



Interior design for a resort motel at Quake Lake, Montana
by Leonard Dane Harding

r A thesis submitted to the Graduate Faculty in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
MASTER OF APPLIED ART
Montana State University
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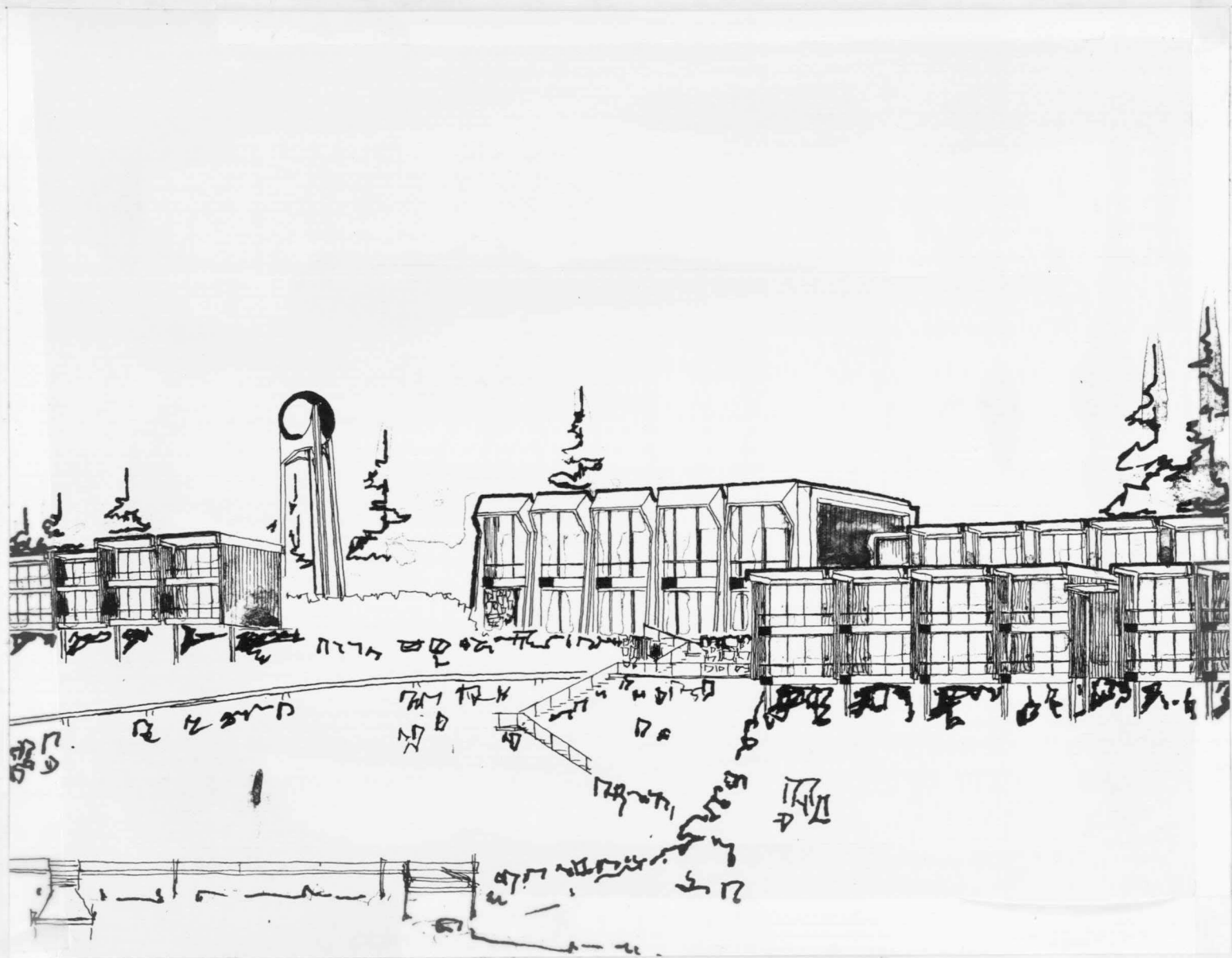
Abstract:

This thesis is the interior design for a projected resort motel which was designed by Mr. John Link as his senior thesis project in cooperation with the School of Architecture at Montana State University.

A working file of sources for furnishings, fabrics and information was first assembled. Choices were made from this file on the basis of use, finances and aesthetic principles. These choices were checked with the manufacturer's representatives for suitability and with the thesis committee who acted as client in terms of visual appeal. The plan is presented in a form which could be put into effect.

Many of the decisions made for this interior design were based on collateral studies concerning carpeting, psychology of color, period furnishings and synthetic interior architectural finish materials which were done in supporting courses.

It is understood that a close collaboration between the architect and the decorator would be important as both will have decisions to make— some of which will overlap the other's area of authority. This close association would be needed in order to bring a project of this type to an aesthetically satisfying conclusion.



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Approved:

April H. Conrad
Head, Major Department

Frances Sensuska
Chairman, Examining Committee

Dennis P. Smith
Graduate Dean

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Bozeman, Montana

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I would also like to express my gratitude to the late Jay W. Allison, who was James Lee's and Sons Carpet regional representative in Billings. Mr. Allison passed away in November of 1965.

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ABSTRACT

This thesis is the interior design for a projected resort motel which was designed by Mr. John Link as his senior thesis project in cooperation with the School of Architecture at Montana State University.

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INTRODUCTION

...a business enterprise must be housed somewhere and somehow. It has to have physical surroundings. These can be so ugly, so tawdry and so tasteless as to be a constant abrasion to everyone associated with the company or coming in contact with it. But they at least have personality and interest. Far more deadly are the sterile, bland, dull buildings erected by managements who are just indifferent and uninterested. Thoughtful managements, on the other hand, regard new buildings as major and serious expressions of their companies' personalities, purposes and emphases. Such buildings can be handsome, distinguished---and, above all, interesting---a source of pride to a company's personnel and of satisfaction to its visitors. Generally speaking, business is today more discriminating about its housing and surroundings than ever before. Some of the most impressive architecture of our time has been in the commercial and industrial field, because there is a new appreciation in management of genuine values in architecture and a new abhorrence of the spurious. (14)

This is a very interesting observation---one which is the result of an awareness by management concerning the building or buildings which house their particular business or organization. Intangible benefits have occurred such as more employee contentment, drops in turnover rates and increased work output. (3)(4) This especially applies to the commercial type of building and makes the commercial or contract type of interior the "new challenge" to interior designers.

A contract type of interior was chosen for this thesis as a result of past experience, present interests and future hopes for employment. It has been my observation that contract interior requirements and considerations have a higher positive correlation to residential interiors than residential interior requirements and considerations have to contract interiors. I also prefer to work with firms, boards or groups rather than individuals, and to work on sizeable jobs involving large buildings rather than homes or portions of homes.

This thesis problem, The Quake Lake Inn, was chosen because it included several types of interior spaces, such as motel units, dining room, bar, lounge, dormitories and curio shop areas as portions of the total structure. The motel units and the dining room area appeared to afford the best cross section of decorating problems and, therefore, the most in a learning experience. It is these areas with which this thesis is concerned.

The expected gain from such an undertaking is one of familiarization, awareness and a sense of organization:

...familiarization with new lines of furniture, carpets, draperies and with some of the sources and costs involved. This is a constant procedure in the life of an interior designer but can be done much more objectively when not under the heavy influence of salesmen and current lines in stock or familiar lines.

...awareness of problems involved and new methods of their control.

...organization of a working procedure of dealing with a total problem.

This allows for less "wheel spinning" on future jobs and causes a more efficient path toward the most satisfactory solution to a given problem.

The Area

On August 17, 1959 at 11:37 p.m. an earthquake occurred which had a Richter scale intensity of 7.1. It was felt over an area of 550,000 square miles in the Western United States. (8) The major effect of the earthquake was a slide which happened approximately 15 miles southwest of the actual focus. This slide claimed 17 of the total 28 lives lost due to the quake.

(12)

The slide created a lake which was named Earthquake Lake. General usage has shortened the name to Quake Lake. This lake was created by the slide which filled the canyon with 37,000,000 cubic yards of material. (12) It can be reached by the roads shown on the map on the following page.

This area has since developed into a tourist attraction. In 1964 it attracted some 2,000 cars per day with an average of 3.4 persons per car.

(11) This is an indication of the potential which this site has for a resort motel development.

