Architects Plan Honors Program

By GRIFFIN SMITH

A "preceptorship program" for honor architecture students has been announced by Department Chairman W. W. Caudill.

In a plan similar to that followed in some medical schools, the students will have the opportunity of living in the home of and working with a well-known practicing architect for two weeks.

Mr. Caudill explained that the student will have "the opportunity of seeing how a good architect conducts his professional business."

The purpose of the program, according to the chairman, is to "help pave the way for the often times difficult transition from the classroom to actual business practice."

The program will go into operation during the spring semester. It will apply to 4th and 5th year architects.

The honor students who are eligible for positions will be selected by the Architecture Department staff on the basis of academic standing and architectural ability. Qualification will not be by grade point alone, however; the "most promising" students will be selected.

No students have been chosen as yet.

Six preceptors have been chosen by Rice president Kenneth S. Fitzger for a two year term. They are:

George F. Pierce, Houston, of Pierce and Pierce.
Richard L. Aeck, Atlanta, of Aeck Associates.
Charlotte Granger, Austin, of Fehr and Granger.
David G. Murray, Tulsa, of Murray, Jones, and Murray.
E. Davis Wilson, Tyler, of E. Davis Wilson Associates.

Since only one of the preceptors is from the Houston area, the participating students will be forced to miss classes during their two weeks of working with their architect. Bill Lahey, assistant chairman of the Department, was asked about this problem.

He said:

"There will be some class conflicts, but we've discussed this with the administration. They felt the program has enough merit that they're willing to make concession to the students."

The actual amount of student participation is up to the individual architect, Mr. Lahey said. All the preceptors understand the aims of the program, and they will decide the extent of the student's activities.