



THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
1857 * 1982 The First 125 Years

Harry Harmon, FAIA
Secretary

March 2, 1982

Mr. James Bertin Aitken, FAIA
Box 2543
Alameda, CA 94501

Dear Mr. Aitken:

I have the pleasure of informing you that the Jury of Fellows advanced you to Fellowship in the Institute at its recent meeting for your notable contributions to the advancement of the profession of architecture. With this action, you are also admitted to the College of Fellows.

The newly advanced fellows will receive their medals at the Investiture of Fellows which will be held on Sunday, June 6, 1982, at the Concert Hall, Honolulu, Hawaii, where the 1982 AIA National Convention will take place on June 6 - 9. Additional information about this event is enclosed.

The Officers of the Institute and the Jury of Fellows join me in the hope that you will be present to receive this honor.

I take this opportunity to express my personal congratulations and good wishes.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry Harmon".

Harry Harmon, FAIA
Secretary

cc: Perry Andrew Haviland, Sponsor

enclosures

Digest of Career and Achievements of
James Bertin Aitken, Oakland, California

We nominate James Bertin Aitken for fellowship in the American Institute of Architects in recognition of his unique achievements in the areas of Research and Service to the Profession.

Mr. Aitken received his Architectural training at the University of California, Berkeley. In 1956 he formed the firm of Aitken/Collins Associates which was dissolved in 1972. In 1968, he formed "Instant Structures" Inc. whose work interested Captain Jacques Cousteau and Jean-Michel Cousteau. Since 1972, this firm has been known as Cousteau/Aitken, Inc. Mr. Aitken's traditional architectural practice has included schools, neighborhood libraries, high-rise apartments and historical renovations of Victorian buildings. A most significant creation with Cousteau was an extensive engineering scheme to stabilize the sinking of Venice, Italy.

While still a student, Mr. Aitken built his own pre-fabricated home. His unique type of architectural practice began when, as a civilian at Mare Island shipyard in Vallejo, California, Mr. Aitken was instrumental in the development of life safety elements of destroyers under construction. His interest in technology led him into pre-fabricated building systems, outer-space and undersea architecture.

His interest in pre-fabricated, collapsible, air-transportable building systems resulted in four patents. For these system architecture patents Mr. Aitken was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce of Great Britain. This system architecture was the basic manifestation of NASA's Tech House, Moon-House, Outerspace Shelter and the first pre-fabricated school in California.

Because of Mr. Aitken's expertise in materials and housing, the Governor appointed him as Commissioner of Housing and Community Development. Mr. Aitken's best-known contribution during the six years that he served as Commissioner was his input into what was the forerunner of today's California Energy Commission and the promulgation of the first California Energy Building Standards.

At the same time, Mr. Aitken designed the first ERDA solar school in the United States. It was Mr. Aitken's interest in building for outer-space that led to the formation of the AIA Aero-space Architectural Committee of which he was chairman from 1965 to 1974.

1. Dr. Ruth Love; Superintendent of Oakland Schools
1025 2nd Avenue, Oakland, CA 94606; Friend
2. Edward Killingsworth, FAIA
3833 Long Beach Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90807; Colleague
3. Wilfred Blessing, FAIA
1905 Hamilton Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125; Colleague
4. Rudy Hurwich, Chairman of the Board, DYMO Industries
1 Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA 94111; Client
5. Melton Ferris, Past Executive Vice President, AIA
8 Hollyhock Court, Mill Valley, CA 94941; Friend
6. Dr. Hans Mark, Under Secretary of the Air Force
2704 George Madison North West, Alexandria, VA; Friend
7. Lee Windham, Leo A. Daly, 375 Crown Rd., Kentfield, CA 94904;
Colleague

CHRONOLOGY

RESEARCH & SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

REFERENCES

HAVILAND ASSOCIATES ARCHITECTS

PERRY A. HAVILAND AIA

31 EMBARCADERO COVE
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA 94606
Telephone (415) 532-6996

October 30, 1980

Maureen Marx, Hon. A.I.A.
Director Membership Procedures
The American Institute of Architects
1735 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Ms. Marx,

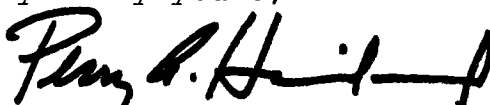
Re: Nomination for Fellowship of Mr. James Bertin Aitken, A.I.A.

It is my understanding that the nomination of Mr. Aitken will be reviewed at the next Jury of Fellows meeting. The 1980 portfolio is complete and is sufficient in delineating the accomplishments of Mr. Aitken.

At this time I would like to add the following three additional references.

8. Jean-Michel Cousteau Architect/Explorer Lecturer
8430 Santa Monica Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90069 Partner
9. Chuck Kubakawi
NASA Ames Research Center
Chief Technology Utilization Office
Moffett Field, CA 94035 Friend
10. Don Stoneson
3150 20th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94132 Friend

Very truly yours,

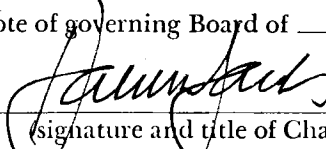

Perry A. Haviland

PAH/jat

SECTION 2. NOMINATION *(submit in duplicate)*

1. James Bertin Aitken, of the East Bay Chapter and corporate member of the AIA since
(name of nominee) (chapter assignment)
1954 is nominated for Fellowship for notable contribution to the advancement of the profession of
(election date)
architecture in the area (s) of Research and Service to the Profession
(areas of distinction, see Principles Underlying the Bestowal of Fellowship for a complete listing).

The nomination is made by:
(check and sign either 1a. or 1b.)

1a. Vote of governing Board of East Bay Chapter A.I.A.
(name of component organization)
 October 31, 1979
(signature and title of Chapter President or Secretary) (date)

1b. Individual corporate members and/or Fellows as follows:
(written signature and date) (typed signature and chapter):

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. The nominators designate the following member to be the sponsor of the nomination:
Name Perry Andrew Haviland
Address 31 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, CA Phone Number (415) 532-6996

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SECTION 3. PROFILE

(Additional sheets may be inserted, but please be concise.)

TYPEWRITING ONLY

1. Nominee's name: James Bertin Aitken
2. Nominee is a natural naturalized citizen of the United States.
3. Nominee's mailing address: 1801 Shoreline Dr. Apartment 233
Alameda, CA 94501
4. Nominee's firm name and address: Cousteau/Aitken Inc.
31 Embarcadero Cove, Oakland, CA 94606
5. Nominee is registered or licensed to practice architecture by: _____
State of California C-1904
(name of state board, NCARB, as case may be)
6. Nominee is registered or licensed to practice architecture in the states of: California
7. Nominee is engaged in the profession of architecture as: General Practitioner
8. Nominee's date of birth: November 26, 1919
Place of birth: San Francisco, CA
9. Nominee's education: _____

(a) High School, College, University, Post Graduate, etc. (chronological order)

Location	No. of Years	Year of Graduation	Degree
Talmalpias Mill Valley, CA	4	1937	
Marin Junior College	2	1946	Associates Arts
University of Calif. Berkeley, CA	4	1950	Bachelor of Arts in Architecture

(b) Scholarships held by nominee:

10. Nominee has traveled in the following countries:
Italy, France
11. Other data concerning nominee's record:

SECTION 3. RESEARCH

(Additional sheets may be inserted, but please be concise.)

1. List the projects in research undertaken by the nominee:

<i>Project</i>	<i>Year</i>
Pre-Fabricated, collapsible, air-transportable buildings	1968
Outerspace Habitat-NASA	1968
Lunar Shelter-NASA	1968

2. Describe the nominee's achievements in research considered to have contributed notably to the advancement of the profession:

Mr. Aitken's system architecture patents apply to outer-space, undersea as well as land. They represent a breakthrough in air cargo containers and collapsible building systems. He is internationally known for his work on folding factory structures applicable to remote employee housing, disaster relief housing, field military housing and hospitals. All structures can be flat or bulk shipped or can be activated to a full open position prior to placement on a site by a helicopter.

3. List the significant awards, honors and recognition accorded by the Institute and other professional, governmental, or civic organizations for the nominee's work in research:

Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce of Great Britain.
Marquis Who's Who in America
Marquis Who's Who in the World
Ford Foundation Grantee Education Workshop

4. Books or articles written by nominee in connection with research:

<i>Title of Book or Article</i>	<i>Publication Date</i>	<i>Publisher</i>
The House that Fell from the Sky	1970	Kaiser Steel Corporation

SECTION 3. SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

(Additional sheets may be inserted, but please be concise.)

1. List the offices and committees in architectural organizations occupied by the nominee and the period of each:

<i>Office or Committee and its Origin</i> (i.e., AIA, State or Chapter)	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
East Bay Chapter AIA Aero-space Architectural Committee Chairman	1964	1965
California Council, AIA Advanced Technology Applications Committee, Chairman	1965	1974
AIA National Aero-Space Architectural Committee, Chairman	1965	1974

2. Describe the specific achievements of the nominee which have contributed notably to the advancement of the profession in the field of service to the profession by his service listed above:

Mr. Aitken has been at the forefront of bridging the architectural profession to the aero-space industry at the highest level; specifically the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Mr. Aitken recognized the importance of translating the language of space technology into the language of the design professional and thus played a prominent role in the formation and development of many very important AIA Committees.

See attached "Public Service" statement as it relates to continued service to the Profession.

3. List the significant awards, honors and recognition accorded by the Institute and other professional, governmental, or civic organizations for the nominee's work in service to the profession:

Certificate in grateful acknowledgement of service to the California Council, AIA, Chairman Aero-Space & Hostile Environment Committee.

4. Books or articles written in relation to work done while the nominee served the profession:

<i>Title of Book or Article</i>	<i>Publication Date</i>	<i>Publisher</i>
Essentials of Residential Design & Construction	1958	University of Calif.

SECTION 3. PUBLIC SERVICE

(Additional sheets may be inserted, but please be concise.)

1. List the offices and committees in civic organizations and voluntary governmental positions occupied by the nominee and the period of each:

<i>Office or Committee and its Origin</i> (i.e., Federal, State or local government)	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
State of California Commission on Housing and Community Development	1971	1977

2. Describe the specific achievements of the nominee which have contributed notably to the advancement of the profession in the field of public service by his service listed above:

Mr. Aitken's service to the Commission is best noted for the ongoing distinction between the preferred performance and the otherwise prescriptive energy standards in California. California's Energy Regulations are one of the most performance in the Country largely due to Mr. Aitken's perserverance. He is also noted for his progressiveness in the State of California's approval of new building products and building systems.

3. List the significant awards, honors and recognition accorded, by the Institute and other professional, governmental, or civic organizations for the nominee's work in public service:

4. Books or articles written in relation to work done while the nominee served the public:

<i>Title of Book or Article</i>	<i>Publication Date</i>	<i>Publisher</i>
California Administrative Code Title 24: Housing and Community Development	1976	State of California

SECTION 4. DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

The following certification must be signed by anyone in possession of full knowledge concerning EACH separate project illustrated in the photographs. This might be the chapter president, a member of the Executive Committee of the chapter, a partner of the nominee, or even the nominee. In partnership the signature of another partner would be most significant. If the various examples were developed under different conditions respecting authorship, the various statements below should be keyed to the proper exhibits.

The accompanying photographs show examples of work with which the nominee's connection was as follows:

- The nominee was solely responsible for the design.
- The nominee was largely responsible for the design.
- The design was under the direction of the nominee.
- The nominee's firm executed the design.

(If the above statements do not depict adequately the nominee's participation in any of the projects illustrated in the photographs, add your own brief statement of authorship as follows.)

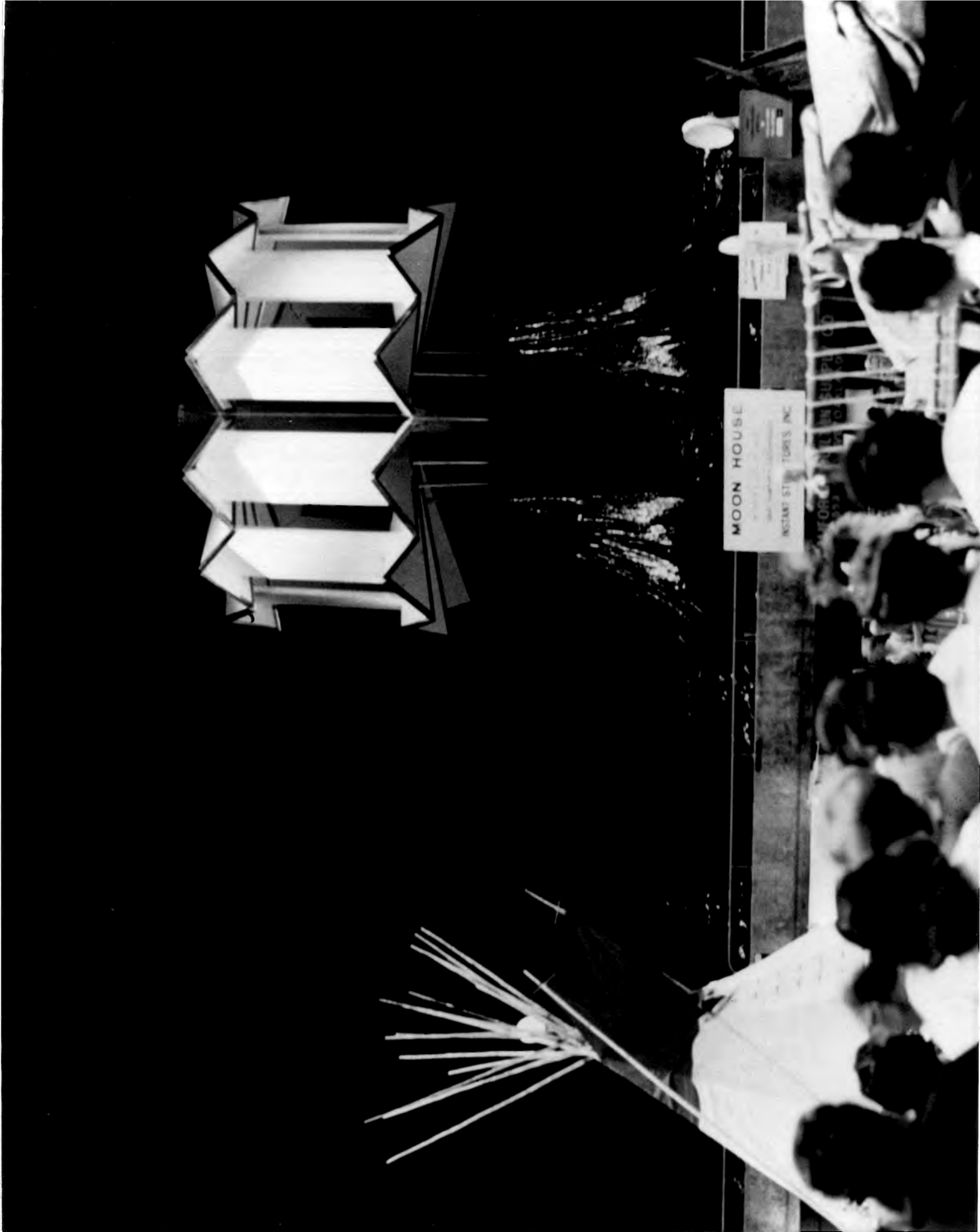
The nominee was a consultant to Illustration no. 5

Signed James B. Aitken Title Architect
Name of Nominee James Bertin Aitken

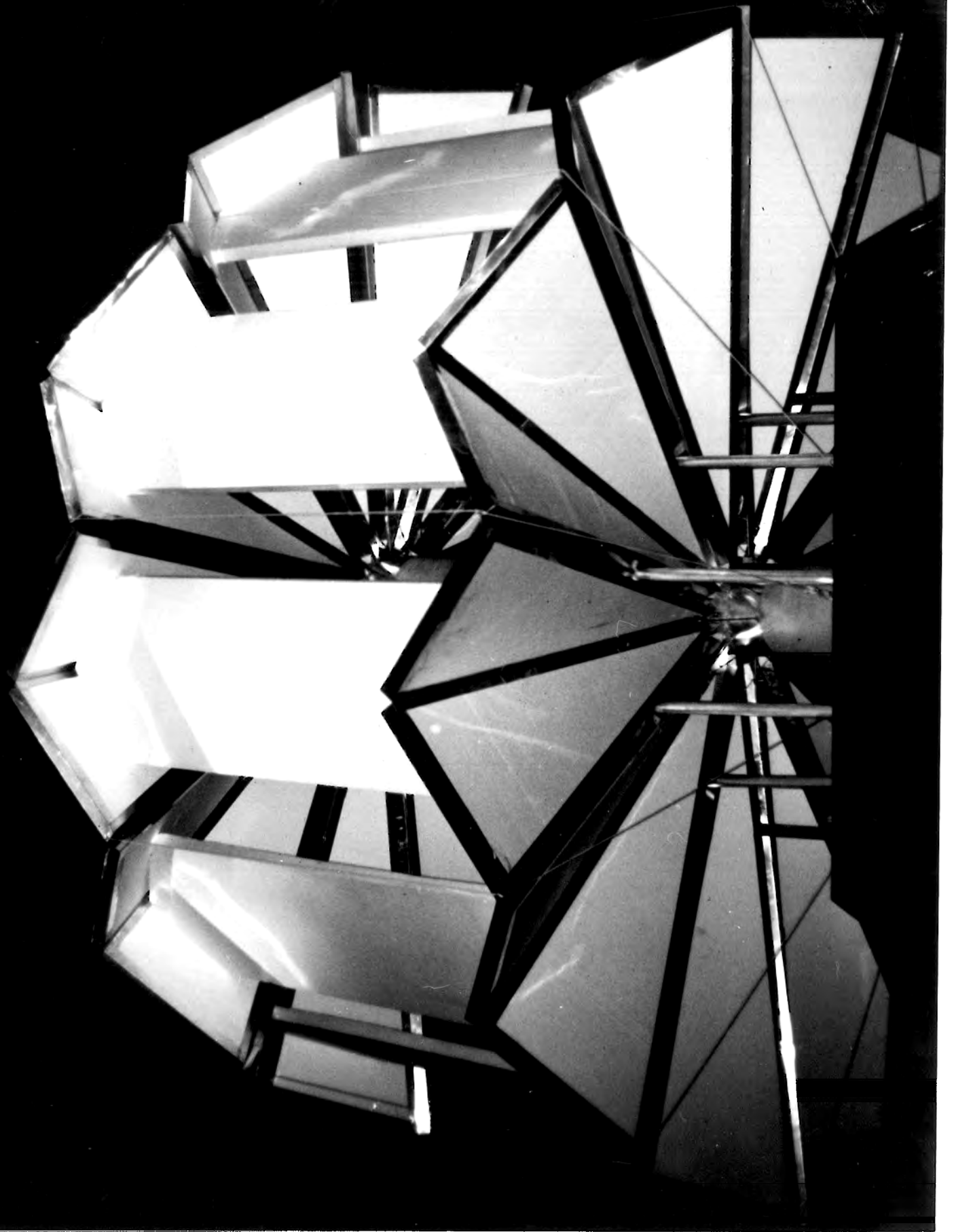
SECTION 4. EXHIBITS (PHOTOGRAPHIC)

List the photographs which follow this page:

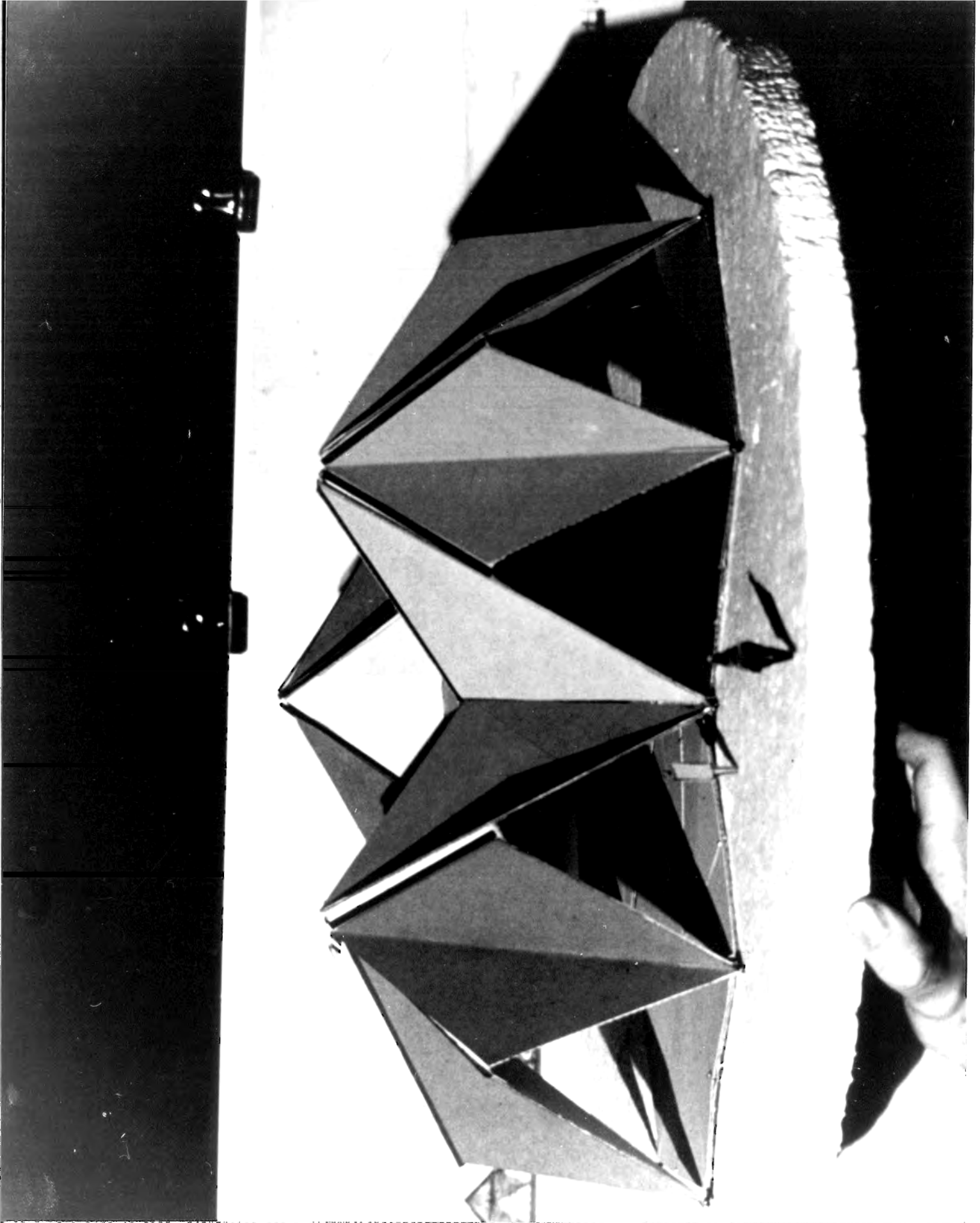
<i>Project</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Year of Completion</i>
1. Lunar Shelter-NASA		1968
2. Lunar Shelter-NASA		1968
3. Pre-Fabricated Housing		1968
4. Pre-Fabricated Housing		1968
5. Outerspace Habitat		1968
6. Martin Luther King School	Berkeley, CA	1968
7. Martin Luther King School	Berkeley, CA	1968
8. Townhouse	Berkeley, CA	1959
9. Library	Lafayette, CA	1958
10. Library	Lafayette, CA	1958
11. Lydikson School	Dublin, CA	1964
12. Embarcadero Cove	Oakland, CA	1970
13. Embarcadero Cove	Oakland, CA	1970
14. Quinn's Lighthouse	Oakland, CA	1972
15.		



ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Lunar Shelter-NASA
DATE 1968
AUTHORSHIP: Solely Responsible for Design



ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Lunar Shelter-NASA
DATE 1968
AUTHORSHIP: Solely Responsible for Design

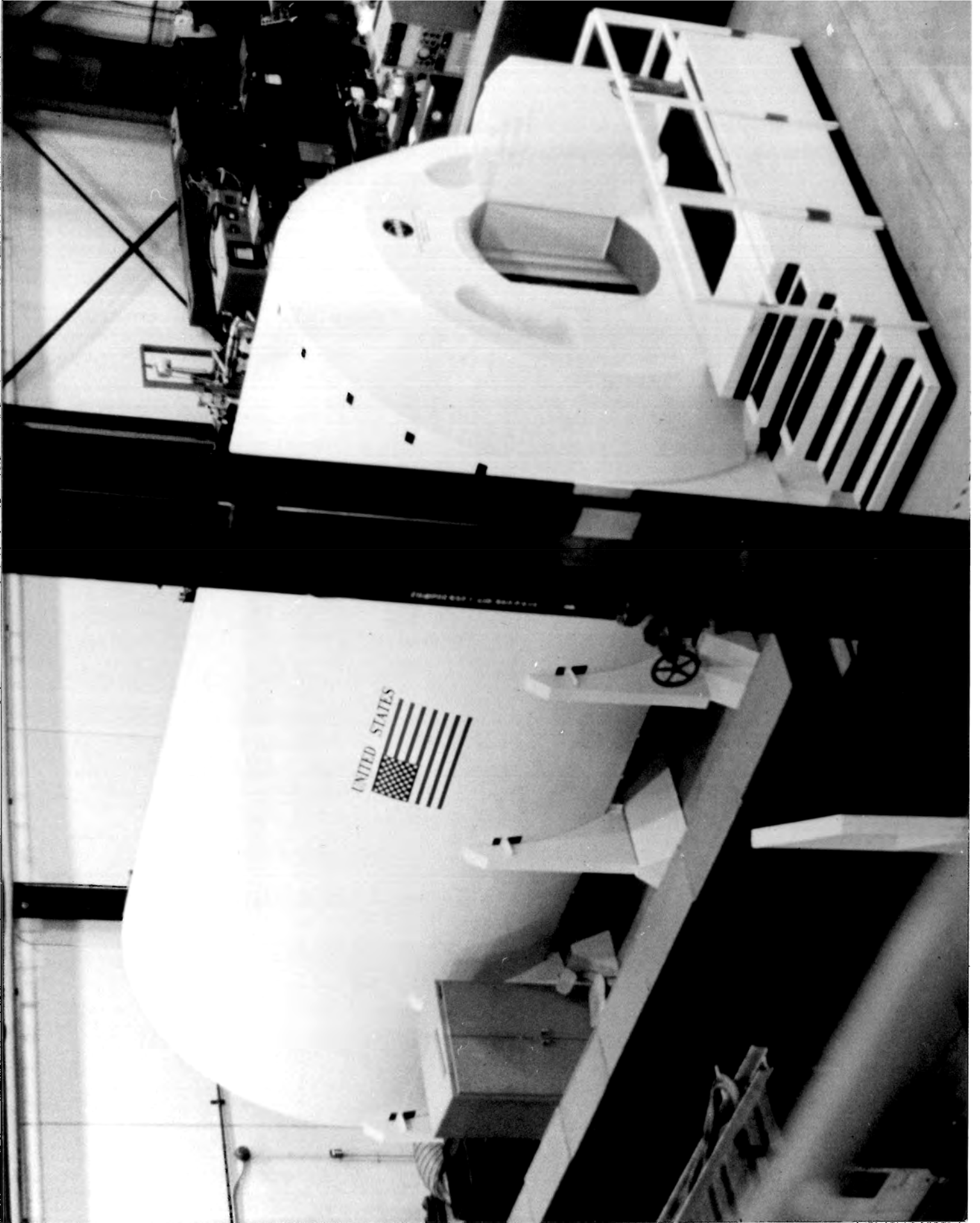


ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Pre-Fabricated housing systems
DATE 1968
AUTHORSHIP: Solely Responsible for Design

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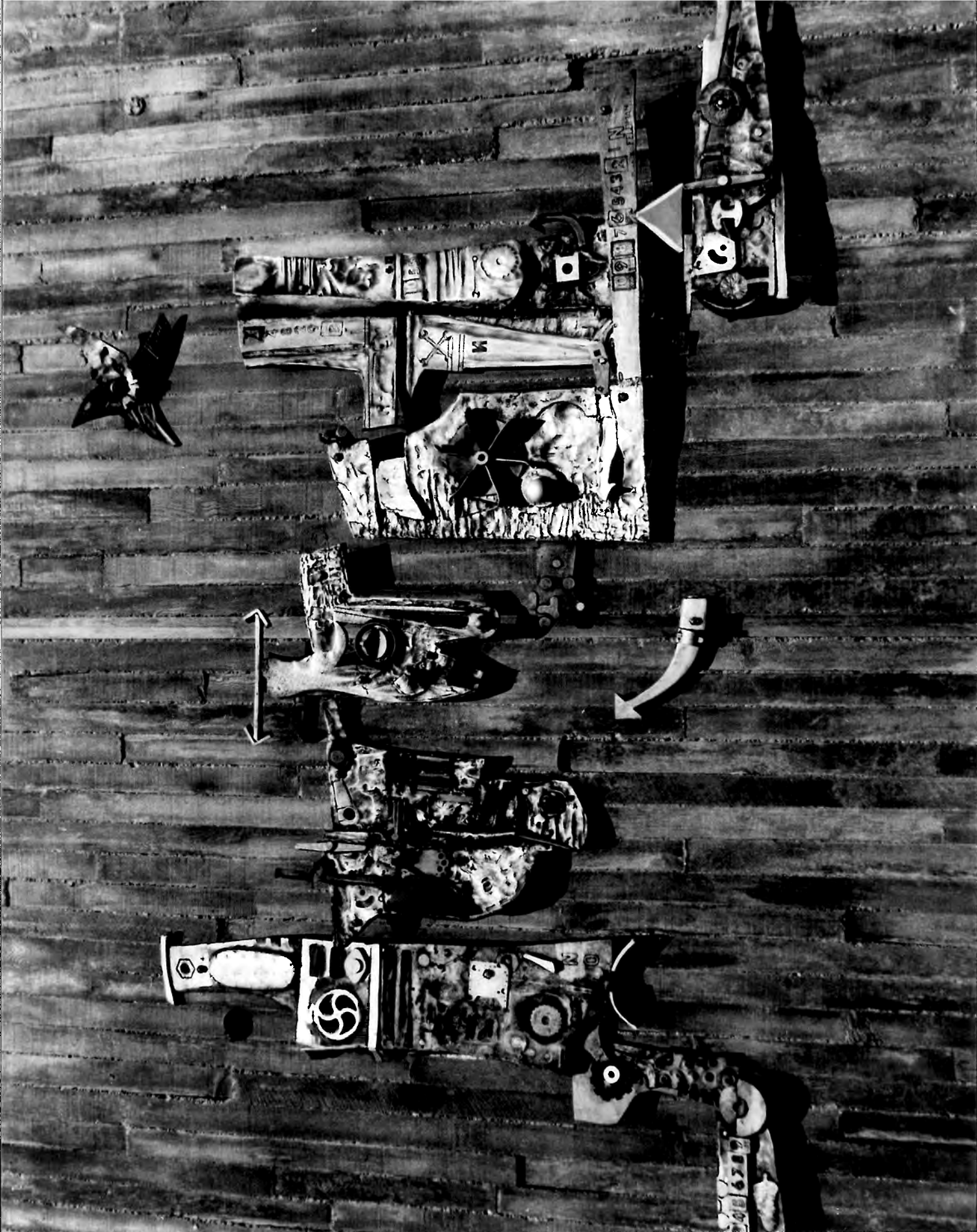
ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Pre-Fabricated housing systems
DATE 1968
AUTHORSHIP: Solely Responsible for Design



ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Outerspace Habitat-NASA
DATE 1968
AUTHORSHIP: CCAIA Committee Chairman/Consultant



ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Martin Luther King School, Berkeley
DATE 1968
AUTHORSHIP: Nominees Firm Executed Design



ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Martin Luther King School, Berkeley
DATE 1968
AUTHORSHIP: Nominees Firm Executed Design



ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Berkeley Townhouse
DATE 1959
AUTHORSHIP: Solely Responsible for Design



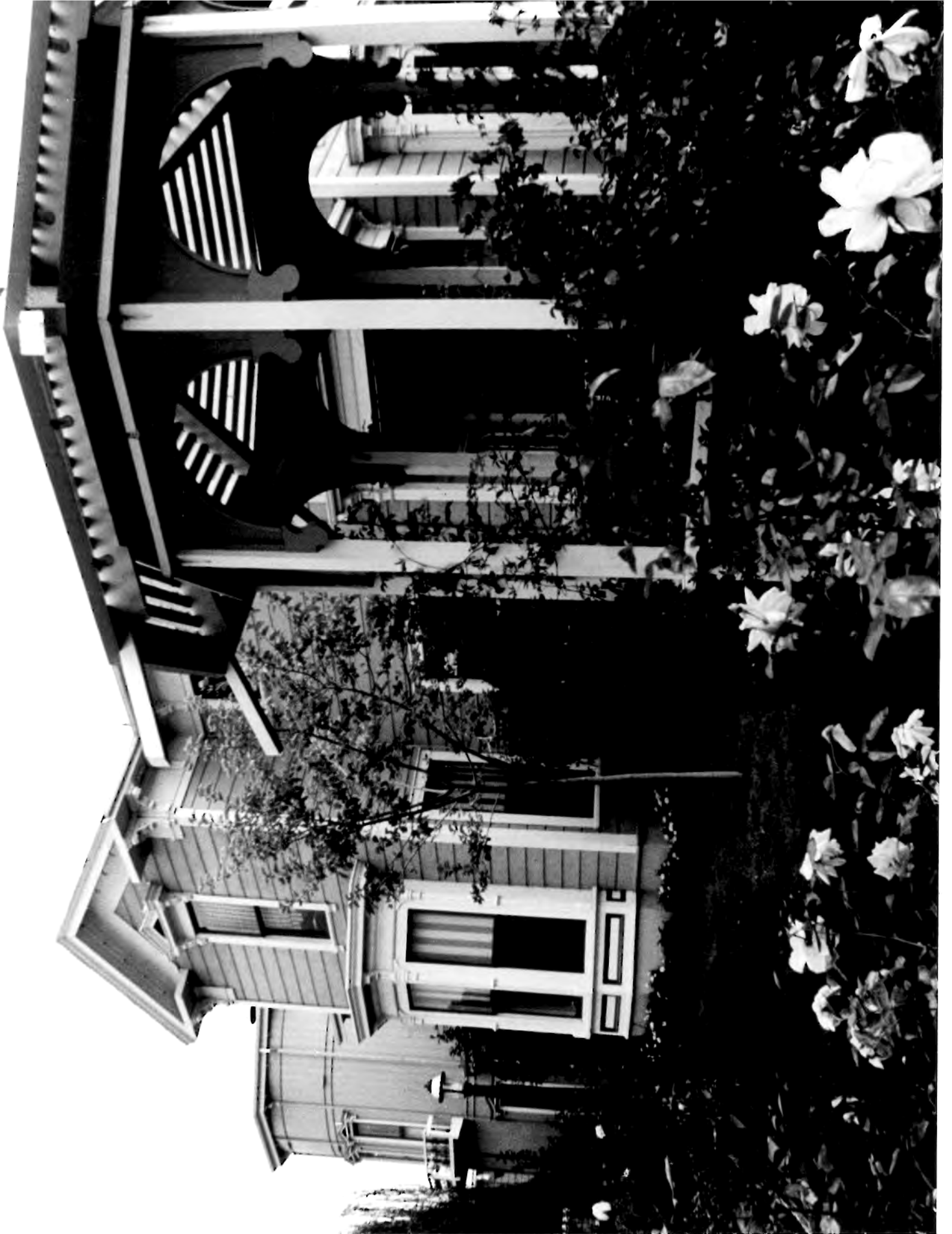
ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Lafayette Library
DATE 1958
AUTHORSHIP: Nominees Firm Executed Design



ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Lafayette Library
DATE 1958
AUTHORSHIP: Nominees Firm Executed Design



ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Lydikson School District
DATE 1964
AUTHORSHIP: Solely Responsible for Design



ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Embarcadero Cove, Oakland
DATE 1970
AUTHORSHIP: Largely Responsible for Design



ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Embarcadero Cove, Oakland
DATE 1970
AUTHORSHIP: Largely Responsible for Design



ARCHITECT OF RECORD Aitken/Collins
DESIGNER Aitken
PROJECT Quinn's Lighthouse
DATE 1972
AUTHORSHIP: Nominees Firm Executed Design