

Biographical Sketch

1965

LLEWELLYN WILLIAM PITTS, F.A.I.A.  
Beaumont, Texas

Born - Uniontown Alabama - September 10, 1906  
Parents - William Llewellyn Pitts and Mattie (Harwood) Pitts  
Married - Garnette Northcott June 5, 1935  
One daughter Sally - Mrs. James M. Stokes (living in Nurmberg, Germany)

Educated - Georgia School of Technology, B. S. in Architecture 1927  
A.I.A. Student Medal, Phi Kappa Phi, Tau Beta Pi, for scholastic average  
Editor-in-Chief College Newspaper, Student Council, Alpha Tau Omega

Senior Partner - Pitts, Mebane and Phelps - Architects and Engineers  
Beaumont, Texas - Formerly Stone and Pitts

Elected to College of Fellows A.I.A. 1958 for Design and Public Service  
Honorary member Sociedad de Arquitectos, Mexicanos 1959  
Who's Who in America 1962-1963

Principle works include nineteen buildings for Coca-Cola Bottling Industry in seven states; ten buildings for Gulf Oil Corporation; two buildings for Mobile Oil Co.; three buildings for Shell Oil Co.; five projects for Texaco, including a twenty building Research Center for Texaco which is now under construction; two college master plans and thirty-seven buildings for five universities; numerous public school projects for sever Independent School Districts; four buildings for banks; numerous Federal, State, County, Commercial and Industrial projects and two major hospital projects.

In field of international practice, L. W. Pitts is one of two Partners-in-Charge of Design for the new U. S. Embassy Office Building which is now under construction in Mexico City. This is the second largest Embassy Building of U. S. Government.

His firm has received the First Honor Award of the American Ins titute of Architects for the Houston Coca-Cola Bottling Plant which building was selected by U. S. State Department for exhibition in Europe as part of an exhibit entitled "Distinguished Contemporary American Buildings."

In 1955 his firm received the Medal of Honor Award from Southeast Texas Chapter of A.I.A. for Men's Dormitory at Lamar State College of Technology, Beaumont, Texas. This same project was later selected as one of 72 and included in "A Half Century of Education" at Georgia Tech and was chosen

L. W. Pitts, F.A.I.A.

-2-

by U. S. Department of Commerce as one of 34 architectural panels to be exhibited at the International Trade Fair in Zagreb, Yugoslavia and for subsequent travel in Europe.

The Texas Society of Architects, in 1959, selected four of his projects for inclusion in its exhibit titled "Architecture of Merit During the Past Ten Years." Other projects of the firm have received the First Honor Award, Award of Merit and Special Award from the Southeast Texas Chapter of the A.I.A.

His American Institute of Architects and Texas Society of Architects activities include - President Texas Society of Architects 1961 - President Southeast Texas Chapter A.I.A. 1959 - Member A.I.A. (1959-60) Committee on Education and Alternate on A.I.A. Nominating Committee - (1962) Trustee Texas Architectural Foundation, (currently).

1959 - 1962 Chairman of the Architectural Advisory Committee to the State Building Commission by appointment of the Governor of Texas. This Committee advises with the Governor and the other two members of the Building Commission on master planning, design and overall development of buildings and areas surrounding the State Capitol of Texas.

In Beaumont, Texas, he is a Director of the First Security National Bank and has served as President of the Beaumont Country Club, President of the Round Table Club and President of the Rotary Club; General Chairman of the United Appeals Fund Campaign, and consultant to the Beaumont City Planning Commission.

A veteran of World War II, having served as Lieutenant Commander C.E.C., U. S. Naval Reserve from 1942 to 1945.

LLEWELLYN W. PITTS, FAIA

- BORN -** September 10, 1906, Uniontown, Alabama
- EDUCATION -** B. S. in Architecture, 1927, Georgia Institute of Technology; Tau Beta Pi; Phi Kappa Phi; AIA Student Medal for Excellence in Architecture; Editor-in-Chief College Paper; Student Council
- TEACHING -** Design - one year, Georgia Tech
- REGISTRATION -** NCARB Certificate No. 762, Texas, Nebraska, Mississippi, Colorado, Virginia, Louisiana, District of Columbia
- ARCHITECTURAL EXPERIENCE -** Senior Partner, Pitts, Mebane, Phelps & White, Beaumont, Texas. Five partners and twenty five employees. Firm organized in 1930. General practice has included residences, churches, office buildings, bank buildings, college and university buildings, laboratories, research centers, hospitals and industrial buildings
- Served as one of two partners in charge of architectural design, United States Embassy Office Building, Mexico City
- PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES -** Elected to College of Fellows, March 1958, for achievement in design and public service
- AIA Director, Texas Region, 1963-1966
- Chairman, AIA Commission on Public Affairs, 1964-1965
- Member, AIA Committee on Committees, 1964-1965
- Member, AIA National Capital Committee, 1965-1966  
Member, AIA Madison Library Committee, - 1966  
Member, AIA Nominating Committee, 1961-1962
- Member, AIA Committee on Education, 1959-1960
- President, Texas Society of Architects, 1961
- President, Southeast Texas Chapter of AIA, 1959
- Member, Board of Directors AIA Foundation, 1964
- Member, Board of Trustees, Texas Architectural Foundation, 1962-1966

LLEWELLYN W. PITTS, FAIA (Continued)

- DESIGN  
HONORS - Elected honorary member Sociedad de Arquitectos Mexicanos and Libre de Honor, 1964
- 1st Honor Award, American Institute of Architects, Houston Coca-Cola Bottling Plant, 1951
- The Medal of Honor Award, Southeast Texas Chapter AIA, Men's Dormitory, Lamar State College of Technology, 1955
- Works included in Department of Commerce's European Exhibit titled "Distinguished Contemporary American Buildings"
- The Texas Society of Architects Awards - "Architecture of Merit During the Past Ten Years", 1959: State Office Building, Austin, Texas; Gateway National Bank, Beaumont, Texas; Lamar State College of Technology, Beaumont, Texas; Houston Coca-Cola Bottling Plant
- 1st Honor Award, Southeast Texas Chapter AIA, Pyramid Concrete Products Company, Beaumont, Texas, 1961
- Award of Merit, Southeast Texas Chapter AIA, Laboratory Building, Shell Oil Company, Norco, Louisiana, 1961
- Special Award, Southeast Texas Chapter AIA, The Enterprise Company (Newspaper Plant), Beaumont, Texas 1961
- PUBLIC  
SERVICE - Chairman, Architectural Advisory Committee, State Building Commission by appointment of Governor of Texas, 1958-1962
- Consultant, City Planning Commission, Beaumont, Texas, 1963
- Member, Architectural Advisory Committee to Texas Research League in development of "Blueprint for State Construction Administration" which was approved by the Texas Legislature in 1965
- President, Beaumont Rotary Club, 1957
- General Chairman, United Appeals Fund Campaign, 1954
- OTHER - Member, Architectural Reaccreditation Team to Oklahoma State University
- Member, Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Beaumont, Texas
- Director, First Security National Bank, Beaumont, Texas, since 1960
- Lt. Commander, C.E.C. U.S. Naval Reserve, 1942-1945

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BROOKS, BARR, GRAEBER and WHITE  
A. I. A. ARCHITECTS  
PERRY-BROOKS BUILDING • AUSTIN, TEXAS  
TELEPHONE GREENWOOD 7-9866

R. MAX BROOKS F.A.I.A.  
HOWARD R. BARR A.I.A.  
DAVID C. GRAEBER A.I.A.  
J. ROY WHITE A.I.A.

ASSOCIATES  
A. G. GANNAWAY A.I.A.  
F. R. HUTCHISON A.I.A.  
BILL H. PASCHALL A.I.A.

July 3, 1967

Mr. Robert E. Koehler  
Editor  
AIA Journal, The American  
Institute of Architects  
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Bob:

As requested, I am sending you herewith copies of the more prominent news articles covering Skeet Pitts' death in the Beaumont papers and also a short personal comment which attempts to convey something of my personal feelings.

Please feel free to either use or not use the latter as you develop your story.

Sincerely,



R. Max Brooks

P. S. As a matter of information, Skeet and I have been almost continually involved in joint architectural projects for the last fifteen years. Among these are: State Office Building No. 1 in the State Capitol Complex in Austin; the U. S. Embassy Office Building in Mexico, D.F.; and the new Department of Labor Building in Washington, D. C. We both have served as President of the Texas Society of Architects, Director of the American Institute of Architects and President of the Texas Architectural Foundation. We served as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Advisory Commission for the State Capitol Long Range Development Program for the State of Texas in Austin.

RMB:sa  
Attachments

PAGE SIX-A

**BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE**

Established 1880, Published every morning by  
The Enterprise Company  
P. O. Box 3071, Beaumont, Texas 77704

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Sunday, June 25, 1967

**Llewellyn William Pitts**

**WHETHER** a man's abilities are large or small, it is a high compliment to him if one can say that he put those abilities to fullest use.

If ever one did his work well, it was Llewellyn William Pitts.

Through such use of capabilities, a fertile imagination and an abiding love of beauty for beauty's sake, he brought high honor to himself, his profession, his city and his country.

Almost countless are the magnificent monuments we'll remember him by—in Beaumont, across Texas and far beyond the borders of his state.

They include splendid halls of government, college structures that will be campus landmarks for generations, houses of worship that bring serenity and goodness to human lives, and palaces of power and progress in the throbbing heart of great cities.

Honors at the hands of fellow craftsmen were legion, truly a mark of his professional integrity and his own high respect for the way of life he had made his own.

These included the presidency of the Texas Society of Architects, the first Beaumonter so honored, and membership in the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, the highest honor within the gift of the profession.

But this was not all. Transforming stone and steel into works of wonder was not the only interest of Pitts. Despite the heavy demands of his profession, he gave generously of his time and talents to this community.

Down through the years, he took leadership roles in civic, charitable, cultural and social activities here. Work away from home never lessened his appreciation of Beaumont and its people. Friends and family were mighty important in his life.

In one of his numerous public service roles, Pitts served as chairman of the architectural advisory committee which contributed its services to the State Building Commission in planning, to the year 2000, for development of the Texas Capitol and surrounding area.

Two of his best known projects are the \$4,550,000 U. S. Embassy building in Mexico City, on which he was one of the partners-in-charge, and the new Labor Department building in Washington. The latter, to cost \$47.6 million, will be built over the District of Columbia Center Leg Freeway as an "air rights" structure. Pitts put together final plans for the capital structure only this year, truly the crowning achievement of the architect's imaginative and fruitful career.

Both his profession and the people of his home town have lost a good friend.

# L. W. Pitts, World Renowned Architect Dies; Rites Sunday

Llewellyn William Pitts, 60, internationally known architect and senior member of the architectural and engineering firm of Pitts, Mebane, Phelps and White of Beaumont, died at 7:20 p.m. Friday in his residence, 1080 Thomas Rd. after an illness of several months.

The body will be at the residence until time of funeral services which will be conducted at 2:30 p.m. Sunday in St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

### Burial Here

Officiating will be Dr. William A. Littleton, rector, and the Rev. Charles Wyatt-Brown, former rector of the church and now serving at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church in Houston.

Burial will be in Magnolia Cemetery under direction of Broussard's Mortuary.

The family requests that friends, so desiring, contribute to the American Cancer Society or the Texas Architectural Foundation.

### High Regard

In high regard nationally and internationally in his profession, Pitts had served as president of the Texas Society of Architects, the first Beaumonter so honored, and was a member of the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects, the highest honor within the gift of the profession. He also was the Texas member of the board of the American Institute of Architects, and a trustee of its foundation.

He was a member of the national committee and chairman of the state panel on architectural education, and served as chairman of the architectural advisory committee which contributed its services to the State Building Commission in planning, to the year 2000, for development of the Texas Capitol and surrounding area.

### Honors in Mexico

In 1960 he was made an honorary member of the Sociedad de Arquitectos Mexicanos.

He was a former president of the Southeast Texas Chapter of the AIA.

Pitts was a member of the board of directors of the First Security National Bank.

### Gave Time Freely

In spite of the great demands on his time, he was prominent in Beaumont's civic life, serving as general chairman of the United Appeals campaign here in 1964. He was president of Beaumont Rotary Club in 1956, and was a president of Beaumont Country Club and the Round Table Club.

He was a member of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

From Beaumont to Washington to Mexico his skill and ar-

(Turn to page 3, column two)

## L. W. PITTS WORLD

(Continued from page one)

tistry have added to the beauty of the land.

### Work Lives On

The buildings he and his firm have designed in Beaumont are legion.

They include the First Security National Bank Building, many of the buildings at Lamar State College of Technology, St. Elizabeth's Hospital; the White House, which was one of his first here; St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, The Enterprise Co. building. He and his associates had done extensive work on proposals for a downtown civic and government center.

One of his best known works was the \$4,550,000 U. S. Embassy Building in Mexico, recently completed. On this Pitts was one of the partners-in-charge. The eight-story building—six above the ground and two below—was begun in 1960 after a three-year study. The building is considered one of the most beautiful and finest of the nation's embassies.

### On Joint Basis

The architectural and engineering work was done on a joint-venture basis by Pitts, Mebane, Phelps and White of Beaumont and Brooks, Barr, Graeber and White of Austin.

The new Labor Department Building in Washington has been one of his major projects. This is a \$47.6 million building for 7,000 Labor Department employes, to be built over the District of Columbia Center Leg Freeway as an "air rights building."

### Soft Drink Plant

It was for a \$3 million soft drink bottling plant in Houston that Pitts was accorded the American Institute of Architects' "First Honor Award."

Pitts' firm's projects included the Material Handling Center and Testing Laboratory for Gulf Oil Corp. in Port Arthur, and the Testing and Analytical Laboratory for Texaco, Inc., in Port Arthur. The firm also was in charge of the Texaco office building at Eagle Point, N. J., the Library Building and classroom and chemistry buildings at Texas Tech at Lubbock; 18 Coca Cola bottling plants in 10 states, the Shell Oil Co. Testing

and Analytical Laboratory in New Orleans, and the International Lubricant Laboratory in New Orleans.

Other achievements are State Office Building No. 1 at Austin, the Texas Employment Commission buildings in Austin and Beaumont; Science Building at Baylor University, and the Texaco Research Center in Port Arthur.

Pitts was a native of Uniontown, Ala., and a graduate of Georgia School of Technology with a B. S. degree. He had lived in Beaumont since 1927.

He served in the Navy from 1942-1945 to the rank of lieutenant commander.

Surviving are his wife and a daughter, Mrs. James M. Stokes of Beaumont, and two granddaughters.

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Llewellyn W. Pitts





L. W. PITTS

## ARCHITECT

# L. W. Pitts Services Set For Sunday

Funeral services for Llewlyn William Pitts, 60, internationally known architect and senior member of the Beaumont architectural and engineering firm of Pitts, Mebane, Phelps and White, will be conducted at 2:30 p. m. Sunday in St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

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Pallbearers will be Ray Ogden, Russell Phelps, John Pritchard, Randolph Reed, Harvey Steinhagen Sr., Douglas Steinman Jr., Junker Spencer, Ewell Strong, William C. Tyrrell Jr., Robert White, Max Brooks of Austin, Joe Broussard II, Frank Beadle, George Brown Jr.

Dr. Lamar Bevil, Rep. Jack Brooks, Hal Cone, Walter Crawford, Lamar Cecil of Princeton, N. J., Gerry Doyle, Lum Edwards, Dr. Julian Fertitta, William H. Gieseke, Lee Griffin, John E. Gray, Peyton Hunter of Dallas, T. T. Hunt, Thomas F. Hughes, Dr. John Hart, Ed Manion, Mike Mebane and Dick Heartfield.

Pitts was the son of William L. and Mattie Pitts.

Surviving are his wife, Garnete Northcott Pitts; a daughter.  
(See PITTS, page 3)

## PITTS

(Continued from page one)

ter, Mrs. James M. Stokes; two granddaughters, Louellen and Jennifer Stokes, all of Beaumont.

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*Pitts, L. W.*

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MIL E GALLAGHER, A I A JOURNAL

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SUGGEST FOLLOWING: "SKEET MADE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROFESSION THAT HE LOVED. HE WAS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE ARCHITECT AND AT A TIME WHEN THE INSTITUTE IS GRASPING FOR PROGRAMS THAT WILL PREPARE TOMORROW'S ARCHITECT FOR POSITION OF LEADER SHIP HIS ENTHUSIASM, DREAMS AND IDEAS WILL BE SORELY MISSED."

GEORGE E KASSABAUM FAIA 1430 OLIVE STREET ST LOUIS 63103

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