INTRODUCTION

Since its founding in 1940, James M. Hunter and Associates has had the architectural responsibility for more than 2,000 buildings—buildings for people to live in, to learn in, to worship in, to work in, to play in, to govern in—the full gamut of human activity.

Most of these buildings were created after World War II, during an era of increasing social, technical, and economic complexities which demanded revolutionary changes in the practice of architecture.

In the firm’s dedication to the service of its clients and to insure its own competence toward creating a total environment worthy of society’s general advance, it learned to become competent as a team in areas not thought to be normal to the practice of architecture a decade or so ago—space utilization, institutional long range planning, operations programming, land use planning, land assembly, feasibility studies, financing, among others.
James M. Hunter and Associates practice this kind of architecture—total, extended, comprehensive.

The firm is able to do so effectively and economically because the talents, experience and manpower of its permanent staff can function either as the sole source of architectural services or as a creative, coordinating, inspiring force which draws on a reservoir of retained consultants to the extent that the scale or involvements of a project demands.

This "permanent-cadre-plus-consultants-when-needed" approach means that its service for any one client is tailored to his specific needs. That is why James M. Hunter and Associates has been successful in handling projects ranging from modest private homes to the master-planning for whole complexes of buildings in civic centers and university campuses—large areas where the long-term creation of a total environment is a social objective.

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ARCHITECTURE IS FOR PEOPLE
A PRIVATE RESIDENCE

The entrance court is planned around a monumental rock of sculptural interest and the house organized so that it yields to its site on all sides.

The house-long porch to the south looks on the town below; a sheltered patio gives on the mountain meadows above.

Materials were chosen to integrate the house with its setting—natural woods, local sandstone, quarry tile floors in colors consistent with the warm, earthy tones of the landscape.

Living-dining-library areas plus two bedrooms are on upper floor, with another bedroom and hobby areas below. Because of the sloping site, both levels are at grade.

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"—nature is too determined to be arbitrarily ignored." Entrance, Norton House, Boulder, Colorado

Award, Western Mountain District, American Institute of Architects 1956.
A SOLAR HOUSE

This special-purpose residence done for a scientist and his family—is a "laboratory to be lived in."

Because of the owner's interest in the research of solar energy, he wished to harness the sun for the heating, air conditioning and domestic hot water systems and to be able to study, record and evaluate the technical data obtained for research in the utilization of solar energy.

The site was chosen because its gentle slope to the south and west offered a commanding mountain view and at the same time permitted the most advantageous orientation of the house to the sun.

Details include exterior adjustable louvres to control air currents, reversible screens to control heat gains and losses, and exterior heat absorbing surfaces equipped with thermocouples for heat-study purposes.

Deliberately dramatized as a design feature are the exterior louvres and the vertical, gravel-filled storage bins which are the mechanical heart of the solar system. The gravel absorbs and stores heat from air forced through the flat-plate collectors in the roof, then releases it as needed for hot-air heating, air conditioning and domestic hot water systems. Heat capacity of the storage is sufficient to operate the house for three sunless, winter days before the stand-by gas-fired heat source comes into operation.
A UNIVERSITY DORMITORY

"there must be beauty to be found, even in a fire escape." Fire Escape, Allison Hall, C.S.U.

Award for Outstanding Interiors, Institutions Magazine 1958.
— the lounge can prompt gentlemanly conduct without inhibiting the zest of teenage life." Lounge, Allison Hall, C.S.U.

Certainly the educational process must be involved with more than textbooks, classrooms and laboratories. A knowledge of and a familiarity with the amenities of living can help contribute—almost by osmosis—to a pattern of social behavior and a maturity of aesthetic perception that is of necessity a part of the truly educated individual.

This dormitory, on the campus of Colorado State University at Fort Collins, Colorado, is designed to offer the students gracious living, an aesthetic experience and a spritely environment.

Allison Hall is a complex of five integrated buildings interconnected by enclosed arcades—four dormitories of a hundred students each to encourage group participation in University affairs and a "commons" containing lounges, dining hall, administration and recreational facilities.

— the site can offer space and dimension." Complex, Allison Hall, C.S.U.
"—perhaps beauty is attained by eliminating the superfluous and simplifying the necessary." Stairway, Spackman Residence, Boulder, Colorado

"—the simplest of geometric forms adapted functionally to man's use may well be the alphabet of the Architect's communications." Fireplace, Hunter Residence, Boulder, Colorado

ARCHITECTURE IS FOR PEOPLE...
...TO LEARN IN
COMMUNITY LIBRARY

The organized storage of man's recorded knowledge is certainly a prime function of a library but the use the people make of such material to better and advance themselves is of even greater importance in our impatient society — why not then an "atheneum" as the Greeks conceived it—a center for reading books, seeing pictures, admiring sculpture, listening to music, discussing the arts and enjoying our culture? This concept set the theme and dictated the program for the Boulder Public Library.

Storage for 50,000 volumes expandable to 125,000; storage for recorded music and speech on records and tapes; display spaces for prints, pictures and sculpture; meeting rooms for discussions and lectures—places to look, listen and meditate. These requirements we tried to design into a building which would become a dominant element of the "civic mall" — a "place" of pride for the community.

"—spaces that are enclosed but not compartmented." Enclosures, Boulder Public Library, Boulder, Colorado
The problem of creating a functional, spritely and envigorating "place to learn in" at a cost the people can afford to pay is a very real tax problem in today's society.

A simple, repeatable structure that could be quickly and easily erected on the site became a basic economic consideration. By "pre-stressing" and "pre-casting" the concrete frame in order to take full advantage of our technical advance as well as our mass-production know-how almost a dollar a square foot was saved over and above more conventional methods. This school was one of the very first "pre-stressed" structures erected in the state.

Baseline Junior High School was constructed in 1954 in Boulder, Colorado.
The design of this complex of buildings to house engineering and science at Colorado State University was premised against the needs for future expansion at a pace phased with our accelerating technical advance.

The "finger plan" scheme permits a unitized expansion into the future and by "scrambling the disciplines," it also gives the students a breadth of academic experience they might not otherwise have. This allows the young student to be introduced to the many facets of engineering and science during his formative years, hopeful that existing concepts of engineering and science and the "party line" fences between the now-defined branches will be minimized to create a freedom of effort and an unhampered inquiring into what the future holds.
"— the mesa top is horizontal."
Academic Building, Fort Lewis A & M, Durango, Colorado

LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE

The challenge in this small liberal arts college was to integrate the buildings with the site, the community, the climate and the region's cultural heritage. Local materials and local skills were used since the importation of either was involved with great distances over mountain passes or narrow gauge railroads.

Local stone from the school's own quarry, block made locally from the area's own scoria, lumber from the local mills, labor and skills from the host city all played their part in integrating the buildings to their "mesa top" site.

The cultural heritage of the conquistador colonization and the Mesa Verde Indians influenced the decorative motifs and the color schemes throughout.

The design objective was to create for Fort Lewis A & M College at Durango a highly integrated and aesthetically plausible complex that would "belong" to the site and the community both physically and culturally.

"— the arch worked for the medieval builders; it can work for us." Foyer, Fort Lewis A & M, Durango, Colorado

Award, Western Mountain District, American Institute of Architects 1966.
"— a child's aesthetic perception seems to crave the adventursome, the uninhibited."
Childrens Garden, Boulder Public Library, Boulder, Colorado

"— the skeleton not the cosmetics create the form." Roof Structure, Boulder Public Library, Boulder, Colorado

ARCHITECTURE IS FOR PEOPLE.
This non-denominational college chapel was designed to be used for the services of all faiths as well as for meditation. By perching it at the edge of the campus mesa some 500 feet above the city of Durango it becomes possible to eliminate the view of any "man made" thing and orient the chapel to the sweep of the high mountain range to the north.

The view becomes the chancel and the back drop for the service.

Symbolism follows the devices of the colonizing Padres as they were modified and flavored by the hands of Indian craftsmen and they take on a special significance in the cultural heritage of the region.

The cantilevered roof is counter-balanced by the weight of the pilon visually and actually preventing it from toppling into the city below.

Award, Western Mountain District, American Institute of Architects 1958.
Honorable Mention Award, Church Architectural Guild of America 1958.
UNIVERSITY
CHAPEL

A place, set apart for worship and meditation, near the center of the Colorado State University Campus prompted the design of this chapel and its enclosing garth.

White sandstone walls and redwood grills glazed with stained glass form the enclosure and the white sandstone pilon gives it "identity" as a very special place.

The simple black marble slab altar is cantilevered from the pilon and the chancel is identified by a simple pipe rail wrapped in black leather. Emil Frie did the stained glass "Genesis" window flanking the pilon—which can be read as a literal translation of the First Book or as a scientific explanation of the world's beginning.

Award of Merit (National), American Institute of Architects 1955.
First Award, Church Architectural Guild of America 1956.
Honourable Mention Award, New York Architectural League 1957.
The adornment of Architecture by her handmaidens Painting and Sculpture has been done thru the ages—but only meagerly in our own era. These repoussé copper doors depicting a pair of guardian angels attempt to enrich the chapel by this ageless concept.

Lynn Wolfe of Boulder made the doors by the age old technique of beating the hot copper against a resistive surface and then he studded the halo with semi-precious stones. The sculpture is disciplined to the architecture in the renaissance tradition.

Chapel Doors, Danforth Chapel, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado

...TO WORK IN
A REGIONAL OFFICE FOR A NATIONAL FIRM

"—a critic said we had indulged in 'a legitimate exuberance', and to this we plead—guilty."
Facade, I.B.M. Building, Salt Lake City

Award of Merit, Western Mountain District, American Institute of Architects 1952.
A new fresh “look” can stem only from a new fresh structural concept. Here the arced forms of the past were re-explored in light of post-tensioning the concrete as a substitute for the compressive buttressing of the medieval builders. This permitted the structural floor to be thinned to 4" at the crest and to create voids in the haunches through which conditioned air could be pumped. Spans of 80 feet were thus attained.

The clients request that the building’s “look” must reflect his products’ advance—we hope was met.
BANK BUILDINGS

"— the intricacies of lace, if sternly disciplined, can have a handsome dignity."
First National Bank, Fort Collins, Colorado

"— the stairway must be easily climbed—visually too." (opposite page)
First National Bank, Fort Collins, Colorado

"— and for the college trade it must be fresh, gay, and hospitable." Commonwealth
Industrial Bank, Boulder, Colorado
"--let the stair not be an intrusion into an already restricted space." Foyer Stair, Boulder Industrial Bank, Boulder, Colorado

ARCHITECTURE IS FOR PEOPLE...
"— the play of light and the splash of water seems to be the essence of the Baroque—we must not deny these."
Lounge Garden Fountain, Colorado State University, Student Center, Fort Collins, Colo.

STUDENT CENTER

A Student Center's complexity of function, recreational, cultural, governmental, feeding and lounging becomes a design dilemma. Can one honestly do a "compartmented box" and depend on administrative assignment to solve these functional problems or should such a complexity of functions be resolved into a complexity of inter-related spaces and buildings organized by the circulation patterns of the occupancy needs—we believed the latter.

"— a form must have logic—spanning 110 feet with 4½' of concrete is logic enough but the prime logic of a catenary lies in its ability to transmit sound—for a theatre this seems very right." Center Theatre, Colorado State University, Student Center, Fort Collins, Colorado

Award for Outstanding Interiors, Institutions Magazine 1962.
"...a theatre—gay, spirited, exuberant—white, scarlet and gold—" Center Theatre, Colorado State University,
Student Center, Fort Collins, Colorado
...TO GOVERN IN
"— a court should have such dignity that a judge will want to wear a robe." Municipal Court, Municipal Building, Boulder, Colorado

"— the play of spaces can weave and knit together." Stairway, Municipal Building, Boulder, Colorado
"—-to try for maximum monumentality with minimum mass seemed a worthwhile effort." Entrance Pylon, Municipal Building, Boulder, Colorado

Award of Merit, Western Mountain District, American Institute of Architects 1956.
CITY HALL

A friendly, small community expression of the democratic process — informality and simplicity seemed right for the Brighton City Hall which contains the Police and Volunteer Fire Departments as well as the City Clerk’s offices and Council Chamber.

"— the public spaces can be consolidated." Public Space, Brighton City Hall, Brighton, Colorado

"— simple dignity not monumentality." Council Chamber, Brighton City Hall, Brighton, Colorado

Award, Western Mountain District, American Institute of Architects 1957.
ARCHITECTURE IS FOR PEOPLE... THE TOTAL ENVIRONMENT (MASTER PLANNING)
The Academic Campus, Colorado State University. By 1962, it clearly shows the evolving pattern of the Master Planning done ten years earlier—the student body had doubled requiring some 25 additional major buildings, each built in its predetermined place for its predetermined function. An orderly, economical, purposeful development free from waste in dollars and time. Building sites and utility capacity are reserved to insure the student body’s ability to double again by 1970 on the same site and to expand southward on contiguous land on into the future.
The sum of the total man-made physical environment in which our society lives, works, learns, and plays—our "urbanism"—in the city or on the institutional campus influences and molds our lives not only in the pattern of our physical existence but in our emotional and intellectual attitudes as well. This has become of increasing concern to the sociologist, the economist, and the educator.

A single building, no matter how well done, if unrelated to its neighbors and to the total pattern of development and purpose can only add to the total chaos.

The attainment of an efficient, integrated and cohesive civic or campus development phased to its projected growth and economic ability is not accomplished by chance, by arbitrary decision or by intuitive guesswork. It is the result of study, investigation, research and planning—a multi-faceted effort involved with space needs and space use study, land use determinations, traffic and utility investigations, budget, costs and financial appraisals as well as with the objectives, methods, and ambitions of the institution itself.

While the technical problems of physical planning and the studies involved with them are within the province of the Architect-Planner—the "program" or definition of needs and objectives can come only from the Institution's Administration in close cooperation and with the sympathetic and helpful understanding of the Architect-Planner who can provide method, organized procedure and direction to the total effort.

The campus developments shown here are examples of this kind of planning.
The campus, Fort Lewis A & M College.

This Durango Mesa Top of limited area because of its precipitous rim called for a rather intensive kind of planning to permit an orderly growth from a two year Junior College to a full fledged degree granting institution. Building sites and open spaces were carefully organized for growth in three areas: Student Housing, Recreational Areas and Academic Buildings permitting each "cluster" to expand to a unified whole.