MONTHLY ILLINOIS SOCIETY « OF ARCHITECTS » BULLETIN

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Sixth Annual Statewide I. S. A. Meeting

Following an established practice to hold one yearly meeting in an Illinois city other than Chicago, the Illinois Society of Architects held its sixth annual statewide meeting and dinner at Champaign-Urbana, Saturday and Sunday, October 25th - 26th. Members, in some cases with their wives, came by train and by automobile. Hotel Inman was headquarters though the sessions and dinner were held in the new Illini Union Building on the University campus.

Down state members are not as frequent attendants at the monthly meetings in Chicago as might be wished and hence the pleasure experienced mutually in meeting one's confreres from up and down the state. The secretary was, of course, on hand to register arrivals and label them with breastpins. A spirit of camaraderie prevailed in the hotel dining room where luncheon was taken by many groups before repairing to the Illini Union Building where the first session was called for 2:00 P. M. on the 25th.

The Afternoon Session

Before a company of forty men and about six ladies, President Ryan made his address of welcome, and to make them feel at home he called by name each member attendant and his city and introduced him to the gathering. The President was called upon from the floor to also introduce the ladies that had come, which he did with consummate grace.

Continuing, the President referred to the subject of Priorities and the Priority Board, which Board had sent up, from Washington, danger signals to the building industry regarding restriction on materials that would be needed for the construction of buildings other than defense housing and Government work. He referred to the meeting called by the Society for October 20 at the Sherman Hotel, Chicago, where the entire building industry was represented. He gave a condensed report of what was said by various branches of the industry at that meeting. The Board of Directors' meeting on the 22nd in Chicago had wrestled with the question of what to do and what to say and the Directors had decided to frame and send a letter to Donald Nelson, Chairman of the Priority Board at Washington, D. C. This was done and the letter was read at the Urbana meeting.

The President introduced Mr. Edmund H. Eitel, second in command of the Priorities Division of OPM in Chicago, who had come down to the meeting to tell what architects and others might do to further their building projects without interference by the Priority Board. Mr. Eitel is an electrical engineer by profession with large experience with public utilities and has been in Government service since July, 1941. He has sympathy for private initiative. He told the meeting where, in his judgment, private work might proceed with no Government interference and where this interference might be unavoidable. Naturally there were many questions from the floor. Mr. Eitel offered every encouragement in aid of private work and stated frankly that the rules, under which his office worked, were subject to many changes. There were still many applications of priorities unsolved and unorganized. He believed hearers might depend upon help through the honor system, an order, "P-22," for repairs, maintenance, and operating supplies. He encouraged all to bring their problems to the Priority Board's office. He had little faith in long resolutions and letters sent to the Washington authorities. The letters would be passed from one to the other and weeks might pass before the communication reached the individual whose particular authority came within the purview of the writer's complaint or inquiry. Mr. Eitel said, placing himself in the position of the architect, that, unquestionably, the association should discuss its cause with the authorities in Washington.

After answering many questions from the floor, Mr. Eitel closed with an invitation to call on him for aid which would be extended to the limit of his power. With this he left the meeting.

But the subject would not down. Secretary Newhouse read resolutions on the subject passed by the Central Pennsylvania A.I.A. Chapter, the Architects' Society of Ohio, the I.S.A. resolution which was drawn up after the Sherman Hotel meeting and which the Board of Directors had not passed. Then followed a discussion on what action this Urbana meeting should take. There was a wide difference of opinion but the thought prevailed that the I.S.A. letter to Donald Nelson in Washington, referred to above, supplementing the Chicago Building Congress' resolution and the personal representation of the Society as an association member of the A.I.A., should suffice for the present. It was remembered that the President of the Chicago Building Congress was Elmer C. Jensen, architect, five times President of the I.S.A., now a member of its Board of Directors. This, it was thought, should have some weight with the authorities in not forgetting the architects' position.

Mr. A. W. Clevenger, University of Illinois high school visitor, was introduced. It is this official's function to advise with high school boards and authorities, throughout the state, in the interest of curricula and high school graduates' knowledge required to have the student-product put on the accredited list for entrance to the University. It is also Mr. Clevenger's duty to advise with high school boards in the matter of high school buildings. He can give criticism of what they propose building but he cannot recommend individual architects or firms for jobs. The latter information was like Balm of Gilead to some troubled souls.

There is a Municipal League for state building codes. The League is interested in a state building code for Illinois, which is yet to be born. There have been bills drawn and state codes framed, from time to time, laid before the Legislature but never passed. According to Leo H. Pleins, a member of the I.S.A. and at the moment President of the Central Illinois Chapter A.I.A., active interest and labor on the part of architects and others with legislators will be absolutely necessary in getting a state building code passed by some future legislature in the state of Illinois. No action was taken by the meeting on this code matter though it roused considerable discussion. The President reminded the meeting that Leo Pleins was chairman of the Society's committee on state building code.

These were the principal subjects discussed at the afternoon session. Towards five o'clock the meeting adjourned. The members wanted fresh air and outdoor exercise before going to the eight o'clock dinner in another hall of the same building.

At the Dinner

Some sixty assembled in a banquet room in an upper story of the Illini Union, in quiet restful surroundings such as Thomas Jefferson might have chosen in Williamsburg when he was Governor of Virginia. During the course of the dinner there was excellent music dispensed by Sigma Alpha Iota String Trio of the Illinois University's School of Music. The air conditioning apparatus functioned to keep the heads cool, perhaps too cool for the lovely shoulders of the piano accompanist who must have shivered, if your reporter is any judge. One lady at the speakers' table sent for her

fur coat which she wore throughout the dinner. A fitting climax came with the superb rendering of a group of songs by Miss Grace Wilson, accompanied by Miss Cook, faculty members of the School of Music.

And now President Ryan had his inning as chairman and toastmaster. There were only two speeches but both were thoughtful and eloquent.

Professor of Architectural History at the University, A. K. Laing, was called upon first. The subject he had chosen was "Bending the Architectural Twig." He based his address on the couplet by Alexander Pope, "Education forms the mind; as the twig is bent the tree's inclined." He outlined a program for both professional and non-professional education in architecture, harking back to the early history of this country when gentlemen studied architecture and appreciated it as part of a liberal education. He referred to such men as Thomas Jefferson, Dr. Thornton, and Charles Bulfinch, all three of whom left architectural works that the present generation still admires. Professor Laing carried on from decade to decade dwelling on the influence exerted by the École des Beaux Arts. Then as time passed, with the art of living changing and being influenced by a mechanical age, producing machines and gadgets catering to man's comforts and conveniences, architectural design must change correspondingly, reflecting the more complicated equipment and the spirit of the times. To produce great architecture requires not only technically able architects but architects with a cultural and educational background. To this must be added a clientele knowing and appreciative of the architect's efforts in their behalf and a public able to appreciate the finished work and to learn to love it.

The next speaker was the architects' well-known friend and scholar who is now dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University. Dean Newcomb dwelt largely on the equipment of men sent out from the universities to practice throughout the land and stated how the student body of his department, in the University of Illinois, had grown in numbers outstripping other departments of the University. He felt that a six year course would be an improvement over what most students get in college today. He would divide the six years up into three two year parts, stressing in each two years, consecutively, the cultural, the sociological, and finally the architectural. The candidate should then be well equipped to enter an office under a master architect. Dean Newcomb was listened to with rapt attention and when he had finished and taken his seat someone from the floor asked the dean to express himself on that phase of modern architecture which had produced in steel, for housing, the igloo, the grainbin, and the great steel plate mushroom for dining. Dr. Newcomb replied, with a smile on his face, that the whole world today seemed to be suffering from dementia and under the circumstances how could architecture be expected to be free from this disease!

The dinner was over. The company dissembled to meet again on Sunday morning for a drive and inspection of seven other new University buildings. A tour of the Illini Union had been made in the afternoon after the close of the meeting. For a comprehensive description of this building read Dr. Newcomb's article in the April-May, 1941, I.S.A. Bulletin.

Inspection of Buildings

Before 10:00 A. M. on Sunday morning, October 26, automobiles were at Hotel Inman to take the architects and the ladies on a tour to inspect seven other new buildings, now in commission, built on the University grounds during recent years. The first stop was at the great library building which received an addition in 1939-40. The architects passed through here examining the stacks, original and recent, ending up in the great reading room of the original building whose location on the second floor is like that of Bates Hall in the Boston Public Library. This reading room is fifty by three hundred feet long.

Gregory Hall, devoted to education and journalism, was visited next with its classrooms and two assembly halls. Particular thought and care has been devoted to the question of acoustics throughout this building.

The new Men's Dormitory was inspected from top to bottom and questions were put to Mr. Stouffer who acted as guide. The company hovered in the dining room, cafeteria, and in the private rooms.

Attention was next given to the Geological Survey Laboratory for Research for Fuels with its intricate instruments, retorts, and furnaces which were explained by one of the professors of this branch.

McKinley Hospital Addition, designed to take care of student patients, was visited next, its private rooms, wards, furniture, lighting, ventilation, wall colors, etc., noted.

The new Power House was on the tour and while the architects passed through here, looking at the equipment and asking questions which were answered by Mr. Stouffer to the best of his ability, there was no designing or operating engineer present. Such an engineer might have told the visitors much more.

These buildings were all designed in the office of the University's supervising architect.

The last building visited was the Natural Resources building where Professors Leighton and Frederick Squires acted as hosts. This building, while on the University grounds, is not strictly a University building though designed to harmonize with the University structures in that it is Georgian with red brick exterior trimmed in Indiana limestone. It was designed in the office of the state supervising architect, C. Herrick Hammond. The University has the responsibility of its maintenance. In the little address Professor Leighton made he spoke of many resources in the state that were not generally known to the public. Under his care and investigation are such materials as clay, mineral wools, stone, marble, brick, and many others. The building is equipped with all possible scientific instruments, chemical laboratories, etc., to permit the scientists, operating here, to investigate, report and give advice to industries whose province it is to put these resources to the service of man.

It was now one o'clock. The inspection tour was ended and the company were ready to go back and take their Sunday dinner. All the buildings they saw were designed to fit into the picture of Georgian architecture, mapped out by the late Charles A. Platt, architect, and carried out, with loving care, a decade or more ago under the guiding hand of the late Professor James White, supervising architect of the University.

Those attending the two-day meeting are indebted to Ernest L. Stouffer, assistant supervising architect of the University and general chairman of the Champaign-Urbana meeting, as well as to William Paul Fox of Chicago, chairman of the Entertainment committee.

What is a Priority Rating?

The simplest—and originally the only—form of priority document is a preference rating attached to an order for goods or services. This is a piece of paper, signed by the director of priorities, compelling the firm which receives the order to accept it and to make delivery by the scheduled completion date—even though the firm has to delay other orders. Preference ratings are of varying degrees of urgency, as indicated by a numerical designation ranging from A-1, the highest, to A-10. Because of the tendency to give too many orders an A-1 rating, this has had to be subdivided, A-1-a, A-1-b, . . . A-1-j. In the past, B ratings have occasionally been used to indicate the relative importance of different non-defense orders, but at present these don't mean very much.

Engineering News-Record

Priorities and the Architect

The various orders on priorities by the Supply Priorities and Allocations Board brought about by the demands for materials of many kinds required for the huge defense program of our Government, has plunged business into uncertainty and has created serious economic disturbances. The building industry, of which the architect is an important part, is no exception and has been already vitally affected by a serious slump in civilian building construction.

Under date of October 9, 1941 the SPAB announced a new policy SPA-9, "under which no public or private construction projects which use critical materials such as steel, copper, brass, bronze, aluminum, etc., may be started during the emergency unless these projects are either necessary for direct national defense or are essential to the health and safety of the people. This applies to public projects, federal, state and local, such as the building of postoffices, courthouses and similar structures; it applies to the construction of factories, lofts, warehouses, office buildings and all other commercial construction. It applies to residential construction and to construction for public utilities."

If such construction is not directly necessary for national defense, or clearly essential for the health and safety of the civilian population, priority orders for the critical materials involved will not be issued.

If such construction does not involve critical materials there is nothing in this order to prohibit their construction and when construction has started and "a substantial portion has been completed, efforts will be made to get the critical materials needed to finish the job."

SPAB points out in this order that during the remainder of '41 and in '42 there will be a very substantial amount of construction in defense housing and for defense industries. Inasmuch as defense housing is limited to defense areas and is not large in volume and that the large defense industrial buildings are scattered throughout the country and are generally awarded to large organizations, it leaves many contractors, building material suppliers without any business. The effect of this is widespread as it affects building mechanics and the producers of the ordinary materials as well as many others directly and indirectly affected. The architect's field is correspondingly narrowed or entirely cut off.

There has been, for some time, much difference of opinion between governmental authorities and those in the steel industry, who apparently are in a position to know the facts as to the claimed scarcity of steel. Granted that there is available all of the steel that would meet the entire demands of defense needs and all non-defense business, the one critical material, copper, might be the determining factor. Towards the end of October, the Government issued an order forbidding the use of copper in the manufacture of a large number of civilian products and reducing the use of copper in building and other industries. The Office of Production Management issued a document T-24, "The situation in Copper." It says in part, "In spite of the fact that the United States is the World's largest producer of copper and current output is at a record pace, we do not have enough to go around. The reason for our shortage is the unprecedented demand for defense production; the result is civilian uses must be curtailed."

Figures for October, 1941 are "Demands from the Army, Navy, Lend-Lease and other defense agencies 144,430 tons. Total including civilian 259,479 tons. Total production for the month from both foreign and domestic ores and scrap, 138,700 tons."

Estimates for the year '42 are:

"Supply—1,650,000 tons, of which approximately 600,000 tons will be made from imported ores, subject to shipping hazards.

"Demand—For defense (all military, including Lend-Lease) 1,050,000
For essential civilian uses..... 250,000
For other civilian 1,100,000

2,400,000
Indicated shortage ..... 750,000"

Efforts are being made to expand output but it takes time to locate new deposits and erect plants.

Efforts are also being made to reduce demand by making changes and using substitutes when practicable. One very large demand consists of brass for shell casings. "Brass for this purpose will consume approximately one-third of our total copper supply for '42." "Experiments now are going on to develop some other type of shell casing, but no workable one has been developed to date."

"Priorities" have been found impractical. As Donald M. Nelson says, "it gives you a place in the line, but cannot assure you the material." When the number on the priority order is reached the material may be exhausted. Because of this a system of Allocations is being studied and probably will be used. If enacted, this will mean that the industries will be allotted, proportionately, the surplus materials left after the defense needs are satisfied.

Congressmen have been deluged with letters and telegrams; SPAB has been implored for help from many sources; many suggestions have been showered on Washington. Through it all Mr. Nelson says that everything possible is being done to check requisitions of all agencies and schedules of deliveries and to reduce demands by every practical means, to the end that civilian enterprises will be injured as little as possible; but he warns that national defense comes first and that we must be accustomed to make sacrifices.

"Little Business" has been helped by sub-contracting. This is practical in industries where the product is manufactured in buildings, but the building industry is differently situated.

The economic importance of the building industry is very great and covers the entire country. For this reason

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Illinois Society November Meeting

The Illinois Society of Architects' November 25 meeting was an informal get-together with cocktails and a buffet supper topped by coffee and cigars in the quarters of the Chicago Bar Association. Sixty members attended and enjoyed the informal talks with friends, renewed old acquaintanceships, and finally heard what those had to say who wanted to talk for the benefit of all. No secretarial minutes were recorded.

President Ryan got on his feet and in welcoming the company asked what they wanted to talk and hear about and he mentioned Priorities and state building code in particular. Chicago's Commissioner of Buildings, Richard E. Schmidt, took the floor. He said real estaters (they prefer "realtors") were insistently vocal in wanting the Building Code changed, primarily to cheapen costs. But where is the architect on this question? He had not been heard from. Like a musical composer platting notes the architect plats building materials and specifies them. He should know their qualities if anyone does. The Commissioner recommended that architects consider this question without delay and act, that is recommend, through their constituted bodies, like the Society.

On state building code the Commissioner also had a word to say. He deplored the legislature's mañana and said Illinois will probably not get a state code until some horrible accident had occurred to jar the legislators.

Priorities was a subject that took up more time than any other subject discussed. Elmer C. Jensen spoke knowingly and feared that many would be the architect who would close his office before Priorities' Rulings had sunk into a silent grave. The discussion followed generally that at Urbana a month before. There was much repetition. Members broke away silently in little groups. If they had solved no problems, they at least had a pleasant evening.

"Old Chicago Houses"

In five hundred pages of text John Drury, author of "Old Chicago Houses" (University of Chicago Press, 1941), presents one hundred existing dwellings, built in and around Chicago, that have historic interest. This interest is largely social, that is, the book is a contribution to the social history of Chicago.

The buildings range from the simplest of frame houses to ambitious dwellings and they are all from 50 to 105 years old except the Robie house done in 1908. This house is captioned "An 'Old' Modern House." The exterior of each house is illustrated in half-tone.

The author divides his book into fifteen chapters or parts. Part one covers four houses of pioneer days. The following parts are divided according to geographical location up to part thirteen which collects Literary Landmarks; part fourteen, Here and There; part fifteen treats four houses designed in the modern trend of their day. Where there is architectural interest or history to be found the author dwells on that phase, often quoting from Thomas E. Tallmadge's recent book "Architecture in Old Chicago." Many of these houses were built in the suburbs before these outlying towns were incorporated into the greater Chicago in 1889.

The houses were first described in a series of articles appearing in the Chicago Daily News, beginning in March, 1939, and ending in February, 1941. One house was described in each Friday afternoon issue of the Daily News. Revisions were made before the series was made into a book. The author tells who the original owner-builders were and who occupied the house after their time.

Many of the houses find themselves today in entirely different surroundings than those in which they were built. Neighborhoods have changed and some of these places are in desolate, run-down, slum-ridden neighborhoods and some, like the successor to the O'Leary cottage where the great Chicago Fire of 1871 started, stand in a forlorn waste. The author calls the house on the O'Leary lot the Anton Kolar house at 558 De Koven Street, built eight years after the fire. The house, according to the story, is now the property of the city of Chicago. The author repeats the well known legend that the Chicago Fire started here in a cow stable when Mrs. O'Leary's cow kicked over a kerosene lantern on October 9, 1871.

The story closes with the Frederick C. Robie house, which stands on the northeast corner of Woodlawn Avenue and Fifty-eighth Street, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, architect. This interesting structure, frequently referred to by architects as the steamboat house, is now used as a women's dormitory of the Chicago Theological Seminary.

The book is of decided interest to Chicagoans, and architects will find references to the architecture and the architects for the more ambitious houses.

Chicago Chapter Meetings

The time-honored statement "Regular Meetings on the Second Tuesday of Each Month except July and August," which appeared on the Chicago Chapter A.I.A. letterheads through many years, is now expunged. The Chapter held its September dinner and meeting on the thirtieth of the month in Normandy House with thirty-nine attending.

In the absence of President Loebl, Pierre Blouke, one time Chicago Chapter member, later transferred to the Washington, D. C. Chapter, presided. Secretary W. Lindsay Suter was the only officer present. Only L. Morgan Yost of the Executive committee was present. Secretary Suter gave a report of the Chapter's June meeting at Dunham Woods Riding Club. He announced that the Executive committee of the Chapter will contribute to the guarantee fund of $400,000 asked for by the executive advisory committee to save the Chicago Auditorium. The Secretary reported receipt of a letter from the electricians' union objecting to home owners' requests of union men for a price to hang lighting fixtures purchased in advance by the owner. Secretary Suter announced receipt of complaints regarding obscurity in the matter of fees recommended for various professional services by the architect.

With this correspondence disposed of, the company was ready to give ear to the paper on City Planning announced for the program of this meeting. The writer of this paper was none other than Professor Hilberseimer, town planning authority on the architectural faculty of Illinois Institute of Technology. Pierre Blouke introduced the speaker. The reading of his paper, however, was done by Donald Monson, Langley scholarship winner.

Mr. Monson stood aside of the screen reading, as view after view of cities came, beginning in ancient times, through the medieval age to the modern city. The paper might well have been called a history of the development and discarding of city fortifications. The illustrations of fortified towns began with the Roman settlement of Glastonbury in Britain. There followed Stralsund on the Baltic, ancient London, Athens, Rome; Norma, a monastery town, was brought to view as were Carthage, Berne, and Belgrade. These were the examples of ancient and medieval defense for towns and cities.

Boston, in New England, was shown as an example of water surrounding the settlement connected with the mainland only by a spit of land or causeway. Albany, New York was pointed to as having natural protective barriers. Nordlingen, natural barriers; Ragusa on the Adriatic, its water front; Carcassonne in southern France, fortified walls; a moated Dutch town; then followed Paris of 1870 after Baron Haussmann's operations. The speaker here chose to contrast the fortified Palace of Knossos on Crete.

The speaker pointed out that North America had no fortified cities and harked back to the Haussmann plan of Paris with its diagonal avenues and round points which were actually designed for military purposes. Cannon, located in the round points, might be directed to shoot down any of the avenues intersecting at the point. A picture of Sparta's natural mountain fortification was shown. China's great wall, a fortification, was referred to. Then came plans—ideal plans—of the modern town. The prevailing thought in these ideal plans was a main thoroughfare to take all the through traffic. Off this were cul de sacs, offering approach to dwellings. Other sections were devoted to parks in which the school and recreation buildings were placed.

At the conclusion of the paper a general discussion of town planning followed, which did not overlook the reasons ascribed for growing blight in many Chicago areas.

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The Chicago Chapter's October meeting, on the twenty-eighth, was again held at Normandy House. The invitations promised an excellent dinner and a get-together of older and younger members in informal fellowship. So twenty-eight men responded, gathering first in the cocktail lounge and remaining there until President Loebl shooed them all upstairs for the dinner.

It was a good dinner. Secretary Suter passed each man a leaflet. The leaflet bore the signature of the Executive committee and told of the A.I.A.'s position apropos a recent SPAB ruling. Minutes of the last meeting were read. The President announced the decision that four major meetings with set programs sans other Chapter business be held and that other meetings be social gatherings with Chapter business transacted and opportunity offered members for expressing their peeves. In this manner all meetings of the official year were provided for.

An exhibition of architecture will be held at the Art Institute, Chicago, January 20—February 23, 1942, Samuel Marx, Chairman.

The younger men were heard from in discussions on priorities, building codes, and newspaper publicity. They were Messrs. Yost, Serrano, Sobel, Gerhardt, and Pirrola.

Howard Cheney, past President of the Chicago Chapter and now resident at Washington, D. C. in Federal archtectural employ, was present and heartily welcomed. —*Leo J. Weissenborn*

The Architect and Defense Housing Rehabilitation

The Editor: The best of intentions are frequently misunderstood. This is illustrated by the editorial in the October-November issue of the Monthly Bulletin entitled "The Present and Future of the Architect." The position of the author of the editorial is understandable, but unfortunately his criticisms were apparently based on the incomplete statement of facts in the newspaper. I am sure, however, that he will be glad to know that what is actually proposed by the Government is a program which will result in the use, on a fee basis, of independent architects on work for which they are ordinarily not employed.

This program contemplates that architectural services will play an important part in the rehabilitation and conversion of existing structures through which it is hoped to furnish many additional housing units for occupancy by defense workers and their families.

The program will be carried out on a localized basis through the Homes Registration Offices established by the Division of Defense Housing Co-ordination, approximately 180 of which have already been set up in most of the important defense centers.

Under arrangements recently announced, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation will co-operate with the Homes Registration Division of the Co-ordinator's Office in providing fee architects (not free architects) who will give advice to home owners desiring to convert available space into rooms and apartments. One Hundred Thousand Dollars has been advanced by the President from his "Emergency Fund" for the employment of architects to handle this work.

This program presents an opportunity to owners of residential property to obtain preliminary technical assistance, without cost, necessary to determine the possibility of making additional rentable space available. Professional men frequently furnish such advice without obligation as a part of their promotional efforts. In this instance they will be paid for such advice, even though the job does not materialize.

If the project requires detailed plans, working drawings and supervision, the architect will continue the project at a reasonable fee to be paid by the home owner.

While the fee architects now co-operating with the Home Owners' Loan Corporation will be called upon as they are needed, other architects are afforded an opportunity to co-operate with the owners of available property in the development of plans to meet the requirements established for this program.

As the conversion activities contemplated will be confined to defense areas and are a definite part of the defense housing program, it will be possible to secure priority ratings in all cases where one or more habitable units are added to or created within an existing structure.

It is thus seen that this program will have the result of actually providing additional commissions for the architects.

—Tirrell J. Ferrenz, Executive Assistant Appraisal and Reconditioning Division, Washington, D. C.

Hollow Concrete Walls Built in the 1870's

Something very similar to the method that resulted in obtaining air spaces in concrete walls, described in "Integral Concrete Wall Insulation" appearing in the October-November issue of the "Monthly Bulletin," was applied in the building of the walls of a block-long building erected for John V. Farwell in Chicago soon after the Great Fire, now seventy years ago. However, I doubt that this was done to obtain insulation; more likely it was done to economize in the use of portland cement which had to be imported and cost around $5.00 per barrel.

About forty years ago a builder called at my office and informed me that he had been engaged to break holes for communicating doors through the walls of the Farwell Block on Monroe Street, extending to Market Street, and that he found the walls had many cavities. I accompanied him to the building and immediately recognized them to have been formed by wood paving blocks. Brown dust of decayed wood was in the bottom of the cavities and the imprint of the grain of the wood was in the cement on the four sides. The irregular upper side was blackened by charring.

The early wood blocks of the pavements of Chicago's streets were made by sawing four-inch planks into six-inch lengths, setting them on end on inch boards bedded on sand with thin wood strips set between the courses. Sand was tamped into these joints and then hot roofing pitch was poured and swept over the wearing surface and sprinkled with coarse sand and fine gravel.

During the Chicago Fire the intense heat of the conflagration ignited the tar in many of the pavements and burned the blocks to irregular depths. An eyewitness told me that he saw the south end of La Salle Street a sea of flame from curb to curb, looking south from Randolph Street, and I saw many burned pavements in the years subsequent to the fire. When these pavements were torn up and replaced by new, Mr. Farwell undoubtedly saw a use for the old blocks.

(Continued from Column 1)

The Staatszeitung Building, Washington and Wells Streets, also erected soon after the fire, has concrete walls except for the two upper floors; but I do not know if its walls are hollow.

Mr. Farwell also built a concrete-walled residence in Lake Forest, which the Bulletin editor mentioned in an article captioned "Architecture," published by the Herald-Examiner, November 9, 1924. I quote: "In 1873 the first imported portland cement arrived in Chicago and this was used to construct a three-story concrete house on the estate of John V. Farwell, at Lake Forest, which stands today."

I witnessed the laying—rather building—of a basement floor having a thickness of about five inches, with a minimum of cement. It consisted of limestone spalls obtained at the stone yards, almost all then centering on South Wells Street.

The spalls were wedge-shaped. They were about four inches high and three or four inches wide; they were set close together on tamped cinders; their bases were about one inch wide. A fluid grout of coarse sand and cement was poured into the wedge-shaped spaces and a topping of a similar mixture laid and troweled. When the whole floor had been laid and troweled, it was flooded continuously for four or five days. *—Richard E. Schmidt, Architect*

Fiske Kimball Lectures at Chicago Art Institute

To review "The Architectural Background of the Arts of Design in America" in a one-hour lecture was the stupendous task of Dr. Fiske Kimball, distinguished architectural historian and Director of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, speaking at the Art Institute of Chicago on October 16. As he said in his introductory remarks, this was a subject on which he had spent twenty years of study, consummated by the publication of five volumes. His was the first of a series of four lectures on "Design for Living: The American Tradition," intended to give a picture of the artistic influence and changing social scene of the period covered by the miniature rooms of Mrs. James Ward Thorne, now on exhibit in the Art Institute.

Dr. Kimball emphasized the fact that the background of the arts of design in early America was a panorama of the arts in Europe. Far from being eager to create a new art in a new country, the colonists were eager to approximate the surroundings they had known and left behind. Dr. Kimball's slides began with the old church at Jamestown, the House of the Seven Gables at Salem, and other familiar examples. He showed how strong was the English influence by refuting the common belief that the colonists always copied and carried out in wood the classic stone details then popular in England. There are examples, as in the plantation house at Westover, Virginia, where the entire doorway is of stone—all of it, no doubt, imported from England.

The speaker traced the influence on American architecture of Sir Christopher Wren, the French rococo, and the Adam brothers, stressing the importance of books and plates of architectural details. In Christ Church, Philadelphia, Gibb's book of details was used throughout, the builders taking pride in copying one of the finest authorities available. Mantel details in Pennsylvania, New England, and Virginia came from the plates of Abraham Swan.

Stratford, the Lee home in Virginia, birthplace of Robert E. Lee, was spoken of lovingly by Dr. Kimball as possessing a somber and sturdy grandeur, almost without academic detail. Fiske Kimball was the architect who restored Stratford for the Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation.

The Declaration of Independence, however, became an incentive for independence in artistic ideals—and in both of these Thomas Jefferson was the leader. Dr. Kimball outlined this period, beginning with the Capitol at Richmond, Virginia, the works of Charles Bulfinch and Samuel McIntire, and then on to the Greek Revival, closing with the thought that in the new materials and new techniques of industrialism, America had led the way to new forms of beauty.

—Dorothy G. Wendt

Awards in the Fine Arts Essay Competition, sponsored jointly by the Atlantic Monthly and The American Institute of Architects, are as follows:

First prize to John A. Kouwenhoven of Old Bennington, Vermont on his paper "Arts in America." This was published in the August Atlantic. The second prize went to George Boas of Johns Hopkins University on his paper "Art in Education." Honorable Mention went to Mildred Whitcomb of Chicago, Illinois.

The judges were Francis Henry Taylor, Director of the Metropolitan Museum of New York; William Emerson, Professor Emeritus, School of Architecture, M.I.T.; Edward Weeks, Editor, Atlantic Monthly.

An Architect Visits Bogota

By Hugh M. G. Garden

I know something of Christopher Columbus' feelings as he first approached these western shores, for whenever I approach unfamiliar lands I thrill with anticipation for the first faint indication of the unknown.

Don Rogers, a shipboard friend, as Yankee as Uncle Sam but without his hair and whiskers, who has crossed the Caribbean fifty times or more, had warned me that there is little to see at the entrance to the Magdalena River. Sea captains like to bring their ships to port at earliest daylight for this means a long day at the pier for loading and unloading of cargo. Thus it was at dawn that I was able to make out a faint line at the horizon, utterly without distinguishing marks, of a flat alluvial sedge land barely above water level.

Our port was Baranquilla, located twelve miles inland on the river, and with an interesting history as a seaport.

The river has always been and still is the main highway to the interior of Colombia, and Baranquilla exists at the point where traffic changes from ocean borne to river steamers that carry freight and passengers hundreds of miles into the interior. But until 1935 Baranquilla was unapproachable for vessels of any but shallow draught because of the shifting bars that ringed the river mouth.

In 1933, an American company received a concession to construct a navigable channel with adequate port facilities at Baranquilla. The work went swiftly forward, the jetties being pushed out into the sea, the channel dredged and the great river confined to a single channel. There was a dramatic climax when "Ole Senora River" took a hand in the excavation and in three days swept an estimated 328,000,000 cubic yards of silt, sand, and seven hundred feet of jetty off into the depths of the Caribbean. A fortunate break for the contractors, and one which was complete, for it was not even necessary to rebuild the destroyed jetty and the river has kept the channel clear of obstruction ever since.

Baranquilla is in the throes of expansion. The old city of narrow streets, buildings of one and two stories and generally unkempt appearance, contrasts sharply, as everywhere in Colombia, with the new and modern city of business. The new city is of larger and higher buildings, wider streets, parks, handsome new residential sections with fine lawns, shrubs, and a multitude of flowers. Each house is enclosed by a wall or fence, often of pretentious pattern constructed of concrete or of brick and painted in gay colors—yellow, pink, green, red, and sometimes—mercifully—white.

The new city and the old are almost uniformly of brick, stone or concrete, with much plaster and much paint. The total effect is generally good, and there are many cities in the world less inviting on first acquaintance than Baranquilla.

In particular, there is the Hotel Prado, the immediate destination of all new arrivals; for Baranquilla, within five degrees of the equator and at sea level, is hot, while the Prado is comfortable, inviting and —less hot. On higher ground, well out of town in the new residential section, it is surrounded by elaborately parked stretches of lawn, with the exotic shrubs, trees, vines and flowers of the tropics. It surrounds on three sides a huge court in which is an elaborately-tiled swimming pool, cooling to look at as well as to swim in.

The building was planned by an American architect and its distinguishing feature of plan is that it is throughout but one room deep and is, therefore, swept by the merciful trade winds. You enter your room on whatever floor from an open arcaded corridor and the wind sweeps through from one side to the other.

The wind deserves a paragraph of its own, for it is warm, fragrant of sea and flowers, and strong. It sweeps through the open archways of the public rooms—for doors or sash are seldom closed even when it rains—and it is no unusual sight to see rugs roll themselves up or chairs gently slide across the glistening tile floors under its impulsion.

There may be much to see in the city and its environs, but after a few tiring excursions through the hot streets we returned, Don Rogers and I, to the bar, a good dinner, "and so to bed," in preparation for an early flight by air to far distant Bogota, the capital city of the Republic of Colombia.

Approach to Bogota is by plane over the desolate swamp lands that extend unbroken from the sea to the wild mountains that form the center and heart of the country. This swamp land is desolate jungle, impenetrable except by river with few signs of habitation. The flight from Baranquilla to Bogota is non-stop for the simple reason that there is no stopping place, no landing field except a very few that have been hacked out of the jungle by the oil companies, and which apparently lie well off the course we flew for we saw none of them.

Through this swamp land winds the Magdalena River in great loops and curves and from its banks the solid walls of trees aris As time passed, the black mountains were visible and we swiftly ap proached their inhospitable outlines. Somewhere there is a pas through which the river cuts, but this is not apparent to passenge eyes and, indeed, we seemed to follow a bee-line to our destinatio though occasionally the river reappeared for a glimpse between th clouds. We were flying high, perhaps 15,000 feet, with most of th mountains well below us, while clouds were below and all around u

Where a break in the clouds permitted, I could see that most c the mountains were forested to their very tips with great trees tha looked from our altitude like jagged piles of green peas with n pleasant valleys between. Other mountains, perhaps higher, wer black bare rock, rough and terrifying. Now and then a tiny whit thread of river was visible but never a field or a house—for this wa wilderness.

The flight takes two hours and forty minutes to cover the mor than four hundred miles, and as we approached its end the rive reappeared, occasionally a small village on its banks and tiny speck that could only be river steamers. Also little white dots that wer houses, and threads recognizable as roads winding up and aroun mountains that were at intervals free in patches from the green-pe pattern of forest.

The plane pitched violently up and down as we crossed the moun tains that surround the mesa which lies between two ridges of th Cordilleras and is the place where Don Gonzalo Jimenes de Quesad decided in 1538 to build his city of Santa Fe de Bogota.

We plunged again into a solid world of clouds in which nothin was visible and as we broke out of it beheld an astonishing sight Directly below was a land as flat as water. Apparently a plane coul land anywhere except for the stone walls that are the enclosing line of fields and farms.

For the mesa, once the bed of a lake, is now fully developed an farmed. Farms, tree-lined roads, walls and houses appeared in swi procession, and soon the city itself, with countless roofs of red til light colored walls, towers, domes and automobiles crawling bug-li everywhere for we were rapidly losing altitude, as ears as well as ey testified.

In the foreground appeared a large group of buildings, apparentl of white paper, an effect which is not dissipated at a later time wh you walk through them. This was University City, new and ver very modern but not beautiful. In contrast, the city itself, of brick and stone, as we circled over it, seemed much more human. But w swung away again over the farms and down to the airport at Techo several miles from Bogota. The landing was smooth, and the plane after coming to a stop, turned and taxied up to the hangars and station. The Colombians make a pleasant ceremony of receiving and bidding farewell to their guests.

Immediately upon landing I became, by courtesy, a "Doctor," for all architects in Colombia are addressed by that title whether it has been conferred formally or not. It was a pleasant and harmless little tribute. Later I became "Professor," while by many I was still addressed by our universal title, "Meester."

Bogota is an old city by American standards. There are nine major churches in the Calle Real alone, nine of which were founded before 1585, years before the Pilgrims landed on Plymouth Rock. Like Baranquilla, Bogota shows sharp contrasts of the old and the new. The old Santa Fe, generally of buildings one and two stories in height, is shot full of "skyscrapers," and everywhere the thick walls of stone or brick are being pulled down to make place for new, excessively modern structures of reinforced concrete faced with stone and brick.

The altitude of Bogota is 8600 feet above sea level and so, as the sky is nearer, the skyscrapers need not be so high, and eight stories seem to be a limited maximum. The old city still remains the center but the new growth extends far to the north along the base of the mountains which form a continuous background, their base clothed with groves of eucalyptus and their summits often wrapped in clouds. The mountains are so close to the center of things that within a few blocks to the east the sharply rising streets end in the forests and foothills of the Parque National, a panorama either dramatic and beautiful or gloomy as the sun shines or storm clouds prevail.

Unfortunately, the clouds and rain take more than their fair share, and with the altitude combine to produce a climate that is generally uncomfortably cold.

It is difficult for those who live in the temperate zone to realize that a city located within five degrees of the equator can be cold. To an architect it is most interesting because of the many ways in which this climate, which never sees either freezing or great heat,

ffects the planning of buildings. The difference between the outoor and indoor temperatures is so slight that walls can be, and are ften, dispensed with. Protection from rain and raw winds is ecessary, but generally the buildings are unheated. Indoors is, in ict, slightly colder than outdoors and, therefore, damp. Ventilating ues do not draw without mechanical aid because of the slight difference of temperature, and because of the deficiency of oxygen in ie rarified air at this high altitude, fires do not burn readily. The ire Department has an easy time for there are no conflagrations, nly smouldering fires easily quenched. The fire hazard in buildings oes not exist and our innumerable precautions are therefore liminated.

Many other troubles that plague the architect in North America re also non-existent. Because of the small variation in temperature, xpansion and contraction of materials is slight. Mortar joints remain ight indefinitely and the "tuck pointer's" trade is a poor one in ogota. Weatherstrips at windows and doors are unnecessary and nsect screens also for there are practically no mosquitoes and few ies. After you have shivered and puffed for breath in this high cold ir you readily understand why the insects prefer more temperate ones. The Bogotanos complain a little about the flies, but they ust don't know what flies are.

But they are a tolerant people. If a little water comes in around he windows or through the roof they are not greatly upset. This as resulted in a pretty device for ventilating attic spaces. It is so uch easier to leave out a few bricks in the gable walls than to install indows or louvres that this device is generally used. The pattern of hese openings seems to be largely left to the masons, and their ancies are frequently ingenious and pleasant.

The old trades, masonry, carpentry, tile making, plastering, rought iron and painting are well done and hand-work generally is xcellent. As long as labor remains as cheap as it is, Colombia will ontinue to furnish good hand-craftsmen. Unfortunately, the olombians must import steel, glass, marble, and all mechanical equipment, but anything that can be found in the country and manuactured by hand is done well and cheaply.

The stone work is astonishing, for the old Indian traditional lose-fitting stone cutting has never been questioned and all stone work, old or new, is fitted with joints measuring less than a sixteenth f an inch. The new stone work is sawed like our marble work in labs about one inch in thickness, and set with irons in the same way, ut thicker ashlar, obviously hand worked, shows the same minute oints. They use the usual mortar beds for brick work and it is hard o understand why they still insist upon this meticulous precision in heir stone cutting; for precision is not generally a Colombian charcteristic.

The "battle of the styles" is on in Bogota as elsewhere, and othing is too modern for them, including some startling color and naterial contrasts. Usually, all new buildings of commercial or public haracter are modern with rounded corners, cantilever projections, tc., while the newest residences, of which there are hundreds under onstruction, run to—of all things—English Tudor. There are, of ourse, many other excursions in traditional styles, including some ood developments of their traditional Spanish Colonial.

All of old Bogota was naturally Spanish in design, and there are ver a hundred churches, most of which are old, and, therefore, with he magnificence of rich carving, color and gilding.

There are not many large palaces or houses of the Colonial period, or the Spanish apparently expected to make their money in this listant Eldorado and take it back to Spain. But there are many ouses of unpretentious exterior that enclose lovely patios and some ine rooms.

It is to the churches that we must go for architecture, painting nd sculpture in Bogota, and much of it is excellent.

In the parks, of which there are many, almost too luxuriant with rich tropical plants and flowers, there is a generous sprinkling of sculptured memorials. These are portraits of national heroes and men of letters, and as sculpture they seem to me slightly better than he average run of such monuments. A few are definitely fine.

The Parque National, which begins in the heart of the city, sweeps back and up into the foothills and extends as a background almost cross the entire picture. It is far from complete and not old, but with every day of the year suitable for plant growth and with roads nd paths winding through the ravines and over the foothills, it must nevitably be splendid.

Bogota has a city plan, largely the work of the eminent city lanner, Professor Carl Brunner, formerly of Vienna but now a Bogotano. It is gradually taking shape with adequate boulevards and raffic regulation.

In the old city, still the business and financial center, most of the streets are necessarily "one way" as to traffic, and because of the narrow sidewalks pedestrians walk and stop to chat in the center of the street while traffic officers stand at every corner and chauffeurs honk. To this congestion must be added the street cars which run next to the curbs so that passengers step directly from sidewalk to car.

Walls, fences, barred gates and iron grilles surround and protect every building in Bogota. The enemy seems to be the "ladrone" (thief). The architectural effect is interesting but it seems as if a rearrangement of the iron bars to keep the ladrones in instead of out might make material savings.

Many customs are different—here is the two-hour siesta from noon until two o'clock when all offices and stores are closed, doors are locked, shutters and rolling grilles closed, and everybody goes home for a heavy meal and a nap. When business is resumed at two or later everyone works on till six or seven in the evening and dinner is correspondingly late, often not before nine o'clock.

Moving pictures give three performances, a matinee at two, "vespertina" at six, and "noche" at nine o'clock.

The Colombian people are of two very distinct types, those descended from the Indians and the descendants of their Spanish conquerors. The Indian type, short, squat, and strong, form the bulk of the population and practically all of the manual laborers. But it is with the descendants of the Spanish that we are most concerned. They are handsome people, not tall, of dark complexion and generally slender of figure. Of course, there are exceptions, but not many are tall and few are burly or fat. They have fine, regular features, and the expression is one of intellectuality and refinement. The women are slender, petite, and "chic," well dressed and often beautiful.

All Colombians are courteous and the visitor to a Colombian house will not forget the gracious hospitality of their home life. If they have a fault—and who has not—it is that they are too much on the defensive—against each other as well as against other nationals. The locked gates and doors, doors with the sign "No siga usted!" or, doors with no knob on the outside are a symbol of this defensive attitude. They are proud and fiercely nationalistic, an attitude which is not always to their own advantage, for in a world where we must have neighbors, like it or not, an understanding and tolerance for the neighbors is necessary.

They do not understand us Yankees and their defensive attitude will probably keep them from understanding and liking us for a long time. It is a great pity for Colombia needs so much from outside and particularly from us.

Because of the great difficulty of road and railroad building in such a mountainous land, Colombia has remained inaccessible and out of touch with the rest of us. Possessing great natural resources, she has been unable to capitalize on them and to develop her own land and people. Colombia needs capital and she needs friends. The defensive attitude is a barrier.

Nobody need go hungry in Colombia because so much food grows wild or is so easily cultivated and there are many foods unknown to us. Colombia can learn much from our methods of selection, grading, packing and marketing, and if she applies this technique she should have little difficulty in greatly increasing her trade with the United States. The present effort to make themselves self-sufficient by manufacturing our products in their own country might better be turned to increasing the number and quality of things they might export to us and which we cannot ourselves produce.

Although old in years, Colombia is still a new country, ready for a great expansion in population and wealth. The greatest good that could come to Colombia is the multiplication of her trade with the United States, and to this end all impediments should be set aside, including the defensive attitude.

Many place names in Colombia, as elsewhere in the Americas, are of Indian origin. In my visits I came to Fusugasuga and to Facatituva (pronounced Foo-soo-ga-soo-gah and Fa-ka-tee-too-vah with the accent on the last syllables). The jingle of these names seemed to me suggestions of shuffle and tap so I made up a little verse in Spanish about boys and girls in those towns and called it

"Danceable Names," or
Nombres Bailables

	My limited Spanish forced me
En Fusugasuga y Facatituva	to change step and language to—
Todas muchas son bonitas	
Y bravos los muchachos	I like to go to Fusugasuga
Con barbas y mostachos	I like to go to Facatituva
En Fusugasuga	I also like to go to Bogata
En Facatituva	But best of all
En Fusugasu—gusagasu—ga	I like to Go—chica.

And so home to Chicago, the best of cities.

Steel-Shell Restaurant Building Echoes

The Editor: Taking it for granted that all technical problems *have* been solved satisfactorily, and that the costs of construction and maintenance are reasonable, it does seem to me that the plate-welded mushroom type building, presented in the October-November Bulletin, is of great potential importance to future architecture.

In the first place, after the war there will be great over-production of steel. As in other industries, ways and means of diverting this production to peace-time uses must be sought, and we may expect an increased use of steel. Secondly, if building is to become "the new industry" which will absorb a large part of our post-war productive effort, as I believe it can and will, factory-fabrication will probably increase. On both counts, this building points the way to a future kind of architecture.

In detail, I have criticisms. I should like to see windows. Any building with as spread-out a plan as this is apt to be built where land-values permit a good deal of surrounding open space, and even in 1950 I think people would still like to look out at it while they eat lunch. Retaining windows for the sake of light and view would necessitate inverting this plan, resulting perhaps in a centrally-located service-and-utilities area with peripheral public spaces—somewhat like Buckminster Fuller's erstwhile Dymaxion House. This in turn would change the construction from a dome to a centrally-supported structure. I should perhaps like to see the architectural shape of the building expressed by some simple decorative treatment (none shows on the drawing, though there may be such on the building itself), though the general form seems graceful and effective. A small criticism of the present plan is that main entrance, coatroom and washroom entrances, all converging on a small vestibule, promise traffic congestion when five hundred persons congregate for "dances and other festivities."

But these criticisms of the present solution are minor. They do not diminish the building's importance in principle. Windows can be made, plans can be altered, decorative treatment can be developed. But in essential method and principle this building, it seems to me, is important. If we see mistakes in it, they are easily remedied; we may yet be grateful in the future that someone had the courage to make the mistakes and pioneer the way.

—Hugh S. Morrison, Professor, Dept. of Art and Archeology
Dartmouth College, Hanover, New Hampshire.

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The Chicago Bridge & Iron Company's restaurant building is an ingenious piece of construction for a dual purpose—restaurant use and for advertising the firm's business of welding steel plates. As to the first purpose, the plan leads me to question the efficiency of a circular plan with the kitchen and service at one point on the perimeter. It would seem that some other relationship of table space and food supply would involve less waste of time and footwork. As an advertisement of steel container manufacturing the structure should rate high.

Mileposts in architectural development do not usually occur in these dual-purpose projects. There are restaurants in California built in the shape of a brown derby, filling-stations in the East built to look like windmills, but neither of these seems to have brought "a new phase in modern architecture" that indicates a sharp turn in the highway of architectural evolution.

Personally, I still retain an ingrained desire to have a building's exterior tell me something of its purpose. This steel shell might suggest dog racing, skating, or shelter from aerial bombs, but I doubt the efficacy of its invitation to dine. However, that lack may have little practical significance, for perhaps the employees have to eat there or go hungry.

—Henry H. Saylor, Architect, New York City

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Mr. Elting's deeply interesting essay on his restaurant building for the Chicago Bridge and Iron Co. with such cogent reasons for its existence leaves little to say on that score.

That the plan is eloquent of its variable usage goes without saying. It is indeed a gracious plan and an inviting one.

What of the "Architecture" in the conventional meaning of the word or as understood by the man in the street? There is, seemingly, none and the prescient and perceptive mind may say "Thank goodness for that."

The structure is an inspirating essay in Organic Architecture. The form arises, naturally, from the use of *flexible and plastic materials*. It is modelled into an extremely simple shape and appears as a definite reflection of the plan in its primary aspect.

The building stands mobile and serene in the sun with its ever varying quality of shade and shadow moving around its form and pleasing, indeed, to look at, not because it is simple, which it is, but because it has a basis of reality which stamps it as the accomplishment of a free mind, one unfettered by tradition and its inhibitions. There are many possibilities of course as to the outward appearance or expression of such a plan in the use of plastics and plastic materials in all their engaging variety; some would add the grace of modicum of counterpoint to their theme. Mr. Elting did not, and to be complimented on his simplicity of approach.

It is very pleasing to note in the essay the cordial and salutan nature of the co-operation between the architect and his engineer

The building stands as a welcome note in an arid day and answe in itself all the idle comments that may be asked of it by ou beauxartians and eclectics with their strident shibboleths as to wha they consider as being fundamental in architectural expression.

—George G. Elmslie, Architect, Chicago.

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Boy! I thought that inverted water tank restaurant was SWELL Great stuff; all it needs is color—maybe it has!

—William Gray Purcell, Architect, Pasadena, Calif.

(Continued from Page 3, Column 2)

the Government should leave no methods untried of givin it the comparatively small amount of critical material needed for civilian construction. To this end the Govern ment should establish an Advisory Committee which ca render practical service and speak for the industry. Eve though the situation may be difficult, the professional an lay talent in the industry will be able to co-operate wit governmental agencies for maximum results and with min mum distress.

Our present difficulty has largely been brought abou due to lack of planning. Let us hope that the Governmen will be more timely in planning post war projects in whic the architects' services will be useful and valuable in th preparation of surveys, etc. *Elmer C. Jense*

Frederick J. Thielbar, prominent Chicago architect, died a his home in River Forest November 15 after two and one-ha months illness, age 75 years. Mr. Thielbar was born in Peoria, Illino received his architectural education at the University of Illinois, be came superintendent of construction and later partner in the fir of Holabird & Roche, Chicago architects. During this time that fir designed the Chicago Temple which stands on the southeast cor of Washington and Clark Streets. In this work Mr. Thielbar playe an important part. From 1918-24 Mr. Thielbar practiced independen ly. The firm of Thielbar & Fugard was organized in 1925 and co tinued through to today. Among the Thielbar & Fugard works ar the now completed Wesley Memorial Hospital, Moody Bible Institut McGraw Hill building, Trustees System Service building, Hall o Religion at the Century of Progress, all in Chicago.

Mr. Thielbar was chairman of the committee of architects an engineers that formulated the Chicago Building Code which went int effect in 1939. He was a member of the American Institute of Archi tects, Western Society of Engineers, Michigan Society of Architect as well as the Illinois Society of Architects.

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Mark H. Whitmeyer, architect of Peoria, Ill., died in Peoria o October 26, age 64 years. He had practiced 38 years in Peoria. H was a graduate in architectural engineering from the University o Illinois, a member of the Central Illinois Chapter A.I.A., and a mem ber of the Illinois Society of Architects.

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Dwight Heald Perkins, prominent Chicago architect in th first quarter of this century, living in retirement in Evanston, Illinois since 1936, died November 2 in Lordsburg, New Mexico, age 7 years. Mr. Perkins was born in Memphis, Tennessee. He finished his architectural schooling at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1887 and was an instructor in architecture at M.I.T. through 1887-88. Coming to Chicago, he served in the office of Burnham & Root and began an independent practice in Chicago in 1894.

Among his early works may be mentioned Steinway hall and office building, now known as the Chicago Musical College building From 1905 to 1910 he was architect for the Chicago Board of Education. Two of his outstanding school buildings, for the Board, are the Carl Schurz and Bowen high schools. After 1910 he formed a partnership, for private practice, under the firm name Perkins, Fellows & Hamilton. His later firm was Perkins, Chatten & Hammond. He was active in promoting the law creating the Forest Preserve in this state; chairman, sub-committee on playgrounds of the Small Parks Commission; member Municipal Art Commission of Chicago; member plan commission of Cook County Forest Preserve; honorary president Regional Planning Association of Chicago. He was a fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

Changes in Chicago Building Code

Section Number	Action	Date	Council Journal Page
61-62	Amended Amends the regulations governing openings in fire-division walls in buildings.	9/4/41	5528
64-19	New Section Changes the regulations governing the use of revolving doors as exists in buildings and prescribes regulations in reference to glass panels in such doors.	9/4/41	5528
69-25	Amended Increases the maximum permissible size of rolling-steel doors (fire doors) in buildings.	9/4/41	5529
82-97	Amended Increases the allowable distance between inlet and outlet legs on traps on plumbing fixtures.	9/4/41	5529

"Rebuilding Old Chicago"

In mid November there issued from the Chicago Plan Commission an illustrated booklet "Rebuilding Old Chicago, City Planning Aspects of the Neighborhood Redevelopment Corporation Law." T. T. McCrosky, executive director of the Commission, says, in the foreword, that the booklet is the Commission's contribution to stimulate operations under the Neighborhood Redevelopment Corporation Law. He wants it understood that the three sites selected and illustrated for redevelopment, on the north, west, and south sides respectively, are purely to demonstrate methods of adapting typical existing conditions to planning technique.

The examples given cover larger areas than any one Neighborhood Redevelopment Corporation would be able to undertake.

Back of all this planning is the urge to eliminate slums and blight. The proposed improvements are to be paid for with private capital but under the supervision of a redevelopment commission appointed by the Mayor. The rents, charged by the building corporation, would necessarily be higher than those charged in housing carried out under Federal and Municipal authority and consequently would appeal to a higher income group.

The north side section chosen is bounded by the alleys east and west of Rush and Wells Streets and by Chicago and Grand Avenues. The west side example goes from Union Avenue on the east to Racine Avenue on the west and from Congress Street to Roosevelt Road. An interesting round point is developed at the intersection of Harrison and Halsted Streets with Blue Island Avenue. The south side area chosen goes from Lake Park Avenue on the east to the Chicago Rock Island and Pacific Railroad on the west and from Twenty-Sixth to Thirty-First Streets.

Mr. McCrosky says that world conditions with priorities on building materials in the U.S.A. will probably retard the improvements talked about until the post war period but it is time now to look ahead and prepare for that period.

Francis J. Plym Fellowship Competitions

The twenty-ninth competition in architecture and the nineteenth competition in architectural engineering of the Francis J. Plym Fellowships are announced by the committee in charge by authority of the Board of Trustees, University of Illinois. The competition in architecture will be held in two parts; the preliminary during January, and the final probably during February and March. It is open to all graduates of the Department of Architecture in the curriculum in architecture of the University of Illinois, who are American citizens and under thirty years of age on June 1, 1942.

The Architectural and Engineering Fellowship is open to all graduates of the Department of Architecture in the curriculum in architectural engineering.

Persons wishing to take part must notify Professor L. H. Provine, Department of Architecture, University of Illinois, not later than January 10. The value of each Fellowship is $1200.00, to be used toward defraying expenses for one year in Europe for the study of architecture or architectural engineering. Pending peace in Europe winners may have to confine their travel to the United States. The Plym committee at all times, with the approval of the University, will determine where the winners shall travel.

The architecture of the Presidential Library at Hyde Park, N. Y. is the personal work of Louis Simon. Mr. Simon is the supervising architect of the Treasury.

Langley Scholarships for 1942

Proposals from candidates for Edward Langley Scholarships for 1942 will be received by the American Institute of Architects from January 1 to March 1, 1942. The Scholarships are open to all persons engaged in the profession of architecture. Such persons are grouped as follows:

Group 1: (a) Architects in active practice; (b) Architectural draftsmen employed by architects.

Group 2: (a) Teachers in schools of architecture; (b) Students about to graduate; (c) Graduate students engaged in post-graduate work.

The Institute Committee of Awards and Scholarships will make the awards and grants. The awards will be announced in June, 1942. For further particulars address The American Institute of Architects, 1741 New York Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

Restoration of French Cathedrals Begins

Alex Small of the Chicago Tribune staff reported from Berlin on November 9, that the cathedrals of Amiens, Rouen, and Beauvais are in process of being restored under Franco-German collaboration.

Amiens cathedral (A.D. 1220-88) is to be freed from ruins of houses surrounding it and the cathedral will become the focal point for new city streets converging on a large square in front of the edifice.

For Rouen cathedral (A.D. 1202-20) the plans envisage the destruction of all the more modern structures nearest the cathedral in an attempt to preserve the medieval character of the town.

Beauvais cathedral (A.D. 1225-1568) was never completed westward of the choir and transepts. It is the most grandiose effort of French medieval architecture and its roof was damaged by bombs. This cathedral will, likewise, be freed from surrounding buildings.

Chicago's Field Museum of Natural History rates rodents the most successful group of mammals on earth. It is opening a special exhibit of this family, showing their past and present.

Paul O. McGrew, museum paleontologist, says they have invaded all large land masses of the earth and are most numerous of all mammals. They are adapted to life in trees, on the ground, in underground burrows, semi-aquatic surroundings and flying squirrels are semi-aerial. The museum is showing the skull of a rodent 7,000,000 years old, distinguished by very big horns on the nose.

The average vapor temperature within tanks painted in light colors is several degrees lower than in tanks painted with aluminum, and the liquid temperature is also very considerably reduced. Controlled chalking of the paint film prevents accumulation of surface dirt. This self-cleansing process results in a heat-reflecting efficiency and reduces evaporation losses to a minimum.

Professor L. H. Provine, head of the Department of Architecture, University of Illinois, has spent much time this past summer in rewriting the building code for the National Board of Fire Underwriters. It is expected that the new code will be ready for distribution early in 1942.

A patent has been granted for a cow-tail holder. This device prevents the cow from swishing the milkmaid or man in the face. It consists of a clip of soft resilient material in which a metal spring is buried so that the tail can be clipped to the tendon of the cow's leg. Is this not a conspiracy between the patent office, the milker—maid and man—and the fly restricting the cow in her natural means of defense! Fortunately bossy has another means, she can kick the milk pail to kingdom come.

A new liquid fuel is sixty per cent coal and forty per cent oil, and produces a hotter fire than either coal or oil alone.