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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

On this month's cover, Artist Ray Komai has awarded a varsity C to the colleges of America for their winning architecture. And deservedly so. Instead of warming the traditional design bench as they did for so many years, many



colleges are now in action, producing some of the best contemporary architecture in America.

The change started slowly some 20 years ago when colleges began recruiting outstanding architects for their building programs. It was sparked, among other things, by a design competition which FORUM conducted in 1939 to select the architects for the Wheaton College Art Center: Richard Bennett and Caleb Hornbostel. Among the latest and most daring plays was that made by Harvard, which went all the way to France to get Le Corbusier to design its Visual Arts Center, dedicated last month (page 76). In between there have been many other winning combinations—Breuer and Vassar, Gropius and Harvard, Harrison & Abramovitz and Brandeis, page 84), Johnson and Sarah Lawrence, Kump and Foothill, Mies and I.I.T., Pei and M.I.T., Rudolph and Wellesley, Saarinen and Yale, SOM and the Air Academy, Stubbins and Mount Holyoke, Warnecke and the University of California (page 96), Wright and Florida Southern—to name but a few.

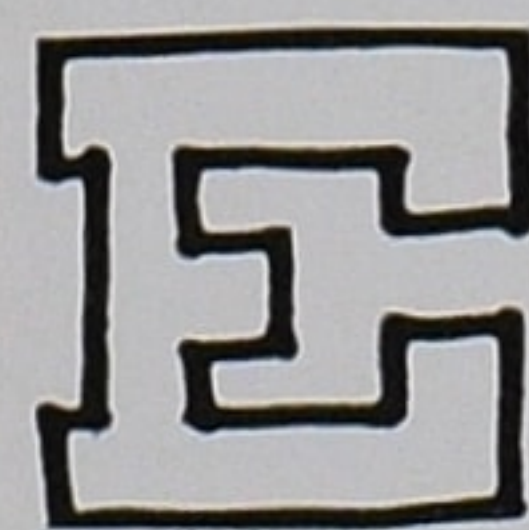
Slow to get going, Princeton is now in the running too, having put Yamasaki, Stubbins, and Barnes on its building team. For this recent architectural revolution at Old Nassau perhaps some credit is due FORUM's editors: exactly three years ago (March

'60) they published an editorial entitled "Poor Princeton" which criticized the university for its backward building program. (FORUM has 29 subscriptions on the Princeton campus.)

It seems likely, too, that the editors have contributed to the architectural renaissance on other campuses, for FORUM is widely read by those who own, manage, and pay for college buildings, as well as by those who design them. Among FORUM's 22,300 subscribers in the owner-manager category are 2,100 in the educational field alone—board members, building department executives, and others who are responsible for what their institutions build.

FORUM also has a big following—6,600 subscribers—among architectural professors and students, who also influence the course of college building. For example, students started the heated controversies with the trustees of Columbia and Texas U. over the design of their new buildings, controversies which the editors have reported and joined (FORUM, June '62 and Jan. '63).

Through this wide circulation among those who influence architecture, as well as those who practice it, FORUM helps to stimulate the desire for better corporate and institutional architecture in America—and thus to encourage more colleges to win varsity C's.



Speaking of varsity letters, the editors themselves were awarded a major E (for editorial excellence) last month by the Associated Business Publications—the seventh won by the FORUM team during the nine years of the ABP competition.

—J.C.H., Jr.

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