

MOLD-A-RAMA (moldarama) machine made in 1964 by Mold-A-Rama, Inc. for New York World's Fair, and Seattle World's Fair in 1962, is restored to its original glory to reissue souvenirs last seen half a century ago. MOLD-A-RAMA machine made in 1964 by Mold-A-Rama, Inc. for New York World's Fair, and Seattle World's Fair in 1962, is restored to its original glory to reissue souvenirs last seen half a century ago.

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(MOLDVILLE is not affiliated with **Mold-A-Rama, Inc.** of Chicago, IL nor with the 1960s company **Mold-A-Rama, Inc.** of Los Angeles, original operator of the "Disneyland Toy Factory.")

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Club-A-Rama v2.0

WEEK 45

HUMBLE OIL BUILDING

1962-63

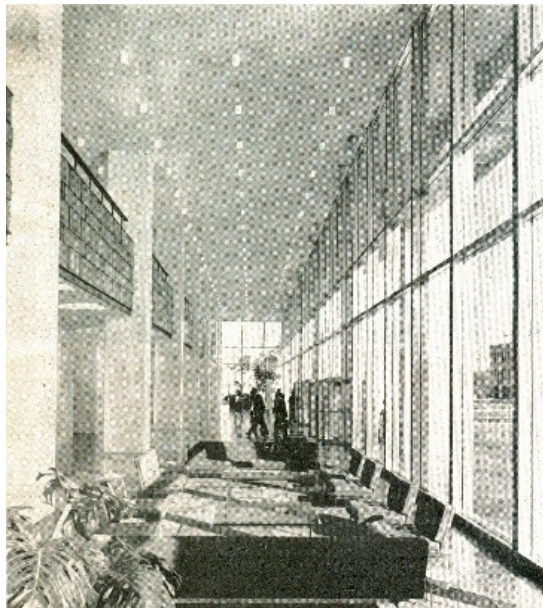
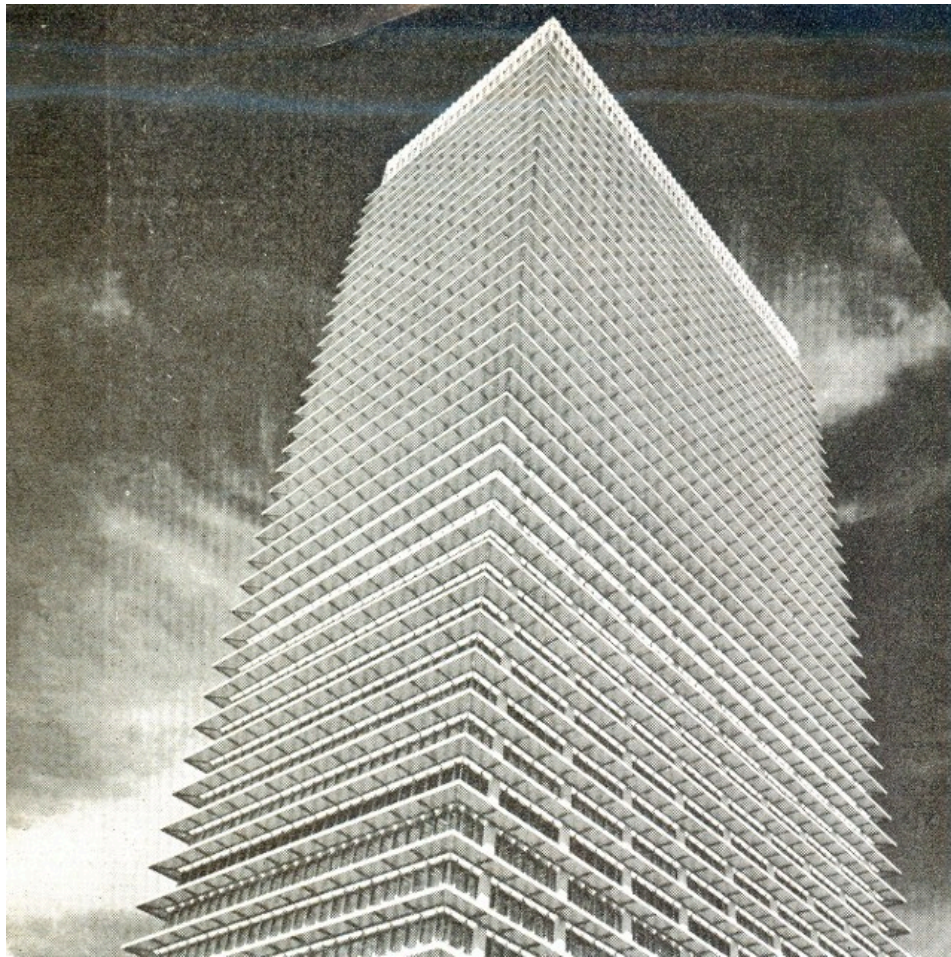
Houston, TX



The **HUMBLE OIL BUILDING** is located in Houston, Texas.

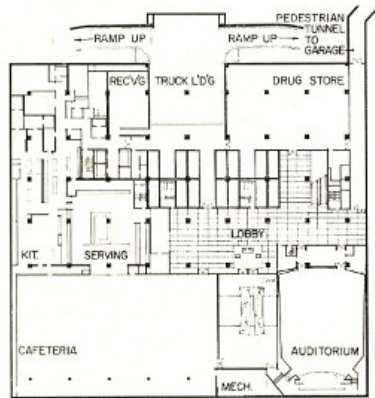


The **HUMBLE OIL BUILDING** was the home office for Humble Oil and Refining Company in Houston, Texas, was designed by Welton Becket with continuous horizontal sun shades on four exposures to reduce air-conditioning costs.



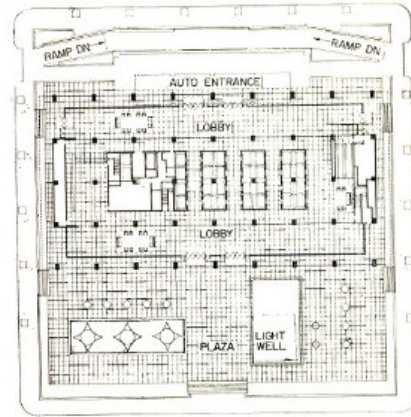
The new office skyscraper for Humble Oil is unusual in two important respects. Broad "eyebrow" type aluminum sun shades are used at every office floor on each face of the building, and these, enameled gray on top and white below, give the building facades a unique character. The 7-foot cantilevered shades completely screen out the summer sun; in the spring, fall and winter they admit morning sun on the southeast and late afternoon sun on the southwest. Studies have proved to the satisfaction of the owners that the screens will save enough air-conditioning dollars to pay for themselves every five years. A site diagonally across from the city block selected for the office tower was acquired by the building owners for a parking garage. The architects conceived the idea of placing the boilers, compressors and three cooling towers on top of the seven-story parking structure rather than at the penthouse level of the tower, thus achieving substantial economies.

While the 280-foot-square city block on which the office tower is built is not quite large enough to provide a generous plaza, the 225-foot-long by 115-foot-wide rectangular building has been set as far back from the major street as possible. The entire site has been designed as a raised podium.



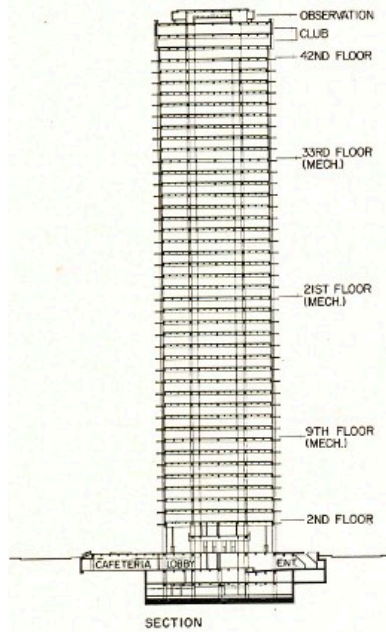
CONCOURSE FLOOR

Concourse floor plan shows the 900-seat cafeteria and a 500-seat auditorium placed below grade to accommodate wide space requirements which could not be conveniently located in the tower. The cafeteria is lighted by a glass enclosed sunken garden courtyard. A pedestrian tunnel at the concourse level connects to the parking garage



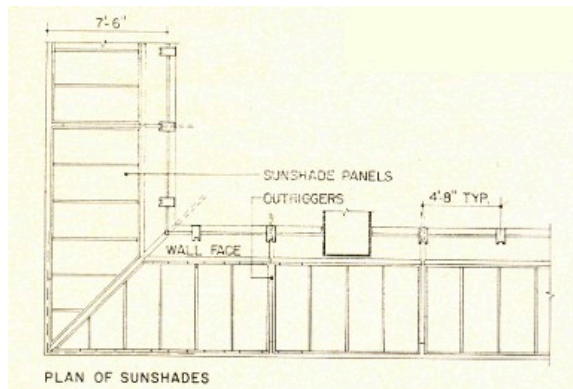
GROUND FLOOR

The tower shown at lobby level in the ground floor plan comprises 40 per cent of the site. It is set back on a podium which rises 3½ feet above the sidewalk level, and is approached by five broad granite stairways. Three fountains and the cafeteria light-well interrupt the podium surface. The south entrance provides access by ramp for taxis and limousines, as well as ramps down to the concourse level for truck loading



SECTION

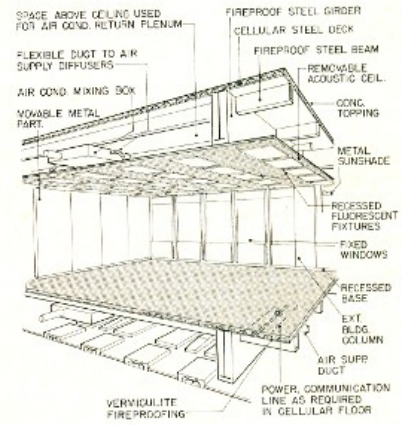
Floors 9, 21, 33 and 45 shown in the section (left) are mechanical floors, but they contain only electrical equipment and fan facilities for air-conditioning and ventilating. All boilers, compressors and cooling towers are located on the roof of the parking garage across the street. Not only does this eliminate noise and vibration in the office building but it reduces the dead loads on the steel structure, resulting in a lighter and more economical building. A two-story, glass enclosed private club and observation platform are located on top, where the heating and cooling equipment would have been, and printing, duplicating and other services, plus shops and storage, are located in the basement. The office tower rests on a 7-foot-thick reinforced concrete mat



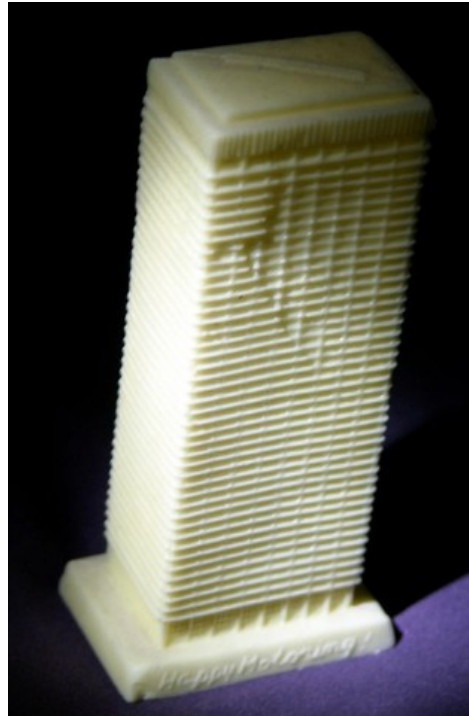
Continuous horizontal sunshades are cantilevered a distance of 7 feet from 41 of the building's 44 floors. They control solar radiation, reduce the air-conditioning load and create changing patterns of light and shade on the facades. Supported on aluminum outriggers, the aluminum panels are covered with a light gray porcelain enamel on the top surface to reduce glare, and white porcelain enamel on the bottom surface to harmonize with the facade. The panels are held at the line of the projecting white-marble-sheathed structural columns, a distance of approximately 1 foot 6 inches from the curtain wall. Air thus can circulate freely up the face of the building and warm air pockets are avoided. The shades support maintenance men when they wash the structure's 6,241 fixed glass windows. They are designed to carry a 200-pound dead load and to withstand wind velocities up to 150 miles per hour. The 4-foot 8-inch-wide precast spandrel panels of the curtain wall have an exposed Texas dolomite facing which is self cleaning. Aluminum mullions are natural finish



Typical office floors are planned on a 4-foot 8-inch building module located around a central utility core. Each module is a self-contained unit with its own under-floor electrical and communications connections permitting completely flexible partitioning. On office floors, conditioned air is supplied through flexible ducts leading to combination air-conditioning and lighting fixtures recessed into the removable acoustical ceiling (top right). This fixture, developed by Welton Becket for another building, is now a standard item. It consists of a recessed fluorescent light with air slots on either side. Certain of the slots supply air while others are used to exhaust or return the air, the ceiling acting as the return air plenum. Since the fixtures are modularly spaced across the entire ceiling, it becomes an air-conditioning source, with even air distribution and no noise or drafts. There are approximately 2,000 individual zones of temperature control, which allow each individual office to control its own temperatures. Illumination in excess of 100 foot-candles is provided throughout the office area.



All interior design was coordinated by Welton Becket Associates. Elevator cab interiors (*above left*) are color keyed to the floors each serves. Ceiling effect in cab is achieved by rectangular plastic cubes, edge-lighted from hidden fluorescent lights above. A lighting cove around the edge above the floating ceiling washes the walls of the cab with indirect light. The three walls of each cab are faced with a putty-colored plastic into which strips of walnut inlays blend with a walnut railing in the rear of the cab which is partially inset in the backwall. The cove into which the handrail is set is colored to match the cab's carpeting, which in turn matches the carpeting and color schemes of the elevator lobbies on the floors served by that particular elevator. Colors utilized are red, yellow-gold, olive green and blue. Conference room door (*left*) has walnut inlays similar to those in elevator. The architects developed the three-way telephone stands in the lobby (*above*) and refer to them as "telephone pods"



A couple vintage HUMBLE OIL BUILDING molds!



The **HUMBLE OIL BUILDING** moldset is UNnumbered, which makes it difficult to date. But it has an earlier-style mating design with the curved corners, and the October 1963 article in Architectural Record magazine includes photos of the building. It is my guess that this mold dates to the early 1962-63 era of Mold-A-Rama.

Disclaimers: The color and/or exact condition of the MOLD you get in the CLUB-A-RAMA may or may not be as shown. Not for children under 3.

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