

Satellite banking



LANDOW AND LANDOW, ARCHS

The owners wanted a remote, unmanned facility that would allow customers to transact their banking business 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The building had to be expressive of the advanced concept of computerized automated banking—and to reflect the bank's progressive image. It had to be energy-efficient, transportable, and within the established budget. It had to be graffiti-proof and maintenance-free, and the customer lobby had to be clearly visible from the outside.

The architects' award-winning solution: a pre-assembled building consisting of two modules, each 11 x 22 feet, sheathed in custom-fabricated porcelain enamel steel which is bolted to a steel frame, for lateral stability. The ramped entrance is recessed to shield the building and protect customers from the elements while using their bank ID cards to unlock the entrance door.

Engineers developed a system for the unit that utilizes the heat given off by the computers, supplemented by electric heating coils. During the cooling season the excess heat from the computers is vented directly to the outside to reduce the cooling load.

To accommodate differing soil conditions on temporary sites, the foundation design involves four piers, dug with a backhoe and filled with concrete. Lightweight steel beams are placed on the piers which mate with the building's internal structure to permit erection in as little as four hours' time.

