

Shall Architects Have An N. R. A. Code?

A Sage In Architecture Speaks

The first reaction of the contemplative man to this matter of hastily improvised and self or otherwise imposed codes is one of questioning—what is it all about? Who is to be benefited and how? If the end be altruistic, then why are the means established and conditioned by so insensate and mechanical a contrivance as a governmental bureau; as government itself?

As the Government failed to make men virtuous or temperate by the passage of the 18th Amendment, will it by the enactment of codes make men virtuous or fair in their dealings one with another? This particular contemplative man, having through most of a long professional life interested himself in the establishment of codes of professional practice and in methods of fair dealing between man and man, as between one architect and another, between architect and client, between architect and builder, and noting the slow but certain progress made, wonders if the process can be speeded up or the cause advanced by industrial legislation. Until moral sense is developed in men, coercion must be employed. But how?

As to architecture, the only means would appear to be through a system of Federal licensing or registration, to use the genteel term. An architect who failed in his ethical obligations would have his license revoked. Under present conditions it would seem that appeal to the Interstate Commerce law would be the only way of disciplining the recalcitrant and then only should he operate in more than one state. There would be no other means than already exist to deal with local violators of the architectural code—revocation of state license, expulsion from professional societies, etc.

The code proposed by the officers of the American Institute of Architects—acting, in this present emergency, for the profession generally—is, in most part, that of the institute. It would be very nice, very nice indeed, if all architects would or could be made to live up to it! It would be a great relief to those who for conscience sake have continuously lived up to it in the face of unfair competition and unfair dealings. But the only means of relief would seem to be through Federal registration—and corps of shotgun sleuths.

But just what, other than a gesture of patriotism and of loyalty to the President, was the special need for architects to present a code at present? The profession of architecture, along with law and medicine, is exempt under the N. R. A. And why, especially, is it desirable at this time to suggest the possibility of draftmen's unions for the control of office practice?

Draftsmen do not want it, and never have wanted it. The scheme serves as an entering wedge for a new racket to be worked by outsiders for personal, financial, and other benefit. The spirit of the profession has always run counter to a hampering control of the creative mind. Indeed, just what is the function of the labor union, even in the trades and industries, when the Government prescribes and enforces, as under these codes, minimum wages, maximum hours, sanitary shop and labor conditions? Is not an altruistically paternal government a sufficiently powerful labor organization in itself!

However, codes are desirable (even when governmentally enforced) if they will eliminate sweatshop conditions, overstrain and unsanitary surroundings. Any means for remedying these evils are to be welcomed with gratitude by all for they affect the moral status of the community. But these conditions are unknown in architectural practice. If an architectural code were necessary, the Committee did well to follow closely that, or those, already promulgated by the American Institute of Architects. It did not do so well in introducing extraneous matter. One important provision was overlooked! that which would provide for governmental guarantee of prompt payment by the client of all fees properly due the architect!

The prime motive for these codes is to relieve unemployment—to put men and then more men to work and to provide workers with a living wage. This motive is not only prime, it is most worthy and all wish for its success. But if prices are to soar, as they must, who is to profit? No one very much, and certainly not the professional man, not the man on salary, for salaries are being cut more in proportion than wages are being raised. Codes will not bring back salaries nor induce men to undertake research and invention.

The depression, which the codes are intended to relieve, taught many a man one wholesome lesson—that the finer things of life do not depend upon great wealth, in fact, that one can still get along—and even happily—on a very depleted income. Most of us have had to and it is lucky we still can be happy. The depression, as all this code activity would seem to indicate, did well in bringing to general attention the desirability, even necessity, of formulating in men's minds a conception of the fundamental ethical relationship between men which must exist and must be maintained if the world is to move onward in the path of industrial and social peace and plenty.

—Irving K. Pond.

Houses at the Fair—Some Random Comments

The Century of Progress radiates a spirit of cheer and confidence that disarms criticism. As we enjoy the bounty it has brought and remember yesterday's meager fare, we welcome it as we would a visit from a rich aunt with a loud voice and cheeks too brightly painted. Its virtues are seen to outweigh its faults. Those of us who have special interest in domestic architecture feel a similar bent toward gentle criticism as we view the housing exhibit; so my mood is one of speculative regret rather than of depreciation in commenting on the absence of certain qualities that would have made it a more representative and broadly co-ordinated picture. In detail, it has much of interest and value; but, with no greatly increased expenditure of money and time, could it not have been less scattered and individualistic in purpose—better organized into an ensemble making full presentation of to-day's progress and tomorrow's promise?

Such presentation could have given organized study to setting, plan, structure, materials, furnishings, equipment, and finance. Not part but all of these factors enter into a modern house, and their solution must be relatively complete and harmonious before it can be judged intelligently. We may regret that a planned area was not set aside, giving each house a setting of some dignity and beauty; as it is, after passing Bozo and the Incubator Babies, the visitor stumbles suddenly upon the first of the houses, quite unprepared for changing from skittles to beer and cheese. A house is only half a house without an appropriate setting. If the landscape architects could have had as much fun outside these houses as the decorators had inside, the picture would have been, as Count Keyserling would say, more authentic. Here again, we remember the Depression, the cost of trees and shrubbery, and the rains that washed away grass-seed in April and May; but back at the A. & P. exhibit, we see an example of artificial verdure suggesting a development, conventional perhaps, that could have given each house a degree of isolation and environmental interest. Surely one of the causes for the great popularity of the Streets of Paris and the Belgian Village, to mention no others, is that each is an entity—a little world by itself, where every activity and sight, no matter how varied—or naughty—is related to every other and helps build up a consistent whole.

This lack of co-ordination may explain a certain air of unreality I have sensed in visiting the houses. I find it difficult to picture the kind of people who might live in them, and find myself wondering whether the inhabitants of the "House of To-morrow" would be warm-blooded perambulating beings, or creatures wearing gold scales and undulating from room to room; whether General Houses is meant for Low Wagers or for gay sophisticates from a North Side pent-house, moved in for the summer and finding it quite a lark. This unreality is heightened by the interior furnishings, decoration, and equipment, which in most cases are not in scale with announced building costs. In the Masonite house, for instance, I admire the stunning living-room, with its blue sheet-wood walls and chromium trim. But when I recall the advertised cost of \$7500—including lot—I cannot help remembering a verse I read the other day:

Daily she came from Bromley to the City,
Pink underclothes of crepe de chine she wore,
So that in each back-yard she viewed with pity
The short and simple flannels of the poor.

There's plenty of lee-way between flannel and crepe de chine, but champagne tastes and beer pockets do not go together, and if we must, we can see beauty in cotton and gingham as easily as in silk and satin. The decorators of these houses might have exercised more finesse in gauging the budgets of potential owners and developing decorative schemes to fit.

In plan, the houses vary in merit from the tight conventional arrangement of the Armco-Ferro house and the assembled box-like rooms of General Houses to the pleasantly oriented lay-outs of Moore & Wood's "Design for Living", Frazer & Raftery's Masonite house, Walter Sholer's Rostone house, and Ernest Grunsfeld's Lumber Industries house; the last four are conspicuously intelligent in their differentiation between public, service, and recreational facades. The "Design for Living", too, is skillful in its economical assignment of space to interior circulation, for which the other three have made perhaps too generous provision. For the compactly planned Stran-Steel houses of "Don't forget the hack-saw" fame, I find it difficult to assume ideal orientation for sun, view, and privacy.

George Fred Keck's "House of To-morrow" has all the directness and economy of circulation of one of Zimmerman's cell-houses at Joliet. It wipes orientation off the slate by assuming equal views in all directions and an arctic sun marching around the perimeter of the horizon. Glass walls may be fine, if winter heating and summer cooling do not over-tax the pocket-book; but I find more discriminating use of them in Miës van der Rohe's much-photographed Tugendhat house in Czechoslovakia: transparent glass toward garden privacy, opaque glass and concrete toward public street. In its clean-cut workmanship and skillful combination of materials, the "House of Tomorrow" impresses me as one of the outstanding features of the exhibit.

Andrew Rebori's re-enforced brick design combines approach and recreational facades into one. It solves interior circulation economically by recourse to the third dimension, promising its inhabitants a lumbar and leg development in harmony with its sturdy walls and floors. I suspect that the soaring silhouette of this house is too reminiscent of a tower for Persian holocausts to suit the average home-owner, who is more likely to satisfy his skyward aspirations in blimps and Gothic churches. The house is interesting in its use of an unfamiliar structural method; the ground and waxed brick floors are fine. If you haven't noticed the brick soffit of the intermediate stair flight, with its warp at the bottom, take a look at it, and admire.

Most of the designs have flat roofs—a moot question these days. If a house has generous space around it, recreational terraces find logical placement at a level common to living-quarters and garden; on the roof, they become de luxe extras that may fit into the budget and may not. The outside stairway to the roof of General Houses seems a bit silly. Roof terraces for sun-baths, sleeping, and airing bedding are fine, when cost permits. Henry Wright has assembled cost data showing that a pitch roof has the edge on a flat one, unless the latter sacrifices parapets,

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Editor Monthly Bulletin

ARTHUR WOLTERS DORF, 520 N. MICHIGAN AVE., CHICAGO

Committee on Public Information

E. S. HALL, CHAIRMAN TIRRELL J. FERRENZ ARTHUR WOLTERS DORF

Now that the National Recovery Act passed by the last Congress authorizing the President to spend \$3,300,000,000 to stimulate employment is organized and beginning to function, architects all over the country are particularly interested in the section of the Recovery Act which devotes itself to housing and slum clearance. With Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes appointed as Public Works Administrator covering the entire expenditure, Col. Henry M. Waite, as his Deputy, has under him five subdivisions: Federal Works, Housing, Non-Federal Works, Legal and Financial.

It is the Housing Division that the building industry looks to to stimulate employment in field and factory. Robert D. Kohn of New York, Past President of the A. I. A., is Director of Housing and under him as Assistant Director is N. Max Dunning of Chicago. Chief of the Housing Technical Staff is Eugene Henry Klaber of Chicago, now President of the Chicago Chapter, A. I. A. It is interesting to note that the three housing heads, Kohn, Dunning and Klaber, are all architects of reputation and standing—men who in the past have devoted much time and thought to the subject of housing.

Mr. Kohn spends some time in the field explaining the attitude of the Administration toward various housing projects. On August 14 Mr. Kohn addressed a group of interested listeners in the rooms of the Chicago Plan Commission, answering many questions that were in the minds of his hearers. Much of what he said is covered in Circular No. 1 issued by the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works under "The Rules Prescribed by the President," dated July 31, 1933. Other circulars of instruction may be expected to follow. The entire profession will watch with the liveliest interest the results achieved by our Government in spending about \$400,000,000 in furthering housing in the United States in these troublous times. Providing housing and parks for the element included in the smaller and smallest income groups is a problem entirely new to an American Government. We must still look to European governments who have had experience in this field, beginning in England as far back as 1868.

Harry M. Beardsley, real estate editor of the Chicago Daily News, on July 15 tells his readers that after six years of labor by technical and Council committees, Chicago is still waiting for its new Building Ordinance. He complains that the June-July Monthly Bulletin, I. S. A. "devotes approximately six of its sixteen columns this month to pooh-poohing the prefabrication idea." Further in the article he says: "The architects fear that prefabrication means standardization of design and hence less work for the architects."

Mr. Beardsley's attendance at the I. S. A. meetings, to which he is regularly invited, would enlighten him much. From reading the meeting reports in the Bulletin he refers to, he should glean that the Society had an open forum for fabricators of the Fair's small house group. The architects' position is stated in an editorial in the June-July Bulletin. The April-May Bulletin carried an explanatory report by Richard E. Schmidt, Chairman, Architects Committee for New Building Code, explaining efforts being made by the Committee to encourage the use of new building products while safeguarding the public against pitfalls and disaster.

Mr. Beardsley should give some credit to the men who have labored hard and long without compensation to produce this new code. It is now coming to completion and the committee composed of architects, engineers, contractors, and manufacturers of materials should receive commendation instead of criticism. His comments show a lack of appreciation.

Sullivan Exhibit At The Burnham Library

The Golden Doorway of the Transportation Building won for its architect, Louis Sullivan, the only medal given by the French Union Centrale des Arts Decoratifs at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893. The Burnham Library of Architecture in the Art Institute of Chicago has on display many photographs which illustrate the important role played by Louis Sullivan in the development of American architecture. These photographs testify to his belief in the interrelation of function and form and the use of material for itself and also in its relation to the form. The original drawings illustrating his "System of Architectural Ornament" show his extraordinary facility and beauty of line. Through the generosity of George G. Elmslie, Esq., the Library now owns the manuscripts of the "Autobiography of An Idea" and many articles written for periodicals which are not elsewhere accessible. The "Kindergarten Chats" in which his famous essays on "Function and Form" appeared, are to be found in manuscript form, the gift of Charles H. Whitaker, Esq., and the articles as they appeared weekly in the "Interstate Architect" are also in the Library. These valuable contributions to an appreciation of Sullivan's work, together with a photograph of him and other personal items, will be found in the present exhibition. The exhibition will continue in Burnham Library until October 1.

About a year ago Mr. Wheelock suffered a blood clot which physicians were unable to eliminate. To save his life amputation of a leg became necessary. His complete recovery to good health is now looked forward to with confidence. Through the undersigned he sends greetings to the Illinois Society of Architects and the Architects Club of Chicago and expresses the hope that before long he will again meet his architectural friends at their luncheons and discussions.

H. L. Palmer
H. J. Schlacks

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flashings, rails, and tile or other fine flooring. As to appearance, some Internationalists seem to have forgotten that triangular prisms, pyramids, and cones are as much a part of the vocabulary of geometric form as are parallelepipeds and cylinders.

I wonder if Mr. Woltersdorf had been reading Chaucer when he directed me to include comments on "pleasing appearance": "It was a joye for to see him sweate!" In evading his instructions, I offer a suggestion borrowed from a recent lecture by the author of the Shropshire Lad. He says he can no more define true poetry than a terrier can define a rat, but that both can recognize the presence of the object by the symptoms of bristling hair and shivering spine. Perhaps there is no better way for each individual to form his architectural appraisals. It has the great advantage of being completely automatic.

The most potent influence of the housing exhibition will undoubtedly be its use of new structural methods and unfamiliar materials. So much has been published on this subject in recent issues of the architectural magazines that I shall not send owls to Athens by discussing it in Editor Wolterdorf's tight allowance of "1100 or 1130 words" (sic), of which the marginal increase is not even enough for a night letter. Architects are notoriously conservative, perhaps because they dread being included in the indictment made by some one that every profession is a conspiracy against the laity. I suppose those who sit toward the left will say that this conservatism is a reason for being included. Be it one or the other, all will await with interest the verdict upon these materials and methods pronounced by use and experience in the years to come. Old Man Time will continue to be a taciturn but efficient consultant: He don't say nothin', but he jest keeps rollin' along.

—Harry Howe Bentley.

The President's Rules For Housing

Under date of July 31, 1933 the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works published Circular No. 1 entitled "The Purposes, Policies, Functioning and Organization of the Emergency Administration—The Rules Prescribed by the President." Part III of this booklet pertains to housing.

Article I points out that the Administrator is directed to prepare a comprehensive program of public works which shall include construction, reconstruction, alteration or repair under public regulation or control of low-cost housing and slum clearing projects, as well as to make provisions for reconstruction and repair of housing. Applications for housing and slum clearance projects will be made direct to the Administrator at Washington. The Administrator is authorized to make grants to States, municipalities, or other public bodies for the aforementioned purposes, but no such grant shall be in excess of 30% of the cost of labor and materials employed upon such project. Under this section grants can be made to States, municipalities, or other public bodies, having the power to undertake housing projects directly, in aid of such projects and either in conjunction with, or independently of, loans to them. Even though such bodies do not have the power to undertake housing projects directly, they can assist such projects by the construction of adjacent parks, playgrounds, etc., in aid of which they would be eligible for a grant as well as a loan.

Article II. What is low-cost housing must necessarily depend upon local conditions. The Administrator will pre-

fer projects for those lower-income groups for which moderate sanitary housing is not now available and in which preference in tenancy is given to such groups. In order to insure low-cost housing, the applicant must be limited by law to charter provision as to rents, dividends, and interest on securities. No loans will be made to speculative building projects.

New housing shall not be confined to urban regions or crowded centers but should also include sections where the price of land is such as to permit the furnishing of housing for the lowest-income groups, while maintaining standards of design set forth below. Projects on low-cost land will be favored. Preference will also be given to projects which include land as part of the equity investment and which consequently permit the maximum use of Federal funds for construction. The Administrator will consider the value of land on the basis of earnings reasonably to be anticipated from its use for low-cost housing.

The project is to be conceived as a unit in a neighborhood community. The monotony resulting from excessive repetition of one size or type of dwelling should be avoided. Preference will be given to projects with a low coverage

Highlights—National Conference On Slum Clearance

Four hundred and seventeen registered attendants, composed of architects, town planners, sociologists and social workers, city officials and lawyers, responded to the invitation of Cleveland's mayor to meet at Hotel Cleveland on July 6 and 7. In the end the conference adopted resolutions prepared by a committee, registering the wisdom and recommendations of the meeting.

Section 5 reads: "Speculative profit should not be countenanced in any housing project. No extortionate prices should be paid for land, keeping in mind that the more money that is spent for land the less is available for labor and materials. While the power of eminent domain is highly desirable for low-cost housing, we realize that recourse to such procedure may involve such delay that may be fatal to a project. In this emergency it is our belief that public opinion can be and should be aroused to impress owners of land with their duty to accept fair prices for their land as fixed by qualified, disinterested appraisers."

Alfred Bettman of Cincinnati, attorney, advised planners to work toward the best solution regardless of existing laws; that interpretation of laws changed with time and circumstances. Having fixed on the best plan, it was then up to the legal adviser to obtain legal approval, or, if necessary, changes in laws.

Mrs. Edith Elmer Wood, sociologist and author of "Recent Trends in American Housing," said England began the study of housing in 1868; Holland in 1901; other European countries soon followed. Holland does not end with merely producing housing, but interests itself in the wherewithal of the tenants and how they apply it.

Howard Whipple Green, statistician and supervisor in Ohio for the 1930 census, exhibited an amazing mind for figures, supplementing his talk by a series of maps.

Eugene H. Klaber of Chicago spoke on price of land for housing. Ralph Borsodi, consulting economist, said that producing housing leaving the tenant merely to pay for finished quarters was destined never to succeed. Mr. Borsodi has experimented personally and advises furnishing prospective dwellers with materials, the dweller assembling these, supplemented by the help of a friend or two. The dweller must then buy his grain directly from the field, have

a little grist mill and grind his own flour, raise his own vegetables on the plot where his house stands, and finally raise rabbits to produce meat for his own table.

George Holden of F. W. Dodge Corporation said that recovery is here. John Nolan of Harvard University commended architects, social workers, town planners and others for their technical studies, but maintained that when housing comes, it will start not through any of these technicians but through public health officers.

Dr. Ernst Fisher of Ann Arbor deprecates consideration of many modern improvements in housing for the lower income brackets, maintaining that this class of people will never be able to afford such conveniences; that simple, sanitary housing with plenty of light and air circulation, and simple, sound construction is all that is required, even though architects may talk of obsolescence before such buildings are completed.

A. MacKay Smith, attorney of the R. F. C. Housing Staff, came from Washington to address the conference on the role of public bodies, interpreting in his paper the Government in its application of the new Federal laws bearing on housing and other public works to give employment.

Appleton P. Clark, Jr., President, Washington Sanitary Housing Corporation, told how the Washington alley slums have been 75% cleared.

There was a roll call of mayor's delegates sent from many cities. Philadelphia's representative said architects should not dissipate their efforts by working out independent projects. Architects should pool their interests and with the city authorities develop one comprehensive housing scheme.

I. S. A. Secretary's Report for 1932-33

Taking into consideration the adverse conditions in the building industry, the Society has just finished a very successful year. The meetings have been well attended and an unusual number of members have taken an active interest, giving a great deal of their time to the duties required by committees and official positions. In these days, when an architect must do more detail work than he did in more prosperous times, this means a much greater sacrifice of his time and energy.

The Illinois Society of Architects has held ten regular meetings and one special meeting during the year, with an average attendance of 48 members and guests.

A resumé of committee reports shows the following facts:

Mr. H. L. Palmer, Chairman of the Membership Committee, reports that due to existing conditions no membership drive was held, but four new members have been added, making a total of 420 at the finish of the year. There was one resignation accepted. It is with regret that the death of the following members must be recorded: Mr. A. Roeddiger, Mr. Edwin A. Blondin, Mr. John A. Nyden, Mr. Wm. Gauger, Mr. James White, and Mr. Robert Clark.

Mr. Richard E. Schmidt, Chairman of the Building Code Committee, reports that no meetings were held during the year but that he had continued to serve on the Committee on Building Code, appointed by the City Council, recently active in preparation of regulations to govern the use of new materials and methods. He further reports that the sub-committee of the Committee on Building and Zoning of the City Council has not resumed its hearings on sections of the proposed Code submitted to it by the Committee of Architects and Engineers, which hearings were suspended at the time of the funeral of the late Mayor Carmak.

Mr. Tirrell J. Ferrenz, Chairman of Committee on Materials and Methods, reports the most important work of his committee for the year consisted of the meeting with the Porcelain Enamel Institute representatives to discuss the application of their materials to various architectural uses. This Committee also inspected and took part in the test of the sample by using the McMillan system of girderless construction.

Mr. J. C. Bollenbacher, Chairman of Credentials Committee, states that the work of his Committee has been entirely the investigation of members applying for registration in other states. Five such investigations have been made for the N.C.A.R. Boards.

Mr. Emery S. Hall as Chairman of Committee on Public Information, states that his committee has spent a busy year in putting the Monthly Bulletin through and helping architects who were receiving unfair treatment. The lack of funds greatly handicapped this Committee in carrying out a full program outlined for the year.

Mr. Howard L. Cheney, Chairman of State Arts Committee, reports there have been no calls or any matters brought before this committee during the past year.

Although we have no official report from Mr. Robert C. Ostergren, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, those who attended the meetings of the past year realize that this Committee was on the job and gave a good account of itself. The programs were varied and brought in material of an educational nature that was both useful and interesting to the members.

The members of the Society are very fortunate in having a Board of Directors made up of men who are not afraid of work. Nearly as many special Board meetings in addition to the regular monthly meetings, were held with very few absentees. There are eleven local members of the Board and the average attendance has been eight. President Fugard has proved to be a very energetic and resourceful leader, making it possible for the Board to accomplish a great deal in a harmonious manner. Through various economies put into practice the expenses have been kept equal to the income for the past year and at the same time the activities of the Society have not been curtailed to any great extent.

Space does not allow a complete outline of the activities of the Board, but special mention might be made of the effort to protect the lien rights of the architect in connection with the Uniform Mechanics' Lien Law being submitted to the legislatures of all states. As is well known, our Society has spent a great deal of time and money in proving that our State Lien Law protects an architect in case a planned building is not actually erected. This protection was not clear in the Uniform Lien Law submitted to this Society for approval. The Board of Directors was informed that this law had been endorsed by the American Institute of Architects. The legal ability of Mr. Emery S. Hall was immediately put to work to formulate a letter of protest which was sent to all chapters of the A. I. A. and all state Societies. The response was spontaneous and gratifying. The replies to these letters, without exception, agreed with us that this clause should be more definitely stated, with the result that the A. I. A. amended its Resolution of Endorsement and requested all Chapters to work for this measure in their respective states.

Another subject of importance that received the attention of the Board was the endeavor to secure the employment by the Government of local architects on Government building projects and that appointees in states having Reg-

istration should be licensed men. Mr. Roberts, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, assures us that this policy is now being pursued by his Department. It would be egotistical, to say the least, to assume that this change in policy was in response to our suggestion. Suffice it to say, wherever expedient this change has been made.

During all the years of its organization the Illinois Society of Architects has been interested in the problems that are of vital importance to the men in the architectural profession and, as shown by this report, is continuing to function along the same lines.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Hauber, Secretary.

Status of Proposed Chicago Building Code

1. Total number of chapters in the code as planned—48.
2. Chapters on which hearings have been held by the City Council Sub-Committee—23.
3. Chapters which have been presented to City Council but on which no hearings have been held—3.
4. Number of chapters ready for presentation—5.
5. Chapters completed but awaiting review by one or more sub-committees of the Committee of Building Ordinances—4.
6. Chapters nearly completed—3.
7. Chapters about one-half completed—6.
8. Chapters not yet begun, or less than one-half completed—4.

The chapter on garages was under discussion in February at the time that the public hearings were discontinued.

We believe that one or two more hearings will suffice for that chapter.

Chapters on standpipe systems, automatic sprinkler systems and oil burners were sent to the City Council in 1929 but have not yet been acted upon or considered at any public hearing.

Chapters on buildings for the storage of explosives, fireworks and nitro-cellulose products which were sent to the City Council in 1929 and 1932 have not been acted upon or considered at any public hearing, but as these classes of buildings are now combined with others in a single group designated "Hazardous Use Units," independent consideration of them is not recommended.

There is now no doubt that this code will be adopted and ready for use by fall, and I believe that it will be a great stimulus to the building industry.

—*H. L. Palmer, Member, Building Code Committee.*

Society and Chapter Annual Elections

At the June meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects the results of the letter ballot election for officers in the Society Year 1933-34 were announced. The new officers are given in the box at the head of page 3 of this issue.

The Chicago Chapter, A. I. A., elections for officers for the 1933-1934 Chapter Year resulted as follows: Eugene H. Klaber, President; Earl H. Reed, Jr., 1st Vice-President; Pierre Blouke, 2nd Vice-President; Carl E. Heimbrodt, Secretary; John O. Merrill, Treasurer; Executive Committee: Clarence W. Farrier, Elmer C. Jensen, Charles G. Beersman, Denison B. Hull.

Modern Connectors For Timber Construction

Modern Connectors for Timber Construction, as fully described in the Department of Commerce's booklet of March 1933, produced in cooperation with the National Committee on Wood Utilization, has begun to make a decided impression in this country since fabricators are about to put such iron connectors on the market. The first concern of this sort is the Timber Engineering Company of Washington, D. C. Other concerns in other sections of the country are following suit.

The National Committee on Wood Utilization supplies the March booklet on June 15, 1933 with bound leaves giving photographic illustrations of executed radiating towers, dirigible hangars, trusses with spans of 300 feet, trusses over a hall at the Leipzig Fair, and many other examples all in Europe.

Architects and engineers desiring to practice economy in a country where wood is had in plenty should post themselves on this new method of wood utilization for great spans or great heights.

The National Committee on Wood Utilization has closely investigated these European construction methods and jointly with the Forest Products Laboratory of the Department of Agriculture has introduced this system into the United States.

Modern connectors consist of various types of rings, plates, and disks inserted in the faces of two wood members to be joined, with a single central bolt to hold the pieces together. The connectors act as the load-transmitting agency. Extensive European experience, substantiated by the comprehensive test program has established certain clear-cut advantages for this new construction system. The strength of the ordinary bolted joint is increased several fold; in some cases where the wood is stressed perpendicular to the grain the increase may amount to as much as 12 times and even more. Next, the rigidity of structures framed with modern connectors is approximately doubled. In other words, the slip or play in the joints is only about half of that for the usual type of bolted joint. Another advantage, following as a natural corollary of the first two, is the reduction which may be accomplished in the sizes of timbers and in the quantities of hardware. Finally, the connectors facilitate the shop fabrication of structural timbers under methods similar to those in common practice with structural steel. All of these features result in important construction economies.

With such merit, demonstrated by practical experience abroad and by the acid test of laboratory research in this country, the modern connector system of joining timber should find an intensive application in the construction field in this country where the best quality of structural timber is available.

The Architect's Wail for a Client

Just when I want you most of all,
When I long to have you near,
You always seem to be somewhere else
And somebody else is here!

—*Sheila McLane.*

France has appropriated \$1,320,000 for lecturers, radio entertainers and motion pictures to combat anti-French sentiment in the U. S. That's like trying to pacify your landlord by offering him a copy of the Congressional Record and a chance to listen to Amos 'n' Andy in lieu of back rent.

—*Ted Cook.*

Exhibition of Early Modern Architecture (Chicago 1870-1910)

prepared by the Museum of Modern Art, New York

Thirty-three large photographs with descriptive text, three models, placards, and biographies comprised this showing at Marshall Field and Company's Galleries. Selections are from the works of W. L. B. Jenney, H. H. Richardson, Geo. B. Post, Adler and Sullivan, Burnham and Root, Burling and Whitehouse, Holabird and Roche, L. H. Sullivan, Flanders and Zimmerman, Richard E. Schmidt, Hugh M. G. Garden, Dwight H. Perkins, and Frank Lloyd Wright. The Willoughby Building, Northwest corner Jackson and Franklin Streets is wrongly ascribed to L. S. Buffington of Minneapolis. The architect of the Willoughby Building was Willoughby J. Edbrooke of Chicago.

The chronological placard shown is here reproduced. The question marks are the editor's.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SKYSCRAPER

The tall commercial building, early labelled the skyscraper, was the conspicuous achievement of American architecture, in the second half of the 19th century.

In the creation of the skyscraper several complementary lines of technical development joined. First, in the fifties, metal skeleton construction began gradually to replace masonry bearing walls. Then with the introduction of the elevator, buildings higher than six stories became convenient and acceptable. At the same time methods of reproofing the metal skeleton were invented in New York and effective pier foundations developed in Chicago. Finally, in Chicago, by the late eighties, the protective masonry shell came to be carried entirely by the metal framework in which Bessemer steel replaced cast and wrought iron. The Skyscraper, imminent for more than a generation, thus became an actuality.

- 848 Bogardus Factory, Duane Street, New York, by Bogardus.
First building in the World entirely cast of iron.

1850

- 851 Crystal Palace, Hyde Park, London, by Paxton.
First structure entirely of iron and glass.

- 851-65 Dome of Capitol, Washington, D. C., by Walter.
Built of cast iron.

- 853 New York Crystal Palace in Imitation of Paxton's.
First passenger elevator in America.

- 854 Harper's Building, Franklin Square, New York.
Introduction of wrought iron girders.

- 855 Invention in England of Bessemer's Converter for producing superior wrought iron known as "steel".

- 855 Shot Tower, Center Street, New York, by Bogardus.
Iron Skeleton construction, eleven stories high.

- 859 Fifth Avenue Hotel, New York.
Passenger elevator first used in a permanent building.

1860

- 862 Siemen's invention in Germany of the Open Hearth Process for steel.

- 868 Equitable Life Assurance Building, Broadway, New York.
First office building with elevator.

1870

- 871 Fire-resistant hollow-tile floor for use with wrought iron beams patented by Balthasar Kreischer.

- 873 Introduction into America of Bessemer steel by Carnegie.

1880

- 880 Price of land in Chicago Loop District reaches \$130,000 per quarter acre, thus encouraging higher buildings. Compare 1890.
880 Buffington's dreams of metal "cloud scrapers" based on Viollet-le-Duc's ideas.

- 881 Montauk Building, Chicago, by Burnham and Root.
Introduction of separate spread foundations for separate piers.

- 884-5 Home Insurance Building, Chicago, by Jenney.
Weight carried by framework of cast and wrought iron concealed inside the masonry. Bessemer steel beams first used above the sixth floor.

- 886 Rookery Building, Chicago, by Burnham and Root.
Same construction as Home Insurance Building (?). New type of foundation of railroad steel in concrete.

- 887-8 Tacoma Building, Chicago, by Holabird and Roche.
Outer walls entirely supported by interior metal skeleton (?). Party walls still masonry. Usually considered the first skyscraper.

- 889-9 Pulitzer Building, New York, by George B. Post.
At its erection the highest building in the world. Masonry walls, interior piers alone of wrought iron.

- 889-90 Leiter Building II, Chicago, by Jenney.
First building in which all the walls were supported by internal metal skeleton.

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AESTHETIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE SKYSCRAPER

The original design in the skyscraper did not keep pace with new developments in construction. The facades of the early experimental buildings in the late seventies and eighties (Leiter Building I, especially) although often more honest in expression of skeleton construction than many more modern buildings, were appallingly crude. Yet it was their frank emphasis on wide windowed horizontality that foreshadowed such developed skyscraper design as in the Schlesinger-Mayer Building and Gage Building.

But the building which initiated the new spirit in commercial design was Richardson's masonry Marshall Field Wholesale Store. Deriving at first his expression from the Romanesque, Richardson in his later work reached the highly original and pure expression of masonry construction adapted through to residence and commercial design. The Marshall Field Wholesale Store provided for young Chicago architects the aesthetic discipline of regularity and simplicity from which Sullivan rapidly created the new personal style.

The influence of Sullivan's style was so great that it directed the group of young architects who formed under his leadership the Chicago School.

The free non-traditional architecture of the Chicago School retained its vigor until about 1910 when the stylistic revivalism which had made its first striking appearance in Chicago with the World's Fair of 1893 vitiated its force.

1870

- 1874-5 Cheney Building (Now Brown-Thompson Co.), Hartford, Conn., Richardson.

A personal interpretation of Romanesque design applied to commercial architecture.

- 1879 Leiter Building, Chicago, by Jenney.
Non-stylistic expression of mixed masonry and cast iron construction.

1880

- 1882 Ames Building, Kingston and Bedford Sts., Boston, by Richardson.

Replaced in 1892.

Further simplification of the Richardson Romanesque.

- 1885-6 Marshall Field Wholesale Store, Chicago, by Richardson.
Demolished 1930.

The masterpiece of early commercial architecture in masonry.
1886 Pray Building, Boston by Richardson. Furthest development of Richardson's commercial style. Shallow reveals and light spandrels at story levels.

Rookery Building, Chicago, by Burnham and Root.
Unintelligent application of Richardsonian Romanesque. General scheme uninfluenced by the Marshall Field Wholesale Store.

- 1887-8 Tacoma Building, Chicago, by Holabird and Roche.
Destroyed 1929. Detail vaguely Richardsonian. (?) General scheme uninfluenced by masonry design.

- 1887-9 Auditorium Building, Chicago, by Adler and Sullivan.
Strongly under the influence of the Marshall Field Wholesale Store and built of masonry. In the tower appear the beginnings of Sullivan's more personal expression. Compare Walker Warehouse.

- 1887-9 Walker Warehouse, Chicago, by Sullivan.
The second work of Sullivan's to show the influence of the Marshall Field Wholesale Store.

- 1889-90 Leiter Building II, Chicago, by Jenney.
Clear expression of structure from the first Leiter Building. Sense of form from the Marshall Field Wholesale Store.

1890

- 1890-1 Monadnock Block, Chicago, by Burnham and Root.
Rigidly simplified masonry design with Richardsonian sense of form.

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1890

- 1890-1 Monadnock Block, Chicago, by Burnham and Root.
Last tall building with solid masonry bearing walls. Sixteen stories.
- 1890 Price of land in Chicago Loop District \$900,000 per quarter acre. Compare 1880. Higher buildings encouraged by high land values.
- 1891 "Skyscraper—a very tall building such as now are being built in Chicago."

—Maitland's American Slang Dictionary.

Roofs

Considering a comparatively small house such as most of us are privileged to enjoy, the roof usually must be strictly a utilitarian thing.

This is unfortunate, for beauty and real usefulness do not always run hand in hand so far as roofs are concerned.

There is a third element, pleasure, which American roofs seem to have neglected to a very great extent.

In the immortal story, Ben Hur, the accidental dislodging of something from the parapet around the roof garden upon a passing parade had far reaching consequence. In the crowded and warm cities of Ben Hur's day the roofs were the drawing rooms. I judge that when people no longer were compelled to crowd themselves within city walls for protection against raiders, they forgot about roof drawing rooms and gardens and only very recently have they remembered the ancient practice. This remembrance is exemplified in the pent houses so popular during the opulent part of the 1920 decade.

I never was inside of one of these pent house dwellings but I have seen moving pictures which were alleged to have been made in such glamorous places, and I have seen from airplanes the bungalows and mansions among gardens which have been placed atop skyscraping city buildings. I'd like to have a pent house, but if I were to design one I'd have an accessible flat roof on it.

I know one delightful pent house some forty-five stories above the ground, which by inexcusable ineptitude on the part of the architects is unusable because of odors. They arranged two enormous restaurants in the basement of this mammoth building. They carried the boiler flue outlet well up above the pent house but took a chance on the ventilation outlets. The heat and gas and effluvia from the big kitchens which serve the restaurants are discharged through windows which look out a few feet below the pent house level. One hour of that gas poisoning will make such an impression on the visitor as never can be forgotten or forgiven. The big 17 foot main sewer at the 39th St. sewage treating works has better air and is a healthier living place than is this particular Chicago pent house.

Architects should be careful to insist that their ventilating engineers carry all vent discharge ducts above the highest occupancy zones, and should insist that the outlets look *up* and not out. There are very good reasons for emphasis in this matter.

The steep sloping roofs of the pine-rafter and cedar-shingle days, often occupying more space up and down above the eaves than that used by the structure below the eaves, were excellent for shedding water, but would not be very agreeable for a rocking chair or for supporting a card table. Apparently if we are to assist in the revival of ancient customs concerning utilization of roofs we must somehow achieve a fairly level surface for the roof. If the roof lines of conventional houses, however, shall be flattened out they seem to assume a mongolian sort of vacuity and appear to have negligible intellect. They are lowbrow houses.

A side hill type of furniture could be used on the flattish roof, of course. Such furniture would have to be built after the specifications of the famous side hill bears, with the legs on the down hill side always longer than those on the uphill side. One captured such bears by luring them to turn around and to attempt locomotion in the other direction.

Rather than live in a lowbrow house, however, enduring what one must endure in the way of what the neighbors will say about its looks, I think I'd give up the pleasure of the roof garden and would worry along with my rocking chair and my card table out in the back yard.

Did you ever notice the nice old self-respecting steep-sloping cedar shingle roof after some barbarian has bestowed a new parti-colored tile checkerboard on it? It is as though our own dear old grandfather were compelled to wear a blue toupee.

Along in the Middle Ages they knew how to arrange their castles with flat roofs which served as fighting platforms during sieges, but

(Continued from Page 7, Column 2)

- 1891-2 Wainwright Building, St. Louis, by Adler and Sullivan.
Sullivan's earliest vertical skyscraper designed. Companion Schiller Building.
- 1893 Meyer Building, Chicago, by Adler and Sullivan.
Still more logical horizontal type of skyscraper design providing the wide fenestration of Jenney's Leiter Building I.
- 1899 Schlesinger-Mayer Building (Now Carson, Pirie, Scott & Co.)
Chicago, by Sullivan.
Further developments of wide-windowed design with narrow supports and spandrels veneered with terra cotta.
- 1900-10 The heyday of the Chicago School under the inspiration of Sullivan's work of the previous decade.

which no doubt, in between sieges were useful for afternoon tea and for moonlight love-making. The battlements, barbicans, and parapets fended off the arrows and other neighborly missiles and all served admirably to keep the family from falling off and landing in the moat.

What we need now is an architect who can design a flat roofed house with a fence around it to keep the baby from falling off and which still shall have a sophisticated appearance. We would enjoy having a flat roof but we can't endure a roof with a look of Neanderthal brain tank development.

School houses throughout the country recently have run to flat roofs, with attics or brain quarters nearly eliminated. In some few cases roof playgrounds have been provided and all of these are much appreciated, since they are safe from street dangers and may have all the sunshine there is.

Eliminating the attic space in these school houses or in fact its elimination in any building has been proved to bring about unfortunate heat transmission consequences. An attic air space insulated the rooms below against the tremendous heat due to sunshine. If the attic is eliminated the roof must be well insulated. There are other consequences, therefore, than mere lack of beauty when we have a lowbrow appearance for our houses.

In this connection it may be worth remembering that the white headed oldster traditionally has acquired wisdom and will maintain a cool head in emergencies, while the black or brown or red roofed youth tends to be hot headed and passionate.

A white coated roof, no matter whether flat or sloping, will reflect the bright sunshine and will keep the brain tank very much cooler than will the black or the brown or the red colored roof. This fact has been thoroughly established in laboratories and goes to show the wonderful provisions of all-seeing Providence in giving us white roofing when we get older and begin to use our brains instead of our muscles as we did in youth.

City apartments are beginning to have flat roofs. Perhaps that is why they are called flats. In some cases these roofs are being used intelligently, as any one may see who rides the alley L. There are babies and animals and women and men of all colors and conditions on the back roofs in summer, especially at night.

Speaking of animals, every architect would do well to provide a dog and goat roof on every house, even though this roof need not be strictly flat, nor very large. Dogs can adapt their architecture to a side roof with more success than can a rocking chair or a card table. I have a very close friend, a big sable collie, who supervises the entire neighborhood from the roof of the front porch and who thinks it safe to challenge all dogdom from that haven.

If the main roof must be kept intellectual by providing a steep slope, perhaps even the palace of the very rich could have a dog-balcony at some unobtrusive point.

In any event never shall my domicile be without a dog roof. The excitement which attends this collie's threat to jump the twenty feet to the ground so as to attend to some passerby never wanes. There is no fence or parapet to my dog roof and one would think he might sometime not apply his brakes quite early enough, but up to date, while there have been a few skids, the brakes always have proved effective.

I don't know as much about goats and goat roofs, as I do about dogs and dog roofs, but why not? Such an arrangement might dispose of the tin cans and vegetable waste and provide a certified milk supply.—William C. Lewis with elaboration by Samuel R. Lewis, Consulting Mechanical Engineer.

The Leaning Tower doesn't mean a thing since modernistic architects started designing office buildings and homes. Now we have towers that not only lean but do setting-up exercises in the breezes. You can get from one floor to another by sliding down hill.

—Bugs Baer.