



Washington House, new athletic dorm
by Barbour & Short Construction Co.

O.U.'s happy family usually separates into three camps when it comes to Alma Mater's architecture. The *Avant Garde* detest O.U.'s "Prairie Gothic" (a phrase Frank Lloyd Wright slapped on O.U.'s older buildings during a 1953 visit); the Traditionalists deplore O.U. Architect Richard N. Kuhlman's prairie-plain new buildings; and nearly everyone else sniffs at the idea of the two styles being combined on the same campus.

To outsiders, however, O.U. always seems to be one of the most collegiate-looking college campuses in the country; and, like the producers of Bob Hope's recent movie, *Alias Jesse James*, these outsiders—visitors—admiringly cock their cameras to catch Bizzell's modernistic South Oval bulk as contrasted with the gargoyled hulk of his medieval library. It's college right out of the storybook.

The only abnormal aspect of O.U.'s campus for these visitors is the off-campus real estate which most Sooners consider to be routine stuff—Norman's Greek temples.

Visitors to Norman can never get over the size of O.U.'s fraternity and sorority houses—just as Sooners, always suffering from a backwoods inferiority complex, cannot believe that theirs is the most luxurious

campus in the nation in terms of Greek real estate. It is.

Accenting this hinterland fact are the fall openings of the new \$275,000-\$300,000 Alpha Phi and Pi Beta Phi houses on "Fraternity Row." And complementing the fact are O.U.'s new \$750,000 X-shaped addition to the Women's Quadrangle; and Washington House, a \$400,000 athletic dormitory for football and baseball players which sits across the lawn from Jefferson House.

Fraternity Row, once a misnomer for a heavily-Greek-infiltrated section of Norman centering near the corner of College and Brooks streets, is now more accurately used to describe a completely Greek horseshoe made of the southern ends of Elm and College streets. Back in 1949, when the Kappa Sigs shocked fratland by building out in those faraway parts, a horseshoe was about all you could find out there—aside from the Kappa Sigs. Their \$225,000 house squatted determinedly on the edge of what was once a two-building farm. Said two-building farm had just recently been purchased by Norman investor E. H. Stubbs for farmland prices; and soon Stubbs was making hay as Norman Greeks who first scoffed at Kappa Sig's campus-

house distance, finally began noticing the cracks in their own 1920ish walls and the consequent crumbling of their pledge classes.

For all their talk about tradition and campus activities, it's as sure as the correlation between *Readers' Digest* sales and lung cancer articles that the size and quality of a Greek pledge class will match the size and price of The Temple.

The Kappa Sigs were rapidly joined by the Alpha Chis and the Gamma Phis. Then came the Phi Gams, the Sigma Nus, the Phi Deltas, and the PiKAs—all of whom had been anxious about their hard-won positions on the Greek world's silently pictured rank ladder: Top Drawer, Middle Drawer, and Unmentionables. It is easy to predict that the Alpha Phis, a late Fraternity Row builder with a Middle Drawer reputation, will soon be Top Drawer with the help of their determined alumnae, regulars—and with the help of their new \$275,000 house, of course.

Although Fraternity Row fraternities are more experimental and interesting architecturally, the sororities—particularly as represented by late-comers Alpha Phi, Tri-Delt, and Pi Phi—are the houses that push Fraternity Row from a dormitory area to a

Shirley in Her Temple and Joe at the Chateau

Women's Dormitory by Builders Construction Co.



tourist attraction. All three houses are . . .

The word for them is *huge*. Huge three-storied affairs on huge lots, with huge kitchens, huge living areas, huge individual rooms with huge closets . . .

For instance—to help define *huge*:

When she's not up on the wide-open spaces of the Alpha Phi living-room-lobby-fun-room-dining-room, "Mom" Satterfield, the new Alpha Phi housemother, can combat agoraphobia by confining herself to a five-room house-within-a-house set aside for the Alpha Phi housemother on the main floor. At the Pi Phi house, the houseboys can go directly from the Pi Phi's hotel-like kitchen (site of a six-door refrigerator) and into their own quarters in the west "carriage-house" wing of the Phi Phi's Southern Colonial takeoff.

And the Crescent-minded Tri-Delts have every right to wonder if the distance to the astronomy copied on their pins is really much greater than the distance between the east and west ends of their seven-pillared porch.

Only the early-bird Kappa Sigs and the Tri-Delts, Pi Phis and Alpha Phis have built their houses in traditional styles. The other Fraternity Row houses range from Alpha Chi's red-wood modern to Phi Delt's contemporary to Phi Gam's motel to Pi Lam's Star of David. The latter is a metal-facaded dormitory shaped like the Star of David with a motif of triangles employed throughout. It is, by far, the most *avant* of the *avant gardes*.

BY CONTRAST, the styles of the two new University dormitories are typical of the everything-for-a-reason, no-funny-business style of University Architect Kuhlman. Kuhlman, also professor of architecture and associate director of the O.U. Institute of Community Development, has a typical Higher Education challenge: do a lot on little. His solution is also typical: emphasize function and hope stark exteriors will be as much in style tomorrow as they are today.

The new X-shaped women's dorm (already nicknamed "The Red Cross") has four structurally identical units, connected by a core consisting of a public area on the first floor and lobbies in the above three floors which give the building four distinct yet connecting wings. Each wing is named for a University president's wife; and already Mrs. Cross (an honored wife) is receiving miscircuited phone calls from young suitors who ask the operator for 'the Cleo Cross'—forgetting to add 'house.'

The four four-story wings house 16 girls to a floor. And at the girls' service are kitchenettes, basement formal dress closets

and luggage rooms, first floor lounges, and two counselors per dorm. A combined cooling-heating unit is located on a fifth floor above the axis of the building. Ducts lead into each room, giving coeds year-around thermostatic control of temperatures ranging from 70 to 85 degrees.

Located on the first floor of each wing are the lounge; the counselor's office, private bath and bedroom; and the assistant counselor's room. The first floor bath serves the assistant as well as visitors. What Kuhlman terms a *general purpose area* houses a small kitchen unit, ironing boards, and pay telephones for long distance calls (the girls have individual room phones for local calls).

The core of the building centralizes 13 baths as well as the heating and air-conditioning system, making installations and repair work economical. Also, the workmen make repairs without having to walk through the upstairs halls.

The windows of the building are sealed. They are recessed to cut down the percentage of sun and wind hitting the building, thereby reducing sunheat and allowing the air-conditioning to operate more economically. This economy causes the new buildings to look almost squint-eyed compared to Kuhlman's pre-air-conditioning designs. (The idea then was to have as much glass area as possible to cut down on the heating costs.)

KUHLMAN's other new dorm, Washington House, is the successor to Jefferson House; and probably it will go through a similar name transformation (Jeff House, a name synonymous with big, burly, football types, is the students' diminutive for Jefferson House; it follows, of course that the Fathers of our University who were so patriotic in naming the new dorm after the Father of our Country will soon have a Wash house on their hands). At any rate, it is by far Kuhlman's most striking campus design. The dormitory has high, uncovered structural supports and eaves which protect the windows from sun glare and provide the building with an interesting contrast to the usual economical boxiness of Kuhlman's red brick cores. Lace-like solar screens running the height of the building where the stairways are located, give the building more sun control and more claims to being architecturally up-to-date.

In addition to being one of the campus' most attractive buildings, it is also the most conscientiously rationalized. When it was begun last October, the University stressed to its salary-starved faculty that the \$400,000 building was being built solely through funds accumulated by the Athletic Depart-

ment, adding that in the last eight years the Athletic Department had not only financed itself but had added \$365,000 to non-athletic University budgets.

The dorm will house baseball, basketball, and football players. The other athletes will move to Jeff house, vacating older student housing for O.U.'s expected population rise. Each room of the 66-double bedroom dormitory has permanent steel-frame double bunks, two study chairs, built-in chests, and closets with wooden folding chairs.

The bunks on the fourth floor—basketball land—are seven feet long. Study tables with durable black plastic tops and bookshelves above, shoe racks, and cork bulletin boards for Go-Go-Go! mottoes are some of the other special features. Also, electric shaver outlets have been provided beside mirrors equipped with overhead light fixtures. And special lighting is provided over each desk and bed to encourage Big Red readers to be big readers as well. Full length draperies will cover windows that run from ceiling to floor with air vents at the bottom.

A private lounge for the athletes is located on the east end of the third floor. A sunken living room on the west end serves as a guest lounge and it is complemented on the east end of the building with a sunken area in which two counselors have quarters.

How will O.U.'s new student homes affect its growing student body?

It's usually safe to guess that human nature will withstand All; but with Big Red ensconced in a Wash House and with O.U.'s Greeks luxuriating in their temples, some predictions do come to mind . . .

Attracted by the very basic consideration of more and elegant living quarters (to say nothing of the age-old status appeal), O.U.'s Greek population is bound to gain on the Independents. Formerly many Greek-susceptible but choosey enrolees went independent if they couldn't make what they considered Top Drawer. Now there's so much Top Drawer real estate that this attitude will be a little bit *too* choosey.

And Athletic Director Bud Wilkinson's prospectus should be even more enticing with a Wash House to show highschool talent. If not, he can at least count on all his athletes' having stronger legs in that the population drift to a hinterland Frat Row will certainly bring more cars to the campus which will certainly precipitate President Cross' avowed intention of converting traffic-jammed O.U. into a car-less campus; hence, everyone will be walking, or . . .

Would anyone care to invest in a Ye Olde Campus Bicycle Shoppe?

OU's new Fraternity Row is the 'Y' made by College and Elm streets. In the center of the 'Y', starting from the top are the Gamma Phi Beta, Alpha Chi Omega, Pi Lambda Phi, Alpha Phi and Tri-Delta houses. Starting at top left of the area and down around the outside of the 'Y' street are the Kappa Sigma, Phi Gamma Delta, Sigma Nu, Phi Delta Theta, Pi Beta Phi, and Pi Kappa Alpha houses.

