



# Brick

IN ARCHITECTURE

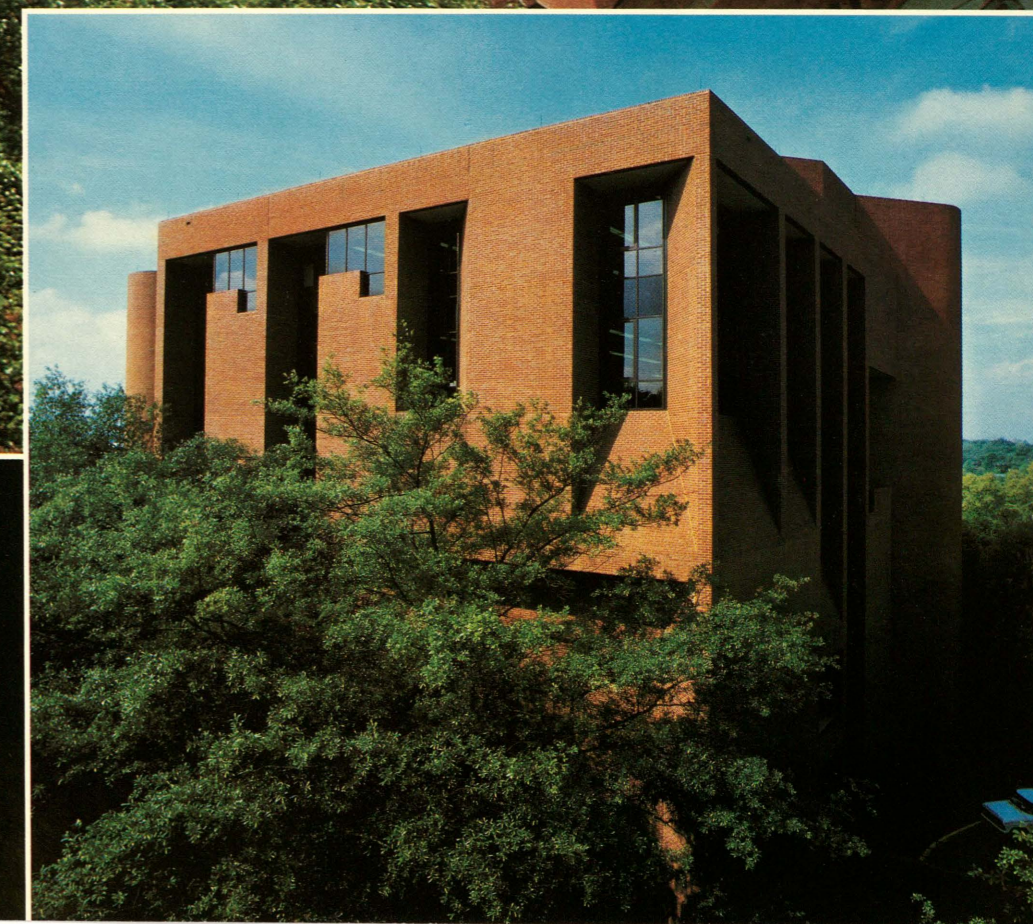
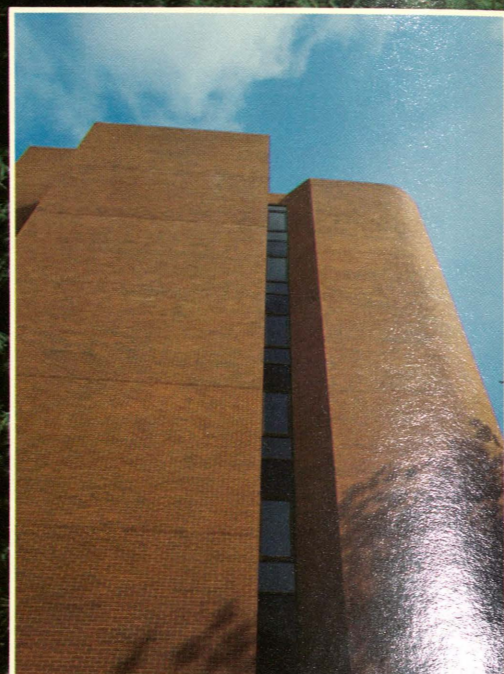
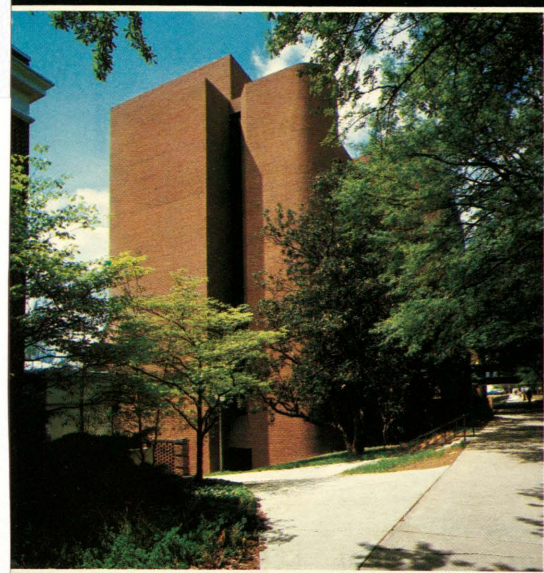
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SHAPING IDEAS IN BRICK

## IDEA #1 University of Georgia

**In this issue:** A single academic building created for a confined space at the University of Georgia, Athens, and Brookhaven College, a sprawling campus designed for the Dallas Community College District. Two different architectural problems, two innovative solutions, shaped in brick.



*"This building sits up high—it's very dramatic. It's carved out of brick the way you'd carve a shape out of soap."*

*Peter Norris, AIA  
Hall, Norris & Marsh, Inc.*

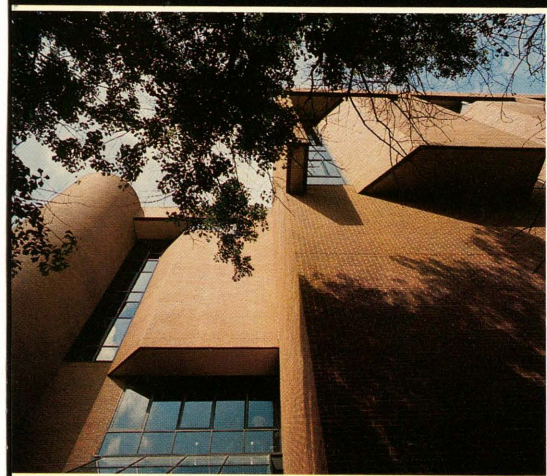
The biggest problem the architects had to face was space.

The site was an extremely restricted one, on the campus of the University of Georgia. Surrounded by the library on two sides, the Business School and the old Environmental Design Building, the property was earmarked for an academic building to serve up to 1,450 students at a time.

*"It was such a small spot, we created a very tall building—seven stories. You can see it from five, six blocks away."*

Architect Peter Norris designed essentially a three-part structure, containing both traditional and Harvard-style classrooms on the lower four floors, and soaring studios for the School of Environmental Design on the upper three floors. Light pours into the studios through glazed windows to the North and East, while South and West walls are solid.

Both the choice of brick and the curvilinear design reflect the look of surrounding buildings. What is different is the massing of the space.



*“Every side of this building is complete unto itself. And the play of light changes the look every hour of the day because of the sculptural shape.”*

To lend interest and give a sense of scale to the exterior, Norris broke the design into pockets of relief.

The shapely design gave life and vitality that extended into brick retaining walls and brick paving in front of the structure. In back, a covered walkway reached out to an adjacent building.

The new 77,500 square foot academic building at the University of Georgia took a traditional construction style, and made it unique. With brick and bravado.

## IDEA #2 Brookhaven College



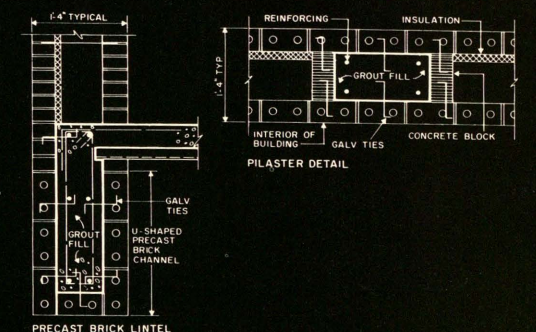
*“By choosing a load-bearing reinforced brick wall system, we could bend the walls at will—creating exterior cantilever spans thrusting 12 feet.”*

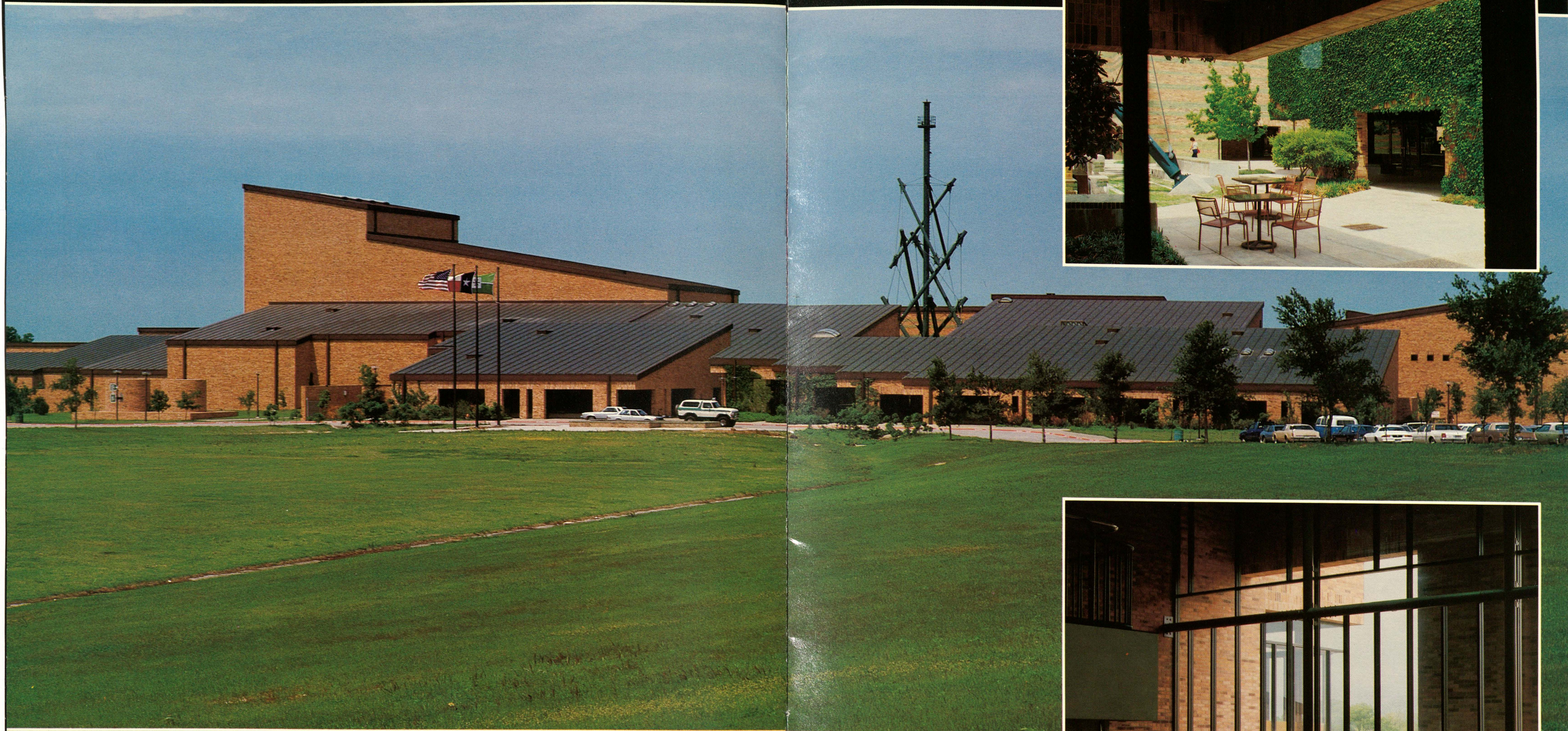
James Pratt, Partner, FAIA  
Pratt Box Henderson & Partners

From a design point of view, the task was awesome.

To create a complete college campus—nine buildings from 30 to 85 feet high, surrounding courtyards and enclosing 300,000 square feet of space.

The mission was to strike a balance between low maintenance, energy cost effectiveness and a look of dignity.





*"We felt that the 'brutalism' style of harsh blocks and concrete walls was over. We wanted something warmer, more flexible."*

Architect James Pratt settled on a novel brick design using prefabricated reinforced lintels and partially reinforced load-bearing brick and insulated concrete cavity walls of varying widths.

Brick channels of high bond mortar, and internal structural beams and pilasters within the cavity walls provided support without the need for visible projections on either face. The system saved money by reducing the amount of formwork and the number of construction trades involved.

Best of all, the load-bearing perimeter walls made a whole range of architectural expressions possible. Walls soared upward and cantilevered corners zoomed out over courtyards. While inside, finished brick walls gave a feeling of richness and texture.



*“Ours was the largest brick order ever placed in the state of Texas — over two million units.”*

On every surface the specially hand mixed field brick presented the eye with a subtle spectrum of color. And when it was used in combination with glazed brick (as in the library wall), it achieved the effect of pointillism.

The bearing wall principal succeeded completely by giving Brookhaven College the sense of permanence, elegance and ambiance that it needed. And the essential elements of fine design it deserved.



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