

IOWA

ARCHITECT



Iowa Chapter American Institute of Architects

VOL. II, NO. 3

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

JUNE, 1955

PR Thumped and Dumped!

OFFICERS, 1955

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Vice President.....William Parish
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"Do It Yourself" Program Adopted

The Chapter public relations program, given a vote of confidence at the annual convention January 22, was thumped to within an inch of its life at the April meeting in Ames and all but abandoned.

Objectors felt that chapter members should handle their own public relations and claimed that architect's publicity actually had decreased during the past year. (Four volumes of clippings originated by the public relations committee were not accepted as evidence to the contrary.)

The Chapter magazine, Iowa Architect, survived as an expense item after no Chapter member would volunteer to do it for nothing. Several pledges to solicit additional advertising to support the magazine have not materialized.

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Are Retained Percentages Too High?

From Florida Architect

Results of a conference of construction industry executives held in New York may prove to be an incentive to lower building costs. Called by the Producers' Council and the National Association of Credit Men, the meeting was the second to be held this year with the object of studying the problem of frozen credit.

Out of the conference came a recommended procedure, largely the work of William Stanley Parker, F.A.I.A., of Boston, and Faneuil Adams, L.L.B., who were consultants to the conference.

Recommendations are essentially these: Ten per cent of payments to contractors should be retained until the work is 75% complete; and thereafter the retained amount should be five per cent.

The Parker-Adams report pointed out that the procedure applies primarily to lump sum contracts for private work, whether bonded or not, and is designed to conform to the requirements of the A.I.A. Standard General Conditions.

The report says, in part:

"Under average normal conditions, a retention of 10% on payments is reasonable during the early stages of the work, but when the work approaches substantial completion, such retention becomes unnecessarily burdensome. It can properly be reduced to 5% after the entire work is 75% complete, on those divisions of the work which are themselves 75% complete. This adds an element of complication in the Application Form for subsequent payments in order to show the retentions on the different divisions of the work, some being 5% and some 10%. No such complications, however, are present during the first three quarters of the work, or after all divisions of the work are at least 75% complete."

The Parker-Adams study showed that custom on the percentages of retained payments varied.

"Fifty years ago 15% was customary. Since then it has gradually become customary to reduce the percentage in different ways. Many contracts now customarily use 10%. Much government work is now based on retaining 10% until the work is half done, accumulating a retention of 5% of the total contract price, thereafter paying 100% of the value of subsequent work. Many contracts still retain 15%."

Following is a suggested amendment to Article 4 of A.I.A. Form A-1 as proposed in the Parker-Adams report to the conference.

Article 4. Progress Payments. The Owner shall make payments on account of the Contract as provided therein, as follows:

On or about the.....day of each month
.....90.....per cent of the value based on
the contract prices, of labor and materials

incorporated in the work and of materials suitably stored at the site thereof up to theday of that month, as estimated by the Architect, less the aggregate of previous payments, until such value amounts to 75% of the contract price; thereafter the retained percentage shall be reduced to 5% on portions of the work more than 75% complete, retaining 10% on portions not 75% complete.

All payments are on account of the contract price and do not constitute acceptance of any specific portions of the work. Full payment of the retained percentage on a portion of the work satisfactorily completed prior to the completion of the entire work may be made subject to the approval of the Architect upon submission of evidence that all payrolls, material bills, and other indebtedness connected with the work have been paid, and, if required, the submission of a written guarantee or bond covering correction of defects that may later be discovered in the materials or labor or operating requirements as required by the contract.

Governor To Name Committee?

Governor Leo Hoegh will be asked to name a committee of Iowa Architects to assist in the preservation of the state capitol building in Des Moines.

The suggestion was made at the spring meeting in Ames. Several months ago the Governor was asked in a formal letter from the chapter to appoint a committee of architects to study the school building problem in the state. The letter was never answered.

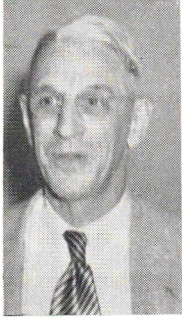
Hospital Exhibit

An architectural exhibit of hospitals will be held at the 57th Annual Convention of the American Hospital Association in Atlantic City, N. J., Sept. 19-22. Entry forms and information may be obtained from the A.I.A. Entry blanks and fees must be submitted by Aug. 1.

Carl Sandburg, poet, will be made an honorary member of the A.I.A. in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of art.

Out Of A Hat

A Des Moines material supplier deserves congratulations for the fair method used in selecting an architect for a new office building the firm will construct.



The names of all Des Moines architectural firms were put in a hat. Chapter president Griffith was called in to draw a name. Out of the hat came Woodburn and O'Neal. That settled the matter.

Architect Woodburn is pictured here wearing the proper expression for such occasions.

Bill Parish Reports: "Hard Times A-Comin' "

Architect William Parish had his finger directly on the pulse of conditions in the building industry recently when he spent an hour in the office of Walt Moeller, secretary of the Master Builders of Iowa.

Parish reports that his conversation with Moeller was first interrupted when an MBI member came in to borrow \$5.

"He didn't get it," says Parish. "I don't know whether the loan was too big or the credit rating too low.

"He had hardly disappeared when another member burst into the room and wanted \$1 to get his car out of a parking lot.

"He got it. Maybe the amount was down to a level the MBI could handle, or perhaps the story was more plausible. I suggest we had better start checking our bidders closely."

(Editors Note: This is just about the first unsolicited news item Iowa Architect ever has received from a Chapter member.)

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AMES MEETING

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Service SCOREBOARD

Iowa Architect will list all reported public service activities by Chapter members. Since the last issue:

John Brooks addressed the Des Moines Real Estate Board.

Amos Emery addressed the same group.

Dighton Smith addressed Career Day groups at schools in Britt, Eagle Grove and Storm Lake.

Dwight Kirsch, director of the Des Moines Art Center, spoke on architecture at Grand View College, recently. He pointed out that today's architect "thinks in terms of space to live in."

STUDENT AWARDS

Outstanding Iowa State architecture students received the following awards at the annual spring meeting of the Iowa Chapter A.I.A. in Ames:

Frank C. Aukerman received the \$100 Karl Keffer award. Richard F. Hansen received the Alpha Rho Chi medal and the School Medal of the A.I.A. Donald H. Luethje received the runner-up award for outstanding scholarship. James L. Merry received the Architecture Faculty Freshman award. Carl D. Meyer received the Charles Frederick Bowers award. Alfred H. Miller won the Durant and Burquist \$50 prize. Paul A. Moore won the \$25 A.I.A. Student Chapter award. Frederick H. Wolf received the Architecture Faculty Sophomore award.

Member William Lockard has been elected president of the Decorah Rotary Club. Congratulations on accepting a public service post, Bill.

"This I Believe"

By Bob Savage

Because of lack of years I cannot speak with the same background of achievements as previous contributors to this series, so I may be naive in the belief that architects (in particular, architects of Iowa) have not served the purpose they were intended to serve.

Since I was a boy during the bad depression years it is difficult for me to understand the inhibitions of some older members who can remember the hardships of those days.

Figures such as: 136 Iowa architects of 574 registered to practice in Iowa; 1 architect per 20,000 people (many states with 5,000 people per architect) make it apparent that a great dollar volume of construction, not only housing, has no professional service at all, or is done by out-of-state architects. Is it the lack of a **practice** law, poor design work, suspicious chapter members, tainted ethics, or what. Whatever it is should be overcome.

Architects have no "Oath of Hippocrates" like the medical men, but, idealistic as it may seem, I believe we have similar responsibilities and obligations. We have the responsibility of protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare through the construction industry. We must do this by creating better physical environments for people, by designing structurally sound buildings, and by working continually for legislation that will make such goals possible.

Finally, the people must understand our goals and aims and how we intend to achieve them. A few will learn from the individual architects (1 in 20,000) but more will learn through a combined organized effort in honest PUBLIC RELATIONS. This cannot be done by just good thoughts.

The Architectural Record has requested a copy of Iowa Architect for use in a feature on Chapter publications.

The Iowa Chapter, A.I.A., extends deepest sympathy to member James Lynch on the death of his wife, Connie.

OFFICE CHANGES: Joining Smith-Voorhees-Jensen-Silleto & Associates during the past eight months were Werner "Dutch" Zarnikow and Harold Richey, both draftsmen; Jack Bouse, mechanical engineer; Dick Babcock, specification writer; and Ray Thurston, landscape architect. Arthur A. Lindgren joined Savage & Ver Ploeg. Derwood Quade joined Keffer Associates.

The **Gold Medal**, highest professional honor given by the A.I.A., has been awarded to Willem Marinus Dudok of Hilversum, Holland. Architect Dudok spoke to Iowa architects in a special meeting arranged last year by Leonard Wolf.

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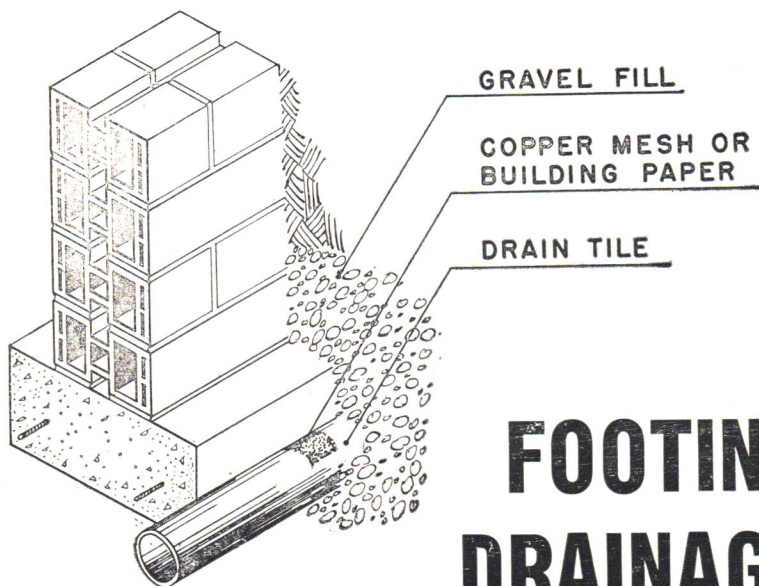
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FOOTING DRAINAGE

Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the need for drainage around the structure where unsightliness or damage will result from the penetration of water. In many cases, proper drainage would be all that is needed to preserve the structure or to protect the interior. Except in well drained soil, usually sandy or gravelly, it is advisable to place drain tile near the bottom of exterior basement walls, foundations and footings. Drain tile of 4-in. to 6-in. in most cases will be sufficient. The tile should be laid with a slope of not less than $\frac{1}{4}$ in. per foot, preferably keeping the high point below the elevation of the basement floor, with the low ends of the drain at approximately the same grade as the bottom of the footing.

This drain tile should be carefully laid on firm even bearing with no traps. The ends should be butted together and in no case more than $\frac{1}{4}$ in. apart. The top half of the joints should be covered with a strip of copper mesh or building paper approximately 4 in. wide before the backfill is placed.

Drains around the foundations of a building are usually in two parts or systems, meeting at a common low point and then carried into or connected with a drainage outlet. An ideal fill over the foundation drain tile is one composed of coarse gravel or stone at the bottom, grading through medium to sand near the top. Backfill for the first couple of feet above the tile should be carefully placed, not dumped, to avoid breakage.

●

Structural Clay Products Institute

REGION 6

AMES, IOWA

IOWA ARCHITECT



Iowa Chapter American Institute of Architects

VOL. II, NO. 4

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

SEPT., 1955

Joint Industry Council Report

OFFICERS, 1955

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(John Brooks, F.A.I.A., has prepared the following report of matters particularly affecting architects, discussed at a meeting of the Joint Industry Co-operative Council in July.)

The following specification matters should be observed by the Design Professions:

1. Specifications should be broken down into small and accurate sections which will allow sub-contractors and suppliers to bid the entire section. Particular attention was called to the difficulty caused by including such special doors as Modernfold, Horn Partitions and some Overhead doors in the Millwork Section.

2. All field painting should be confined to the Painting Section, leaving only factory priming or factory finished items outside that section.

3. Brick allowances should state

(Continued on page 6)

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