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WEEKLY BULLETIN



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Volume 17

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JULY 6, 1943

No. 26

MEETING OF ARCHITECTS

Friday, July 9, 1943, 8:00 P.M.

CRANBROOK ACADEMY OF ART

Members, Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. and Detroit Division M.S.A.

All Architects Invited to Attend

No Organized Dinner Meeting Has Been Arranged Exhibition: "Planning for Detroit's Future"

Models and studies prepared by Mr. J. D. Stephen, A.I.A., under the direction of Mr. Eliel Saarinen. Both Mr. Saarinen and Mr. Stephen will speak.

In furtherance of the program planned by Mr. Buford L. Pickens, heading a joint-committee of the architectural organizations, this meeting should be of vital interest to all architects in the Metropolitan Detroit Area.

NO OTHER NOTICES WILL BE SENT, NO RESERVATIONS NECESSARY

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OUR MEN IN SERVICE

C. William Palmer, our illustrious past president, now a Lieutenant-Commander in the Seabee, is, for the present, stationed in or about Chicago, where he is all out for the Navy. We look for him to cover himself with glory before he returns to a peacetime Detroit.

Richard P. Raseman, also a past president (Chapter), is now a Lieutenant, U.S.N.R., and commanding officer of the Naval Training Unit at John Carroll University, at Cleveland, Ohio. More power to you both!

CHANGE IN FIRM

The Firm of Fry and Kasurin Architects, Ann Arbor, has been dissolved as of June 2, 1943. Both Mr. Fry and Mr. Kasurin will conduct separate architectural practices, the former at 1206 Orkney Drive and the latter at 905 First National Building.

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MOSES OUTLINES POST WAR PLANNING

To assure general employment during the period from the end of the war until peacetime business and industry get going, New York City will spend approximately \$800,000,000 on public construction.

It plans to employ as many men as it had on its welfare rolls at the depth of the last depression.

It has already advanced 14 months into a two-year planning period during which it will spend a total of \$28,000,000 for plans approved and brought forward to the point where the next step is the asking for bids.

These are some of the things that Robert Moses, city park commissioner of New York, brought here by the Traffic Safety Association of Detroit, told a gathering at Rackham Educational Memorial June 23.

Moses is a pioneer in parkways, recreational construction and housing.

Parkways, express-ways and local roads, he said, are one form of public investment on which the great bulk of a city's population gets a long and useful return, but he pointed out that the parkways should be in areas suited to them and should include slum-clearance and recreational features wherever possible.

He illustrated his talk by slides of the Tri-Borough Bridge, the Henry Hudson Bridge and Parkway, Jones Beach Parkway on Long Island and other great highways of New York's metropolitan area.

During a question and answer period, Moses said that it had been New York's experience that subways and suburban trains definitely depopulate cities residentially but that parkways do not; in fact the ability of city-dwellers to reach parkways easily, and enjoy them, tends definitely to promote and prolong city residence.

He gave it as his opinion that if New York had spent one-half the enormous total it has spent on subways in slum-clearance, modernizing older parts of the city and making life more enjoyable for its residents it would have been much better off.

BUILDING INDUSTRY POST-WAR PLANS DISCUSSED BY COUNCIL'S TECHNICAL CHAIRMAN

George J. Haas, Director of Market Development of the Stran-Steel Division of the Great Lakes Steel Corp. of Detroit, Mich., described the general objectives of the Producer's Council and the detailed program of its technical Committee, of which he is Chairman, at a recent meeting of the Central New York Chapter, A.I.A., and Producer's Council. He urged Architects, Engineers, material men, contractors and all allied branches of the construction industry to organize their own local committees for post-war planning and to join their efforts with other local business and industry groups to insure full employment after the war.

Mr. Haas is a long-time member of The American Institute of Architects and a Past President of the Michigan Society of Architects.

"The broad objective of the Council's Post-War Program", said Mr. Haas, "is the development in cooperation with other branches of the construction industry and major allied groups, of plans and policies to insure that construction will perform its proper function in support of a full post-war economy and contribute the largest possible share towards full employment and general economic and social stability," Mr. Haas said.

"The Producers' Council, as a cross-sectional organization of manufacturers of all kinds of building materials and equipment, has assumed the responsibility in such post-war preparations for the manufacturing interests. It is proceeding with specific studies which will be of benefit to the other interests in the industry as well as to producers. For instance, The Council expects to make various proposals for maintaining a high volume of construction in the post-war. It will undertake to analyze governmental relations to construction in the past, and recommend what these relationship should best be in the future. It will endeavor to evaluate technological developments incident to the war and with the help of the technical professions to estimate their effect upon future design and construction techniques."

A general post-war committee was organized by The Council about a year ago under general chairman Russell G. Creviston of Crane Co., former president of The Council. Its membership consists of representatives appointed by manufacturers of building materials and equipment, or associations of such manufacturers. But producers operating through The Council's program, have no thought of doing this whole construction industry planning job themselves, but rather of getting it started. They are freely inviting the other branches of the industry—architects, engineers, contractors, builders, dealers, financing interests, etc., to appoint liaison representatives to the general post-war committee and to the several working committees. The Council's post-war committee looks forward to the appropriate time when the various branches of the construction industry will sit down together and agree upon a post-war plan which all can support and help to establish as a part of the program for all business and industry. In this connection Mr. Haas referred to the recent meeting of representatives of the different branches of the industry held by the U. S. Chamber Committee at which a permanent committee was formed to study the various aspects of the problem.

Various studies are being made by working committees of the council of which five so far have been organized—technical (of which Mr. Haas is chairman); marketing; industry and consumers' relations; finance; and government relations to construction.

The technical committee has a broad program to assist development of improved building products and methods, encourage research, cooperate in the improvement of standards and codes for construction, help in the development of more efficient planning, all for the purpose of improving the operations of the construction industry, increasing its service to the public and hence enabling it more adequately to fulfill its post-war obligations. Attention at this time is being directed to the following specific topics:

New Technical Developments—the utilization in future design and specification practice of all improvements re-

sulting from emergency construction techniques and standards that are meritorious; also from developments in prefabrication, demountable construction, etc.

Standardization of Building Codes

Consideration of Fundamental Technical Programs—such as ASA A-62—coordinations of dimensions of building materials and equipment.

Expansion and Coordination of Research and Testing of Building Products

Standard Specifications and Standards of Performance Comprehensive and Practical City and Regional Planning.

Mr. Haas explained that The Council committee did not propose to duplicate the work of the many organizations now dealing with city planning and urban problems. Rather The Council committee would expect to keep in touch with developments, its principal interest being to recommend, as a part of the post-war program, how the construction industry could be assured that planning of physical facilities would be comprehensive, continuous and sufficiently in advance so that essential public construction could be undertaken, if necessary, as a means of providing employment during the conversion period of industry at the end of the war.

He emphasized the great complexity of the city planning problem today with the various complications that war construction and war production have added to it. He indicated that Syracuse's problems must be solved in Syracuse—as every city's problems must be solved locally; nevertheless, much help would come to Syracuse and other cities through the operations of various national organizations such as The Council. He mentioned the possibilities in the Conference Committee on Urban Problems organized recently by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce which had its initial meeting in December and its several meetings since. Among its 75 members from organizations of all the various kinds are representatives of The Institute and Council. Mr. Haas referred also to the Committee for Economic Development, the objectives of which are to assist industry and commerce to make their full contribution to maximum employment and high production in the post-war period, and which has a field organization to aid local planning efforts.

Mr. Haas pointed out that continuing steps should be taken to keep the country's building codes in harmony with sound developments and advance in design, materials and construction methods and recommended that all steps be taken immediately to modify such provisions of pre-war codes as would interfere with the use of proven technological advances and new materials.

He mentioned the great developments in Research being made by manufacturers in general which will contribute to lower costs, saving of labor and more comfortable living conditions in the post-war world but specifically warned against the creating of too optimistic expectation on the part of the public as to the availability in the immediate post-war period of unrealizable developments and advances, which will come in an evolutionary rather than a revolutionary manner.

DUES ARE DUE

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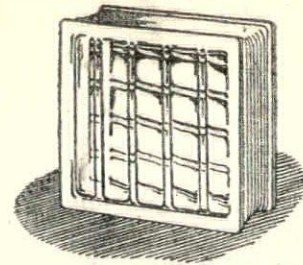
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Volume 17

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JULY 13, 1943

No. 27

R. V. GAY NAMED HEAD OF STATE PLANNING GROUP

R. V. Gay, A.I.A., has been appointed by Gov. Harry F. Kelly to one of the most important posts the state of Michigan has to offer in the war and post-war period. Gay was named director of the State Planning Commission, a revised organization of the bureau of that name which was set up in 1937 under Governor Murphy's administration. George Ross, who has been the director, will remain as a consultant.

"I think this is the most challenging job that has been assigned to a single individual in recent years," one state official commented. "The days that follow this war can be made constructive, or we can go into a period of economic and social chaos. The purpose of this planning commission is to be ready for peace when peace comes. Mr. Gay has been made the directing head of this effort."

The last legislature considered two courses regarding the planning commission. It has existed for several years without offering very much of long-distance and constructive worth. "Shall we augment this commission or shall we throw it in the ash can?" was a question freely debated by the legislative committees at the last session.

The outcome was that state elective officials were added to the commission. There was an appropriation of \$8,000,000 made for future state buildings. There was another tentative fund of \$50,000,000 for the rehabilitation of returning service men. Of the total \$58,000,000 made up of the two funds, \$200,000 was made available for the preparatory work.

Governor Kelly and other members of the Administrative Board have carefully considered the course to follow in the future. Several meetings have been held. At the suggestion of some of the members, Mr. Gay submitted his idea of how the administration of this planning effort should be approached.

It appears that the outline Gay presented appealed to the members as comprehensive, constructive and embraced a wide scope of effort which would avoid overlapping of effort and expenditure. It called for the coordinating of all state spending in amounts, and for the purposes, that would give heed to the needs of various localities and at the same time placed the greatest needs first.

The program, as presented, embraced the following existing departments and projects which the state of Michigan would obviously engage in:

1—Construction of state buildings which is under the direct supervision of the building division and a committee of State Administrative officers.

2—Transportation, which would include highways, air fields and needed improvements in congested areas. This

is the direct responsibility of the State Highway Department and Board of Aeronautics.

3—Conservation and recreational spending including the preservation of Michigan's natural resources including the development of oil fields, particularly the work of the State Conservation Commission.

4—Labor, Industry and Business which is a relatively new field and may call for some unusual planning in the post-war period.

5—Agriculture which will be worked out with the help of the Department of Agriculture, Michigan State College and other organized agricultural groups.

6—Welfare and public health will be another consideration which will present special problems following the war and in which many of the scientific findings and progress developed in the war will enter.

7—Education as it will be presented by the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and other fact-finding groups. It is being freely predicted that wartime and economic conditions may easily result in consolidation of the state's 6,800 separate school districts.

8—Returning service men, their economic and social problems, the matter of employment and rehabilitation will come in for special study and planning and indications are that the legislature did not intend that this effort should be unorganized when the emergency arrives.

Mr. Gay's work as director of the planning body will not deal so much with details of each individual project as it will the overall direction of this effort. His immediate responsibility will be to assemble the needs of the state in the order of their importance and immediate urgency. He will be directly responsible to the Governor and the commission. Plans will be gotten ready for the next session of the legislature may be made to meet those which demand immediate attention.

If this work is accomplished as the Tuesday meeting
(See GAY—Page 3)

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You, Too, Can Become Famous And Have Your Designs Printed in the Architectural Magazines, Says Allen, Laughing Like Crazy

"You could have knocked me over with a feather bed when I found out what the Policy committee of the Bulletin really was," said Roger Allen today in an uncopyrighted interview with the second bartender from the left in Ye Olde College Rumme Shoppe, attached to good old Grand Rapids Sub-Normal, Allen's Alma Muter. (She keeps muttering that it's a dirty lie and she never even heard of Allen.)

"Naturally when they tell me I am on the Policy committee I assume the Society has finally got smart and is about to start selling policy tickets on a huge scale, making big money and seeing the world. But it turns out I am supposed to tell Tal Hughes what to put in the Bulletin. This is a laugh, as he already knows what to put in the Bulletin. In fact Hughes is my favorite editor. He is doing all right, so the hell with the policy committee.

"What I am now interested in is a clever scheme for getting the Forum, Pencil Points and the Architectural Record to print photographs of every single building I design from there on in. You may think this is impossible. Little do you wot.



Allen

"First, naturally, I change my name. 'Roger Allen' has a plain old Anglo-Saxon ring to it that nauseates editors of high class architectural magazines. It would never do for Mr. Reid, who has made Pencil Points hard to; for Mr. Meyers, publisher of the Forum, a fellow who had the effrontery to tell me a letter I wrote him is Not Funny; and Mr. Stowell of the Record. On second thought I am going to let Mr. Stowell live for a while, on account of the fact that he had the good sense to publish, in the Record for June, an article by Dean Joseph Hudnut that is one of the few articles I have read in the last couple of years on the subject of architecture that had any real sense to it. Consequently Stowell will be remanded in custody of the Marshal.

"First I change my name. The next thing you know I am the celebrated refugee Kurt von Slapnoodle, a slightly-blighted Bulgar, the world's No. 1 exponent of Design by the Noodle System. You know what a module is, don't you? Well, a noodle is merely a module made out of macaroni. Why grope with Gropius when you can noodle with Slapnoodle? What a slogan!

"Then I design a house. All is bustle and confusion. The bustle belongs to my assistant a Miss O'Paque. Naturally you are all agog to know what this house looks like and if you will stand back a little and take your elbow out of my glass, I will tell you my astounding discovery.

"Anybody can make a house out of orange crates. This is old stuff; so is making your house revolve on a pivot; so is the house that looks like a caboose. So are houses that are mostly glass. According to the magazines, the more glass the merrier. What is the one familiar shape that gives you 100 per cent glass area? The bottle, naturally. Hence the Slapnoodle-O'Paque house is erected inside an outer shell and the outer shell consists of an over-sized bottle, 24 feet long and 12 feet in diameter. I am not going to tell you any more details as Gus Langius or Ken Black, who are watching me like hawks, would hurry off to a glass blower and start infringing on my patents, but if you are on any Lake Michigan beach this summer and an out-sized bottle is washed up on shore, look a little out. It may be the Chateau Slapnoodle.

"The first photos of the Slapnoodle opus will be accompanied by a critical article written by the celebrated Latvian author, Downta Getcha. (I got this lovely name from the old song; you remember 'I'll be Downta Getcha in a taxi, honey; better be ready 'bout half-past eight'.)

"Pal, it can't miss."

GAY (Continued from Page 1)

discussed it, it will likely become a long-range program of Michigan spending for some years to come, rather than a spending spree in a single administration which often does, as it has, resulted in many mistakes.

In September, it is contemplated, a group of the legislative leaders will gather with the Planning Commission, members of the Administrative Board and the Governor for a preliminary examination of what the new director and his associates have drafted.

It is believed that Mr. Gay is eminently fitted for this important undertaking. He knows Michigan well, having built public buildings in more than 50 of the 83 counties of the state. He has been prominent in American Legion circles and in the welfare work among veterans. In recent years he has served as chairman of the board governing the Michigan Soldiers Home at Grand Rapids.

In his new job he will have to deal with a wide variety of problems, with many and varied agencies, and recommend the spending of many millions of dollars. The position as it was outlined Tuesday opens up a field of possibilities most unusual and vastly important to every citizen of Michigan.

Auditor General Vernon J. Brown, commenting on the program, said: "It requires no great foresight to know that we must have plans ready the day the war ends. We must spend every dollar for needed things, spend it wisely, not waste a dollar if possible—and we cannot do that by 'raking leaves.' It is none too early to make our plans."

SINK A JAP SHIP, WIN A FREE SET OF HOUSE PLANS!

There is a special incentive for the pilots of one bomber squadron in the Pacific to sink Jap ships, reports Robert Cromie in the Chicago Tribune. The intelligence officer, a former architect, has a standing offer to give a set of house plans for each enemy vessel sent to the bottom.

He is 1st Lt. John Edwin Petersen, who taught at Armour Institute of Technology and worked in Chicago until five years ago.

Petersen joined the army with the purpose of building airfields, but was drafted into intelligence on the theory that architects are exceptionally fitted for such work.

They are able to evaluate damage as shown in aerial photographs through their knowledge of buildings, or to advise where bombs in hitting a factory would cripple its water mains or power plant. The present bombing there, of course, is largely directed against shipping and airfields, but Petersen expects to be very useful when the boys begin bombing Tokio.

Petersen's offer to date has been somewhat expensive. He has been there only since February, but made his offer retroactive.

The squadron has a record of more than 70 ships hit, of which 29 were definitely sunk. Of course, he makes a little playing poker with the boys, but he is still plenty in the hole—and he is happy about it!

My dear Mr. Editor:

On the fourth page of the June 29th Edition of your always so welcome journal of light and learning, the Bulletin of the Michigan Society of Architects, I am shocked to find a distinguished interpreter of historic architectural beauty called out of his good name.

You speak there of a "collection of Perinasi prints" being shown currently in Detroit. Shades of Giovanni Battista PIRANESI! How could any cultured person, much less an architect, mis-spell that name? (I looked it up myself just now, to make sure, on the print of his Ponte Salario hanging over the northeast corner of my bed.)

But maybe you in Detroit have a skunner on all Italians just now, from Mussolini all the way back even to 1778 when this here Piranesi is said to have passed on. Well, all right, cuss them put but don't spell 'em wrong.

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No. 28

ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION TODAY

A statement made at the A.I.A. Convention session on the Architectural Profession and War Service, Wednesday, May 26, 1943

By Wells Bennett

Just as in the early depression years architects are asking themselves why are we in our present unfavorable situation. From where I stand, speaking supposedly as a college professor, it appears that the plight of the architectural profession arises from a lack of definite statement as to our standards and a lack of effective organization behind these standards as to maintaining them among ourselves and presenting them convincingly to the public. In these remarks I am supposed to talk about education and I shall endeavor to focus my remarks accordingly.

The trained and experienced architect has been rudely jolted by the war. Not only has normal practice disappeared, but the profession has been deemed "non-essential." What is wrong in architectural education and practice? Is the architect a fifth wheel in the construction industry? As to education it appears to me that the chief trouble is that the period of education is too short and that it is considered to be complete when the student graduates from his professional school. In the schools we have constantly to fight the idea generally held by students and parents that there is some magic in a college degree. The accepted definition of architectural education is that it is something one is exposed to in a school. When the senior receives his diploma he feels that he is educated. If he has come from an economically favored environment so that he can take time for an A.B. plus an architectural degree, he prides himself on being that much more completely educated. Occasionally statements coming from architects employing young men



Bennett

in their offices indicate that they have felt the same way. In the view of such possible employers the college graduate has been (to use a current word) processed. He ought therefore to be immediately useful in a certain place in the office pattern.

The history of the development of American architectural schools has been one of gradual increase in length, increasing strength as to subject matter, and enrichment as to the curriculum. Five years is now perhaps the most usual length, and some schools have gone beyond this period. I sincerely believe that this is all to the good, but even six or seven years in the best schools does not make an architect. Who would have confidence in a doctor, particularly a surgeon, who had felt his education complete at the end of his seven or eight years training with the M.D. degree? Actually, we all know that architectural education must continue after graduation for a considerable period, following the interne pattern, though the length of time might vary depending on the individual and his particular interne experience. The Mentor system set up by the American Institute of Architects some years ago contemplated such a form of in-

(See BENNETT—Page 3)

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BENNETT (Cont. from Page 1)

ternship in a splendid plan for cooperation between the practitioner, as counselor, and the young graduate, as continuing student. Some members of the Institute began to put this into effect. A report on progress, if it could be obtained, would be instructive although perhaps discouraging. The depression and subsequent trends in the handling of architectural work proved too great a handicap, and the Mentor system was one of the last fine things of a day that is past. The interne system idea, however, would be still feasible in a large modern office or even—perish the thought—in a government office. The usual experience requirement written into most state registration laws reflects this same notion, namely that of supplementary education in the field after graduation from school.

But even this combined school-field training is a minimum qualification. I doubt if we can consider architecture to be a true profession unless we actively promote a standard of education to be continued through the active professional life of the architect whether as a general practitioner or as a man specializing in a particular field. If the current trend toward social controls continues and if economic limitations increasingly restrict the character of projects, the architect will be held increasingly accountable. The practice of architecture as evidenced by results obtained will be more sharply scrutinized and projects will increasingly be entrusted to those who move with the time, who take serious responsibility for granted and who, in addition to practice, continue to be students contributing to and learning from developments in planning, in construction, in materials. I know architects who have always done this, one of them now past eighty. But should it not be a standard? For instance, why should there not be available for our profession, factual publications, brief but frequently available clinics, and other means of exchange of new findings supported by the profession, as like resources are made available to the chemist or the dentist?

Perhaps you think I am riding this horse of professional research too hard. Maybe it doesn't look that important to you. Should we rather claim that we are coordinators; executives putting through projects by assembling the technologists, engineers, specification writers, statisticians, and designers in about that order? In that case our school curricula would need revision. Our emphasis in college, our experience afterward, our journals, our refresher sessions, would be concerned with business administration and public relations. This latter assumption of possible emphasis I hope to be wrong, though executive ability in the architect is important. At any rate, mention of the coordinating idea may illustrate the problems with which the schools have to cope.

The schools, in other words, need to know where the profession is going for the schools cannot exist effectively unless they are in contact with the current practice of architecture. They must have the best thought and counsel of the practitioner. I believe that the men who are the product of the schools influence and even give a considerable degree of leadership to the profession, but the schools are not and cannot be far out in front nor lag far behind the profession. Our national professional organization, the National Council of State Registration Boards, and the schools should all go forward together.

As to the substance of current architectural school curricula, an approximate average of the five-year school programs indicates that such subjects as history, science, and drawing take up about one-third of the curriculum. This group includes general education plus basic training in architecture.

More than one-third of this average program is assigned to design.

Less than a third is divided between construction and building technology—building methods, materials, mechanical, electrical, sanitary and acoustical equipment, contracts and business procedures, specifications. The lines are not too uniformly drawn between construction and the so-called building technology courses.

Design is clearly the major in most curricula except in the programs in architectural engineering offered in a number of schools. I suspect that design is the target that our

critics have been popping at, design in the guise known to the public—rendered drawing and elaborately decorated facades and interiors. In the sample war-time curriculum which, with Mr. Este Fisher, we took up in Washington with Dr. Elliott of the WMC, the term "design" was avoided. The term "planning," and courses noted as "Planning and Construction" won the approving comment, "This is substantially an engineering program." Here I do not agree, although the term "planning" seems a good one. The schools are reviewing their programs against the coming of peace. There will be changes, but probably planning (or design) and construction will remain the bulwarks of architectural education. It might be worth-while to offer a personal definition of their scope.

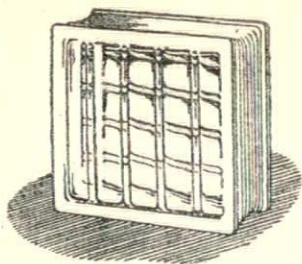
Planning (or Design): This field, involving as it does a creative space sense combined with technological knowledge and judgment may be cultivated, but it must in a considerable degree come from the talent of the architect, like the genius of the surgeon. It transcends technology. In the best tradition of the French school design was considered to be not two-dimensional patterns on paper but, through the pictorial code of the Beaux-Arts plan, a representation of space needs and space use clear to the eye of the trained man. Today such visualization of space use may involve the consideration of a medicine cabinet, a low-cost house, a factory, or it may expand to the dimensions of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

In the past we have readily assumed that the architect who worked his way through a series of school design problems beginning with a Pavillion in a Garden and ending with a Palace for International Peace Conferences and had incidentally found it good fun, could readily, by stooping a little, take care of an elegant linen closet or, with a sufficiently large drafting table, manage a State Capitol. Now the prefabricators and industrial designers are perfecting and glamorizing the linen closet, with the architect definitely a poor third, and at the other end of the scale the city planners are rapidly acquiring professional status on their own. We find that city planners may or may not be architects. The architect should be among the first to qualify here, but I think he *has* to qualify, and he sometimes finds the fourth dimensional aspects of city planning beyond even his boasted creative genius. In traditional architectural practice he has never had to consider some of the aspects of modern planning. The school effort in teaching planning can only endeavor to encourage planning ability and point the way.

Construction. The importance of construction as regards wood, steel, and reinforced concrete framed structures is well recognized by the schools, and courses in this field are conducted on a high level though sometimes too isolated from the work in planning. The project method is being used increasingly and approaches office practice as nearly as is possible and desirable in academic work. Whether the newer and more experimental techniques should be included at this time might be debatable, considering the limited time available to the college student, unless there is some merit in invention and experiment. Certainly a receptive attitude toward construction techniques should be encouraged. It is part of the spirit of our times that whether one likes it or not, students today are as interested in invention with regard to architecture as those of my generation were intrigued by beautiful refinements of classical detail.

Building technology may be a separate topic and it sometimes is so treated. Ideally it should be integrated with planning and construction. That integration is easier promised than accomplished. The project method is one pattern of integration.

Of immediate importance in establishing definite educational standards, the schools will receive the increasingly active backing of the National Architectural Accrediting Board. Here we have an instrument, established only three years ago, which is beginning to be effective. As officially constituted, the National Architectural Accrediting Board has two representatives each from the A.I.A., and N.C.A.R.B., and the A.C.S.A. It is authorized to study standards of accreditation and to accredit schools of architecture. Its rulings may not help the schools for the duration, but the earlier establishment of this board would have helped



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members of the profession, particularly those of military age who seek commissions, or those of any age who apply for other war employment or technical qualifications. Many cases of such applications have come to the attention of those of us who are in education. Practitioners, also, have had them with respect to members of their staffs. On one hand, complaints come back to us from applicants, while on the official side there have been blunt, although usually friendly statements from admirals, colonels, and the United States Department of Education.

Insofar as I know, the only accredited lists of technical qualifications having to do with building are those in engineering. The engineers, through their Engineer's Council for Professional Development, had gone through the accrediting process backed by their professional societies—not the schools alone—before the present day of wrath. They were thus prepared to furnish positive detailed information as to their qualifications. Architecture was not thus prepared. Mr. Este Fisher, Washington, representative of the

(Concluded on Page 6)

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ARCHITECTS ORGANIZE FOR POST-WAR PLANNING

That architects are preparing to take a leading part in post-war planning was indicated July 9 when three meetings were held by Detroit and Michigan architectural groups.

The board of directors of the Michigan Society of Architects met at the Rackham Building at 4:00 p.m. and, while this meeting was not devoted exclusively to the subject of post-war planning, any meeting of architects now days is concerned very seriously with this important subject. John C. Thornton, president, presided; R. V. Gay, a member of the board, from St. John's, Michigan, outlined the functions of his new office as director of the State Planning Board. Some facts concerning this program were given in the last issue of The Bulletin.

A dinner meeting of the State Society's Post-War Planning Committee, headed by Ralph W. Hammett, of Ann Arbor, and having in its membership representatives from all of the Society's divisions, was held at Cotter's Inn Friday evening. A free and lively discussion of what steps are being taken in other Michigan cities was held. Kenneth C. Welch, member of the Grand Rapids Planning Commission, had some interesting statements about their activities.

At 8:00 p.m. architects gathered at Cranbrook Academy of Art to see an exhibition on city planning and to hear Mr. Eliel Saarinen and Mr. J. D. Stephen, who had studied under Mr. Saarinen, speak on the subject.

Mr. Stephen, using the drawings and models he had made, spoke of proposed plans for Plymouth, Michigan and other communities.

Mr. Saarinen, introduced by Buford L. Pickens, chairman of the Detroit Division's Post War Committee, stated that cities should not be built for traffic but for human beings.

"I never heard of zoning until I came to this country," Mr. Saarinen observed. "To me zoning means lack of city planning."

Many interesting questions followed, chief among which was how the examples shown might be related to Detroit's city plan of the future. The answers resulted in a great deal of educational matter for the architects.

BENNETT (Cont. from Page 3)

A.I.A., has done his best in combating this handicap, but I think he has found it uphill work since he lacked the weapons to fight with. When the United States Office of Education called our attention to the fact that their source of information as to architects' training in construction was the engineers' list of accredited schools which in some cases happened to include departments of architectural engineering, stating that there appeared to be no such accredited list for architecture and even suggesting that we might get the engineers to accredit us, we could only answer that we had a rather recently established National Architectural Accrediting Board which would presently accredit our schools. Our official standing as stating our bases for educational and professional proficiency on a sound objective foundation is simply negative. The situation of the National Roster as regards architecture has been another point of weakness. Only belatedly was the architect recognized as entitled to a place on the Roster.

As to strengthening the schools and the profession, one can only urge greater unification of the architects and the strengthening of the A.I.A. so that it will represent the profession with increasing authority, defining for all and sundry our legal status and responsibilities, our social responsibilities, and our technological adequacy so that, come war come peace, we shall know where we stand and will be found to have our house in order.

The post-war period will find us short-handed for lack of trained men, and there may well be a tendency to lower standards of performance through invasions from outside our ranks. In this wartime interim we should make every effort to raise standards of professional competence and to win recognition for that competence. The schools are anxious to cooperate in this effort.

WHAT, THEN, IS AN ARCHITECT?

Perhaps there should be some means by which the general public might be made more keenly aware of the versatility of the architect.

The building business being what it is, subject to violent ups and downs, during which the architect's prosperity bounces and plunges along with the industry, it would be worth while to have the public understand something of the architect's broad technical education, of his training and field experience, so that in time of war or severe depression his ability can be used to the best advantage.

This is not to say that a man should practice architecture on a part time basis, designing buildings only when the construction business is booming and doing something else at other times. Yet, over a business lifetime, there are times when only a small part of the architects can be kept busy. At such times it is certainly better that the rest of the profession do something useful and profitable rather than sitting around in clientless offices.

Something of the sort has been achieved during this war, but there are still too many architects today whose ability is largely wasted because they merely have jobs as draftsmen or on assembly lines in war plants—jobs which someone else without the architect's training could do as well.

Along the line of the architects value in non-architectural jobs, there are two thought-provoking paragraphs in a letter written some months ago by B. K. Johnstone, head of the Department of Architecture of the Engineering School of the Pennsylvania State College:

"We are inclined to modestly forget that the average architect has an excellent broad technical training that covers the fundamentals in a great variety of fields, i.e., electricity, heat transfer, strength of materials, structural analysis, flow of liquids, pressure piping, etc. We normally refer to these fields as plumbing, heating, wiring, reinforced concrete, etc. He not only has fundamental training but, for the most part, field experience. He further has the capacity to organize work which is detailed and complicated as well as a capacity for getting a job done."

"With the above in mind we approached each of four divisions of the College asking in each case just one question. Specifically, a member of our chemical engineering faculty was asked 'given a man with the training and knowledge of an average architect could you make a chemical engineer of him and how long would it take?' The answer was an emphatic 'Yes, in three months. We could teach him everything he would have to know to operate some portion of a synthetic rubber plant, for example, a distillation column. He would not be a chemical engineer, but he would know everything about a specific field of work in a specific manufacturing process. His employment would thus release a more skilled chemical engineer.' The same question was asked in aeronautical engineering, naval architecture, and hydraulics, and the answer each time was an emphatic 'Yes, in about three months.'"

—Von Duprin Magazine

M.S.A. MEMBERSHIP GAINS

L. E. Caldwell, treasurer, announces that the Central Michigan Division of the State Society is now leading in percentage of active members to architects registered in the division area. A complete report follows:

Central Michigan Division	58%
Detroit Division	53%
Ann Arbor Division	50%
Saginaw Valley Division	33%
Southwestern Division	31%
West Michigan Division	24%
Out State Division	24%
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WEEKLY BULLETIN

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No. 29

PRODUCERS' COUNCIL APPROVES DIMENSIONAL COORDINATION PROJECT

The Producers' Council has approved the Proposed American Standard Basic for Coordination of Dimensions of Building Materials and Equipment, now pending before Sectional Committee A-62 of the American Standards Association—and authorized its Managing Director, J. W. Follin, a member of the Executive Committee of that Project, to report the Council's approval at the committee meeting on July 9 in New York. If the proposed American Standard receives the endorsement of the sectional committee it will be disseminated widely in the construction industry for review. When adopted as an American Standard, it will provide the basis upon which manufacturers of separate lines of building materials and equipment may propose and adopt standard sizes for their respective materials and equipment conforming to the coordination basis. George J. Haas, A.I.A., of Detroit, is chairman of the Council's Technical Committee on Post-War Planning.



Follin

This project was gotten under way about five years ago jointly sponsored by The American Institute of Architects and The Council under regular ASA procedure. It is one of the most fundamental proposals ever to be undertaken by the entire industry and immediate acceptance is hoped for as a means of improving post-war building. Members of The Council are agreed that the development of standard modular products, or materials and equipment coordinated in size with each other, should be encouraged to be made available for the spurt in building activity anticipated to start immediately following the end of the war. Many building material manufacturers have switched to war products for the duration, and there could be no more convenient time to provide economically for production of coordinated sizes. This forward advance in building construction is being considered by architects now completing working drawings and specifications to be available immediately at the end of the war. Architects for such projects in New York City have the assurance from the structural clay products manufacturers that their products will be available in modular sizes for post-war building projects.

The proposed American Standard Basis for coordination provides that different branches of manufacture shall prepare application standards supplementing the basic standard, establishing coordinated sizes and dimensions. Work is well along on a proposal which will establish the basis for

masonry materials and dimensions as well as modular sizes of various structural clay products which the Structural Clay Products Institute is fostering. Application studies have been started for other types of masonry units, wood and metal windows and doors and other materials. The proposed standard is sufficiently broad in its scope to include all the conventional types of materials as well as newer products and equipment partially or wholly prefabricated. A major factor in the success of one of the large prefabricated house companies has been careful application of the principal of modular coordination of parts.

A report on the progress of this project was made at the annual meeting of The Producers' Council, at Cincinnati, on May 26. Endorsement by the subcommittee on modular products of the Council's post-war technical committee, was the basis of The Council's approval of the proposed standard. Grateful acknowledgement was made to the Modular Service Association, established as a non-profit organization by the family of the late Albert F. Bemis of Boston, for the technical services rendered to the ASA Committee A-62 which are facilitating the rapid progress of the project.

The proposed American Standard Basis for coordination submitted to the ASA Sectional Committee embodies the use of a standard module of 4 inches. Its use is recommended to architects and engineers for all three dimensions of plans for buildings and to producers of building materials and equipment in determining the dimensions of their stock building products. This makes possible the assembly of modular products to the dimensions of modular plans in an orderly manner.

Contingent upon approval by the Sectional Committee of the proposed American Standard Basis, its provisions and a supporting memorandum will be disseminated in the construction industry and copies may be had by application to the Producers' Council, Inc., 815 15th St., N. W. Washington, D. C.

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S. H. & G. ON HURON-CLINTON PROJECT

Smith, Hinchman and Grylls, Inc., prominent Detroit architectural firm, has been engaged by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority to design the bathhouse and other buildings for the proposed beach on Lake St. Clair, according to an announcement by George W. McCordis, Engineer-director of the Authority.

"Proceedings to acquire the 370 acre park and beach site will begin in Macomb County Circuit Court next week," McCordis said. "In the meantime various surveys and tests have been made of the property and lake bottom in the vicinity of the mile-long Lake St. Clair frontage near Mt. Clemens.

"This is one of several large recreational areas which the Authority proposes to develop following the war," McCordis explained. "Another large park will be located at Belleville Lake, west of Detroit, near Ypsilanti. The Authority is working with the State Conservation Department in the selection and development of others in the metropolitan district."

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BULLETIN

Ordinance 305-D, known as the Plumbing Code of the City of Detroit, was adopted March 17, 1943 and given effect by the Common Council on April 15, 1943.

The ordinance published in code form is now available at the Department of Buildings and Safety Engineering, Cashiers' Cage. Price: one dollar (\$1.00).

Owing to the time consumed in getting the code into book form, the code has not been in full effect but on and after July 1, 1943, all installations of plumbing, sewerage, and drainage in the City of Detroit shall be made and inspected in accordance with the Plumbing Code as revised in Ordinance 305-D.

In installations in which the house trap is omitted, the "Wye" connection with cleanout for the sanitary building drain near the junction with the storm drain shall be four inches in diameter.

The building and storm sewer test "tees" located at the property line will no longer be required.

In your new-code book, you are requested to copy into the blank pages at end of articles or on the margin, interpretations which will be included in typed form.

Your attention is called to the new requirement for plumbing plans except as noted in the code.

Please note the added Table IV-A governing the diameters and lengths of continuous circuit, and loop vents serving horizontal soil and waste branches. This is part of the Addenda and is part of the Code.

Please note the revision of fees subsequent to the adoption of the Plumbing Code, which are in effect July 1, 1943 and are included on separate sheets.

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VERMONT MARLBE COMPANY CONVERTS TO METAL AND WINS "E" AWARD

PROCTOR, Vt.—The Army Navy "E" was awarded this afternoon (Sunday, July 18th) to the Vermont Marble Co., during ceremonies held on the grounds of their plant here. The Vermont Marble Co. was highly praised for their fine job of conversion from marble to metal work and at present three-fourths of the company's output is war material. Redfield Proctor, president of the company and former Governor of Vermont, accepted the award in behalf of the company, while Frank Loraine, president of Independent Marble Workers of Vermont, represented the company's employees, each of whom received an individual "E" pin. Taking part in the presentation ceremonies were Brig. Gen. B. O. Lewis, District Chief, Boston Ordnance District, who made the "E" presentation; Mr. Redfield Proctor, company president; Governor William H. Wills, of Vermont; Mr. Frank Loraine, labor representative; Senator Warren R. Austin of Vermont; Senator George D. Aiken of Vermont and Capt. Robert Henderson, U.S.N. (ret.), who made presentation of individual "E" pins to employees.

DEAN NEWCOMB HONORED BY HISTORIANS

Dean Rexford Newcomb of the College of Fine and Applied Arts has been elected to the presidency of the American Society of Architectural Historians.

Other officers elected were John P. Coolidge, Princeton, N. J., vice-president; and Professor L. V. Meeks, Yale university, secretary-treasurer. New directors elected were Charles E. Peterson, Washington, D. C.; Doctor Richard Krautheimer, Vassar college, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.; and Professor Turpin C. Bannister, Rensselaer Polytechnic institute, Troy, N. Y.

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WHAT'S AHEAD FOR ARCHITECTS IN '44? '45? '46?

No one can predict just when the war will end. It's safe to say, though, that the architect who has looked ahead, planned for the war's ending, will be better to confront post-war problems.

For this reason we urge architects to acquaint themselves now, with the many advantages gas has for both domestic and industrial applications. Prospective customers will want to know more about gas, the modern fuel.

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ALLEN REPORTS DYNAMIC CONFERENCE

A professional meeting of great significance was held on July 16th to 18th; nothing less than the Midsummer Conference on Dynamic Design and Deuces Wild of the Central Michigan division of the Michigan Society of Architects.

Ernest F. Hartwick, and remind me to tell you about his dream-like buttermilk pancakes, was host at his Iosco county cabin on Stuart lake. This log cabin, known to the assembled intelligentsia as Hartwick House, the Home of Heavenly Hot-Cakes, is beautifully situated in sylvan surroundings, and every morning for breakfast we had buttermilk pancakes that were worth all the danger. I mean the danger of getting your hand stabbed by Clark Ackley's fork, reaching for them. What a reach that Ackley has; he can go to his left on a hot pancake and make a perfect stop. Only he didn't stop. Stop eating, I mean.



Allen

The directions for reaching this heavenly spot are simple; go north on US-23 or is it 78 and perhaps I mean 85; pass through Omer and a town named Hale—oddly enough the next town after Hale is not Hearty—and turn left at the Arctic circle. Or thereabouts. This hazardous voyage was negotiated by Ernie Hartwick, Gus Langius, Jim Stewart, Carl Kressbach, Clarence Rosa, Clarke Harris, Clark Ackley, Vere Hetrick, Tal Hughes and your present correspondent, an old pancake fancier from Wayback.

Commisary Stewart Rosa rivaled the feat of the man who lost a bass drum in a telephone booth; Rosa lost a peck of potatoes in an automobile. He says. A hastily impaneled grand jury, with maple syrup on their respective chins, heard evidence that Clarence had been seen bartering the potatoes with Indian squaws for pieces of whale blubber. The squaws refused to talk; merely kept asking "Where's Ken Black this year?"

The evening meeting, devoted to reviewing the Parlous State of the Profession, accomplished little except to get the executive Secretary of the M.S.A., a man who attracts deuces as a hot cake attracts Ackley, renamed "Loose Deuce Heuce." Mr. Heuce, who slept with your present correspondent, wrapped his ill-gotten gains in a textile exhibit furnished by Carl Kressbach, tied it to his middle and slept under the bed with a rifle in his arms, for better protection.

Next morning, after a breakfast of some delicious pancakes, a program of athletic sports ensued. A. Nelson Langius, the Languid Angler, presented a casting exhibition on the dock. It was a superb sight to see him with a bent pole, attempting to land a fish. The bent Pole, a fellow name Szynnwickzksw, was all bent out of shape laughing at the casting Langius was doing. Mr. Stewart, a caster himself, believes that Mr. Langius' casting form would interest the makers of Twenty Mule Team borax, if their present driver becomes incapacitated. Mr. Langius, after observing in turn the casting of Mr. Stewart, said that from behind it is difficult to tell if Mr. Stewart is casting or bowling.

Following a slight evening snack consisting of a mere 17 pounds of ham, the professional discussion was resumed, interspersed with loud cries of "Architecture forever, and who the hell forgot to ante this time?". Ernie, who was being taught an interesting scientific pastime called No-Peek, grasped it so well he won 8 pots in succession. While I am on the subject of Ernie, that man can really cook. I am in favor of Ernie.

During the day Vere Hetrick ruined the camp's amateur standing by actually catching a fish. Immediately thereafter Mr. Langius, not to be outdone, caught another. This was the total catch for a party of 10 and works out to .2 of a fish per architect. These figures have been checked by Clarke Harris and are subject to some skepticism as it stands to reason that a man who can't add five cards and get less than a Royal Flush is no mathematician. In a more serious vein Mr. Stewart gave his celebrated impression of a mental defective motioning Mr. Langius to stand away from that horse's head. Mr. Stewart then lodged

a dignified protest; he claims Stuart lake should be spelled Stewart and also should be a sort of plaid color. This report was received and filed in the outdoor chateau by Mr. Harris on one of his trips.

The next morning the air in the dining room was filled with cries of "Thar she blows!" as Harpooner Ackley took his stance just abaft the pancake dish and three points hard to port of the syrup jug. That man is uncanny but my hand will soon be all right again.

Mr. Allen then described his Back to Nature trip with Ernie and Mr. Heuce, during which they collected a quart of blue berries. Mr. Allen intrepidly climbing the gigantic trees and shaking the succulent blue berries down to his little companions. Mr. Allen's report was received and filed by Mr. Harris in the usual manner.

Mr. Rosa then collected the staggering sum of \$2.60 from each architect. Things are coming to a pretty pass when it costs a man the appalling sum of \$2.60 for two days board on nothing but ham, fish and the best pancakes a man ever buried his bridgework in, and two nights sleep in a place literally crawling with fresh air. What are we coming to? Let us all write a dignified letter to Pencil Points, shall we?

Your present correspondent cannot close this account without at least a passing mention of the fact that Mr. Ernest F. Hartwick can make the best buttermilk pancakes you ever et.

—Roger Allen

CANADIAN ENGINEERS BAN COMPULSORY BARGAINING

The case of professional workers has been placed before the Canadian National War Labor, now conducting an inquiry into all phases of Canada's war labor problems, the professional groups holding that professional workers should not be forced into unions.

A joint submission was made by the Engineering Institute of Canada, the Dominion Council of Professional Engineers of Quebec, the Association of Professional Engineers of Ontario, the Canadian Institute of Chemistry, the Canadian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy, and the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada, representing the entire engineering and architectural professions in the Dominion. The brief presented stated that the organizations represented "were unanimously and unalterably opposed to the forcible inclusion of professional men in any compulsory bargaining legislation" that may be planned for labor in Canada.

N. Y. DESIGNERS FORM RESEARCH GROUP

A more or less spontaneous and highly interesting new study group has been formed in New York under the guidance of Morris Sanders, well-known architect, industrial designer, and specialist in plastics, lately of the Office of Price Administration in Washington.

It is a Designer's Research Group, structurally somewhat like a series of seminars in which groups of interested people, most of them already active in the various fields, of research in woods, metals, ceramics, glass, pulp and paper, and other materials, and ultimately plastics, under the supervision of working authorities in each category of materials. Round table sessions with a pooling of problems, discussion and conclusions are planned at regular intervals.

The group, Mr. Saunders emphasized, has no purpose other than to give its members an opportunity to study, under experienced guidance, the technical properties and functions of the various materials with which designers work.

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