

THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

Wurster, Bernardi and Emmons, Architects

Thomas D. Church, Landscaping
Knoll Planning Unit, Furnishings
Buonaccorsi, Murray & Lewis, Mechanical Engineers
William B. Gilbert, Civil Engineer
Swinerton & Walberg, General Contractor

Under a Ford Foundation grant a new kind of institution for the study of human behavior has been opened in the San Francisco Bay area, near the Stanford University campus. The project has been organized in the belief that one of the most urgent needs for the advancement of knowledge of human behavior is that of increasing the supply of competent scholars in this field in the universities and that the best way of accomplishing this is to enable faculty members now in the universities to spend a year together at the Center perfecting their research techniques and exploring new ideas for the improvement of behavioral research and training. Designed as a protected oasis, the Center hopes to give the scholars the freedom from pressure necessary for concentrated thought about man's behavior. The economists, political scientists, psychiatrists, biologists, sociologists, statisticians and anthropologists will teach each other and at the same time teach themselves.

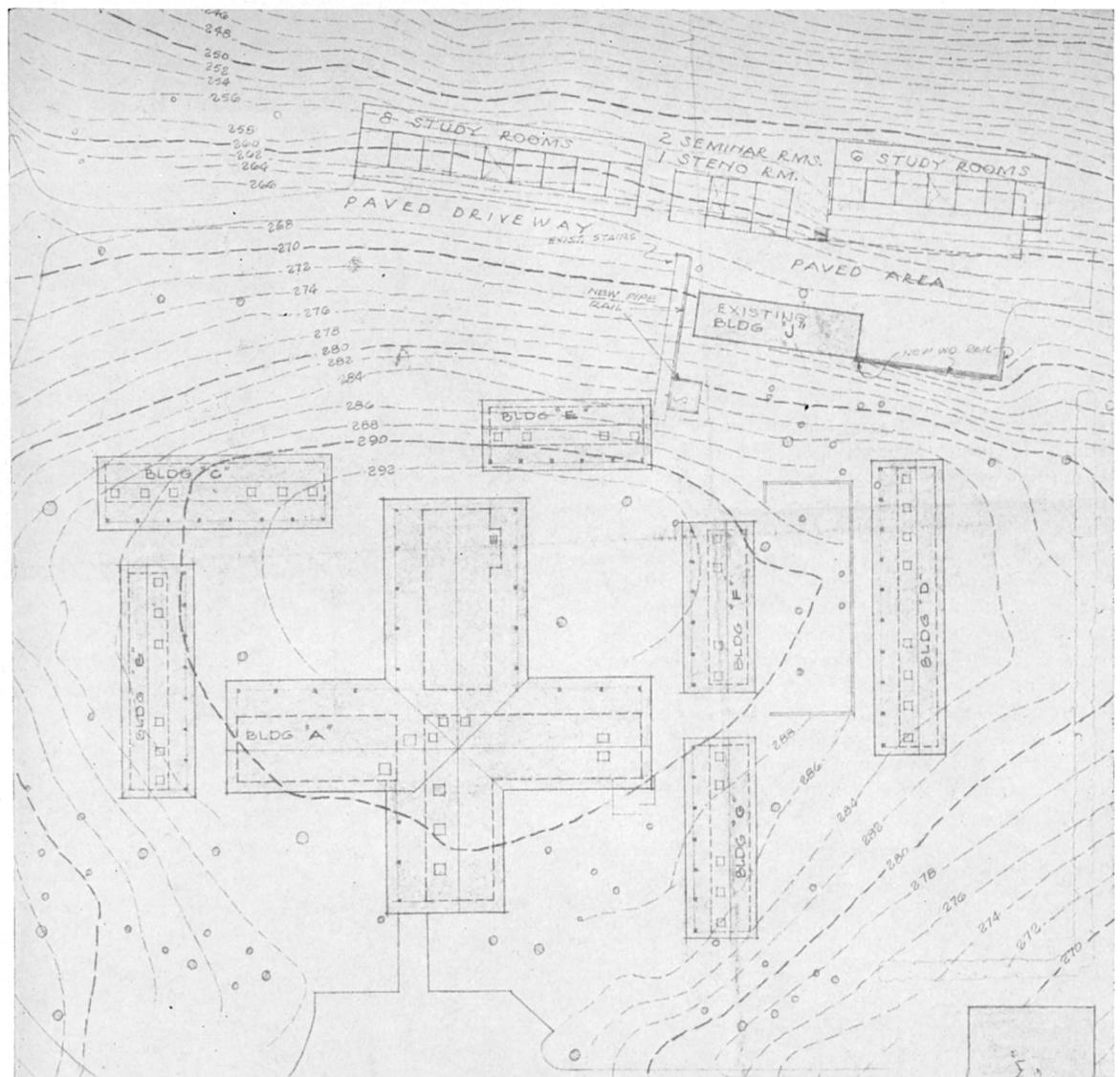
Possible building sites were examined over a period of three to four months, and, while at first the remodeling of an existing structure was considered, it was finally decided at the suggestion of William Wurster that it would be best to design a group of one story frame buildings which would much better suit the needs of the project and which could be completed at a reasonably exact time schedule.

Remarkably enough, the new buildings were completed in four months and the Center was able to function in its new space on schedule with all the furnishings and planting in place, at a cost well within the budget that would have been necessary for the remodeling which had been originally contemplated.



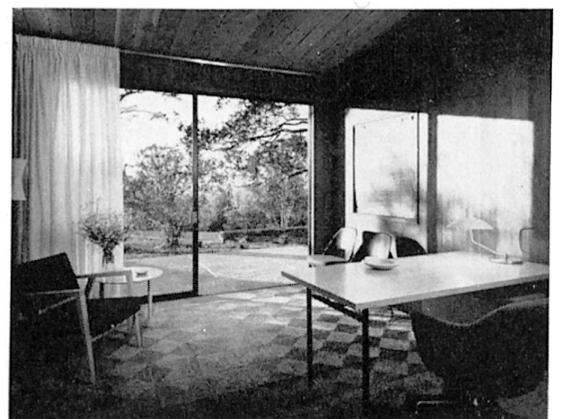
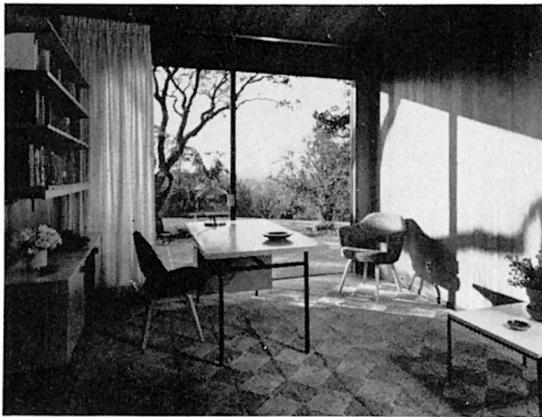
The scheme developed was one in which a central building housed administration and group facilities: large meeting room, smaller seminar rooms, lounge, dining hall and a small secretarial pool. Around this core were spread identical private study rooms for individual study which were grouped into buildings of uniform appearance but of varying length, depending on how they could be fitted to the site to obtain one of the many fine views and still preserve full privacy with a large glass area and outside terrace for each space.

The Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences is incorporated as a non-profit corporation in the State of California under the direction of Dr. Ralph W. Tyler who in explaining what is new about the Center said: "The sabbatical leave is a well-established tradition in the academic world. Its purpose is to provide the mature scholar an opportunity for further self-development through study, travel, or concentrated work upon a scholarly project while freed from other duties and distractions which accompany normal residence in colleges or universities. The Center adds something new to this idea. It adds the opportunity for a selected number of university faculty members concerned with the study of human behavior to come together in one place, in order to help one another gain new skills and insights and to work upon common problems in addition to their individual study projects. The behavioral sciences have come to a stage of development calling for a good deal of communication from one specialist to another for the benefit of both. The Center is designed to provide a working atmosphere where this communication can take place."





THE CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY



Individual studies, conference rooms, and research facilities have been designed without disturbing accents and to provide the necessary privacy, both material and psychological, needed to carry on the objectives of the project. Surrounding the main building are four smaller buildings containing forty individual studies, each 12 by 14 feet, and with the only view turned away from the activities of the main building. It is in these that the scholars concentrate alone on the problems in which they are most interested. Dr. Ralph W. Tyler, former dean of the Division of Social Sciences at the University of Chicago, has been appointed executive director to coordinate the activities of the Center.