A floor by floor view of Guaranty Bank's multi-million dollar home office expansion
HISTORY AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The first three floors of the building were completed in June, 1970 and in 1976 work began on the nine-story tower. The tower and renovation of the three existing floors were completed this summer at a cost of six million dollars.

The building has a total floor area of 155,000 sq. ft., 80% of which is available for bank offices, the remainder set aside for service areas such as elevators, stairs, restrooms, equipment rooms, hallways and chases.

The 180 foot tall building is of steel frame construction, with concrete slab floors and outer-walls of insulated, coated double glass in aluminum mullions, the entire system being designed and tested to withstand winds up to 200 miles per hour.

The interior is finished with materials from all over the world, including teak and oak from Japan, Italian marble and grass cloth wall covering from Taiwan.

No longer is one vault sufficient in this world of modern banking. The new building has a total of five, starting with the Safe Deposit vault on the first floor, a two-level main vault and another separate one on the second floor plus a Bookkeeping vault on the fifth floor and a seventh floor vault for the Trust Department.

The building is equipped with the most modern and complete safety and security systems which cover all twelve floors and the outside perimeter of the building with TV cameras and other security devices monitored from a central console. There is also a fire, evacuation and energy management system interconnected with the other systems, and controlled from a computerized console on the first floor. This computer automatically notifies the fire department and other key personnel in the building on appropriate emergency procedures. It also controls the lighting and air conditioning systems in order to insure maximum economy of operation.

In the event of an electrical power failure, the building is equipped with an emergency generator which automatically begins furnishing power within about five seconds. This emergency power is sufficient for emergency lighting, the communication system, and operation of the elevators for a sufficient time to bring all down to ground level, with the service elevator remaining operational until normal power is restored.

There is parking available for 264 cars in seven parking lots either adjacent to or within two blocks of the building.

RECEPTION, EXHIBITS AND SERVICE AREA

The first floor serves as a general reception and service area for the bank. It houses the Installment Loan Department, and the Safe Deposit vault which contains boxes for the safekeeping of customers' valuables. Also on this floor is the central computer and controls for the fire and evacuation systems and the energy management system. The central feature of this system is a computerized console which continuously and automatically monitors all areas and mechanisms within the building, and provides appropriate action in case of fire or other emergency, and for the economical management of the air conditioning and electrical systems. On the outside of the building, on the north side, are three night depositories and a 24-hour Banker.
This floor contains the mechanical equipment which services the first three floors and portions of the tower, plus a telephone equipment room and storage rooms.

This is the principal banking floor. In addition to paying and receiving and note tellers, it houses the main two-level vault, and the televised tellers who service the drive-in facility at Buchanan and Garfield Streets thru pneumatic tubes. Also on this floor are the loan officers, and the Credit, Collateral, Commercial Loan and Mortgage Loan Departments. On the mezzanine between this floor and the third are the telephone operators and a small coffee room. The walls on the first two floors are primarily of teak, with floors of either Pennsylvania slate or carpet. The columns are sheathed in imported travertine marble.
FUTURE EXPANSION SPACE

These floors are reserved for future expansion, with a portion of the tenth being finished for occupation by the Marketing Department, now temporarily housed on the first floor, and the Mortgage Loan Department.

BOOKKEEPING, CUSTOMER SERVICE, MAILING

The fifth floor houses the Bookkeeping Department, with four customer service desks and its own fireproof vault and mail room, plus Proof and Transit. The fifth floor, as well as all those above it, is completely surrounded by a double glass wall enclosed by aluminum mullions and coated to absorb ultra-violet rays, and is able to withstand winds up to 200 miles per hour. Inside this glass wall are floor-to-ceiling drapes. Floors are carpeted except for the elevator lobby, which is slate. Walls are imported oak paneling or vinyl wall covering.
OPERATIONS, AUDITING, ACCOUNTING, PURCHASING AND SAVINGS

The sixth floor provides space for Operations, Auditing, Accounting, Purchasing and Savings. A unique feature of this floor, as well as portions of the fifth and seventh, is that all work rooms are formed by removable oak veneer panels which may be taken down and reassembled in interchangeable patterns, permitting a great range of flexibility in organization and space utilization.

ARCHITECT, CONTRACTORS, BANK SUPERVISION AND COORDINATION

Architect: Barras, Breaux & Champeaux
General Contractor: Roy Dupuis, Inc.
Vaults & Security Systems: Mosler Safe Company
Elevators: Otis Elevator Company
Furniture: CSI Furnishings & Design
Drapes: Lafayette Awning & Supply
Carpeting: Southern Tile Co. & Hollier Floor Covering
Structural Engineers: Rayner & McKenzie
Mechanical Engineers: Richard, Gaudet, Poche
Electrical Engineers: Levy-Kramer & Associates
Food Service Consultant: Max Futch & Associates
Landscaping: Lafayette Nursery Sales
Principal Bank Officer for Construction: Calvin Guidry, Exec. Vice President
Building Coordinator: Col. E. A. Trahan