

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



The Pittsburgh Plan

Survey of Institute Affairs

The Plan Is The Thing

The A. S. H. V. E. Guide

Modern Modernization

The Cranbrook Academy of Art

Coordination of Sizes of Building Materials

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A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

The Pittsburgh Plan

By HARVEY A. SCHWAB, President
Pittsburgh Chapter, A. I. A.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This program of action is getting results in Pittsburgh. Every chapter of the Institute should have one like it—appropriate to local conditions. The time has come for the chapters of the Institute to assume the offensive. Here is an excellent guide.

UPON taking office in January of this year, the officers and directors of the Pittsburgh Chapter, A. I. A. prepared agenda to guide their activities looking toward the rehabilitation of the profession in the chapter district.

A careful appraisal of existing conditions revealed evidence that certain factors, separate and apart from depressed business conditions, were responsible for the disorganization of the practice of architecture. Governmental agencies and corporations had established architectural and engineering bureaus on a large scale, greatly limiting the activities and professional standing of the private practitioner, and architects as a class had compromised that high professional standard which must necessarily be their attribute, and had neglected to cooperate with other branches of the construction industry.

In order to provide the machinery for the correction of these damaging tendencies, the Pittsburgh Chapter sponsored a new constitution and by-laws for the Pennsylvania Association of Architects, conforming to the unification plan of the Institute. (This has been adopted, subject to ratification of the Chapters and approval of the Institute.) It has also initiated a "Joint Committee" representing the Pittsburgh Chapter, A. I. A., the Engineers Society of Western Pennsylvania, The Builders Exchange of Pittsburgh, The Master Builders, The Building Trades Employers Association, The Pittsburgh Chapter of the American Association of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, and the Tile and Mantel Contractors Association, to formulate and act upon policies to the best interests of the construction industry of western Pennsylvania as a whole.

The following activities represent the Chapter's work up to the present time:

1. Through the "Joint Committee", by mutual agreement of all important construction agencies, it has established "Bidding Regulations", under

the Construction Codes, as uniform practice in this district. This makes possible the operation of the Codes until official administrative bodies are appointed and function.

2. A campaign, designed to abolish or curb the activities of Governmental and corporation architectural agencies is being carried on. Considerable progress has been made with State Agencies, and the position of City Architect has been abolished in Pittsburgh.

3. An aggressive campaign toward correction of abuses growing out of the administration of the C. W. A., R. W. D. and other relief and recovery agencies is being carried on, with a considerable degree of success. Fair rates of pay, for relief of architects and engineers, have been established and presented to responsible authorities for their guidance.

4. Studies of "Building Money" have been made looking towards Federal financial aid to private construction. Memoranda have been prepared and transmitted through proper channels to responsible Government officials.

5. The situation regarding "Private Plans" is being carefully studied. In this district more than 50% of sizable construction projects are based on documents prepared by persons and bureaus other than Governmental Agencies, Architects, and Engineers in legitimate practice. Early action is indicated toward correcting this condition.

6. Active and continuous cooperation is being pursued with the A. I. A. and other national headquarters of construction factors, looking toward unified and effective action favoring the best interests of the entire Construction Industry.

7. On its own account, the Chapter is endeavoring in every possible way to maintain its membership, in the face of adverse financial conditions. It proposes to add to its membership only such as are professionally and ethically qualified.

8. The Chapter does not propose to enter activities which might be classed as "job getting for Institute Members." That is the province of a different type of organization. An informal organization of this type is now being talked of in Pittsburgh.

The observable effects of these policies, so far as they have been put into effect, may be summarized as follows:

(a) By vigorous and intelligent action, correction of adverse conditions affecting the practice of architecture *can be accomplished*.

(b) Effective cooperation, without compromising professional standards, with the other factors in the Construction Industry, is not only *entirely possible but essential*.

(c) The professional status of the architect, in the public estimation is greatly improved.

(d) The leadership of the Construction Industry has been centered in the professional group—the Architects and Engineers—by common consent of all the agencies. The continuance of this leadership seems desirable and necessary. Owing to financial difficulties volunteered services must be depended upon. The highest professional standards, and a broad and human viewpoint are essential to the maintenance of such leadership.

The Plan Is The Thing

BY HENRY K. HOLSMAN, F. A. I. A.

IN the theatrical world, success or failure—the value of the play—depends on what the author and the actor do, but as between the play and the actors the “play’s the thing.” No amount of expert acting or stage craft can make a poor play good, or pay the actors for working with it.

So in real estate and building, “the plan’s the thing.” If the location is unsuitable, the financing extravagant, the materials inferior, or plan of the building inefficient, unattractive or unsuited to the purpose, even in a small degree, no amount of sales effort or honest promotion will make it good. If the plan as a whole is not good, the sale is no good to either the seller or the buyer.

Real estate in its broad aspects, is an art, and the realtors, architects and builders are artists no less than the producer, playwright and actors of the play are professional artists. And so long as they work together, each in his separate sphere, with utmost integrity, they succeed. But let any one of them abandon integrity or true worth, or any one of them try to substitute for the other, and the whole play fails to “go over” the foot-lights.

In the recent past we spoiled the stage. There is now a faint but cheering call for home building. Will the realtors now refuse to debauch the land to speculative appeals for a pittance of profit or high-pressure fees? Will the architects come down to real reflection and humble study of suitable plans? Will the building trades and trade unions follow the light of integrity and give, in values, all they ask in return? If so, there is hope that we can again put on a show. If the first curtain risings ring true, we may all soon be happy, the producers and consumers alike. If we fail to properly play in the first flood lights, we are doomed to wait on more integrity and cooperation.

There is fun as well as fees in real estate. Every bit of property, every city lot is full of history and romance, responsive to an imaginative future. . . . rat-infested, dusty, dilapidated, obsolete

encumbrance must be destroyed and the lot opened up to the restful light of vacancy. Every parcel can be put to its highest and best use. The misery and pestilence of slums can be changed to flowers and fountains, children’s laughter and “happy faces looking up full of wonder like a cup.” Here is ample activity for the artist realtor—architect—builder. True, it is no place for the exploiter, the oppressor or gambler, but for the creative artists, working in co-operation with family needs and human sensibilities, it’s fertile field full of fame and fortune.

THE WAITING FIELD

In suburban and rural sections, there is an urgent need for small homes that the middle-third-income class can afford to rent or buy; decent homes in keeping with their taste and standards. For the past two decades, the vast building industry, comprising directly and indirectly one-fifth to one-quarter of the entire wage earning population has been engaged in building only for the upper third.

Seventy per cent of the possible market for the realtor and builder has never been touched. This is shown wherever studies and statistical tabulations have been made. Will the three arts for home building begin on this field and build the kind of homes they themselves can afford to occupy?

Co-operation and co-ordination of the realtor, architect, builder and banker in the production of good small homes that this vast productive population of one-fifth of our wage earners (most of whom are now idle or temporarily displacing others) can work upon and occupy, is the nation’s greatest need. Prosperity waits upon construction leadership.

Realtors, builders and bankers should encourage the architect into trying these humble but difficult tasks. Here is the hardest job for the planner. Of all architectural work, it has been the poorest done and most neglected by trained talent. But

in the little house of economy and homely comfort, more than in any other building the value of the play, whether it "goes over" or not, depends on the plan.

AN EXAMPLE

Not long ago, an appraiser was commissioned by a bank to appraise a proposed fireproof apartment building. The bids checked with the usual cost per cubic foot. The operating expenses checked with accumulated data, but the cost per room showed up at around \$700. "That is impossible," said he. From all experience it should be at least \$900. or \$1,000. Several days' work was spent trying to find the discrepancy when the architect suggested he look at the plan. "Oh, the plan, that's just a six-room flat!"

Close examination revealed—rooms proper size, no more no less, for the purpose. Provision for storage and household work, proper. Relation of rooms providing proper relations of age and sex and provision for work and recreation of family members and their guests, the sociological plan, was good. The plan was then compared to an assumed standard. It was found that the bulk of necessary rooms checked, but the bulk of building was much greater. If the stair location were changed to that of the assumed standard, efficiency of circulation was reduced and cost per room increased some \$90. That change of stair location incidently, changed the bulk of the

building about 10% and reduced the income bearing walls and rooms about 10%, that is, increased the cost per room about \$150. At this point the appraiser exclaimed, "The plan's the thing."

As in all industrial art, the ultimate ideal applies, "just enough material, no more no less, to fulfill the function in form and bulk easily and gracefully." That is art, efficiency and economy combined—a consummation not easily acquired, but necessary in the highest possible degree in the small house.

With the architect, even more than with the builder, realtor or banker, "The plan's the thing." It was for this, the state and society spent vast sums for his education and training. The state examined him for fitness to plan, but failed to find opportunity for him to practice. The state failed to protect and safeguard our capital goods and financial institutions so as to provide for even the average home, its bulwark and mainsail in the ship of state. Now the nation is, in a slight degree, trying to make amends. Now the architects must stop holding open the empty office or come back from tax collecting, milk peddling and janitor work and put their training to use on little houses.

The ideal American home can probably never be done by the architect alone. This task requires friendly cooperation and coordination of all concerned. The plan—"The play's the thing." Who will be the coordinator, the producer? (Reprinted from "Real Estate.")

Modern Modernization

EXCERPTS FROM A PAPER BY ARTHUR C. HOLDEN, A. I. A.

MOST owners of property, especially owners of depreciated properties, can use a little money for refurbishing up their properties, making necessary repairs and generally putting things in better shape. Most owners of properties know that unless they keep doing something to their properties they ultimately have to meet two serious problems—depreciation and obsolescence. Depreciation is due to the physical wearing out of property. Obsolescence is due to the psychological wearing out of property.

That which happens to an individual piece of property happens also to the neighborhood in which it is situated. If one man in a group keeps his house well painted and the roof in repair and yet his neighbors allow their houses to depreciate the property of the individual will suffer depreciation, because of the neighborhood.

Obsolescence takes place because styles change, men find better ways to build houses, or better ways to live. A certain amount of systematic upkeep and improvement can arrest or retard

obsolescence just as a certain amount of repairs can curtail depreciation. Types of housing exist, however, which will remain obsolete even though so much money is spent upon them that the wisdom of the investment should be called into question.

There ought to be some way of finding out how much money ought to be spent in upkeep, repairs, and improvements, both as a general rule and in the present emergency. Obviously if credit is extended to get work done that credit has got to be balanced by the use that can be made of the things produced at some time in the future. Therefore, the measure of the usefulness of modernization is that the improvements made will be such as to give better and more economic results than can be achieved by building new.

It pays, for example, to fix up a tumble down farmhouse, because the soil about it is fertile and the shade trees planted are good, and all the other advantages of years of accumulated toil outweigh the consideration of starting anew in another

location. The same applies to the old town house on the shaded village street, provided, however, that the advantages of quick transportation brought by the automobile do not make outlying land more desirable and even more available.

It does not pay to modernize a single house on the village street if the other neighbors insist upon permitting their properties to continue to depreciate at such a rate that no one who could afford to would want to live in the rehabilitated house. It does not pay to pour money for rehabilitation into the city slum where congestion has been so great that the buildings are improperly planned for light and air, where surroundings are tawdry, and public morals bad, unless sufficient work can be done to change these conditions.

It does not pay to put money for rehabilitation into properties which have been held for such high prices that it has not been thought necessary to liquidate past credits loaned on the properties or where it has not been possible to do so. High interest charges are the result of unliquidated credits. They usually mean high rents, skimping on maintenance and frequently also delinquent taxes and inadequate city control of the neighborhood.

Such are the pitfalls in the way of extending credit for modernization. The unwise extension of credit always becomes a public burden. It is therefore essential on the one hand to guard against mistakes and on the other to look ahead to find the channels into which credit may flow and promote the public good.

If the extension of credit is to be to an individual property, it is safest to select a neighborhood which is improving and where the majority of properties are in better shape than the property to be modernized, but by all means in a neighborhood where the majority of the owners are strong enough to keep their properties up to the desired standard.

If, however, it is necessary to extend credits to depreciated and obsolescent properties which are located in run down or questionable neighborhoods, then a plan must be worked out which will permit general neighborhood rehabilitation and which will make the individual loan a part of the coordinated neighborhood improvement.

Unfortunately we Americans have not yet developed a technique for group improvement.

We have no means for controlling the improvements to be made in the interest of group homogeneity, nor have we yet devised a means for making the neighborhood a surety for the proper administration and liquidation of the loan.

We have lacked leadership of the sort that can consolidate conflicting and divergent interests and unite men in a common purpose. Strange to say that in a nation, whose motto is "e pluribus unum", we have not yet realized that the principle which we have so well applied to our Federal union, may be applied with even greater advantage to the neighborhood.

It is as possible for individuals as for states to act in concert without loss of individuality. It is not only possible but desirable to draft loan contracts for modernization in such a manner that full advantage may be taken of common neighborhood interests and by such means the neighborhood may itself become the surety that the credit extended will be both wisely administered and properly liquidated.

There is another important aspect of modernization which must be touched upon. Those who have opposed slum clearance and the construction of low rental housing are letting it be known that they prefer modernization because it does not add to the existing vacancy problem from which real estate has been suffering.

This is not a complete statement of the truth. Many proposals for modernization contemplate the subdivision of present housing into smaller suites. The argument is advanced that living conditions have changed, that families are smaller, and that the larger quarters simply cannot be rented.

We are faced with the necessity of coming to a decision as to how to solve the problem from the point of view of the greatest social and economic good. It stands out clearly that our housing equipment needs overhauling and that it is vital to the well being of society to get the building industry back to work.

It should be made clear however that when we speak of "modernization" we mean modernization in the broadest sense which means the rehabilitation of the community through the renovizing of old buildings where such can be done wisely and economically and the replacement of worn out equipment where such is the wiser course.

National Conference on City Planning

The Directors of the National Conference on City Planning have accepted the invitation of St. Louis to hold the Conference of 1934 in that city, probably during the week of October 22.

The date is subject to approval by the St. Louis

Committee and will be announced with the program of the Conference early in September. This city has many achievements to show.

Further information concerning the program and the details will appear in due course.

Survey of Institute Affairs

At the November meeting of the Executive Committee the Secretary of the Institute, at his request, was authorized to make a survey of Institute activities, committees, and major policies for the purpose of securing a cross-section of opinion representative of the entire membership.

Further investigation by him made it obviously desirable to broaden the field of the proposed survey to include professional affairs generally, and to increase the sources of information.

No funds were available to meet the cost of addressing the entire membership. Therefore, in March, 1934, a questionnaire was addressed to three hundred members of the Institute in all of the Chapters in an endeavor to elicit all shades of opinion.

Exactly 300 questionnaires were sent out, embracing 29 subjects with from two to six questions under each. The returns were most gratifying. Exactly 226 forms were filled out and returned. In addition, more than a dozen letters of a general nature were sent in, exclusive of the questionnaires. This represented a response of more than 240 to a request addressed to 300 members.

This gratifying and overwhelming return produced a volume of data of great value, which disclosed opinions with respect to the Institute,

its program and policies, and with respect to architectural practice, which were of great significance.

To make this information available to the Board, the returns were segregated by subject and grouped by chapters and regional divisions. Also, the responses in letter form were copied and sent to every member of the Board. At the Board meeting preceding the Convention the 29 subjects were divided among the Directors, studied by them, and reported upon to the Board. This procedure visualized for the Board a cross section of national opinion on each of the subjects covered.

Needless to say, these opinions were fully considered by the Board in developing its report to the Convention.

The Board desired that in due course, some of the analyses be published in *THE OCTAGON*. Others have been made available to the committee chairmen most concerned.

Three analyses are printed herein. Three more will appear in the August number.

It should be born in mind that 300 questionnaires were sent out, that 226 were returned, and that in some instances one or more questions were unanswered. This will explain an apparent discrepancy in some cases between the total number of returns and a lesser number of comments on a given subject or question.

WHAT IS AN ARCHITECT?

THIS ANALYSIS BY DIRECTOR WILLIAM T. WARREN

Classification of the Architect.

The synopsis read: Among the fundamental questions encountered by the Architects' Code Committee is one which relates to the character of the Architects' practice. Apparently, in the minds of many, the Architect is primarily a business man—with his success or failure depending upon his ability to stand the tests thus implied. But he is also obliged to conduct his business in accord with professional ideals; and at the same time to exercise to the best of his ability the art of architecture.

The total number responding on this subject was 226.

Question: (a) Should the architect classify himself as a business man; or as a professional man; or as an artist?

Returns: 6 said the architect should classify himself as a business man.
187 said as a professional man.
2 said as an artist.

Question: (b) If you do not classify him definitely as one of these three, then how do you classify him?

Returns: The classifications suggested were:
3 said as an architect.
9 said as professional and business man.

19 said as all three—business, professional, artist.

Question: (c) What are your general comments in this regard?

Returns: The twelve outstanding comments were:
(1) Professional—But he needs all three. Too often the architect becomes engrossed by one idea to the exclusion of the other phases of his work.

(2) Professional—Reasonably implies the artistic capacity and an adequate business understanding. "Business man" connotes none of the things which are vital to the interest of Architecture, the historically important matter we have been taught to venerate.

Survey of Institute Affairs—Continued

(3) Professional—With the professional attitude can and shall be combined the two extremes, the practicality of the business man and the idealism of the artist.

(4) Professional—He must be all three to be a success. The ideal would be, artist, professional man, business man; but in actuality it is professional man, business man, artist.

(5) Professional—Being something of a business man will help him to financial success. If he is not also something of an artist he will be unworthy of being called architect.

(6) Professional—The architect is primarily a professional man in whom is combined both the practical realism of the business man and the vision of the artist. But more than this, he is always a trustee. The professional and trustee side of our practice should be continually stressed, not only in our relation to clients but also to society.

(7) Professional—Professionalism is not a method but a matter of the spirit. Serving professionally one must do nothing "contrary to the public policy", and controlled by this fact, with the terms of his employment and of his compensation defined, must serve his client to the limits of the terms of his employment and the limits of his capacity, without regard for the adequacy of his compensation, or for the effects upon himself, his future, or his profits. For having fixed the terms of his employment he must not fall short of full performance, and having fixed the terms of his compensation, he must be content therewith. Such is the professional man's duty, such his high calling, demanding at times the stuff of which martyrs are made.

(8) Professional—A business man works directly for personal gain. An artist is concerned with the production of beauty for an indeterminate audience. A professional man puts the skill and knowledge he possesses at the service of particular individuals on particular occasions.

(9) Professional—The conduct of architectural practice except on some sort of a fee basis is not easily conceivable. On a purely business basis architects would no doubt bid for their services to be used and it is easy to see to what this would lead.

(10) Professional—He or his associates must combine all of these attributes if he is to serve his clients well, the overstress of any one of these attributes at the expense of the others would be disastrous.

(11) Professional—My definition of a professional man is one who, especially qualified by training and experience, acts for and in the interest of his client and who has no interests that are opposed to those of his client.

(12) Combination of the three—One of the three qualities may predominate but must be supplemented either in the individual or in his associates by the other qualities.

The deductions which Mr. Warren drew from all the returns on this subject were as follows:

It is most significant that the overwhelming majority of replies, 187 out of 226, classify the architect as a professional man, a professional man whose idealism carries him beyond the customary thought of the interests of the client coming before the interests of the architect, carries him to that rare and lofty pinnacle where fairness and justice come before the interests of either architect or client.

It is this sort of idealism which has attracted fine and able men to the practice of architecture, in spite of the fact that its material returns are so much less than those of other great professions.

It is this sort of idealism that has enabled the architects, who have suffered from the depression more than any other class of people, to carry on with a smile, to keep their sense of humor, and their faith in our great country.

Practically all of those classifying the architect as a professional man indicated that for success, he must also have in himself or in his organization both artistic and business ability.

Some of the other replies classified the architect as a business man, some as an artist and some as combinations of the two or three. It was a question of predominance, the qualities of all three being considered essential for the ideal.

The Editor of a leading architectural magazine, who knows his profession, wrote: "This question as to how an architect should classify himself merely presents a definition of words. No matter what the architect is called—certainly he must be a good business man to succeed. Architects who have been successful have all been good business men, whether or not they admitted it. One might reply, the architect is a professional man who must have the qualifications of a good business man."

A California architect—"The problem is to make the public aware of the value of professional service of this kind. The profession has so far failed to arouse general public attention and understanding."

A Texas architect—"The architect renders professional service in much the same manner as a doctor or a lawyer. He must have professional ability to successfully practice his profession; and any prestige his organization has built up follows almost without exception the man and not the firm. A business ordinarily continues after the business man has gone on, under new guidance—but not so with the architect."

Survey of Institute affairs—Continued

THE ARCHITECT AND THE INSTITUTE

THIS ANALYSIS BY DIRECTOR FREDERICK M. MANN

Membership Classes.

The synopsis read: The classes of membership are shown on the attached circular—Exhibit "A". Please read it critically. (The Institute has Fellows, Members, Associates, and Juniors; State Association members; and Honorary and Honorary Corresponding members.)

Question: (a) Is this a good set-up for membership classes?

Returns: 145 said the present set-up is good.
27 said the present set-up is not good.
54 expressed no opinion.
2 said "fair."

Question: (b) Should Juniors be elected to the Institute and *not* assigned to Chapters as at present?

Returns: 52 said Juniors should *not* be assigned to Chapters as at present.
119 said Juniors should be assigned to Chapters.
53 expressed no opinion.
1 qualified his answer.

Question: (c) Are there adequate provisions for the architectural draftsmen?

Returns: 123 said present provisions are adequate.
60 said they were not adequate.
42 expressed no opinion.
1 qualified his answer.

Question: (d) Does Institute affiliation appeal to the younger men as it should?

Returns: 70 said the Institute appeals to the younger men.
101 said it does not.
52 expressed no opinion.
3 qualified their answers.

Question: (e) What changes do you recommend?

Returns: The suggested changes were taken to refer largely to changes that would make the Institute appeal more to younger men.

The outstanding comments were:

- (1) Younger men are deterred by ethical requirements of the A. I. A. These should *not* be changed.
- (2) Devote time to younger men at Chapter meetings and at Conventions.
- (3) Have better Chapter meeting programs.
- (4) Less serious discussions and more conviviality.
- (5) Chapters should welcome and introduce Juniors at one of the regular meetings of the year.
- (6) Invite draftsmen to attend Chapter meetings.
- (7) Put younger men on the program committee.

(8) Young men should have greater attention.

(9) Institute should have definite policy to sell the Institute to younger men.

(10) Lower dues for younger members.

(11) Arrange program to interest students before they leave school.

(12) Code will bring in young men.

(13) Suggests that Junior Chapters should be established in the architectural schools.

(14) Create Institute Associates instead of Chapter Associates.

(15) Broaden acceptable qualifications for Juniors so draftsmen may become eligible for Juniorship.

(16) State Associations are good feeders.

(17) Make members of State Associations "affiliate members" of A. I. A.

(18) Chapters must discard attitude of exclusiveness.

(19) Institute must be more democratic.

The comment which Mr. Mann made after his review of these returns was as follows:

The architectural schools constitute the most fruitful field for contact with young men by the Institute. Graduates of the schools will become the best trained men of the profession and those of the highest ethical standards and professional ideals. This could be best accomplished by establishment of Junior Chapters in the schools. The Institute has practically neglected this important field of contact with the best class of men who are preparing to enter the practice of architecture. It has also neglected *in general* to cultivate the interest of the younger generation which is to constitute the Institute of the future.

A Wisconsin Architect—"The chapters must rouse themselves, and discard the attitude of exclusiveness and superiority. They should form definite plans for attracting the younger men."

A Minnesota Architect recommends—"That where there are ten or more architects in a city, and all are willing to become members of The American Institute of Architects, they should be granted a charter as a chapter. By so doing history would be made for the architectural profession."

*Survey of Institute affairs—Continued***THE ARCHITECTS CAN TAKE IT**

THIS ANALYSIS BY DIRECTOR STEPHEN F. VOORHEES

Morale of Architectural Profession.

The synopsis read: The architect is an idealist and hard to discourage. But the past four years have been a severe test of the morale of the profession.

The total number responding on this subject was 226.

Question: (a) What are your observations in this regard?

Returns: 41 reported morale as excellent.
86 reported morale as good.
46 reported morale as low.
53 no answer.
or, 25% excellent, 50% good, 25% low.

Question: (b) What can the Institute do to maintain morale?

Returns: The outstanding suggestions were:

(1) Carry on—maintain high standards—be lenient to delinquents—send them THE OCTAGON—reduce initiation fees and dues—increase membership—make Institute more representative—special attention to architects in small communities—make THE OCTAGON less formal—publish encouraging news—news of “doings” in Washington—urge chapters to greater activity in discharging local responsibilities—strong help the weaker—mutual self help.

(2) Protect private practice against governmental practice—Federal, state, and local—Get government out of practice—Go political to accomplish this—Push program for public funds for building.

(3) Encourage outside activities, writing, lecturing, civic service—Point to opportunities

outside the profession for men with architectural training.

The deduction which Mr. Voorhees drew from all the returns on this subject was that the morale of the profession can be visualized as follows: 25% excellent; 50% good; 25% low. Or, 75% good to excellent, and 25% low.

Editors Note: In view of what has happened to the building industry in the past four years this finding is evidence of remarkable stamina and faith. The high morale of the architectural profession was epitomized by President Russell at the close of his address to the recent Convention, as follows:

“We have demonstrated our courage under the most adverse circumstances. We have ability to face facts without blinking at them. With timber of this calibre we can solve satisfactorily our problems even though they may seem stupendous. A revolution has taken place in many phases of American life. Our conditions parallel those of others. We shall meet these changing conditions in the same fine spirit that we have exhibited in past emergencies, and we shall prove worthy of the trusts imposed upon us.”

The A. S. H. V. E. Guide

NOTICE of the plan for distributing the A. S. H. V. E. Guide 1934 to A. I. A. members has been sent to each of them by the Society. Careful attention should be paid to the directions that must be followed to secure a copy of the Guide.

This reference data volume, issued by the American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers, contains a Technical Data Section enlarged in this 12th edition to include newly developed data that are vitally important in meeting the present day demands of heating, ventilating and air conditioning practice. From all practical and research sources, useful facts have been gathered and incorporated in the 42 chapters which have been arranged for convenient reference. An extensive index has been included

to aid the reader, and to give quick reference.

All of the data in the previous edition have been reviewed, many chapters have been revised and amplified while others have been completely replaced.

With 42 chapters and a comprehensive index to the text occupying 618 pages, The Guide 1934 presents the largest technical data section ever compiled and published by the Society. Supplemented by the engineering data of 108 leading manufacturers in the Catalog Section, which consists of 176 pages, the user will find essential facts that are invaluable in laying out a plant or selecting equipment.

Additional information can be obtained from the Society at 51 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

The Cranbrook Academy of Art

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE—ELIEL SAARINEN, DIRECTOR

THE Cranbrook Academy of Art announces that the fourth year of its Post Graduate Architectural Department, under the direction of Eliel Saarinen, will begin in the fall, 1934. This department is conducted for the serious and ambitious student who desires to continue and broaden his study and training under conditions which are unique in this country and highly conducive to the individual's personal development.

The Academy can be considered as a laboratory for research work in architecture where the advanced and talented student can supplement the formal education he has received in the University. Mr. Saarinen's philosophy of architectural education includes the premise that all work done by the student must be based upon reality, and therefore be a part of life itself, and not upon artificial conditions about which the student can only theorize. Architecture, according to Mr. Saarinen, is not necessarily building, but includes everything which man has created as a practical organic solution of his relation to his environment. The student at Cranbrook must think, feel and understand architecture not as a Fine Art, but as something with which man has daily contact. In this department each student formulates his own project, based upon a set of actual conditions and proceeds to develop it to a solution. In the last two years a number of students have worked on city plans for such centers as Hartford, Connecticut; Panama City; Montauk Point, Long Island; Madison, Wisconsin; Pontiac, Michigan; Detroit, Michigan; Cleveland, Ohio; New York City; and Cambridge, Massachusetts, and have developed three dimensional models of these communities to demonstrate the result of their studies. Other students have designed industrial developments and residences for actual clients. Such problems make the study of architecture very genuine. The practical consideration of modern conditions, rather than the adherence to stylistic forms and ideas, is the basis for the solution of these problems.

The limitation of the number of students of the Architectural Department to a small group makes more intimate contact between the students and the staff possible. As each student is working on his individual problem, every other student is benefited through the understanding and knowledge of the work of his associates, and by their mutual criticism. The open discussions which are held of each problem are of great value. As each student is expected to have cultural and intellec-

tual interests apart from those pertaining to architecture, a great variety of argumentative material is present for the Round Table discussion meetings which are periodically held with the staff of the department.

The courses in painting and drawing under the direction of Zoltan Sepeshy, and those in modeling and ceramics under Marshall Fredericks, are a part of the Department of Architecture and the students are encouraged to make full use of them. The Architectural Department is conducted for post graduate and advanced students. The enrollment is confined to a limited number of qualified students. Each applicant must be either the holder of an architectural degree from a recognized university or a practicing architect or draughtsman who can submit the necessary qualifications showing special ability, aptitude and ambition. As there is no tuition or any charge for instruction, each student accepted by the Academy is actually the recipient of a scholarship. These scholarships are available to both men and women with no restrictions as to age or nationality.

There is a registration fee of \$100.00 for all architectural students who are accepted, which fee is payable to the Academy in advance. This fee is payable only once and is for any period of continual residence. This registration fee does not include expenses for room and board, materials or miscellaneous items.

Applicants must submit a complete personal history giving information as to both educational and business experience, and must submit the names and addresses of five references.

Each applicant must submit for the consideration of the Academy officers any satisfactory architectural project which is the applicant's own solution of a real and actual problem. Evidence must be submitted to show the reality of the problem, which must be based upon actual conditions, places, environment and people. A thesis problem done during the senior year at an accredited architectural school may be submitted, if the thesis meets the requirements as outlined above.

The material submitted may consist of drawings or models, or both, with photographs and a written explanation describing the solution of the problem.

The acceptance of the student will be based upon:

- a. excellence of his work from an organic, rather than a stylistic point of view.
- b. personal record of the applicant.

Coordination of Sizes of Building Materials

THE question of coordination of sizes of building materials has again been brought to the foreground through a proposal submitted to the National Bureau of Standards involving a study of sizes of manufactured building units and the fostering of a movement to bring about better coordination in abutting units.

Endorsements in support of the project from organizations and individuals prominent in the various branches of building design and construction point out the need for such cooperative effort in the interest of more economical and sound construction.

It is generally recognized that there is room for considerable improvement in the correlation of the elements that are used in building construction especially those units which go to make up a wall system, such as brick, tile, block, windows, etc. It is also apparent that variations in basic dimensions cause confusion in design and assembling and result in increased costs and faulty construction.

These sentiments are definitely expressed by the chief of a prominent Federal construction bureau in a recent letter on the subject:—"There is no question but that it would be decidedly advantageous to the work of this bureau, as well as to the building industry in general if such units could be standardized. It would result in simplicity of drawings and specifications, less confusion in their interpretation after contract, and in considerable economy." In the same connection a prominent Government housing official writes:—"This project has our hearty support, to the extent that it eliminates needless waste and duplication, and provides a common-sense, practical plan of co-operation among all interested in supplying housing materials." Another says:—"I believe that, especially in low-cost home construction, the availability of coordinated units will tend to materially lower the cost of construction and to simplify the work of the designer".

As indicated by the foregoing observations, it is the principal purpose of the coordination movement to confine activities to units for use in structures where economy in materials and labor are deciding factors, such as Government buildings (Federal, State, and local), commercial structures, industrial buildings, mass production projects, low-cost housing, etc. For these reasons there is nothing in the proposed project that should be objectionable to architects on the basis of being contrary to their desires for freedom in design. The minor adjustments in sizes of units will be negligible and should have the desirable effect of simplifying matters for the designer, as has been

previously pointed out. The architect or owner who wishes to use odd sized brick or follow similar practices on particular structures for aesthetic or other reasons, should not be handicapped by the proposed program, since such materials as he may desire will still be available.

Since the architectural profession is in position to play a most important part in any program of coordination, the general proposal was submitted to the Institute where it was referred to the Executive Committee and endorsed by that committee as worthy of serious consideration by the members of the Institute. It is apparent that if architects throughout the country will specify definite sizes of units which have been designed to fit with other units to form a well-knitted structure, a demand will be created for such approved sizes which will automatically insure close cooperation from those engaged in producing such materials. It is understood, of course, that such requirements need not be applied to those structures which do not fall within the scope of the coordination plan's objectives.

After widespread investigation into the many factors involved in the present complicated situation it develops that the most satisfactory results for all concerned might be obtained by taking the standard common brick dimensions (8"x2 $\frac{1}{4}$ "x3 $\frac{3}{4}$ ") slightly increased in depth (2.25" min. to 2.40" max.), together with a half-inch mortar joint as a basis of measurement for adjoining units. The slight increase in depth is needed to provide the desirable 1:1 $\frac{1}{3}$:1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ratios for brick laid in any position.

These combinations seem to provide the most satisfactory basis for design of adjoining units, with the least disturbance to the manufacturing processes of the majority of industries. This is particularly true with regard to such materials as clay tile and concrete block, whose sizes are now based on standard brick dimensions.

The present lack of coordination and variations in sizes of building units, particularly between different sections of the country, should not be attributed to the vagaries of the manufacturers of such units. Deviations from the standard sizes adopted by the masonry unit industries, for example, can to a large extent be traced to the demands of users of those materials and recognizing this situation, the manufacturers should not be too severely criticized for producing sizes which seem to fit the popular demand.

In order that a more stable unit might be maintained as a basis of measurement, the brick manufacturers throughout the country with the helpful cooperation of all concerned, should be encouraged to adhere as closely as possible to the

standard dimensions adopted by that industry. With the assurance that brick sizes would remain constant, the leaders in other industries have indicated that the manufacturers of adjoining units will be glad to make such minor adjustments in their products as may be necessary to conform to the requirements of the correlation pattern.

For the convenience of the various departments of the Federal Government and other consuming organizations which may wish to purchase materials in keeping with the coordination plan when finally formulated, it is planned to compile lists of all manufacturers desirous of supplying such class of materials.

As the activity in general is being undertaken chiefly because it will result in economies in construction of buildings erected by tax-supported agencies, the proposal was submitted to most of

the Federal Government departments engaged in building activities. Official endorsements of the project have been received from all of the departments consulted, and all have expressed a desire to cooperate fully in bringing the program to a successful conclusion.

NOTE: The action of the Executive Committee of the A. I. A. in this matter, at the May 1934 meeting, was as follows:

Resolved, That the Executive Committee of The American Institute of Architects endorses and commends the program of the Bureau of Standards for the coordination of sizes of building materials, but the Institute wishes to be on record to the effect that the development of such standards should not serve to exclude or discourage the manufacture of special sizes of brick for special purposes.

With the Chapters

Baltimore.

President Nolting states that he has been informed that the next General Assembly of Maryland will receive a bill for the registration of architects. In order to be prepared to handle the subject intelligently, he appointed the following Committee on Registration: James Edmunds, Jr., Chairman, Wm. D. Laidin, R. E. Lee Taylor, and Henry P. Hopkins.

Central Illinois.

The June meeting of the Chapter was held in Springfield, Ill. It was preceded by a luncheon at the University Club, and followed by a visit to the new "Lake Springfield" development.

The report of Dean Rexford Newcomb, the Chapter's representative on the joint committee of Illinois architectural societies to suggest nominees for the vacancy on the Illinois Board of Architectural Examiners created by the death of Professor James M. White, was read. This report listed five Chicago architects from which the Governor was requested to fill the vacancy. The action of President Lundeen in conveying to the Governor the endorsement of this report by the Chapter was approved and adopted.

Herbert E. Hewitt, Director for the Great Lakes Division, spoke for himself and Professor L. H. Provine, who were delegates to the Convention. His report was so interesting that Mr. Hewitt was requested to furnish a copy to the Secretary for reproduction and distribution to all members of the Chapter.

Central New York.

The reports of the Department of Commerce on the real property surveys of certain cities in the

country, give preliminary figures indicating the need of housing reform. Copies are being distributed through the office of the Secretary at The Octagon to the Chapters in whose territories are located the cities chosen for such surveys. They are furnished with the thought that the results of these Governmental surveys may prove of value to the architects in the Chapters.

In acknowledgment of the receipt of such a report for Syracuse, N. Y., the President of the Central New York Chapter writes:

"We wish to thank you for the report of seven pages issued by the Department of Commerce with respect to the real property inventory made for Syracuse, New York. It was very interesting and helpful.

"Have given a copy to each of the local papers and will also see that the architects in Syracuse are given a copy."

Chicago.

The Annual Meeting of the Chapter was held jointly with the Producers' Council Club of Chicago on June 12th, at Louis Sullivan Ballroom, The Auditorium Hotel.

Dinner was served to members and guests of each organization following which Earl H. Reed, Jr., President of the Chicago Chapter, introduced Mr. Wm. H. Coleman, President of The Producers' Council Club of Chicago who acted as Toastmaster.

Mr. Coleman then introduced Louis La Beume, F. A. I. A., who spoke on "Federal Public Works and the Architect."

Following Mr. La Beume's talk, Miles L. Colean, a member of the Chicago Chapter, gave a very interesting talk on some recent developments in Washington which will prove of interest to the architect.

With the Chapters—continued.

Mr. Coleman then introduced Mr. Daniel Catton Rich, Assistant Curator of Paintings of the Art Institute of Chicago, who spoke on "The Artists' Use of Architecture, Five Centuries of Painting." This was an illustrated talk.

Following Mr. Rich's talk, Mr. Coleman turned over the gavel to Mr. Reed, who, following a short recess, called the annual meeting of the Chicago Chapter, A. I. A. to order.

Before proceeding with the business of the annual meeting, Mr. Reed called on George Nimmons, Chairman of the Fellowship Committee of the Chapter, who presented Fellowship Certificates to William Jones Smith, who received the certificate awarded to John Holabird because of the latter's absence from this meeting, and to Victor A. Matteson. Mr. Nimmons gave a citation for each award.

In accordance with the usual procedure, President Reed read the annual report of the President. This report was authorized spread on the Minutes of the Chapter.

Detroit.

President Palmer presided at the June meeting. He introduced H. Jerome Darling, architect for the building in which the meeting was held.

W. G. Malcomson stated that there would be no skyscrapers in heaven since skyscrapers require engineers! After the talk of Mr. Lou Hoffman (recently appointed Regional Reconditional Supervisor for Michigan and Indiana) he revised this statement, as did Clair W. Ditchy, President of the Michigan Society of Architects, who characterized Mr. Hoffman as the architects' friend in court. It was agreed that Mr. Hoffman has a tremendous job that calls for cooperation of the architects and it would be most unfortunate if they neglected the opportunity.

Frank Eurich, staunch member of the Chapter and the Society, is in charge of all reconditioning work in the State of Michigan with District Offices at Grand Rapids, Saginaw, Battle Creek, and Marquette. Mr. Eurich is State Reconditioning Supervisor and certainly the man for the job. According to the Chapter's statement, they expect big things of him. Detroit's quota will be about 70% of that of the State. Albert Kahn is to be the State Advisory Architect.

Harry Mead, President of the Grand Rapids Chapter, was a visitor to Detroit, and attended the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Detroit Chapter and the Society. Plans were made for the Grand Rapids architects to join with those in Detroit on a boating party under the direction of Commodore Dave Williams in July.

Louis Kamper has left for Czecho Slovakia for several months.

Georgia.

The Chapter appointed William J. Sayward to invite the Director of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, for Georgia, Mr. Raymond Snow, to a luncheon. Others to be invited were the registered architects of Atlanta, for the purpose of discussing the aims and methods of the Home Owners' Loan Corporation.

Kentucky.

At the June meeting of the Chapter, held at the Architects' and Builders' Exhibit, President Epping made a report on the visit of the architects' committee to Mayor Neville Miller to present a petition signed by seventeen of the leading architects of Louisville. This committee consisted of Carl J. Epping, Arthur G. Tafel, Herman G. Wischmeyer, E. T. Hutchings, and O. P. Ward. The petition asked the administration either to abolish or reduce the present amount of the architect's license fee paid into the sinking fund, or to make everyone presenting plans to the building department for permit pay the same fee.

Mr. Fred Erhart, Building Inspector, read a paper on the "Purpose and Problems of a Building Inspector". He described the personnel of the building department, the duties of the various departments, and the aims and procedure adopted. The Chapter commended Mr. Erhart for the firm and impartial stand he is taking in regard to issuance of permits and the enforcement of the building code.

Oregon.

At the June meeting, President Parker presented a resolution highly commending the Special Committee on the Renovized House for satisfactory manner, thorough hard and unremitting labors, rendered without thought of individual gain, by which they brought much credit to the Chapter in the conduct of the campaign.

Mr. Jacobberger, President of the Registered Architects of Oregon, reported on the proposed legislation looking to the strengthening of the architects' registration law.

The meeting recessed for dinner, and after dinner, Mr. Ben H. Hazen of the Benjamin Franklin Savings and Loan Association explained the new policy of his Company that will include 6% money, and *no loans made on houses except those designed by an architect for the particular site.* Mr. Hazen was assured that the Chapter would do everything possible to assure the success of the policy.

Mr. Stanton showed sketches and explained the plans in connection with the preservation of the McLoughlin House of Oregon City for the D. A. R.

The Chapter voiced its support and expressed confidence in the solution of the problem.

President Parker then introduced Major Bessy, Planning Consultant to the Pacific Northwest Regional Planning Commission, who made a most instructive talk on the Planning Program.

Pittsburgh.

The President of the Institute, E. J. Russell, attended the June 27th meeting of the Chapter, held at the Pittsburgh Country Club.

The Chairman for the Membership Committee reported one Associate in prospect, two Junior applications being prepared, and a potential list of thirty new members to be approached by the Membership Committee.

President Schwab reported on the organization progress, and present work of the Joint Committee of Construction Agencies of Western Pennsylvania and told in detail the policy of the Committee to combat the evil of private plans.

He then reported the organization of the Coordinating Committee on Housing, composed of representatives of the following organizations: The Joint Committee of Construction Agencies of Western Pennsylvania, Building Trades Council (Union Labor), Pittsburgh Real Estate Board, Civic Club, Congress of Women's Clubs, Financial Representation, Pittsburgh Housing Association. The purpose of this Committee is to foster and guide activities growing out of the new national housing legislation. The Chapter unanimously approved the action of the Officers in participating in the formation of the two coordinating committees above mentioned.

At the conclusion of Chapter business, President Russell was presented, and delivered a most interesting address. Thereafter, he invited questions and an open forum followed. Discussions were led by Messrs. Ingham, Schwab, Reutti, Pellegrini, and Bigger.

President Schwab expressed the appreciation of the Chapter to President Russell for his attendance and also to Press Dowler for having made the arrangements at the Pittsburgh Country Club.

St. Louis.

At the May 29th meeting, through the courtesy of Messrs. LaBeaume and Klein, the Chapter and its guests were personally conducted through the new Municipal Auditorium. It was an instructive visit and the Chapter is indebted to the architects for arranging this tour of their newest monument.

Professor Ferrand reported for the Education Committee stating that they had prevailed upon the St. Louis Public Schools to introduce some architectural education matter into the curriculum.

Mr. Trueblood reviewed the work of the Historic American Buildings Survey and presented the Chapter with a set of photostats of all drawings made in the Missouri Division.

President Mullgardt announced that a delegation had met at the train to welcome Ernest John Russell, President of the Institute, and newly-made Knight of the Order of Vasa, by the King of Sweden. He thanked Mr. Russell for his services to the profession.

Mr. Russell responded with a report on the Convention.

England's Exhibition of the Work of Unemployed Architects

THE Exhibition of the Work of Unemployed Architects was opened on June 22 by Lord Snell, Chairman of the London County Council.

Sir Giles Scott (President) in opening the proceedings, said that the exhibition represented the effort of the architectural profession to deal with an unfortunate and unavoidable emergency, an effort of which it was justly proud. The scheme had been started under the presidency of Sir Raymond Unwin and had been loyally supported by the R. I. B. A. and its Allied Societies. The funds collected had been spent in paying people for actual work done, work, moreover, that would not be done by anybody else. The work would have a lasting result; it showed what could be done in times of distress, and was of such importance that it should be carried on in prosperous times as well.

Lord Snell said that one of the saddest things about unemployment was its psychological effect

upon men whose enforced idleness meant deterioration of their capacity for work and their technical skill. This scheme had kept men happy working at their own job, and by so doing had done them and the whole community a great service. The County Council had also played its part in trying to help its own unemployed architects during the period of depression. A fund amounting to over £800 had been collected, and over thirty architects had benefited during the two years.

Lord Snell then dealt in more detail with the technical side of the work exhibited, and of its general utility. He referred particularly to the work of surveying and zoning, which was of the utmost value to town planners and architects of the future. He also spoke of the work of measuring the little known buildings of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries which, but for this scheme, would probably have disappeared without record in a few years,

and of the new Tallis drawings of street elevations. He concluded by saying that this remarkable technical efficiency was only the outward manifestation of a great social spirit which had promoted and made possible the whole scheme. This spirit could not be exhibited, but it was there all the same.

Lord Crawford said that he could envisage no new problem concerning the planning of London which could be solved without reference to the type of work initiated so successfully in this scheme,

and for that reason, he said, the work must be carried on. He concluded by appealing for support for the continuation of the work under a permanent scheme now being formulated by the Architects' Unemployment Committee. This scheme would be entirely dependent on voluntary contributions and donations, and if this vital work was to be carried on the fund must be generously supported.—*From the Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects.*

Applications for Membership

July 31, 1934

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE:

The names of the following applicants may come before the Board of Directors, or its Executive Committee, for action on their admission to the Institute, and if elected, the applicants will be assigned to the Chapters indicated:

<i>Boston Chapter</i> - - - - -	JOHN FREEMAN BRADLEY, KINGSLEY D. CHURCH, JOHN ALONZO RUSSELL
<i>Central Illinois Chapter</i> - - - -	EARL C. WORTHINGTON
<i>Central New York Chapter</i> - - -	HENRY A. MARTIN, WALTER VARS WIARD
<i>Chicago Chapter</i> - - - - -	FRANK CHARLES STARR
<i>Connecticut Chapter</i> - - - - -	MILES H. MANN, JR.
<i>Georgia Chapter</i> - - - - -	SAMUEL INMAN COOPER
<i>Kansas Chapter</i> - - - - -	RAY L. GAMBLE
<i>Kansas City Chapter</i> - - - - -	MAURICE CARROLL
<i>New Jersey Chapter</i> - - - - -	DAVID HARTWELL LUDLOW
<i>New York Chapter</i> - - - - -	JOHN WALTER WOOD
<i>South Carolina Chapter</i> - - - -	J. WHITNEY CUNNINGHAM, RALPH LITTLE
<i>Southern Pennsylvania Chapter</i> -	JOSEPH LESHER STEELE
<i>Washington, D. C. Chapter</i> - - -	THOMAS RIVES EDWARDS
<i>West Texas Chapter</i> - - - - -	WERNER WILLIAM DORNBERGER

You are invited, as directed by the By-laws to send privileged communications before August 31, 1934, on the eligibility of the candidates for the information and guidance of the members of the Board of Directors on their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request, within the thirty-day period, an extension of time for purpose of investigation.

Frank C. Baldwin,
Secretary.

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