—Architects On The Move

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Said Fry, "The elementary school being built at Fort Lincoln is one of the most innovative, modernistic facilities designed thus far.

"Every 10 foot square in the building can be controlled by the 'flick of a switch,' and the building is designed to make the surrounding community aware and a part of the educational process."

However, Fry said that the real significance of the experimental project to the firm was that it "broke the cycle on the Washington scene," whereby the size of the architectural firm determined the size of a project that it was awarded.

"Prior to our firm getting that particular job," said Fry, "it was rather a rigid rule that a small office just didn't handle a large job such as that one, but due to the atmosphere of 1968 our firm was given the job.

"It is the first experimental school of its nature."

Fry is a registered architect in the District of Columbia and Alabama, and is acknowledged by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards in Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts.

He is a member of the American Institute of Architects and now its College of Fellows, the Construction Specification Institute, the National Technical Association, the National Association of Black Architects and the District of Columbia Council of Black Architects. He is also associated with numerous other organizations, in the District of Columbia and nationally.

REVOLUTIONARY APPROACH

As we flip the coin to the social side of architecture, there is one Robert J. Nash, an activist (by self description) in the role of the black architectural profession, and his architectural philosophy best describes that role:

"We live in a revolutionary time. Technology is moving so rapidly that mankind might be outstripped and outsmarted in the process. Architecture, in its concern with creation of human environment, must deal with physical, psychological, social and economic needs of its clients. Increasingly, this 'client' is the 'community,' multi-faced and multi-mind!

"It is the obligation and challenge of the architect to constantly probe, question and create an environment of feeling and form. The architect must not be overwhelmed by the revolution but must participate in order to share in determining its course!"

Yes, the philosophy of an aspiring young man who too has a role to play in the development of the black architect and his place in the construction of America.

Nash, who was inspired by the late Whitney Young, says that he wants to work to improve the black man's role in architecture and, in general, to improve the role of architecture in the black communities of America. Mr. Young was executive director of the National Urban League.

Also elected into the AIA College of Fellows, the outspoken Nash says that his purpose will be "to bring attention to programs of awareness, to focus on the "expertise and political clout" of the profession, to bring change in the urban, inner city areas, to make whites face the conditions because they have been trained to cope with the problems that exist."

"Programs which seriously focus on solving the problems of cities without victimizing the residents must be formed," said Nash.

"I don't presently know the power of the AIA College Fellows and what possibilities it will open to the future of the black architect, but I'm sure they are able to attack many of the special problems in this country that the general professionals cannot."

SEEKS TO IMPROVE BLACKS' STATUS

The former national vice president of the AIA and currently the Washington (D.C.) director of the National Organization for Minority Architects stated, "Architecture has failed its social aspects in the past, but I will continue to work to improve them for blacks.

"In the past only three black men, Louis E. Fry Sr., Howard H. Mackie and Paul Williams, were elected into the college and that was when they were inactive.

"It is significant now that younger men are elected into the organization, because the younger man can work to improve the status of the organization.

"The problem is the survival of the black architect as a group, and I feel that the election of two young blacks, Fry and myself, will be an inspiration to blacks to do greater work and perhaps 'yield a larger crop of Fellows next year.' "

Nash and his family live in a self-renovated house at 1601 Buchanan St., NW, Washington.

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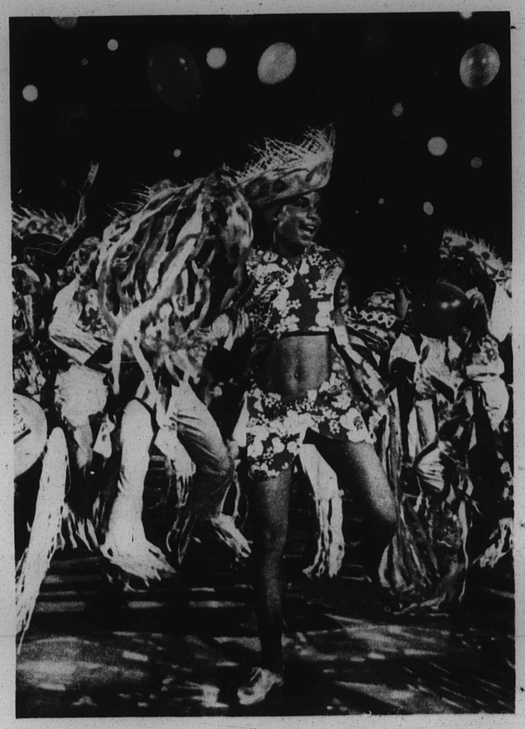

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