

## Thomas A. Gray, FAIA

Thomas Gray came to Arkansas with the Air Force where he served for three years. He joined the firm of Wittenberg, Delony and Davidson in 1957. Shortly after his employment, one of Mr. Gray's designs won the first Regional Honor Award ever received by the firm. In his subsequent positions as Chief of Design, Project Manager and President, he was responsible for primary design or directing the design of projects that have brought the firm both regional and national attention. Thomas Gray has represented the State of Arkansas admirably and capably in all of his achievements both locally and nationally. From standards to legislation and all aspects of construction, Mr. Gray has been a substantial contributor to the evolution of construction in Arkansas.

A priority of Mr. Gray's throughout his career was mastering the art of combining functionality with thoughtful architectural design pleasing for the eye. A fine example of this, the Arkansas Union at the University of Arkansas was featured in the 1972 publication, *Campus Buildings that Work*. Mr. Gray has also been recognized for this ability in national, regional and industry-specific awards.

Mr. Gray chaired the joint AIA/AGC Committee to coordinate the creation of State Building Services. He was influential in convincing then Governor of Arkansas, David Pryor that an intermediary agency would benefit the State, general contractors and architects. It answered the State's need for more cost effective design and building costs. In 1973, Mr. Gray was awarded the Distinguished Service Award from the Arkansas AGC for his devotion to the effort of creating State Building Services.

One of the early architects in the State to recognize the need to design for energy efficiency, Mr. Gray served on the Energy Conservation Task Force to formulate standards in 1976. As Chief of Design, Mr. Gray led his team to incorporate energy saving measures into early design phases.

Mr. Gray was also active in the advancement of health care facilities in the State of Arkansas. One of the most notable health care projects under Mr. Gray's leadership, the Arkansas State Hospital, is still one of the firm's largest and most esteemed health care projects. Mr. Gray organized and led the effort by the firm to bring its design quality to its present high standards. Working within the constraints of Arkansas' often-modest budgets, the firm's designs consistently received high recommendation and recognition. Gray deliberately attempted to avoid a firm "look" or style, and instead sought a variety of solutions appropriate to each design program. This philosophy stands strong with the firm today.

A visionary as well as a realist, Gray recognized the need to help young architects. He served on the National Council of Architecture Registration Boards as a Design Examination Grader on several occasions. He was a motivator both within and outside of the firm. He has made presentations to professional audiences and his work has been featured in several publications. Through his activities on National and State committees, boards, and task forces Mr. Gray brought national recognition, outside design perspectives and different ways of getting things done to the State of Arkansas. Thomas Gray's early hands-on experience working with general contractors, his leadership of an on-going successful architecture firm, and his enthusiastic community

involvement enabled him to build a solid and highly successful architectural career as one with a unique understanding of all of the facets of the construction industry. He is creative, thorough, well grounded, ethical and balanced in his exacting level of commitment and performance.