), the columns are too thin, there is no clear identification of entrance, and no apparent attempt was made to respect the contextual scale (much less materials) of the surrounding buildings.

On one count, however, the building is as intended. Students do "... trip over the #@\$%! thing." General Middleton's values have been captured in perpetuity.

Give this one the "wish it weren't here" award.

