

A Positive Message

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A Positive Message 60

ARCHITECTURE Austin architect Milosav Cekic is designing a series of parks commemorating cancer survivors.

The Fountainheadache 62

BOOKS A collection of anecdotes about architect-client relationships leads the author of this book to advocate better communication.

Academic Intrigue 62

BOOKS A new book describes the history of the group of architectural educators at UT Austin in the 1950s who became known as the Texas Rangers.

Keeping a low profile 63

PRODUCT DESIGN Watkins Carter Hamilton Architects of Houston designed a flexible nurse station in conjunction with Herman Miller's medical division.

Preserving Graceland? 63

PRESERVATION A recent conference raised the question of how the objects of the last half of the 20th century should be evaluated.

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TRAVEL/TREASURES Architect Julius Gribou describes the wooden churches of his native Poland.

A Positive Message

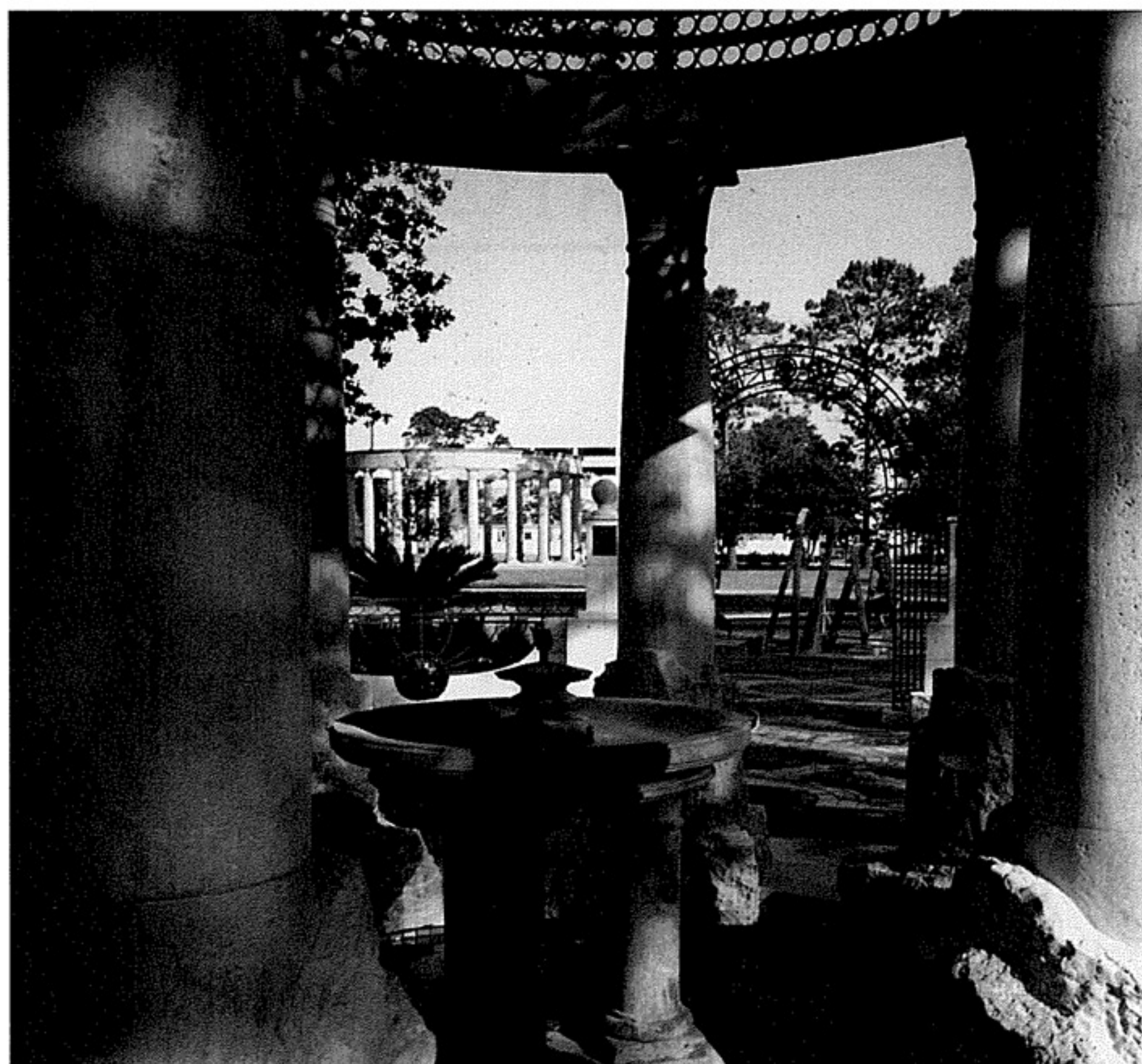
ARCHITECTURE When Richard Bloch, one of the founders of H&R Block, won a battle against cancer, he decided to spread the message that many people survive the disease—eight million to date in the United States have survived for five years or longer. Bloch decided to fund the construction of cancer survivors parks in 50 cities across the U.S. and Canada. Two have been constructed, the first in Kansas City, Bloch's hometown, and the second in Houston, where he was cured. A third is being built in New Orleans, construction will start in Cleveland and Co-

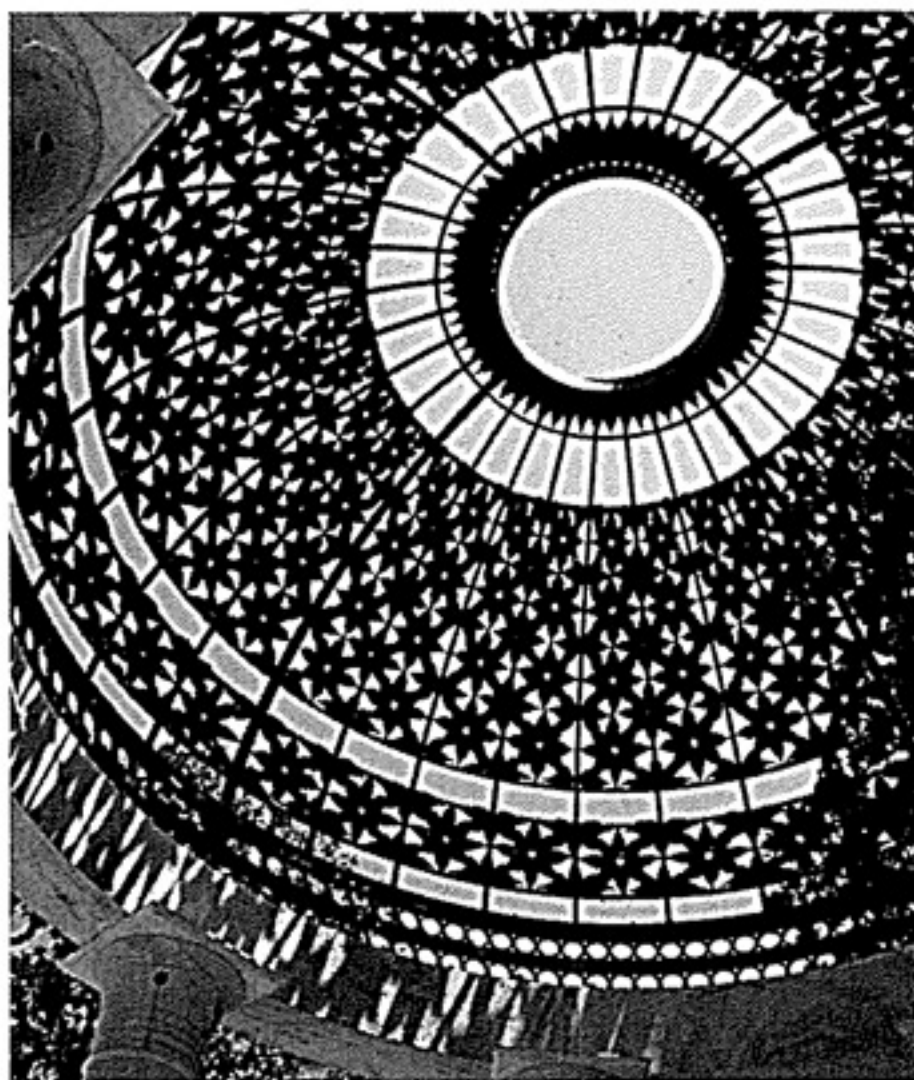
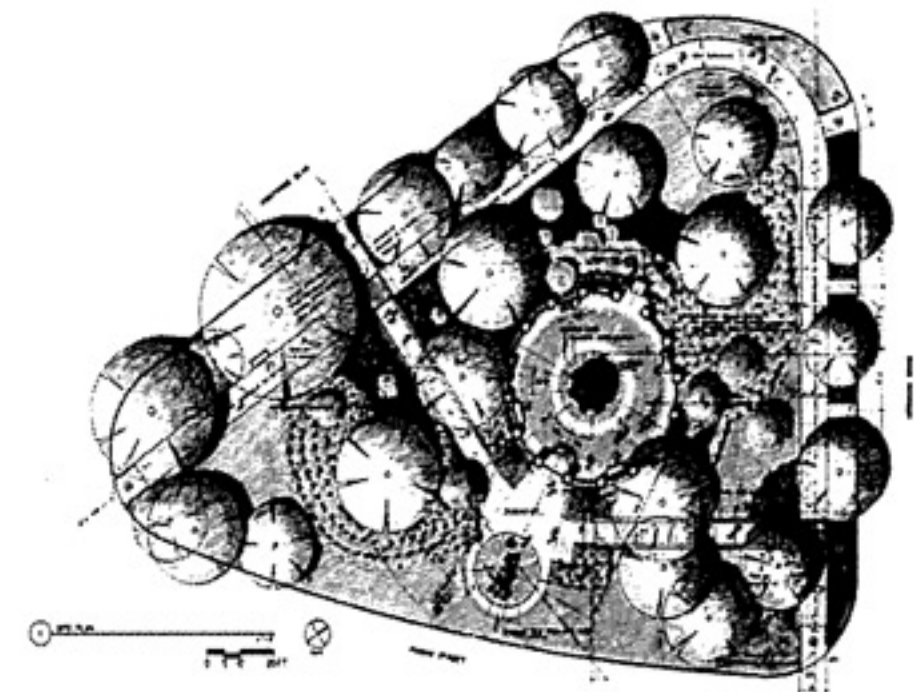
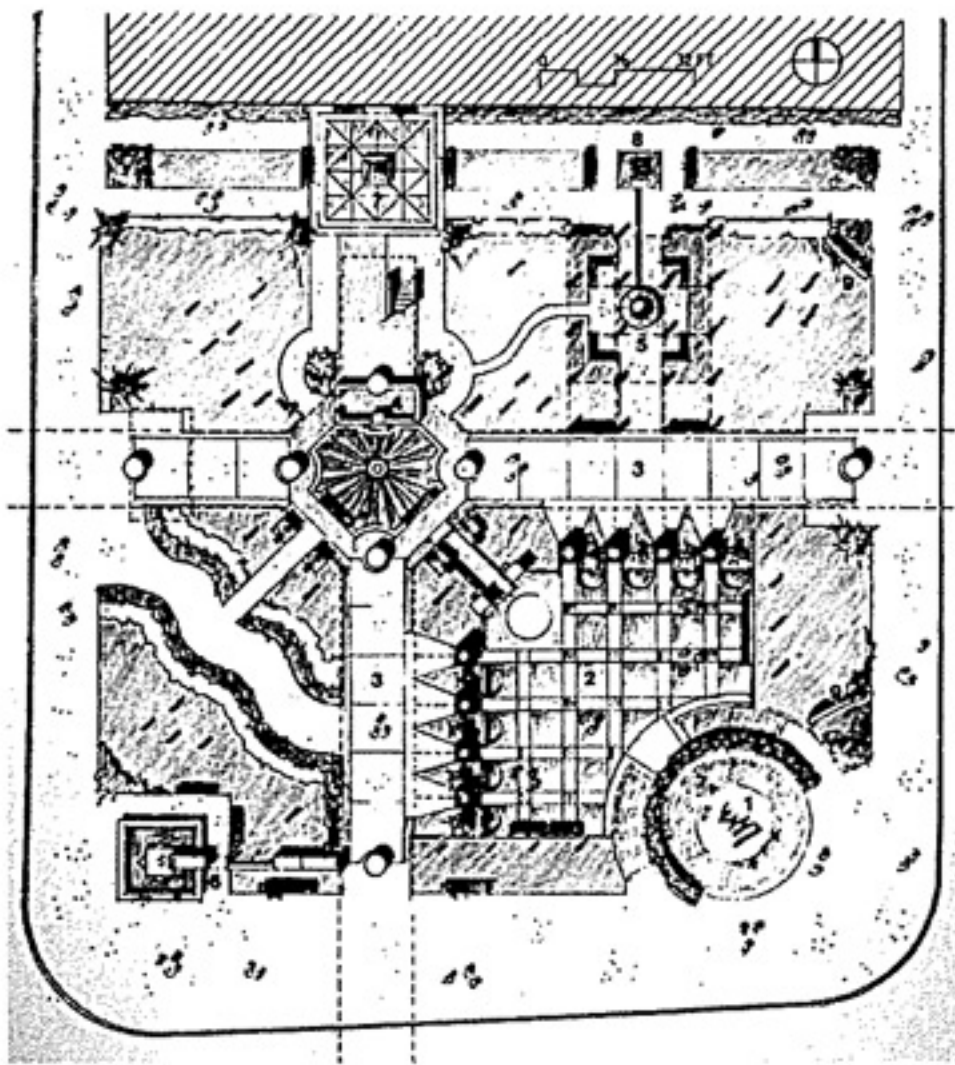
lumbus, Ohio, next month, and plans are in the works in Dallas; all were designed by architect Milosav Cekic of Austin.

According to Cekic, the Richard and



Photographs this page and opposite by Paul Bardagly





Opposite: The Houston Cancer Survivors Plaza is centered on a gazebo.

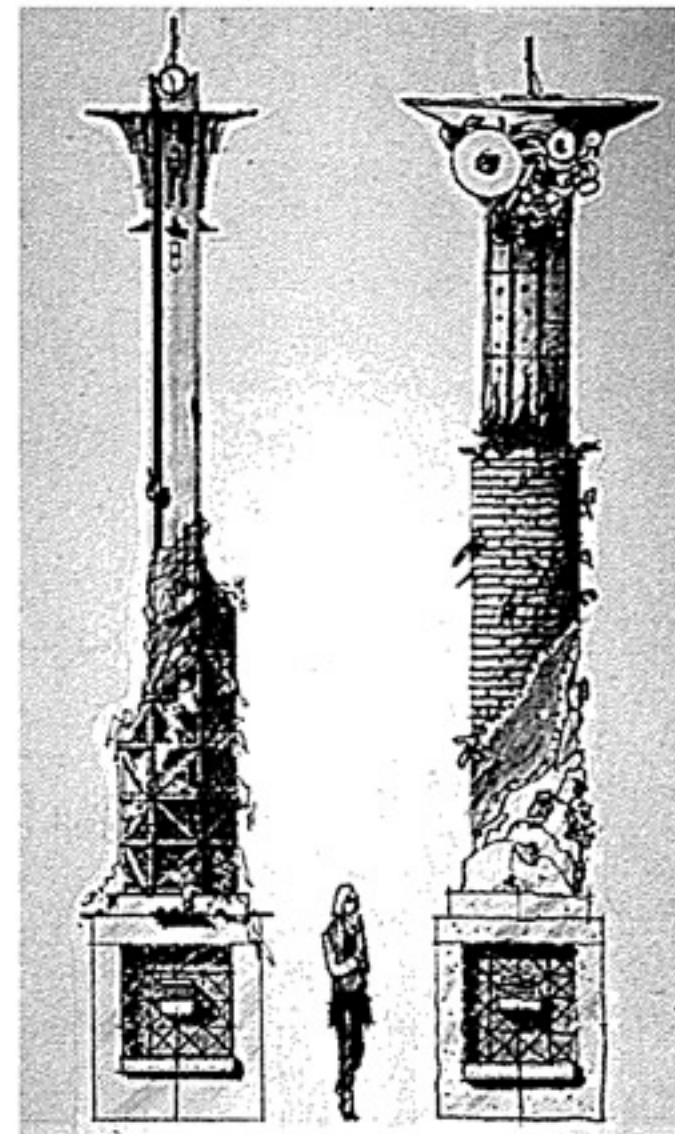
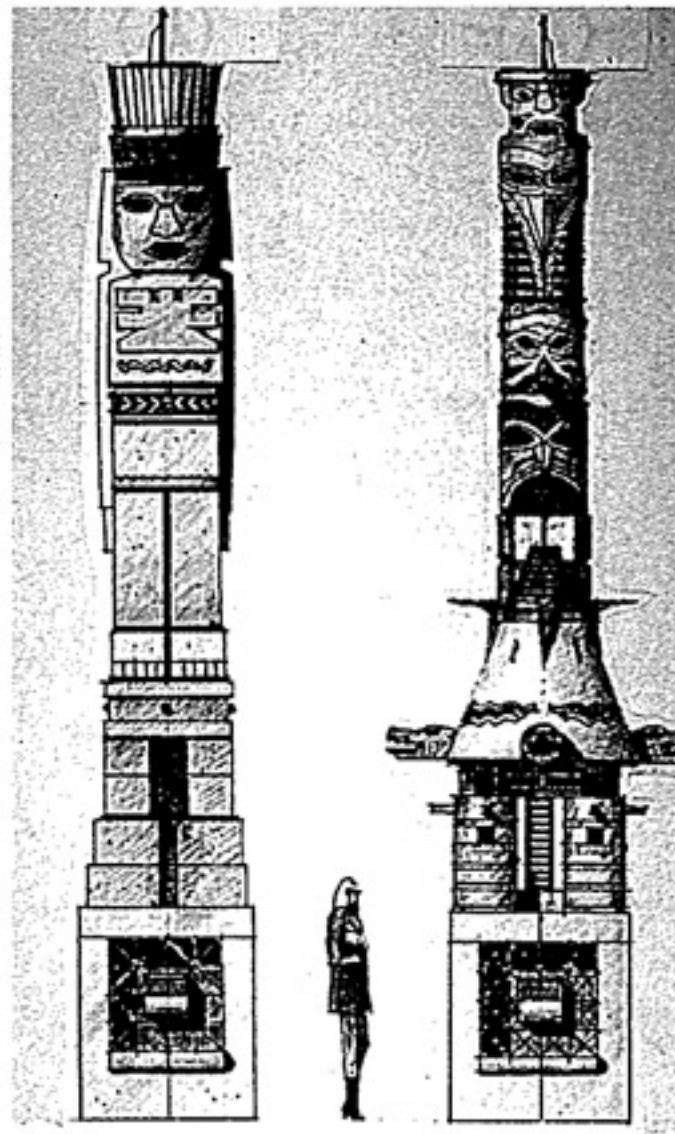
Top left: site plan, Dallas

Above left: site plan, Houston

Above: detail of the ornate metalwork roof of the Houston gazebo

Top right: renderings of New Orleans columns (from left): pre-Columbian, North American, modern, and New Orleans

Annette Bloch Cancer Survivor Plazas are meant to celebrate "the consciousness that heals" and the transformation that occurs when a person is faced with death and wins.



Although each park is different, all contain common elements requested by Bloch: a sculpture by Victor Salmones; a positive-mental-attitude area featuring inspirational messages developed by Bloch and his wife, Annette; and a computer that displays the names of cancer survivors.

The park in Houston is located on approximately an acre at the tip of Hermann Park. It is centered on a domed gazebo that encloses a brightly lit fountain, which, Cekic says, represents the "burning point of life." The plaza surrounding the gazebo contains the computer and 16 pedestals with plaques embossed with the inspirational messages. Cekic says that elements of the park's design, particularly the landscaping and the Salmones sculpture—human figures moving through a twisting series of bronze rectangles—evoke another important design motif: the passage.

The Dallas park is to be located downtown, across the street from the Plaza of the Americas, on a site crisscrossed by overhead pedestrian bridges. The bridges were too big to ignore, Cekic says, so they have become part of the design, tied to the park below with a bell tower that arches above them and trellises that reach up to meet them. The trellis columns are to be capped with planters—"liv-

ing capitals"—while the bases of the columns will be installed with the inspirational plaques.

In New Orleans, the site, in the median of a street near downtown, is long and narrow. The park is to be lined with a double row of fourteen columns, each representing a different historical or geographical place; the ends of the colonnade are terminated with Salmones's sculpture and a globe-shaped fountain. The inspirational plaques are mounted on the bases of the columns, and the top of each column holds a cast bronze bell tuned to

play Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*. The computer is housed in a symmetrical, four-sided arch at one end of the park. *SW*

Richard and Annette Bloch Cancer Survivor Plazas

PROJECT *Houston Cancer Survivor Plaza*

ARCHITECT *Milosav Cecik, AIA*

CLIENT *Houston Parks and Recreation Dept.*

CONTRACTOR *Mesa Southwest Construction, Houston*

ARTISANS *Jim Thomas, Thomas Studio, Jonestown (metal and bronze); Nick Brumder, Brumder Studio, Georgetown (metal work); Materials Marketing Corporation, San Antonio (stone)*

PROJECT *New Orleans Cancer Survivor Plaza*

ARCHITECT *Milosav Cecik, AIA*

CLIENT *New Orleans Parkways and Parks Comm.*

CONTRACTOR *Gootee Construction, New Orleans*

ARTISANS *John Zeringue, Zeringue Studio, New Orleans (metal work); Brian Borello, New Orleans (New Orleans column design and execution, mosaic design, children's workshops); Phillippe Klinefelter, Austin (totem pole and pre-Columbian column design and execution); Materials Marketing Corporation, San Antonio (stone)*