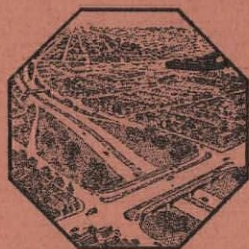


Journal of The American Institute of
ARCHITECTS



July 1944

Was Tomorrow's Architect Here Yesterday?

Air Photographs for Planning

Beachhead for Architects

Help Wanted

The Washington Scene

The Modern House of 1992

Design Bureaus and Public Policy

35c

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

JULY, 1944

VOL. II, No. 1

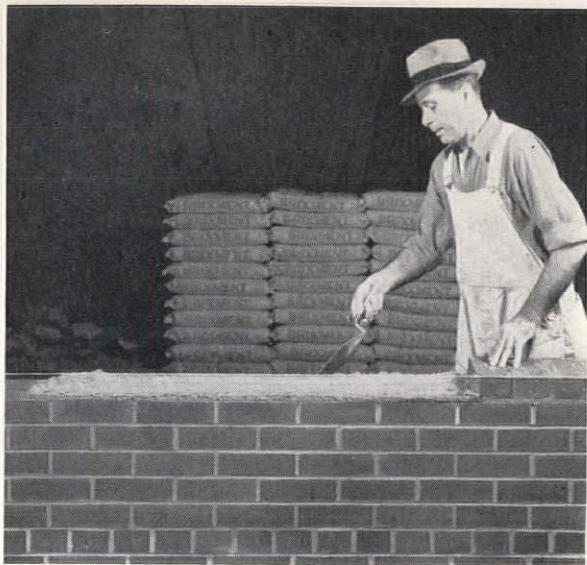
Contents

Help Wanted 3 <i>By B. Kenneth Johnstone</i>	The Modern House of 1992 . . . 29 <i>By Gordon Allen, F.A.I.A.</i>
Appointments With Honor . . . 7 C. Turpin Bannister Robert B. Frantz	Design Bureaus and Public Policy 33 <i>By Robert B. O'Connor</i>
Teamwork in Architecture and Sculpture 8 <i>By William Gehron, F.A.I.A.</i>	Beachhead for Architects . . . 41 <i>By Abram Garfield, F.A.I.A.</i>
Was the Architect of Tomorrow Here Yesterday? 13 <i>By Howard Myers</i>	The Washington Scene 46 <i>By D. K. Este Fisher, Jr.</i>
Air Photographs for Planning . . 18 <i>By Russell VanNest Black</i>	Books & Bulletins 51
"Slum Prevention" Challenged . . 23 <i>By Gilbert Rodier and David H. Morgan</i>	Highlights of The Technical Press 52
	The Editor's Asides 53
	The Producers' Council 54

ILLUSTRATIONS

Air photographs:	
A Locality of Neatly Spaced Orchard Trees 19	
The Strange Symbols of Contour Plowing 19	
An Anthracite Coal Mine 20	
The Earthworm Pattern of a Strip Mine 20	
Tower, The First Church, Lancaster, Mass., 1816;	
Charles Bulfinch, architect 37	
Do you know this building? 38	

The *Journal of The American Institute of Architects*, official organ of The Institute, is published monthly at The Octagon, 1741 New York Ave., N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Editor: Henry H. Saylor. Subscription in the United States, its possessions and Canada, \$3 a year in advance; elsewhere, \$4 a year. Single copies 35c. Copyright, 1944, by The American Institute of Architects. Entered as second-class matter February 9, 1929, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C.



BRIXMENT Mortar Has Better Water-Retention

● Water-retaining capacity is the ability of a mortar to retain its moisture, and hence its plasticity, when spread out on porous brick.

High water-retaining capacity is of *extreme importance* in mortar. If the mortar does not have high water-retaining capacity, it is too quickly sucked dry by the brick; the mortar stiffens too soon, the brick cannot be properly bedded, and a good bond cannot be obtained.

Brixment mortar has extremely high water-retaining capacity. It strongly resists the sucking action of the brick. Brixment mortar therefore stays smooth and plastic longer, when spread out on the wall. *This permits a more thorough bedding of the brick, and a more complete contact between the brick and the mortar.* The result is a better bond, and hence a stronger and more *water-tight wall.*



Slap a small amount of Brixment mortar, and an equal amount of 50-50 lime and cement mortar, on a brick.



Wait a minute, then feel each mortar. You will find that the Brixment mortar stays plastic far longer than the other mortar. This proves greater water-retaining capacity.

LOUISVILLE CEMENT COMPANY, Incorporated
 General Offices: Louisville 2, Kentucky
 Cement Manufacturers Since 1830

RICHMOND

RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING . . .

FORM-TIE SPECIFICATION FOR HEAVY CONCRETE
STRUCTURES WITH ARCHITECTURAL FINISH

Form-ties shall be of an approved type with sufficient strength and rigidity to stand the stress and abuse in heavy form work, and shall be designed so that external portions of the Tie assembly can be removed so as to leave metal of the Tie set-back 2" from the finished concrete surface. No Spreader Washers, Cones, etc., shall be permitted and the removal of Tie ends shall be accomplished without spalling so as to leave a clean hole not greater than the diameter of the Tie.

No internal removable form spreaders will be permitted on walls less than 2'-0" in thickness. Spreading of walls up to 2'-0" thick to be accomplished by external spreaders on the Tie Rods. Walls greater than 2'-0" in thickness can be spread by temporary internal wood spreaders to be removed by workmen operating inside of the forms as the pour progresses.

*Almost every advance in Form-Tie design
and use has been originated by Richmond.*



• Established 1911 •

**RICHMOND SCREW
ANCHOR COMPANY, INC.**

816 LIBERTY AVENUE • BROOKLYN 8, NEW YORK



Help Wanted

By B. Kenneth Johnstone

HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE, THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE

PROBABLY not one person in every hundred in this country can mention an architect by name, and even fewer have ever met one. This statement may provoke you to strong argument, and I must admit that a few weeks ago I, too, would have called it absurd, but I am convinced today that it is closer to truth than to falsehood.

Admitting the force of public opinion and our dependence upon it, does it shock you as it did me to learn that the leading business men of a large and prosperous community recently turned to The Pennsylvania State College, asking that we help them to find an architect willing to establish a practice in their city? They did not have to be shown the value of an architect's service. Rather they were begging for it. As the leaders of a thriving community in the heart of the vast peach and apple country, a community whose textile and metal industries annually produce more than 12 mil-

lion dollars worth of products, they understood and appreciated the important role of an architect in the post-War problems facing them. Their community has enjoyed a steady growth, with a birth rate almost twice the average of the state. The dollar volume of business is further swelled by the influx of students to a college for women and a prominent junior college. The estimated cost of building construction, taken from the estimated value of building permits (Source: State Department of Labor and Industry) issued for the five-year period 1937-41, was in excess of \$300,000 annually, and in 1939 alone thirty-three new homes were built. Yet there is no architect in the community. Furthermore, *there is no architect within a radius of thirty miles!*

Unfortunately, this example is not unusual. But before citing other examples let me summarize the distribution of architects in the

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Just as there is a fair distribution of doctors and lawyers throughout our communities, so the same should be true for architects. But the parallel goes no further than the statement.



The population figures which follow are taken from the U. S. Bureau of Census reports, the location of architects from the official directory of the State Board of Architectural Examiners, published as corrected to May 1, 1941, and the estimated dollar value of building permits from the reports of the Division of Research and Statistics of the State Department of Labor and Industry. The years 1937-38-39 were chosen for this study because of the distortion after 1939 caused by war building. It is recognized that the 1941 distribution of architects is probably not the distribution today, since many have moved to war industry centers, but the 1941 distribution may be considered typical of the peacetime distribution to which we look forward.

Four of the forty-one cities over 20,000 in population will have *no resident architect*, and eight of the forty-one will have only one

architect. Included in these forty-one cities are the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh metropolitan areas, where over 750 of the 1050 resident Pennsylvania architects have offices.

There are nineteen communities with populations between 15,000 and 20,000. Nine of these will have no resident architect.

Forty-eight per cent or twenty-three of the forty-eight communities between 10,000 and 15,000 will have no resident architect.

And of the one hundred and thirty-three communities between 5,000 and 10,000 population, one hundred and six or eighty per cent will have no resident architect.

In view of these figures can we honestly claim to serve the public? It is only logical to ask whether those communities without a resident architect enjoy a sufficient volume of building construction to support an architect, but before reaching an answer we must define "sufficient volume". At this point we cannot arrive at a clear and accurate picture, but can only point out dominant and meaningful comparative facts in a complex situation. We all know that the estimated dollar value of building permits is not an accurate statement of money actually spent for building construction. As a measure of

"sufficient volume" we can, however, compare the dollar value of building permits in communities having resident architects with those communities having none. For instance, Reading, Williamsport, Erie and Johnstown as typical communities, with a total population of 340,000, had a total of forty-four resident architects and an annual (1937-39) average estimated value of building permits of \$4,794,000, or \$109,000 per architect. For the same years the estimated dollar value of building permits per architect for Philadelphia was \$73,500 and for Pittsburgh \$67,700.

Thus it would seem reasonable to assume that an estimated dollar value of building permits in the neighborhood of \$100,000 is a fair measure of the capacity of a community to support an architect, although it is evident that this volume at a 6% commission could hardly be called substantial. It must be remembered, however, that the value of building permits includes only construction within city limits and does not include that of suburbs and nearby communities within a reasonable distance. Many other examples could be cited to show that this is an average figure for communities enjoying architec-

tural service. The corollary must follow that a community with this annual volume of building construction permits can support an architect.

Distance lends enchantment, but it hardly contributes to the appreciation of an architect. Appreciation can only come from his active and energetic participation in the intimate life of a community as a citizen of that community. As the community then recognizes ability in one of its own, so will it look respectfully to the profession as a whole.

We may take a step in the direction of intelligently understanding the reasons behind public opinion if we will admit that there is no justification for our neglect of the communities whose descriptions follow. They are typical examples of the plight of many areas in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



COMMUNITY A lies in a country rich in natural resources which have served to encourage industrial growth. In the past twenty years its population has increased 31% and its principal industries concerned with metal products, textiles and lumber have prospered, as evidenced by the local wage rate

which in 1939 was 18% above the state average. In addition to income from industry, its business is swelled by the spending of the seven hundred students of a coeducational college. Two hospitals with a total of 179 beds are within its city limits. The volume of building construction was constant for the five years 1937-41 and the estimated dollar value of building permits for this period averaged in excess of \$480,000 per year. Yet there is not an architect within a radius of thirty miles.



COMMUNITY B is a county seat, both the shipping and shopping center for the county. Situated in the foothills of the Alleghenies in the midst of an important coal field, it too has enjoyed a healthy and vigorous growth. In 1920 the census showed a population increase of 22.5% over 1910 and the 1940 census registered an increase of 43% over 1920. Like Community A, it is the site of a coeducational college with a peace-time student body of well over a thousand. With many and varied industries, together with an expanding educational institution, there is every reason to believe that the community will continue to grow and

develop at a constant rate. Building permit figures for 1937 were not reported, but the estimated dollar value of building permits for 1938-39 averaged \$422,000 per year. Yet there is no architect within a radius of twenty-five miles.



COMMUNITY C is situated in a fertile cultivated valley of central Pennsylvania and for many years has been an important manufacturing center for paper, brick, leather, silk and furniture. Since it is an old community, its population growth has not been comparable to those already mentioned, but its increase has been in excess of 10% for each 10-year census period. One of its industries has grown from 40 employees eight years ago to over 800 today, and the growth has not been entirely war expansion. In fact, its product is expected to be in such demand that even greater expansion is expected in the post-War years. It, too, is the site of a college as well as two general hospitals. For the years 1937-39 the estimated dollar value of building permits was in excess of \$325,000 per year. Yet there is no architect within a radius of twenty-five miles.

Now if this is typical of the way we *serve*—and what you have read is fact, not fiction—can we continue to ask each other why the public does not appreciate our services, our abilities and our leadership (!) in the great construction industry? The answer is too obvious for comment.

Inasmuch as public opinion of architects—about which we are all concerned—can only reflect an understanding of an architect's abilities and the service he offers, we certainly have not done everything within our power to make our services available. If we define a profession as a calling in which one professes to have special knowledge used to instruct, guide or advise others or *serve* them in some art, the bold may even ask whether by our acts we deserve the distinction of professional status.

It is pleasant to believe complacently that everyone who wishes it may enjoy the benefit of an architect, but this belief cannot be substantiated by facts. Unfortunately, the contrary is true.

As a result of this study the Department of Architecture of The Pennsylvania State College will assemble an annual analysis of the volume of building construction in Pennsylvania and its relation to population growth, business activity and the distribution of architectural offices. This analysis will be sent gladly to any who may wish it. The data can not be meaningful until the volume of building construction returns to peace-time normalcy, but we hope then that younger architects and returning war veterans may be guided to those communities we have neglected.



Appointments With Honor

C. TURPIN BANNISTER, recently of the architectural faculty of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, has been appointed Dean of the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Ala.

ROBERT B. FRANTZ of Saginaw, Michigan, has been appointed by Governor Kelly a member of the State Board of Registration for Architects, Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors to serve through 1950.

Teamwork in Architecture and Sculpture

By William Gehron, F. A. I. A.

Excerpts from an address before The Architectural League of New York in April, 1944.

IN THE work of my office, I have had the good fortune of working with a number of sculptors, among them such well-known men as Paul Jennewein, Carl Milles, and Lee Lawrie. I have invariably been amazed by their ability to adapt their work to the architectural requirements, and I am very sure that these sculptors have added a great deal of interest and esthetic value to the structures that would have been beyond the range of the architect alone. Naturally, each artist has an individual approach and a personal expression of his ideas, but if an artist is chosen whose work is in harmony with the architect's, this individualism should blend with the architect's ideals and be welcomed by him. The architect and the sculptor can then freely discuss and exchange ideas, and truly work as a team, inspiring each other.

One shining example of this teamwork has been the combination of Bertram Goodhue and Lee Lawrie; another is that of Stanford White and St. Gaudens. And the outstanding one of ancient

times was the team of Iktinos and Kallikrates, architects, and Pheidias, the sculptor—the combined creators of the Parthenon. Throughout all ages there have been such teams as these, perhaps none more renowned than the architects and sculptors of the great Gothic cathedrals. The spiritual quality and the beauty expressed by all these men would never have come to fruition with the architect or sculptor working alone.



As an illustration of how this cooperation works, I should like to cite just a few items of many from my own experience. For instance, when we designed the pylons at the entrance to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Bridge at Harrisburg, I played with the idea of having on the top of one pylon, a war chariot, and on the other pylon, a war galley. Lee Lawrie conceived the idea of using motives from the Great Seal of the United States, with an eagle on each pylon, one grasping in his talon thirteen arrows, the

other, an olive branch. This was certainly an original idea, and one which appealed to me immediately.

As for the Harrisburg State Capitol group, I have always felt that Jennewein contributed as much to the architecture of the buildings as he did to the sculpture. Carl Milles changed our design for the large bronze doors entirely, and thereby made a contribution of truly artistic value to our work. In fact, I have a feeling that many people remember these buildings better because of their sculpture and painting than because of their architecture, just as the average person remembers a jewel and forgets its setting.

I am firmly convinced that if architects would more often seek the cooperation of sculptors, and endeavor to convince their clients of the value of this collaborative work, more buildings would appeal to the public at large, and the finished product of the architect would therefore be of greater value. This cooperation, however, should definitely start at the early stages of studying the project in order that the sculptor's work may really blend into the work of the architect.

I should like to mention an experience of mine which might be an

example of the above. Our office has recently designed a post-War project for the New York Department of Public Works, on which I urged that we have at least one piece of sculpture and one mural painting. After some effort was exerted in this direction, we finally secured approval for the sculpture work, and there is still hope for the painting. But generally, the job of convincing clients of the need for this type of art is not an easy one, and the responsibility for its success rests entirely with the architect.



I fear there is a tendency today to believe that modern architecture does not require, and should not have, any sculpture or decorative art incorporated in it. This, I think, is an erroneous idea—and I am quite sure that any school of architecture developed along this principle cannot flower into a great style. I base my opinion on the experience of the past ages and the requirements of human nature, which delights in some variation and some enrichment.

At present, we live in an era in which the tendency is to design architecture in what could be described as the "skimmed milk

style," without any cream whatsoever. This tendency will never lead us, I am sure, to a period comparable to the truly great periods of the past—the Egyptian, Greek, Roman, Gothic and Renaissance. We shall never remotely approach such heights until we use the full range of human creative possibility, and in buildings this must include the use of sculpture and painting. In other words, by limiting the imagination of the human mind in any way, except by practical and sensible limitations, we forestall the possibility of developing our modern architecture into a style that would compare with the great periods.

In looking forward to the culmination of a definite style of great architecture, in which sculpture and painting must be and will be incorporated, there are a few points on which I should briefly like to touch.

Since the beginning of the twentieth century, the tendency to embellish buildings with ornament, such as cornices, trim, moldings, etc. as used by the later Renaissance architects, has been halted—and rightly so. Generally, this type of ornamentation has been replaced by the use of sculpture in a pure form. An example of this

is the work at Radio City. This is a step in the right direction. However, where sculpture is used as an adjunct to architecture, I should like to urge the sculptor to think more of unifying his work with the architect to a point where sculpture would again become an educational art as well as a functional one—symbolizing, telling a story, and inspiring. The most outstanding illustrations of what I mean can be found in the Egyptian temples, where sculpture and painting were used somewhat as surface textures, while never destroying the unity of the architecture.



Now I have a few words for the sculptor alone. I suggest that the sculptor explore more minutely the possibilities before him. Too many people, sculptors and architects included, think of sculpture work only in terms of unpainted stone and bronze. Here again, they limit their imagination and force us to look to the past for inspiration.

Sculpture in ceramics was highly developed by the Babylonians, Chinese and Assyrians, as well as by the della Robias; ivory was used for small sculpture in the Orient and Egypt; in practically all periods wood was considered a

suitable medium and was used extensively by the Chinese and Gothic artists. Sheet metal was a successful medium in the past also. Today, besides the materials mentioned, we have the opportunity of developing a technique for the use of glass sculpture, and possibly for some plastics. For example, it appears possible that glass sculpture could be stained and colored by baking, in much the same method used to apply color to stained glass windows, or as used by Stiegel on early American glass. It is not alone the duty of the chemist to try out new ideas of this kind; it is also up to the forward-looking artist.

Exploration should not stop here, however. There is much to be done with color. Its use tends to capture the imagination of the layman and therefore tends to popularize the use of sculpture and the other arts. To the artist, its merits are unlimited. Yet today we seem destitute and poverty stricken when it is mentioned. That it is not used more in modern architecture is perhaps the fault of both architect and sculptor. It is their duty to investigate and think of creating effects with sculpture and color.

These general conditions, briefly touched upon above, have resulted

in a marked decline of technical artistic skills. It follows that the past standards of beauty have thus been lowered. There is another point which, for the younger artists, seems to be the most important one of all. I found from my own experience that the older sculptors had taught themselves the skills of carving in wood and chiseling marble and granite. I have also seen some marvelous ivory carvings done by the early American ship carpenters. Unfortunately, these skills appear to have been almost lost.



Today, according to union rules, most carving is done from the sculptor's model by union men. In this method of producing the finished product, the sculpture loses the artist's personal and individual touch. I fully realize that it is impossible for a sculptor to execute all the carving; he would not have time enough to do this in every case, especially in larger pieces. However, in order that the final surfaces have the touch of the artist, it is necessary for the sculptor to carve at least some of the final surfaces. In this way the soul of the artist is expressed. Second best would be to have highly trained

carver-craftsmen for wood and the various stones, such as granite, limestone, marble, etc.

Paul Jennewein worked for about two years, during his spare time, on one four-foot bronze figure, refinishing the entire surface. In doing this work so carefully, he obtained unusual perfection, not possible for those who had no hand in the creating of the original model. On a piece of granite work at Harrisburg, Lee Lawrie touched up the final carving in many places to accomplish surface variations which he thought were important. In the casting of the bronze doors for Harrisburg, Milles realized that, due to the large areas, he could not retouch the surfaces. Therefore, the castings were made, perfectly reproducing the surfaces of his models, and no retouching whatsoever was done on the bronze work except applying the green patine finish.

Until recent years, many of our best craftsmen were trained in Europe. Because few men have been trained in this country in recent years, there is a real need for

a great many more thoroughly trained craftsmen. Perhaps the National Sculpture Society might encourage the formation of schools for training purposes. At any rate, I implore the younger sculptor to train himself in the above crafts so that he may be able, not only to fully direct the carvers, but in certain work to do some of the carving himself.

I am quite confident, however, that this lost beauty and grace, whose zenith is reached only when the trinity of architecture, sculpture and painting become one whole, made up of three distinct personalities—I am confident that this lost beauty and grace will again come into its own. At that time, the machine will be relegated to its rightful second place, and the human skills, as superbly developed as they were in the past, will once more regain their lost eminence. At that time, architects and sculptors alike will not only look forward to the development of a truly great style of architecture, comparable to the best of the past; they will share in it.

“The creation of wealth is production, and if in war we can expend nearly all we produce for destruction, in peace we can—if we will—expend as much for construction.”—HENRY S. CHURCHILL.

Was the Architect of Tomorrow Here Yesterday?

By Howard Myers

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF THE ARCHITECTURAL FORUM

Excerpts from an address before the Philadelphia Chapter, A.I.A. on May 19, 1944.

IT IS IN THE common currency of professional convention at this time to deplore the passing of the "good, old days" when architecture was a fine art and the architect, an artist, inhibited only by the five orders and the size of the marble quarry. There is nothing particularly vicious in that attitude, but I wonder sometimes whether the "good, old days" were really as good as they now may seem in retrospect. To be sure, certain architects were respected and, on occasion revered, members of the community. They were cultured, well traveled, could call for the correct vintage champagne at a time when the wine list carried no numbers, and as they sauntered to the office at 11 A.M., swishing malacca sticks, they were obviously as much at home on the rue de la Paix as on Fifth Avenue or Chestnut Street.

A succession of imported labels was the open sesame to the untutored, but well-heeled *nouveaux riches* industrialists, who in turn

aped the Four Hundred, who in turn aped Europe. The only architecture unacceptable was labeled "Made in America."

Population was growing with a rush; cities expanding at an incredible rate, while the man who was to bring all this tumbling down about our ears was an obscure Detroit mechanic who had a crackpot notion that everyone should ride in an automobile.

Within two decades everyone did.

Not only did they ride in automobiles, but in every sphere technology was whizzing a mystifying array of new commodities into the market place, and soon people found themselves living a completely different life.

Suddenly, we awoke to the fact that most of the things we had built were wrong—or at least were in the wrong place—and right this minute our once proud cities stand in rebuke to our inability to plan ahead. Certainly if the architect

was a victim of this astigmatism, his companions were legion, and the indictment falls as heavily on the engineer and the banker and the businessman and the public official as on you gentlemen.

Almost overnight we became a literate nation. We threw away our nineteenth-century social and economic yardsticks and substituted for them something much more complicated and possibly better.



While all this was going on, where was the architect? Was he at the core of these swirling events or was he, as Hugh Ferriss suggested recently, in his ivory tower, which was leaning and precious near to toppling. I regret to report that, if not all, at least too many architects failed to see the other side of the railroad tracks keep moving closer and closer to the mansion on the hill. The architects' clientele had ceased to be the Social Register or even Who's Who. It had become the telephone book.

Now, of course, it is an exaggeration and a libel to say that this is an honest picture of the profession during the recent past. Old movements went out and new ones came in, and suddenly the profes-

sion was moving in two directions at once. It still is. It is a commonplace to point out that we are in a period of transition, but because it is a commonplace does not make it untrue. For more than a decade architects have lived through a terrible drought, and if in some cases theirs has been a philosophy of despair, that is understandable of any army which has been traveling on its empty stomach. Not only has the volume of work been imperceptible, but various new forms of glamorous competition have come over the architectural horizon to threaten what was once a professional monopoly. The engineer is frequently regarded as a menace. The contractor who also designs is encroaching, and the brotherhood of streamliners, the industrial designers, are viewed with alarm, though God knows why. And now a fourth threat appears in those mystical gentlemen known as city planners, who to date have produced more rolls of blueprints than the bulging safes in city halls can accommodate, but scarcely a living community.

Permit me for a few more moments to be more specific on a number of points where the profession appears to have lamentably failed.

Post-War planning is mostly an empty phrase. Hardly a single state or a single city is today prepared to move ahead a large-scale program of civic improvement. National failure to develop advance planning will mock us in the future and do nothing to restore to the profession the leadership it seeks.

Large-scale housing, both private and public, remains more a myth than a promise. Of course, it is a complicated problem, but it fairly shrieks for solution.

Then there is this obscure matter of prefabrication. I concede that most of the attempts in this field to date have not fully matured, but the necessity for developing industrial housing in this country is inescapable. Does it not seem that if a nation as saturated in conservatism as England can produce a program calling for 500,000 prefabricated houses a year, here is a new force with which the architect must reckon?



I need merely mention the prolonged controversy over a contemporary approach to architecture which has in recent years divided the profession. In the interest of post-War demands, this issue must now be resolved by the profession.

Actually, the public is rapidly in the process of resolving it for the profession.

If I have painted a grim, confused canvas, I have done so deliberately because I am so convinced that the bright side of the spectrum shines immediately ahead. Right at this moment the architectural future seems brighter than it could ever have seemed in the past. Who can question that America is to be rebuilt? And who can doubt that there will be so much work to do that every architect will find his time too short.

Having so glibly guaranteed your monetary success for the next ten years, let me immediately leave behind these crass commercial precincts. Surely no group of professional men can find complete satisfaction in the mere fact of financial security and, of all professions, certainly that must be least true of this one.

How then is the architect to reclaim that position of leadership which appears to be his great desire?

First, I think he must catch up with the public. He must accept the fact that we not only live in a changing world, but that much of the change has already taken place. Architecture from this day on must

be more than a fine art—it must become a social art as well. It must take all of the people to its ample bosom. It must completely concern itself with how all people live and work, and it must bring the enrichment of a fine physical environment to 130 million Americans who yearn for it.

That means many things. It means rebuilding our cities not merely on paper or in fancy, but in fact. It means restoring our countryside to its once natural loveliness. It means decent housing for everyone. It means really adequate and scientific transportation. It means better recreational facilities. It means restoring to the people the amenities of gracious living. If the architect does not make these things his, someone else will adopt them. We can be sure that somehow, and regardless of political parties, we are going to move forward. People will no longer be denied, and the architect must be prepared to serve their compelling needs.



Now these are fine and glittering generalities, but I think you know and I know their meaning in more precise terms. We are past concern with whether the roof is flat or pitched or not at all. Our interest

now is in light and air and pleasing aspects to our streets and neighborhoods. We are past concern with whether a molding is round or flat or not at all. Our interest now is in demolishing every slum and putting every American family into decent, attractive housing. We should be past concern with whether the international or native brand of architecture is to predominate. Our interest now must be with whether people can move about their community in comfort and safety and with a lift to their spirit as the day goes on.

We can concede that this assignment is bewildering not only because the whole scale of building has increased so greatly, but because, to serve this public successfully, the architect must be master of many arts and many sciences. But this is the price of leadership in a complex, modern world. Its demands upon the profession are no greater than its demands upon the businessman, the teacher, the politician and the public-spirited citizen.

About a year ago one of the most successful architects in California closed his office and took to Cambridge an open, inquiring mind. He went there to study city planning simply because he saw that his

already ample experience and training was fine as far as it went, but it did not go far enough. It is not my purpose to suggest that every architect follow this admirable example, but it does seem pertinent, and I hope not impertinent, to propose that many architects should be less complacent and less resentful of the fact that in certain of these new fields their preparation leaves something to be desired. As I said a moment ago, the public has caught up with the architect. He must again get out in front of the parade.

Finally, let me venture a few predictions:

1. In addition to design, the architectural office of the future will include experts in the fields of engineering, construction, real estate, finance and in some cases, research, sociology and merchandising.

2. There will be created national architectural organizations, which may take the form either of branch offices in different parts of the country or combinations of existing offices able to offer country-wide service to the growing number of industrial, commercial and Government organizations whose interests extend even beyond the Atlantic and Pacific.

3. The dubious practice of uniform fees will be abandoned. Architects, like all other professional men, will base their fees on the demands for their services.

4. We come back to those people on the other side of the tracks. Some way must be found for the architect to serve every building need of every person. Architecture can no longer stop with those people who can afford it. The architect's services must be offered universally.

I realize that to some these views may seem radical, if not preposterous. They are offered tentatively by one whose creative attempts are bound by two dimensions. Surely you are privileged to treat them merely as the thoughts of an observer, undisciplined by the limitations of professional practice.

It seems to me impossible to view the future without high optimism. The opportunity is without limit, the challenge without precedent, the need for architectural talent beyond statement. The reward to you who participate in the rebuilding of this country will be not only in personal gain, but even more in that finer, inward satisfaction which comes to those whose contribution is measured in the enriched lives of their fellow citizens.

Air Photographs for Planning

By *Russell VanNest Black*

CONSULTANT TO PENNSYLVANIA STATE PLANNING BOARD

Reprinted by permission from *Pennsylvania Planning* for February, 1944, issued by Pennsylvania Department of Commerce, State Planning Board, Harrisburg, Pa.

AIR PHOTOGRAPHS are among the most valuable of all planning tools. Such photographs are particularly effective when pieced together to form continuous maps or mosaics of the areas under study, but even individual photographs enlarged to an appropriate scale can be used to advantage.



Making a city or county map by field survey is a costly and lengthy process. At scales of from $1'' = 400'$ to $1'' = 1000'$, it is entirely practicable to prepare maps sufficiently accurate for most general planning purposes, by direct tracings from good mosaics. (Individual photographs can be used for this purpose but only with greater difficulty and with greater likelihood of error.) The mosaic, when expertly made, can be brought to any reasonable degree of accuracy by reference to known dimensions on the ground. The process is fast and relatively inexpensive, especially in districts for which the

initial photographic work has been recently done, as is now the case for most parts of the country.

The air photograph, of course, shows only physically existing objects. In making maps from photographs it will be necessary to go to other maps or records for such data as the widths of street and road rights-of-way, property lines, and the location of mapped but non-existent streets. Whether for use in making a new map or in supplementing existing maps, it will be found necessary or advantageous to have the mosaic photographs at the same scale as that of the map or maps upon which the planning studies are to be made and presented. For convenience it is sometimes desirable to have two or more such mosaics, or sets of photographs, at different scales, corresponding to the scale of other maps in use.

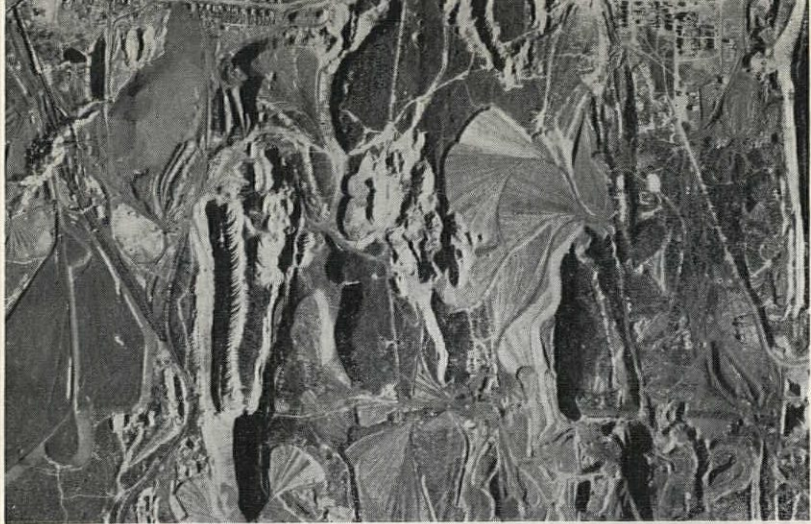
The utility of air photographs in planning ranges beyond making ordinary base maps as described above. They can also be used as



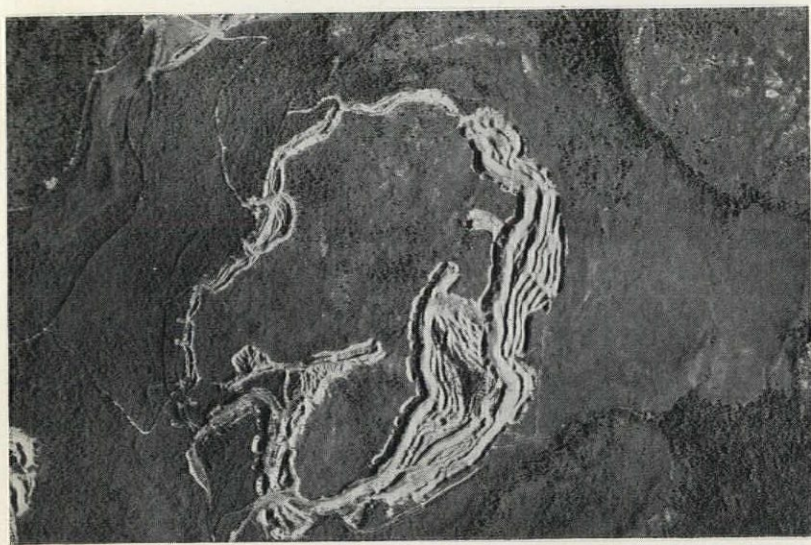
A locality of neatly spaced orchard trees



The strange symbols of contour planning
Photographs by courtesy of Pennsylvania Planning



An anthracite coal mine



The earthworm pattern of a strip mine
Photographs by courtesy of Pennsylvania Planning

a basis for quick small-scale reconnaissance surveys of large areas, or even for the construction of large-scale topographic maps. The latter are made by use of a special stereoscopic machine coupled with ground surveys, and may be sufficiently accurate and detailed for use in making construction and site plans for individual projects like housing developments and sewerage systems.

Whether plotting the course of a new highway, determining the boundaries of a new park, or deciding the appropriate nature and extent of a zoning district, a first essential is intimate knowledge of the existing use and character of the land—the location of forests, streams, lakes and railroads; and the location and distribution of houses, factories and other buildings. The skilled can read all these and many other useful facts directly from the air photograph. Objects not directly identifiable and the finer definition of land and building types and uses may be covered by systematic checking in the field.

Not the least value of air photographs in planning is in what they show of things in the interiors of blocks and large properties—things not ordinarily shown on maps and not visible from the street or road.

Such information, often important to planning decisions, can be obtained otherwise only by tedious and costly mapping or by time-taking trips into the field.



Essential to intelligent zoning is the so-called "existing-use" map, ordinarily made by field survey. Air photographs supply more than nine-tenths of the information needed to make the existing-use map. All that is needed to supplement them is closer identification of special building types and uses, like two-family and multiple-family dwellings, the various classes of business and industry, and public and semi-public buildings and lands. Such identifications can be made by taking prints of the photographs or mosaic into the field and making the necessary notations upon them. Finally, the record existing-use map can be made by transferring information from the aerial map to a line map. Or a print of the air map itself may be developed as the existing-use map by use of color and symbols to identify the buildings and uses of special significance in zoning.

Following its initial services in base-map making and in portraying the location and use of land

and buildings, the air map (or photograph) becomes an important frame of reference in projecting plans and improvements. Along with topographic maps and other maps and records, usually available, it supplies a sufficient body of physical information, in the office, for projection of general layout plans without need for numerous trips into the field. Even minor obstacles like trees and, oftentimes, property lines can be identified in the aerial picture, facilitating the economical and practicable location of objects like new streets and roads.

The air photograph likewise tells a story of land character, useful in selecting sites for things like parks, schools, large-scale housing developments, and airports. For, in the photograph, it is usually possible to distinguish active farm lands from abandoned lands; crop land from pasture; good forest from scrub; and high and well-drained lands from low lands and swamp. Such information enables the planner quickly to narrow down the field of possibilities to such an extent that final site selections can be made with little loss of time.

Naturally, the larger the area being planned and the greater the lack of other maps and informa-

tion, the more useful becomes the air photograph and its various by-products. But seldom is there a circumstance in land planning where photographs will not enable the planner to do a better, faster and more economical job. The utility of air photographs in planning is greatly increased when they are available as mosaics, permitting study of whole large areas without the confusions and interruptions involved in having to work through a batch of oddly-matched individual photographs.



If plans are to be carried out, they must be understood and accepted by people not well accustomed to reading ordinary maps. The location of many kinds of planned projects can be shown directly on air maps or photographs in relation to objects and landmarks that can be identified both on the ground and in the picture. Thus, by way of illustration, it is possible, by plotting the location of a new highway on an air map, to show an interested property owner exactly where the proposed road is to go in relation to some familiar object like a tree or a line fence.

The value of periodic censuses

of population and of business and industry, in appraising conditions and estimating long-range social and economic trends, has long been accepted. It seems likely that the same kind of periodic record of

changes in the use and character of land would also be of large cumulative value in long-range planning. Such a record could be made available by periodic air mapping.



“Slum Prevention” Challenged

By Gilbert L. Rodier

DIRECTOR, TECHNICAL DIVISION, FEDERAL PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY

and by David H. Morgan

The article, “Slum Prevention” by Albert O. Larson, appearing in the May *Journal* has evoked considerable disagreement. We have taken the liberty, in the interests of paper conservation, of combining two of these challenges, one by an FPFA official, the other by a Philadelphia architect in private practice.—EDITOR.

MR. RODIER:

The article contains a number of flat statements more or less in error, and also many expressions of unsupported opinion concerning matters which were not even relevant to the presumed subject of the article. I, therefore, cannot resist the impulse to take issue with these specific statements and opinions, and even with the general arguments advanced and conclusions reached by the writer. I assume, of course, that Mr. Larson is opposed to slums just as Mr. Coolidge was “agin” sin, but he is little more convincing in his definition

of what causes a slum—attributing it solely to physical deterioration of place of habitation—than Calvin was specific with respect to the causes of sin or the remedies therefor. Moreover, one gets the impression that Mr. Larson may be more concerned by what he terms “the public expenditure of vast sums of money,” than for the well-being of those who are forced by necessity to live under conditions unwholesome to themselves and to their entire communities as well.

The arguments advanced ignore the simple and fundamental truths of this entire problem, namely, that

slums are brought about as a result of the low economic status of the great majority of their tenants, and that without public aid in one form or another decent housing cannot be provided for these people at rents which they can afford to pay.

MR. MORGAN:

The records show that today's blighted areas were produced by land grabbers and uncontrolled real estate developers (so called) in boom periods, post-Civil-War to the present, all without any governmental planned control; hence today American communities are reaping what their citizens were permitted to sow in preceding decades. Notwithstanding that architects and city planners for a long time have expounded the advantages of well-balanced land use in new residential and city planning developments, the real estate and financial people were interested in nothing but the maintenance of the principle of producing the greatest number of lots that could be sold to produce the greatest amount of net profit.

I am sure Mr. Larson must agree that, with all its mistakes, the public housing program has produced physical demonstrations of the correct approach to a sound

solution of the physical requirements for housing (on American standards of living) the stratum of society for which the program was conceived.

It was my good fortune some nine or ten years ago to be closely associated with the social, physical and economic survey of "Old Philadelphia," sponsored by the Philadelphia City Planning Commission, and, without reference to records, I recall that the economic survey showed that for several of the slum areas it was costing the City of Philadelphia in city services (utilities, social and anti-social costs, etc.) from 2½ to 6½ times the amount of money which the City received in taxes annually from these slum areas. Similar surveys in other large urban centers revealed that this condition is not peculiar to Philadelphia.

Further, the real slum-clearance projects of the public housing program (do not confuse this with any of the temporary war housing programs) have very substantially, if not entirely, eliminated the social and anti-social city costs, and the Housing Authorities are paying into the city treasuries amounts equal to or greater than the city's costs of furnishing the customary city services (street cleaning and

lighting, garbage collection, sewer service, police patrol, etc.) to the slum clearance areas.

"With the physical deterioration of homes . . . comes the physical and moral deterioration of those who live in those homes," writes Mr. Larson, who then defines a "slum" as "a place of habitation . . . lacking light and air or which, because of structural or sanitary conditions, becomes unfit for human habitation." He fails to include the lack of community amenities that are recognized as necessary for American standards of living as being included in a well-designed residential neighborhood. These amenities include, on the basis of the population of the residential cell unit, play, sitting and indoor and outdoor recreation areas, school facilities, parking capacities, neighborhood stores; also having the local interior streets so laid out that through traffic would be discouraged. The whole cell so designed that blight-creating conditions now prevalent in our large urban centers would be non-existent.

Quoting Mr. Larson: "What has caused the change in the average block—which may be duplicated by the thousands?" History shows that if the prerequisites cited

in the preceding paragraph had been recognized in planning the neighborhood, conditions of incipient blight could not prevail. In confirmation of this statement, we can offer entire slum neighborhoods that were rehabilitated into slum-clearance housing projects, and immediately, individually and collectively, the families demonstrated the human desire to "pull itself up with its own boot straps" by bending every effort to maintain American living standards considered minima for their particular stratum of society.

MR. RODIER:

I come now to that part of Mr. Larson's article to which I take most strenuous exception and which I quote:

"Poor construction and bad planning have been characteristic of most of the government-sponsored housing construction. Most of the slum-clearance projects will again be slums in but a few years. The cost of the Government projects has been much greater than if planned and built by those having had experience in good housing construction. War-time hysteria is the inevitable excuse for all the blundering which has been done. It is to be hoped that we have seen

the end of government-sponsored housing projects." To condemn most projects by such a sweeping statement is to indict a very large segment of the A.I.A. membership. And to say that the government-sponsored slum-clearance projects were characteristically of poor construction is simply to make a misstatement. Perhaps Mr. Larson, in common with a well-known radio commentator, has confused the slum-clearance housing with war housing, which, admittedly, is not too well constructed because, among other reasons, there happens to be a war in progress and because the temporary nature of war housing prohibits the wasting of manpower, materials, and dollars in first-class construction.

The flat statement is made that "most of the slum clearance projects will again be slums in but a few years." One is permitted to assume that no one would make such a chilling prophecy for publication in a serious, professional journal unless the prophet of gloom had made a studied survey of at least a majority of the 422 slum-clearance projects to which he refers; it would, therefore, be interesting to know exactly how many such projects Mr. Larson has actually seen, how much time he

spent in their study, and the basis for his conclusions. However, I may at least say this: if Mr. Larson is right in his repeated statements that keeping properties free from rubbish, maintaining the yards in a neat and orderly manner, making all repairs and repainting as needed, will prevent the disintegrating of housing neighborhoods into slums, then he is dead wrong when he says that the slum-clearance projects will themselves degenerate into slums, since these projects are *well* maintained and cared for and will *continue* to be.

Next is the statement that these projects cost more than they would have had they been planned and built by "men of experience in good housing construction." This, again, is an indictment of many A.I.A. men and, in addition, of a very large number of the best building construction companies in the country who bid in open competition for the jobs. Aside from the obvious fact that such a statement is more or less meaningless and that it belongs in the category of things not susceptible to proof, it must always be borne in mind that the funds for these projects were not *given* to the local Housing Authorities which built them but were *loaned*, and the loans are

being, and will continue to be, repaid with interest.

The Government's prime financial interest is in the subsidy it pays, and this subsidy is best reduced through low cost of repairs, maintenance, and replacements; this, in turn, is minimized by building into the projects a reasonable degree of quality and permanence which, as everyone knows, costs money. Thus the project which costs less initially than another project, is not necessarily the least costly to the Government in the long run. Moreover, Mr. Larson may not be aware of the fact that the United States Housing Act, under which these projects were financed, required that the cost of dwellings provided be no greater than the cost of comparable privately developed housing. Is it suggested that this part of the law has been violated?

"Wartime hysteria is the inevitable excuse for all the blundering which has been done." Let us be charitable and suggest that wartime hysteria caused Mr. Larson to forget that the slum-clearance program was suspended when the war started! And public housers were no more psychic in sensing the imminence of the war, or more prone to go into a state of hysteria

as a result, than were the great majority of non-bureaucrats.

MR. MORGAN:

As one architect to another, I ask Mr. Larson how can we make a blanket statement that "cost of these government projects has been much greater . . ." when we recognize that they were planned and engineered by technically trained men of recognized ability, that the construction costs were all on a public competitive basis, and that the contractors were reputable, otherwise not acceptable to the Federal Government? In the same paragraph he says: "It is to be hoped that we have seen the end of government-sponsored housing projects." Supplementing the above statements, I respectfully refer you to the first paragraph of "Housing for Britain," by Ralph Walker of New York, which is the next following article to Mr. Larson's in the *May Journal*. Recognizing that England built 3,100,000 dwelling units during the period 1920-1931, I call to your attention Mr. Walker's statements which read: "Much of it (housing) was done by public agents, especially in the beginning. . . Later the great mass was built by private money." He continues: "One must confess

that, in comparison the private enterprise development, with rare exceptions, suffers with that of public housing."

Should Mr. Larson need further convincing evidence, I suggest that he peruse Chapter VI of the recently published book "Seven Myths of Housing," by Nathan Straus. I'm sure he will find it very illuminating. I have found, too often, that individuals are too prone to criticise and condemn the "public program" without first having full detailed knowledge of all the facets comprised in a housing project.

Further, national surveys have exposed that one-third of all the families in the country live in sub-standard housing and that one-third of these families (i. e. 10% of all families) earn incomes that make it economically impossible, on the American capitalistic system, for private interests to construct dwellings to house these families. As a solution for this problem, I am convinced that a well-balanced program of private and public housing would ultimately eliminate the slums, while at the same time the entire building industry and the nation as a whole would benefit directly or indirectly.

MR. RODIER:

Finally, the pious hope is expressed that we have seen the end of government-sponsored housing projects. Strange as it may seem, many of us who are engaged in public housing cherish the same hope, but we know that this cannot be fulfilled—if slums are to be wiped out—until our economic condition is so mended that poverty is also wiped out. And while I am not so pessimistic as the Bible is on this particular subject, I should not like to hold my breath until this happy state arrives.

MR. MORGAN:

Mr. Larson concludes: "We must approach the whole problem with preventive measures." I agree with this statement whole-heartedly, but I am satisfied that the rehabilitation of blighted areas cannot be done by locking the stable door after the horse has vanished. The preventive measures he suggests are applicable to new subdivision areas, but the elimination of the urban blighted areas is decidedly a different problem, and subject to solution by a well-balanced public and private housing program based upon the concepts above mentioned.

The Modern House of 1992

By *Gordon Allen, F. A. I. A.*

Reprinted by permission from the *Harvard Alumni Bulletin*, January 30, 1943

It will be remembered by the oldest citizens that in 1950, twelve years before the defeat and hanging of Hitler, he made a separate peace with the United States which resulted in his control of the eastern part of this country for ten unpleasant years. The Fuehrer decreed that all buildings designed by architects who had lived more than one generation in America should be destroyed, and a fine of ten billion reichmarks was imposed to pay for rebuilding everything in the Central European manner, now so familiar to us all. The story

of the ultimate revolt by the Mississippi Valley Guerrillas, which finally achieved our freedom but left us financially unable to undertake any more building for nearly a generation, is an old story.

The following account, written in May, 1992, tells of the first struggles of designers to break away from the bonds of Central European tradition which had bound them for so long, and the effect on the public of the earliest examples of what has become known among us as the Anglo-Saxon Revolt.

FILLED with curiosity to see the most daring examples of modern architecture, we were conducted one May morning on a sight-seeing tour of some of the latest houses. The weather was perfect . . .

The houses open for inspection were numerous, but the last one visited, designed by Professor Inigo Wren for himself, combined so many of their most modern features that a description of that house alone may well serve as a résumé of all the startlingly functional attributes of the group.

The first shock came before we

had reached the house. All architects are familiar with the old problem, never satisfactorily solved, of protecting from the weather that long promenade from the driveway to the house. The Great Masters of the 1930's had gone so far as to provide a flat roof supported by—guess what—yes, by lally columns; but experience has shown that this is a protection only when it is snowing, let us say, gently and absolutely vertically; and we had come to think of the problem as insoluble. But how did Professor Wren settle this knotty problem? Why, by bringing his

driveway to the doorstep, no less. Simple, is it not? Yet for fifty years nobody had thought of this. Such is the modern mind, trained to approach every problem with the conviction that any difficulty can be conquered by what Professor Wren calls "functional thinking."

As we alighted, the first thing that struck the eye was that instead of the flat deck we had become accustomed to, this house had a roof, sloping steeply front and back, and covered with thin stones, laid so that one overlapped the other in orderly courses from the bottom to the top. We, who had been taught to believe that no architect can touch a pitch roof without being defiled, were naturally shocked at first, but Professor Wren assured us that in a climate such as ours, with extremes of temperature, and lots of snow, it would prove a practical feature; and when we were shown over the house by Mrs. Wren, we found that it also provided a tent-shaped space over the second floor which was useful for storing skis, perambulators, trunks, and even odd pieces of disused furniture. Professor Wren assured us that this space, which he called his attic (from an ancient Greek word),

should help considerably in insulating the house from heat and cold, and that if it could be proved to be functional, it must needs be beautiful. Perhaps so, but for some of us it seemed a strange distortion of form. Professor Wren thinks this roof-form may do away entirely with those annoying leaks to which we have become accustomed, as he has discovered by laboratory experiments that water runs down hill.

The first thing that struck us as we were taken into the Living Centre was that the entire inside of the house was divided into "rooms," with fixed walls, and with floors of naked wood instead of that fawn-colored carpet we had come to think of as a *sine qua non*. On this were placed at intervals rugs of woven wool in pleasing designs, so that the inevitable spots made by muddy boots, children, and very young dogs were hardly noticeable and easily cleaned away. The books in this strange room were kept on shelves, not at the floor level under the windowsills, but actually mounting up the walls of the room. This may institute a new method of reading, as one can now see the title of the book before taking it off the shelf. Efficiency again!

There were two outside walls to this room, and Professor Wren had introduced a breath-taking note by his novel arrangement of windows. Instead of the stereotyped sheets of somewhat dirty plate-glass to which we are accustomed, with two little sections arranged to open for the weekly airing, Professor Wren had designed five windows, three on the south and two on the west, each only about a yard wide, and all of them, if you please, designed to open, top and bottom, with an ingenious arrangement of sash sliding up and down. This, as can be seen, leaves wall-spaces between the windows, but they turned out not to be so disagreeable or dark a feature as might have been feared, and even served as a background for pieces of furniture, not built-in but movable—a revolutionary feature indeed! Professor Wren, whose incisive brain leaves no practical problems unsolved, claims that some day someone may wish to try swapping two pieces from one position to another.

The fireplace in this room was not placed in a corner but was actually in the middle of one of the long walls, and well over the usual 18" x 24" in size; sofas and chairs were grouped around it so that

as many as six people could enjoy it at one time. The chimney itself, instead of being built of jagged fieldstone, was concealed by plaster walls, and a wood shelf, wide enough to take small objects, was built over the fireplace.

The other rooms on this floor were much like those in our own houses. A maid's sitting-room had been built, Professor Wren said, with the money saved by omitting the usual five sets of curtains, blinds, and shades here rendered unnecessary by the new type of window; this room obviated the necessity of the maids either taking their meals in their bedrooms or eating standing up in the kitchen, as they have become accustomed to doing.



The second floor was approached by stairs, quite ordinary except that they were fitted with risers. But something new had been added; the shocking number of crippling and even fatal accidents on staircases during the last half-century had led Professor Wren to invent what he calls a "stair rail," which fits comfortably into the hand and helps support one going either up or down, and with balusters only a few inches apart

so that even small children were safe from falling through. Hats off, we say, to Professor Wren for this!

With daring ingenuity he utilized the corners of the house to provide what he calls "cross-draft" in the four bedrooms by having windows in two walls. The more conservative among us feared this might in summer nights tempt the occupants to open two windows in one room, thus bringing about severe colds, pneumonia, or even death by exposure. The genial Professor, who seems to have an answer for everything, maintains that the Americans during the nineteenth century often exposed themselves thus with no ill effects.

The closets had doors instead of curtains, and the beds were fitted with footboards, on the theory (reasonable, perhaps) that a sleeper or prospective sleeper might con-

ceivably change his mind about the necessary number of blankets and want somewhere except the floor to lay the superfluous ones until they should be wanted.

Returning to Boston we found a spirit of eager controversy among the visitors; the gathering about evenly divided between approval and shocked resentment at the innovations we had seen. Some thought that Professor Wren and the other iconoclasts, with what they amusingly termed their "machines for living," were the pioneers of a great movement. But others said, "What do these Americans mean, trying to teach *us* how to build houses?" It is too early, perhaps, to make predictions, but at least these striking features of modern design bid fair to make people think. And when home-builders think, that is the beginning of the end.



"IN the present relationship of producer and industrial designer there is concern only for the product, *a* product, *any* product, to sell at a profit. The setting—physical, social or otherwise—in which that product is to be dumped does not concern our sales-minded industrial designers of today. (In this respect, architects are years ahead of our industrial designers. The habit of thinking in terms of a plan for the whole community is not new to them)".—PERCY SEITLIN in *Magazine of Art* for January.

Design Bureaus and Public Policy

By Robert B. O'Connor

PRESIDENT, NEW YORK CHAPTER, A. I. A.

Mr. O'Connor's professional experience, like that of Mr. A. Gordon Lorimer, to whose article, "The Bureau in Architecture," the former addresses himself, has been both public and private. As a partner of Benjamin Wistar Morris, F. A. I. A. in the firm of Morris & O'Connor up to 1943, his private practice is well known. During 1941 he served as Chief Architect and, for the most of the period, Chief Engineer as well, of the Army's Zone Constructing Quartermaster's Office, corresponding with the Second Corps Area, set up by Gen. Somervell to handle Army construction (except fortifications and certain air-fields).—EDITOR.

THE ARTICLE by A. Gordon Lorimer on "The Bureau in Architecture" which appeared in the April issue of the *Journal*, is to be welcomed. Mr. Lorimer's own experience in private practice and the high standard of his administrative work for the Department of Public Works of New York City give weight to his comments, quite aside from the commendably dispassionate tone of his remarks. The need for constructive progress in the complex relationship between the citizens of an industrialized democracy and their Government calls for a level of discussion well above that which has characterized too much of recent comment regarding the private architect or engineer and the Civil Service.

It is the special opportunity of an organization like The American Institute of Architects to take a

definite and unequivocal stand on a topic of such importance, but the considerations on which this stand is based should be those of long-range public policy, and further, the arguments on both sides must be presented with restraint and good humor if we are to make progress rather than merely to generate heat. What most of us are interested in attaining is a national atmosphere in which happiness and well-being are available to constantly increasing numbers, and in which the promise of architectural order and beauty is most successfully fulfilled.

At the outset, one point in Mr. Lorimer's article should be clarified, for it is obviously based on a misconception. He refers to a memorandum of the Executive Committee of the New York Chapter, A. I. A., which was prepared in January, 1944, as representing

contradictory, unrealistic, and inconsistent views of an architectural bureau's functions. Mr. Lorimer is speaking primarily of the problems which concern municipal agencies, in which he is himself directly interested. The memorandum of the New York Chapter Executive Committee, however, specifically referred to *Federal* bureaus, and was written in connection with hearings then being held in Congress. While some of the principles expressed might represent the feelings of the Executive Committee with regard to Civil Service bureaus generally, others would not apply and were not intended to apply. In fact, a major thesis of that memorandum was the insistence that Federal agencies should not usurp certain functions which historically and practically ought to be exercised by states and municipalities. The reference is therefore rather beside the point of Mr. Lorimer's argument and ought to be considered in its proper context.



Discussion often waxes furious over whether a particular piece of design by a public bureau is better or worse than the work of architects in private practice. Aside from the fact that the examples are

frequently not comparable, it happens to have been the case in the last fifteen years that many competent architects have worked in both roles. Obviously the capabilities of an individual are still his own, whether he happens to be engaged at one time on private work or at another time in a public bureau. In the period from 1932 to about 1937, many experienced and excellent architects were engaged on work of public agencies. The quality of the result was often outstanding and is always referred to by those in favor of design bureaus as an argument for their continuance. This is hardly sound. A temporary situation certainly does not prove the argument for long-term policy, and furthermore, some of the most outspoken opponents of design bureaus in the Government are just these members of the architectural profession who had that experience.

The point, it seems to me, is not that the work of design bureaus should be increased or decreased depending upon whether resourceful and competent architects are available in them in large numbers, or are more generally employed in private practice. It is rather, whether public bureaus should, in the long run, be kept to the small-

est possible number and size as a matter of policy. It is my belief that they should; that their work should properly be administration rather than design; and that it ought to be in the hands of extremely competent men adequately paid.

It is often forgotten that the vast expansion of bureaucratic government was one of the important factors leading up to the American as well as the French Revolution. The Declaration of Independence specifically lists in its recital of the grievances which the Colonies had suffered: "(The King) has erected a multitude of New Offices and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance." Among present-day arguments as to the need for bureaus, there is much that would have sounded familiar to our forefathers. But the political aphorism which was popular in the eighteenth century is still good doctrine and sound common sense, that "he governs best who governs least."

The jejune notion that our current problems are so complex as to place them beyond the scope of previous experience is one of the greatest obstacles to their solution. We do have a complex civilization, and ways must be found to cope

with its complexity. But let us not be so blind to the lessons of history and the facts of human nature that we run from one confusion into a confusion worse confounded. The difficulties of large-scale control which are evident in our great economic enterprises, where every incentive of business gain encourages success, ought to warn political theorists that such control is even more difficult of attainment by those whose training and interests are primarily political. Despite the fascination of an organization chart, no way has yet been found to keep them from growing except by rigid limitations of the functions to be performed. Let us then put our efforts on cooperative techniques where the problems are broken down into reasonable size, and limit the political intervention to the smallest practicable administrative oversight.

In matters of public architecture there are large and highly important problems for the bureau to undertake. But the arguments for extending these from the largely administrative areas to full-scale design are far from conclusive. Statistical and social research, which is desirable in the formulation of coherent public policies, is a proper function of the bureau.

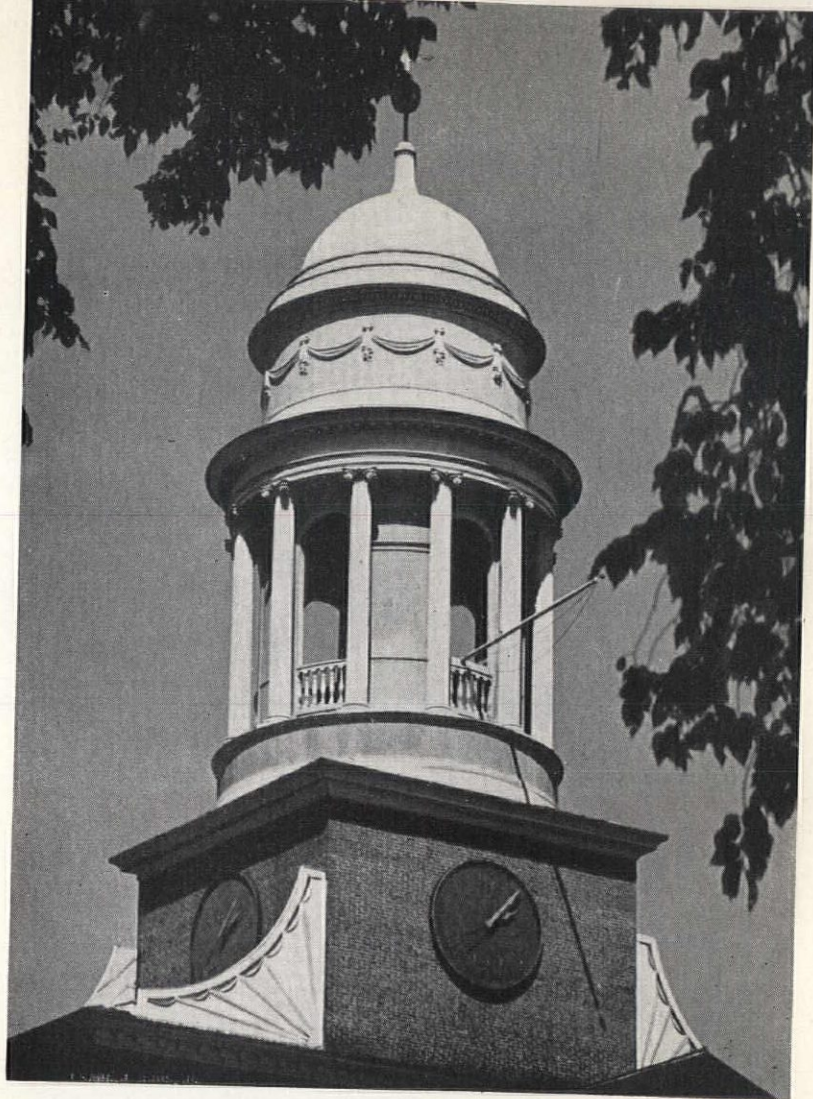
On the other hand, I do not believe that bureaus must design public buildings to put into practice the experience gained from their maintenance of such property. Maintenance experience constitutes a valuable body of data. It is the basis of the progress which has been made for hundreds of years in building construction and is hardly the monopoly of the bureau. Any large management agency, whether it be a public bureau, a real estate concern, or a private operator, can give important advice from their practical experience with designs which they must maintain. So far as this is available in public bureaus, it should be in form to be utilized by designing architects and general public alike. It is extremely doubtful if support can be found for the statement that the architect is apt to be "too much absorbed in the quest for new work or the execution of current work to put much study into the occupancy or maintenance failures of his previous creations." The reason that some offices are more successful than others in the increasingly competitive world of today is very largely that their reputation in regard to practical economy and efficiency is superior to others.

In the question of contract docu-

ments there is also much to be learned from accumulated experience, and the good architectural offices have for years bent every effort to improve this phase of their service. But again, any organization, public or private, which has continuous experience with construction contracts through the years can and should itself assemble a great deal of pertinent data. This, in the case of public bodies, should be available to the architect performing work for the government. It is too often assumed by the bureaus that information they assemble is somehow their own personal property, and they forget that all public information is gathered at the cost of the taxpayer and is legitimately his.



While the custom of breaking down public construction contracts between general construction and separate mechanical trades is legally imposed in many states, it is hardly realistic to fancy that the coordination of the several contracts does not cost the public money at some point. It either costs money in the form of architectural fees for the added burden of this job coordination, or in the form of additional supervision by



TOWER, THE FIRST CHURCH, 1816
LANCASTER, MASS.
CHARLES BULLFINCH, ARCHITECT
Photograph by Frank J. Roos, Jr.



Do you know this building?

THE STATE HOUSE, COLUMBUS, OHIO—1839-56
ARCHITECTS: HENRY WALTER, WM. R. WEST, N. B. KELLY,
THOMAS U. WALTER, RICHARD UPJOHN, ISAIAH ROGERS

the public bureaus if they undertake to perform this same service. In the opinion of this writer the general contractor is better qualified in most instances to do this coordination, and its cost under competitive bidding is not likely to be as great as that of the architectural bureau. A check must of course be maintained in the public interest, and such a check should be made on the technical side by the designing architect and on the financial side by the government agency.

A point has been made of the fact that architects generally do not prepare "detailed estimates showing breakdown of materials and equipment." It could properly be pointed out that this has not been the practice until fairly recently of architectural bureaus either, though it has been the practice for a much longer period in engineering projects, both public and private. Certainly in periods of national emergency, with their critical shortages of labor and materials, it is important to have the information contained in quantity surveys of building designs. The writer's own experience with this problem, both in a large public bureau and as a private practitioner working for the government, indi-

cates quite clearly that the accuracy of the quantity estimates made by public bureaus is not always of the superior grade that Mr. Lorimer in his article implies. Bureaus vary in the competence of their personnel as do architectural offices, and capabilities which may be represented in a bureau like the Department of Public Works of the City of New York cannot be taken as a standard to be found throughout the length and breadth of the country. The competitive struggle which is always behind the private architect, driving him to increased efficiency, is lacking in the Civil Service bureau, and it is a lack which makes it difficult for human beings generally to maintain the highest level of technical service.

It has been suggested that the staff of an architectural bureau should be stabilized at a point where it can coordinate the work of private architects during peak years, or in programs of special magnitude, while in years of a minimum program the bureau can fully execute a large part of the design. A certain amount of stability is understandable, and it is one of the principal attractions of Civil Service employment. But where stability is a major interest,

the urge to do nothing which will adversely affect that stability is very strong in human nature. It just isn't in the cards for the average man in a position which might be jeopardized by independence to "stick his neck out" for new and different ideas. For a period exceptional men may do so, and bring a design bureau to a high state of excellence, but in the long run the deadening effects of bureaucracy have never yet failed to make their appearance. A system would seem preferable by which there would be greater fluidity in the personnel of the bureaus dealing with design by means of certain limited appointments. This would incidentally make it possible to handle the peak periods without building up a permanent staff so large that they would have to undertake direct design in off times.

Somehow we must find a way to make the architectural bureau an

agency of greater value to the public, without inviting those age-old disadvantages of an all-consuming bureaucracy. There is no likely stopping place if bureaus once become invested with the right of replacing the private citizen on work which he must do to find taxes with which to support the government. It is inevitable that more and more work will have a public interest, and if we do not clearly read the lessons of history we will lose those very advantages of public welfare which are the argument most often and most compellingly used to support the extension of political controls. I believe it is up to the architectural profession, both within and outside of the bureaus, to work for a solution which will secure the advantages we all desire, and avoid the dangers which our emotions rather than our intelligence would lead us into.

A NATIVE ELECTRICIAN in India was installing a base plug for an impressive housewife. In his anxiety to please, he bothered her so much for instructions that she finally said: "You know what to do—just use your common sense!" With a deep salaam, the electrician replied, "Madam, common sense is a rare gift from Heaven; I have only a technical education."—HERBERT J. POWELL in accepting the presidency of the Southern California Chapter.

Beachhead for Architects

By *Abram Garfield, F. A. I. A.*

THERE IS a disposition, nowadays, to believe that the only way to accomplish a city plan is to start with a map of the city and to superimpose a group of different sized, accurately drafted circles. It makes an intricate and interesting diagram, but a public—beginning to have some anxiety about what is to happen to its cities—looks at plans of this sort and is frankly puzzled.

There is no intention in this paper to show that the work of many planning commissions is other than admirable, nor to dispute the fact that, without these central technical bodies, nothing sensible could be accomplished. You will understand that. I do, nevertheless, wish to point out an underlying weakness which may destroy the effectiveness of the best plans which have been made and to suggest a way to meet this danger.

The replanning of our cities, is, after all, a new problem and the need for its solution hardly existed before the beginning of the century. The consciousness of this need, moreover, was not brought about by a public demand, gradually

becoming vocal, which forced the city authorities to take official and vigorous action. The damage following rapid transit and the consequent need for planning in advance was observed by a few students only, who at first had difficulty in obtaining a hearing.

To give point to what this involves, consider for a moment a few of the departments of city government—Law, Welfare, Safety, Health, the Schools. Think, then, of the private organizations which are not elected or appointed but exist by their own choice because of active interest in the work which the different departments of city government are set up to do. There is a Bar Association. Physicians, organized for their own purposes, at the same time keep watch of the public health. There are Parent Teachers' Associations and many groups which are interested in child welfare, helpless old age and the many other needs and delinquencies of city life. These are only a few of many. The elected officials of a city are under constant scrutiny by these private associations which are interested in

the various aspects of city life, and it is probable that every department of city government, in the beginning, came into existence because of the previous and pressing demand of certain considerable groups of citizens.



The lack of this important background of public knowledge and interests is the weakness which underlies the plans and studies of planning commissions. It is well to remember that plans which are developed and proposed by such commissions are, and in fact should be, dependent upon the action of the elected city government and that this group of elected councilmen, or by whatever name they may be called, are more interested in the wishes and interests of those who elect them than in the views of any appointed body. For our purposes it may also be remembered, conversely, that the elected ones will carry out the wishes of those who elect them, and if pressure comes from that direction it may be depended upon that something will happen.

I believe it may be said that no plan other than traffic plans, which are pretty well understood, can be imposed upon an unwilling or even

uninterested or uninformed public. If a city plan, no matter how expertly worked out, is to be other than impermanent, it must have back of it a public understanding and demand.

It is asking too much of the most energetic plan commission to educate the public so that it will fully understand. What is needed is a slowly developing citizen consciousness that one's living surroundings are not good, and a knowledge of how to give useful expression to this discontent.

I am suggesting as a means of help towards this end the old method of neighborhood association. It is very simple to imagine but at the same time very hard to carry out, and I am offering the leadership to the architects because there is reason to believe they are better fitted than others for this particular task, if they are willing and have the courage to assume it.

I shall describe a framework which already exists and is working very well in this city, some parts of which will be found under different names in other places.

There is the City Planning Commission which, after many years, is supplied with adequate public funds so that it can do and is doing well

the work which planning commissions are expected to do.

There is the Real Property Inventory, a fact-finding organization supported by both public and private funds. It makes no analyses and draws no conclusions.

A third agency is the Regional Association, supported entirely by private funds. This organization is an independent planning agency somewhat similar to the City Planning Commission but is not limited to the city. Its studies extend outside to any limits it may choose. It is a completely independent citizen's group and its findings may or may not agree with those of the City Planning Commission. So far, they have happened to avoid overlapping or controversy; and both of these agencies call upon the Real Property Inventory for facts.

The Regional Association is not unlike the usual planning commission in that it is an office made up of men trained to the physical problems of the city. While it is backed by private subscription, this support comes from a limited group and it cannot yet be said that the association represents organized public opinion. That has been one of its prime objectives and with this end in view it has gotten out an illustrated handbook designed to

aid small neighborhoods or districts in a study of their own problems. The illustrations show simple solutions of common faults in street planning, how to overcome the adjacency of undesirable elements. It takes up many other situations and all of the questions and answers are reduced to terms which are easily comprehended by a "town meeting." With this as a guide and with *proper leadership*, any neighborhood may begin to find out something about itself and to express its wishes and needs. We are sending this handbook abroad to all sorts of local organizations and of course are urging each of them to take the leadership.



A somewhat widespread interest is already beginning to show its head, but if neighborhoods are left entirely to themselves one might expect a flood of unrelated plans. Some plans might be good, others wholly impossible. Two neighborhoods might each have perfectly reasonable plans which did not fit the one with the other. The Regional Association prepares to meet this situation by keeping in touch with the leaders and acting as a clearing-house to sort out, guide and coordinate plans so that rea-

sonable suggestions are brought to the City Planning Commission for review. Then, if approved, they are passed on to the legislative body for action.

If an orderly method of presentation can thus be brought about, it will be the beginning of that background of public understanding which is now lacking and which I believe is essential to success.

The work here suggested, of taking the leadership in neighborhoods, is open for a large number, and no extensive preparation is required for a beginning. It is quite possible that an architect will know someone in his district who has a wider acquaintance and knowledge as to which groups are the best for the purpose of making a start. He must use all the help he can find and not try to take all of the credit. He has certain abilities useful for the purpose and should depend upon these to bring about leadership. It is nevertheless no easy piece of work. It is not exciting nor is it dramatic, at least not until success has been achieved by a considerable number of groups in any given town. If architects can make a success of this, they will have accomplished a public service of a high order.

One may ask why architects

may be expected to succeed where others are liable to fail. The answer is not simply the usual one, that we are trained to coordinate the work of many trades. This may be true and it may help in coordinating the many interests of a given neighborhood, but I believe the answer is that all other agencies eliminate themselves by having a point of view too much narrowed to their particular interest—welfare interests, traffic experts, parent teachers' associations, real estate operators and banks. Then there are the churches, and the merchants, and leaders of industry. None of these should be overlooked and must be brought into the "town meeting" so that all may be heard. The local councilman will be an important individual who can help or hinder, and you must make it your business to see that he helps.



The architect will have a hard time managing these diverse and sometimes contradictory interests. He can acquaint himself easily with the main intentions of the City Planning Commission, its master plan if it exists or, which is more probable, is in the making. He must keep neighborhood plans in

conformity with the large plans of the city. He will accept general conclusions as to land use more easily than some who are immediately affected. The same is true of street widenings and changes. He probably will have no property interest.

In addition to the architect's being in a position where no immediate financial interest is involved, he has certain abilities almost exclusively his own. He can draw. He understands maps and surveys quickly. He can make diagrams and visualize changes more readily than another. The simple ability of going to a blackboard and illustrating roughly certain street changes or revamping of areas is an extremely useful accomplishment, and may often hold the attention of an audience otherwise confused by verbal description.

Very few architects know how to run a meeting and have small ability in talking on their feet. Here in this city a group of younger architects have employed an instructor and are taking a course in public speaking and the presentation of subjects and programs.

For the purpose of this paper the subject has been simplified, and an extremely difficult undertaking

made to sound quite possible. It is quite possible, but success will depend upon persistence in the face of indifference. There is, nevertheless, a public anxiety which is growing and one may find a certain eagerness to be shown and a method by which smaller neighborhoods can give expression to their discontent.

For real permanence I am asking for a demand coming from below but guided by the expert and intensive studies of qualified planning commissions and aided by widespread leadership in all neighborhoods.

Finally, if this can be made to work, it is truly our American Way. Things are accomplished, somewhat through the back door, by trial and error. More nearly perfect city plans may be made, and it is our training as architects to prefer the more expertly thought-out plan; but in the end, when a considerable minority outside of the professions has made up its mind, a compromise is achieved. It may not look so well on paper but, very often, it works. It may not fully satisfy the expert but, as has been well said in regard to other things, no matter how brilliant the imported plumage, we do not make America, America makes us!

The Washington Scene

By D. K. Este Fisher, Jr.

WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE, A.I.A.

THE officers of A.I.A., and undoubtedly the membership, would have expected of the Washington Representative a report to the Annual Meeting on his view of "the state of the profession" at this juncture. Since postponement of the Annual Meeting made that impossible, your Representative presents some thoughts in point, in this article.

Much has been said both privately and publicly about the sad plight of the architect. We have seared ourselves for the past several years with both official and informal soul-searching. It is to be hoped that by now we have sufficiently exposed and recognized our shortcomings; that the refining process has been carried far enough for the dross to be run off and the fine metal to be now ready for casting in a significant mold for the future. There is pertinent comment on this thought in the articles by Judge Niles in the March *Journal* and by Mr. Brooks in the April *Journal*. May the profession now assume an attitude—a position in our communities, similar to that of

the medical profession in its constantly enlightened interest in public welfare—in its willingness to give its best, in that interest, without stint and often without direct material compensation.

In line with this general thought it has been pointed out repeatedly that the Washington Representative proposes to let no opportunity pass in which architects' service can be brought to the fore, in which their willingness to accept responsibility or leadership can be offered, and to make such statements as any occasion may demand to put before the public the architects' position on questions of public interest on which the profession should, legitimately, be heard. In making such statements he has, so far, been forced to rely largely upon his own judgment—he makes no claim to infallibility and will undoubtedly make mistakes; he assumes only to have a somewhat better opportunity than most to judge the temper of the profession. It cannot be urged too strongly that Chapters and individual members *must* learn to carry their own burdens

throughout the year, not just periodically at convention time, and on other special occasions, and must keep A.I.A. informed of their opinions on important matters. The architect's expectation that the A.I.A., by the wave of a wand, by virtue of a statement, or a "smooth" visit at the "proper" point by a committee, or by the Washington Representative, can "pass a miracle" and cure all his ills, seems all of a piece with what a friend in A.S.C.E. calls the "mendicant attitude" of the American public, engendered by the philosophy that all *Good* centers in Washington.

Are we a mendicant people—are we architects a mendicant profession? God forbid! The place where ills are to be cured is in "the grass roots"—in the Chapters and in the spirits of individual architects. We are engaged in "unification"—in an effort to bring all architects of good will into The A.I.A., to strengthen our professional organization. That strengthening should not be looked on as the creation of a new "pressure group"—a stronger "lobby" to undertake the curing, at Washington, of all our ills. Rather should it be the creation of a profession more closely knit in common fellowship

of public service, of exchange of ideas, of leveling (at a high level) the inequalities of personal architectural service—one in which petty jealousy and mutual derogation are made distinctly *infra dig.* Our Chapters and our individual members must grow to manhood with relation to our professional body, as well as to their local responsibilities, and tell The A.I.A. which, after all, is *only* their general representative, how it shall perform in their interest, rather than cry to A.I.A. for cure-alls. This should be trumpeted, morning, noon and night.

To summarize these thoughts:—

1. Architects have wept over their lost (if it is lost!) prestige, and must recover it, or their self-assurance, by being more genuinely part of their own business-community activities and by giving freely of their time and talents in the public interest.

2. In present fast-moving times, to wait on convention action to express the position of the profession on important questions of the day would mean that the profession could default through silence; offers of public service by A.I.A. or expressions of opinion or policy by A.I.A., through the Washington

Representative, can only be representative of the profession's point of view if A.I.A. be kept constantly informed of Chapter and individual opinion.

3. With the increase of strength and cohesion of the profession to be hoped for through the unification procedures now in progress, Chapter organizations and individuals should take more genuinely active parts, in their own communities, in discussions and decisions on questions of broad public policy of especial interest to the profession, in order that A.I.A. may be kept up to date and fully informed throughout the year on professional opinion.



Related to the above comments, it seems most urgent that A.I.A. should take, and express publicly, its position with regard to a matter of public policy which seems likely to have immediate national importance.

At hearings before the House Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds (the "Lanham Committee") in January, the Washington Representative made a statement and was engaged in colloquy with committee members which, *in effect*, expressed A.I.A.'s position as

being in favor of:—1—immediate general production of plans and specifications for post-War projects; 2—Federal aid to states and local governments, on a loan basis, to stimulate such post-War planning for genuinely necessary local public works; and in opposition to 1—Federal activities of the WPA stamp; 2—general Federal financing of local public works construction.

Apparently the *positive* side of this situation has been accepted by A.I.A. membership without adverse comment. On the other hand, the wording of the statement of the *negative* side has, to your Representative's considerable surprise, been interpreted by some A.I.A. members and by some government officials as being in specific *opposition to public housing*. This leads him to advocate most strongly that the A.I.A. position in regard to public housing be clarified and be stated unequivocally. Hearings before the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia (the "Burton Committee") have developed into a free-for-all fight on public housing as represented by the accomplishments of the National Capital Housing Authority (formerly the "Alley Dwelling Authority"). The Washington Representative

has taken no active part in these hearings since the subject is primarily a local one. However, the National Association of Real Estate Boards, and more particularly the National Association of Home Builders of the U. S., apparently propose to use this fight as a sounding-board to spread opposition to public housing throughout the country.

It appears, therefore, to be desirable that A.I.A. should state, *first*, what it understands "public housing" to mean, and *second*, whether A.I.A. favors or opposes public housing as so defined. Certainly the architectural profession is not only entitled to be heard on this subject, but has a public responsibility to both hold and express an opinion on it.



With respect to other matters of general interest to the profession your Representative reports as follows:—

1. The Representative continues to sit, vice Mr. Ashton, in meetings of the Construction Industry Advisory Group and of its sub-committee on relaxation of Restrictive Order L-41. That sub-committee is now actively engaged in working with a small group in

WPB headed by Mr. Harlow Lewis, in an effort to develop a workable procedure for gradual interim and post-War relaxation of restrictions on civilian construction.

2. The American Society of Civil Engineers, particularly through its Committee on Post-War Construction (G. Donald Kennedy, Chairman) and through its new Washington Representative, Mr. C. Lawrence Chandler, continues to show every desire for friendly and active cooperation with A.I.A. They have recently set up a field force under the leadership of Messrs. Vincent B. Smith and Mark B. Owen, with headquarters at 330 West 42nd St, New York City, which will attempt to survey the present status and immediate prospects of preparation of post-War plans and specifications for projects. Our membership should take an active part in assisting this effort, as the present condition of almost wholly unreliable information on the subject is a great handicap to all post-War thinking.

3. The President and the Washington Representative have had a series of meetings with Mr. Herbert Emmerich, Commissioner of FPHA and his assistants. Largely at Mr. Emmerich's insistence, an interview which had been intended

as a brief conversation to renew contacts and smooth relations which had become intermittent and somewhat strained during the war, was extended into a series of meetings totaling about five hours, covering the whole range of architect-FPHA relations. Mr. Emmerich specifically asked for our assistance and cooperation in developing post-War procedures, including fees and contracts more mutually agreeable than recent arrangements. Mr. Ashton proposes to appoint a special committee for this purpose. Mr. Emmerich has since resigned to return to civil life, but we are assured, by later conversation, that his assistants who remain and Mr. Philip M. Klutznick, of the NHA staff, his successor, will carry on the relationship established.

4. In connection with the above, the Representative hopes that the committee to be appointed will deal with the whole question of fee schedules to be established by FPHA, FWA (PBA) and other Federal agencies, for post-War use; and *also* will state to the membership a sensible basis for viewing the fee question, which will distinguish

between the old 6% basic fee, applicable to standard service on moderate-size individual buildings, and other fee bases dictated by repetitive designs, restricted or partial service, broader types of "over-all" planning (such as city planning projects), and other considerations. It is clear to the Representative that very many of the profession have shown lack of a reasonable approach to the contemporary trend in fees. Those who insist on approaching every fee negotiation, regardless of the size or scope of the project, with the general attitude that "the architect's fee is 6%—period—" do themselves and the profession great harm by appearing unrealistic and unbusinesslike, in the face of present and probable future conditions.



In addition to the publications on housing mentioned in his Bulletin No. 27, the Washington Representative desires to call attention to "Memorandum on Post-War Urban Housing," UAW-CIO, 411 West Milwaukee, Detroit, Mich., just published.

"We commemorate our heroes by erecting statues. We would be showing more honor to them by taking down and burying most of the statues we have."—ROGER ALLEN.

Books & Bulletins

ROMAN TOWNS. Photographs and text by Ernest Nash. 208 pp. 7" x 9½". New York: 1944: J. J. Augustin, 141 E. 29th St. \$6.

A timely volume of photographs taken mostly in Pompeii, Herculaneum, Rome and Ostia—timely because to the fury of Vesuvius, incidentally an effective agent of preservation, has now been added the fury of bombing. A goodly number of photographs here reproduced show monuments that have since become rubble.

THE ARCHITECTONIC CITY IN THE AMERICAS: Significant Forms, Origins and Prospects, by Hugo Leipziger. 68 pp. and 40 plates of illu., 9" x 12". Austin, Texas: 1944: The University of Texas.

An item in the Municipal Studies sponsored by the Bureaus of Engineering Research and Municipal Research and by the University's Institute of Latin-American Studies. Recognizing the fact that Texas is strategically situated to base its community development on regional as well as on modern technological influences and needs, Mr. Leipziger, of the University's

architectural faculty, has undertaken the study of the region's archeological heritage and the possibilities of utilizing it in conformity with the advances of our technology in better planning and building.

DENSITIES IN NEW YORK CITY. A report to the Citizens' Housing Council by the Committee on City Planning and Zoning; Henry S. Churchill, A.I.A., chairman; Wm. H. Ludlow, research assistant. 110 pp. 8¼" x 10¾", paper cover. New York: 1944: Citizens' Housing Council of N. Y. 470 Fourth Ave. \$1.

An examination of present and probable future population densities, to determine maximum densities that should be permitted, with suggestions as to how new building could be regulated so as to keep densities below these maxima.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POSTWAR HOUSING IN CHICAGO, March 8-10, 1944. 230 pp. 5¾" x 8¾", paper cover. New York: 1944: National Committee on Housing, Inc., 512 Fifth Ave. The addresses and discussions of

the Conference. A Committee on recommendations has been appointed to study these proceedings and form conclusions to be embodied in a series of recommendations.

FREEDOM FROM FEAR. By Louis H. Pink. Foreword by Owen D. Young. 262 pp. 5" x 8".

New York: 1944: Harper & Brothers. \$2.50.

A survey of elements that make for this freedom—insurance, hospitalization, public housing, social security and the like—with which the author discusses the interrelation of domestic and international programs.



Highlights of the Technical Press

Liturgical Arts, May: The Delight of the Innocent Eye (an interpretation of contemporary art), by Henry Clifford; 4 pp. t. & ill.

Architect and Engineer, May: Studies for a World Trade Center, San Francisco; Univ. of Calif.; under Prof. Michael Goodman; 12 pp. t. & ill. Post-War Building Program for City of South Gate, Southern California; William Allen and W. G. Lutzi, architects; 4 pp. t. & ill.

The Architectural Record, May: 16 Ways of Daylighting Classrooms, by Douglas Haskell; and Graphic Estimating of Daylight, by J. M. Dalla Valle; 10 pp. t., diags. & ill. Building Types Study of Power Plants, in collaboration

with *Power Plant Engineering*; 20 pp. t. & ill. Household Closets, Part II, a Time-Saver Standard; 6 pp. t. & diags.

The Architectural Forum, May: Fontana Steel Mill, Fontana, Calif.; Donald R. Warren, engineer; Birge M. & David B. Clark, architects; 8 pp. t. & ill. Two Dental Clinics; 6 pp. t. & ill. Preview of Museum of Modern Art's retrospective exhibition—"Built in U. S. A. 1932-44"; 16 pp. t. & ill.

Civil Engineering, June: "Seabees"—the Courageous Battalions, by Kirby Smith, Capt. U. S. N. R.; 4 pp. t. & ill. American Inter-Regional Highway System, II, by H. S. Fairbank; 4 pp. t. & ill.

The Editor's Asides

WHILE RESTING MY EYES from the reading of contemporary comment on things in general, I dozed recently at my desk. My secretary, hearing from my lips the opening words of what seemed to be an urgent message, grabbed notebook and pencil to record it. This is what she transcribed:

In these days, when the impact of dynamic cultural causes and the unleashing of social forces cry out for stimulating leadership among conflicting ideologies, we find, closely integrated with the significant contributions of history, the emphatic challenge of environment, a new concept of the miracle house, a dim notion of world collective security, and a better evaluation of sales resistance. Nevertheless, it behooves us to envision a realistic program for a stepped-up rehabilitation of man and the machine, a better pattern of living for the bureaucrat—particularly in the reorientation of his escapist entity—and for mobile economic systems stemming from the cyclical fluctuations heretofore accredited to the stabilization of a regimented consumer interest. Not that the status quo will be able to avoid the headaches in-

herent in the attempts to reconcile free enterprise as a factor culminating in the whole quota of incentive plans, non-aggression pacts, critical problems and all other substandard industries. Above all, let us not overlook, in our international role, the tangible evidences of inflation in gadget productivity that, from the springboard of technological advances, contacts a pincers movement at the level of community function, foreshadowing humanism in its prefabricated form, and possibly the immobilization of our whole world conflagration. If you know what I mean.

FIGURES, TABLES, GRAPHS of community schemes for post-War construction reach us in a stream that threatens a further shortage of paper. Practically all deal with volume of construction, without particularization as to just what is to be built. But out of the stream bobs up one project that is unique—Los Angeles talks of building a World's Fair. And it's a new kind of fair they have in mind—not a group of temporary stucco pavilions, but a "dispersed plan" through which Greater Los Angeles would find itself in pos-

session of a yacht harbor, a great bathing beach and recreation area, a civic center, an auditorium, an opera house, an airport, a water transport building and a system of parkways. Samuel Lunden, A.I.A., has just prepared a preliminary study of the scheme, published by the Haynes Foundation, and the Southern California Chapter has an Exposition Committee working on the idea, under the chairmanship of Sumner Spaulding.

THE EDITOR has been criticized. That is good. If he were not criticized he would suspect the post office of having failed to deliver the magazine to its subscribers.

One criticism is that the article "Slum Prevention", by Albert O. Larson, in the May *Journal* "is a perfect example of what I consider should *not* appear in the *Journal of the A.I.A.* unless it is accompanied by editorial comment disavowing A.I.A. agreement."

We have said before, and say again, that the *Journal* is a magazine of discussion. It is a platform for debate, not a Delphic oracle. From this platform you will hear many arguments—with some of which you will agree and to some of which you will dissent—possibly with heat, and from this same pub-

lic platform. Out of the debate, it is hoped, will come clearer thinking on the profession's problems.

Obviously, the Editor cannot step to the front of the platform and say: "Mr. Blank, A.I.A., is now going to tell you something with which The A.I.A. does not agree." The Editor has no authority to say what The A.I.A. believes or does not believe, even if he thought he knew. What The A.I.A. believes, at a given time, its convention may put into words. Then only is it an official belief, and that belief, of course, is subject to change at any moment.

No, the *Journal* is not a mirror of The Institute's official thought. It is, we hope, a mirror of what architects are thinking.



The Producers' Council

Recent elections to membership in The Producers' Council, with the names of their Official Representatives:

Gymnasium Seating Council,
737 Guardian Building, Cleveland
14, Ohio; R. P. Dryer, Chairman.

Josam Manufacturing Company,
Cleveland 14, Ohio; M. J. Hirsh-
stein, Vice President; L. N. New-
man, Alternate.

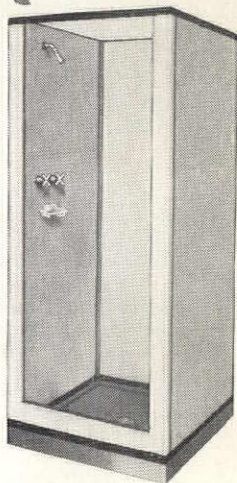
 **Designed**
TO YOUR "HIGHEST STANDARD
IN MODERN, LOW-COST
BATHING CONVENIENCE"...

Bathe-Rite **SHOWER CABINETS**

THE skill and long experience which go into the advanced design and careful engineering of BATHE-RITE prefabricated Shower Cabinets assure you of superior shower facilities to match your finest new-building plans.

Bathe-Rite Shower Cabinets, "steel-framed" for extra rigidity and durability, are the finest that can be built today — proved so on thousands of installations in private and public buildings. We invite your comparison on any basis of appearance, quality, strength or client satisfaction.

IF your files do not already contain complete details and specifications on Bathe-Rite prefabricated Shower Cabinets, we shall be glad to send current data for your convenience.

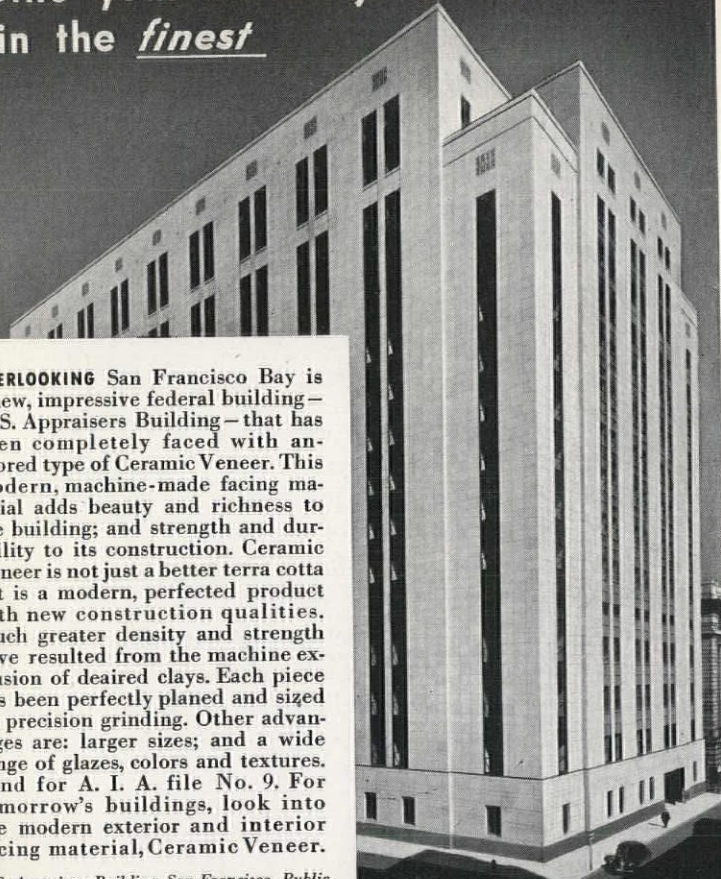


MILWAUKEE
STAMPING CO.

813-S SOUTH 72nd STREET
MILWAUKEE 14, WISCONSIN

"QUALITY-BUILT BY BATHE-RITE"

"Clothe" your buildings of the future
in the *finest*



OVERLOOKING San Francisco Bay is a new, impressive federal building—U. S. Appraisers Building—that has been completely faced with anchored type of Ceramic Veneer. This modern, machine-made facing material adds beauty and richness to the building; and strength and durability to its construction. Ceramic Veneer is not just a better terra cotta—it is a modern, perfected product with new construction qualities. Much greater density and strength have resulted from the machine extrusion of deaired clays. Each piece has been perfectly planed and sized by precision grinding. Other advantages are: larger sizes; and a wide range of glazes, colors and textures. Send for A. I. A. file No. 9. For tomorrow's buildings, look into the modern exterior and interior facing material, Ceramic Veneer.

U. S. Appraisers Building, San Francisco, Public Bldg. Admin.; W. E. Reynolds, Commissioner; Gilbert Stanley Underwood, Consulting Architect.

**GLADDING
Mc BEAN & CO.**

Ceramic Veneer

THE MODERN, MACHINE-PERFECTED TERRA COTTA

SAN FRANCISCO • LOS ANGELES • SEATTLE • PORTLAND • SPOKANE

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

(Terms expire 1944)

RAYMOND J. ASHTON, President

312 Beneficial Life Bldg., Salt Lake City, Utah

WALTER R. MACCORNACK, Vice Pres.

ALEXANDER C. ROBINSON, III, Secretary

77 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass.

915 National City Bldg., Cleveland 14, O.

JAMES R. EDMUNDS, JR., Treasurer

Calvert Building, Baltimore, Md.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

(Terms expire 1944)

CHARLES F. CELLARIUS, 906 St. Paul Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio.....Great Lakes District

G. CORNER FENHAGEN, 325 No. Charles St., Baltimore, Md.....Middle Atlantic District

HARLAN THOMAS Western Mountain District

(Oct. 1 to June 14) School of Architecture, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.

(June 15 to Oct. 1) c/o Stiligamish Country Club, Arlington, Wash.

(Terms expire 1945)

GEORGE HARWELL BOND, 1709 Candler Bldg., Atlanta, Ga.....South Atlantic District

HENRY H. GUTTERSON, 2922 Garber Street, Berkeley, Calif.....Sierra-Nevada District

MILTON B. MCGINTY, 2017 West Gray Avenue, Houston, Texas.....Gulf States District

ARTHUR WARD ARCHER, Commerce Trust Bldg., Kansas City, Mo....Central States District

(Terms expire 1946)

DOUGLAS WILLIAM ORR, 96 Grove Street, New Haven, Conn.....New England District

LORING H. PROVINCE, 104 Architecture Bldg., Urbana, Ill.....Illinois-Wisconsin District

EDGAR I. WILLIAMS, 126 East 38th Street, New York, N. Y.....New York District

STATE ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR

(Term expires 1944)

MATTHEW W. DEL GAUDIO, 545 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD

(Terms expire 1944)

RAYMOND J. ASHTON, Chairman

MATTHEW W. DEL GAUDIO

ALEXANDER C. ROBINSON, III, Secretary

CHARLES F. CELLARIUS

JAMES R. EDMUNDS, JR.

EDGAR I. WILLIAMS (Alternate)

HEADQUARTERS

1741 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

EDWARD C. KEMPER, Executive Secretary

THEODORE IRVING COE, Technical Secretary

D. K. ESTE FISHER, JR., Washington Representative

HENRY H. SAYLOR, Editor of the JOURNAL

C. JULIAN OBERWARTH, Membership Secretary, 301 Second Street, Frankfort, Ky.

Official address of The Institute as a N. Y. Corporation, 115 E. 40th St., New York, N. Y.

