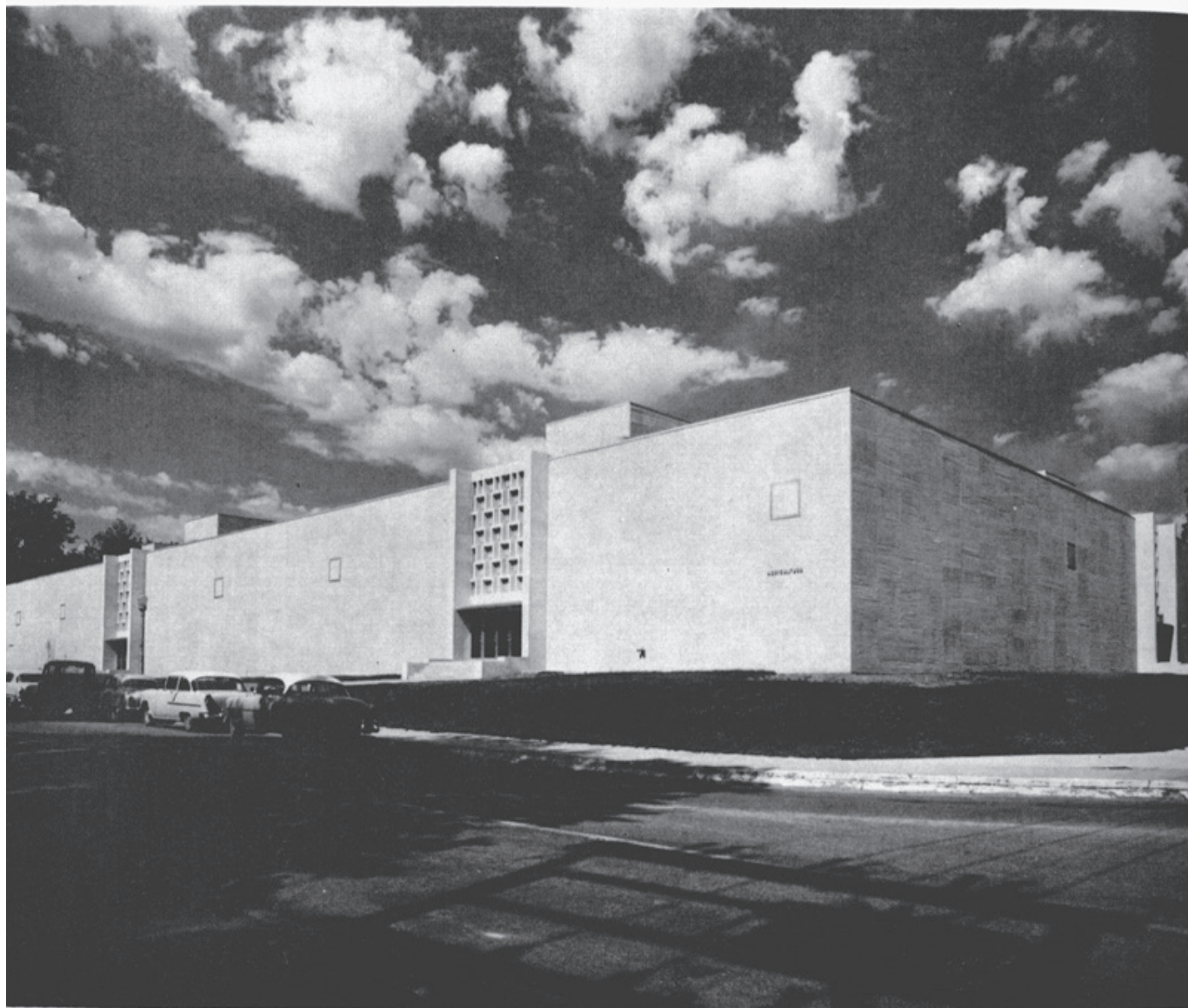


MISSOURI ALUMNUS

February 1961

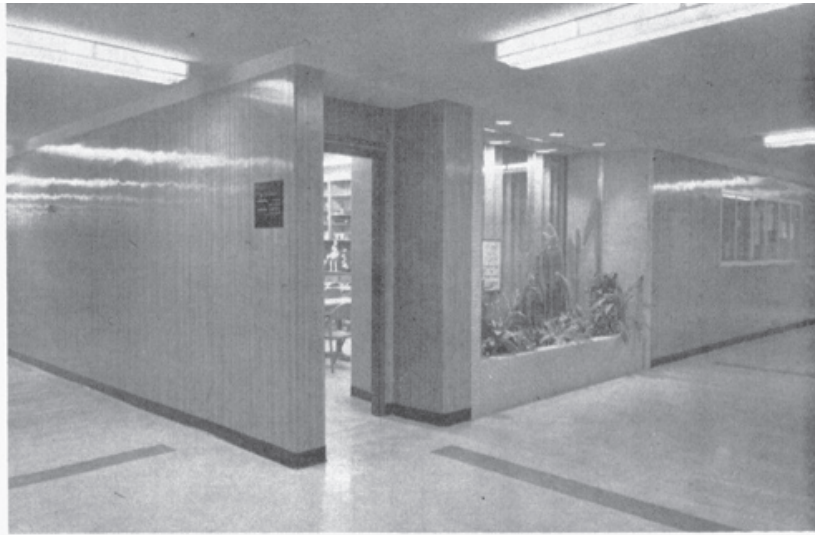




Photos by Tau

Agriculture goes modern

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This Agriculture Displays-Horticulture Laboratory on the second floor provides students a show window for laboratory exercises in flower and landscape arrangements. Weekly displays often feature current ag events. The facility is also a lecture room.

The new Agriculture Building is a house of no windows and many nicknames. The big stone structure, dominating the southern end of Hitt Street, has not yet attained its full growth, but when that day comes it will be the home of virtually all of the University's College of Agriculture. As it is now, the newest portion of the long-range project houses the Agricultural administrative offices, the School of Forestry, the departments of Horticulture and Entomology, and the Agricultural Editor's offices. The building connects with, and partly surrounds, the Agricultural Laboratories, constructed in 1952 as the first stage of the plan to centralize the College of Agriculture. Ultimately the Agriculture Building will branch out eastward along Rollins Street to College Avenue and then spread north from there.

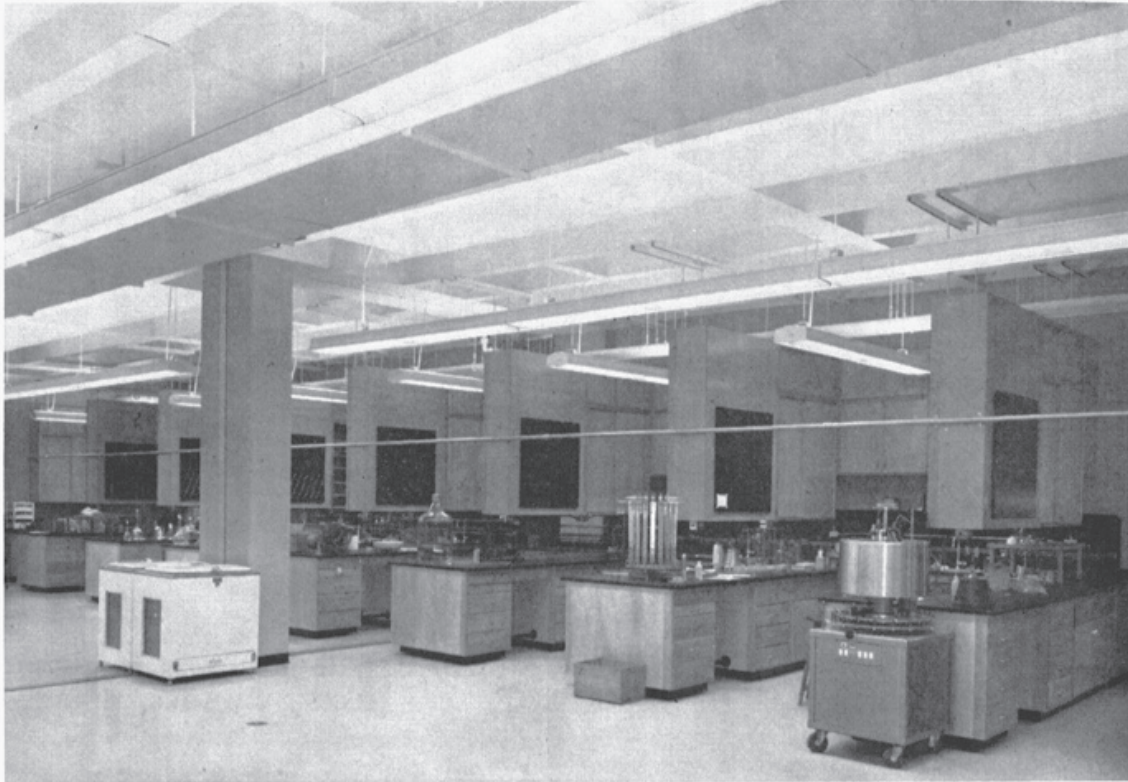
In appearance and construction the new building differs from any of its neighbors, yet it blends harmoniously enough with the general architectural scheme of the East Campus. Large blocks of shot-sawn Indiana limestone make up the exterior walls. The planners chose this rough-surface material because it was less expensive than the hand-worked Missouri limestone used in building the Student Union and other East Campus buildings, and the total cost was only \$14,000 more than brick would have cost. Because of their size—4 by 6 feet—the blocks “went up in a hurry” and brought savings in time and labor; further economy resulted from the omission of windows. The Agriculture people are convinced they got a very good construction buy for their money. Their building has 90,000 square feet, and it was completed within the budget of \$2,000,000. That figures out to approximately \$22 a square foot for a fully equipped, fully air-conditioned building, which is considered good in these times.

University students, who like to dream up their own descriptive terms for new buildings on the campus, had a field day when the Agriculture Build-

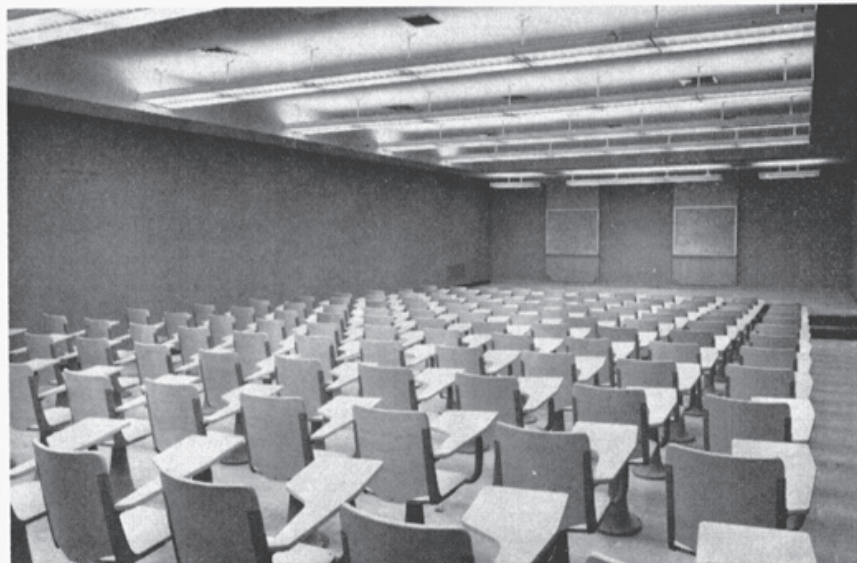
ing with its rather austere simplicity began to take shape. It was not uncommon to hear it referred to as “The Fortress” or “The Alamo.” Two other phrases making the rounds were “The Mausoleum” and “The Federal Reserve Bank.” One student whose imagination went into orbit came up with “Sam’s slab lab.” This needs a bit of translation. “Sam” refers to Associate Dean Sam B. Shirky, who labored many an hour beyond the call of duty to help shape and reshape the plans; “slab” is a reference to the large stone blocks; and “lab,” of course, means laboratory.

Most of the space on the third, or top, floor is occupied by nine laboratories. About half the second floor, which is at ground level, is given over to classrooms; in the south wing are the offices of Dean Elmer Kiehl and Associate Dean Shirky, and in the north end is the office of Dean Emeritus John H. Longwell. There are also three laboratories on the second floor. Occupying most of the first, or basement, floor are approximately 70 individual offices; there are also administrative offices of the directing heads of Forestry, Horticulture, and Entomology; and offices of the Agricultural Editor and his staff. Several work rooms and laboratories, mostly for forestry, are also on this first floor. Throughout the building the administrative offices include reception rooms and conference rooms.

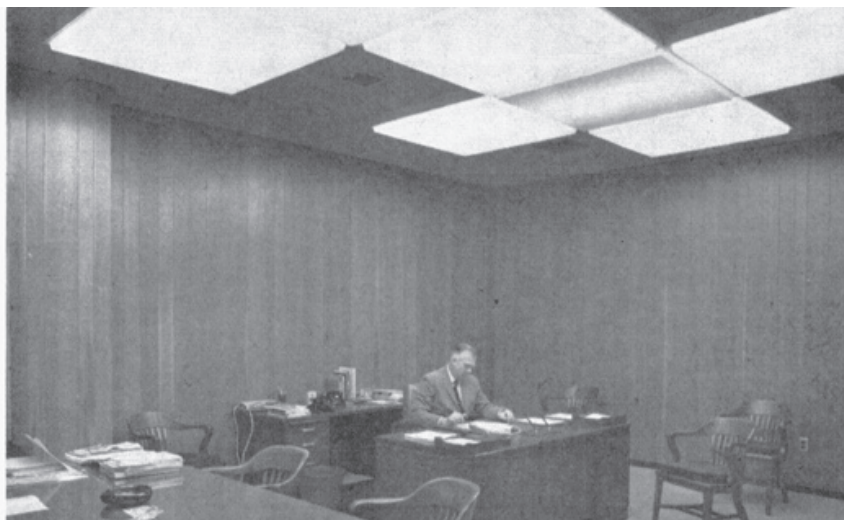
The seven classrooms on the second floor have a capacity of 475, and two of them are convertible to use as seminar rooms accommodating 56 persons. A number of the facilities in the building, especially designed, offer innovations. An advanced landscape room and an elementary landscape room are divided by a glass-enclosed office for the instructor, who may supervise classes in both rooms simultaneously. The largest single laboratory is in Horticulture, which provides a long row of fully equipped bays, with overhanging cabinets, each accommodating two or more students at the same time. In the area of the dean’s



Ample space and attractiveness extend to the laboratories, too. This Horticulture General Laboratory, flexible and unconventional in design, combines research and resident instruction facilities; from one to four students may utilize each of its bays.



The seven classrooms, clustered around a teaching aids center, are wired for closed-circuit TV. They seat a total of 475. The building's lighting system uses 5,000 fluorescent tubes.



Dean Elmer Kiehl seated at his desk in his spacious and uniquely lighted office. Conferences attended by ten or twelve persons may be held around long table at left; a much larger conference room is nearby.

offices is a series of small private conference rooms for student interviews, individual offices for stenographers, and stenographic pool. The administrators had their choice of wood for the paneling of their offices; thus oak, walnut, cherry and mahogany are present to reflect individual taste.

If the exterior of the Agriculture Building suggests a somber tone, the interior quickly dispels the effect. Inside, everything glistens, from the polished tile flooring to the attractive plastic wall coverings in the corridors and the brilliant lighting overhead. Without frills, the interior has the look of a very modern office building. This impression does not stem from newness alone. There is color, and fine furniture, and quality equipment; in the lecture rooms, offices and laboratories, the dividends of good planning and good taste are evident.

There are incongruities. In this fresh setting some ancient desks and work benches, probably forty years old, are still pressed into service. They will have to carry on until there are funds for replacements suitable to the surroundings. Some staff members have been less than enchanted with the small individual offices on the first floor. There are about 70 of these offices, 8 by 11 feet in size. It hardly needs to be explained that these are intended as one-man offices, and the occupant need never fear he will have to share the space with another. In most cases, however, unless the occupant is an inveterate string saver, his cubicle will prove adequate.

The building's greatest innovation—the complete lack of windows—apparently has won over the early dissenters. Everyone seems adjusted to the feature, or lack of it. Some isolated cases of creeping claustrophobia have been reported, but these have been held in check. The windowless construction has drawn much waggish comment, and it is said that a person at work in the building would never know whether it is raining or snowing unless word is brought to him from the outside.

Of course, some daylight comes in at the entrances, but if there were a power failure, the building would generally be plunged into darkness. To meet such an emergency, each worker in the building has been supplied with a flashlight.

Doing without the windows accounted for tremendous savings in construction costs, allowed greater insulation of the building, and practically paid for the 300-ton air conditioning system.

The outside appearance of the building, with its 308-foot width of front and 163-foot depth, could have been one of dreadful monotony had there not been some elaboration of the three entrances. To provide this relief, the architects were given a free hand to go “all out,” and they succeeded handsomely. They used Mosaic tile, imported from India and in the agricultural colors of green, brown and gold, set in a framework of Egyptian style stone “bridges.” (See cover). Two of the magnificent entrances are on Hitt Street and the other is on Rollins.

The only other separations in the stone walls are six adits, five of them in the facade; the material in these squares may be broken to gain entrance for fire-fighting equipment, although the building is considered fireproof.

The Agriculture Building is completely air conditioned; the system operates constantly and is extensive enough to supply more additions when they are built. A steady volume of warm and cool air flows through the building, thermostatically controlled. The bulk of the equipment is housed in four brick or stone units on top of the building. It is all automatic, and no maintenance man is required.

In a room on the first floor is the electronic switchboard where telephone calls throughout the building are handled automatically. The complete equipment is on panels inside four ordinary metal storage cabinets—further mute evidence of man's approaching replacement by gadgets.