FOR ENGINEERS — This is the proposed design for the new one and one half million dollar, ($1,500,000) engineering Building at Southwestern Louisiana Institute. Designed as a single structure, the proposed building will occupy an area of one hundred thousand square feet (100,000 sq. ft.) on the campus.

Engineering Building Awaits 1956 Students

The one outstanding need at Southwestern Louisiana Institute is now being remedied.

By the fall term of 1955 SLI students in the College of Engineering will occupy their new one and one half million dollar building ($1,500,000) on the campus.

Through the action of the 1954 state legislature the money was appropriated and the building is now in design.

"The addition of this new engineering building has been under consideration for the past four years," said Joel L. Fletcher, president of SLI.

"Industrialization of our section of Southwest Louisiana has forced us to provide adequate facilities for our growing College of Engineering," he added.

Since 1953 the enrollment in the College of Engineering at SLI has tripled and the engineering faculty has better than doubled itself, said Fred Zurburg, dean of the College of Engineering.

The building under design will have an area of one hundred thousand square feet (100,000 sq. ft.) which is approximately two and one half acres. The day it is completed the engineering department will occupy it, leaving no excess space available.

Although the building is being designed as a single structure, it will be subdivided into several sections. The sectional divisions in engineering are: mechanical, civil, chemical, petroleum and electrical.

In addition there will be a section for geology.

"Since functional has been the keyword throughout our planning," said Zurburg, "the sections are so designed within the building that each department can operate both horizontally and vertically.

"For example, in the case of mechanical engineering the heavy laboratory equipment is on the first floor, while in the same department and directly above on the second floor will be located the classrooms, drafting rooms and offices for this department."

This general scheme will hold throughout the building for the other departments, Zurburg declared.

A few of its special features will be a small auditorium which can accommodate 250 students; special space, which will provide a study hall for students, and its own library which will house technical books, pertinent to all departments.

The structure will be located at the rear of the present open space between the chemistry building and the stadium. It will face St. Mary's boulevard, but will be some distance back from the street.

"Ten years ago entering freshmen at SLI had rather vague ideas about the field of engineering as a profession," said Zurburg. "This picture has radically changed. The average entering freshman today has a rather complete concept of engineering, but knows exactly which branch of it he will major in."

Architects for the new engineering building are the firms of Colbert and associates and Benson and associates of New Orleans.