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*From files of W. W. W. W. W.  
Dept. of Arch.  
Arch. Arts Ball  
at Rice*

Article from Pencil Points, March 1922:

BAILE ESPANOLE OF THE ARCHI\*ARTS, RICE INSTITUTE, HOUSTON, TEXAS:

A Spanish costume ball was given by the Archi-Arts---the students of architecture and the students of painting at Rice Institute Texas, February 3. The idea was fostered by The Architectural Society of the Rice Institute, composed of certain of the graduates, post-graduate students, senior and junior classmen of the School of Architecture.

The "Baile Espanole," as it was called, was a great success and was notable for the thoroughness and ability with which it was staged. The dance hall at Autry House, in which the ball was held, had been transformed into the patio or fore-court of a Spanish castle by means of scenery that masked the walls. This setting was painted, built and set up by members of the Archi-Arts, each of whom was responsible for a certain section---a bit of wall, a window, etc. The settings showed the painted figures of Spanish characters---a fruit woman with her stand, a man with his burro, two suspicious looking characters apparently plotting some mischief, a charming senorita looking down from a window, etc. An old-time well of mesquite blocks hid the fireplace in an arched alcove. It was truly remarkable well for instead of water it yielded a plentiful supply of punch. A blue cloth covered the ceiling to represent the sky. The room was lighted strongly from one direction, so that shadows were cast, and the effectiveness of the setting enhanced.

The idea and its execution are much to the credit of the Archi-Arts. Mr. Tidden suggested the Spanish idea, Mr. Stayton Nunn designed the setting in collaboration with the senior architects, who were set to

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DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

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work early in the term by Mr. W. W. Watkin on a Spanish problem.

The costumes made a gay mass of moving color of which the orchestra in white suits and red sashes and caps formed part. The dances were announced by the orchestra with a clash of cymbals and whirling of tambourines. There was a dash and a go in keeping with the Spanish setting, plenty of atmosphere and peppy music. Interspersed with the dances were a number of stunts. Miss Bertha Louise Hellman, of the art department, gave a Spanish dance effectively; Messrs. E. H. Duggan and J. C. Tidden got plenty of laughs with their comedy acrobatic sketch. There was a bull fight---with a live bull, the motive power being supplied by two husky young architects, namely, Mr. B. B. McElroy and Mr. Ted Flaxman, under a burlap hide. Mr. McElroy animated the anterior portion of the animal, while the rear end was ably taken care of by Mr. Flaxman. The toreadors were instructors Tidden and Conklin.

A buffet supper was served and dancing continued through the early morning hours. The attractive cover design for the program and the design for the ticket were made especially for the occasion by Mr. Tidden.

It is intended that the ball be made an annual event, taking the place of the play which it has been the custom to produce in the drafting room each year, the play having been abandoned since the forming of a live dramatic organization in the school.