

THE
OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects



The Seventieth Convention
Nominations by Petition
"New Orleans" — "Les Anciens"
Present Status of Public Works Program
It Can't Happen Here
Texas Architects Registration Law
With the Chapters—As of Interest

Volume 10

MARCH
1938

Number 3

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICERS 1937-1938

President.....CHARLES D. MAGINNIS, Statler Building, Boston, Mass.
Vice-President.....FREDERICK H. MEYER, 1201 Kohl Building, San Francisco, Cal.
Secretary.....CHARLES T. INGHAM, 1211 Empire Building, Pittsburgh, Pa.
Treasurer.....EDWIN BERGSTROM, Citizens National Bank Bldg., Los Angeles, Cal.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

For One Year (1937-38)

WILLIAM H. CROWELL, 1040 Pacific Building, Portland, Ore. (Western Mountain Dist.)
WALTER R. MCCORNACK, 10006 Carnegie Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio (Great Lakes Dist.)
WILLIAM G. NOLTING, Keyser Building, Baltimore, Md. (Middle Atlantic Dist.)

For Two Years (1937-39)

ALBERT J. EVERS, 525 Market Street, San Francisco, Cal. (Sierra Nevada Dist.)
MOISE H. GOLDSTEIN, American Bank Building, New Orleans, La. (Gulf States Dist.)
HENRY F. HOIT, 2500 Telephone Building, Kansas City, Mo. (Central States Dist.)
MERRILL C. LEE, 110 North Seventh Street, Richmond, Va. (South Atlantic Dist.)

For Three Years (1937-40)

JOHN R. FUGARD, 520 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. (Illinois-Wisconsin Dist.)
ALBERT HARKNESS, 1428 Industrial Trust Building, Providence, R. I. (New England Dist.)
RICHMOND H. SHREVE, 11 East 44th Street, New York, N. Y. (New York Dist.)

THE OCTAGON

A Journal of The American Institute of Architects

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Executive and Publication Offices, The Octagon, 1741 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

The Seventieth Convention

THIRD AND LAST NOTICE

THE first notice concerning the Seventieth Convention appeared in the December number of THE OCTAGON.

For the convenience of members, chapters and state association members who wish to review the record or to check on some particular item the following resumé is given:

In the January number—

Time and Place

Early Election of Delegates

Procedure for Election of Delegates

Chapter Meetings on Convention Business

Procedure for Nominating Officers and Directors by Petition

Offices and Directorships Becoming Vacant

Notice of Number of Delegates—by Chapter and State Association

In the February number—

Accrediting and Registering Delegates
Credentials

Hotel Headquarters and Reservations

Program and Transportation

In the March number (this number)—

Tentative Program of Convention, with

Tentative Order of Events

Notice of Nominations by Petition

The Secretary takes this occasion to refer, with appreciation, to the instructive and entertaining articles on New Orleans contributed by members of the Louisiana Chapter which have been printed or are to be printed in THE OCTAGON. They are listed as follows:

"Apéritif" by Moise H. Goldstein, in the January number; "A Trip to the Plantations" by Richard Koch, in February; "New Orleans" by

Nathaniel Cortlandt Curtis, and "Les Anciens" by Colonel Allison Owen, in March. In April will appear a "Nightowlseye View of the French Quarter" by Arthur Feitel.

The April number of THE OCTAGON will be mailed well in advance of the convention, but too late for further notices or information concerning the program. Any changes that may be necessary in the tentative program, as published herein, will be embodied in the final program to be distributed at the time of registration.

PRESENTATION OF THE GOLD MEDAL

The highest honor which can be given by The American Institute of Architects is the Gold Medal, which is awarded in recognition of most distinguished service to the profession of architecture or to The Institute.

The Gold Medal has been awarded to Paul Philippe Cret, of Philadelphia, and will be presented to him with appropriate ceremony at the Delgado Museum of Art on the evening of Wednesday, April 20.

Delegates, members and guests will receive invitations to this ceremony at the time of registration, thus having opportunity to join in paying tribute to a distinguished member of our profession. Formal dress will be desirable on this occasion.

THE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

As heretofore the report of The Board, and of The Treasurer, will be distributed in printed form at the opening session.

They will be supplemented by a printed document containing synopses of the reports of the national committees of The Institute.

These documents will put before the delegates a picture of Institute affairs, and will contain the recommendations of The Board and the committees. There will be opportunity for discussion from the floor of the subject matter of the reports and of all questions on which voting action is taken by the delegates.

REPRESENTATION FROM EVERY CHAPTER

Once more The Secretary stresses the importance of representation by delegates from the corporate members of every chapter of The Institute.

Surely, the members of every chapter can send at least one delegate—and thus vote their full strength on every division. If, because of some unusual circumstance, the members of your chapter cannot send even one delegate then they should arrange for representation through a delegate-at-large or from some other chapter, as provided in Chapter VI, Article 2, Section 2, Paragraph (a-2)

of The Institute By-Laws (see page 5 of the February OCTAGON).

The last convention to meet in New Orleans was the Forty-seventh Convention in 1913. That was twenty-five years ago. Through the intervening years the architectural profession and The Institute have survived the vicissitudes of war, prosperity, and depression; of traditionalism, modernism, and prohibition. It is fitting that we should again assemble in this historic city to consider the problems of the present. Perhaps in another quarter century we shall meet in a new city wherein all is organic and functional and where romanticism has no place.

So while we may, let us all—members, delegates and guests—avail ourselves of this opportunity to meet in New Orleans where, while looking to the future, we will not be unmindful of the past.

CHARLES T. INGHAM
Secretary.

Tentative Program of the Convention

THE FINAL PROGRAM WILL BE DISTRIBUTED AT THE OPENING OF THE CONVENTION

Hotel and Convention Headquarters.

The Roosevelt hotel, New Orleans, will be hotel headquarters.

Information concerning rates for all types of rooms and the procedure for making reservations at The Roosevelt appeared in the February number of THE OCTAGON—page 8.

Please note that all reservations should be sent direct to The Roosevelt hotel to be received *not later than April 12*. Those making reservations later than April 12 may not find rooms as desirable as those who make reservations before that date.

Complete information concerning entertainment features, tours and special events will appear in the Convention program, and in supplementary documents to be issued at the time of registration.

Registration.

Delegates, members and guests should register with the Credentials Committee, upon arrival at the hotel. For the convenience of those arriving on

Monday, April 18, the Credentials Committee will be on duty at The Roosevelt hotel on the afternoon and evening from 3:00 to 10:00 P. M. It will also be on duty on Tuesday, April 19, from 9:00 A. M. until 7:00 P. M., at which time registration records will be definitely closed.

Prompt registration upon arrival at the hotel will greatly expedite the work of the Credentials Committee—and save your time.

Resolutions.

Resolutions offered by The Board of Directors will be printed in The Board's report and moved for adoption when the relevant section of that report is before the Convention.

Resolutions concerning matters *not* covered in The Board's report, or requests for opportunity to present items of new business, must be presented to the Committee on Resolutions for its action and approval before noon on *Thursday, April 21*—provided, that an exception may be made by unanimous consent of the Convention.

A general rule to this effect will be offered for adoption by the Convention at the morning session on Tuesday, April 19.

Program, Documents and Tickets.

The final program of the Convention with complete information concerning procedure; all Convention documents, including The Board's report, The Treasurer's report, and synopses of the committee reports; and such tickets of admission to special events as may be required—will be available on the opening day of the Convention.

Meetings Before and During the Convention.

Board of Directors:

Annual meeting of The Board of Directors, The Roosevelt hotel, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 13 to 16 inclusive.

Chapters or members having communications for The Board should address them to The Secretary of The Institute at *The Octagon* for delivery there not later than April 5.

Associations and Other Groups:

Meetings of associations and other groups, at The Roosevelt hotel, unless otherwise stated, are as follows:

The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture—April 18.

The National Council of Architectural Registration Boards—April 18.

The Producers Council, Inc.—April 19, 20, 21, and 22. Plans are being made by The Producers which will enable their members to join The Institute in its discussion of housing at the morning session on April 20. At 1:00 o'clock on that day will occur the joint luncheon, and in the afternoon a Seminar on Housing—under the auspices of The Institute and The Producers' Council.

Further information concerning these various meetings may be obtained from the secretaries of the respective groups, and will be posted in the hotel.

Tentative Order of Events

TUESDAY, APRIL NINETEENTH

Morning Session

The President, Charles D. Maginnis, Presiding

9:00 A.M. Registration continued.

10:00 A.M. Opening of the Convention.

Address of Welcome—

(Speaker to be announced.)

The President's Address—

Charles D. Maginnis

The Report of The Treasurer—

Edwin Bergstrom

*The Report of The Board of Directors—

Charles T. Ingham, Secretary

Luncheon

No convention event is scheduled.

Afternoon

2:00 P.M. Tour of old French Quarter. Guides and maps will be available.

4:00 to 5:30 P.M. The President's reception—
At The Patio on Royal Street between Conti and St. Louis Streets.

All attending the convention are cordially invited to be present.

Evening

The Chairman of the Committee on Education,
William Emerson, Presiding.

7:00 P.M. Registration closes.

9:00 P.M. Architectural Education—

The Report of the Committee on Education followed by a presentation of the procedure being followed in "Preparation for Practice", by the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards, the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, in cooperation with the Committee on Education.

* NOTE: The Board's report—printed and distributed in advance—will not be read in full. Resolutions contained in it will be acted upon when relevant sections are presented.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL TWENTIETH**Morning Session**

The President Presiding

9:30 A.M. Opening of the session.

Report of the Committee on Housing—

Discussion led by Walter R. McCornack,
Chairman of the Committee.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Nominations of Officers and Directors.

12:00 M. Report of The Board, continued.

Luncheon1:00 P.M. Joint meeting and luncheon with The
Producers' Council. All are cordially invited.**Afternoon**

Seminar on Housing—

Under the auspices of The Committee on Housing,
and The Producers' Council.Visits to gardens, old homes, and Bayou St. John.
(Return to the hotel not later than 6:00 P.M.)**Evening**8:30 P.M. Presentation of the Gold Medal of
The Institute to Paul Philippe Cret—

At the Delgado Museum of Art.

Admission by invitation and card. Formal
dress.**THURSDAY, APRIL TWENTY-FIRST****Morning Session**

The President Presiding

9:30 A.M. Report of the Committee on Mem-
bership, by Alfred Shaw, Chairman of the
Committee.

10:00 A.M. Polls Open.

10:30 A.M. Report of the Committee on State
Organization, by John R. Fugard, Chair-
man of the Committee.11:30 A.M. Report of the Committee on Public
Works, by Francis P. Sullivan, Chairman
of the Committee.**Luncheon**

No convention event is scheduled.

Afternoon2:00 P.M. Visit to "Oak Alley", a typical Louisi-
ana plantation house on the Mississippi river.
Bus tickets and information at the registration
office.**Evening**

8:00 P.M. Polls close.

8:00 P.M. Exhibition of the work of Henry
Hobson Richardson—at the galleries of the
Newcomb School of Art. The hosts will
be the School of Architecture of Tulane Uni-
versity.9:00 P.M. Address by Henry Russell Hitchcock,
Jr., on the life and work of Richardson, fol-
lowed by a reception by the School of Archi-
tecture.**FRIDAY, APRIL TWENTY-SECOND****Morning Session**The Vice-President, Frederick H. Meyer,
Presiding

9:30 A.M. Opening of the session.

Proposed Revision of Institute Documents.
Unfinished Business.

Report of Committee on Resolutions.

New Business.

Announcement of Elections.

Luncheon

No convention event is scheduled.

Afternoon

No convention event is scheduled.

Evening

8:00 P.M. Dinner of The Institute.

Announcement of Honorary Memberships.

Announcement of Fellowships.

Presentation of Craftsmanship Medal.

Presentation of Fine Arts Medal.

Adjournment.

SATURDAY, APRIL TWENTY-THIRDThere are no scheduled events for this day. It
has been left open for sight-seeing in New Orleans,
and for trips to nearby points of interest.Those who plan to visit Natchez, Mississippi,
two hundred miles north of New Orleans, should
secure the Natchez circular of information at the
registration office.

Notice of Nominations by Petition

The offices and directorships to become vacant at the time of the Seventieth Convention are those of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer; and Directors of the Great Lakes, Middle Atlantic, and Western Mountain Districts.

An official notice concerning nominations and the procedure for making them appeared in the January number of *THE OCTAGON*.

All nominations received at The Octagon on or before March 9—which was the last day for filing nominations by petition—are listed herein.

These nominations were made in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VI, Article 4, Section 1(c) of the By-laws and are as follows:

Nominations by Petition.

For Regional Director, Great Lakes District—

Claire W. Ditchy, Detroit, Michigan.

By members of the Cincinnati, Cleveland, Detroit, Eastern Ohio, Grand Rapids, Indiana, Kentucky, and Toledo Chapters.

For Regional Director, Middle Atlantic District—

Miller I. Kast, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

By members of the New Jersey, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Scranton-Wilkes-Barre, and Southern Pennsylvania Chapters.

Charles Z. Klauder, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

By members of the New Jersey, Philadelphia, and Washington, D. C. Chapters.

Edmund Randolph Purves, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

By members of the New Jersey, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Southern Pennsylvania Chapters.

For Regional Director, Western Mountain District—

Robert K. Fuller, Denver, Colorado.

By members of the Colorado, Oregon, and Utah Chapters.

Offices for Which No Nominations Have Been Filed.

Those offices becoming vacant at the Convention, for which no nominations by petition have been received, are as follows:

For President and Director

For Vice-President and Director

For Secretary and Director

For Treasurer and Director

Under Chapter VI, Article 4, Section 1(d) of the By-laws, opportunity will be given at the Convention to make nominations from the floor, for any office about to become vacant.

Under Chapter VI, Article 4, Section 1(e) of the By-laws, in the event that a nomination is not made by petition, or by the delegates from the floor of the Convention, to fill any vacancy that is about to occur, a nomination to fill each such vacancy shall be made by a nominating committee from the floor, at the time set for making such nominations. Such nominating committee will be appointed by The President on the opening day of the meeting and shall consist of five accredited delegates.

Syracuse University Announces Summer Session for 1938

The summer session will begin July 5 and will continue for six weeks. The following courses will be offered: Elements of Design and Theory of Architecture, Introduction to Construction, Materials of Construction, Freehand Drawing, and Architectural Design.

Courses in art history, drawing, painting, modeling, etc., will be given in other departments of the College of Fine Arts. A bulletin of information may be obtained upon request to the Director of Summer Sessions, Syracuse University.

Scholarships.

One \$375.00 and four \$187.50 scholarships will be granted by the School of Architecture by competition on July 16. In awarding scholarships the following factors will be considered by the committees of awards: 1. Character, 2. High School record, 3. Evidence of leadership, and 4. Recommendations of High School Principals.

Applications must be made before June 22. For information address Dean H. L. Butler, College of Fine Arts, Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y.

New Orleans

EARLY SMALL DWELLINGS AND SHOPS IN THE FRENCH QUARTER*

WHEN the Americans began to come to New Orleans in great numbers immediately after the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 they found a compactly built city of about one hundred squares, laid out in the form of a rectangle "stretching some seventy-eight arpents" (as the phrase went) along the curving river-front and surrounded on the other three sides by earthen ramparts. There was a fort at each corner and an extra one in the center of the rear embankment. It was a little city but it *was* a city, for it had a cathedral, church and convent, a municipal building, a public place, a charity hospital, a theatre and opera house, public markets and a college, besides barracks for a military establishment. Abutting the lower ramparts the plantation of the Marquis de Marigny—where two generations earlier there had been located a saw-mill near the river and a canal running back to bayou and lake—was the only improved area in the vast swamps that stretched out indefinitely on every hand. For purposes of reference, if for nothing else, the territory just outside the city was divided into three *faubourgs*—the upper the *Faubourg Ste. Marie*, the lower the *Faubourg Marigny* and at the rear the *Faubourg Trême*. Short stretches of road extended up and down the headwaters of the Bayou St. Jean over a former Indian trail, then as now known as the Bayou Road; but New Orleans could not be reached from any distant place except by the river or over long stretches of coastal waters.

Finding a town well consolidated and apparently satisfied with itself these enterprising Americans soon began to look around for something to develop and it was natural that they should make advances to M. de Marigny, looking toward the subdivision of his partly improved tract of land.

Bernard Marigny was therefore approached by the promoters and, after much preliminary bargaining, as was the custom (then as now), he at last agreed to part with the greater part of his ancestral plantation. It is related that the amount involved in the transaction was "fabulous." A date was appointed when the parties were to meet at the notary's office. All the necessary papers had been drawn up and only awaited their signatures. They

all came except Mme. de Marigny—the Americans very promptly, no doubt. Then an *impasse* developed which seems to us at this time somewhat amusing. The transaction could not go through without her consent as, in the words of Mr. Castellanos, "her dotal and paraphernal rights were involved." Later it was believed that she had absented herself at the suggestion of her husband. Presumably M. Marigny had decided to subdivide the property himself, and the Americans could retire to the *marais* if they sought to develop something.

Greatly exasperated, Mr. Peters and his associates were forced, through the Marignys' refusal to cooperate with them, to transfer their field of operations to the trembling quagmire along the upper reaches of the waterfront, and thus the beginning was laid for the splendid modern city which stretches and spreads out above Canal Street—always away from the *vieux carré de la ville*.

This episode is mentioned because it has a direct bearing, along with one other factor, on the preservation of the original architecture of New Orleans. Instead of enclosing, throttling and finally obliterating the old quarter, it was left to itself and the march of progress proceeded away from it in other directions. The other factor tending to preserve the original architectural character of the quarter was the custom of combining in one building the living and business location of the occupant. There were no streets or sections reserved strictly for residences, which the encroachments of business or changing character of occupancy might obliterate, as has been the case in the American part of the city, where streets and avenues formerly purely residential have become almost entirely commercialized. Lovers of historic architecture certainly owe some thanks to Monsieur Marigny for a decision for which he must have been roundly cursed in his own day.

Since the "French Quarter" (as it is popularly called) is situated very nearly in the geographical center of New Orleans, it is very convenient to visit—just step across Canal Street and walk a few

*Being Chapter Four of "New Orleans, Its Old Houses, Shops and Public Buildings" by Nathaniel Cortlandt Curtis.

blocks down Royal and you are there, right in the heart of it.

Passing immediately from the cosmopolitan and up-to-date atmosphere of Canal Street one is at once assailed by a confusion of strange and novel impressions. Chief among these is the character of the architecture. The general absence of exposed surfaces of brick is at once noted. Here as in most semi-tropical places the preference is now and has always been for lighter colored effects than those afforded by the sombre or ruddy tones of brickwork. Various explanations have been advanced to account for the preference for plastered and painted surfaces in the early years of the city's history but it is certain that custom and repeated use have served to establish it, so that now buildings of red brick seem distinctly out of harmony in the city or anywhere along the Gulf Coast. The first settlers of New Orleans were Frenchmen and a little later many Spaniards came to join the colony. Obviously they would be inclined in their buildings to reproduce as near as they could what they had been accustomed to at home, and this we find to be the case with the exception of certain modifications forced upon them by climate and the materials available. As has been said, brick came into use in New Orleans at an early date but for a long time it was of very poor quality—that is, poor in strength and durability—and it was necessary to plaster or paint it in order to preserve it and render the wall waterproof. This is the real reason why brick surfaces were not left exposed.

The weakness of their brickwork led to a very peculiar method of construction, traces of which are by no means scarce today along the streets of the old quarter. This was known as *brique entre poteaux*—brick between posts. During the period before two-story houses were attempted, that is just before 1800, the majority of shops and dwellings were built by this method. A strong framework of hewn cypress posts and timbers was set up, eight inches thick and stiffened by diagonal braces between the openings. This formed the structural system of the house on which the rafters rested. Then the spaces forming the solid portion of the wall were filled in with brick—the whole plastered inside and out over brick and timbers alike to an even thickness. Roof coverings were first of curved tiles cradled directly on rafters beveled to receive them,

while all flashing and chinking was done with mortar. Later, flat shingle-tiles were used and, still later, slate. At this day there is not a single segmental tile roof left in the quarter; the last one standing at the corner of Chartres and Ursuline Streets was demolished about ten years ago. But there are many buildings remaining which were originally roofed in this manner.

Age and the character of their occupancy has imparted a most attractive picturesque charm to these small dwellings and shops. Frequently it will be noticed that some of the plaster has fallen off, exposing parts of the greyed cypress timbering and the rich chrome-orange of the soft brick infilling, while the remainder of the wall has taken on a myriad gradations of tone due to countless applications of fading paint. As has been mentioned it has always been the custom to paint shutters and other woodwork green—a sort of green that cannot be imitated. There is something in the atmosphere that soon breaks up the uniformity of the pigment and blends it into hues of emerald, lavender and blue of indescribable charm. Signs in odd places painted in brilliant colors directly on the plaster walls add greatly to the pictorial effect. Barbers seem to have a flair for advertising their shops by ingenious arrangements of red and white striping; sometimes the inside of shutters will be striped diagonally or chevrons will run around the corner. It is not uncommon to see set up on the curb a barber's pole, the graceful turnings of which suggest that it once formed a column in some neighboring balcony—and they never seem to stand up straight. Hand-forged iron fastenings add their part to the unity of effect—solid paneled blinds and doors furnished with immense strap hinges and with long, dangling hooks and occasionally a knocker.

In the rear of these houses are little paved courtyards, glimpses of which can be seen down the narrow alleys between them. Many are squalid in the extreme but not infrequently a glint of greenery will intrigue the eye—perhaps a vine or an oleander or myrtle peeping around the corner, or maybe just a row of pots or aromatic plants—geraniums, peppercorns or the fragrant rosemary.

Plans were simple—either two or four rooms of equal size separated by a brick partition. Usually one chimney served for all, coming out through the middle of the roof. The space under the roof was

invariably utilized for sleeping quarters, hence we find attention given to dormers, which in their variety and charm of proportion form one of the most attractive features of the exteriors.

The stroller along the narrow *banquettes* of the *Vieux Carré* will be agreeably amused by the diminutive shop windows that project themselves at frequent intervals a little before his path. He will

no doubt wonder how so many shops of such varied and unusual character can find enough patronage to exist, but they do, apparently, and each adds its bit of color and interest to the wealth of picturesque compositions with which he will be confronted on every hand.

NATHANIEL CORTLANDT CURTIS, A. I. A.

Les Anciens

BY COLONEL ALLISON OWEN, F. A. I. A.

EH! Mes amis; Of course you are coming to New Orleans for the Convention, *non?* But you must come. It will give us so much pleasure to stroll with you through the old streets and share with you the enjoyment of their quaint and intimate charm. You must have luncheon with us in the patio of the old bank where Etienne Marie Zacharie guarded the hoard of Vincent Nolte. Together we can pay our respects to the stately home of La Belle Creole. We can rest for a moment in the shade of a sweet olive in the Place d'Armes, while we enjoy the sunlight and shadows of the past and exchange reminiscences of the ancient architects, who so naively created the fascinating atmosphere in which our French, Spanish and early American ancestors lived their emotional lives.

Remember that while Mme. New Orleans may be old and wrinkled, she is yet an aristocrat and too, a spritely coquette and she will be terribly disappointed if you do not come. She likes nothing better than an understanding and an appreciative audience.

Friar Goldstein has made me promise to tell you something of our ancient architects. You know, they were a pretty clever lot. They had to make brick out of the batture mud of the river bank and to burn oyster shells for lime and bore cypress logs for pipes. They had to learn to make foundations float, and yet they built buildings that are still in use after over two centuries. Pretty good, *n'est pas?*

You've seen "Naughty Marietta". You know about the Ursulines. Well, the Convent still stands, a simple, straightforward, dignified example of the style of Louis XV, quaint and perhaps crude as to materials, but there it is. It housed the good nuns

and their charges for nearly a century; then the State Legislature used it for a few years until it became the Archbishop's palace for another three-quarters of a century and is still in use as a Presbytery for the little Italian church. We speak of it as the "Archevêché". It had four architects, as the lead plate still in possession of the sisters bears testimony. They were I. L. Calot, Chanbellan Graton, V. G. Lemaistre and André Debatz, enough architects to have ruined any building or to have handled a housing project. But that was not all, for now comes Mr. Glenk, the curator of the Cabildo museum, who says this venerable building was designed by Sieur J. Villars Debreuil. We know that Debreuil was a resident of New Orleans and a man of importance because the map of 1728 shows him to be the owner of the frontage of a city block across the street from the property of the governor, but we also know that André Debatz drew the plans for the "*briquette entre poteaux*" parish church, that stood on the site of the present Cathedral, because his plan is still preserved in the Library of Paris along with his very clever sketches of Indians.

To this early period belongs "Madame John's Legacy", that quaint cottage on its high foundation and with its charming loggia. It is a type of which there were several that doubtless inspired the group along Bayou St. John which are akin to the plantation house of later days.

Le Blond de la Tour, Adrien de Pauger and Pierre Baron, all engineers of the King, undoubtedly designed and supervised most of the early structures. Le Blond de la Tour did not approve of the site selected by Bienville for the city and declined to lay it out, so his assistant de Pauger did the work,

so we named a street in honor of de Pauger and the irreverent promptly called it "Pugger street". That street, by the way, had originally been called after the unfortunate Duc d'Enghien but was generally known as "Engine street".

The early "*briquelette entre poteaux*" manner of building is identical with the half timbering of Europe except that here we plastered over timber and all, both outside as well as in.

The first three quarters of a century were a rather hectic period not only on account of the political scene shifting and staging of the first American revolution but because of floods, hurricanes and conflagrations. The floods brought levees, the hurricane of 1777 wrecked the Charity hospital, that had been founded by a sailor and led to the benefaction of Don Andres Almonester y Roxas, who commissioned a Frenchman, G. Guilnard, as architect to rebuild it for the princely sum for that period of \$114,000.00. Today we would call Don Almonester an angel. Let us hope he is. Unfortunately, the new hospital burned in 1809, and the city employed Henry S. Latrobe to rebuild it on Canal street in the Faubourg Ste. Marie. When Latrobe's building was outgrown, H. Hemphill, in 1832, designed a new one that served for more than a century and is now being replaced by a new plant for the paltry sum of twelve millions.

The great conflagrations of 1788 and 1794 wiped out over half of the city of that day, including the church of St. Louis and the Hotel de Ville, and afforded Don Almonester another opportunity to play the angel. Whether he employed Guilnard to design the church, which was to become the Cathedral, and the Casa Capitular, now called the Cabildo, is not known. When the old documents, now yellow with age, are fully translated, we may learn who conceived the simple plan and bold elevations, that have long given distinction to the first civic center of an American city.

The opening of the Mississippi to free navigation, and the purchase of Louisiana by the United States brought a period of expansion and prosperity which even the recurrent epidemics of yellow fever could not check, and which was only interrupted by the War between the States. The population grew by leaps and bounds, and among those who came were several architects of education and ability. Henry S. Latrobe arrived in New Orleans in 1810,

sent by his father Benjamin Henry Boneval Latrobe to install the first steam driven water works. He came as a boy of twenty, and beside laying the bored cypress pipes, he practiced architecture for seven years. In addition to the hospital, he designed, among other buildings, the remarkable bank at Royal and Conti Streets, with its vaulted and domed banking rooms. He died of yellow fever in 1817. His father came in 1819 to complete the water-works and his son's bank building, and his last architectural work was the central round tower with the bell shaped roof and the choir loft of the Cathedral. He too fell a victim of yellow fever probably in 1820 or '21 at the age of 54. His journal and his career in Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia must be well known to all architects.

In 1807 New Orleans built a theatre, the St. Philip, that accommodated an audience of seven hundred in the parquet and two tiers of boxes just like those of Paris, but we don't know who designed it. Two years later La Carriere Latour and Laclot were commissioned to design the Orleans Theatre, where opera in this country had its beginning, where Lola Montez and Calvé charmed their audiences and Adelina Patti made her debut. Unfortunately both of these early buildings have disappeared.

It was in 1830 that Jacques Nicolas Bussiere de Pouilly, born in Chatel-Censoir in Bourgogne, France, in 1805 and educated at the Beaux Arts, with his brother J. J. de Pouilly cast his lot with New Orleans. His most important work was the St. Louis Hotel, a building with several remarkable features that should place his name among the notable architects of the country. The great facade possessed the dignity of a Florentine palace. The great sweeping stair of mahogany, from the Royal Street entrance, was conceived in the grand manner, but it was the Corinthian rotunda that was unique in that to reduce weight the dome was constructed of hollow earthen pots recalling that of San Vitali of Ravenna. The building stood for more than three quarters of a century weathering storm, fire and the "Carpetbag legislature".

Monsieur de Pouilly did the Citizens' Bank, whose ten dollar note "Dix Dollars" gave the south the nickname of Dixie Land. His church of St. Augustin still stands. When Latrobe's tower of

the Cathedral collapsed de Pouilly was employed to rebuild it. The open work spire of wood and iron is still in place within the present spire. The present facade and the sanctuary with its fine rear wall are of his design.

In 1834 an Irishman trained in the School of Fine Arts of Dublin and in the offices of Wilkins and of John Deering of London, finding in New York too little to do came to New Orleans. He was James Gallier, born in Ravensdale near Dundalk in 1798. He practiced for nearly thirty years bringing to us the Greek Revival at its best. He and his wife were lost at sea in 1866. He designed a school and a church still standing in Mobile. His first important work in New Orleans was the St. Charles Hotel, perhaps the first great hotel in America, which, in spite of flood and fire, served for nearly a century. He tells us in his autobiography, that he had expected it to settle a foot, but it really settled two feet and a half, so for his next work of weight he used piles and we have used piles ever since. He tells us that the hotel even had "bathing rooms". He built the Merchants Exchange during his first summer in New Orleans and nearly died of yellow fever. It was in this building that Morse demonstrated his telegraph, hoping to secure subscriptions to stock, but the old men merely shook their heads and said it was a pretty scientific toy and declined to subscribe. His outstanding work is the present City Hall of New Orleans built of Quincy granite and Tuckahoe marble, with the order carved with even greater delicacy than Robert Mills' Treasury colonnade. Gallier speaks of a Mr. Nicholls as State Architect and Engineer but we know nothing of him or his work.

With Mr. Gallier came Charles A. Dakin and later his elder brother James Dakin, both of New York and for a short time the three practiced together. Later the Dakins practiced alone, doing the first buildings for the State University out of which Tulane has emerged. It was a neo-Grec group of three buildings using the Lysicrates order. They were later commissioned to design St. Patrick's Church, but before the building was finished the tower settled so badly that Mr. Gallier was called in to save it, and he states that the Gothic interior is his. Charles Dakin then moved to Mobile and built a range of brick stores and warehouses which

collapsed before they were finished and within the year he died.

The New Orleans Mint was designed by William Strickland, who is known as the architect of the Capitol of Tennessee at Nashville (the Erechtheum with the Choragic Monument growing out of the roof just as it does in St. Pancras Church in London). We had it do the same thing in New Orleans in the First Methodist Church, but the Choragic Monument here, having been built of wood, has said "good-bye". Isn't it amazing how far the influence of James Stuart and Nicholas Revett has reached?

The Mint having shown some signs of weakness, Mr. Gallier, who seems to have been a sort of architectural trouble shooter had to tie it together. In 1856 when it was rather drastically reconditioned General Beauregard had a hand in it, and the iron work was gotten out in Trenton under the supervision of Major Anderson, whom he was to meet three years later at Fort Sumter. Captain Duncan put on the corrugated iron roof, which is still in place. It was he who commanded the forts at the mouth of the Mississippi which Farragut failed to take in 1862.

Benjamin Fox, Brickle and Hamlet did the quaint bank building with the splendid iron gates cat-cornered with Latrobe's bank at Conti and Royal Streets and another Englishman, William Brand, the bank at Natchez alley and Magazine Street.

The Customhouse was designed by a man named Wood, who had just been released from the penitentiary, having served five years for murdering his foreman. Many of us at various times in our lives might have really wished to do the same thing but have not had the nerve. General Beauregard, then a Lieutenant of Engineers, supervised the work. The building is not on a foundation of cotton bales, but on a grillage of good sound cypress, without a broken corner of the Quincy granite ashlar. The ground joints of the great order of the Tuckahoe marble hall are the finest one is likely to find anywhere in the world. So sturdy is the building, that the negro police took refuge in it when the White League routed them in the famous battle of the Fourteenth of September 1874, fought on Canal Street in front of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Station—the last American Revolution. Of course the Customhouse was built before the days of the blue print and the lithographed plans are

still in existence. Jackson Barracks, a delightful group of characteristic Louisiana buildings were designed by Lieutenant F. Wilkinson, who also did the old Poydras market with its florid stucco cornucopias of fruit, now perished. Speaking of markets, Joseph Pilié did the old French Market and he and Voilquin designed the Parish Prison with its hall for imprisoned debtors. It's lucky for architects, that, during the depression, that ancient custom has fallen into desuetude. It was in the Parish Prison that the ringleaders of the Mafia were massacred. We've not been troubled since by such organizations.

When James Gallier's eyes failed him, his work was taken up by his son James Gallier, Jr., who, with Richard Esterbrook executed among a vast amount of work, two very notable works—the French Opera house with a singularly graceful interior, and the Pontalba buildings of Philadelphia-pressed-brick and charming cast-iron verandas. Gallier only outlived his father by two years, dying at the early age of forty-one.

An Englishman, Henry Howard, did the First Presbyterian Church on Lafayette Square, soon to give way to a modernistic twelve story Post Office. L. E. Reynolds did the fine Frank Hayne residence and a number of other handsome mansions of the garden district.

An Irishman, Thomas Mulligan, strange to say, did St. John's Church—a beautiful Dresden silhouette when seen against an evening sky. Speaking of Dresden, strange as it may seem, New Orleans has had a group of German Architects during the

later half of the last century—Albrecht Dietiel von Niebergal, Count Dietrich von Emsiedle, William Fitzner, Theodore Brune, Julius Koch and others. They did some rather good examples of German Baroque—for those who like it.

The war between the States was of course the great catastrophe of the south, and New Orleans, as it slowly recovered went through all the phases of Mid-Victorian, Eastlake Queen Ann, Rockaway Beach Gothic, and all the rest of the romantic vagaries of which the American people have been guilty. Perhaps, however, we have not fared as badly as some other cities. We had the two Frerets, the cousins William and James, both Confederate soldiers. William became supervising Architect of the United States during the Cleveland administration. They did several remarkable buildings of cast iron.

Thomas Sully, the great-nephew of the painter, the first Fellow of The Institute in Louisiana, is still living. With his Creole partner, Albert Tolodano, he helped to revive the languishing art of the eighties and nineties.

Perhaps the most distinguished architect that Louisiana has given to the nation was Henry Hobson Richardson, who was stranded in Europe during the war between the States. His practice covered a wide area of the country but did not include his native State.

Voilà, c'est tout, mes amis. Modesty and the injunction of Friar Goldstein bars mention of our contemporaries. They are not yet Ancient Architects. You must come and meet them for yourselves.

Cornell Announces Scholarship

The College of Architecture of Cornell University announces that applications are invited for the annual award as follows:

A University Fellowship—

Open to a graduate student in architecture or landscape architecture. The Fellowship pays \$400.00 and exempts the holder from the payment of tuition.

Three Graduate Scholarships—

Open to graduate students in architecture, landscape architecture or fine arts. These scholarships exempt the holders from payment of tuition.

Five Scholarships in the College of Architecture—

Open to graduates of four-year courses in architecture, landscape architecture or fine arts. These scholarships have a value of \$250.00.

Six First Year Scholarships—

Open to students registered for their first year at Cornell University and in the College of Architecture. These scholarships pay one half of the first year's tuition and are awarded primarily on the basis of the student's need for financial assistance.

Present Status of the Public Works Program

THE failure of the Secretary of the Treasury to act favorably upon the joint report prepared by the representatives of The Institute and the Procurement Division regarding the selection of Architects for Public Work was naturally a matter of serious disappointment to all the architectural profession and particularly to the officers of The Institute and to the Committee on Public Works, who had devoted so much time and effort to the negotiations leading to that report.

It is not difficult to understand, however, that with the gradual lessening of the pressure of the emergency building program and the unexpected recession in business, bringing to the fore new fiscal problems of tremendous urgency, the Secretary found it impossible to take under consideration at this time the question of employing architects, which (however important it is to our profession and in the long run to the Government) could not be, from his point of view, a matter of immediate importance.

Personally, I feel sure that the time spent in preparing that report has by no means been wasted, and that the relationship between the profession and the Treasury Department is at the moment far more promising than it has been for many years past. I feel sure, also, that in due course of time, when the problem of the selection of architects for public work again becomes pressing, that report will serve as a point of departure from which further progress may be expected.

At the meeting of The Board of Directors following the conclusion of the negotiations referred to above, it was determined that an attempt would be made to secure legislation putting into effect the principles set forth in the joint report, and the Committee on Public Works was directed to prepare a draft of a bill to this effect for The Board's consideration.

The Committee on Public Works, at the time when these conferences were begun, warned The Institute that they could not expect that a condition which had developed gradually over a period of many years could be cured in a short time, and that only gradual progress could be expected.

Not all the members of The Institute have been content with this prospect of prolonged negotiations and gradual progress towards a successful issue. Some of them, not able to understand why the Architects could not obtain on demand everything they desired, have advocated a belligerent attitude towards the Government not justified by the facts of the situation. Some have been unwilling to give The Board of Directors credit for following, with unflinching patience and diligence, the policy it believed to be most favorable to the interests of the profession and the public, and have undertaken to pursue programs of their own in competition and rivalry with The Institute and at variance with the policies of The Institute as set forth in the resolutions regularly passed at its recent conventions.

The most conspicuous of these movements has been that devoted to the campaign for mandatory competitions for public work. Every chapter of The Institute has been receiving communications setting forth the case for the competition in the most favorable light, asking for their endorsement for legislation establishing the open competition as a mandatory method for employing architects for public work, and soliciting the chapters to join a national organization actively engaged in opposing The Institute and its policies.

It is not my purpose here to discuss the pros and cons of the competition in the abstract. The Committee on Public Works has never been disposed to depart from the attitude of The Institute in recognizing the direct selection of Architects and selection by competition as alternate methods. I do, however, wish to point out that the only hope of a successful result in The Institute's handling of a problem such as this is united action tending to a common end. Divided counsels and the pursuit by individuals of methods counter to the policies of The Institute, can only result in complete failure.

It is not always possible for us to obtain precisely what we think is best in just the form we would like to have it. A willingness to compromise on inessential points in order to establish the broad

principles vital to the success of our objects is a necessary preliminary to practical accomplishment.

The position of some of those concerned with the movement referred to could hardly be more extreme and uncompromising. They stand for competitions and competitions alone, and would apparently prefer that no architects in private practice should be employed to do public work rather than that they should be selected in any other way than by competitions. I do not believe that this represents the sentiment even of a majority of those who advocate competitions in principle.

The proper way to approach a problem of this sort is not through the circulation of propaganda confined entirely to evidence and arguments favorable to one or the other side of the case, but dispassionately as a professional and not a political question.

No matter how strongly a physician believes that he has discovered a cure for cancer or tuberculosis, he does not endeavor to secure its adoption by reporting only the cases where it has been used with a favorable result and ignoring all cases where the result has been unfavorable to its claims, nor would he consider that he had accomplished any worth-while purpose by obtaining a vote in its favor from the majority of the representatives present at a meeting of a chapter of the American Medical Society.

As a matter of fact this type of question is one upon which a mere show of hands is of no significance whatever. There exists in The Institute a strong feeling in favor of competitions, but anyone must be blind to conditions who does not recognize that there also exists in The Institute a strong feeling opposed to competitions.

Whether the supporters of one or the other of these sentiments are numerically stronger is beside the point. As long as there is a substantial group of practitioners of reputation and standing who believe that competitions are, on the whole, bad for the profession and for the public, and who are prepared to voice that opinion, it is most improbable that the Government will act favorably to competitions over the protest of such a group.

The converse is, of course, also true; as long as there is a substantial group of Architects of reputation and standing who are strongly in favor of

competitions it is most unlikely that the Government will establish any other method of selecting Architects in opposition to their views. The fact of the matter is, therefore, that both schools of thought in The Institute are in a similar position; either can prevent the other from accomplishing anything worth-while; neither can, over the objections of the other group, secure its own ends.

The only hope that the architectural profession has of accomplishing any worth while end is to agree upon a program which (while it may not meet completely the aspirations of any particular little group of extremists) will be acceptable in a broad way to the profession as a whole.

The bill for which the support of The Institute is now being solicited by the group referred to would take away from the administrative officers of the Government all discretion in dealing with the responsibilities intrusted to them.

From my knowledge of the Government Departments, I believe the difficulties in the way of so sweeping and uncompromising a change would be insurmountable and that in any future emergency, involving the expenditure of large sums of money in a varied building program, the procedure proposed would fall of its own weight.

But even if the scheme were workable it seems to me inconceivable that these administrative officers will accept such an abridgement of their powers without determined opposition, and under present circumstances it is hardly possible that any bill strongly opposed by the administration, that does not involve any principle of general interest to the public at large, has any hope of passing.

I believe also, as I have pointed out above, that the inevitable objections of those in The Institute who are opposed to competitions and of those who, though not opposed to competitions in their proper place, are opposed to making them universal and mandatory in all cases, will go far toward preventing the passage of such a bill.

I believe also that the inevitable failure of this or any similar bill would most seriously compromise our prospect of securing more reasonable and practical legislation which would be completely satisfactory to nine-tenths of our membership.

I do not propose to set myself against the senti-

ment of The Institute and if the membership desire to undertake a campaign for the competition principle I shall not go out of my way to oppose it.

I have considered it my duty, however, as one who may claim to be better informed about this problem than most members, to warn the membership against hasty, extreme and ill-considered action and to urge upon them the importance of uniting on a sensible, practical, possible program of action which will command the united support of the membership as a whole, instead of leading only to unprofitable controversy between different groups of members.

The Committee on Public Works and The Board of Directors are working on such a program, which they believe will be satisfactory to the majority of the profession and which they have reason to suppose will receive the support of other professional and technical groups interested in the problem.

In due course, when this has been put in tangible form, it will be presented to The Institute for its consideration.

In the meantime, it is far more important that any measure which The Institute advocates and supports should be thoroughly well considered, practical and effective, than that we should hurry to commit ourselves to some program which, however attractive it may seem to be on the surface, has no prospect of accomplishing anything of benefit.

It is my suggestion, therefore, that chapters and members be slow to commit themselves to any program presented other than that of The Board of Directors, which they themselves have elected and charged with the responsibility of finding a solution for this problem, and the Committee which is working on it under the direction of that Board.

FRANCIS P. SULLIVAN, *Chairman,*
Committee on Public Works.

"The Architects' World"

A brand new type of magazine for architects—pocket size—a valuable and entertaining monthly digest, edited and published by Henry H. Saylor, A.I.A., 10 West 33rd Street, New York City—\$3.00 per year.

"What!—another architectural magazine? But architects do not read!"

"Yes, so it is said. I sometimes wonder whether, if true, this is because his professional journals have been talking to the architect chiefly in pictures rather than in words. When I sit down with a few architects around a luncheon table I find them keenly interested in a wide variety of subjects. They talk freely, they propose and stoutly defend this or that philosophy of design—or sculpture or painting or what not. Their background of knowl-

edge is wide and diversified—and they apparently hunger for more of it.

"They discuss ways of getting jobs, or a new way of cutting building costs, but they also talk of architecture as a Fine Art—a subject which their professional journals seem to look upon as taboo. Facts and pictures are fed to them in a measure never before approached. The essence of architecture, its life blood—that without which an 'architect' is merely a structural entrepreneur—seems denied them in these materialistic days.

"I believe the architect is not getting a balanced ration—there is too much grit and roughage and sweet dessert in it. The English journals balance their diet better, and our British brethren seem to like it and also to thrive on it."

Booth Traveling Fellowship

The College of Architecture, University of Michigan, announces that the George G. Booth Traveling Fellowship in Architecture will be offered again this year, and the competition in design will be conducted during the two weeks be-

ginning April 8. This competition is open to all graduates of the school who have not reached their thirtieth birthday on that date. Prospective candidates should write to the office of the College of Architecture, University of Michigan.

Architects' Fees

AS PROVIDED IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSING ACT OF 1937

(Public—No. 412—75th Congress—Approved September 1, 1937)

THE Housing Committee of The Institute has been active with reference to the provisions of this Act which have a bearing on the selection of architects for housing projects and with reference to the fees which architects are to receive.

While the Housing Committee will continue to follow these matters vigorously, it suggests that the members of the profession see to it that in every city fair professional fees are paid to the architects engaged by local housing authorities.

The recently appointed chapter committees on Large Scale Housing should become active in their areas for the maintenance of a fundamental requirement of the Act—that prevailing fees shall be paid by local housing authorities.

This does not mean that the architects in any community should take an arbitrary position and insist upon a flat fee based on the usual type of architectural work, but they should insist on a fee which is adequate, after reasonable modification of long established local fees on account of repetition of units.

For the information of members, chapters and state associations the following quotation is made from the United States Housing Act of 1937, the official text of which was published in full in the

August, 1937, number of THE OCTAGON:—

"SEC. 16. In order to protect labor standards—

"(2) Any contract for loans, annual contributions, capital grants, sale, or lease pursuant to this Act shall contain a provision requiring that the wages or fees prevailing in the locality, as determined or adopted (subsequent to a determination under applicable State or local law) by the Authority, shall be paid to all architects, technical engineers, draftsmen, technicians, laborers, and mechanics employed in the development or administration of the low-rent housing or slum-clearance project involved; and the Authority may require certification as to compliance with the provisions of this paragraph prior to making any payment under such contract."

Members of the profession, and the chapters of The Institute, through the chapter housing committees, will be kept in close touch with the developments in Washington. A complete report will be made to the convention in New Orleans at the housing session on April 20.

WALTER R. McCORNACK, *Chairman,*

Committee on Housing.

The American Institute of Architects.

It Can't Happen Here

But it did happen in Corpus Christi, Texas and Billings, Montana.

The two letters which are here published have come to the attention of the Housing Committee of The Institute, and are now called to the attention of the membership because they raise some fundamental questions of increasing importance to the individual architect, and to the entire architectural profession.

WALTER R. McCORNACK

(From Nat. W. Hardy, A. I. A., Corpus Christi, Texas, to the Chairman of the Committee on Housing.)

I have read with interest the report of the Committee on Housing as contained in the March (1937) issue of THE OCTAGON.

Like the majority of architects I have not been attracted by the small single house demand. I have,

however, studied rather carefully the general economic situation of housing developments and have felt that the potential demand for housing would develop enormously if a high quality of construction and design could be offered in the small house, with quantity purchase of material, properly priced and selected location, sales in volume to responsible purchasers, and limited percentage profit on each unit.

Sale of the units mentioned below even before construction is completed confirmed this opinion.

Your published report in the March issue of THE OCTAGON, in the second paragraph, under the heading, "Cost of This Program" (for the purpose of showing the dollar volume involved) approximates \$3,000 as an average unit for the cost of the house alone which would make the total cost including lot, title expense, architect's fee, sales expense, contractor's fee, and first year's prepaid insurance about \$4,500 per unit which would limit this class of development to people with incomes of between \$150 and \$175 a month.

I aimed to supply the larger potential demand of a much lower price bracket.

Taking the annual income of very many young married couples or minor salaried persons at from \$75 to \$83 a month which would give an annual income of \$900 to \$1,000, the economic limit of the price of the houses including lot and all expenses which this group would require should not exceed \$2,500 as a very maximum with not over \$500 down payment, or sale on a contract basis; the deed being passed to purchaser only when his equity had reached twenty percent of sales price by small monthly payments in addition to the monthly payments involved by the approximately \$2,000 commitments which were obtained on these units from the Federal Housing Administration. In no case were sales made unless the purchaser could pay \$350.00 in cash.

I have recently completed planning of twenty-six houses all to be erected on a single block in a portion of the city laid out on the grid system which will sell from \$2,375 to \$2,475 including the house, lot, sales expense, title expense, first year's prepaid insurance, contractor's fee, and architect's fee. These houses will average around 760 square feet each and include single car garage, driveway, and front sidewalk. We have developed both east front and west front plans in both two bedroom and one bedroom types (each of which includes an 8'6" x 13'0" sleeping porch) and gives each of the twenty-six houses a different and individual exterior architectural treatment. The one bedroom plans with the sleeping porch include a dining room. The two bedroom plans eliminate the dining room. The kitchen is provided with a tile drain-board and the bathrooms are equipped with a stand-

ard high class grade of fixture including shower bath with curtain and steel cabinet with mirror. Federal Housing Administration property standards have been met.

The fees for this work have been agreed upon at \$70.00 per unit including supervision and the project will be completed in less than eighty days of construction. Supervision fee contemplates \$30.00 per unit and the production of plans and specifications contemplates \$40.00 per unit. This represents a very close approximation of the 5% which is the usual architectural fee in this portion of the country.

The actual cost of producing plans and specifications on the basis that it has been organized in my office has varied from \$10.00 to \$12.00 per set including all variations in individual plans. This cost includes blue printing of five sets of plans for each job and mimeographing of specifications. The above mentioned cost of \$10.00 to \$12.00 per set does not include office overhead such as rent, stenographic services, drafting materials, or my time. It does include all drafting time as, except for design, this was all done by my associates rather than by myself.

I am now preparing an additional development along the same lines involving approximately 160 houses on which I will have considerably greater latitude in street lay-outs, landscaping development, points of interest, park areas, *cul-de-sac* streets, and other features which will improve the livability of the development.

I write this letter for two reasons. First, I wish to show that group planning of even as small a development as twenty-six houses will show an attractive profit on the work if properly organized. Second, I wish to show that a high grade of construction of livable houses as small as 760 square feet (not including garage area) can be actually sold at a profit to the developer for a price which will reach the family with the income of from \$75.00 to \$83.00 a month.

Should this analysis be of interest to you, this letter will have served its purpose.

(From Wm. H. Reid, Jr., Architect, Billings, Montana, to the Committee on Housing.)

In answer to your question: "How do Billings architects feel about the use of stock plans or plan

books for homes in the \$5,000.00 bracket?" I will reiterate my story to Mr. Pierce as briefed to you in his report.

For my part, I have found in the past three years, after working on some two hundred home plans, varying in price from \$4,000 to \$10,000.00, the majority of which were in the interpreted \$5,000.00 bracket, that stock plans have been of able assistance generally, in this office. An inherited feeling, acquired perhaps while working on residences in the higher brackets, was entirely overcome when we put the so-called nuisance to work for us.

An office working with homes in the \$5,000.00 bracket must make economy a first law. Economy must be maintained along all avenues of contribution, to the final completion of the project. Success lies in quality, but in the \$5,000.00 bracket it is quality strained through economy. Labor and materials from every trade and craft must feel its responsibility and the architect is not immune.

Upon a thorough investigation of any community, stock plans and plan services will be found firmly established. They are backed by substantial, existing examples and living sales propaganda furnished by lumber and building material dealers. With this as a foregone conclusion, the architect must catch the disease and live with it, or harness it with a toxin.

It is a proven fact that the average prospective home owner will finger through many plan services and books, and come up with a knitted brow. A man's home is as individual as his thumb print and his family has a great deal to do with the development of that print. "The plan is reverse; the bedroom could be increased two feet without serious cost effect; it only has a half basement; I'd like to increase the dormer on the rear to give Jimmie enough room to get into his PJ's; Dad likes a big bathroom; can't we add a coat closet at the entrance; Mother must have more closet space or additional cabinet space in the kitchen; where's the broom closet and the laundry chute? Junior must have a work shop and bicycle space in the garage; boy, wouldn't that be a honey drawn up in one of those new-day, hispano-anglais effects; change the stone front to one of those stucco and wide siding, half-timber and brick combinations like the banker's house on Eucalyptus street." On and on into the night, until you find the sponsor of the plan service

hiring local students and undeveloped draftsmen in an effort to satisfy the appeal of a stock plan. The original might have been architecturally perfect, but look what a good family, sincere in purpose, created. The sore spot to the community is, that it is finally built and the family is stuck with it. The cry is for architectural guidance.

The architect can heed the cry, provided he will fit himself into the picture of economy necessary to the home in the \$5,000.00 bracket. It is not necessary to chisel on the profession but it is rather a case of furnishing only such service as is justly required to individualize the home to the owner, his family and his pocket-book. Let the stock plan selected stand as your original sketch, and use a portion of the working drawings; use the detail sheet accompanying the set, two of the elevations, and one of the floor plans; get your service in, where it is required, for a finished architectural program, but charge only what the required changes are justly worth to the owner and to yourself. It may mean a full fee for supervision or just three or four professional inspections at critical periods of construction. Make it fit the owner's budget, but convince him by your service of the need for your service.

The theory is, the job is there and it is one that the profession must take care of. It is a duty from the standpoint of architecture in itself and the architect's own responsibility to his community. The job is not a lucrative one for the mass of detail and scim-scam connected with it but a fair fee is a fair fee whether it comes from one large job or several small ones, and for those who are willing to work for their money there is always a just reward.

The cry of the profession for years has been for educating the public to good architecture. Your proposed national advertising campaign looks like a grand opportunity to bring this about.

Also educate the lumber and building material dealers, the contractors, the home builders, realtors, subdividers, and the building and loan and insurance loan agencies! Tell them your story and make it forceful.

Education is not difficult with these people. They are the architect's friends on "big stuff" and they will still be his friends on the \$5,000.00 "stuff" when the story has proven itself. "A satisfied customer is our best asset."

Texas Architects Registration Law

BY EUGENE WERLIN, A. I. A.

THE unrelenting efforts of Texas architects over a period of forty years were crowned with success when the Texas Legislature on August 22, 1937 enacted a state law governing the practice of architecture.

Though the passage of this act is a triumph for the architectural profession in general, and Texas architects in particular, its result was likewise a personal triumph for the man who, in 1897, first introduced an architects license law before the State legislature and who, in all the forty years leading to its passage, gave his time in an unselfish and untiring effort toward this means of aiding the profession to which he has devoted a long and successful lifetime. Olle J. Lorehn, F. A. I. A., of Houston, the dean of Texas architects, should well be proud of the part he has played in the bettering of the architectural profession in the State.

Architects and architecture, to the legislature of 1897, were nebulous terms, and Texas, with its undeveloped vastness, had hardly begun to feel its later urban growth with the need for structures that carpenters could not supply. An architects license law at that time, and the many subsequent efforts later, met with defeat for the same reason. The predominantly rural legislators felt that their friendly carpenter-builders would suffer. Lumber interests until lately joined in opposition so that failure had become the perennial result of the bill's submission.

Aside from the legislative opposition and indifference, successive failure was also due to the limited number of professional practitioners and their lack of organization. The first attempt at

organization was made in 1908 when the Texas Association of Architects was formed. This association was in operation for thirteen years until finally dissolved in 1921. A Texas chapter of The American Institute of Architects was chartered in 1912. Later this chapter was divided into the three branches now in operation—the North Texas Chapter with headquarters in Dallas, the West Texas Chapter with headquarters in San Antonio, and the South Texas Chapter with headquarters in Houston.

Through the efforts of these chapters, a Texas Architects Registration Committee was formed with Mr. Lorehn as chairman. The state was divided into twenty-two districts and one or more prominent architects in each district were appointed to aid as advisors in a concerted effort to secure the enactment of a registration law.

Each session of the legislature found an Architects Registration Act awaiting passage. Until this last session, though the urban legislators were unanimous in its favor, the predominant rural legislators managed its defeat.

In all the many efforts at passage, bill after bill had been written but all met the same fate. It was felt that a simplified bill must be offered to be successful. It was felt that amendments to strengthen the initial effort could be more easily passed in later sessions of the State governing body. This was done, and with the late Lester N. Flint of Dallas bearing the brunt of the final effort, and Olle J. Lorehn aiding what he had started forty years previously, a Texas Architects Registration Law became a reality.

British Architects Conference

THE Wessex Society of Architects will be the hosts of the Annual Conference of British Architects, which will take place this year at Bristol from the twenty-second to the twenty-fifth of June inclusive.

The Royal Institute of British Architects has extended a cordial invitation to members of The

Institute who might be in England at that time to attend the various functions which will form part of the program. Sir Ian MacAlister, Secretary of the R. I. B. A., 66 Portland Place, London, will be glad to send copies of the program with full particulars and all necessary information to anyone who cares to write him concerning the details.

With the Chapters

EXCERPTS FROM BULLETINS, MINUTES AND REPORTS

Brooklyn.

Adolph Goldberg, chairman of the chapter committee on public information, announced at the February meeting of the chapter that Miss Olive F. Tjaden of Garden City, Long Island, was elected to membership in The Institute and the Brooklyn Chapter. Miss Tjaden, a graduate in architecture from Cornell, has become very well known during the past ten years for her work in residential architecture, as well as larger projects, such as work for the General Motors Corporation, the Ford Motor Company, and the Inwood Country Club at Atlantic Beach.

The meeting was addressed by the Honorable William E. Haugaard, Commissioner of Architecture for the State of New York, and Mr. J. Gordon Lippincott, head of the Photographic Department of Pratt Institute, who exhibited a series of colored moving pictures of Mexico.

It was also announced that James Monroe Hewlett had been elected an honorary member of the chapter. Mr. Hewlett has been a member of the Brooklyn Chapter since 1895, was president of the chapter in 1900-1901, a Fellow of The Institute since 1896, Vice-President of The Institute in 1930, and resident director of the American Academy in Rome in 1934 and 1935.

Buffalo.

Paul H. Harbach was re-elected president of the chapter at the annual meeting held at the University Club in Buffalo. Will A. Cannon was elected vice-president, and Stanley Podd, secretary and treasurer.

President Harbach and Edward B. Green were elected delegates to the Seventieth Convention, and Robert North and Frederick C. Backus as alternates.

Chicago.

At the February meeting of the chapter, held at the Architects Club in Chicago, the following members were elected delegates to the Seventieth Convention: Carl E. Heimbrodt, John O. Merrill, John C. Bollenbacher, Robert S. DeGolyer, Earl H. Reed, Arthur Woltersdorf, Emery S. Hall, William Jones Smith, John H. Raftery, Elmer C. Roberts, and Leo J. Weissenborn. Alternates are as follows: Tirrell J. Ferrenz, B. Leo Steif, Henry K. Hols-

man, Alfred Shaw, and Colonel H. B. Hackett.

Upon completion of the purely business part of the meeting, past president Merrill introduced Mr. W. H. Gibbons and Mr. H. B. Stahl of the Republic Steel Corporation, who gave an interesting talk on stainless steel, illustrated by moving pictures.

Cincinnati.

An unusual note was struck at the annual dinner meeting of the chapter when, due to the meagerness of the minutes of the previous meeting, the secretary read the minutes of the first meeting of the chapter held in 1870.

Charles Cellarius spoke on the Langley Scholarships for 1938, and following his talk, requested the opinions of the members concerning State architectural associations and their affiliation with The Institute. In the discussion that followed, there was evident a feeling of great interest for the younger men of the profession. Mr. Cellarius, as a member of the New York Architectural League's Committee on the exhibition of recent architectural work, suggested having a local exhibit of recent work of this region before shipment to New York. This was deemed highly desirable, and the president appointed Mr. Cellarius as chairman of a committee to serve as a jury in making awards for the best work exhibited.

Connecticut.

The guest speaker at the February meeting of the chapter was Mr. John E. Nichols of the Connecticut State Board of Education, who addressed the chapter on the problems of school design. He pointed out the advancement made in designing school buildings with regard to safety, health, and adaptability to special uses, and emphasized the fact that while great advancement has been made in construction methods, less progress has been made in adapting school design to today's educational processes.

Mr. Nichols stated that architects must acquaint themselves with the changing theories of education, in order to successfully solve the school building problem; that they must recognize the laboratory approach to education, and functionalism in design; that the architect has a moral obligation to perform

in the design of school buildings, and should be on the alert to adapt these changing educational processes to the present school problem.

In closing, Mr. Nichols frankly admitted that this approach may result in a socialized architecture, but warned that, unless the facts are faced, school design must inevitably become a "bureau" product.

Florida South.

At the recent meeting of the executive committee of the chapter, the question of the formation of a consulting and advisory association composed of the executive committees of the three Florida chapters was the subject of an interesting discussion. It was decided to invite the Florida North and Florida Central Chapters to join with the Florida South Chapter to meet twice a year with the Florida Association of Architects, for advice and exchange of views.

Southern Pennsylvania.

An interesting meeting of the chapter, held recently at the Lafayette Club in York was attended by fourteen members.

Edmund R. Purves and Victor Abel, president and executive secretary respectively of the Pennsylvania Association of Architects, were guests. Reinhardt Dempwolf spoke on the historical background of York, and Henry Y. Shaub on the restoration of President Buchanan's home in Lancaster.

Following a brief address by Edmund R. Purves on the subject of the relations between The Institute and the Pennsylvania Association of Architects, the meeting adjourned for an excellent dinner at the Club, after which the chapter met in joint meeting with members of the Pennsylvania Association of Architects.

Southern California.

At the meeting on January 11, retiring chapter president Ralph C. Flewelling delivered his Report for 1937, citing useful work completed, or well under way, and other activities not yet begun. This was followed by an inspiring address on the potentialities of architecture, packed with common sense and clear vision, and delivered with such sincerity that it left a profound impression upon everyone present.

After a gracious introduction by Sumner Spaulding, the new president, Eugene Weston, Jr., took

office. In a brief address he pointed to the failure of this community to achieve a high average of civic beauty and order and urged architects to prepare themselves for the gigantic opportunities for civic restoration that must be undertaken when the effects of past mistakes become intolerable.

The Honor Award Exhibition will be displayed in the lecture room of the Los Angeles Public Library, during the entire month of February. The exhibit consists of one hundred and thirty-five uniform mounts, displaying two hundred and forty-five large photographs of distinguished residential architecture, landscape architecture and allied arts. All architects are urged to visit the exhibit, and to encourage the attendance of their clients and other persons interested in the advancement of residential design. The exhibition was selected with care, and it is believed that the quality of the work brought forth by the Program is a distinct credit to the chapter.

It is gratifying to note that a high percentage of the leaders in residential design in this region are Institute men. Out of the thirty-one residences chosen for Awards in the 1937 Program, twenty-

Wisconsin.

The first meeting of the new year was held at the City Club in Milwaukee and was exceptionally well attended.

Chapter president Richard Phillip referred to the request of the Architectural League of New York for material to be displayed in the Architectural Exhibit at the World's Fair of 1939.

Gerrit J. DeGelleke introduced Mr. Charles B. Bennett, city planner, of Milwaukee, as the speaker of the evening. Mr. Bennett delivered a most comprehensive analysis of the various factors influencing the possibility of a program for slum clearance and housing, mentioning the various features of the U. S. Housing Act of 1937 and the State of Wisconsin Housing Act. The possibilities of low rental housing were clearly illustrated by Mr. Bennett's presentation of a hypothetical assumed cost-per-unit, amortization, and other factors interwoven with housing projects.

The Housing Committee, by motion, was authorized to convey to the City Council the desire of the chapter to serve in an advisory capacity.

Financial Survey of Urban Housing.

U. S. Department of Commerce. *For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., \$3.25.*

This book, of some 1,200 pages of vital financial statistics concerning housing, is the result of the Financial Survey of Urban Housing, a project under the Civil Works Administration, sponsored by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. It is an intensive survey of the economic and financial aspects of selected urban residential properties, and the incomes of the families occupying them.

This survey, begun in 1933, was a companion study to the Real Property Inventory, which was essentially a census of all residential properties in sixty-four representative cities of the United States, but which did not cover family income and related financial data. The Financial Survey presents a detailed analysis for a sample of the same properties covered by the Inventory. Both projects were planned under the general supervision of Dr. N. H. Engle, Assistant Director of the Bureau.

It may prove of interest to architects engaged in housing projects.

**Harvard City Planning Studies—Volume XI—
Parkways and Land Values.**

BY JOHN NOLEN AND HENRY V. HUBBARD—
Harvard University Press—\$1.50.

Henry Vincent Hubbard, in the preface, states that in 1930 he and the late John Nolen, co-author of the book, found themselves interested in the changing functions of the parkway in the national plan and in the wide differences which they knew to exist in its nomenclature, in evaluation of its service, and in expectation of its future benefits under modern circumstances. They felt that it would be well worth the effort to attempt to clarify their own thinking in these matters and to put their results at the disposal of others whose thoughts like theirs needed some crystallization. They had no desire to prove one thing rather than another. They were concerned only to set down what the facts were and what conclusions, whether they liked them or not, seemed to them more or less inevitable from the facts.

After Mr. Nolen's death, Mr. Hubbard rewrote and completed the report with the assistance of Miss Edith K. Kepler, and Mr. Harold W. Lautner.

As of Interest

The Producers' Council, Inc.

Announcement has been made of the election of Hanley Company, 101 Park Avenue, New York City, to membership in The Council.

Mr. Marshall Adams has recently been appointed as Managing Director of The Council.

Expansion Joint Materials.

The National Bureau of Standards has issued Technical Information on Building Materials, No. 55, giving information on water tightness of expansion joint materials in concrete roof construction. The information was obtained from tests on 36 proprietary joint fillers, representative of 13 types of plastic and metal expansion joint materials as applied to the problems of concrete

roof and parapet construction. Copies may be obtained from the Division of Codes and Specifications, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C.

Rat-Proof Construction.

The Public Health Service, U. S. Treasury Department, has recently published a well illustrated treatise on "The Rat and Rat-Proof Construction of Buildings". The booklet contains details of recommended rat-proof construction with specifications together with information concerning the types and habits of rats and recommended methods for their control and elimination. Copies of the booklet may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at a cost of 15¢ each.

The first of these was the... the second... the third... the fourth... the fifth... the sixth... the seventh... the eighth... the ninth... the tenth... the eleventh... the twelfth... the thirteenth... the fourteenth... the fifteenth... the sixteenth... the seventeenth... the eighteenth... the nineteenth... the twentieth... the twenty-first... the twenty-second... the twenty-third... the twenty-fourth... the twenty-fifth... the twenty-sixth... the twenty-seventh... the twenty-eighth... the twenty-ninth... the thirtieth... the thirty-first... the thirty-second... the thirty-third... the thirty-fourth... the thirty-fifth... the thirty-sixth... the thirty-seventh... the thirty-eighth... the thirty-ninth... the fortieth... the forty-first... the forty-second... the forty-third... the forty-fourth... the forty-fifth... the forty-sixth... the forty-seventh... the forty-eighth... the forty-ninth... the fiftieth... the fifty-first... the fifty-second... the fifty-third... the fifty-fourth... the fifty-fifth... the fifty-sixth... the fifty-seventh... the fifty-eighth... the fifty-ninth... the sixtieth... the sixty-first... the sixty-second... the sixty-third... the sixty-fourth... the sixty-fifth... the sixty-sixth... the sixty-seventh... the sixty-eighth... the sixty-ninth... the seventieth... the seventy-first... the seventy-second... the seventy-third... the seventy-fourth... the seventy-fifth... the seventy-sixth... the seventy-seventh... the seventy-eighth... the seventy-ninth... the eightieth... the eighty-first... the eighty-second... the eighty-third... the eighty-fourth... the eighty-fifth... the eighty-sixth... the eighty-seventh... the eighty-eighth... the eighty-ninth... the ninetieth... the ninety-first... the ninety-second... the ninety-third... the ninety-fourth... the ninety-fifth... the ninety-sixth... the ninety-seventh... the ninety-eighth... the ninety-ninth... the hundredth...

The first of these was the... the second... the third... the fourth... the fifth... the sixth... the seventh... the eighth... the ninth... the tenth... the eleventh... the twelfth... the thirteenth... the fourteenth... the fifteenth... the sixteenth... the seventeenth... the eighteenth... the nineteenth... the twentieth... the twenty-first... the twenty-second... the twenty-third... the twenty-fourth... the twenty-fifth... the twenty-sixth... the twenty-seventh... the twenty-eighth... the twenty-ninth... the thirtieth... the thirty-first... the thirty-second... the thirty-third... the thirty-fourth... the thirty-fifth... the thirty-sixth... the thirty-seventh... the thirty-eighth... the thirty-ninth... the fortieth... the forty-first... the forty-second... the forty-third... the forty-fourth... the forty-fifth... the forty-sixth... the forty-seventh... the forty-eighth... the forty-ninth... the fiftieth... the fifty-first... the fifty-second... the fifty-third... the fifty-fourth... the fifty-fifth... the fifty-sixth... the fifty-seventh... the fifty-eighth... the fifty-ninth... the sixtieth... the sixty-first... the sixty-second... the sixty-third... the sixty-fourth... the sixty-fifth... the sixty-sixth... the sixty-seventh... the sixty-eighth... the sixty-ninth... the seventieth... the seventy-first... the seventy-second... the seventy-third... the seventy-fourth... the seventy-fifth... the seventy-sixth... the seventy-seventh... the seventy-eighth... the seventy-ninth... the eightieth... the eighty-first... the eighty-second... the eighty-third... the eighty-fourth... the eighty-fifth... the eighty-sixth... the eighty-seventh... the eighty-eighth... the eighty-ninth... the ninetieth... the ninety-first... the ninety-second... the ninety-third... the ninety-fourth... the ninety-fifth... the ninety-sixth... the ninety-seventh... the ninety-eighth... the ninety-ninth... the hundredth...

