Architecture Department Raised To Status Of University School

By ROBERT WATSON
Thrasher Reporter
The Rice Department of Architecture has been redesignated the School of Architecture, Rice University President K. S. Pitzer announced Sunday.

Professor William W. Caudill, Chairman of the Architecture Department since 1961, has been named director of the school.

The administration of the school will be independent of that of the Division of Humanities, with Professor Caudill communicating directly with President Pitzer.

This change, Pitzer says, "recognizes the professional character of architecture."

Fully Accredited
The department was visited in the spring by the National Architectural Accreditation Board and was fully accredited. For the last two years it has had only provisional accreditation.

In the August 16 National Observer, Rice was included in a list of the best architecture schools in the US, the only one besides Tulane in the Southwest.

Change In Stature
According to Caudill, there will be no abrupt change in the department. "The change is mainly one of stature," he explained, "the culmination of a long period of improvement."

He continued, "We are trying to do two things: to make it a truly professional school, and to retain and reinforce the advantage of being an integral part of the University.

"We are pleased to remain a part of the school, and we will encourage students to take courses outside the field of architecture. We are interested in the whole architect, not just the technician."

Continue Policy
The school will continue its present policy, unique in the nation, of offering a single architecture course each year, which has all students working with experts in design, technology, and management.

The following programs, introduced by Caudill to supplement regular instruction, will be continued: Design Fetes, periodic research projects which bring outstanding architects and students together on the campus to solve specific problems.

Also the Preceptorship Program, professional practice for selected students in offices of architects; and the Chilean Community Facilities Program, campus research and classes in residence in Chile for selected students involved in design and community planning.