

THE  
OCTAGON

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*A Journal of The American Institute of Architects*

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*Concerning a Code for Architects*  
*Federal Employment of Private Architects*  
*The Tennessee Valley Project*  
*Economics of Site Planning and Housing*

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# THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

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It is an established policy of THE OCTAGON not to publish obituary notices when deaths of members occur, but it is believed that the whole membership should be informed on the occasion of the loss of an acting officer.

It is with great regret that it has become necessary to advise the membership of the death on June 25, 1933, of Albert L. Brockway, of Syracuse, N. Y., Fellow of the Institute and valued member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee.

# Concerning a Code for Architects

Washington, D. C., July 28, 1933.

## *A Message to the Members of the Architectural Profession:*

**T**HE architectural profession will file a code of fair practice under the provisions of the National Recovery Act. It is appropriate that this decision, and the reasons for it, be reported to the profession as a whole. This statement is to serve that purpose.

Less than two weeks ago the National Recovery Administration accepted the offer of the Construction League of the United States, of which the Institute is a constituent member, to cooperate with it in the preparation of a general code for the entire construction industry, and in the review and coordination of subordinate codes for the major groups of the industry. This was gratifying, for other procedure might have been followed under which unrelated codes would have been proposed, and there would have been no correlation or recognition of the industry as a unit.

To meet this situation the League called a meeting of its Policy Committee, which took place in Washington, at The Octagon, on July 26th.

The Construction League formally offered its cooperation to the National Recovery Administration, and immediately appointed a Code Committee of the League. That Committee is composed of eight members, as follows:

### *Code Committee of the League*

Stephen F. Voorhees, architect, *Chairman*; F. P. Byington, *producer*; W. T. Chevalier, *engineer*; C. H. Dabelstein, *sub-contractor*; P. W. Donoghue, *sub-contractor*; J. P. Hogan, *engineer*; A. E. Horst, *contractor*; and Wm. Steele, III, *contractor*.

This Code Committee is composed of men who represent general points of view or occupational experience. They are *not* representatives of particular organizations. The Committee, in anticipation of the action of the League, had been functioning informally prior to the League's meeting on July 26th. It submitted a report, as follows:

The Code Committee has held two meetings—Friday, July 21, in New York, and Tuesday, July 25, in Washington.

The Committee has unanimously decided, as a result of discussions in these meetings, that it needs confirmation of the following authority from the Construction League:

- (a) to advise the National Industrial Recovery Administration on all matters pertaining to the preparation, submission, approval and administration of a code of fair competition for the construction industry;

- (b) to prepare and submit the general clauses of such code;
- (c) to assist the various professional and trade associations in preparing and submitting their respective supplemental codes;
- (d) to coordinate and compose differences as far as possible before public hearings are held;
- (e) to express the Code Committee's opinion to the Administrator as to the respective merits of conflicting proposals.

In order to perform these functions, the Committee needs confirmation of the following powers:

1. To establish an Advisory Council composed of:
  - A. Representatives selected by professional and trade associations determined by Code Committee as truly representative of sub-divisions of the Industry—one representative and one alternate for each such association.
  - B. Representatives at large selected by Code Committee to represent groups of the Industry that are not organized.
2. To appoint special committees either from among its own members or without, as it may find desirable.
3. To fill vacancies on the Code Committee and to enlarge the Committee.
4. To issue public statements from time to time as may be necessary for its work.
5. To engage offices, employ staff personnel, purchase supplies, etc., as may be necessary, under supervision of General Secretariat.
6. To take such other action as may be necessary to carry out its functions.

The Code Committee will report to the Construction League from time to time as the League shall require, and its files will be open to the inspection of the officers of the League at all times.

This report was accepted by the Construction League, and by the representative of the National Recovery Administration who was present at the meeting.

The Code Committee is now at work in Washington, with permanent headquarters under the personal direction of the Chairman, Mr. Voorhees.

Because of these developments, I felt it to be my duty to go to Washington in advance of the meeting of the Construction League. With the assistance of other Officers of the Institute, full consideration was given to the many letters and telegrams received from Chapters and members of the Institute in answer to the call for expressions of opinion which appeared in the June number of THE OCTAGON.

Since the passage of the National Recovery Act the architectural profession has been confronted with a difficult problem which had to be solved quickly and correctly. It had to decide for or against the filing of a code of fair practice, under the provisions of Title I of the National Recovery Act.

In view of the overwhelming sentiment of communications from the profession—that a code of

fair practice should be filed—and in view of the very definitely expressed desire of the staff of General Johnson, in charge of construction codes, that the professional architects and engineers assume a full measure of participation in the whole construction code program, there was little choice in the making of a decision.

Therefore, the National Recovery Administration has been advised that The American Institute of Architects, as the national organization of the architectural profession and on behalf of the entire profession, will submit a code of fair practice for architects at the earliest feasible date.

In thus acting for the profession, we have represented the two large classes of membership of the Institute who comprise the great majority of the practicing architects, namely the individual members, and the state societies—who are now or about to become corporate or affiliate members. It has been pointed out that there are no unreasonable restrictions by the Institute as to the admission of individual members, or corporate or affiliate members.

It is most desirable to file the architect's code in time for consideration with other codes now filed, or ready to be filed by other groups of the construction industry.

This limitation of time made it essential to have

a small committee of architects to function immediately in formulating a code, and so located as to make it feasible to hold frequent meetings in Washington. The group appointed is as follows:

*Code Committee of the A. I. A.*

Wm. Stanley Parker, <i>Chairman</i> .....	Boston
Frederick Mathesius, Jr.....	New York
Wm. G. Nolting.....	Baltimore
Horace W. Peaslee.....	Washington
Francis P. Sullivan.....	Washington

The procedure under which this committee will operate is outlined in a statement by the Committee, which appears concurrently with this report to the profession.

We are confronted with a condition and not a theory, and I want to give assurance to every architect that The American Institute of Architects is giving its best thought and attention to safeguarding the interests of the building public and of the architectural profession—under new conditions which we must meet with confidence and with the full intention of taking our part in this vital recovery program in which the whole nation is engaged.

Sincerely yours,

ERNEST JOHN RUSSELL,

*President, The American Institute of Architects.*

## Report of the Code Committee

OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE Code Committee appointed by President Russell has met and given preliminary consideration to the problem before it. It desires to report for the information of members of the Institute, State Associations, and Societies, and other members of the architectural profession, the steps taken so far and the conditions that are operating to determine its action.

### *The Professional Relation*

The Committee wishes to state its view of the underlying question of the relation of the profession to the National Recovery Act. It is our belief that the Act does not contemplate the need of codes for those having purely professional activities. We believe, however, that the various professions related to the construction industry have industrial relations that make it inevitable that they be included in the code for the construction industry, being in fact already involved by references in other codes. Inasmuch as they will thus be involved in a code, they must, perforce, include in such code the fundamental provisions that the National Recovery Act requires. For this rea-

son, while they may be purely professional relationships between the designer and his client, the questions of minimum wages and maximum hours—and probably minimum fees—must be included in the code for the architect and in the similar codes for the other professions having to do with design.

### *A General Construction Code*

An Institute Committee, the appointment of which is being reported to you by President Russell, has been in conference with the Code Committee of the Construction League. We understand that the present concept of a General Code for the construction industry embraces a section that will cover the general provisions concerning administration of that code and those other provisions that will apply in common to all elements in the industry alike. All other provisions, we understand, will be included in the separate subordinate codes that will be a part of the composite code for the construction industry.

### *Provisions Concerning Architects*

It is not possible yet to determine just what items concerning architects will be covered by the General Code, but whether covered in the General Code or



in the Architects' Code the Committee believe that the following items must be covered. The precise form in which they should be stated it has not been possible yet to determine, and therefore we are mentioning here merely the nature of the items and not any intended phraseology. The items appear to be as follows, the order in which they are named being arbitrary and not final:

- (1) A statement that the code is being submitted by The American Institute of Architects, being the national organization representing the architectural profession.
- (2) Definition of the function and qualifications of the Architect and his relation to the construction industry, together with a statement that the Architect shall not function as a contractor, making clear the distinction between the legitimate supervisory and coordinating services of an Architect and the supervisory and coordinating functions of a contractor.
- (3) Regulations governing relations with employees, including minimum wages, maximum hours, and age limit.
- (4) Statement of the proper basic minimum charge for full professional services in line with present Institute standards.
- (5) Statement that the Architect's charges are made solely to his client and that he shall not give or receive any rebates or favors as a subterfuge to reduce or to increase his fee, and that he shall not knowingly compete with another Architect on the basis of professional charges.
- (6) Statement that if an owner desires simultaneous sketches from two or more Architects for the same project, they shall be prepared in accordance with standard practice in such cases, as evidenced by the Competition Code of The American Institute of Architects.
- (7) Statement that the Architect is responsible for making all plans and specifications necessary for work under his charge, and that he shall not permit contractors or others to perform part of this function for him without proper compensation.
- (8) Statement that the conditions of the Contract Documents of The American Institute of Architects, Fourth Edition, shall be considered as standard contract procedure, to be conformed to so far as practicable in each building operation.
- (9) Statement that all designs, products and methods shall conform to established rules for public welfare.
- (10) Statement that drawings, specifications, and instructions shall, for purposes of estimate, be adequate to permit an intelligent estimate of cost, and that they shall include all necessary local rules and instructions affecting costs.
- (11) Statement that the provisions of the General Code for the Construction Industry shall form part of the Architects' Code.

#### Procedure

The question of speed in the functioning of the Committee will be controlled entirely by the dictates of the situation as it develops daily in Washington. Speed is of the essence of the contract, and it will be necessary for this Committee to file at the earliest possible moment a preliminary draft of a code in order to indicate the desire of the profession to cooperate with the National Recovery Administration, and to maintain our position in relation to the other codes now being submitted.

The procedure for all such codes is understood to be, first, a careful scrutiny by representatives of the Administration and of those who are looked upon as consumers of the product of the industry. If the submitted code is in harmony with the National Recovery Act, it will be referred to the Code Committee of the Construction League for study and coordination with the other construction industry codes, and the General Code for the industry. A date of hearing will be set by the Administrator, at which the Architects' Code and probably other construction industry codes will be heard. At such hearing, every one interested will have an opportunity to present comments on the code, as required by the National Recovery Act, after which, with such advice as the Code Committee of the Construction League may give, the Administration will issue a Code for Architects in such form as it may approve.

We have outlined the procedure in order that you may see the complexities of the situation and the necessity of meeting the requirements and the expressed wishes of the Administration, which will make it impossible to distribute the tentative code for Architects for general consideration before filing. The Architects' Code, as filed, will probably be available a week or ten days before the hearing, and we hope for the fullest consideration of it at that time by the architectural profession, and for the submission at the hearing of any comments that may develop.

In the meantime, the Committee requests the Officers of all architectural organizations, and any others who are interested, to send to The Octagon, for the information of the Committee, any comments that they may care to make upon the outline indicated above.

FREDERICK MATHESIUS, JR.  
WM. G. NOLTING  
HORACE W. PRASLER  
FRANCIS P. SULLIVAN  
WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER, *Chairman*

*Code Committee, The American Institute of Architects.*

NOTE: A Code based on this report was filed with the National Recovery Administration as of August 1, 1933. It has been sent to the Officers of all Chapters and State Associations for comment and approval.

## Federal Employment of Private Architects

*By Louis La Beaume, Chairman, Committee on Public Works*

IN the May number of THE OCTAGON, it was announced that L. W. Robert, Jr., of Atlanta, Georgia, the new Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in Charge of Public Buildings, had determined to recognize the architectural and engineering professions to the fullest extent—in connection with public buildings to be erected under the jurisdiction of the Office of the Supervising Architect.

It was also stated that Mr. Robert had called upon the Institute to furnish him with lists of competent architects in every State in the Union.

Practically, it would have been a comparatively simple task for the Committee on Public Works of the Institute to submit to the Department selected lists of architects in all sections of the country. But consideration of all of the factors involved caused the Committee to advocate to the Department the adoption of quite a different procedure.

Therefore, the membership, and the profession at large, should know the reasons which prompted the recommendation for a change in procedure; and should be informed exactly of the methods of selection now being used by the Department. This statement is to serve these purposes.

The American Institute of Architects was organized to promote the aesthetic, scientific and practical efficiency of the architectural profession, and to make it of ever-increasing usefulness to society—and *not* primarily to get jobs for its members.

For many years the Institute has been working to bring about Federal recognition of private architects and their employment to design Federal buildings. It has been making this effort because it believes that the employment of the private architect for public work will be to the ultimate advantage of the public, and result in the betterment of the architectural quality of Federal buildings.

### *The Procedure Recommended*

Now, suddenly, the Institute is put to the test. A new Assistant Secretary of the Treasury comes into office. He has the professional point of view. He is sympathetic with the architect and engineer in private practice. He believes that the Government will be better served if plans are prepared by architects in private practice rather than in a central Bureau. He turns to the Institute for advice as to ways and means by which he can secure the most competent architects in some nine hundred

cities in which post offices are yet to be erected.

The final advice given by the Officers of the Institute and the Chairman of the Committee on Public Works was that a prequalification form, with an explanatory letter, be sent to every registered architect in the thirty-three states having registration laws, and to all listed architects in the remaining fifteen states—regardless of affiliation with the Institute. This suggestion was adopted. In cooperation with representatives of the Institute a prequalification form was prepared and is being mailed with a covering letter from Assistant Secretary Robert to every practicing architect in the United States.

### *The Prequalification Forms*

Those prequalification forms, as executed and returned, will give the Department valuable information concerning every architect who considers his office competent to do Government work.

As projects come up the prequalification forms of architects in the state or city concerned will be examined. With this data, and with such information as may be obtained by direct inquiry, the Department will make its own selections. In no case will there be any preferred list or individual designations offered by The American Institute of Architects or any of its representatives.

Therefore, members who are interested should be sure that the forms which they receive are properly executed and returned to the Department. Letters of inquiry as to procedure, and as to status of any given project, should be addressed to Mr. W. E. Reynolds, Room 166, Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

It is hoped that the members of the Institute will approve of the course which has been followed. We are convinced that it is in the best interests of the public, of the Treasury Department, and of the architectural profession as a whole.

Once more we wish to make acknowledgment of the wisdom, ability and clear vision of the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, L. W. Robert, Jr. His decision to appoint private architects and engineers for the balance of the Federal building program coming under his Department is one which reflects his professional training and his liberal point of view. We sincerely believe that it will meet with the hearty approval of the American people.

## The Tennessee Valley Project

### LAND PLANNING AND HOUSING

**A**RCHITECTURE of considerable interest and exacting nature is involved in the projected economic and social development of the Tennessee river basin.

The first opportunity for architectural expression will come in connection with the construction of the Cove Creek dam on the Clinch river, northwest of Knoxville. It is the purpose of the Tennessee Valley Authority, which is supervising this great regional experiment, to house workers at the dam in quarters which will become permanent. Thus, though a mushroom town will spring up at the scene of this major operation, the workmen's accommodations will be so planned and constructed as to fit in with the life of the enduring community.

Further, it is the idea of Dr. Arthur E. Morgan, chairman of the Authority directorate, to combine education with labor at Cove Creek. The one thousand jobs estimated as being available when construction work begins there some six months hence will go to the local unemployed as far as possible. Dr. Morgan plans to encourage workers, mostly men between 19 and 30 from the neighboring hills where the soil is reluctantly productive, to study in their spare time.

For this purpose schools where instruction can be given in scholastics and the trades are planned. Volunteer students will have their choice of studying carpentry, electricity, plumbing, masonry, etc. Dr. Morgan believes that such training will result in more efficient work on the dam. Thus, at the end of the four-year job, a large number of trained men will be made available to the locality.

By way of promoting domestic industry, the Authority contemplates starting small projects at the dam site to turn out clothes, furniture and other products which can be absorbed by the community that will spring up in conjunction with this \$34,000,000 enterprise. It is Dr. Morgan's opinion that development of home industry will reduce the "floater" menace and help to establish the community on a firm basis.

#### *Planning a New Town*

Because the proposed town on Cove Creek bids fair to be the industrial and educational center for the entire region, its architectural planning offers many possibilities in distinctive as well as practical treatment.

This particular phase of the undertaking comes under the personal direction of Mr. Earle Sumner Draper, of Charlotte, N. C., and Washington, D. C., who is in charge of land planning and hous-

ing. Nationally known landscape architect and community planner, Mr. Draper has been a pioneer in regional and resort planning in the South.

"It is my feeling," said Mr. Draper, "that the architecture which will form the motif for this town must be very carefully studied. It should disregard any other housing development, regional or otherwise, and go back to the early settlers for its inspiration, so as to provide architecture that is not only adapted to the particular use required but is also typical of the Tennessee Valley.

"To really typify Tennessee, the architecture should be taken from the soil and from the pioneers of that State. The farthest idea from our minds is to duplicate the housing styles of other sections—New England, Colonial, English cottage or what-have-you? We feel that if we can do this we will be successful and that if the community really interprets the history and life of the valley people it will at the same time be distinctive and practical architecture. As Dr. Morgan points out, 'there is more old American individualism in this section than in any other in the United States.'

"To do justice to this task there will be required an architectural organization of the highest order, for which we want men who are experienced enough to understand conditions they are facing, yet young in spirit and adaptable, and with the enthusiasm needed to tackle a problem of this character."

#### *Planning a Region*

The physical planning under Mr. Draper will not only include plotting town sites, highway and utility locations and relocations to meet the requirements of the Cove Creek and other construction projects, but will also embody regional planning on a scale never before attempted in this country. Land classification and a study of basic factors involving the social and economic phases as well as physical conditions will to a large extent precede any large area planning.

It must be borne in mind that the development is not confined to Tennessee but describes the bowed Tennessee river drainage basin also taking in parts of six other States—Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and Kentucky. It is not primarily an industrial upbuilding, nor is its prime purpose to improve economic conditions there, although these factors do have important parts in the eventual successful culmination of the grand scheme. But greater than all else will be the effect on the people themselves in bettering their living conditions and imparting to this pure bred American stock a larger pattern in the life of the country.



## A National Housing and Rehabilitation Policy

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS OF SITE PLANNING AND HOUSING, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

### Preamble

THE passage of the Recovery Act offers an opportunity for housing and the rehabilitation of our American cities. A portion of the \$3,300,000,000 appropriated can be spent for these purposes. This committee recognizes what may be accomplished by the well considered use of these funds, but feels that there is a grave danger of repeating the mistakes of the past in their use, unless loans are made in conformity with a definite housing and rehabilitation policy and it has set itself the task of formulating such a policy.

It is likely that most applications for government loans will be for housing construction, for housing and rehabilitation are two fields in which there is a demonstrable and pressing need throughout the country. It is therefore a housing policy that we present in its two phases: (1) housing on unoccupied

land and (2) housing to replace slums and other blighted use.

There is a need for such a policy. In the last few years, our communities have become keenly conscious of their shortcomings. Mounting municipal expenses, high taxation, districts that are blighted and cannot meet the costs of their maintenance, inadequate housing, except for the comparatively well-to-do, rotting and bankruptcy of the body politic,—all have engaged public attention and many suggestions have been made for their possible amelioration. No solution can be of value that does not stop the chaotic methods of municipal growth that have marked past procedure and eliminate the use of land as a medium of speculation, regardless of possible use. A definite and farsighted policy is needed to prevent waste of government money and set standards for future community development.

### General Principles

*Housing in New Neighborhoods.* This phase of housing is relatively free from the hampering restrictions encountered in any attempt to rebuild blighted or slum areas. Consequently, there should be invariable insistence on large scale development, on completely integrated neighborhoods and on conformity with rational schemes of urban and regional planning. This is doubly true where we propose to build new communities, whether urban or rural. A home is part of an environment; without proper environment, life in it cannot be a rounded working mechanism.

New communities offer controls not afforded by our present cities, that suffer from the evils of land speculation and faulty methods of planning and subdivision. In them we can insist on community planning for use and not for profit through trading in land; on the control of use of private as well as public land. Even under private land ownership, control can be exercised through regulation of platting, of utilities and of highways.

*Rehabilitation.* In attacking the problem of rehabilitation, we are handicapped by the social burden of slums and the economic drag of blighted areas that do not pay for their upkeep. Excessive assessments, based on the speculative hopes of land owners, have engendered waste and extravagance, which have loaded these districts with heavy taxes.

In many communities, rehabilitation will be a process of recentralization, in order to put neigh-

borhoods on their feet financially. In such cases, we must constantly be on our guard against overcrowding. Increased density must be permitted only as far as required by the financial health of the city and consistent with standards of density, light and air. Its purpose must not be to secure prices for land owners, pegged at the level of speculative booms, nor to bail out lending institutions, whose mortgages are based on inflated land price.

To rehabilitate rationally, we must recognize that slums and blighted areas are bankrupt districts and we must liquidate them in bankruptcy. In this liquidation, holders of interest in real property can be paid only a fraction of face value. The equity owner must write down the cost of land and buildings, the mortgagee accept his pro-rated share of the loss and the community, which has shared the speculative boom by increased assessments, must suffer with its partners in speculation and reduce taxation on the land and structures as they exist.

Shall new buildings in areas cleared of slums house the present dwellers in the district? It is impossible to generalize on this score. It will depend on factors of cost of living, convenience to work and play, opportunities for educational and social life and ability to pay rent. Opinions on this subject are too frequently warped by sentiment; neighborhood loyalties, social, ethnic and religious considerations. They are important but cannot stand in the face of an economic impossibility to rehouse people in sur-



roundings that will permit a proper social and physical existence. One possible solution is the creation of mixed neighborhoods, in which people of varying financial status are cared for in one project, the higher priced dwellings helping to pay for the necessary subsidizing of dwellings of the less fortunate.

Any attempt at urban rehabilitation must be accompanied by adequate condemnation laws, which guard against the abuses of "hold-outs" and overvaluation of land and existing buildings. Income producing buildings are permitted to write off annual depreciation for income tax purposes. If this depreciation is real for taxation, it is equally real for purposes of valuation in condemnation. Therefore, in condemnation, structures should have depreciation written off their cost to determine their present value, unless the owners are prepared to show that the capitalization of current earnings is in excess of the condemnation price of the land plus the depreciated value of the building.

*Neighborhoods.* In either of the above cases, it would be best that any project receiving government aid be part of a plan for the social and economic development of a region. This will not always be practicable; it presupposes the existence of such a plan and most urban regions have none. In any event, the lending authority can and should cast a critical eye on every project presented and determine whether it represents a type of housing conforming to the local family needs, whether the location is such as to cut the cost of transportation and loss of time for the tenant in going to work or play, whether schools, playgrounds, libraries are available;—in short, even though a project may not constitute a complete neighborhood development, it must present a reasonable possibility of forming part of an integrated neighborhood together with its environment. Thus, five hundred homes, surrounded on all sides by a mile of factories have no chance of being part of a neighborhood and should not be tolerated.

*Land Price.* Whether for purposes of condemnation or for determination of capital structure, the price of land used for housing must be its actual worth, with no allowance for past or future trading increment. We maintain that the only real worth of land is the capitalization of what can be paid for its use.

After we have determined standards of openness, limits of population density, the ability of the proposed tenancy to pay rent, we can ascertain how much of that rental is necessary to pay for the use of a properly designed and constructed dwelling, financed at a minimum fair rate for the use of money. Knowing this sum, the balance of the tenants' rental ability is all that is available to pay for the use of land. The price paid for the land must be the capitaliza-

tion of this residuum. Any attempt to use land more costly means one of two things; either the breakdown of standards of openness, air and light, or the construction of high elevator buildings which, because of the increased unit cost of construction and operation, tend to raise the rentals to the point where the proposed tenancy can no longer pay them.

Government loans must not be used to permit land owners to establish exaggerated prices for their own profit, under the cloak of an alleged public benefit through slum clearance or better housing. There are four arguments frequently advanced by owners of land to justify high land prices. All are specious.

1. That the land cost the owner all or more than he is asking. There is no reason why the Government should make good his injudicious investment. If he attempted to borrow from his bank on collateral at 1928 prices, he would not get very far.

2. That the last sale of similar property was at a comparable price. This is evidence, but not conclusive. We must know whether the sale was for speculation or for use and, if for use, whether the use has been socially desirable and its earnings have justified the price paid.

3. That the assessment of the property indicates a higher value. Assessments are the medium through which government participates in land speculation.

4. That the property is zoned for commercial or industrial use and therefore has a higher value than land restricted to residences. All of our cities have zoned excessive areas for commerce and industry. The owners delude themselves that this has created added value for the land. Actually, such excessive zoning merely raises their taxes, spoils any possibility of residential use and leaves them worse off than before. If they could sell their land for a higher priced use, they would do so. If they cannot and wish to use it for residential development, they must accept a price in conformity with successful use for that purpose.

*Standards.* Whereas it is important that new housing reach income groups as low in the wage scale as possible, it is far more vital that it set progressive standards for the future. We have mentioned the importance of integrated neighborhoods; we cannot insist too strongly on this point. They are necessary, not only for the advantages that construction may derive from their development, but also for the simplification and economy of ownership, management and government, and for the better life they afford those who live in them.

Proper standards of sunlight, ventilation openness and safety must be embodied in every project. We must not tolerate the construction of crowded, multi-story, sanitary slums, merely to cover an exaggerated land price.

Money must be available at low rates of interest and all unnecessary profits eliminated; above all, we must put an end to the complicated system of finance that has prevailed in the past and eaten up

so large a share of what a man can afford to pay for his home.

Simplified standards of planning and construction must be worked out. This is a problem of architectural technique, to the solution of which the study and experience of recent years may be brought as an aid.

*Finally:* This committee maintains that, whatever benefits may accrue to individuals through the extension of government credit for housing, they are secondary and incidental. It is the community that creates the possibility of better housing; to it should come the values thus created; the prime considera-

tion is therefore the creation of a benefit to it in the greater wellbeing of its citizens.

#### COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS OF SITE PLANNING AND HOUSING

FREDERICK L. ACKERMAN.....	New York
G. FRANK CORDNER.....	Detroit
GEORGE H. GRAY.....	New Haven
P. JOHN HOENER.....	St. Louis
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WILLIAM STANLEY PARKER.....	Boston
C. W. STEDMAN.....	Cleveland
CLARENCE S. STEIN.....	New York
HENRY WRIGHT.....	New York
EUGENE H. KLABER, <i>Chairman</i> .....	Chicago

## Items of Interest

### Architects Honored by University of Michigan.

An honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was accorded Albert Kahn, "leader in contemporary architecture, whose creative imagination is attested by imposing structures that combine utility with dignity and beauty. Great industrial plants and towering office buildings in Detroit and elsewhere have risen responsive to his dream. By expressing function and purpose in harmony with massive strength and artistic design, they bear witness to the progress made by American architects and challenge comparison with the historic monuments of the past."

The degree of Doctor of Architecture was voted Eliel Saarinen of Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills, "architect, city planner, designer, whose achievements are known here and beyond the seas. Formerly associated with the university, he was called to transmute the vision of Mr. George G. Booth into the reality of Cranbrook. Under the magic of his art, stones and mortar rise in new and compelling forms of beauty and remain enduring mountains of his skill."

### A New Book on Architectural Design.

John Wiley & Sons, Inc., publishers, announce a new book on "Architectural Design" by Ernest Pickering. It may be obtained from them at a price of \$6.50. Address, 440 Fourth Avenue, New York.

### Architectural Alumni Meeting—University of Michigan.

The annual meeting of the Architectural Alumni Association was held just before Commencement. An afternoon was spent in discussion of housing projects from both the sociological and architectural standpoint, also the pending national and state legislation in relation to housing and other construction. In this connection projects developed for the Detroit area were presented, based on investigations in that city by students in architecture and sociology working with the various Detroit authorities.

At the dinner the speakers were Irving K. Pond of Chicago and W. G. Malcomson of Detroit.

### Public Works Program Under Title II of Industrial Recovery Act.

1. The Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works has just issued Circular No. 1, outlining the "Purposes, Policies, Functioning and Organization of the Emergency Administration," and Circular No. 2, "Information Required with Application for Loans to States, Counties, Municipalities and Other Public Bodies."

2. Ten Regional Advisors, whose functions are outlined in Circular No. 1, have been appointed.

3. These circulars and other valuable information can be obtained by addressing the Public Works Administration, Interior Building, Washington, D. C.

### Lists of Architects.

The Institute has endeavored to keep before the various Federal construction agencies in Washington—now working on emergency construction programs—the value of architectural service and the many good reasons for the employment of private architects whenever and wherever occasion warrants.

On request it has furnished the membership roll of the Institute to the following agencies:

Assistant Secretary in Charge of Public Buildings,  
L. W. Robert, Jr.,

Treasury Department, Washington, D. C.

Emergency Public Works Administration,  
Robert D. Kohn, Chief of Housing Division,  
Interior Building, Washington, D. C.

Tennessee Valley Authority,  
Earle S. Draper, Director of Land Planning &  
Housing,

Hurley Wright Bldg., Washington, D. C.

Federal Home Loan Bank Board,  
William F. Stevenson, Chairman,  
Commerce Building, Washington, D. C.

## With the Chapters

EXTRACTS FROM CHAPTER MINUTES AND REPORTS

### Baltimore Chapter.

In June, at the Chapter meeting, the President requested the members to give their opinions on the proposed adoption by the Baltimore Building Congress, of a revised code of bidding by contractors, based on the "Huddleston Plan" used in the Boston territory. This question was actively discussed by all present. It was the sense of the meeting that the plan as now proposed had several features which were disadvantageous to its successful use, and that it should be given more thorough study with a view to removing these objections. A special committee was appointed by the President and authorized to hold a joint meeting with the Committee on Codes of the Building Congress as promptly as possible with a view to arriving at satisfactory revisions of the plan to make it acceptable to the Chapter.

### Georgia Chapter.

The Georgia Chapter announces that at its regular meeting on June 12 in Atlanta, Hon. L. W. Robert, Jr., Assistant Secretary of the Treasury in Charge of Public Works, was unanimously elected an Honorary Associate of the Chapter, in recognition of the qualities of Mr. Robert, and in the belief that he is sympathetic with the professional ideals of The American Institute of Architects.

### Oregon Chapter.

At an early June meeting, the Chairman of the Professional Practice Committee of the Chapter submitted a report on the "Shopping of Bids", with an explanation of the Huddleston and Nashville plans. It was accepted to be used as a basis for the committee to cooperate with other interested groups.

Harold W. Doty, reporting verbally for the Public Works Committee, discussed the investigation being made to the end that additional school buildings be erected with Federal aid and that private architects be employed for the work. It was moved that the Executive Committee meet to prepare a letter strongly urging that of the money to be expended for public works, a considerable sum be allocated for building construction, and that for this work architects be employed on a professional basis—such a letter to be sent to the Governor, the Chairman of the Governor's Committee, the County Commissioners, the City Council and the School Board.

Later in June, Harrison A. Whitney, Chairman of a special committee, reported on the building

projects which seem most feasible at present. He supplemented his report by recommending that a committee be made up from the leading groups of the construction industry to work together with the view of getting building construction projects started.

It was suggested that a committee of the Chapter (1) review the building program of the Civic Emergency Federation, and if the program is worthy, that the Chapter support it; otherwise, oppose it; and (2) that the membership of the Chapter be canvassed for volunteers to do the preliminary work for the building projects necessary to make request for the loan, such preliminary work to be done on a contingent fee basis.

A further suggestion was made that a committee formulate a plan to present to the City Council, County Commissioners, and the School Board, providing a method for furnishing such preliminary work. Thereupon a special committee was appointed, consisting of Messrs. Whitney, Chairman; Brookman, Jacobberger, Holford, and James, members. All architects were asked to report to the committee those projects upon which they have been working, or in which they have an interest.

### San Diego Chapter—Honor Awards.

In line with the recommendation of the Institute, and desiring to encourage the appreciation of architecture, of the allied arts of design, and of the industrial arts, and to extend its recognition of exceptional merit in any work in those arts executed within its territory, the San Diego Chapter has established a system of recognizing such merit, and of making a series of Honor Awards to those whose ability, skill and cooperation brought such projects into being.

A very complete program has been printed and distributed by the Chapter, and those interested may, no doubt, obtain copies upon application to the Secretary of the Chapter.

### Southern California Chapter.

A very complete annual report of the activities of the Chapter for the year 1932 contains the following interesting items:

*Education.* The Educational Committee, under the Chairmanship of Roland E. Coate, was in close touch with the Instructors of the architectural course at Pasadena Junior College. The Committee visited the institution, inspected the work of the students, and discussed with the Superintendent of



Schools and the instructor, several phases of their work in this course. Suggestions were offered of changes to be made during the school year 1932-1933.

The general opinion of the Committee on the subject of architectural courses in Junior Colleges is—That the educators are right in feeling that there is a demand for training in the skill of drawing and drafting but that they are wrong to confuse this natural demand with the field of architecture and boldly proceed to call their offerings by that name. That courses designed to teach the appreciation of art and architecture should be greatly encouraged. That the Junior College should train for the broader field of the allied arts, where greater numbers can be absorbed, and that such courses should include ample time for free hand drawing and free perspective. That the local Chapter should offer whatever assistance is possible, both in helping to suggest an improvement in the curriculum and by offering any material, such as drawings, photographs, lectures, etc., to the student body.

The Committee made arrangements for six lectures on appreciation of architecture to be given at the Pasadena Junior College during the year 1932-1933.

*Professional Advice.* During the year the Chapter has been able to assist the Federal Government with professional advice. The Treasury Department at Washington asked the Chapter to assist in a dispute with the city of Beverly Hills concerning the suitability of the design of the proposed new post office building with reference to adjacent civic buildings, the City Hall and Fire House. A special committee for this purpose was appointed. The Committee visited the site and held two meetings. The Architect, Ralph C. Flewelling, and David C. Allison, Associate Architect, and the Mayor of Beverly Hills appeared before and presented their views to the Committee. The site was visited by the Committee who also had before them perspectives and working drawings for the new City Hall; perspective of the new Fire Station, and perspectives and working drawings of the new Post Office.

After carefully considering the evidence and drawings the Committee were unanimous in their opinion that if the Post Office was erected in accordance with the plans prepared by Mr. Flewelling that the Beverly Hills citizens would have a building they could be proud of and the decision of the Committee was accepted by both the Treasury Department and the City of Beverly Hills.

*Home Loan Bank.* The Chapter, through the Committee under the Chairmanship of Charles H. Cheney, assisted a Committee of prominent citizens in having a branch of the Home Loan Bank located

in Los Angeles. Endeavors to have an architect appointed to the Board of Directors were not successful, although the request received the support of the local Committee.

*Civic and Public Affairs.* The members of the Chapter are taking more interest in civic and public affairs as evidenced by the following positions held by its members:

John C. Austin, Chairman, President's Organization for Unemployment Relief; Member State Board of Architectural Examiners, Southern District; and Chairman, Building Industry Committee, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

Robert H. Orr, President of the Building and Safety Commission of the City of Los Angeles; President, State Association of California Architects.

Carleton M. Winslow, President, Art Commission, City of Los Angeles.

A. M. Edelman, President, State Board of Architectural Examiners, and Vice-President, National Council Architectural Registration Boards.

H. C. Chambers, Secretary, State Board of Architectural Examiners, Southern District.

John Parkinson, Member, State Board of Architectural Examiners, Southern District.

On request of the Chairman of the State Industrial Accident Commission, the Chapter appointed two of the members to serve as delegate and alternate on a committee to act for the Commission in recommending changes to Safety Orders. Roy C. Mitchell was appointed Delegate, and William Richards, Alternate.

Edgar W. Maybury is President of the Pasadena Chamber of Commerce.

Robert H. Orr represented the Chapter at the first annual convention of the United States Chamber of Commerce held at San Francisco in July, at the session assigned to discuss problems of the building industry.

On request of the California State Chamber of Commerce, Alfred W. Rea was appointed to represent the Chapter on their Industrial Committee. Through this contact the Chapter has been very successful in having this Committee endorse its views with reference to employment of architects in private practice on Government work and they have taken the lead in the demand that California architects and engineers be employed in public building construction. At the request of the Industrial Committee the State Chamber of Commerce has gone on record as favoring the speedy enactment of the bill now pending making it mandatory that architects and engineers from the districts where the work is to be done shall be selected to carry it through.



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