

Firm's work spells success

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Contributing Writer

Architecture from the Plains is the unique, year-long series of exhibitions sponsored by the KSU Department of Architecture and KSU Student Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Unique, because there apparently has never before been such an extensive series of exhibitions devoted to the design work of regional architects.

This month the featured firm is that of Patty, Berkebile, Nelson Associates (PBNA). The partnership was established in 1970 and currently has an office of thirty-five architects, planners and interior designers with offices in Kansas City, Mo., and in Overland Park.

Among the goals of the partnership was to "reach a position—in range of experience, in technical and creative competence—...that would give us a

strong positive role, locally and regionally, in making the built environment better."

In this the firm has surely been successful. Over the twelve years of its existence, their projects have won more than thirty regional and national awards for excellence from the American Institute of Architects, the State of Missouri, the City of Kansas City and a number of industry and trade groups.

Many of the projects have been published in national design journals and the office has executed commissions as far afield as Anchorage, Seattle, Boston, Minneapolis and Bethlehem, Jordan. Among the projects currently being worked on is the restoration and renovation of the historic Saint Louis Post Office and Customs House, a project for which PBNA was selected following a national design competition.

Perhaps no project better typifies a seemingly important part of the firm's attitude towards the environment than the recently completed renovation of Folly Theater in Kansas City. "But our goals are the kind that, in an absolute sense, are never fully realized," say the partners. "They are goals that chart a course, an attitude, an approach. They define spirit." And it is the spirit of environmental quality that surely permeates the new Folly Theater.

Thomas Nelson, a founding member of PBNA, will be making a presentation describing the buildings and philosophy and design methods of the firm at 6 this evening in the Big 8 Room of the K-State Union. The exhibition of the work of this architectural firm will continue on display for the rest of this week in the 205 Seaton Hall gallery at KSU.

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