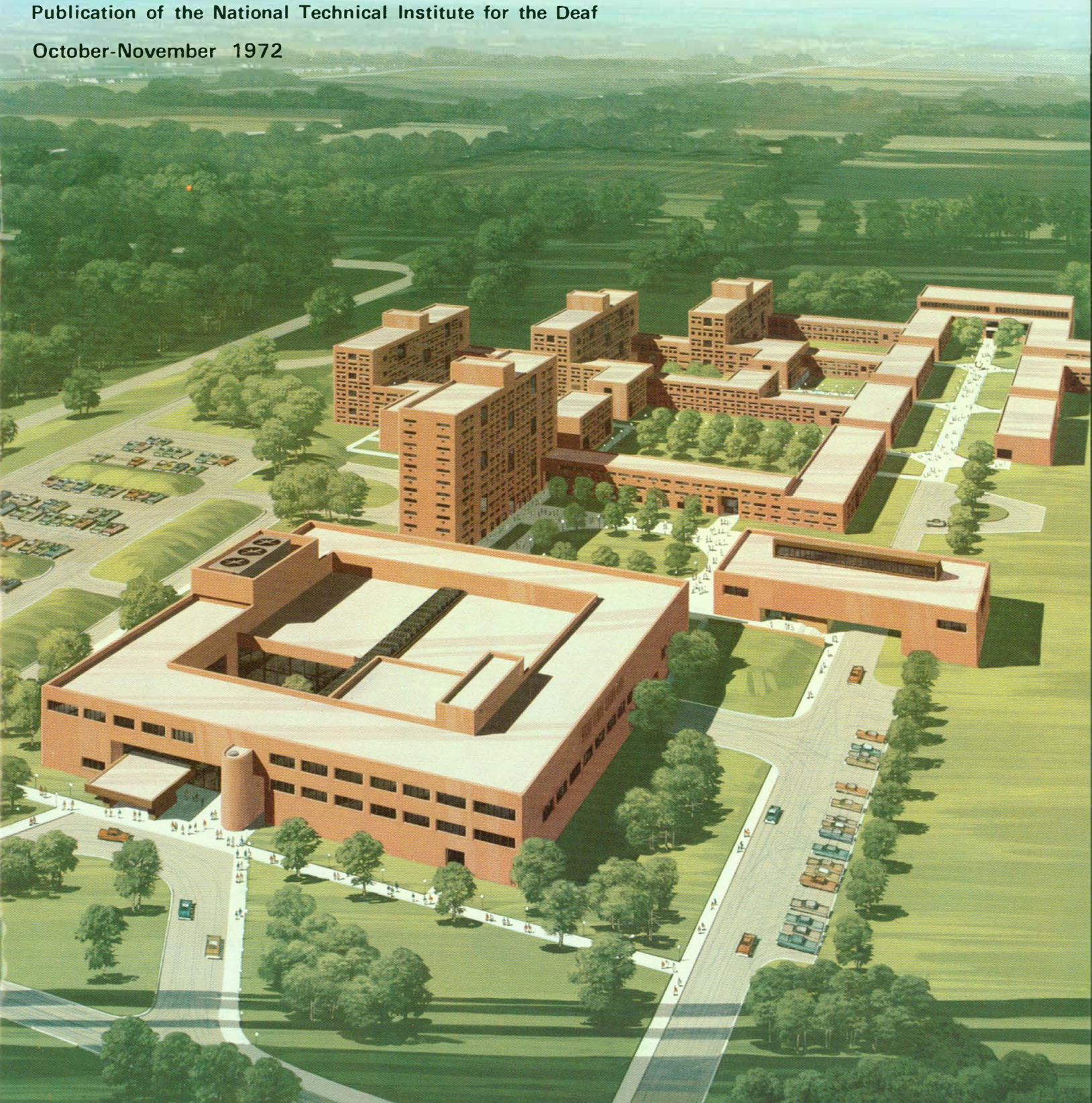


# ntid focus

Publication of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf

October-November 1972



# Construction



## Architectural Accomplishment

# NTID Complex Meets Challenge

When construction of the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) complex is completed in January 1974, it will be pointed to as a "significant" architectural accomplishment. Few architectural assignments could provide a greater challenge.

NTID is unique as the only national postsecondary technical school for the deaf. Established and funded by Congress, it is administered through the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Its uniqueness is enhanced as the first attempt to educate a large number of deaf students in a college environment planned primarily

for hearing students, Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology.

The following challenges were given to Hugh Stubbins and Associates of Cambridge, Mass. (1) assimilate the new structures into the mode of architecture of RIT. (2) create a facility that will reflect the national scope of the program.

The assignment was accomplished by maintaining the same architecture and in the same setting as present RIT buildings. In addition, the exteriors of the three buildings will be finished with the same special brick used throughout the campus. In total, it will

give the campus a unified look.

NTID also has been insured prominence by its visible location on the 1300 acre campus. The construction of the courtyard within the complex adds to the individuality.

Many of the architectural considerations for the interior of the buildings may never be noticed, but are expected to have major effects on the learning process of NTID students.

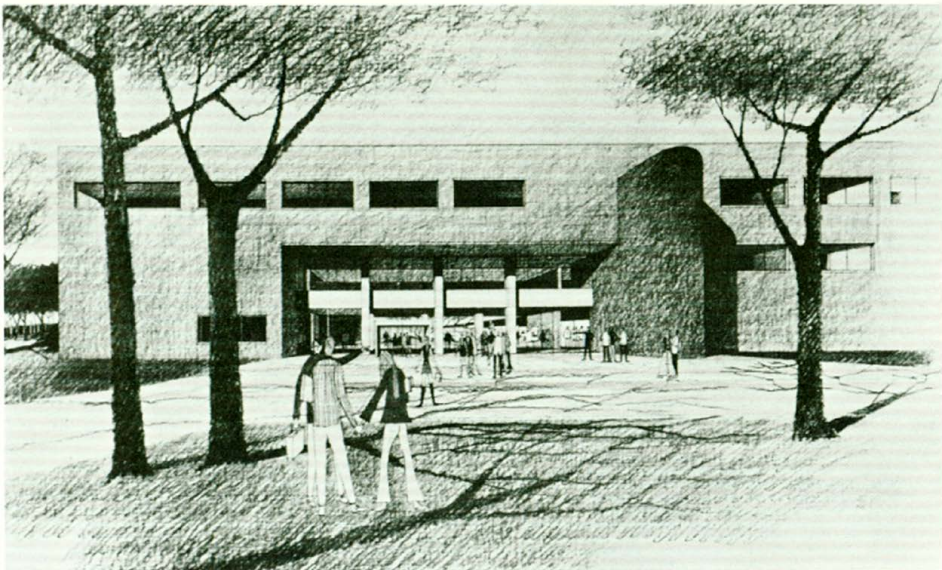
Noise may not be a problem for deaf students, but vibrations are. If the ventilation system and pipes were not properly cushioned to eliminate vibration, they would be distracting.

The entire learning environment will be built as an aid to education. Classrooms, shops and laboratories will have controlled lighting designed to increase the visual efficiency of deaf students.

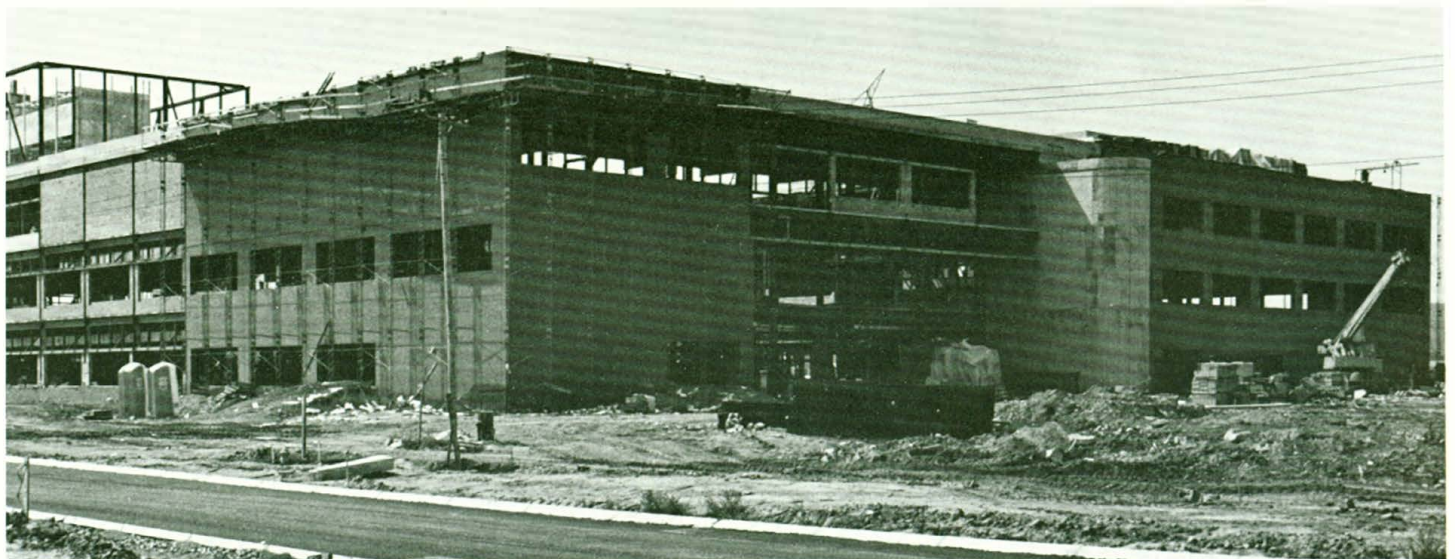
So deaf students won't feel confined, the architects have created a hallway in the academic building that resembles a street. A skylight which will let in northern, non-glare light and numerous windows will keep deaf students from feeling isolated. Another skylight will be placed in the cafeteria.

Areas within the academic building that have windows will provide picturesque Upstate New York country-type settings.

Unique and common educational features have been combined so as to enhance the learning prospects for deaf and hearing students working together.



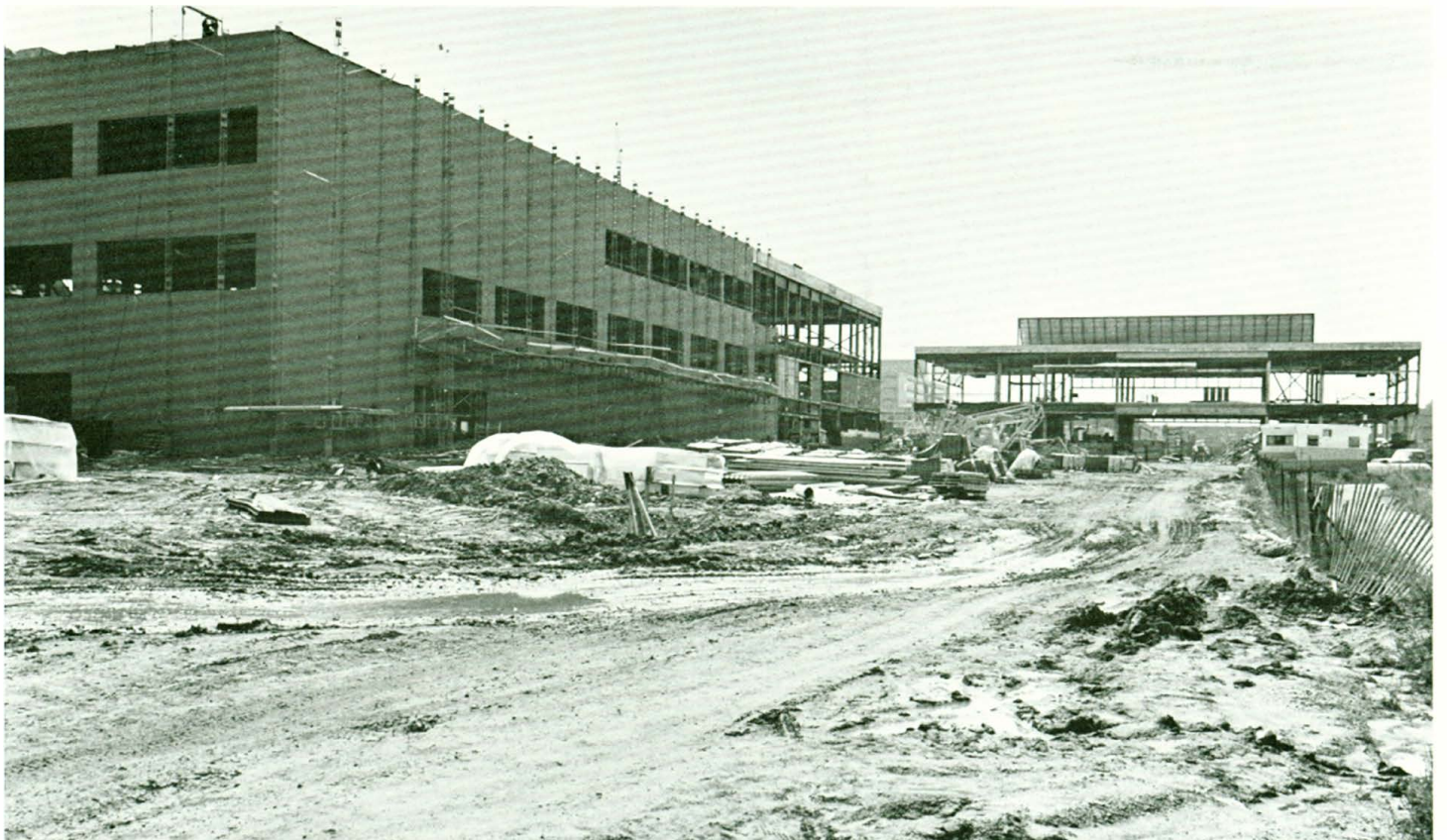
**THE FUTURE LOOK**—The front of the new NTID academic building will look like the artist rendering shown above. The academic building (below) is rapidly taking shape with the exterior brick work well underway.







**TOUR FACILITIES**—Members of the NTID staff tour the facilities, looking over various phases of construction.



**TAKES SHAPE**—The outer shell of the new dining hall building (right) is completed. It is shown in relation to the academic building.





**TOPPED**—The last floor of the 12-story dormitory building (top) is now finished. The new NTID complex has visible prominence on the Rochester (N.Y.) Institute of Technology campus. Bottom photo: faculty members Jane Bolduc, Joe Avery and Jim Collins discuss construction.



# Construction Plans On Schedule

Reports from the construction site of the new National Technical Institute for the Deaf are all good, as the buildings continue to take shape. According to William H. Williams, assistant to the director of NTID, "The job is proceeding extremely well, with more than 40 percent of the work completed."

Williams is enthusiastic in his praise of both the general contractor, Pigott Construction International Limited, and the architects, Hugh Stubbins and Associates. "They are conscientiously attempting to complete construction on time with a high degree of quality." He went on to say that the scheduled completion date is January 21, 1974.

In the academic building, the ground floor slabs are 80 percent in place, the second and third floor slabs are finished and the roof is complete. Fifty percent of the fire proofing has been done and the mechanical and electrical work is proceeding very well. Exterior brick work is well underway.

The three wing residence building is also progressing well. In the 12-story wing, all floors have been poured; and the second floor of the three-story and two-story buildings are being poured and formed. The mechanical roughing is in the beginning stages in this complex.

The Dining Hall/Commons is somewhat further along with the concrete work finished and the fire proofing complete. In this building, the electrical and mechanical work is well underway.

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## mid focus

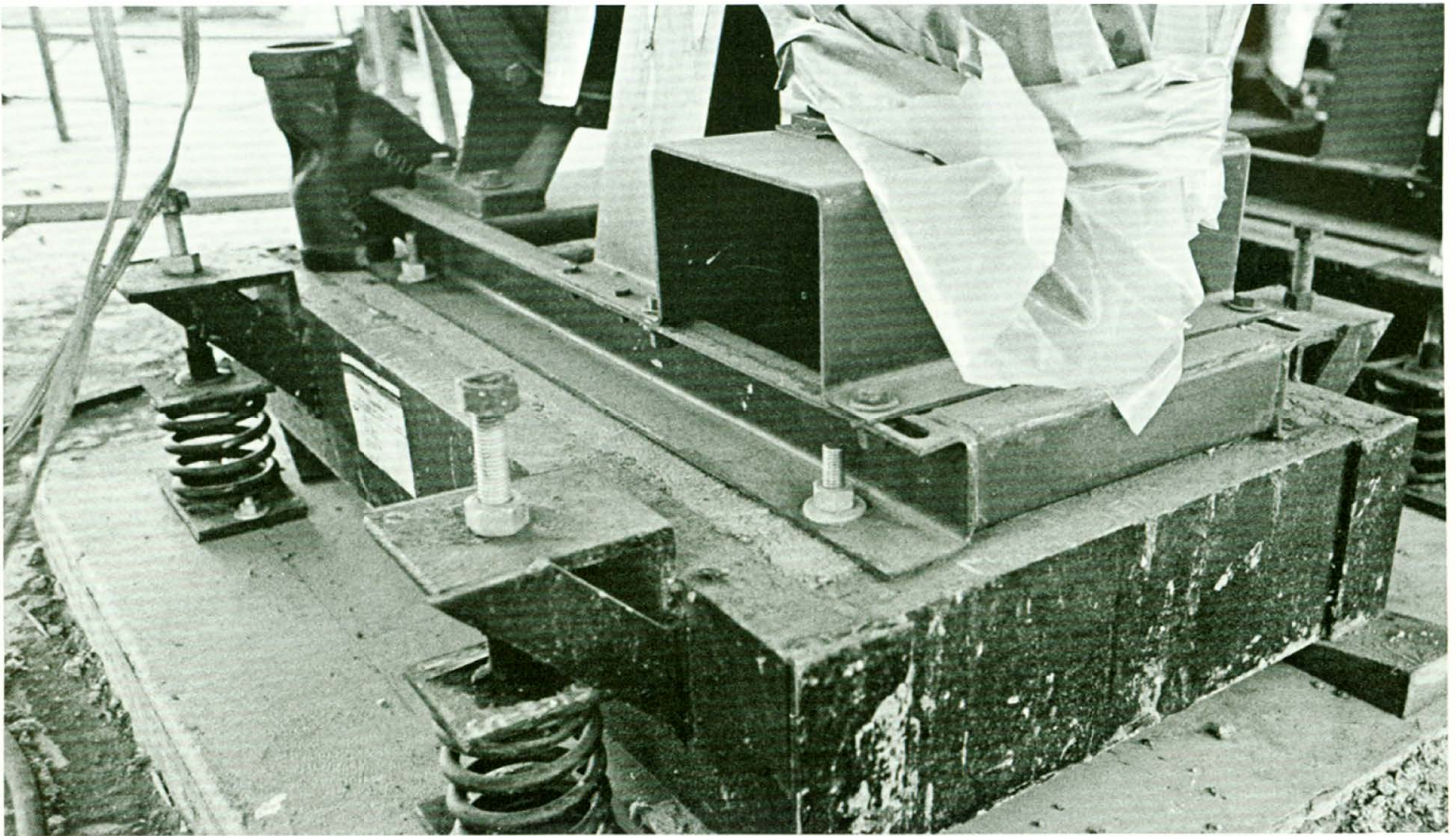
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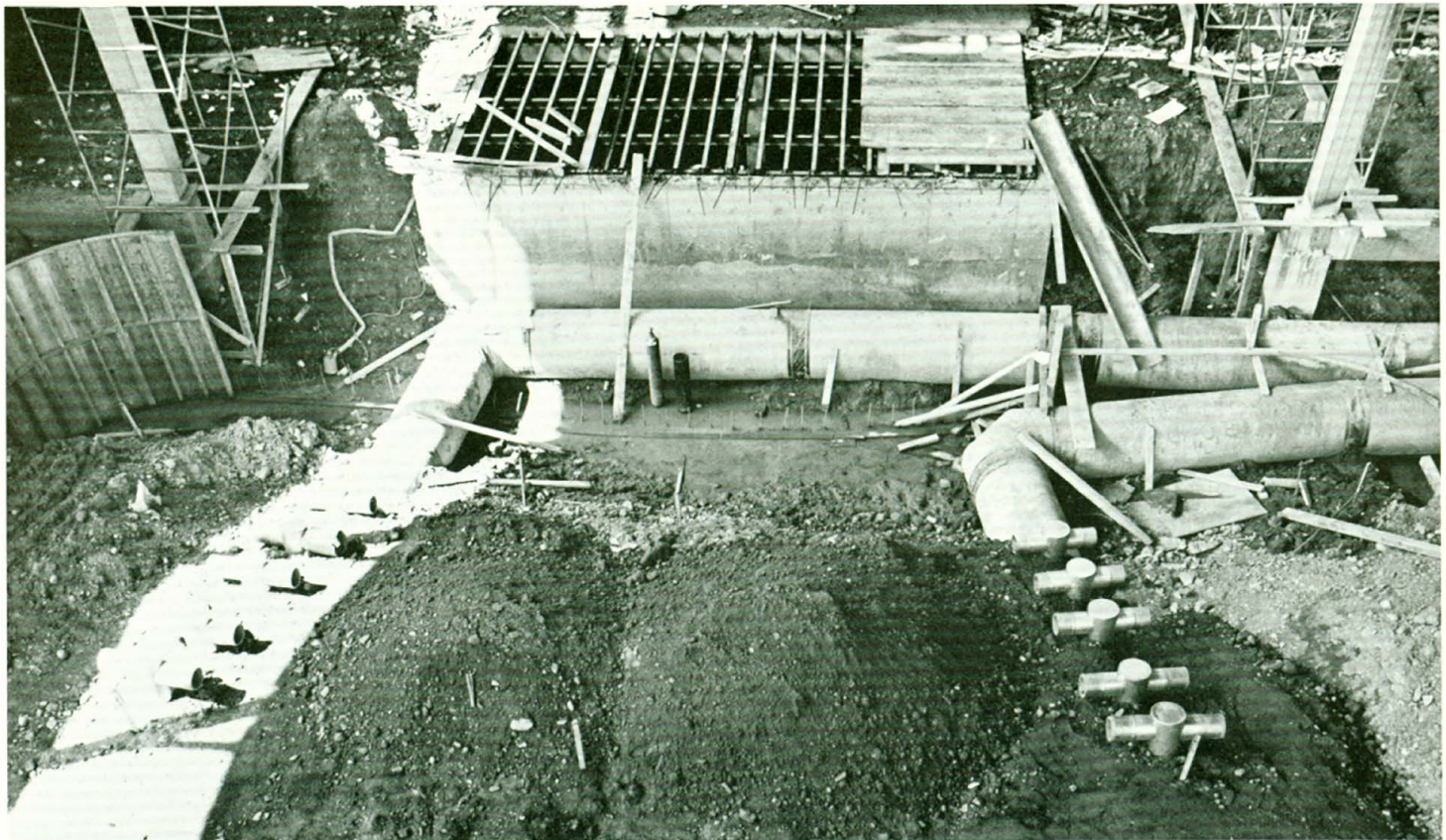


**TO LIGHT STREET**—Skylights in the academic building will light the "internal" street with northern non-glare light.





**SOMETHING SPECIAL**—Springs will be used to support motors in order to eliminate vibrations which could distract deaf students.



**TO AID PROGRAM**—A view from the projection booth reveals the stage for teaching theater technologies and crafts as well as holding dramatic performances.

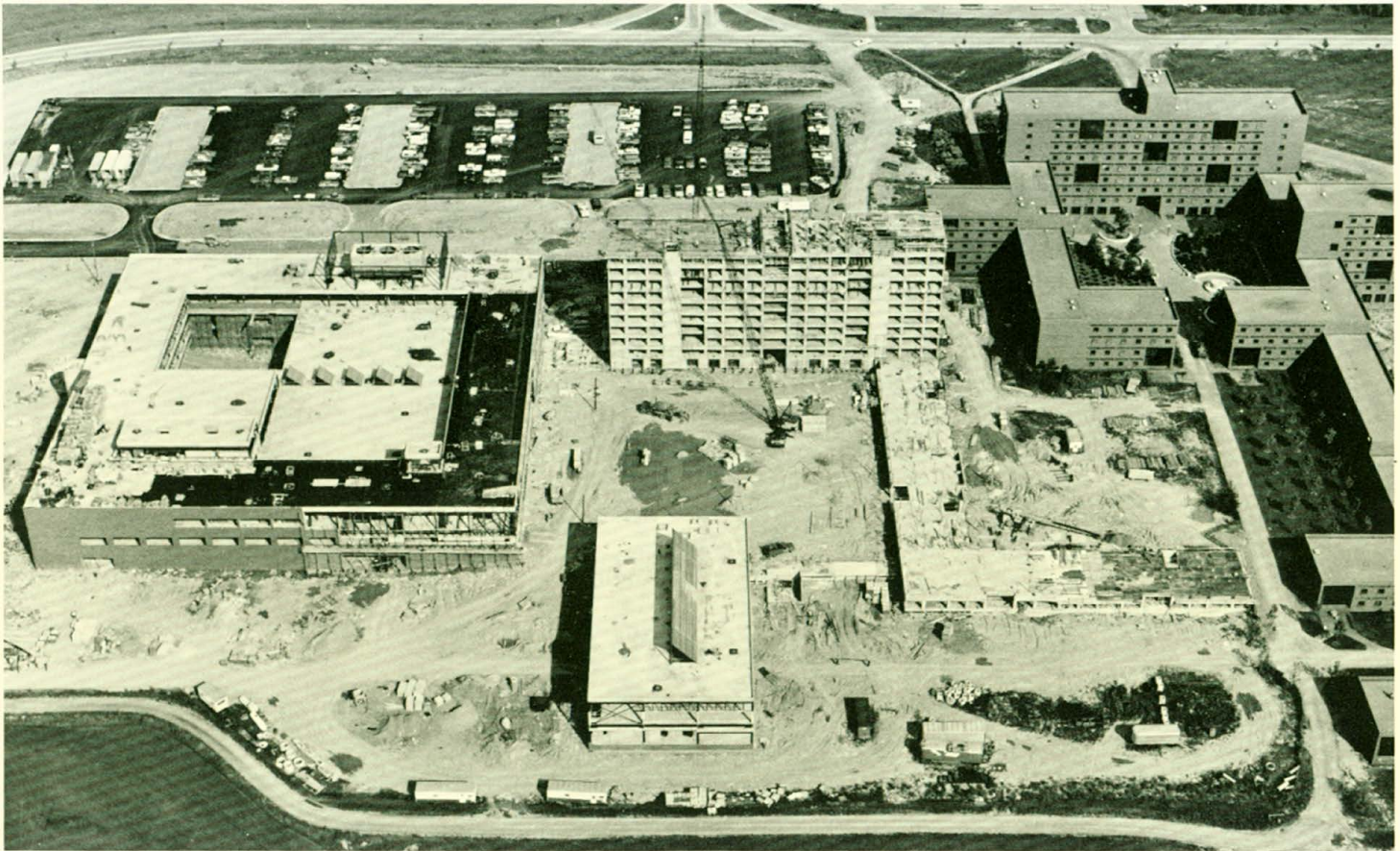


**IN PERSPECTIVE**—The future NTID dormitory and academic building are seen in close relation to present RIT structures.



**CLOSE INSPECTION**—William Williams, assistant to the director of NTID, explains special construction features, such as fireproofing for steel girders, to staff members (from left) Joe Avery, Jane Bolduc, Jim Collins, John Kubis, Williams and Lou Boyon, construction supervisor.





**BIRDS-EYE VIEW**—An aerial photograph shows the overall NTID complex which is more than 40 per cent completed.

## ***Equipment to Aid Learning Environment***

The new NTID complex will become a complete learning environment when the buildings are equipped.

The basic equipment that will be needed are residence, dining and academic furnishings, laboratory, shop and studio equipment, audio-visual equipment, communication-instrumentation and learning center equipment. They all will have a direct impact on the NTID program.

In the residence hall rooms, a modular, building-block concept is going to be employed for student furniture. All furnishings will be coordinated in such a way that the student himself will be allowed to arrange his room in whatever way he pleases according to his needs and his interests.

In the dining area, round tables will be used rather than the traditional square and rectangular tables. This will permit much more communication than is normally achieved in dining situations.

Computer assisted instruction (CAI) and closed-circuit television (CCTV) terminals will be installed in the residence halls. The CAI terminals will be

in study rooms. The CCTV stations will be located both in study rooms and in student rooms. The dormitory will be a living-learning experience.

It also is hoped that the picture telephone will be used within the new complex to aid communications. The picture telephone will have great educational value as a tie-in with a computer and with a central facility which can distribute a variety of films and television images. It can be an instructional or study aid in the various curricula offered throughout the Institute.

And for the first time anywhere in the country, hearing and speech will be supplemented in a self-instructional mode using computer assisted instruction. This will be done through the design of special equipment for this purpose.

Within the Communication Center, equipment will be needed to conduct research in the areas of speech analysis and synthesis through the utilization of complex research instrumentation. The research will be applied in nature.

Equipment also is needed to complete research already underway in the

area of computer assisted instruction.

Built into the classrooms in the new facility will be sound amplification units so that a student may put on a set of earphones to hear the amplified voice of the instructor, other students, or amplified sound from such equipment as a 16mm movie projector or tape recorder.

A new speech therapy console has been developed to enable a speech pathologist to work on a host of different speech parameters.

A new emergency warning and signaling system using strobe lights, will be installed. The device can be used to awaken the deaf student from sleep in case of fire or other emergency. It can also be used as a doorbell or an attention getting device in the classroom.

A variety of technical equipment will be needed in laboratories, shops and studies. Since the fundamental purpose of NTID is to prepare young deaf people for employment, all technical equipment will be oriented to the world of work and, as appropriate, will simulate the work environment.