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Arthur Woltersdorf

1870 - 1948

On March 3, 1948, Arthur Woltersdorf left his earthly home for the eternal rest in the "House of Many Mansions."

He was born in Chicago January 19, 1870, attended the public schools there and later took a course in architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

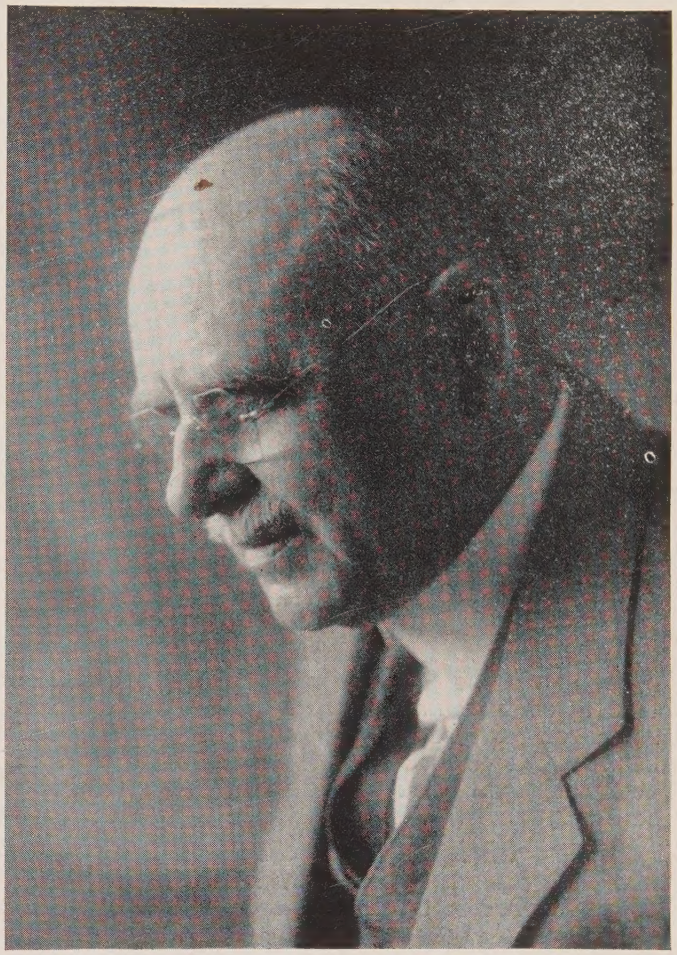
In 1892 and 1893 he studied and traveled extensively in Europe returning to Chicago in 1894. Shortly thereafter he became associated with Bauer and Hill. Later the firm name became Hill and Woltersdorf and after the death of Henry W. Hill, he practiced under his own name, excepting a short period when the firm name was Woltersdorf and Bernhard. Thus his architectural practice extended well over fifty years.

In his early years, for his firm, he built one of Chicago's most legendary structures, The Tree Studios on the East side of State Street between Ohio and Ontario Streets. With more than fifty years of traditions to enhance its atmosphere of artists' life this building is known the country over as Chicago's version of the Latin Quarter.

Among his other work was St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church of which he was a member from his childhood, the Mirador office building, Hippach Memorial Chapel, Gordon Baking Company's Plant, Advance Rumely buildings in Kansas City, Wichita and Saskatoon, Canada. The Woodlawn branch of the Chicago Public Library was his last work. He frequently was consulted on architectural subjects because of his knowledge of architectural history.

In the early twenties he wrote extensively on the theory and practice of architecture, many of his articles appearing in the public press. He was the author of the book entitled "Living Architecture." Talent for forceful and fluent writing combined with architectural ability is rare and unusual.

The architectural profession loses a colorful and active architect, a man who was an architect by choice, and education. Even a short acquaintance with him would prove that architecture lay nearest his heart and was his consuming interest.



Arthur Woltersdorf was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He was a past president and, at the time of his death, a director and editor of the Monthly Bulletin of the Illinois Society of Architects in which he had been active for many years, Ex-President of the Lutheran Club, a member of the University and Cliff Dwellers Clubs.

Services were held March 6 at 11:00 o'clock in the morning in the Chapel at 5501 North Ashland Avenue and he was laid to rest in Forest Home Cemetery.

The Great Color Hoaxes

(Extracted from a lecture by John Marshall Ziv, color consultant, Luminall Paint Company, at a meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects, University of Illinois, Navy Pier, Chicago, March 23, 1948.)

The great Color hoax is really a series of hoaxes some of which are discussed as follows:

1—*THE "ENERGY-IN-COLOR" HOAX.* One of the greatest color hoaxes of all times concerns that of "Energy-in-Color." Color peddlers have implanted in many of our minds the idea that by the use of a particular brand of paint according to a particular methodology we can add to our own resources of physical energy and thus have more total energy to meet the tasks of life.

Part of the Energy-in-Color Hoax is based on fact. Color, which is a wavelength or combination of wavelengths of light, definitely is a form of radiated energy. But to imply that we can increase our store of human energy through exposure to certain colors is a cruel untruth that is having a deleterious and costly effect on the health and well-being of our population.

In order to act in relation to our environment, we are equipped with delicate sensory organs which inform us of presence, size, movement, sound and other phenomena. Physiologically, we do not sense the various factors in our environment simply in order to experience the sensation. We sense our environment in order to *act* in relation to that environment.

Consequently every sensory experience results in a motor response.

Because our sensory equipment is designed for action, there exists a positive inter-relationship among every one of the sensory processes in order that our total mechanism may act with coordination. For the same reason there is a positive inter-relationship between our various types of motor response. It has been established that *any* sensory stimulus will result in motor response of the *total organism.*

Because the eyes are part of our sensory mechanism, the process of seeing involves the whole body. And it is therefore true that light and color can effect the whole body as does any other stimulus. The energy that we *use* in responding to color, however, *is not energy acquired from color, but the energy we gain from dietary intake.*

That is a very significant difference. We have just so much energy. About 70% of all our energy is needed to be alive and ready to act. The remainder must be budgeted among activity, growth, resistance to infection and other demands. When we increase bodily activity through color stimulation, we are toying with a small margin of reserve energy. Color stimulation, beyond physiological need, can only result in the dissipation of precious energy reserves.

From a practical point of view, therefore, when we use "Energy-in-Color" to artificially stimulate productivity in schools, factories, stores and offices, we probably are accomplishing that productivity by paying the high price of bad eyesight, poorer healt and a permanent lessening of human efficiency.

All living things, including human beings, try t come to balance with their environment so as t conserve energy needed for vital tasks. Grantin that there is optimum dietary intake and no patholo gy, the only way we can favorably affect our energ resources is to reduce energy consumption and no increase it according to the Energy-in-Color Hoax

The "energy-in-color" hoax smacks too much o research by advertising copywriters and too littl of legitimate scientific investigation . . which bring us to another Color Hoax.

2—*THE COLOR RESEARCH HOAX.* Nearly ever huckster in the color racket bases his claims an recommendations on what he ignorantly or un scrupulously calls "scientific proof." One of th world's greatest lighting research laboratories ha spent years trying to measure the desirability o various colors and types of light by counting th number of eye-blinks per minute. If the blinks oc cur at normal intervals, the light is healthful; i the blinks increase, the light unhealthful. Since see ing effects the whole body mechanism, the use o the eye-blinking count as the criterion of healthfu color is a gross scientific error. A blinking blunder so to speak.

Another pseudo-scientific way of determinin good and bad colors is the Subjective Method. T state it simply, if the patient feels a color is com fortable, the color is good; if uncomfortable, th color is bad. This may seem logical, but it is full o flaws. First, almost without exception in the case cited by the color huckster, there have been so man uncontrolled variables in the test environment, tha the observer would be utterly incapable of knowin which of the elements was responsible for the com fort or discomfort.

In some cases where an attempt was made to con trol all the variables, the investigators have faile to duplicate the actual environment in which th colors ultimately were to be applied.

Whatever caused failure in the subjective ap proach, it has in fact failed. Seeing involves th whole body, and since we cannot subjectively meas ure the whole body, the subjective approach as th only approach is a pseudo-scientific hoax.

The failure to use honest scientific methods and the failure to consider the total aspects of the total human mechanism can lead to very serious results. And this leads us to the next Color Hoax.

3—*"THE GERMICIDAL RADIATION HOAX."* At the present time the color hucksters are bringing tremendous pressure on schools, institutions and business establishments to use ultra-violet germicidal radiation in all areas where people are together in groups.

(Continued on page 5 Column 1)

We deeply regret the loss of our editor, Arthur Woltersdorf, who passed on March 3, 1948. The Illinois Society of Architects Bulletin has been published since July, 1916. Mr. Woltersdorf has been the editor since October, 1932. He was an able writer and architect and this rare combination was evidenced in the columns of the Bulletin.

It is the intention of the Board of Directors to continue the Bulletin on the same high plain; It will be appreciated if our members and readers will contribute items of interest.

The Monthly Bulletin of the Illinois Society of Architects circulates in every state and has always remained on the ethical side of the architectural profession.

They Are "Pleased To Report"

A pamphlet has recently been circulated among architects of Illinois by a newly formed organization claiming to be just a little more than a year old. The pamphlet contains a report for 1947 and is signed by its president.

Under the heading House Bill 801, a bill to amend the Illinois Architectural Act so as to prohibit architectural firms from incorporating and to refuse registration to individuals except by written examination or through equal reciprocal conditions. These statements are made:

> *"This Bill was opposed by the Architects' Association of Illinois for the following reasons:"*
> *"1. The Amendments were an effort to tinker with the Architectural Act without consultation, either with the various architectural organizations of the State or with the rank and file of the profession:"*

As a matter of fact the Illinois Society of Architects is the rank and file of the profession in the State of Illinois and under the direction of its Board of Directors the Legislative Committee proposed House Bill 801. The Society was responsible for the original Architectural Act of Illinois and it was for the purpose of this legislation that the Chicago Architects Business Association was organized.

> *"2. By refusing registration by oral examination to qualified architects of other states, it would have invited retaliation elsewhere against the architects of Illinois."*

The Society's legislation was intended to stop all oral examinations for persons either in or out of Illinois. The Act is fifty years old and it was decided that it was time to stop these special privileges. We did agree to reciprocity to architects of states that reciprocated in like manner to architects of Illinois.

It was for the convenience of those architects who practice on a national scale that the Illinois Society of Architects organized the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

> *"3. The Amendments afforded less protection against plan-drawing by contractors than does the present Architectural Act."*

This statement is either a deliberate effort to mislead the Architects of Illinois or the writers of this pamphlet did not understand the amendment.

> *"4. The enforcement provisions of the Act remain inadequate."*

The Act needs revision and that is the reason the Society sponsored the amendments which would have made better enforcement possible.

> *"The Architects' Association of Illinois believes it fortunate that the Bill was defeated."*

The foregoing is food for thought for those architects who spent their time and money for architectural education, who qualified by state examination and who expected to practice architecture as a profession. That an organization should boast of the defeat of constructive legislation that would have further insured to the public the personal services of registered architects is something difficult to understand.

The practice of medicine, dentistry, law and, we hope, the practice of architecture is personal service.

The Illinois Society of Architects over a fifty year period has devoted its efforts to the common good of all architects, and not a privileged few.

Boston Society of Architects

Bulletin for January, 1948 is devoted largely to the change in status of the Society, with interesting item by distinguished members of long standing, touching upon the early history of that organization.

"This Society was founded in 1867. Its object was 'to unite in fellowship the Architects of Boston.' In 1870 it became a chapter of the A.I.A. and took on the double character which it has had ever since; without ceasing to be a local body, it became also a part of the national organization. Since that day it has had a long and illustrious history, adorned with the names and devoted service of the finest men in the profession. It has acquired certain civic responsibilities as well as gifts and endowments which it must continue to administer.

"With the close of a vigorous, influential and crowded 78-year period, as one of the outstanding Chapters of the American Institute of Architects, the Society pauses to consider its history and to cast an eye forward. As it now reverts to its original status as a local organization, it salutes the brilliant galaxy of brethren who brought high reputation and an enviable luster to its name and to the Institute."

—National Architect

Illinois Society — February and March Meetings

The February meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects was held on Tuesday, the 24th of February, in the clubroom of the Art Institute of Chicago. President Smith called the meeting to order and the 55 dinner guests were looking forward to an interesting and instructive evening. Secretary Koenigsberg was called upon to read the minutes of the January meeting. After the reading of the minutes President Smith introduced Professor Harold B. McEldowney and asked him to state to the meeting the matter of an award which is to be sponsored by the Illinois Society of Architects. Prof. McEldowney said that the matter has not been definitely settled but that the Committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Society had proposed medals of gold, silver and bronze to the students adjudged the winners of a competition, the problem to be decided at a future date. He said that he would be able to report fully at the March meeting of the Society which is scheduled to be held at the Navy Pier.

President Smith then introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. John J. Aeberly, Chief of the Bureau of Heating, Ventilating and Industrial Sanitation of the Department of Buildings of the City of Chicago. Mr. Aeberly, who is well known to the architectural profession, discussed a number of basic factors which form an important part of the knowledge of the architect in the design of ventilation of enclosed spaces occupied by human beings. He related the difficulties encountered in various types of ventilating systems and the steps necessary for correcting the performance of these systems as well as the matter of selecting the type of system best for the particular job. Mr. Aeberly's talk was more than interesting, it was instructive and the many questions that were asked and answered demonstrated the keen interest in this vital and important subject. Everyone who attended the meeting seemed grateful to Mr. Aeberly for the knowledge he imparted and then, again, more questions and answers after which the meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M. with everyone happy and a predominant friendly air prevailing.

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March 23, 1948 at 4:30 P.M. more than 100 architects and their guests met at the Pier where the Chicago Division of the University of Illinois is located. After meeting socially in the architectural department, groups formed in tens and fifteens and proceeded through the large exhibition hall where possibly a hundred drawings, the work of the architectural department under the able instructions of Prof. Harold B. McEldowney, were posted on screens. The problem was a "Lookout Station." The Society met at the Pier for the purpose of acquainting the architects with what was being done there and they were agreeably surprised at the talent and architectural ability of the students who have been well guided and agreed that many of these students were future draftsmen and architects.

After much time spent in viewing the exhibits various groups progressed through the drafting rooms where students were hard at work. This afforded a fine opportunity to see the department in action. There could be no finer place for an architectural college as the pier is a mile out in Lake Michigan with nothing but the waves to bother the students.

At 6:30 promptly the architects proceeded to the faculty dining room where there were 110 seats ready for the diners whose appetites were sharpened by the fine lake air. Everything was pleasant and everyone was in a happy mood.

At the speakers' table were seated, President Smith, Messrs. John Marshall Ziv, speaker of the evening, Richard E. Schmidt, Roy Christensen, building commissioner of the City of Chicago, Dean Hoelscher, H. L. Palmer, Prof. H. B. McEldowney, Secretary Nathan Koenigsberg. The dinner over, President Smith introduced Mr. Ziv, who was to speak to the meeting later in the evening, and Dean Hoelscher, both of whom are known to the Society. Newly-elected members, Edo J. Belli, H. L. Mickolajzcyk and Martin T. Reinholdt were introduced and received a rousing applause of welcome.

During the time the Society was meeting, the architectural students were dining and meeting in the student dining room and when the meals were over joined in the auditorium. President Smith greeted the student group and then presented Mr. Lester Larsen, representing the student group, who made a very fervent plea for the extention of the architectural course at the Chicago Division to include the third and fourth year. He was well received. Mr. Robert Warger entertained with a pantomine, The German Band which was immediately nicknamed the Hungry Five gave several selections and Mr. Paul Ohanion did a take-off on a Perry Como selection. The entertainment was especially good.

The meeting then settled back to hear Mr. John Marshall Ziv speak about "The Great Color Hoax." Mr. Ziv is no stranger to members of the Society and it was a privilege to have him speak on the research in the use of color up to date. He illustrated his lecture with slides of school rooms in which much of the research has been done. There were many questions answered and everyone enjoyed the discussion, as it was interesting and instructive.

It was announced that a gift of 850 books was made to the Architectural Department Library from the estate of Arthur Woltersdorf, also that the library will be further enhanced by 2000 volumes given by John W. Root of Holabird and Root.

Chicago Chapter, A.I.A. Meetings

Arthur Woltersdorf, editor of the Society's Bulletin for many years, reported the Chicago Chapter meetings very generously in the columns of the Bulletin.

It was the idea of those temporarily substituting until an editor is appointed to carry on the custom and contacted an officer of the Chicago Chapter suggesting that a report of their February, March, and April meetings be sent to the Society for the Bulletin. Up to the time of going to press nothing has been received.

Report of the Illinois Society President

At its February and March meetings the Board of Directors had mostly routine matters before it for action.

The Board now confronts the task of selecting an editor of its Bulletin to replace Mr. Woltersdorf. It will be difficult for he took a great deal of pride in the Bulletin and it was largely a labor of love with him. He believed that the practice of architecture was a dignified profession and maintained the Bulletin on that same level. His opinions as expressed editorially were forthright but were honest, he believed an editor should lead rather than follow. We have always been proud of our Bulletin. It compared favorably with the publications of other architectural organizations and we have always given Mr. Woltersdorf most of the credit for maintaining its high standard.

Mr. Martin T. Reinholdt of Chicago has been elected to membership in the Society.

G. Harold Smith, President

Resolution

The Board of Directors of the Illinois Society of Architects at their regular April meeting passed a resolution requesting and recommending that the Board of Trustees and President Stoddard extend the term of the architectural course at the Chicago Division, U. of I. to include a third and then a fourth year of study. This matter was a subject of discussion at the March 23 meeting of the Society held in the Architectural Department, U. of I. on the Navy Pier.

New Radio Tower

Westinghouse Electric Corporation announces that construction work will start shortly on the world's tallest structure, a 1,530 foot radio tower for frequency modulation transmission to be erected near Des Moines, Iowa. The tower will reach 280 feet above the height of the Empire State building in New York City, and 546 feet above the Eiffel Tower in Paris.

(Continued from page 2 column 2)

Ultra-violet radiation is a direct responsibility of all who deal in light and color, because inherent in many of the materials from which color is manufactured is a degree of ultra-violet reflectivity. Some pigments reflect little ultra-violet; some reflect a great deal. Germicidal radiation must be concealed from direct contact with the eyes. The lethal rays are beamed upward toward the ceiling and upper wall areas. Consequently, it is of utmost importance that pigments in the wall and ceiling finishes absorb the rays after they have done their job in the intervening air. Otherwise, the very dangerous ultra-violet will bounce back to the eyes.

The color peddlers are not only ignorant of the ultra-violet function of the material they sell, but they apparently make no attempt to find out. Several months ago, I made strenuous efforts to find in the Chicago area a measuring instrument which could be used in determining the degree of ultra-violet reflection factors in wall and ceiling surfaces. I regret to say that among the many persons contacted, not a single germicidal lamp salesman, nor fixture manufacturer, nor a lighting engineer, nor a color salesman, and not even a single scientific measuring laboratory had one or knew where to get one. This is a very dangerous way of doing business and typical of the methods of the color hucksters.

Although there is no reliable evidence that ultra-violet radiation in schools really reduces infection, let us make the big assumption that the lamps do reduce infection and that they do not directly harm the people exposed to them. There is still plenty of room to doubt ultra-violet radiation.

First, do we want to kill schoolroom germs in the first place? Every epidemiologist knows that, for example, a member of a group builds up an immunity to germs common to the group, through normal exposure. If we reduce normal exposure, are we not reducing normal immunity and thus making the child more susceptible outside the classroom?

Second, can we not draw an analogy between ultra-violet and sulpha drugs? These drugs have wonderful initial germ-killing effects, but repeated use of the sulphas defeats itself through development of sulpha-resisting strains of the germs it is supposed to kill.

Third, pediatricians know that it is impossible to permanently prevent the so-called childhood diseases with prophylactic treatment of classrooms. They also know that certain of these diseases, if postponed beyond the childrens' usual development age, can have very undesirable effects on the patients. Mumps in adult males and German measles in pregnant women can result in veritable chambers of horror. This alone is sufficient justification for the American Medical Association's refusal to approve ultra-violet radiation in classrooms.

REFERENCE TO BRIGHTNESS DISTRIBUTION

Comfortable seeing in the home—especially for exacting tasks such as reading, writing and sewing, —requires that light be distributed evenly throughout the field of vision. In schools, offices and factories, it is even more important to achieve an evenness of brightness because of the prolonged, close visual tasks.

How do humans react to brightness? Our natural reaction is to turn our eyes toward the brightest area. We do this to equalize the light in both eyes, because if too much light enters one eye, the other actually stops seeing. Then we turn our heads toward the brightest area because we cannot see normally unless our eyes are equal distance from the object to be seen. Finally we turn our bodies toward the brightest area in order to (a) come to balance with the task with minimum stress and (b) to be ready to act in relation to the visual stimulus.

A school child, for example, tends to center his eyes and body on the window area, which is the brightest in the room. But the educational process requires that he look elsewhere, such as at his desk or chalkboard. As a result he must eliminate from his vision the bright window area, which he does by twisting his head and body. This twisting has been demonstrated by Dr. Harmon to be the cause of eye difficulties, bone malformations, symptoms of malnutrition, susceptibility to infection and retarded mental and physical growth.

The Harmon experiments have shown that a brightness contrast ratio of greater than 3-1 is harmful.

Since windows and light fixtures are the source of greatest brightness, other interior areas must have high light reflectivity to reduce their contrast in relation to the source. One of the evils of deep colors is that they cannot produce this needed reflectivity.

4—*"THE DEEP COLOR HOAX."* In a recent bulletin, the National Paint Varnish & Lacquer Association announced with glowing satisfaction that America had gone on "a bright color binge," and indicated that deep colors have become one of the leading merchandising stunts of the paint industry.

What the paint association says is true, America is falling victim to a Deep Color Hoax. Nearly every color peddler has hopped aboard the Deep Color Band Wagon and there is exerting great pressure on American housewives.

The Color Hucksters are smart. For quite a few years women have learned to use light pastels of a wide variety of pleasant colors. If the hucksters succeed in putting the Deep Color Hoax across, they will render nearly every home obsolete.

This may be good business. It will sell paint, draperies, floor coverings and a wide variety of Home Furnishings. It will sell a lot of things—including the public down the river.

There are serious faults in the deep color recommendations.

a—Almost all the deep colors are so deficient in light reflectivity as to make it utterly impossible to hygienically illuminate a room. We estimate that from one-half to three-fourths of all the day or artificial light is uselessly wasted through being absorbed by the deep colors. This means that if the home-owner wishes to maintain the degree of illumination he had under the light pastel colors, he will have to at least double his electric light bill.

b—Deep colors can have a very serious effect on

(Continued from page 6 Column 1)

vision and general health and are not safe to use except under the direction of a psychologist or psychiatrist. Deep blues in a room may be good for a person with hypertension, but they can have a devastating effect on another member of the family suffering from emotional repression. A nearsighted member of the family will be extremely uncomfortable in a room decorated on the deep red side of the spectrum. Farsighted members of the family will be uncomfortable in a room decorated on the deep blue side of the spectrum. It is virtually impossible to use deep colors without endangering one or more members of the family. And if you look at the deep color situation from the point of view of brightness engineering, you will avoid the deep colors as at least partially detrimental to *every* member of the family.

c—We can enjoy virtually all of the psychological and aesthetic advantages of color by using light pastels which photometrically are located at or near the center of the normal daylight distribution curve. Consequently, the deep color is *unnecessary* in the first place.

5—*THE BRING-NATURE-INDOORS HOAX.* Many color and light peddlers tell us to bring nature indoors for better light, better sight. This hoax is based on the fact that man evolved in tune with the natural environment and that his eyes are designed to function best in the outside natural world.

But our cultural development has progressed much more rapidly than our evolution as living mechanisms. Our culture has introduced close, sustained, visually centered tasks from which primitive man never suffered.

Nor did primitive man in his natural environment have walls and ceilings to shut him off from the naturally lighted environment.

Experiments during the past 10 years have shown that natural light and color in their unaltered state are extremely detrimental in the close visual tasks of modern civilization.

The fenestration hucksters, as well as the color peddlers, are doing us gross injustice through the Bring-Nature-Indoors Hoax. Uncontrolled daylight in schools has been demonstrated by Dr. Harmon to be harmful not only to the children's eyes but also to their whole bodies.

6—*THE COLOR PSYCHOLOGY HOAX.* The color peddlers tell that green is a restful color because through psychological processes it reminds us of restful things, like green grass and other types of vegetation. But is this predominantly a psychological phenomenon?

The human eye, unlike a good camera lens, is not color corrected. Our lenses, through prismatic refraction, separate the various wavelengths of light so that they fail to focus at different depths in relation to the retina. Consequently, in order to see objects which reflect various wavelengths, we have to use our accommodative muscles and our convergence muscles to bring the objects into focus. Because green has an optically farsighted effect, it enables us to relax convergence and accommodation and thus it is *physically restful.* On the other hand, red has a nearsighted effect because it forces us to use our convergence muscles in order to resolve the red and we build up an energy destruction which can be described as *physically stimulating.*

The color peddlers also tell us that greens and blues are psychologically *cool* colors because they remind us of cool things such as shady forests or babbling brooks.

Similarly, they claim that reds and yellow are psychologically *warm* colors because they remind us of fire and sunshine.

However, the sensation of heat and cold in color, according to good authority, can be more accurately described in physical terms. Warm colors, because they force convergence, increase energy consumption and this would make anybody feel warm. Cool colors, because they relax convergence, reduce energy consumption and that would make anybody feel cooler. Measurements have been made of muscular activity under long and short wave colors and the changes in muscular potential clearly demonstrate that warm and cool colors can be explained more accurately in physiological terms than in psychological ones.

It has been demonstrated conclusively that the presence or absence of the invisible infra-red band in the reflected spectrum of wall and ceiling finishes can alter thermometer readings as much as 5% . . . a purely physical explanation of warm and cool colors.

Of course, it would be foolish to deny that there is a psychology of color. If someone beat me over the head every day with a yellow baseball bat, I am sure that I would be conditioned against yellow.

But the physiological approach gives us a much more accurate measurement of color and enables us to manipulate color in a much safer way.

The hucksters who peddle the Psychology-In-Color Hoax are so sloppy in their approach that you read such statements as these: "Never use blue in a classroom because it gives the children foster-child complexes;" or as I myself once wrote, "Never use white in a hospital because it reminds the patients of bandages—never use red because it reminds the patient of blood." The truth is that both blue and white and even red may be used in schools or hospitals safely, provided they are manipulated according to physical and physiological measurements (center of the distribution curve) not with the vagaries of the purely psychological approach.

Chester Howe Walcott

With the sudden passing away of Chester Howe Walcott, October 25th last, at his home in Lake Forest, the architectural profession lost a talented and genial member. The moment was sadly-timed—at a high point in an active career just when he was beginning final drawings for the new Lake Forest Academy, his sketches long in preparation, having been accepted.

Chester Walcott was born in Chicago, February 2nd, 1883. When very young, his family moved to Evanston where he attended public and high schools and prepared for Princeton. There he graduated in 1905 from the then small section in fine arts which later became the School of Architecture. His native humor and flair for delineation found early outlet in a delightful series of cartoons for the "Tiger" for which he was art editor. He then spent about two years in Europe, visiting France, Germany, Italy and England. Generous allotment of time was accorded Paris with its rich panorama of architecture and its ateliers. Much was set down by Walcott in his developing sketch manner.

Returning to Chicago he served apprenticeship in various offices including Frost and Granger's where he worked on the Northwestern Railway Station drawings. He took part in organizing the Atlier Bennett in 1909 and was a member of that pioneer band of night students of architecture which met back of the carpenter shop on Plymouth Court. There the writer first knew him—and listened with glee to his inexhaustible store of anecdotes. They were delivered with unforgettable drollery in any dialect, with tight clamped jaw and twinkling eye. At the "Kalthof Club", Monroe street's rendezvous of choice intimates of the early twenties, in the canoe on the Rock River, or over Tokay at New York's "Little Hungary", in the office or at North Shore gatherings —wherever opportunity offered, the amiable pattern repeated itself—Walcott, the choice tale, and the charmed listener. We shall not meet his like again!

Carefree draughtsmans days were in 1911, followed by architectural registration and partnership with Arthur Brown. From 1916 he practiced alone and from 1919 to 1924 with Edwin H. Clark, under the firm name of Clark and Walcott. Many residences, churches, the Dawes Hotel, model refuge for "down-and-outers" and the first of a series of Y.M.C.A. buildings were products of the early period, during which his gifted brother, Russell, now of Tryon, North Carolina, was closely associated with him. Highest professional and personal ideals governed Chester Walcott's every action, nor was he one to commercialize his chosen profession.

St. Chrysostom's Church on North Dearborn Street with its parish buildings, received a gold medal for design excellence and is Chester Walcott's outstanding work. Its much beloved interior with the delicately proportioned nave arches, effective triple aisle windows and fine sanctuary are of distinguished quality. It is English Gothic of individual flavour like the Evanston Y.M.C.A. structure, another of his important designs. If Walcott was perturbed by world-wide design upheavals, that fact is not revealed in his work which remained cultured and scholarly to the last. He lovingly remembered and restated the spirit of things seen at Oxford or along the Loire during European travels.

In 1941, tiring of commuting, Chester Walcott moved home and office to Lake Forest. During the war he instituted an unusual course at the Academy there which embraced fundamentals of draughting and the arts of sketching and creative planning and design—many young men owe much to his influence as he was a born teacher. This was his war service for he returned again to private practice and the Academy redevelopment problems in which he was engrossed when he died.

This too short account would be incomplete without mention of the large number of notable pencil drawings made during a forty year period. Utilized as studies for and presentation of his professional projects they were of exceptional charm and originality. They were delicate in line and richly textured, often lightly tinted in color.

Here was an architect who drew.

—EARL H. REED

Five Century Old Riddle of St. Stephen's Is Solved

The mystery of the famous St. Stephen's cathedral, which dates back to the 14th and 15th centuries, has been cleared up. The mystery concerned the key to its proportional dimensions, which baffled architects and masons for 500 years.

The answer, however, did not come from the architects who are now reconstructing the cathedral, which was heavily damaged in the street combats of April, 1945, when the Russians charged into Vienna.

HOW MYSTERY AROSE

The mystery arose in this way:

The cathedral was built by members of the Bauhuette (craftsmen's union) of St. Stephen's, a Masonic lodge with mysterious signs intelligible only to the initiated. Members had to swear to guard the secrets and the vows were sanctined with religious services.

There are numerous drawings of the old masters and masons of St. Stephen's, none of which give the key to its measurements of proportion. For a long time it was supposed that the masons made their estimates by the eye.

37 IS NUMBER

The mysterious number of St. Stephen's is XXXVII. It took a student of the philosophy of religion to discover the meaning of this sign. He found the constructors of the oldest part of the dome used the number X, the sign of the cross. Three times of this sign, XXX, means the Trinity, he found. The number VII means the seven days of creation.

It is around these numbers that the geometrical proportions of the church are formed. Thirty-seven gives rise to curious mathematical regularity. For example, three times 37 equals 111; six times 37 equals 222, and nine times 333. These numbers occur in every part of the church.

A reason Vienna architects did not get onto the secret of the proportion may have been that when they used the "foot" measure they had the modern measurement in mind, as distinguished from the Roman "foot" or "passus." The Bauhuette masons used the "passus," it has been found.

NUMBERS FIT PERFECTLY

All the walls of St. Stephen's — in height, breadth, and depth — are proportioned around the number 37, and their measurements come out perfectly when the Roman foot is used.

Other early cathedral builders used similar mystic numbers, tho not so complicated.

(Chicago Tribune Press Service)—Vienna, Feb. 5

In the elder days of Art,
Builders wrought with greatest care
Each minute and unseen part;
For the Gods see everywhere.
Let us do our work as well,
Both the unseen and the seen;
Make the house where Gods may dwell,
Beautiful, entire and clean.

HENRY WADSWORTH LONGFELLOW

In the modern days of Art,
The same principles remain,
Color and proportion a part,
As homes modern we attain.
Art follows the present thought,
As it did in days long past;
The owners dreams are now wrought,
So the love of home will last.

FRANK A. CARPENTER
Architect, Rockford, Ill.

A Tree Planting Program for Chicago

Studies made by the City Planning and Housing Committee of the City Club of Chicago indicate that there is a great need for stimulating citizen interest in a tree planting program for Chicago as an essential part of maintaining the beauty of our streets and neighborhoods, checking the encroachment of blight, and promoting health.

Hardly any single factor adds more to the appearance of a community than the presence of trees on the streets in residential areas, and even in our business districts. Yet only a few of our citizens realize that in the past several years thousands of trees have been removed while replacements have been virtually nil.

According to Mr. Walter C. Wright, Superintendent of the Bureau of Parks, Recreation and Aviation for the City of Chicago, nearly 80,000 trees have been removed by the City during that period. In addition there is a backlog of 16,000 trees on the City's list for removal, which is beng cut down by removals at the rate of 700 per month. New requests for removals of trees which are dead, dangerous, or a nuisance come in at the rate of 800 per month. Unless the City promptly establishes an effective forestry program for replacements and tree planting in neglected areas, we will be falling steadily farther behind the concepts of the modern city. It has been estimated that a minimum of 400,000 trees should be planted to catch up with our needs. It is clear that prompt action is required if Chicago is to preserve one of its precious assets and the City Club is urging The City Council to consider establishing a city-owned nursery, or to make some arrangement or co-operative use of the nursery facilities of either the Chicago Park District or Cook County.

Prompt action is required if Chicago is to preserve one of its precious assets and civic and neighborhood organizations are urged to join in a campaign for a comprehensive forestry program to plant the appropriate types of trees through the City to enhance the beauty of neighborhoods and the city at large.

Trees and other types of vegetation act as an air-conditioning unit for residential area and provide much needed shade in the summer and, if properly spaced, they will not interfere detrimentally with the sun's rays. The soil they are rooted in retain water from rains and protect top soil and they also take up impure air and return pure oxygen.

A community that is well landscaped and supplied with healthy trees does not deteriorate to slum area no matter how old the district is.

At the present rate of removal without replacements the streets of Chicago are being gradually denuded of trees. The backlog of requests for tree removal is increasing at a rate of over 8,000 trees per year and a replacement program is urgent.

70-Year-Old May Be Only "55"

A new way to tell how old a person is after he has passed his fortieth birthday has been worked out by Dr. Harry Benjamin of New York City. Instead of counting birthdays, you count up the age of various organs and organ systems of the body, taking into account also heredity, living and dietary habits and personal history of illnesses, accidents and the like.

By this method of determining age, a man of 70 years may be found to have a biologic age, as Dr. Benjamin calls it, of 55 years. Then, since he has the life expectancy of a man of 55, which for the white American is 18 years, the 70 year-older has a good chance of living to "the ripe old age of 88." This gives him a life expectancy of nine years more than he would have from figuring his life expectancy on his calendar age of 70.

Your heart and blood-vessel system could change your calendar age by five to 30 years. Heredity, living habits and nervous system could modify it by five to 20 years. Skin, eyes and ears would modify it by only five to 10 years.

Science Digest, May, 1948.

35 of the Best Light Installations in the Chicago Area

The Illuminating Engineering Society — Chicago Section invites the members of the Illinois Society of Architects to An Inspection Tour In Slides, May 7 at 7:30 P. M. in the Assembly Hall, 140 S. Dearborn Street, Chicago. This is an inspection by means of slides of about 35 of the best lighting installations in the Chicago areas. Everyone who attends the meeting will be presented with a binder containing a data sheet showing photographs and diagrams giving information about each job included in this "tour."

Announcements

Clarence W. Torsell has recently returned from Tucson, Arizona and is now located at 1317 Twenty-ninth Avenue, Moline, Ill.

William C. Pehta has changed his address to 7928 W. Robinson Dr., Chicago.

Howard L. Cheney has moved his office to 23 East Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

Stanley M. Peterson is now located at 2136 Lake Ave., Wilmette.

Hubert Burnham and Daniel H. Burnham announce that George E. Elgh, Stephen E. Toussaint and Donald Boothly are now members of the firm of Burham & Hammond, Inc., Architects and Engineers, Chicago.

Announcement is made of change in the firm name of Holabird and Root to Holabird & Root & Burgee. In all other respects the partnership remains the same.

John L. King, associated with Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Architects and Engineers, has been made a partner of that firm.

Byron H. Jillson has opened offices at 1575 Prairie, Beloit, Wisconsin for the general practice of architecture.

I. S. Loewenberg was recently re-elected treasurer of the Social Agencies Council, Chicago.

Arthur Woltersdorf—page 1.

Charles W. Nothnagel, born February 7, 1863 at Cleveland, Ohio, passed on November 7, 1947. In 1886 he moved to Chicago and entered politics and was a member of the Illinois Legislature in 1897 and was very helpful when the small group then known as the Chicago Architects' Business Association under the presidency of Harry B. Wheelock took very vigorous action to enact the Illinois Architectural Act. His membership in the Society was dated February 6, 1897 and he was the first 2nd Vice President, but retained his membership for a very short time. Mr. Nothnagel for many years has been connected with the stone industry and because of his activity in the Illinois National Guards was familiarly called "Cap."

Clark W. Bullard, a member of the firm of Bullard and Bullard, Springfield, Ill., died the middle part of February.

Irwin R. Safranek, Western Springs, Ill., Architect, died in his home March 17, 1948. He was born in Chicago February 11, 1907. Attended Lane Technical High School where he was graduated in 1924 and later attended Lewis Institute and Armour Institute of Technology. He is survived by his wife Lillian and daughter Penny. He was a member of the I. S. A. since 1946.

John M. E. Reidel, Fort Wayne, Indiana, church architect, died recently at the age of 82 after a lengthy illness. During his 50-year career he designed more than 100 buildings in the Fort Wayne area, among them the Concordia College buildings, Trinity Lutheran Church and parsonages at St. Paul's and Zion churches. He also designed churches in China and India.