

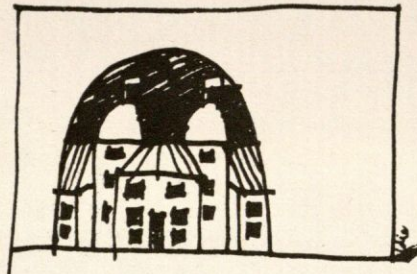
campus plan

a reprint of the first article in the first Kansas
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series awakening the administration to the idea of

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That everyone, either consciously or unconsciously, is directly affected by the appearance and conditions of his surroundings is a fact that has been made plainly apparent to every thinking person. That the knowledge of this fact has become so general accounts for the many movements for civic betterment such as town planning commissions, city art commissions, civic center developments, and similar evidences of municipal progress. The demand for more attractive school buildings, more artistic residences, better commercial architecture, must also be attributed to an appreciation of the effect of personal environment upon the individual. Is there a new, attractive, and up-to-date school building in town? The children attending it will be alive with enthusiasm for it, while those attending the old and ugly structure will be found to be depressed by their surroundings. Have you recently built a new and artistic dwelling? Notice the pride you take in keeping the whole place attractive, while perhaps the old place was allowed to run down and look seedy. Has a new commercial building been erected, with an attractive store front? Watch how the best trade will flock to it. This effect of the physical appearance of things may be based upon an instinctive appreciation of the artistic, but it is evident that good practical common sense underlies any municipal or private improvement undertaken on account of it. It is good business to draw trade to the store, and it is a practical step in education to make the children proud of their school.

Directly in line with such developments is the effort being made by so many educational institutions to improve campus conditions. Hundreds of universities, colleges, seminaries, academies, and other edu-



cational institutions have made or are making a careful study of campus planning with a view not only to improvement of present conditions but to provide for continuous future improvement. This is not a mere evanescent burst of aestheticism. It is deeper than an artistic aspiration toward an impossible



ideal. It is much more than a theoretic spasm. It is a practical and pertinent ambition to look beyond the present and prepare in a logical manner for future growth while at the same time reaping in the immediate present a great good through conditions that will contribute to a healthy, cheerful, progressive state of mind in students and faculty alike.



Kansas has a reputation for advanced thought and progressive action. To sustain this in regard to her educational institutions it is necessary that this matter of campus development be given not only due consideration but definite action. Let us look at the conditions that prevail at the University of Kansas.

The University began approximately fifty years ago with one building—North College—which was so cheaply constructed that it has long outlived its usefulness and is now hardly safe for occupation. Following this came Fraser Hall, located at the extreme edge of a new campus. Here was an opportunity to consider future development that was neglected, probably because there was no expectation that the University would become the great institution of many buildings that we have today. Fraser, set at the eastern edge of the campus, faces east! There is no approach to the campus in front of Fraser, nor ever likely to be, in view of the almost precipitous hill at the crest of which the campus terminates. Fraser cannot be made a center around which the University buildings may be grouped. Instead Fraser turns its back upon the rest of the campus! Other buildings have been erected, still without due consideration of the possible development of the campus. Snow Hall, back of Fraser, faces north upon a sweep of road that enters the campus at the eastern edge, from the north, curving toward the west past the end of Fraser. Near the point where this drive enters the campus are Spooner Library and the newer Dyche Museum, the latter facing east and the former west. On the north side of the drive, at the curve and at an angle to all of the buildings named, stands the law school, Green Hall.

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engineer, 1915, by professor goldwin goldsmith,
ture. "this article is intended to be the first in a
idea of thoughtful planning." (goldsmith)

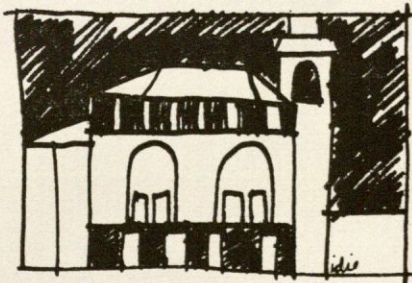
At the southern edge of the campus and facing the small lawn in front of Fraser on the eastern edge, is Blake Hall, or "Physics." And crowded in on the south side, partly back of Fraser and well back of the rear line of Snow, is a dilapidated structure known as the "Medic" building. These buildings form a scattered group of which no three have any definite relation to each other. They present such an inconsequential and careless appearance in the way they just "stand around" that it is no wonder the students feel the effect and are careless enough, some of them, to thoughtlessly scatter papers and general debris—even tin tobacco boxes—over the campus. This condition is much more apparent at this northeastern entrance to the campus than at any other place.

Westward along the drive, beyond Snow Hall, is the chemistry building on the north side, while at the south edge of the hill is the attractive building known as Fowler Shops. The most attractive feature of the eastern portion of the campus is the natural setting given to some of the buildings—Green Hall and Fowler Shops, for example—by the trees which were planted through the admirable foresight of Chancellor Marvin of the early days. Further to the west, on the south side of the drive, close to the edge of the hill, come Robinson Gymnasium, the mining and geology building and the engineering school, and back of the latter is the power plant, so placed that the soft coal smoke from its short chimney floods the south rooms of the engineering building whenever the wind blows from the south, which is sufficiently often.

On the north side of the drive is the wing of the uncompleted administration building. This is the first building to be placed with any



thought of future development of the campus. Before this building was begun the authorities endeavored to have a landscape architect prepare a campus plan that should harmonize, as far as possible, the existing heterogeneous array and at the same time look forward to future growth and development. As



is too often the case where laudable endeavor is not properly understood, the cost of making such a study was not forthcoming. Possibly those who refused the University the funds for this purpose looked upon it as merely an artistic desirability instead of the practical necessity which it is in reality. What modern factory would erect building after building with no consideration for efficiency of ad-



ministration? Why should not an educational institution be as far sighted as a business corporation?

That the present size of the University was unlooked for in the earlier days may be excusable. That the future growth of the institution should be ignored in these enlightened days would be unforgivable. The authorities have endeavored to keep pace with the modern breadth of thought in this respect and only lack of appropriations has prevented the preparation of a studied campus plan. They have done all that could be done under the circumstances. They realized that an institution of any kind must have its administrative center, and that it logically should be a real center. To this end the new administration building was placed where it would be on a logical axis. The valley which forms the northern part of the University grounds is practically heart shaped, outlined by the upper edge of the hill. The axis of this little valley runs nearly north and south; and the administration building has been placed on this axis, at the crest of the hill, overlooking the valley. The eastern side of the hill top has been developed at random as described. Any future growth must be to the west and around to the north. A properly balanced development along these lines, with the completed administration building as a center and with the sweep of valley enclosed by buildings along the curving crest and given a proper landscape development, would make the campus of the University of Kansas one of the most beautiful in the country.

As the campus exists there is no adequate approach. From whatever point you enter the campus you come in at the back or side of some building. It is not only unimposing but belittling to the institu-

tion. The development of the north valley as described would provide an adequate approach with the additional advantage of a truly beautiful view of the buildings.

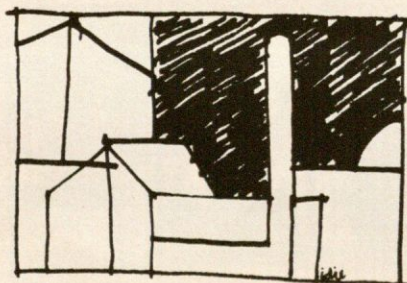
To secure this effect, however, the landscape treatment will be essential. The eastern portion of the campus is fortunate in having a fairly good growth of trees, and the upper eastern part of the valley has an excellent grove. During late years some planting has been done as limited sums of a few dollars at a time became available. The western portion, however, is practically bare. The buildings lack the charm of a natural background and setting of foliage. New buildings, as they come, will be under the same disadvantage unless provision is made at once. A campus plan that gives consideration to the new buildings that will inevitably be necessary and provides for their proper location will also provide for the requisite planting to give them a setting harmonious with the buildings on the eastern part of the hill. This planting should be done at the earliest possible moment in order to secure the advantage of growth as quickly as possible. The expense would be comparatively small and the resulting improvement in the appearance of the campus would be incalculably great.

We often felicitate ourselves upon having a beautiful campus. What we really mean is that nature has been good to us in providing a site from which the views in nearly every direction are of exceptional beauty. From the campus, which is located on the crest of a ridge extending between the valleys of the Kaw and the Wakarusa, the views to the north, east, and south are wonderfully fine. But these views do not make a beautiful campus,

and one must look over and beyond the immediate surroundings to secure the full beauty of the views. It is truly a case where "distance lends enchantment." This is especially true at the western end, where the stone taken from the excavation for the administration building six years ago still encumbers the campus; and also all along the southern edge of the campus, where the repair shops and storage yards are in the immediate foreground just below the brow of the hill.

It is not on the ground of beauty alone that the development of the campus is to be desired. We are told that at the root of all beauty is Order. But what can be more practical than Order? Order and system are at the foundation of every practical business operation; lack of them at the bottom of most disasters. For success the practical element is paramount. By doing the practical thing we take the first step toward the Beautiful. Let us, then, take the next step and secure the beautiful result also. But let us begin with the development of the campus on practical grounds.

With the management of the University centered in the administration building the practical relation of all other buildings to this center must be considered. Generally each building is designed for a special purpose, and this purpose should determine the location of



the building with relation to the administrative center. Shall the next building that becomes necessary be located in the next vacant space irrespective of its particular use and relation to other buildings? Or shall a comprehensive and well studied campus plan be prepared, providing for such buildings as may be expected in the years to come, each located in such relation to the administrative center and each other that its purpose shall be best served? This would be logical campus planning, based on order and system. With such a plan in the hands of the University authorities it would be possible to provide the landscape treatment that would make all the difference between a bare, raw, unfinished looking campus and a strikingly beautiful campus development that would be a valuable asset to the State.

To secure such a plan will mean the expenditure of a reasonable sum of money. In the end this would be repaid many times by the saving in the cost of administration. From the practical point of view it is a necessity. The University has the facilities to do a part of the work, and the authorities, through the engineering school, have made a beginning. When the time comes to put the work in the hands of an expert, a landscape architect, to make the studied plan, it is to be hoped that the necessary cost will be furnished. In that event the University will have a continually growing asset in the steadily increasing practicality of administration. And then, having secured Order, the first step toward Beauty, it is to be hoped that the small cost that will provide the next step and actually secure a beautiful campus will also be forthcoming.

implications of current campus

perceptual notes on movement

ira winarsky, arch. '65

There exists, I believe, a dilemma with regard to the proposed expansion programs of the University of Kansas. If I might quote a portion of an article written by a KU planner, Alton Thomas, in the November, 1953 Alumni magazine:

"But our Fathers' dreams were not big enough. They did not foresee the steady, sure growth of the tiny college of pioneer days into the complex and awkward giant of today. And each successive administration (despite the occasional mention of planning as a good thing) failed and failed again to plan for growth. Who could foresee the automobile and the ever greater and greater demands of the state for education? But there always have been the expeditious planners of the moment who have been shackled by countless human limitations of courage and imagination and tied to the monetary restrictions of the Legislature and the ever present hurry, hurry demands of time. The gracious, simple, dignified and spacious campus that once proudly spread her great green slopes and grand views is becoming a hodge podge of congested pedestrian and vehicular traffic in a maze and clutter of awkward and closely spaced buildings that are gradually filling the spacious green areas and adding to congestion."

We all recognize that a building expansion program is deemed necessary if we are to meet the predicted enrollment figures. The University by 1967 is to have enrolled 17,500 students, by 1970, 19,000 and 22,000 by 1975. In less than ten years, then, the Student population alone (not including teachers) would be approximately twice what it is now.

If one were to anticipate double the present number of classrooms it would not be outlandish, since the usage of present space is considered to be above the National average even with the extended 7:30 to 5:30 schedule. However, considering even 50% more buildings on the present campus area is quite a staggering thought. Where would they go?

In the July, 1961, Kansas City Times, Chancellor Wescoe stated the policy which seems to be guiding much of the planning decisions of Kansas University: that is, "We're against two campuses that we will not spread to our periphery without purpose, and in order to do that some of the old must go."

And again in the July, 1962 Journal World is the quotation, "The tendency toward decentralization is not good," with an additional statement introducing the new 7:30 to 5:30 schedule at the University. What is somewhat startling is the discovery that no definite moves have been made to plan those areas where expansion seems to leave its greatest effect (on the living groups) and that the expansion program on the Campus

proper is currently and mainly concerned with replacing older existing buildings with new ones. (I expect that living groups have been left out from the meaning of "Campus proper.")

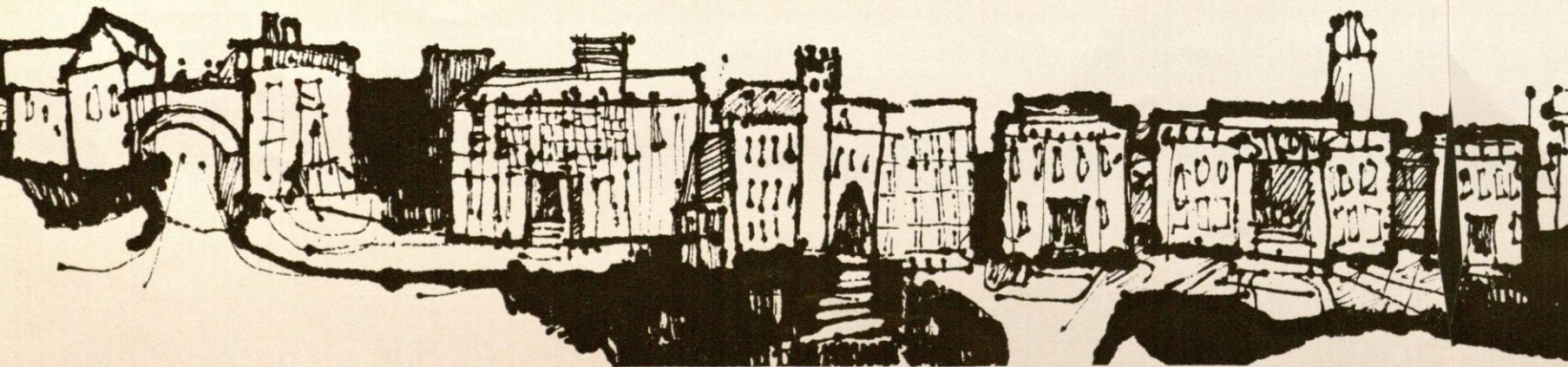
The toll or consequence of such actions or nonactions is already evident and frightening.

Carruth-O'Leary will be "temporarily" converted to office space next year with "the possibility" of it returning to dormitory use at some future time.

The new Mens' dorm, with 50 per cent more students has no parking space provided for it. (However, some is said to be planned across Iowa street to be used when a pedestrian overpass is erected.)

The private and public dorms, extending to 15th Street and Naismith Drive have less parking than the required code minimums in the planning stage. One may reply that in this case, "parking is a privilege and should not be expected," but being reminded of the distances traversed, one will be forced to advocate either personal transportation, public or University, the latter, not having been worked out or expected.

Little or no new parking areas are indicated for future students in or around the campus proper. It is reasonable then to expect the curtailment of parking privileges in the near future. Approximately sixty percent of the students now at KU own cars. And the present situation will now accommodate all of them.



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The Bartholemew City Man leaves no indications or reason for hope, for no university areas are planned beyond the ground so designated. The possibility of annexing certain areas has always been in the air, but no steps or studies have been taken.

What is inferred is that all new buildings will replace the old ones, be added to them, or be spaced between them. The aesthetic implications, then might be advantageous to note.

One would expect, if precedents can be viewed as a guide, that the aesthetic character of KU will be more limited than what it is now, with new structures or additions dominating all the campus areas. If the excellent landscaping, now present, is further admonished and continued one might even be spared the architectural judgments imposed upon the campus. For in reality, within the present context and requirements, the new buildings will verily someday *be* the campus.

To date, the buildings of KU have generally been of two types: additions which imitate the most superficial forms of the buildings they are attached to (with the exception of Green Hall addition) or buildings which imitate older non-existent buildings.

The new library is complemented by its similar addition as is the Natural History Museum. Fraser is replacing old Fraser and Blake is replacing old Blake.

In the case of Blake, the sentimentality is well founded, but the

criticism is in the execution or way it is founded. Red roofs are symbolic of that area of the campus. But why a heavy timber constructed feature over a reinforced concrete structure? Why, with the most beautiful views on campus is that view blocked by its own cooling condensers?

In due respect to the eclectic sympathetic behavior of all persons involved we will someday have a campus, or shadow of a campus, where phantoms salvaged or aesthetic remnants of old buildings tower above us with their new bright shiny roofs. A campus returned to the old for lack of anything better.

The "original" architecture of KU can be found amongst its dorms. Under the watchful eye of the authorities, and subtle protests of more sensitive people, Ellsworth, Hashinger, Templin, etc., have come to being. All "designed" by different firms, each trying to innovate the mistakes of its predecessors, without or unable to because of restrictions to consider the entirety of the situation, the whole stand and solution to the problem. The entirety of the judgments involved. The dorms have been plagued by even the most elementary threats to safety. Trash fires are a common problem of design, and seem to be repeated with routineness. The placement of trash chutes within stair wells used as fire exits is a clear violation of the National Building Code. Yet this glaring error has been repeated in the design of dorm after dorm.

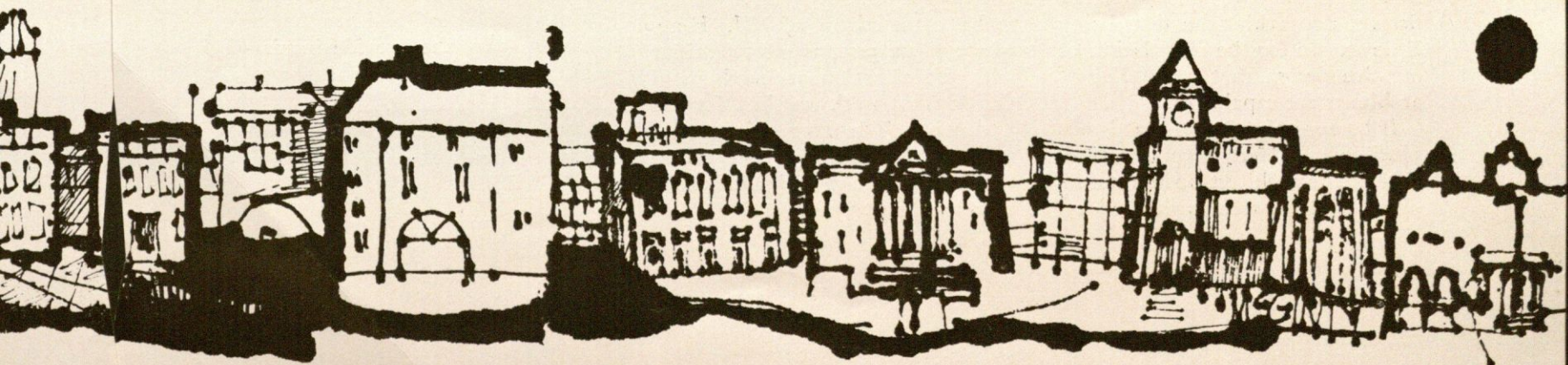
Trash fires are so frequent that they are almost routine, and occasionally they are serious enough to necessitate the evacuation of buildings. Bad design is so omnipresent that complaints are seldom voiced—who can say what correlation there must be between dormitory suicide rates and the psychological effects of monotonous, thoughtless, and increasingly impersonal dormitories? Must we take bad architecture for granted? Disrespect for natural orientation has left more than one student sweltering on the "hot side of the dorm." Problems which could be designed out before they occur.

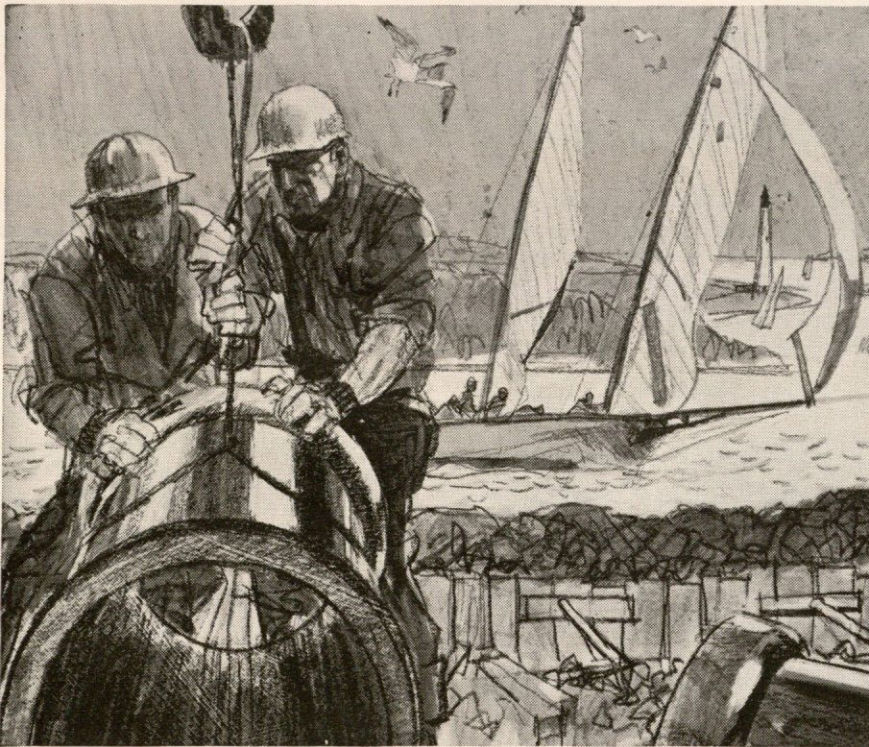
what can be done? Plan ahead.

"The writer believes that the great heritage in beauty of the original campus site may die slowly with each cycle of growth if the tangible values are lost in the expediency of the moment, and in false monetary limitations. Necessity and the factors of time and day to day physical needs are always pressing upon the judgment of those involved in planning."

Professor Goldsmith also feels that a general plan for KU would substantiate future problems now, and therefore one could build to their correction. A complete *realistic* look would leave fewer questions unanswered, with respect to expansion and the concern for its implied spaces. The transportation and the whole realm of planning would permit the order from chaos.

The architectural designs could be selected by competition rather





Why endurance is so important to sailing ships...and sewer pipe

Sailing men are subject to the best and worst of nature. Never know what's coming next. They live in a world of change. One day it may be calm and peaceful... the next day, every ounce of endurance may be called on to keep the ship afloat.

It's a long way from sailors to sewer pipe. But surprising as it may seem, they do have things in common. Sewer pipe, too, must endure... regardless of change. And the change comes in the form of highly corrosive wastes from our modern times. If the pipe is to endure, it must not be affected by the changing wastes it carries.

There's one pipe that isn't. It's as much at home working for modern man as it was working for the early Romans. Clay pipe. That's the pipe we make... Dickey Perma-Line Clay Pipe. It endures for generations. Nature makes it immune to acids, alkalis, even atomic wastes. This is important, too, because no community... and no individual... wants to build sewers twice. Won't have to if Dickey Perma-Line Clay Pipe is used.

Dickey sanitary glazed clay pipe
If it's made of clay it's good... if it's made by Dickey it's better

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than appointment, delegation of firms to do working drawings being little excuse for the stimulation of creative design that many Kansas architects are capable of.

If because of red tape that is not possible, why not have the selection of the architect on the merits of his present work as decided by,

let's say a representative body of the architecture school of KU. Here, where those persons most familiar with the situation at hand could decide what work was best for the University. Then, too, this creative and meritorious selection might stimulate more prestigious architects to submit their work.

More specifically, with respect to building replacements themselves, the University might first consider the more aesthetic or pleasing site for new buildings before extending to those less desirable.

Surely the engineering Quonset huts or labs would provide better space for the art and architecture building than the front lawn of the present engineering one.

Could not the power plant, with its proposed new location across Iowa provide a good area for some classroom building?

Certain specialized areas with school transportation might be placed near the new dorms (possible in the campus playfields); their specialized nature would minimize interclass traveling.

The whole idea involves the free acceptance of ideas with considerations too for the psychological and aesthetic respects of KU. Someday we might have the most "economically" built campus in the country, "but on the other hand, would we be proud of the way it looks?"

Why not, instead of the mockery of fine old buildings, create still better new ones?

"But since the regents have decreed that Fraser is coming down and that a 20th century building will replace her, isn't there still time to preserve the dearest sight of all. The twin towers (yes, red topped), that fly old glory and the KU banner. Surely the new can compromise that much. Towers on the building in modern decor would carry the KU tradition."¹

Can one but pity and comply the alumnus who wishes for part of the old character because he now sees no new one?

Let us hope that then "may old KU continue to look proudly down from heaven's dome" out over the valleys North and South, with her watchword "order" and her beacon "beauty" may she provide inspiration for the generations to come.²

1. KU Alumni Magazine, Tribute to Fraser, March 62.

2. KU Alumni Magazine, Alton Thomas, Nov., '53.