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DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 3, 1945

Number 14

A Few Facts of the Early Architectural Development of Detroit

By George D. Mason, F. A. I. A.

The following letter from Mr. Mason was addressed to Emil Lorch, Chairman of Committee on Michigan Architecture, Detroit Chapter, A. I. A. and M. S. A.

In a recent letter you refer to the proposed demolition of the water works tower. This brings to mind many historical facts that might be interesting to some of the younger generation of architects, who have young sons whose future destiny is the important problem of their parents.

I think I gave you a copy of the diary of the trip to Russia in 1846 by my grandfather, Rhesa Griffin, with a boat load of American farming tools, and setting up the first threshing machine ever put up in Russia. Underway at the time were 40 miles of railroad between St. Petersburg and Moscow.

His son, R. Griffin, Jr. was the City Engineer of Syracuse for 30 years. It was in his office that I first learned drawing, stretching paper, surveying, etc.

As my grandfather was a manufacturer of engines and boilers and my father, his son-in-law James H. Mason his assistant, I was privileged to play in the foundry sand and use tools up in the pattern shop. This accounts probably for my mechanical interest.

We came to Detroit from Syracuse in 1870 because G. S. Wormer, an old friend of my father, wanted my father's help in the machinery sales business. The Wormers sold saw mills and other machinery, and when they found I could draw, had me make the layout for the purchaser of the machinery they sold. That was when the cutting of timber in the pine lands of Michigan was at its height.



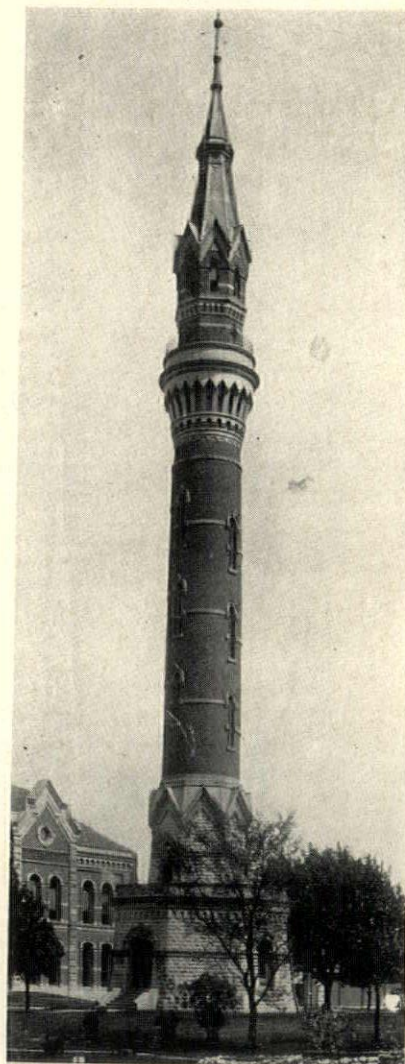
Mr. Mason

Gordon W. Lloyd and Mortimer L. Smith had the two principal architects' offices in Detroit; Lloyd versed in English Gothic designed Christ Church on Jefferson Ave. in 1856 and later the Central M. E. Church corner Woodward and Adams, also many wholesale warehouses on West Jefferson. Mortimer L. Smith employed a more florid type like French or Italian Renaissance; I used to see a big board sign projecting out from his office in the Telegraph Building on the S. E. corner of Griswold and Congress Streets, with the word "Architect" in six inch black letters, and I had to ask someone what that word meant!

So one day Mr. Wormer said to my Dad, "Your son ought to be an architect because he can draw." Then my Dad asked him what architect he would suggest, and he replied, "M. L. Smith, because he puts cornices on his buildings, and Lloyd doesn't." So that, I suppose, is why I am an architect.

J. V. Smith, one of the oldest of Detroit architects, was called a Carpenter Architect because he would stay home part of the time doing carpenter work. Well Henry T. Brush and Joe Sparks worked in his office as companion architects from 1867 to 1872, when they decided to start offices of their own. In 1874 the firm was Brush and Smith (Hugh). In two years Hugh R. Smith died and Brush took me in as a partner pro-

(See MASON, Page 5)



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Water Works Tower, Detroit

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THE PROGRAM FOR THE WESTERN ARTS ASSOCIATION REGIONAL MEETING FOR DETROIT AND NEIGHBORING TOWNS

Part I, Thursday, April 12, 8:00 p.m.

The program for the Detroit area is divided into two parts. There will be a lecture by Dr. Rensselaer W. Lee, Professor, Smith College and Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. Dr. Lee is Executive Secretary of the American Council of Learned Societies' Committee on Protection of Cultural Art Treasures in War Areas. Dr. Lee will talk on the subject of the Protection of Cultural Art Treasures in War Areas, such as painting, sculpture, architecture.

Date and Hour and Place

Thursday evening, April 12, at eight o'clock, the Lecture Hall, Detroit Institute

MASON

(Continued from Page 1)

missing me 27% of the gross receipts. From Hugh Smith I learned perspective drawing and coloring.

During the Brush and Smith partnership the need for a new Detroit waterworks developed, and both Brush and Sparks made competition drawings for the two brick pumping buildings and the stand pipe and tower between them. That was the time I made the Brush perspective about 7 feet long by 30 inches wide, with a nice blue sky and the green grass foreground. Joe Sparks' drawings were liked best by the Water Board and he was given the contract for the working drawings. Someone made a comment calling my perspective "Grass Lake." The contest was a friendly one, and I continued as Brush's partner for three years after the death of Hugh Smith. Our office in 1977 was on the 3rd floor of the Moffat Block, Room No. 7.

While we were there we made the designs and plans of the first Detroit Public Library which was in use until Cass Gilbert made the plans of the plans of the present library on Woodward Avenue. My job was to make the full-size details of the exterior, and the columns and arch entrance drawings were so large, I had to lie down flat on the office floor to make them. The columns were to have been of Ohio Buff Sandstone but the cost was prohibitive, so they were made of white pine and painted and sanded. Hugh Smith worked for E. E. Meyers, whose office was below us on the second floor of the Moffat Block, before coming up with Brush. I worked for Meyers three or four weeks and made the section of one of the legislative halls in his competition drawings for the Indiana State Capitol at Indianapolis. Edwin May of Indianapolis however won the competition. Meyer's drawings were perfect 1/8th scale working drawings mounted on stretchers and frame about three by eight feet in size. He said they had cost him about \$13,000.00. He seemed to be sure of the job because he had designed the State Capitol Building in Lansing.

The foregoing paragraphs touch but a few of the facts of the architectural development in Detroit, but they are the facts that the younger architects might not be familiar with. So I will lay aside further historical data.

Sincerely yours,
GEO. D. MASON

of Arts, Kirby at Woodward, Detroit.

There is no fee for this lecture. Expenses are met by the Institute fee provided by the Board of Education for the department of Art Education and by the Board of the Metropolitan Art Association of Detroit. All members of the Western Arts Association and their friends with all members of the Metropolitan Art Association are cordially invited to attend and enjoy this lecture.

Part II, Saturday, April 14, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

A meeting is planned for Saturday morning, April 14, from ten to twelve thirty in the Lecture Hall of the Detroit Institute of Arts. This is W.A.A. Day for all states within the area of this association. All old and new members of Western Arts Association are urgently requested to attend and to invite any friends interested. The program is planned to meet imminent interests of art and vocational education educators as well as of all citizens.

The program for the Saturday morning session (April 14) is as follows:

Annual Report, Detroit Department of Buildings

Mr. Joseph P. Wolff, Commissioner, Department of Buildings and Safety Engineering, City of Detroit, has just submitted his Annual Report to His Honor the Mayor and Common Council for the year 1944.

A 40-page document, it is handsomely done and complete with reports of his various department heads.

"The keen interest evinced in our endeavors to serve the public, on the part of the entire building industry has again substantiated the continued need for articulate action, especially during these trying times when war restrictions wreak havoc with normal regulations," Mr. Wolff states.

Architects in Detroit will agree that the Department is most efficient and manned by a competent staff.

DINNER MEETING *Detroit Chapter, A. I. A.* RACKHAM MEMORIAL BUILDING DETROIT

Wednesday, April 18, 1945

Board Meeting 4:00 p.m.

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Program 8:00 p.m.

SPEAKER: Mr. William Shinderman, A.I.A., of the office of Albert Kahn Associated Architects and Engineers, Inc.

Mr. Shinderman will show color slides of his 1939 travels in many European countries. A graduate of the University of Illinois in 1937, Mr. Shinderman has been with the Kahn organization for the past four years.

Time will also be given to a discussion of matters to come before the A.I.A. Convention in Atlantic City, April 24 and 25.

10:00 A.M.

- (a) "War Memorials for Schools and Community" by Mr. Emil Lorch, Professor Emeritus of Architecture, University of Michigan and a member of the Michigan Society of Architects.

Mr. Buford Pickens, Assistant Professor, Wayne University, College of Liberal Arts, Art Department Architect and member of the Michigan Society of Architects will conduct this part of the program.

- (b) Question Period for Audience
11:00 A.M.

- (a) "Modern Products for Consumer Use" (Illustrated) by Mr. K. W. Kithil, Michigan Representative, Celanese Corporation of America

- (b) Question Period for Audience

Note: The Saturday morning program is provided for us by important professional men of Detroit. It is earnestly desired that an appreciation for this generous contribution to our group may be evinced by a large attendance and an enthusiastic participation in the discussion and question period.

Mabel Arbuckle,
W.A.A. Chairman for Michigan

G. M. Competition

An exceedingly important phase of the automobile industry is the retail merchandising and servicing of vehicles. Recognizing the value of performing the retail functions as effectively as possible, especially in the postwar period, General Motors Corporation is calling forth the talents of the architectural professions by sponsoring an Architectural Competition.

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The program book may be secured by addressing Mr. M. E. St. Aubin, director, Service Section, General Motors Corporation, Detroit 2, Mich.

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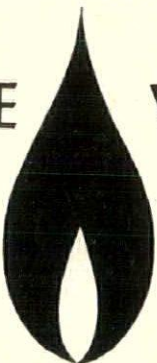
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POSTWAR CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

Kenneth C. Welch, Chairman

One of the most important objectives of this Committee is certainly to promote City Planning in general, and especially to make it known that the Architect, trained as he is, and generally imbued with more than his share of imagination, is a vital part of the process of putting City plans into the third dimension.

It is all to the good of the profession that architects have had this wartime breathing spell, as far as civilian construction is concerned, to become more generally injected into the City Planning Field. It is to be hoped that the schools will devote a greater part of their curriculum to this broadening phase of planning.

Because of the urban character of planning, this promotion becomes mainly a local matter. Certainly the architects of Detroit, Lansing, and Saginaw, and other Cities in the State, have been prominent in planning activities, as evidenced by the many articles and notices in the Bulletin.

Accordingly this report is going to be more of a brief accounting of the planning activities in Grand Rapids.

Grand Rapids has made very good progress with its planning process, considering the single years time the Planning Commission has been really functioning. One difficulty, which is rather universal we understand, was to secure the services of a planning staff. There is a nationwide scarcity of experienced planning technicians, because of the general interest in planning, plus the well-known man-power shortage. Grand Rapids however, is fortunate in securing the services of a limited in size, but competent staff.

Having accomplished this, the next duty of the Planning Commission was to make an inventory of public works, devoid of so-called pyramid building, which we could not afford, and being sure that the projects proposed would at least not be an obstruction to a possible sound long range program.

These public works had to be given a priority, based on their urgency and need for the public health, safety, and welfare.

From this inventory, it was necessary to formulate a definite program of postwar public works, to qualify for our share of State Funds, which had been appropriated for planning purposes on a fifty-fifty basis. There have been a number of stumbling blocks however, in the way of being able to benefit by this State Act.

First, like many Cities on a millage limitation, the necessary funds for paying even half of the planning costs are practically non-existent.

Second, the conditions imposed by the State Authorities administering the act, are making it quite difficult, even impossible to qualify for these funds. It is hoped this condition can be corrected, and that some amendments, or even new legislation, clarifying and simplifying its administration, will be passed at the present session of the legislature. The Architectural Profession should support this legislation, as well as the numerous redevelopment, and so-called "blight elimination acts" being currently introduced.

The Michigan Postwar Construction Committee is composed of representatives of the AIA, American Society of Civil Engineers, and the Associated General Contractors of America. It was originally formed to promote postwar construction plans, and to be of assistance to the State Planning Commission in allocation of the State Appropriated Planning Funds.

Clair Ditchy has spearheaded for the architects on this Committee, and represented them at a joint meeting held in Grand Rapids on February 21, 1945, of the leaders in their respective fields, and the various State and local CED officials Committee of Economic Development.

One objective of this meeting was to tie in the State's construction and building industry into the C.E.D.'s philosophy and planned economy, to provide a high level of employment in the postwar period.

Another objective was to accomplish for the building industry, what the C.E.D. has done for other branches of industry, manufacturing, and commerce, in providing a poll and subsequent estimate of employment conditions at a given time.

Further, it is important that those charged with formulating, and carrying out public construction programs, collaborate with those planning private construction work, to secure the proper timing, to maintain not only the high level of employment being sponsored by the C.E.D., but to maintain it evenly.

It was gratifying that Grand Rapids had been selected as a Pilot City to start this collaborative effort, partially because of the civic-minded citizens interested in this particular phase of postwar employment were also actively identified with City Planning.

Further meetings are to be held, and the necessary machinery set up to formulate an inventory of such construction projects. All architects are earnestly requested to report, when and as requested, on all construction projects emanating from their offices.

The Grand Rapids Architects Civic Design Group has held a number of meetings. Part of the Group spent an inspirational day as the guest of Eliel Saarinen, at Cranbrook, in the Spring of 1944.

A meeting was held on March 14, 1944, wherein certain committees were formed, to study the transportation and parking terminal problems in the Grand Rapids Central District. Victor Thebaud, A.I.A., was made Chairman of the Steering Committee for this study.

It finally developed to the point of making a model, which was constructed by the Public School Manual Training Students. It has been publicized in two editions of Fairchild Publications Company's Women's Wear, the current February issue of the Architectural Record, and in the local newspapers.

The larger part of one of the industrial buildings in the area which was suggested for redevelopment was completely gutted by a fire on March 1st of this year. The local Fire Department did a superb job, (that is superb from a fire prevention standpoint), in keeping the conflagration from spreading through the twenty or more mill-con-

struction, fifty to eighty year old buildings, which are closely packed together, in this area.

This study is naturally considered like a great many other large scale redevelopment projects, to be somewhat of a dream. However, through further study of the financial problems involved, plus the enactment of practical redevelopment legislation, it is not impossible that it can, in principle, be carried out, even if to a limited extent.

The model, and an explanation of the project has been on display for several weeks at the Grand Rapids Museum, together with other planning exhibits, and all told, the study has stimulated some constructive thinking on the part of citizens, as well as considerable favorable comment.

A. I. A. Convention

Although the coming convention is necessarily limited in size, there should be much to engage the attention of those who attend it, and also the concurrent meetings of the State Associations, N.C.A.R. Boards and other affiliated organizations.

Probably the most important subject will be the mechanics of accomplishing complete unification of the profession. The architect's place in postwar activities will unquestionably be thoroughly discussed, as well as the relations of the profession to the government. Matters like uniform building codes and registration laws will come before the meeting.

It is also important that new officers and directors be elected to guide the A.I.A. through the interesting but trying period which is to follow.—Branson V. Gamber.

A Report on Art Monuments In European War Areas

By Dr. Rensselaer W. Lee, Professor of Art History at Smith College; Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study; Executive Secretary of the American Council of Learned Societies Committee on the Protection of Cultural Treasures in War Areas; under the auspices of the Western Arts Association and the Metropolitan Art Association of Detroit, in the Lecture Hall of the Detroit Institute of Arts, Thursday evening, April 12, 1945, at 8:30. Admission free, everybody welcome.

Dow Speaks in Bay City

Emphasis on "the need for variety," in color, form and texture was the theme of the talk on "You Make Our Architecture," which Alden Dow, A.I.A., of Midland, gave for the Bay City Woman's club at the Y.W.C.A. on Feb. 9. One hundred and fifty were present for the Guest Day presentation.

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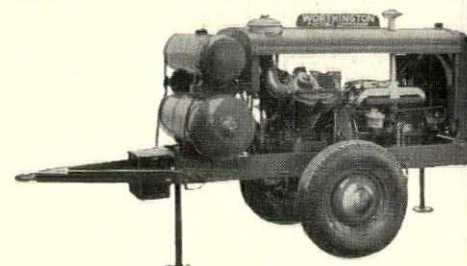
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Volume 19

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 10, 1945

Number 15

Bulletin, Now Monthly, to Be Weekly, Says Perkins

LEST THERE BE misunderstanding as to whether the Bulletin is a weekly or a monthly, let us say that at present it circulates nationally only once a month. The Bulletin of the Michigan Society of Architects has not missed a week since it was founded 19 years ago. The name was, therefore, retained against the day when paper restrictions are removed and the national circulation may be made weekly.

Of all scarce materials, paper is one of the most critical and our allotment at present will permit only a monthly. We hope that our subscribers (both of them), will bear with us for the duration. We pledge our best efforts at "propaganda," for there is a lot of truth about the architectural profession that needs to be propagandized.

In a letter to WB correspondents and assistants in the various states, William L. Perkins, secretary-treasurer of NCARB, points out some pertinent facts. We pass it on to our readers, for it has much that applies to all architects:

"You have probably received copies of the first two issues to leave the press. We are starting Monthly, will soon issue every two weeks, and look forward to the Weekly as soon as possible. It takes time to organize and get everything set the way we want it, but when we go Weekly, we want to stay Weekly and not weakly.

"The following are suggestions we have for you in helping with the publication of the Weekly Bulletin:

"First, we want each of you to send a good glossy print photograph to Mr. Hughes. From time to time we may desire to use your features to pep up the publication, etc. This photograph should be at least 5x7 if you can possibly obtain one.

"With the photograph, please include a short biographical sketch of yourself, short but complete. A little on the thumb-nail type, not cut too short, but like the painted type if you wish.

"Watch your local papers and clip everything concerning architects, architecture, or of interest to architects. Remember, we are publishing a magazine for architects, by architects, about architects. Of course, we may not be able to use everything sent in but send it in. All will be classified and filed and much of it used that will be of interest to the profession. We do not want just a local story, we want it to be National. Send us everything, even articles by architects, yes, even speeches. Write something of interest yourself if you feel so inclined but keep it rather brief.

"Keep our Editor, Mr. Talmage C. Hughes, A.I.A., 120 Madison Avenue, Detroit 26, Michigan, informed, as up-to-date as possible, of new registrants passing State Board examinations so we can place them on our mailing list. Notify us of changes in State Board personnel, changes in State laws concerning registration and adoption of State Building Codes. If one of the few states not having registration laws for architects adopts a law, let us know at once. This is important news.

"Keep us informed on Association, State Society and other Architectural meetings, furnishing clippings, etc. Articles concerning architectural clubs, sketch clubs, new ateliers formed, etc. Anything, everything, about architects, by architects, for architects.

"Remember, we are all trying to do a good job for the profession and let us all help in every way we can. Read the February 13 issue again and you will see what we mean by architectural news.

"Yours for architectural news for the best architectural magazine ever published. Let us all be a part of it."

And so, we want to get the pulse of the profession throughout the nation. We want to know what you like in your professional publication.

We believe: That the architectural profession has great responsibilities ahead, and not the least of these is preparing the way for the younger men in our profession who will soon be returning to peaceful pursuits; that the time has come to talk of many things, "of ships and shoes and ceiling wax, and cabbages and kings"; that what Mr. Kaiser had to say in our February 13 issue is largely true, that the "Architect as Master Builder" needs to be re-examined in the light of present-day conditions.

We believe that the architect should have a more important place in the planning professions, in city planning, on commissions and in other civic affairs. That he does not now have may be his own fault is neither here nor there.

There are those who will say that there is nothing wrong with the practice of architecture today, and if there were, there is nothing to be gained by publicizing it. On the other hand, no less than Louis La Beaume, F.A.I.A., has aptly expressed the same thoughts as Mr. Kaiser. Says Mr. La Beaume:

"It is shocking to discern so many symptoms of confusion in all the talk that goes on about architecture and the future of the architect. Even the old term 'Architecture' and 'Architect' are being used more and more sparingly, as though they might hint at some taint or stigma. To refer to architecture as an art is no longer permitted in certain circles, and any chance reference to beauty makes the average architect hang his head in shame.

"We have no answer, we have only an inner faith. We have no pulpit, no rostrum from which to combat this sophistry. We have only the still small voice of conscience—and the Institute.

"While so many voices within and without the profession are acclaiming the virtues of standardization, mass production, prefabrication and stereotyped design, we may excuse much and resign ourselves to many errors in the exigency of the war effort; but it can scarcely be denied that we are witnessing a steady and increasingly rapid deterioration not only of what we were proud to call Architectural design, but of craftsmanship and building integrity.

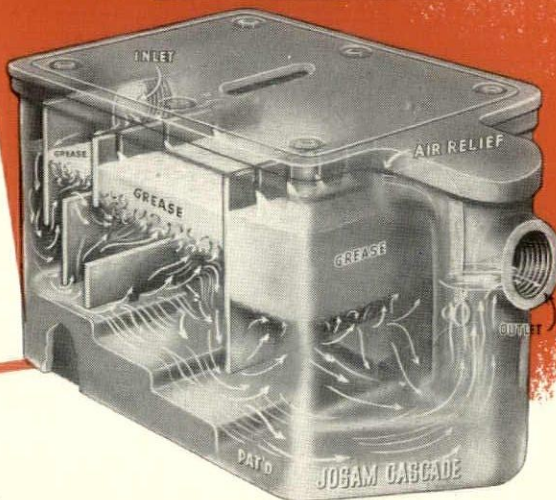
"Were this condition only temporary it might be borne with equanimity. But it is seriously proposed by the spokesmen for industry that all building effort be integrated; and all the elements concerned in the designing and planning in the mining or manufacturing of materials, and their fabrication, transportation and erection be co-ordinated and streamlined into a vast smooth-running (?) entity, for the mass production and sale of—what—of houses to be lived in, churches to be wor-

(Continued on Back Page)

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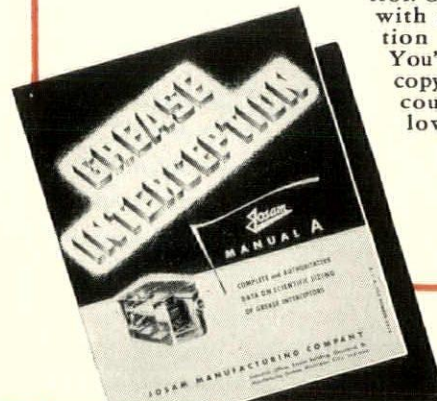
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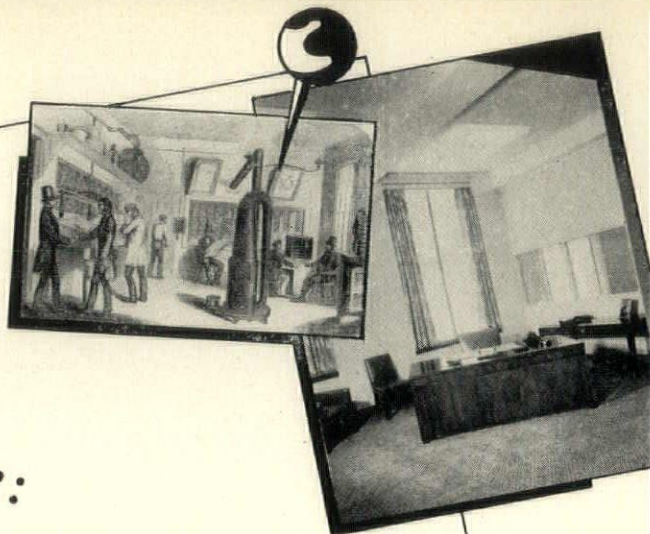
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TO MODERN ARCHITECTS:

re: flexibility in modern interiors

Enclosed you will find two photographs - the first one is of a "gay nineties" office that is cluttered and crowded, dead on its feet. That office just happened - and due to the expense of knocking out the over-thick plaster walls, it will more than likely remain that way until the whole building is finally torn down. Men working in offices like that in this modern world are constantly depressed by the drabness and their efficiency is heavily impaired.

But the other photo is the one we want to talk about: Tinsley, McBroom and Higgins, Architects, "engineered" this office and building to meet the exacting conditions of present day working areas. It is good looking, sound-proof, fireproof - and above all, flexible. Whenever occasion demands, changes in floor plans to meet the needs of modern business can be made at the drop of a hat - without dirt and muss - without interruption of work routine.

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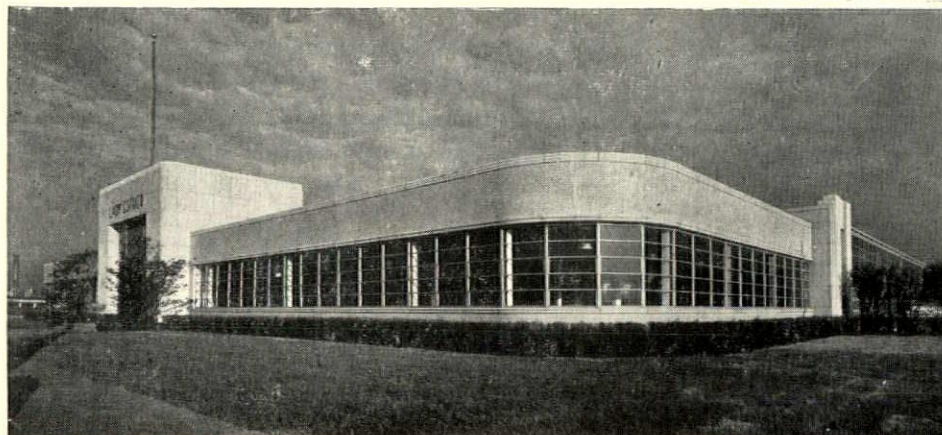
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THE original company was founded sixty-six years ago—in 1876—by Wm. S. Alt and was skillfully carried on by his son Wm. S. Alt. Since January 1928, and at the present time, the company's operations have been successfully accomplished through the able management of Harold F. Alt, sole owner and grandson of the original founder. From the time of its organization the company's policy has always been and will continue to be 100% satisfaction for all clients.

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FOR more than sixty-five years Wm. S. ALT & SON have justly enjoyed the well-merited confidence of business underwriters, bankers and others in the general financial field. And throughout the years the company's own financial resources have been an added guarantee for the successful completion of all contracts. For further reference: Pioneer Trust and Savings Bank, Chicago, Illinois.

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WITHIN the past thirteen years the company has successfully executed many of the largest painting contracts in the nation. Such work has been particularly noteworthy during the past few years in industrial defense construction. In 1941 the company simultaneously concluded their portion of work on five major aircraft defense projects in various parts of the United States.

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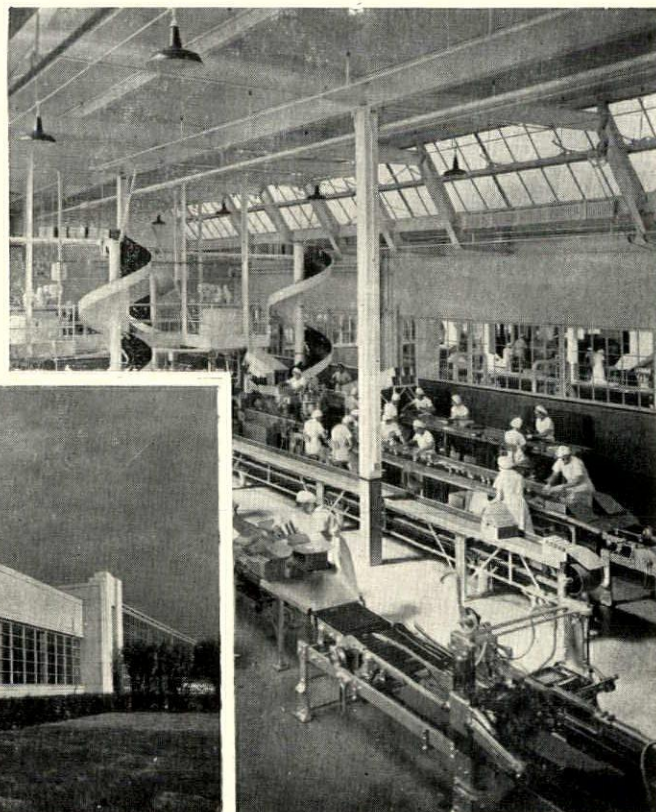
LERQY H. ALT, Assistant Estimator.

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DETROIT CHAPTER
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS
CLAIR W. DITCHY, PRESIDENT
333 STATE STREET
DETROIT 26, MICHIGAN

February 14, 1945

Mr. Talmage C. Hughes, Editor
M. S. A. Weekly Bulletin
120 Madison Avenue
Detroit 26, Michigan

Dear Tal:

May I officially acknowledge this receipt of your first national issue and compliment you on your achievement.

It seems to me appropriate to recall at this time the first early issues of the Bulletin which appeared more than twenty years ago, a single sheet of mimeographed news items, read eagerly from mast head to gudgeon by every architect lucky enough to receive a copy.

I remember too the lean days of the depression when in spite of all the vicissitudes with which the profession was visited, you carried on and lent a helping page to the Builders and Traders Exchange and also to the Associated Technical Societies of Detroit, whose publications succumbed to the adversities of the day, but found a warm welcome in the columns of the Bulletin.


Sheer persistence alone calls for praiseful comment, but your confidence in the appeal of a news sheet devoted to the trivialities of the profession as well as the more inspiring reaches of architectural achievement, a true picture reflecting all phases of the daily life of architects, has been amply vindicated.

Men whose names are consonant with the highest architectural achievements and leaders in allied fields have at various times joined their voices in commendation of your efforts.

It is my sincere hope that this national extension of your field of activity will prosper abundantly and will create a potent force in cultivating national professional solidarity.

Sincerely yours,

CWD/rh


CLAIR W. DITCHY, PRESIDENT

Letters

May I acknowledge and thank you for your kindness in meeting my request for a copy of your Postwar Planning Issue. You are to be congratulated on such a fine number.

Some ten years ago I served as chairman of the committee handling our Architects' Journal and for some years we exchanged with your Society. I have three bound volumes of your Bulletin in my office library and I have thought very highly of your publication. Unfortunately, conditions associated with the war forced us to cease publication of our Journal.

I have recently had the privilege of being one of a small committee that worked on a booklet for a youth club organization. It occurred to me that you may find the enclosed copy of some interest.—Leslie M. Perrot, Melbourne, Australia.

My thoughts are as expressed by George Fred Keck in your Feb. 13 issue. The editor's note following Mr. Keck's letter puts me at ease, so I am enclosing my check for subscription. A much needed architectural paper, mighty well written and I enjoy it.—Clarence C. Palmer, Parkersburg, W. Va.

Enclosed is one dollar for subscription. Please change address to 1009-10 Fort Worth National Bank Bldg., Fort Worth 2, Tex.—Charles T. Frelove.

The combined Weekly Bulletin of NCARB and Michigan Society of Architects received. To whom do I make my subscription payable?

I am very much interested in a national publication devoted exclusively to architects and their problems. This small weekly is a good start in the right direction.—Arnot Woodroffe, Spokane, Wn.

Enclosed is dollar bill for which please send the Bulletin. An architectural magazine that is "of, for and by" architects should grow to be large and important. I shall be glad to help if I can do so in any little way within my scope. Your Jan. 9 issue contained the first information that has come to me of the death of two of my acquaintances, Edward H. Lebeis and Albert W. Treat.—H. D. Vernam, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Please find enclosed one dollar for subscription to your Weekly Bulletin.—Hamilton Ingram, Atlanta, Ga.

W. K. Harrison Named by President

The late President Roosevelt had appointed Wallace K. Harrison, director of Inter-American Affairs.

Mr. Harrison has been acting executive officer of the agency since Nelson A. Rockefeller was named Secretary of State. His new post pays \$10,000 a year.

He will operate under the direction of the President and in accordance with the foreign policies as defined by the State Department and administered through the Assistant Secretary of State in charge of inter-American affairs, the office now held by Mr. Rockefeller. Thus the latter will keep a finger on the agency as far as policy-making goes.

Mr. Harrison, born in Worcester, Mass., September 28, 1895, is a co-architect of Rockefeller Center in New York City.

AN EXHIBITION of the architectural work of Ernest Flagg, covering a period of

I am at the above address (1116 So. Oxford, Los Angeles, Cal.) so much of late, I am wondering if my Weekly Bulletin could be sent directly to me there, instead of to my Detroit office. I miss the publication if I do not get it promptly, for it is the architects' only newspaper.—N. Chester Sorenson.

Announcement of the National Weekly Bulletin came today, and may I offer my sincere congratulations. It has been entirely through your efforts that the Bulletin today is what it is and I think this step a worthy one for the profession and will prove so as time goes on. May I suggest that whatever you do you do not



allow it to lose the personal touch which, to my mind, is an important asset in making it readable. I hope that I may see a copy occasionally while I am out here, for while my duties are strictly engineering, I believe that my architectural training has played a great part in any advancement I may have made and I do not wish to lose that contact while I am in the service. The picture of you holding the telephone let my imagination run riot—I am phoning you to have lunch with me, what a treat, and maybe that can be realized again some day in the future. My regards to all of the boys, and keep up the good work.—Lt. Cmdr. C. William Palmer, Dirpadocks, Navy 128, FPO, San Francisco, Cal.

Enclosed is a dollar for subscription.—John Haig, Orange, N. J.

Thank you very much for calling all the news to my attention by sending me some complimentary copies. I enclose subscription.—Francis W. Schuman, Englewood, N. J.

I think it would interest you to know that I have sent the sample copies to Mr. Ehrlich who is in Burma and he has asked me to enter a subscription for him. He finds the Bulletin very informative as to the happenings in his profession.—Mrs. Helen Ehrlich, New York, N. Y.

I read the last issue of the Weekly Bulletin with interest. I sincerely believe that you have started something which will be of great value to the profession. It should expand to a substantial publication, not only to weld together the architects in mutual activity but become a medium through which the public may be better acquainted with the services rendered by architects.—Carl O. Kaiser, Leona, N. J.

Enclosed is a dollar bill for which please I appreciate this publication very much and want to be continued on your mailing list.—S. M. Richards, Freeport, Pa.

Herewith is check for one dollar as subscription. Congratulations on a fine publication in the interest of the profession, and wishing you every success.—Arthur R. Frahn, Decatur, Ala.

Congratulations on your publication. I am pleased to receive your Bulletin and enclose subscription. — Alfred Willis, Larchmont, N. Y.

Its fine articles are extremely interesting and a pleasure to read. I send subscription.—Henry H. Moger, Jr., Mt. Kisco, N. Y.

I certainly must thank someone for the few copies I have received of your snappy and interesting "Weekly Bulletin." While I am a registered architect in Florida with a home in Connecticut, I realize that it is costing money to send this out and I, therefore, want to kick in my dollar.—Frank E. Ward, New Britain, Conn.

Thank you for sending the Weekly Bulletin, and I enclose subscription to a most interesting architectural paper.—W. B. Kleinman, New York, N. Y.

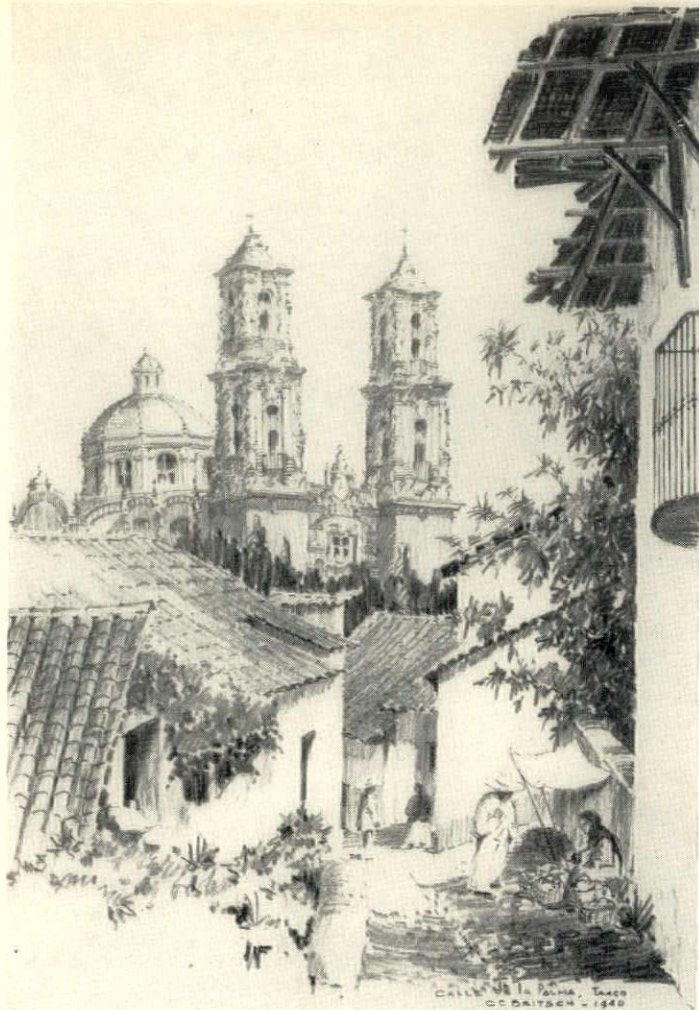
Just received the first NCARB Weekly Bulletin and it is so good that I want a full year's subscription. The article entitled "Architect—Master Builder," by Carl O. Kaiser, is worth many times the subscription dollar.—James C. Stitt, Norfolk, Neb.

Thank you loads for issues of the Bulletin, always full of interest and of definitely useful purpose. I enclose a dollar.—W. H. Tremaine, Columbus, Ohio.

And at press time, since mail is pyramiding, may we express our appreciation to the following subscribers:

Jackson B. Atkinson, Fort Worth, Texas; William D. Bordeau, Miami, Fla.; Walter J. Campbell, Danbury, Conn.; Arthur S. Davis, Jr., Urbana, Ill.; Charles H. Donehower, Camden, N. J.; C. W. Farnham, Minneapolis, Minn.; J. David Fitz-Gibbons, Norfolk, Va.; William F. Gordon, Patterson, N. J.; Harry B. Lentz, Allentown, Pa.; William R. Shirley, New York, N. Y.

Edward J. Berg, Edwin L. Cheate, James L. Cherry, Frank S. Clemmer, William N. Denton, Jr., Leo A. Daly, William Fahrback, Samuel Feingerch, Michael Goodman, A. B. Gordon, J. Edwin Hopkins, E. T. Huddleston, Carl O. Kaiser, Benjamin H. Lackey, Sr., A. Herbert Levy, Lawrence & Lawrence, C. B. Miller, Richard A. Mueller, Charles A. Pearson, Jr., Bernard Pepinsky, Loris Raimondi, Albert V. Sielke, John Sloan Associates, Edward Stotz, John K. Welker.



—Water Color by Carl C. Britsch

The current exhibit at the Toledo Artists Club receiving much favorable acclaim, is a one-man show of forty-six water colors and crayon sketches by Carl C. Britsch, Toledo Architect and Artist. Many of the sketches shown were made during tours in recent years through Cuba, Panama and Mexico. The talents of this artist were also recognized by the Toledo Museum of Art in a one man show in the Museum's galleries during the month of November.

Mr. Britsch is a member of the firm of Britsch & Munger, who have to their credit many fine schools throughout Northwestern Ohio, and in Toledo's largest public housing projects have brought understanding solutions to the difficult problems of slum clearance.

Mr. Britsch is a member of the A.I.A., holds a certificate from the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and is also a member of The Art Klan, Ohio Watercolor Society and the Toledo Artists Club.

Louis Gill Reappointed

San Diego, Cal.—Louis J. Gill, A.I.A., has been reappointed to a four-year term on the California State Board of Architectural Examiners, it is announced by Governor Earl Warren. Mr. Gill is president of National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

DEATHS

RALPH P. JACKSON, 62, at his home in Brookline, Mass.

BRAINERD JONES, 76, at Petaluma, Cal.

JOHN LAMB, 65, at West Orange, N. J.

G. A. NIELIUS, 68, at Dayton, Ohio.

CHARLES R. WOOD, in Spokane, Washington. Resident of Spokane for 60 years, an architect for 40 years.

Building or Buying a Home

This new book is by Mr. Johnstone, professor of Architecture at Pennsylvania State College, and other faculty members, Clinton Lee Harris, Royal Matthew Gerhardt, Louis Alexander Richardson and Elliott Leonard Whitaker. It is published by Whittlesey House, McGraw Hill Book Co., Inc., New York City, at \$2.75.

A complete guide to the acquisition of a home, it covers all of the steps from selection of site to finance, architect, and construction, as well as pitfalls to be avoided by careful planning.

It is interestingly illustrated and contains 154 pages, a most valuable contribution to this all-important subject.

New Josam Manual

Josam Manufacturing Company's new publication on Grease Interception: "Manual A," is the most exhaustive treatise on the subject of Grease Interception yet issued.

It has been planned and edited particularly to provide complete information regarding the proper selection and installation of grease interceptors for those who specify, install or use them. The principle of flow control into the interceptor is explained and its importance with regard to maximum grease retention efficiency is demonstrated with actual examples.

All ratings in the Manual are based on tests recently conducted by the Iowa Institute Hydraulic Research in accordance with their standard procedure for testing Grease Interceptors for government use.

In 8½x11 inch size, it is available upon request to Josam Mfg. Co., 325 Empire Building, Cleveland, Ohio.

Walls Thicken in Plot

Hollywood—Eighteen-inch thick "storage walls," which architects predict will be a feature of post-war homes to supplement closet space, are being incorporated in sets conceived as rooms in the typical American home for "Kiss and Tell" at Columbia Pictures. The new type walls received attention in a recent issue of Life.

THE GOLD MEDAL of the Royal Institute of British Architects has been awarded to the Russian, Victor Vesnin, designer of the Dneiper Dam.

HOW FAR a novel idea can travel is illustrated by the hysterical experience of the Schaible Co., Cincinnati 4, Ohio. Trying to find a way of talking their customers out of their fantastic ideas of the kitchen of tomorrow, the boys in the public relations department produced a four-page folder advertising a kitchen to end all kitchens of tomorrow. Mamma sits in what looks like a revolving fighter plane manipulating gadgets which reach out to do everything from bathing the baby to baking a cake.

Here are some of the repercussions of this debunking episode: Billie Burke and March of Time did a radio program on it, Macy's is reproducing it as a section of its postwar fair, 25 advertising agencies have based campaigns on the idea, more than 100 trade papers have reported it seriously and facetiously, a movie short is being made of it, and requests for reprints have ranged from 1 to 35,000. Schaible is reprinting the folder every week or two and the paper shortage is catching up with the company now.

Delaware Chapter Urges Planning Commission

Stressing the importance of a planning commission for Wilmington, the Delaware Chapter, A.I.A., is conducting a program of education and city planning subjects. Discussion of "Planning American Cities" are being held following the showing of the film, "The City."

A series of large charts are being displayed to arouse public interest. G. Morris Whiteside, II, and Walter Carlson, Chapter president, are actively interested.

ON ORGANIC ARCHITECTURE

By FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

*A lecture before the Michigan Society of Architects'
31st Annual Meeting, in Detroit, March 22, 1945*

I SHALL HAVE to stick pretty closely to this microphone tonight. People are downstairs listening.

Since this young man, who is a highly gifted young man, has taken the liberty of talking to you about me, I think I shall talk to you a little about him. I was giving a Princeton lecture. I do not remember the date, it was so long ago. There was a young man sitting at the end of the front row, and through all six lectures he sat in the same place.

After the lectures were over and the exhibition was on, he came to me and said, "Mr. Wright, I want to come to work for you."

I said, "My dear boy, I have no work. If I had, I would be glad to take you."

About a year later I thought of this plan which we call the Taliesin Fellowship for Apprentices in Architecture. We sent out a little circular, to save ourselves from starvation and get a nickel to pay carfare. Then, up the steps comes Alden Dow, and Alden said, "You have got to take me now," so Alden was one of our first apprentices in Taliesin Fellowship. He left too soon for him and for us, but we are proud of him.

If I listened very carefully to what he said tonight, I know I would be very proud of that, too, but I have learned not to take anything of the sort too seriously, because it does not really matter.

And now it is remarkable as I see all this tonight. It is very like a place in England where some lectures were given with equally young architects, I suppose, and that was a memorable English occasion; everything we are, and everything we have, not alone architecturally, but in nearly every other way, we have inherited from the other side.

I admire this building which you have devoted to yourselves and to your purposes; and it is inevitable, truly, but the same mistake was made—no recognition, no preparation was made for the poor devil of a speaker. He had no way to get in, independently of the audience. He has no rest room of his own, and he is not anybody, and I guess that is right. Anyway, that is the way it is in our country, because I have been around a lot and met with the same neglect everywhere.

Now, I think that coming into the field a veteran, (Alden said 40 years, but he should have said 50, because this architect is about 125 years old, for I am sure I began to practice architecture long before I was born) now, here we are. You can best get from me something that I want to give you and you would want to have me give you by taking it out of me.

I do not believe much in these events where a man stands up and makes a talk. There is a lot of that going on, and really it does not amount to very much. You can talk a lot about a great many things, but never get anywhere.

If you knew how difficult it is to think about anything. We mistakenly call asso-

ciation of ideas and rationalization thinking. It is not. To think seven minutes a day, I do not think it would be possible. Some man has said that could be done, but I doubt it. I think if you could take three minutes a day it would be wonderful for the human race, and I do not believe we can think except in flashes here and there, when we see and get something, and that is that.

Now, we in this nation are at a point in our national life, which is your life and my life, where we have got to do some thinking. And the thing that we should do to get a great spring board to start from is to take architecture into account as the thing we are calling organic architecture.

I wish you would stop speaking of architecture as modern architecture, because it does not mean a thing. Anything is modern that is built at the present time. I do not know how it ever got started, but I suppose because everything was antique, everything was from the antique shops. Even the things we wore came across in the same fashion, washed up on the shores of the nation, so we thought it was marvelous that we should have everything modern. Well, maybe it is.

But as to modern architecture, let us drop it and let us take modernistic out and shoot it at sunrise, because there is a great travesty on a great idea. So do please refer to organic architecture.

Organic can merely mean something biological, but if you are going to take the word organic into your consciousness as concerned with entities, something in which the part is to the whole as the whole is to the part, and which is all devoted to a purpose consistently, then you have something that can live, because that is vital.

Nothing can live without entity. Now, organic architecture seeks entity, it seeks that completeness in idea in execution which is absolutely true to method, true to purpose, true to character, and is as much the man who lives in it as he is himself, so that he loves it, lives it, and boasts of the fact that his house is the only house ever built. And he believes it. And it is, for him, if organic architecture has done its proper work.

So you see, here you have the centerline of something that goes back thousands of years. It was lost five hundred years before Jesus, who enunciated the principles which we practice in building today, when he said that the reality of the building does not consist of four walls and a roof, but in the interior space.

The significance of that is not apparent just by the dropping of a hat. It is an entire change in the whole thought of the western world. Because western architecture, and what we call classic architecture was merely a block of building

material sculptured into some kind of style or fashion from the outside.

Well, here was something that rejected all that and got inside the thing, and when you get inside with that idea, you are inside the man. You are seeking things of the spirit by way of the spirit, and you have a philosophy which can become the centerline of a culture of a great nation. It should become the culture of a democracy because it is the first statement of a democratic principle.

If it ever should become recognized by education, poor, backward education such as we have had in this nation, we would grow, we would live, we could not be destroyed as all these other civilizations have that were monarchic, that were founded upon dictatorships or state socialism, because there you have the core of a democratic faith in man, faith in the man as a man, in him as an individual, which we have confounded always with personality.

We have so little faith in the individual, I think because we have confounded personality with individuality. Individuality is that thing which makes me me, and makes you you. Regardless of your idiosyncracies and your personal appearance, something inside that stands up within and will not sell out, something within that gives the man faith in the within of all men, and makes him all men and all men himself. For others he wishes what he wishes for himself, and he will stand staunch and straight to get it for himself so that all men may have it.

That is the essential phase of democracy, and it is what we had once upon a time set up as an ideal to follow. We had the men who had in the first days of the dawning of that conviction the courage to endeavor, in spite of perfidy, in spite of solicitations, in spite of self-interest, to make it the core of a great nation such as this one.

I am getting away from architecture, am I? Not at all. That is the basis of this ideal of an organic architecture. Would the basis not be a recognition of the essential character of the endeavor?

Now, we have never taken time out from making money and becoming successful with a capital S to look ourselves in the face and demand of ourselves something better than anything we have got and something better than anything we have seen. Why, this nation is a neglected back yard from coast to coast and border to border.

I have motored across it fifty times if once, and the buildings from coast to coast and border to border are such as the little carpenters built and little carpenter work transplanted out from the middle west onto the great western plains. Up north or down south, it does not make much difference. Out on the Kansas plains, what



Mr. Wright

Bulletin:

Upon receiving my issue of the Michigan Society of Architects' roster of March 22, 1945, I notice that where you have the Architects registered in Michigan on Page 65, my name does not appear in bold type, as being a member of the M.S.A.

No doubt this has been because I have not paid my dues for 1945, but I did not receive a reminder of such, and if you will send me a bill for same, I will send you a remittance therefor.

I am proud to be a member of the M.S.A.

Very truly yours,
Victor H. Jacobs,

1719 Juneway Terrace, Chicago 26, Ill.

WEEKLY BULLETIN

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APRIL 10, 1945

Number 15

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF CITY PLANNING

BY JOSEPH HUDNUT, Dean, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University; A lecture before the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., Feb. 22, 1945

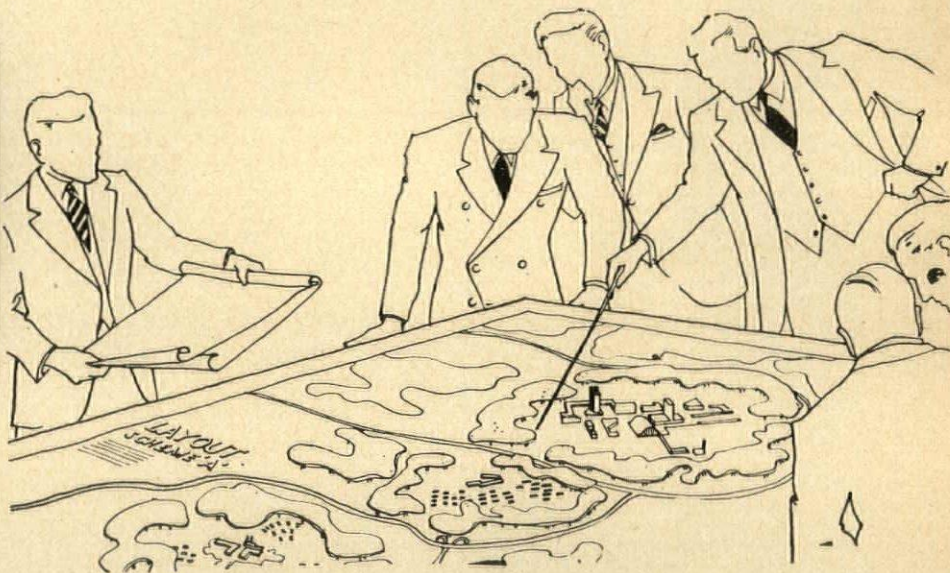
A MERICAN CITIES, with rare exceptions, exhibit in their outward aspects neither order nor dignity. They are shapeless and amorphous masses, without boundaries except where a river or harbor has arrested their growth, without structure except where some primitive street system—perhaps designed as in Detroit for a small and semi-rural city—has by accident extended its diagonal avenues through the limitless checkerboards of new streets. Our cities are like carpets thrown carelessly over a landscape, clinging to hill and valley, ragged at the

edges, rent sometimes by shining rivers and patched here and there with green parks or seemed with boulevards. At the center the skyscraper, a bramble of steel, thrusts through this carpet their spiked heads encrusted with the debris of the ancient civilizations; and at the fringes the sadistic railroads shear it into erratic fragments, splash it with iron deserts, ridge it with sprawling factories, maggot it with the round forms of gas tanks. Between these the houses of the people, their churches, schools and theatres, the shops that serve them and the streets that bind them together, are confounded in limitless miles of dishevelment, in which great areas of blight and splashes of congestion alternate with an aimless inconsequence.



Dean Hudnut

This physical chaos reflects an inward chaos. These square miles of disorder, these heavy deformations, are the outward expression and symbol of spiritual wastelands, of social abnormalities. In this conglomerate and ill-proportioned body there lives a conglomerate and ill-proportioned soul: a society as unformed, directionless and molecular as the forms of shelter and the patterns of thoroughfares which enclose it. The people in these cities lead cellular lives and their little cells cling to each other in a mass as heterogeneous and as little articulated as that of a pudding. Here are, to be sure, the ancient stratifications of rich and poor, of worker and man of leisure, of professional and business enterprise, and the contrast of the endemic customs of native-born with the uprooted folkways and loyalties of peoples newly-arrived; but these exist with little reference to each other or to a civic pattern. All are equal food for the mighty machine of modern industry which destroys the old while it prevents all new crystallizations. We are mass-produced and, like the less sensitive articles of assembly-line manufacture, fitted for a standardized performance. A diversity in



our habits and our thought would dull the machine.

We like to think of the present war as something more than a competition for political power and economic resource, something more than a struggle for survival, more even than a prelude to a firmly established peace. To make this war endurable we give it a higher meaning. We say that we are defending and making secure an American way of life. We are fighting for the four freedoms which, we think, assure that life: for freedom of worship and of speech, for freedom from want and from fear.

These are more than phrases coined by politicians. We are indeed fighting for the four freedoms and they are worth fighting for. Nevertheless, these freedoms are not so important as the uses we intend to make of them. Freedoms are after all negative in nature. They are of little significance except as opportunities for achievement. Freedoms are shields, not

swords; armour, not action; means, not ends. When we have won and guarded all of the four freedoms we shall have won only the privilege—a priceless one and yet only a privilege—of building, if it pleases us to do so, our own theatre of life. Because we shall be free we can build in whatever manner may be conformable to our desires.

How shall we build that theatre? You have heard it described in the elevated language of candidates for public office and in the soporific advertisements of industry; that new America built for comfortable and safe living, carried irresistibly forward on the proud full sail of her triumphant new technologies. In that America there is to be no poverty or sickness or oppression. No one will go hungry or unsheltered. There shall be jobs for every one and leisure for every one to enjoy the good things of life. Labor and Capital, cooling doves, shall unite to

(See HUDNUT, Page C)

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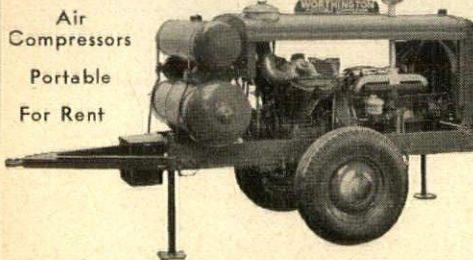
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Hudnut

(Continued from Page A)

give us an abundance such as no people have ever seen; government, firm and wise shall plan a little but not too much; and with all economic and social conflicts resolved, a happy population of well-fed robots shall outwork, outplay, outproduce, outinvent, outprosper and outconsume any nation on this earth.

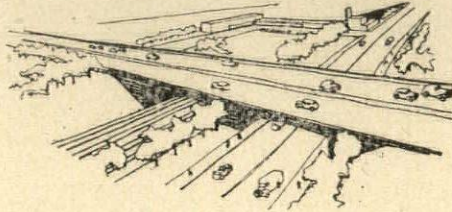
I am most unwilling to disturb with a sour note so rhapsodic a symphony; and certainly I am not opposed to industrial expansion or to any process which will assist the comfort and security of the people. Nevertheless, I cannot help wondering, when the vision of that glowing new world is thus conjured, why our politicians and industrialists expect us to be happy in it. Happiness then is being secure and well fed?

I will maintain, against a wilderness of industrialists and politicians, that since the beginning of time no man has ever been made happy by producing and consuming. Happiness is something universally denied to robots; it is not made on an assembly-line. It cannot be divorced, I think, from the conscious exercise of the individual faculties; it will not be found in a society where such faculties are uniform or stereotyped in operation. It would seem then that a new world which is to embrace human happiness ought to provide as its first essential a social pattern favorable to individual growth. That fact, I am afraid, has been sometimes overlooked in the ecstatic pictures of a world soon to be transformed by our triumphant industries.

What I am trying to make clear is the quite obvious fact that no amount of wealth and security, no flood of production and inventiveness, will restore health to the shattered body of society—still less, as a consequence of that restoration, make our cities fit to live in. Without social health your wealth will be of little consequence. We ought therefore to view less complacently this incandescent future pictured for us in political speech and industrial advertisement. We ought to estimate not the gigantic volume and resilient force of our new manufacture, the hurricanes of standardized houses, automobiles, radios and ideas which are to sweep the nation, but rather the impact of these upon our culture; and if, as seems probable, there can be no brake upon this colossal engine—if indeed it is to increase its floods in accelerated pace, frantically as the broomsticks of the Sorcerer's Apprentice—then we ought to consider, and at once,

what measures may be taken to mitigate the effects of its terrible energies. If we are to endure things so monstrous as the assembly-line and mass production we must invent some armour against them.

There is a kind of mass-thinking today which reduces happiness to a lowest common denominator. People conceive society as made up of millions of atoms and if the needs of each atom are supplied we are assured of the happiness of the whole. There is a kind of thinking which conceives industrial progress as anonymous and science as an abstraction, capable of progress without individual responsibility; and there are others who apply this habit of thought to the arts, and imagine a collective expression to



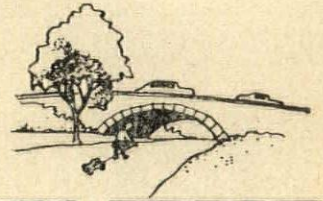
which genius is irrelevant. These myopic views of the world are called democratic.

All these are fallacies. True democracy is based upon a principle precisely opposite from that of mass production. Democracy presupposes individuality; not individuality merely but the free exercise of individual aptitudes and judgments. Democracy implies change, movement, diversity in thought and action, conflict of opinion and of interests. When all of us are moulded into common patterns of living, when we follow the same routine of work and play, attain our view of the world through the same magazine and movie, delegate our thinking to the same news commentator, then you may be sure that there will soon be little left to sustain a democratic process. Unsustained by individual thought and responsibility, that process will disappear or at the best continue to exist as a protective coloration for demagogues or tyrants.

With democracy there will disappear that initiative and enterprise which is the true source of vitality even in that industrial system which promotes a cultural uniformity. The system destroys itself by drying up the springs upon which it feeds. America was not made great by natural resources merely or by growth of population or by the accumulation of capital, but by the daring enterprise of her million

sons. There will surely come a time—I believe it is already here — when your standardizations will get in the way of this enterprise. Goose-stepping is poor training for the Marathon race.

There will be little left of America when the democratic process is at an end and private adventure caged within the vast monopolies of our new industries; nor will that America find any avenue for its spirit—I mean any great expression in the arts—such as might illumine and make endurable its lush prosperity. It is possible, no doubt, to imagine a society in which the cultural monotony of a million workers might be excused, or at any rate relieved, by the brilliance of the few who were free to profit from their uniformity. We know how the radiant cathedral rose out of the restricted and dull horizons of the Middle Ages and how the sullen labor of French and German peasants lifted Michelangelo to the scaffoldings of the Sistine Chapel. Great civilizations have been built on human misery; and who can say that they were not worth the price? But this mechanized world which we are building will offer us no such consolations. Its nature is such as to prohibit that aristocracy of the spirit which creates the arts. There can be no hierarchy among machines; nor did any machine ever give birth to a genius. This new way of life is no external affair, leaving untouched our spirit and our habit of thought; it reaches into our hearts, saturates us with commonplaces and makes derivative and mean even the expressions of our own lives. When, two hundred million strong, we turn to the same comic-strip for the food of our spirit, applaud from Maine to Ore-



gon the standardized and regulated sentiments of the same motion picture, and build our million new houses from blueprints supplied by the Ladies Home Journal—well, you may be sure that there will be left little nourishment for those arts which might console and redeem even a mechanical universe. Our present illusion is that men could be happy in a world without the arts.

(To Be Continued in Next Issue)

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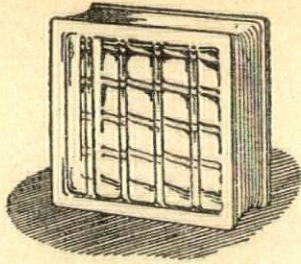
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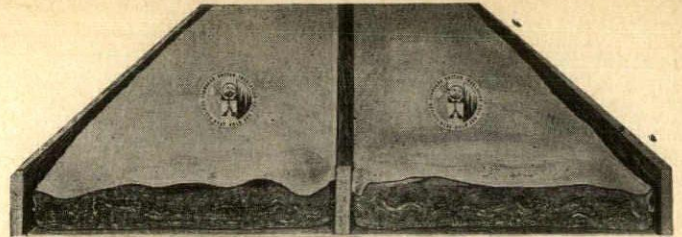


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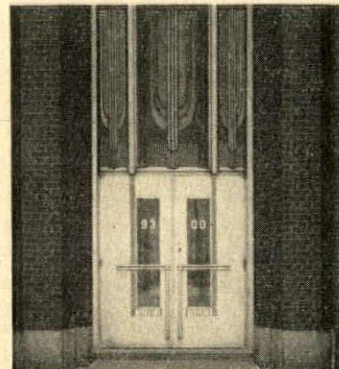
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have you? The same thing, no thought, no feeling, nothing of the interior feeling of manhood we call democracy. Today democracy has built nothing, and I mean it, and I can prove it.

When democracy builds it will be when we recognize the nature and character of this idea that we call an organic architecture. It is from within, and those of you who used to go to Sunday School, and who read the Sermon on the Mount, and who used to believe in the words of Jesus should have been prepared for it, but you were not.

There was something missing in the Christian religion, something vitally missing, and it let the whole core of this ideal of a truly independent nation drift down the river as it has this faith in man which is essential to democracy. It is religion that has failed, and failed just at the time when we need it most. But we are not going into that.

You want to know what constitutes physically this thing we call organic architecture. I have been asked time and again to show examples and lantern slides and show you what the root of the thing is, but I am not going to do it and I have never done so.

To show you something is very dangerous. I found it dangerous. Here I stand, having built, let us say the last opus, number 497. It went to the Ladies' Home Journal, because one went there forty-five years ago, and they asked for another one now.

But it is dangerous to show somebody something you have done, because they think that is it. You show somebody a house totally unsuited to his wants, and it is nothing he would care about, but there is something there if he would look for the basis for it, or examine the circumstances which caused it to come into being. But no, they look at it, and say, "Would I like to live in that? No!" Stupid. Perhaps that is a harsh word, but certainly ignorance.

And so it is with everything else. You show them a church, and they want you to build a museum. Well, they do not think that would make a good museum. They want to see a good museum in that building, and so they go to some other architect.

Well, it is all extremely unfinished. There is no use calling names or using harsh words. You see, English is a great name-calling language. If you can get a name for anything in our language, you have got that thing practically if you will reiterate the name enough times.

We pay a terrific price for speaking English. We do. We do not know how much, because it is not a language in which to tell the truth. Is that a vicious statement? No, it is not. English is not a language in which to tell the truth. It is a beautiful language for politicians to use. They could not have found a language superior to ours for their purpose. It is the great language of propaganda.

But we speak it, and we have got to sift it out. A young fellow, and I think he was a Japanese, God help us all, in Chicago wrote a book on Semitics who made the idea profitable.

You must get the meaning of words into your mind so when we do talk about something, we are talking about the same thing. That seldom happens in English. It is a very slippery, ambiguous language, but there is much beauty in it, too, if you read Shakespeare, or some of our master columnists.

Well, where were we? We were talking about architecture. And still, believe it or not, English is architecture. It should be and it is good architecture. If you get a proper definition of architecture in your mind, you will see how important this thing is to a nation that has no environment that is worthy of the nation or the people in it. You see, architecture rightly defined is the structure of whatever is.

Your structure a building? Yes. But music, no less. It is music, the structure of music in Beethoven and Bach. It is the structure of things that should interest us now, and never has.

We should have a system of economics that is structure, that is organic tools. We do not have it. We are all hanging by our eyebrows from sky-hooks economically, just as we are architecturally. I think you can make it even more insulting than that architecturally, although I do not know. For there we are.

Now, why should not the professors do a little thinking? Why should not the schools go a little deeper into the basis for the thing which they talk about so glibly? They have a language of their own, and if you listen it sounds pretty well, sounds as though there was something in it, and there is nothing in it. You have to sift it.

I went to school for three years and some months, would have graduated and got a degree in three months more, but I walked out three months before graduation. That is the way I feel about the whole business today, only more so.

I think the time has come now when you youngsters, a lot of you here, and the young architects should begin to think for themselves. It is only by thinking and challenging the state of things at every step, at every point, that you can ever get anywhere, because you are imbedded today in the greatest conflicting mass of circumstantial evidence to the contrary that ever existed. It has been deplorably fostered and developed, until you cannot trust anything that you see or you hear, unless you have had some contact and made some connection with this inner thing which is called the law of nature.

Now, when you can make a proper study of the law of nature for yourselves, you do not take it as something that you know, that is handed to you by way of information. You know a lot of things, and realize nothing. You can know all the books have to tell you and not be able to do one single thing. You have got to acquire this intimacy by way of contact with doing and only by doing will you learn.

Where you come into the drafting room, at the end, there are some letters carved in the wall, "It is what a man does that he has." And do you know that he has nothing else? You will find it out. I found it out, and I think to find that out is what is essential at this step in our dangerous, drifting career.

Now, you think all this, perhaps, is sidestepping the issue of architecture. It is right to the point. It is right where we have got to begin, at the beginning, before we ever have architecture.

You know that architecture is the only proof of the quality of civilization that we have ever had, all we will ever have. There is nothing else. As a man builds, so he is. As a nation builds, so is that nation.

Were we to be destroyed tomorrow, what would be found by the people who come after us centuries hence? What

would they find? There would be nothing except water closets, bath tubs, and wash bowls. Anything else? Perhaps some pieces of terra cotta harkening back to every civilization that ever was, and they could not find one except as it might be called inferior and therefore a replica.

We have nothing. Now, having nothing, why should we not be more humble? Why should we be so confoundingly arrogant? Was it not one of the great Greek philosophers who told us why nations perish? First success, then arrogance, then downfall, and such arrogance as ours cannot fail to be on the threshold of either an awakening or a downfall.

Why not wake up? I believe we should, and I believe it lies in the hands of architecture to be the prophetic cornerstone of that awakening, because until you get down to first principles, and get back willingly to the beginning of the thing you are interested in, you are not going to really learn anything about it, are you?

I do not think so, and I have tried hard for a long time to learn. They have said of me that I was experimenting when I built something. It is true. I have never built a building that was not an honest experiment, but an experiment in the interest of the man I built it for, which makes a difference.

I make this difference between an honest experiment and something merely experimental: a genuine experiment is predicated upon something the man knows to be so by experience, and believes that if it were just a little bit more so in that direction it would be better. And he tries it, but whenever he tries it, he has got something that will save harmless himself and the people he is experimenting for.

Now, when you are developing the ideas of an organic architecture, that is inevitable, and it is good. So I always explain that I am an experimenting architect. And I am not ashamed of the fact, because I know it is inevitable, and should be.

Many a time I have notified a client that if he objected to paying for the education of a young architect (meaning myself) he had better not hire me. So I have been fair and square about it, too.

That is one way to learn, an honest way to learn if you are honest about it.

But the building codes now as they are framed all stand in your way. They all stand in the way of growth. Building codes are framed in the same spirit exactly that your university education has been framed and developed, with the same trouble with it all. It is the experience of a few men, making statements which may be merely a mirror of their limited experience and may be entirely wrong. They stand across the way of progress, but they are the law.

Well, in England I found they had done a wise thing where the code is concerned. They have set up a little court of independent thinkers, of really good men, to whom anybody with an idea rejected by the code may appeal. They are continually meeting with success in trying out new ideas.

Although we are a nation absolutely the son or the daughter or the child of this older nation, I do not think we should be going back to mama for everything, but still they have some good things over there we have not tried yet. I recommend that as one thing to try.

I say this most of all to the young architects. I do not think there is much use addressing the older ones. I do not mean that to be harsh, because I am one of them.

Urges Planning Now

Washington, D. C.—More than 100,000 new small business enterprises will be needed in contract construction after the war if the construction industry is to provide its share of full employment for returning veterans and other workers, Senator James E. Murray, Montana, chairman of the Senate Small Business Committee, states.

"At the present time only some 140,000 builders and contractors are engaged in contract construction work throughout the United States," Senator Murray said. "There are, in fact, about 50,000 fewer such firms now operating in the industry than in 1933 at the bottom of the depression."

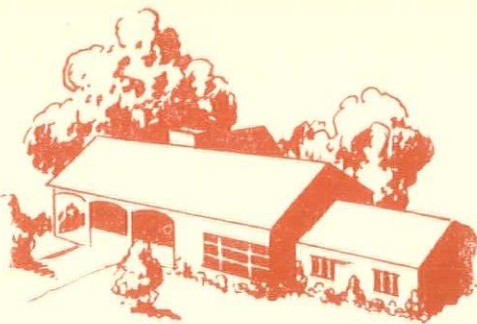
The volume of new construction has dropped from an all-time high of \$13.6 billion, reached in 1942, to a level of approximately \$3.5 billion anticipated for this year, 1945. As the volume dropped, small construction firms, consisting primarily of special-trade contractors, have been forced out of business and their members and employees taken into the Armed Forces or diverted to work in war industry. Shortages of materials and manpower necessitate continued restrictions on the amount of civilian construction which can now go ahead.

Although the construction industry has, in the past, been characterized by a large turnover in the number of firms starting and going out of business each year, it is now serviced by too few firms to handle the large volume of work which must be started as soon as possible after the defeat of Germany and continued through the transition period to provide maximum employment.

Demobilized veterans and war workers should find considerable opportunity for establishing or reestablishing themselves in this industry if they possess the required skills. Veterans lacking capital when they return home will of course find that the "GI Bill of Rights" makes some provision for them to get loans that they can use to set themselves up in business. It is to be hoped that many of them, especially those who were in the industry before, will make use of these business loans in order to enter the industry at the earliest possible moment.

The Senator pointed out, however, that "unless Federal, State and local governments and private construction agencies accelerate advance planning of construction for the postwar period, the industry as a whole may be unable to provide as large amount of work as would be desirable in the early months after the defeat of Germany and Japan."

"The inadequate status of preparations for postwar construction," Senator Murray said, "constitutes one of the most pressing and immediate problems of the construction industry." He cautioned against over-optimism as to the capacity of the industry to provide small business opportunity unless work now proposed to be undertaken in the postwar period is as quickly as possible brought to the blueprint stage and made ready for the awarding of contracts. It will take considerable time to get building plans down to the construction stage once restrictions over civilian construction can be relaxed. Moreover, the sites should be selected, and all necessary financing arrangements required for the work attended to ahead of time.



In the Washington Times-Herald

Other architects may dream of some day building great cathedrals, majestic halls of government and beautiful mansions, but not Miles Colean.

There are rows and rows and miles and miles of homes for middle and lower income families, housing projects, and streamline office buildings on his mind.

Miles Colean is well known as a housing and construction authority. His days are spent not at a drawing board with a T-square, but in advising financial institutions, builders, economic committees and magazines on building today and in the postwar world to come.

He serves as an adviser to the Senate Postwar Planning and Policy Committee's sub-committee on housing, and to the National Planning Association among others.

A native of Peoria, Ill., Colean attended the University of Wisconsin and received his bachelor of architecture degree from Columbia University.

He practiced architecture in Chicago for 10 years before coming to Washington in 1934 as technical director of the Federal Housing Administration.

In 1940 he left his then position of Assistant Administrator of FHA to make a survey on house building for the Twentieth Century Fund. The results of his work were published two years later in his book "American Housing."

Since then he has been doing consulting work here on housing projects like those built here and about the country by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, for which he acted as consultant.

His hobby is gardening, which he enjoys with his wife and teen-aged daughter. He is a pipe smoker and lives in a house in Washington he "bought one Sunday."

EILEEN ETEN.

ARCHITECTURAL ADVISORY Committee to guide and assist the Federal Public Housing Authority, local housing authorities and others interested in the design and development of low-cost housing for the future is announced by Philip M. Klutznick, FPHA Commissioner.

The committee was organized under the chairmanship of Howard Myers, publisher of the *Architectural Forum*, with William W. Wurster, dean, School of Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, as vice chairman.

The committee will make independent studies of design and development of past and present low-rent projects and will make recommendations for the future.



Mr. Colean

Unification in Minnesota

More than forty members of the Minnesota and St. Paul Chapters of The American Institute of Architects attended the monthly meeting of the Minnesota Chapter, February 15, in Minneapolis. The guest speaker was Leigh Hunt, Milwaukee architect, vice chairman of the Committee on Unification of The American Institute of Architects.

Mr. Hunt told of the Institute's plan for unification of the architectural profession by combining into one organization all the architects of each state who are members of state associations of architects and (or) chapters of the A.I.A.

* * *

MINNEAPOLIS TIMES, under the heading "It's Real Economy to Have Architect; Experience Prevents Costly Mistakes," makes out a good case for the Architect, in No. 3 of its series "Dream Homes Coming True." The illustrated article goes into detail on what an architect is, what he does and how to go about employing him. It appeared in the issue of March 16, 1945.

Perry Elected in Miss.

C. Reginald Perry, of Hattiesburg, was elected president of The Mississippi Chapter, A.I.A., at its annual meeting in Jackson, on March 15. He succeeds E. L. Malvaney. Carl E. Matthes, of Biloxi was named vice-president and Warren McClesky, secretary-treasurer. Governor Thomas L. Bailey was guest speaker.

* * *

GOVERNOR BAILEY has named four new members to the State Board of Architecture; Carl E. Matthes, E. L. Malvaney, L. L. Brasfield and Emmett J. Hull. The other member of the board is Vinson B. Smith, Jr., of Gulfport.

* * *

MRS. MAYBELL DUBARD, of Greenwood, Miss., has won the nation-wide competition for a Peace Tower to be erected in the court of the Pentagon Building, at Washington.

To be built after the war, it is to be of 23 floors, devoted mostly to offices.

Mrs. DuBard is at present serving in the War Department at Washington, having given up her private practice for the duration. Previously she had been engaged as a designer of buildings in Greenwood, specializing in homes and apartments, and remodeling. After the war she hopes to supervise the construction of the Peace Tower and then return to Greenwood.

Missouri Competition

Plans for competition for a design to carry out the Jefferson Memorial on St. Louis' riverfront, open to architects of the entire Western Hemisphere, with a proposed first prize of \$25,000, have been disclosed by the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial Association.

The association has undertaken to raise a fund of \$225,000 for the competition.

* * *

Jefferson City — Missouri's governor, Forrest C. Donnell has announced the appointment of W. Oscar Mullgardt, A. I. A., of St. Louis, to the State Board of Architects and Engineers, for a term ending Oct. 29, 1949, to succeed Walter L. Rathmann, F.A.I.A., whose term expired.

"Have We Done With the Past?"

Charles D. Maginnis Asks in Lecture

"Have We Done With the Past?" was the topic of a lecture given recently by Charles D. Maginnis, F.A.I.A., in the lecture hall of the Boston Public Library. Mr. Maginnis, former president of The American Institute of Architects, discussed the validity of certain fundamental traditions in architecture which he believes cannot be summarily dismissed by the modernists.



George Marlowe, A. I.

Mr. Maginnis, a well-known architect and literary traveler, of Framingham, Mass., has designed a guide book for the armchair tourist who must patriotically do his traveling through the printed word. "Coaching Roads of Old New England" is one of those pleasant journeys into the American past which in the midst of global warfare serve to reinforce and invigorate the texture of national consciousness.

Jogging along at a leisurely dog-trot, Mr. Marlowe and his stage-coach approach New England from a purely historical angle. Sighting a tavern, bridge, church or farmhouse, this traveler unlooses a flood of reminiscence resurrecting personalities of the fabulous past and evoking a host of shadowy figures.

"The House of Today and Tomorrow" was the subject of an illustrated lecture delivered by David J. Abrahams, member of the Boston Society of Architects and of the Massachusetts State Association of Architects, March 1 in the lecture hall of the Boston Public Library.

Future growth of Greater Boston as a Metropolitan unit as outlined in the Better Boston Contest and particularly Belmont's part in the proposed changes has been the subject of recent talks before civic groups by William Roger Greeley, A.I.A., noted Boston architect.

Mr. Greeley, town planning authority, who has been closely associated with movements designed to create and preserve public reservations, acted as chairman of the Boston Planning Contest, sponsored by United States Senator Leverett Saltonstall, Governor Maurice J. Tobin, the Boston Society of Architects and Boston University.

Charles R. Hoyle has been elected president of Worcester (Mass.) Society of Architects; Harry L. Meacham, vice president; Norman Nault, treasurer; and Frederick H. Gagnon, secretary.

Stuart W. Briggs and Delmar L. Lambert were re-elected members of the executive committee.

WITH "TRENDS IN HOUSING" as her subject, Miss Catherine Bauer, international housing authority, was the speaker at the fifth of seven "Trend of Design" illustrated lectures at the Boston Architectural Center. A consultant to the Federal Public Housing authority in Washington and member of several national housing committees, Miss Bauer is the wife of William W. Wurster, new Dean of Archi-

ecture and City Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

HITTING AT THE PRACTICE of leading institutions in advertising free "architectural advice" at low cost to stimulate mortgage loans, the Architectural Society of Western Massachusetts at a recent meeting voted support of a bill pending before the Legislature to restrict the use of the words "architect" or "registered architect" by individuals not registered as such under existing laws.

WILLIAM G. PERRY, A.I.A., has been elected a member of the Brookline, Mass., planning board. Mr. Perry is a member of the architectural firm of Perry, Shaw and Hepburn. Ernest Parsons, a former member of the planning board, is also associated with this firm. Mr. Perry was educated at Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris. He was commander of the 477th Aero Squadron, 1917-18. Nationally known as the architect for the reconstruction of Williamsburg, Va., he is president of the Massachusetts Building Congress.



Mr. Perry

PARKER FOR MAYOR! "Welcome to the growing gallery of suggestions for the mayoralty of Boston the latest candidate (who probably does not know it) in the person of William Stanley Parker, who lives on Mt. Vernon street, and whose office is on Boylston street—both excellent streets to live on or have offices on." Thus begins an important feature article in the Worcester, Mass., Telegram, by Beacon Hill.

"We have not asked Mr. Parker about this, because if we did he very likely would request us to drop the whole thing, and we did not and we do not want to drop the whole thing; and if he had asked us to forget all about whatever talk there is about his being a candidate for Mayor we, of course, would have been compelled by consideration for his feelings and by considerations of courtesy to omit these few paragraphs."

The article continues with an outline of Mr. Parker's distinguished career.



Mr. Parker

Iowa Honors C. Bowers

Iowa State College Alumni Association has established a memorial fund in honor of its distinguished Charles Frederick Bowers. Professor Bowers was the first Iowa State College faculty member to lose his life in World War II. "Although the shock of his untimely death has been profound, the memory of Charles Frederick Bowers, who embodied the finest traditions of his profession, will always remain an inspiration to all who knew him."

Britain's Prefab Homes

Chicago, Ill.—Simultaneously with the statement by Jacob L. Crane, special government housing representative to Great Britain, that American pre-fabricated houses are urgently needed abroad, the Chicago Tribune reports builders and pre-fabrication manufacturers in the United States joined in a protest against the "gift" to England under lend-lease of 30,000 new pre-fabricated homes costing 51 million dollars.

The 165 million feet of lumber needed for these homes may seriously affect the American H-2 (homes for nonwar civilians) housing program, said a spokesman for the National Association of Home Builders. And the 30,000 complete bath rooms, ranges and kitchen sinks used may delay construction of 30,000 contemplated American homes, the Tribune stated.

Crane, a former Chicagoan and nationally known as a city planner, is special assistant to the administrator of the national housing agency, in Washington, D. C. He spoke at a joint meeting of the board of governors and the post-war committee of the Metropolitan Housing council in Chicago.

"In Britain, housing has become a political issue of the first magnitude," he said. "In November a poll of opinion on various public issues showed housing to be the most important one. More than 2½ million houses have been substantially damaged by bombing and at least 250,000 of these have been destroyed beyond use. American pre-fabricated houses, as well as ideas, experts and assistance in the development of methods and production are urgently needed."

The federal public housing authority is now taking bids on 30,000 complete bathrooms to be equipped with cast iron enameled bath tubs equivalent to those installed in the highest cost American homes, toilet, lavatory, and other fixtures, and galvanized iron piping cut to proper lengths. It also wants bids on kitchen sinks, kitchen ranges, and pre-fabricated panels, walls, floors, and ceiling for 30,000 homes.

ARCHITECTS FROM the Soviet Union, now in the United States inspecting hotels, visited Chicago recently. They put in considerable time at the Stevens and the Sherman. Their purpose is to study American hotel operations and methods with special attention to mechanical plants, efficiency devices and layouts of floor space.

CHICAGLORIES: The first city in the world to be planned completely from the beginning was Canberra, Australia; and it was designed in an office in Chicago by an American architect, Burley Griffin, who won the honor in world-wide competition.—Chicago Sun.

Carroll Elected in Penn

J. Roy Carroll, assistant professor of architectural design at the University of Pennsylvania, has been elected president of the Pennsylvania Society of Architects for 1945-46.

Other officers elected include Allan H. Neal, of Pittsburgh, vice-president; Daniel S. Readinger, of Harrisburg, secretary, and B. Kenneth Johnstone, of State College, treasurer. The society also elected five other members to the executive board to represent the five districts of the State.

Roger Allen Head of Michigan Society

Roger Allen of Grand Rapids was elected president of the Michigan Society of Architects at its Thirty-first Annual Meeting in the Rackham Memorial Building in Detroit on March 22. Adrian N. Langius of Lansing was elected first vice-president and the following of Detroit: Earl W. Pellerin, second vice-president; Joseph W. Leinweber, third vice-president; L. Robert Blakeslee, secretary; Malcolm R. Stirton, treasurer, and Talmage C. Hughes, executive secretary.

The new directors at large are Robert B. Frantz of Saginaw, George M. McConkey of Ann Arbor, and Eero Saarinen of Bloomfield Hills. Carrying over are directors William E. Kapp, representing the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. and Harry L. Mead, representing the Grand Rapids Chapter. The New Saginaw Valley Chapter has yet to elect its director to serve on the Society Board.

Charles F. Cellarius, A.I.A. Director spoke at a luncheon. The concluding event was the lecture by Frank Lloyd Wright.

While I was engaged in composing a ringing address to my constituents, thanking them for voting me into office of President of the Michigan Society of Architects and resisting all efforts on the part of a Mr. Ditchy to get them to write in the name of Gerald L. K. Smith as a sticker candidate; while, as I said a couple of commas back, practically beating my brains out to produce an inaugural message that would be dignified without being drab, comical without being corny, and zealous without being zymotic, while I am doing all this I accidentally read a piece in *The Bulletin*, to wit:

Konrad Wachsmann, the futuristic architect, figures his house for the future will eliminate broken homes.

"You have wall sections, roof sections, floor sections. So. You put them together in a few hours and presto, you have a house." (No doubt this fellow Presto he mentions is the fellow from the carpenter's union wanting to know what the hell goes on here and have you got a card?) He said, as he sketched it on a napkin. "See," he said, "no broken homes. The husband could take half the panels and the wife the other half. You put the panels together, and have two separate houses. Is that not a sensible idea?"

In answer to your inquiry of even date, Konrad: No, that is not a sensible idea. In fact I have never heard an idea more calculated to get a husband shot all full of holes by an enraged wife than this one.

Let us look at this matter calmly, Konrad. Take a deep breath and then decide who gets which half? To get right down to cases, Kon, who gets the custody of the bathroom?

You do not think, do you, that Precious is going to let a mere husband walk off with the half of the house that contains the only place where she can drop bobby pins down the lavatory, hide his razor blades behind a pile of empty nail enamel bottles, and stand in front of the mirror practicing scowls to see if those are really wrinkles or has the finish started to crack? You think that, Konrad, and you will think anything.

No, I am firm in my belief that the real boon to husbands is the house that revolves on a pivot. Then when the husband comes

home from an alumni dinner (Class of '23, good old Saskatchewan Subnormal) and the house has a tendency to revolve from left to right, his everloving wife can correct this tendency by actually making the house revolve from right to left. This brings everything out even. Or, if Precious is mad at him for going out in the first place, and revolves the house from left to right, doubling its mean rate of acceleration, he can stand there and look at it and if a nosey neighbor asks him what he thinks he is doing, can reply, "Believe it or not, I'm waiting for a street door to come by."

Are there any more questions? If not, I will go back to my inaugural speech, which I ought to complete any year now.

SAGINAW VALLEY is the newest Chapter of the A.I.A., having just been established with 21 members. Joseph C. Goddeyne is president, Donald A. Kimball, vice-president; Lavern J. Nelsen, secretary, and John MacKenzie, treasurer.

Pickering Appointed

The appointment of Prof. Ernest Pickering, head of the division of architecture at the University of Cincinnati, on the City Planning Commission, is announced by Mayor Stewart.

Prof. Pickering, president of the Cincinnati Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, has been on the U. C. staff for 20 years.

He is author of three books, on architecture, housing and sociology, and collaborated with the University of Wisconsin on a study of the social significance of family shelter. He was chairman of the lecture series, "The City of Tomorrow," sponsored by the architects' society given last year.

Prof. Pickering specialized in architectural engineering at the University of Kansas, holds two degrees from the University of Illinois and took post graduate studies at Harvard University and the Ecole des Beaux Arts, Paris. He was a practicing architect in Kansas City and Illinois.

Through President Raymond Walters of U.C., he has arranged to give sufficient time to perform "what in both the present and the immediate future will be the great and increasing activities of the planning commission," Mayor Stewart said.

DEAN GILMORE D. CLARKE of the College of Architecture, Cornell University, has received the Brown Medal for "outstanding leadership in the field of town and city planning," Franklin Institute has announced.

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Dow Lectures in Texas

College Station, Texas—Alden B. Dow, of Midland, Mich. and Houston, Texas, gave two lectures at Texas A. & M. Department of Architecture in March.

Among Dow's better known works in Texas are the Dow Chemical Company plant at Freeport and the Lake Johnson village which surrounds it. This village was transformed almost overnight from the heart of a forest of oak and pecan trees to a modern city thoughtfully developed to become an architectural showplace. He is a son of the founder and a brother of the president of the Dow company.

While Temple citizens called upon leading Texas architects to submit designs for a postwar 36th Division Memorial, Dow entered the contest and his plans were the ones accepted.

Dow's professional honors also have included the Diplome de Grande Prix for Residential Architecture given at the 1937 Industrial Exposition in Paris. He also holds patents on unit cinder blocks and plastic building units.

PERRY, SHAW & HEPBURN, of Boston, Mass., has been selected as consultant architects to assist in laying out and designing Trinity University's new campus and buildings proposed under the school's postwar expansion plans, of the Texas Institution.

The Boston architects are the firm employed by Rockefeller to supervise the restoration of Williamsburg, Va. They also designed the main building of Radcliffe College, women's annex to Harvard University, and the Harvard Library for Rare Books.

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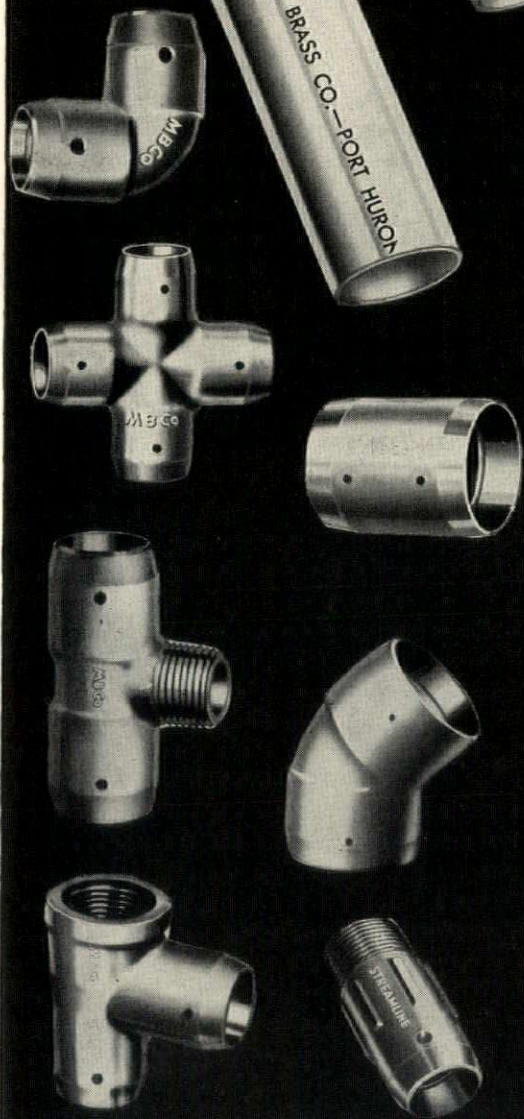


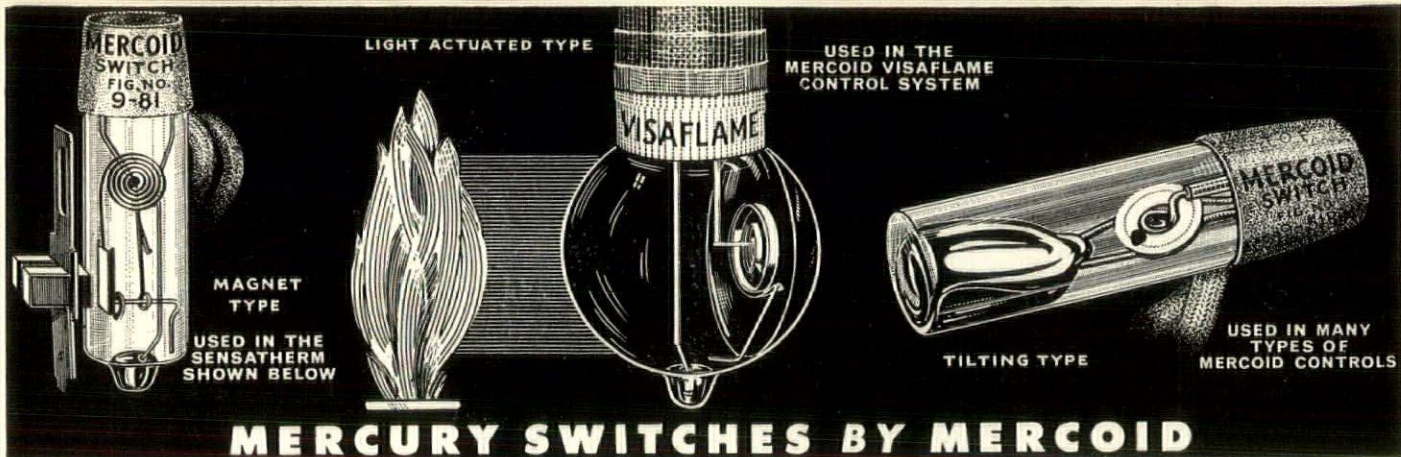
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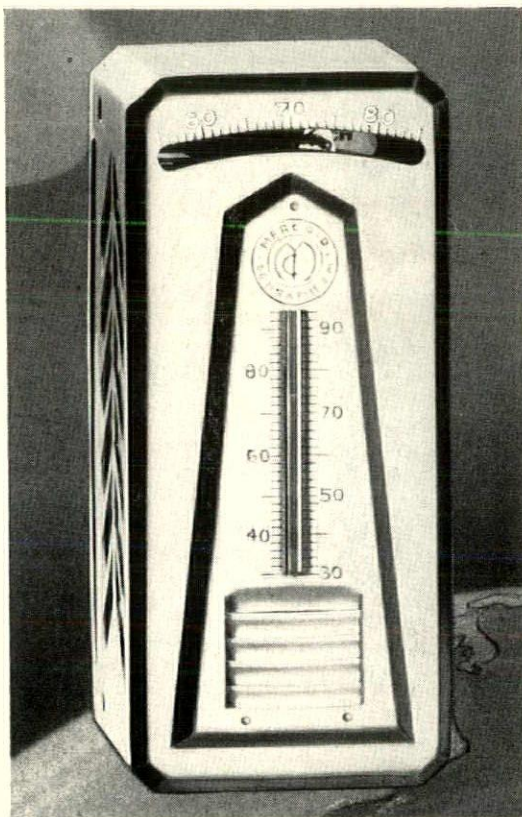


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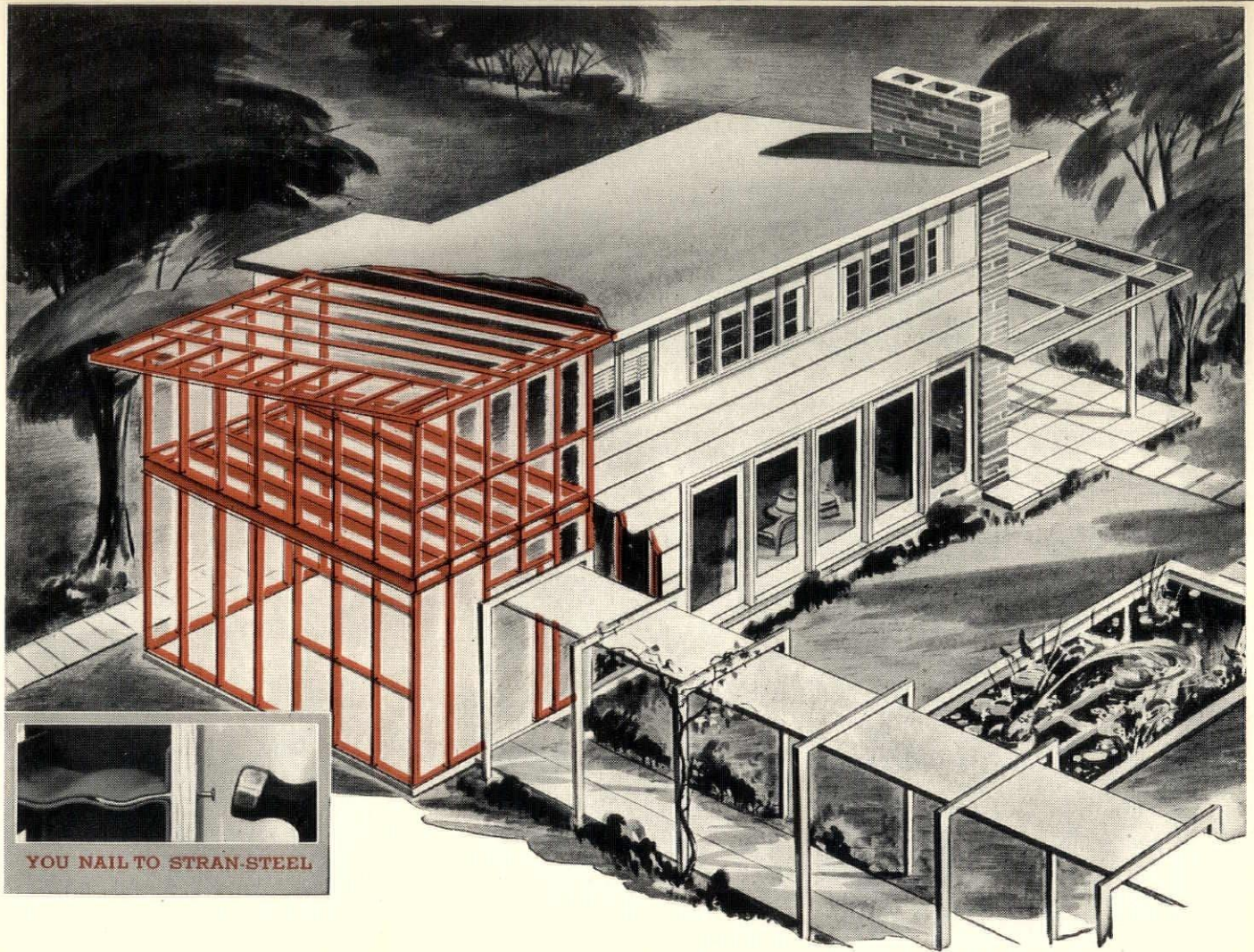
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(Continued from Front Page)

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"The assault against the ancient and honorable (and beautiful) art of architecture should be faced squarely unless we are content to let the very spirit of Architecture become a mere historical memory. Can we afford to let the case against us go by default? An innocent bystander may command some measure of sympathy; but a guilty bystander will command neither sympathy nor respect."

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Number 16

ARCHITECTS CIVIC DESIGN GROUP DETROIT METROPOLITAN AREA

By SUREN PILAFIAN, A.I.A.

AT ITS MARCH MEETING, members of the Architects' Civic Design Group of Detroit Metropolitan Area presented to each other and discussed street pattern and land use layouts of fifteen of the twenty sub-areas which comprise the scope of the Group's studies of the general city planning problems of the area. These studies represented the work of the following members:

Donald F. White, Stuart Kissenger, Suren Pilafian, Dorothea Mackenthun, Joseph Leinweber, George Andrews, Helen Fassett, Fred Strauss, George Hellmuth, Amedeo Leone, Edgar Giberson, Grant Mounteer, Leslie Lowery, Dick van Reyendam, Robert Cramer, Wei-Foo Chun, Robert Derrick, Branson V. Gamber, George F. Diehl, Clair W. Ditchy, L. M. Wetzel, George Matsumoto, Philip J. Funke, Jonathan A. Taylor, Eberle M. Smith and Dorothe Taylor.

Following the discussion of these studies by its members, the group had the pleasure of viewing a presentation made by Armin Roemer and Donald Monson, who had been invited by the group to do so, of work of a similar nature being done by the Detroit City Plan Commission.

Roemer and Monson, members of the Detroit City Planners' staff, showed the group a large collection of studies they have been making for the purpose of exploring the possibilities of subdividing the city of Detroit into nucleated communities. About 16 or 17 such communities have been planned throughout the city, each accommodating about 100,000 persons. The boundaries of these communities have been determined in accordance with such controlling elements as the locations of proposed expressways, industrial sites, parks, major streets, schools and political boundaries.

This presentation was of particular interest to the Group because it demonstrated

the types of modifications that often have to be made when adapting the broad principles of "organic decentralization" to problems such as exist in Detroit where the obstacles to planning in the best manner are quite formidable. In the studies being made by the group, such limitations as existing political boundaries, existing legislation, existing structures that will become obsolete within the next fifty years, vested interests and inflated land values have been ignored purposely in order to show how much better our plans could be if we would make successful efforts to overcome such unreasonable obstacles. Essentially it is this approach which distinguishes the work of the Group from that of the City Plan Commission, and which makes one neither duplicate nor conflict with the other. The Group members feel that only by adopting such a free approach can they demonstrate successfully and clearly the broad details at which all city planning should be aimed. They feel that their work bears, thereby, a healthful relationship to the work being done by official agencies, serving them in the same capacity as independent research projects in "pure science" often serve those active in the "applied sciences."

During the discussion of the street pattern layouts presented earlier by some of the members of the Group, a question was raised as to the desirability of a curvilinear street pattern within a community as against a rectilinear arrangement. Some

of the members referred to the Lake Forest area in Chicago and the Shaker Heights development in Cleveland, both of which were planned with predominantly curved streets, thereby making it difficult for newcomers to orient themselves. Mr. Saarinen, the Group's general consultant, thought that where the topography or other reasonable limitations called for curved streets, such streets would be logical. However an excessive use of such streets merely for the sake of achieving picturesqueness or informality, he would call "macaroni planning."

A survey of progress accomplished by the members revealed that the Group's work on the street pattern layouts was now sufficiently advanced to permit its concentration on the next phase of its program, the preparation of a three dimensional model of a portion of each sub-area. Accordingly it was agreed that at the next meeting definite steps would be taken to proceed with this, the final major step in the work.

In response to many requests that have been received for permission to attend the Group's meetings, the executive committee of the Group hereby announces that interested persons are welcome to attend the regular monthly meetings. These are held alternately at the Rackham Memorial Building in Detroit and at Cranbrook. For information as to date and place of any meeting, call the secretary, Miss Helen L. Fassett at RAndolph 8825.

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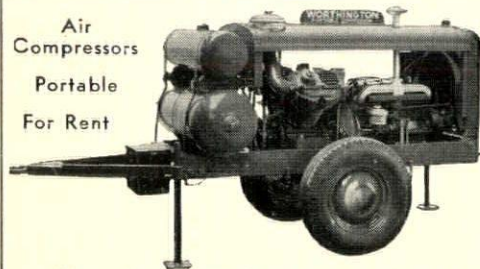
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(Continued from Page 3)

society nor should I place upon the school authorities that arduous responsibility, and yet I think that in our planning we should do all that is possible to break into fragments the endless monotony of our cities, to encourage self-sufficiency and a natural localization of civic activities. In that way we can make it possible for large numbers of people to participate in such activities. We are enlarging the range of citizenship and furnishing training grounds for democracy.

The distribution and design of recreational areas may also be an effective agency for social reconstruction. During the next fifty years, while we are building our new schools, we must broadcast the city with a great variety of parks and playgrounds. What is important about parks is not their total number of acres but their accessibility to the people and the kind of service they render the people. There are no parks more beautiful than Palmer Park and Belle Isle, but these are not so much parts of the city's life as they are avenues of escape from it. They are priceless adjuncts to the city and yet they do not participate in its daily life. We must supplement these larger areas—these fragments of the countryside embedded in the city—with neighborhood parks such as may assist a sense of local solidarity and communion.

These should be of many types. There should be, for example, playgrounds small in area and within reach of children; sports fields, covering a city block and designed for organized games and screened from the windows of dwelling houses by plantings; small parks covering several blocks, laid out in quiet wooded areas and provided sometimes with gardens, outdoor theatres and places for dancing. I should give these a wide variety in design so as to avoid banalities and tiresome standardizations. They should, if I had my way, recapture some of the ethnical qualities which happily exist in such variety in this city: there should be parks which recall the culture of Poland, Italy and even of Alabama. The cost of maintaining each park should, if that is practicable, be a charge upon each neighborhood; each should form, so to speak, common possession which, shared together and expressing cultural interests shared together, should confirm the identity of a neighborhood.

Fifty years would not be too long a time for the completion of these programs for school and park. In the meantime nearly all of our dwellings will have to be replaced with new constructions. We shall be strangely improvident, I think, if we do not give some consideration, in advance of the event, to this vast transformation. Since the character of these new constructions, their distribution and relation to other civic elements will affect so intimately and profoundly the life of the people, we ought to include in our planning the problem of housing.

This will be, assuredly, our most difficult problem. People understand the public park and most of us acknowledge without question the responsibility of the State for the education of all children; but there are a very great number of us (among whom I count myself) who think that in principle, at least, a man ought to earn the right to shelter; nor is the notion that the private house should be an infrequent

phenomenon, like the private school, favorable to cultural diversity. Shelter, moreover, has been for many years a commodity—a commodity so intricately entangled in commercial usages and rights, in systems of taxation and finance, in ways of life and social convention, that to touch it is to send vibrations into almost every part of the fabric of society.

Nevertheless it is clear that something must be done to improve the conditions of shelter in this and in every American city. The slums must be abolished; a decent minimum of light, air and sanitation must be assured to everyone; residential areas must be protected against the blight of commercialism; and there must be established in the city as a whole that balance and stability in population (and incidentally in land-values) which will nourish a community spirit.

I know of no solution for the housing problem, but of this I am sure: we will solve it, if at all, together. I mean by this that government and business and public opinion must sustain a common program of housing. That program must be flexible, subject to experiment and change; free from dogma and emotional impulse; but it must also be formulated and administered. It must, in short, be planned.

* * *

We have then three avenues of evolution which offer us, each in its special way, escapes from the prison walls which are closing around us. One is rebuilding our schools; second, our parks and third, of the town's institutions of health. There are of course other avenues but I shall have time for only one: I mean the one afforded by that great cultural center proposed by the City Plan Commission and which will occupy the wide parcel of land extending backward on both sides of Woodward Avenue from Warren to Kirby Streets. That is an ideal location: ideal topographically—in its relation to homes and to traffic routes—and ideal because it already embraces the greatest of your cultural institutions, the Library, Art Museum and Symphony Hall. When you add to these the new Museums of Industry and of History, the Institutes of the Natural and Social Sciences, the Medical Center and the vast and serviceable complex of Wayne University, you will have in Detroit a citadel of the human spirit unrivaled in all the world. This also will be completed in fifty years and from this Detroit will gain a greater renown than from all her automobiles.

Here will be planned and directed our successful war against the enslaving mechanizations of our terrible industries. Here is our captain and our general staff. From this, all who wage this war will find new strength and encouragement constantly renewed; from this fountain the millions who thirst will daily return refreshed to their homes. I do not despair of a city where so great a project can be conceived and dared.

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Preservation Prescription

From the *Blue Print*, Westchester (N. Y.) Chapter, A.I.A.

This month's Westchester Medical Bulletin, the official publication of The Medical Society of the County of Westchester, Inc., vigorously urges both its professional and lay readers to write their Senators and Assemblymen asking the defeat of the proposed Seelye-Brees Bill. This bill is designed to license and legalize the practice of Chiropractic in the State of New York, and to quote the Bulletin, "if passed would allow chiropractors to diagnose illness and disease without proper qualifications for sound diagnosis—education, training and experience." The profession, continues the Bulletin, would not deny anyone the privilege of administering to their fellow men, provided he or she is qualified and has passed the same rigid examination now required for M. D.'s.

They further claim it would license present Chiropractors who have been "carrying on" illegally; that chiropractic is not a science and that it is silly and dishonest to allude to it as a science and that it is not recognized by the Armed Forces, The U. S. Public Health Service, nor any approved hospital, college or university; that by allowing this group to practice might endanger the lives of many persons due to delay in recognizing and diagnosing such diseases as Tuberculosis, Cancer, Syphilis, and many others of serious nature; that New York State's high educational standards for the practice of medicine should be preserved and that any special licensure privilege which would lower these standards would be out of order.

Can you imagine what a hue and cry these well organized medics would raise if some legislator were to propose that any self-styled, unlicensed quack should be allowed to perform minor operations—leaving the major ones for the licensed group. Yet, architectural work can be openly done by anyone who has the ability to wield a "T" square, provided of course, he keeps within the limits of "minor" operations—under \$10,000.

It is high time that the Architectural Profession received more State protection from these pseudo architects and engineers—as well as from our own brethren who advocate junior licenses and the like.

It would be a good idea for us to peep into the Medical Profession's book—and borrow a leaf from it—they seem to have something we need.

Clair W. Ditchy Meeting

(From The Foundation)

"Post War Home Design and Planning" was the subject of Mr. Clair W. Ditchy on March 16. This was a mixed meeting and the Junior Room was filled to capacity—approximately 170 Junior Members and guests were present—ample proof of the interest in this subject in these times of housing shortage. The audience was amply rewarded by Mr. Ditchy's discussion.

Houses of the future will utilize modern indirect lighting systems, replacing the old "candleholder" type fixtures. Too much should not be expected in the field of prefabricated housing. There should however, be an increasing use of the smaller prefabricated units such as wall sections, kitchen units, etc. Mr. Ditchy concluded by stressing the importance of building whole communities at one time.



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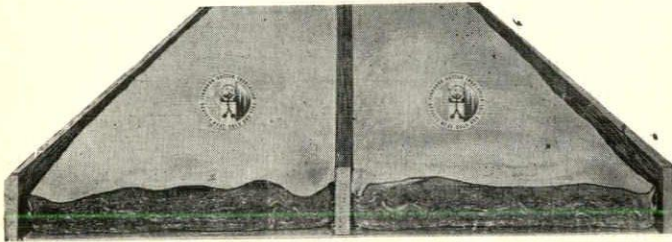
Mr. Orville Bulman of Grand Rapids who is now a respectable manufacturer but who in his unregenerate days was a sports cartoonist, saw a picture in the Detroit Free Press of Mr. Allen and Mr. Wright. After the numb feeling began to wear off, Mr. Bulman began to feel that the photographer had done me less than justice. Hence the enclosed.

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Hudnut—The Art and Science of City Planning

(Continued from Last Issue)

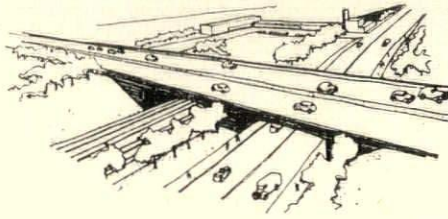
We need some structure to our lives. No undertaking is more exigent, none more far-reaching, than that of overcoming the excessive industrialization of our cities by new social crystallizations, and by the establishment of such patterns of behavior as will again give meaning and direction to civic life. Unless that is done we cannot continue the democratic process or defend the spirit of free initiative which sustains our industrial progress or promote those arts which give dignity and radiance to the collective life. Since we must live in cities and since we cannot delay the onward march of invention, we must create in cities a society tempered to withstand the attritions and subversions of modern industry. We must master this giant machine before it masters us.

Now I do not propose that we can establish the art and science of city planning. That new order will come, if ever, through the collaboration of many agencies, diverse, obscure and anonymous, not all of them armed with enlightened weapons. I suggest rather that city planning is one process which may be used effectively to that end, one field upon which the intellectual forces may hope to win a battle against that deadening regimentation which is paralyzing the civic mind. I suggest that the environment of men has been and is an important factor in the shaping of that civic mind; that the visible and felt aspects of cities have indeed power to influence the men who inhabit them; and since physical adaptations have given direction to social change they may do so again.

If that is true then we ought to ask what changes are desirable and what are possible of attainment. I mean, of course, desirable in our future growth, attainable in due course of time. Time is of the essence of planning. Planning is by definition a science which looks ahead. Let us make no master-plan, inviting the city to put it on at once like a new coat, but let's set forth rather a process of evolution, addressed in general terms to a city con-

stantly changing. That is planning. Since no theory is intelligible without a specific application—and since no city in America challenges that theory more directly—I should like with your permission to outline a city plan, a process of evolution, for Detroit.

The public schools of Detroit were organized and your school-houses built, in accordance with the best practice of their day, as agencies through which boys and girls might prepare themselves for prac-



tical success. At first this preparation was for the professions and included those experiences of the arts and sciences which were basic to the study of theology, law, medicine or engineering; afterwards the less decorative vocations were acknowledged; and we know the present solicitude for those more general and abstract disciplines which, without being immediately vocational, assist the student to make his way in the world.

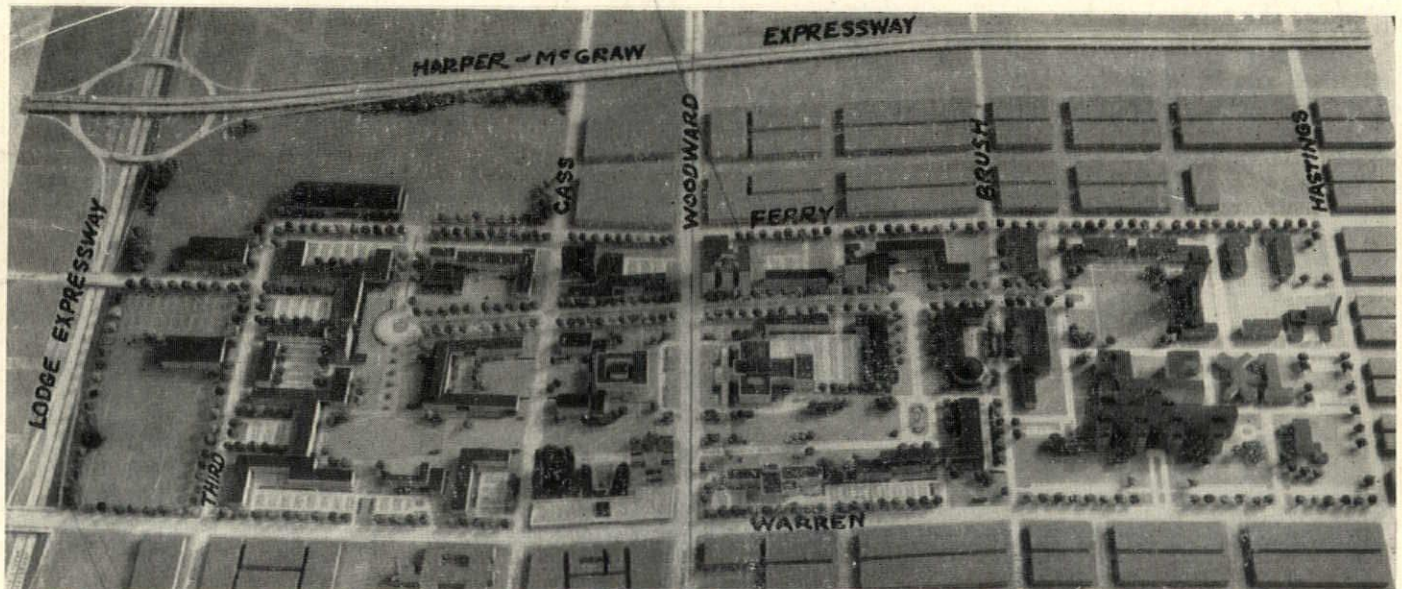
We must continue and widen this service; but at the same time it must be made progressively subordinate to a new and more exigent service; I mean the education of students in the art of living in cities. I am not thinking now of a course in civics or in American history or of any body of precept and exposition; I have in mind rather the means by which students may attain an awareness and sustained experience of city life in all its aspects. They should be made citizens before they are made wage-earners, the city being at all times the first consideration in all that is

taught them, and a proficiency in those arts which give interest and meaning to the collective life should become the primary measure of education for every citizen. Our schoolchildren will create the new city. If they build it for comfort and security merely, if they build for more earning and buying merely, for production and consumption merely, that will be because we did not persuade them of a nobler purpose in their building. At this present crisis this is the only objective of education which really matters.

Now this basic change in direction and emphasis will require a complete reorganization of our school system. It will demand first a new study of the relation of school buildings to the community, new integrations with the community life, new principles of distribution and arrangement, and second, wholly new types of school buildings and school grounds. You ought to destroy, in the course of the next fifty years, every school building in Detroit, beginning with those dark monumental boxes which you call high schools and build in their places a thousand new buildings, patterned specifically for the promotion of social health. These should be buildings free of all architectural pretense, fitted for activity and happiness, flooded with sunlight and music. The cost would be one-tenth the cost of a factory for bombers; and we shall be at war with an even more formidable and cruel enemy than Nazi Germany or Japan.

When I say that schoolhouses should be integral to the structure of the community I am thinking not of their relation to children merely but to all citizens. Certain types of schoolhouses, for example, might form the nuclei of those smaller communities we call **neighborhoods**; they might form, together with playground, church, gymnasium, theatre, and assembly hall, those neighborhood centers which sometimes encourage the growth of local community life. I do not believe such physical adaptations can alone create a

(Continued on Page 5)



Study of Detroit's proposed Cultural Center, by Buford L. Pickens, A.I.A.

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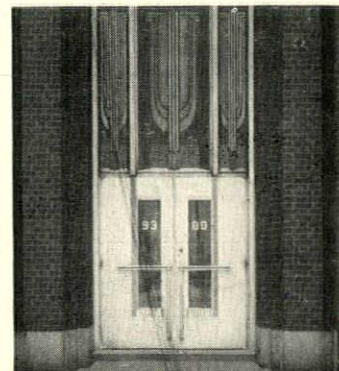
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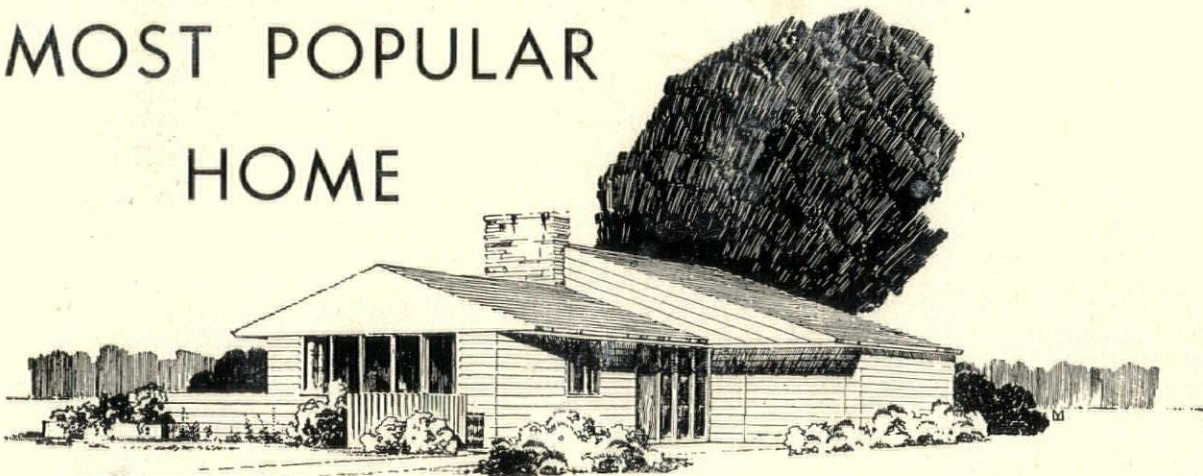
E. B. FAUQUIER—ADVERTISING MANAGER

Volume 19

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, APRIL 24, 1945

Number 17

MINORITY REPORT BRINGS MOST POPULAR HOME



By L. Morgan Yost, A.I.A.
From The American Lumberman

FURTHER INSIGHT into the popular house after the war has been possible by polling readers of national magazines and translating the results of these polls into actual designs. If these designs are a true result of the reader polls and if the polls are conducted over a large enough cross-section of the people, we can effectively look into the future and plan our operations accordingly.

Proven Popularity

In *AMERICAN LUMBERMAN* for Nov. 25, 1944, such a house was presented. It had been designed as the result of a nation-wide poll held by Small Homes Guide by L. Morgan Yost, *AMERICAN LUMBERMAN* staff member. As was stated in that article the house was not only designed in accordance with the results of the poll but when the design was published readers were again polled to verify the accuracy of the interpretation of reader wishes. It was successful—in fact it was the most popular of all fourteen designs published in that issue of Small Homes Guide, a consumer publication.

However, there was a very good minority report resulting from the poll which could not be ignored. Obviously everyone in the country is not going to like exactly the same house no matter how popular that one may be. Therefore it seemed that large group requests for certain features, even though not leading in the field, should be used as the basis for developing further designs and again to test reader acceptance of the design so developed. The result is shown on these pages.

Surprisingly enough this "minority report" design is apparently even more popular than the house which has been designed from first place requests in the poll, though there

have not been enough facts collected to form any definite conclusions.

Many of the features found in the previous homes are also to be found in this one. These are the features on which there seem to be universal agreement. One of these features is the open plan, that is, space flowing freely from living to dining to kitchen area.

Another point is the domestic and comfortable appearance produced by sloping roofs, somewhat picturesque roof lines and pleasant window groupings. The natural use of natural materials is found in both houses.

Room for a Hobby

The starting point for the design of this home is the fact that many families desired space for a hobby, for work or play, which could not be taken care of in the living room or individual bedrooms. Too often in houses of the past this requirement for a space to work or play has resulted in the basement being cleaned up and finished off to form a so-called recreation room. But it is well known that a very large percentage of these recreation rooms are used but seldom after they are first built, and that they soon become a repository for old furniture and stacks of magazines.

The Split-Level Plan

Yet the economy of basement space outweighs the other advantages of building additional room above grade. Therefore in this home, which Small Homes Guide calls "A Home for Your Hobby," a split level plan was used to combine the economy of basement space with the desired light and air found in a room above grade.

When the plan was finished it was found that many other advantages accrued to this scheme, advantages which the readers were quick to realize and which will undoubtedly

(See YOST—Page 3)

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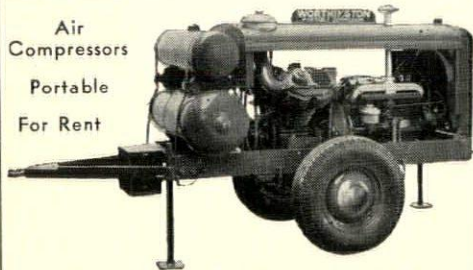
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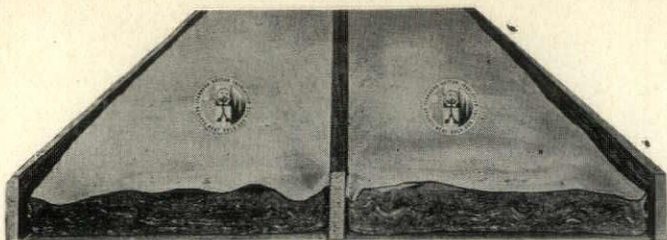
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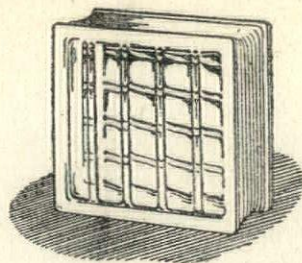
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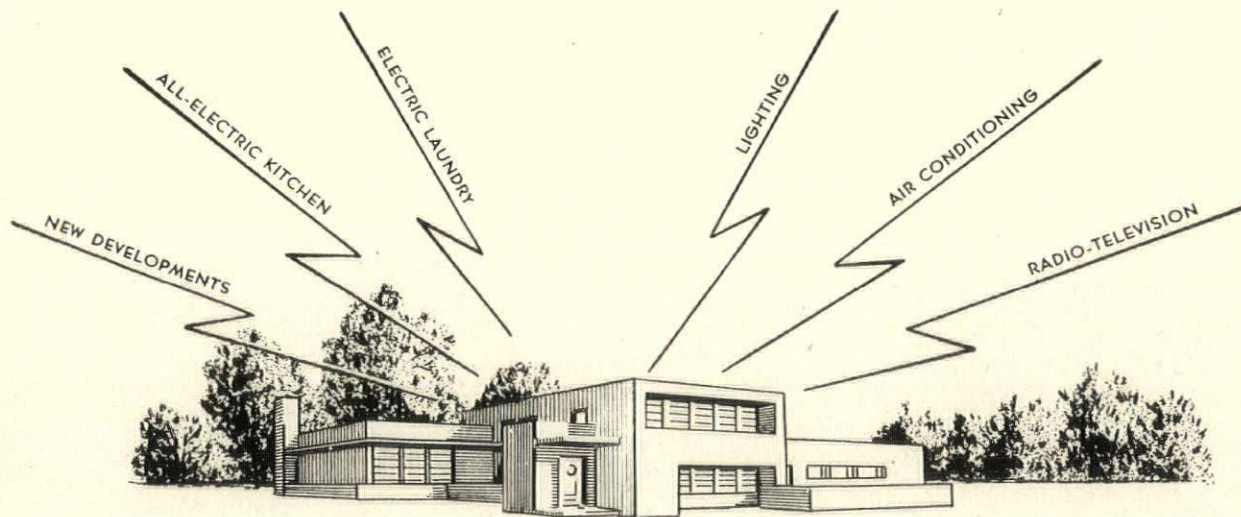


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The bedroom level in this home is only seven steps up from the living room. Everyone knows how easy it is to go up the first seven steps. It's the second half of the flight that is always difficult in a two-story house. This fact makes it much less necessary to have a lavatory on the first floor—a considerable saving in plumbing at little loss of convenience.

Studied Circulation

An examination of the plan will show that it all works from the entrance hall. The circulation is well studied and no room becomes a hallway. Beginning with the approach to the house by automobile every factor has been arranged to make it easy to get from one place to another. First by parking the car in the drive alongside a walk the homeowner may get out of the car directly under the shelter of the broad overhang all along the drive. Truly this house is planned for the day of the automobile. There is a connecting broad overhang over the garage doors so that one may go from the front door to the garage door under cover. From the front hall are the half flights of stairs, up and down.

Although the living-room and kitchen spaces flow freely together, the kitchen is nevertheless segregated from the front entrance by the partition and sliding door. The strategically located free standing case which forms the background for the sofa separates the kitchen from the living space. This sofa is placed to enjoy not only the fireplace but the view out to the terrace and beyond. There a thin screen wall shields the view of the kitchen without restricting the dining space. This use of a case to divide interior space will be a strong trend in post-war home design. It was done before the war in more advanced houses and has recently been extensively publicized in "Life" magazine as something astoundingly new. A large section of the public will undoubtedly realize the advantage of combining the function of case and partition rather than building a complete stud wall plastered on both sides and then fitting the case against it. The older method not only elevates the cost but also loses six inches of valuable space.

This same principle of closets forming partitions is used to separate the two bedrooms where wardrobe closets, half of them opening each way, form the separation.

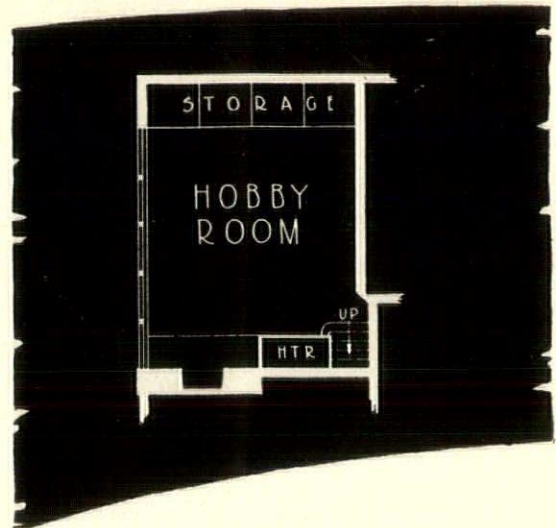
Service Door Optional

A service door opens on to the driveway from the front end of the kitchen. In many homes it would be quite practical to eliminate this door entirely as groceries are brought in by the housewife from the car and she could just as well go in the main entrance. In case this service entrance were eliminated it would be desirable to provide a package receiver for deliveries, possibly opening under the kitchen counter and having an exterior door which could be covered with siding and be very inconspicuous.

Lots of Glass

The south wall of the living room is entirely of glass, though in the working drawings which have been developed for this house fixed wood louver panels have been incorporated for ventilation. This idea of fixed louver panels which has proved so extremely popular with readers and audiences all over the country was fully explained in the article describing the home in the Nov. 25, 1944 AMERICAN LUMBERMAN.

In colder climates this large expanse of glass would preferably be the new double or triple insulating glass which of course is more expensive than the ordinary single glass and also more expensive than conventional minimum window arrangements. However there is much to be said for this additional expense. The heat loss is not excessive and much heat is gained in the winter by the sun coming in this broad expanse of glass. Of course the pleasantness and extra light brought about by the opening up of the whole side of the room to light and view is something most people are willing to pay extra for. Also, though the bill for glass is more, it must not be forgotten that all the other wall materials on that side, with the exception of the structural pass, are omitted. Also by using insulating glass the expense, nuisance and upkeep of storm windows are eliminated and by using the fixed louver panels, shown in the working drawings, movable screens are completely eliminated. Therefore over a period of years there is considerable saving to the owner in time and money.



These large glass expanses are protected from the sun by a broad overhang which is calculated to screen the hot summer days and yet admit the warming sunlight in the winter time when the sun is lower in the sky.

Natural Finish Materials

The massive masonry chimney, indicated as stone in the perspective but equally effective in brick, serves as an anchor to unite the split levels into a single composition. The composition is further unified by the extension of the eaves' line over the living room windows to form an open trellis as the sill of the bedroom windows. Of course on the north or entrance side both roofs come down to the same eaves line.

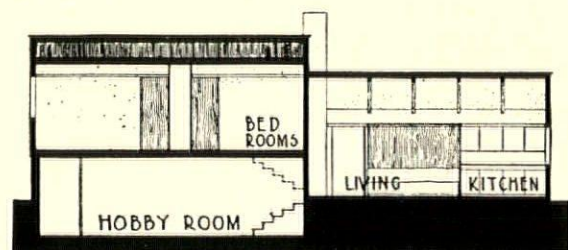
The interior details are extremely simple being designed for plywood walls. Interior woodwork is reduced to a minimum and is simple in contour to make finishing and cleaning easy. The interior design depends upon proportions and the natural color of materials for its great charm. All wood should be finished with a sealer and wax or some other method of preserving its natural color.

An integral blind or curtain pocket is provided at the large windows in the living room.

Construction details are extremely simple despite the fact that there are departures from the conventional brought about by the advanced plan arrangement and the features mentioned, such as cases, overhangs, ventilating louvers, etc.

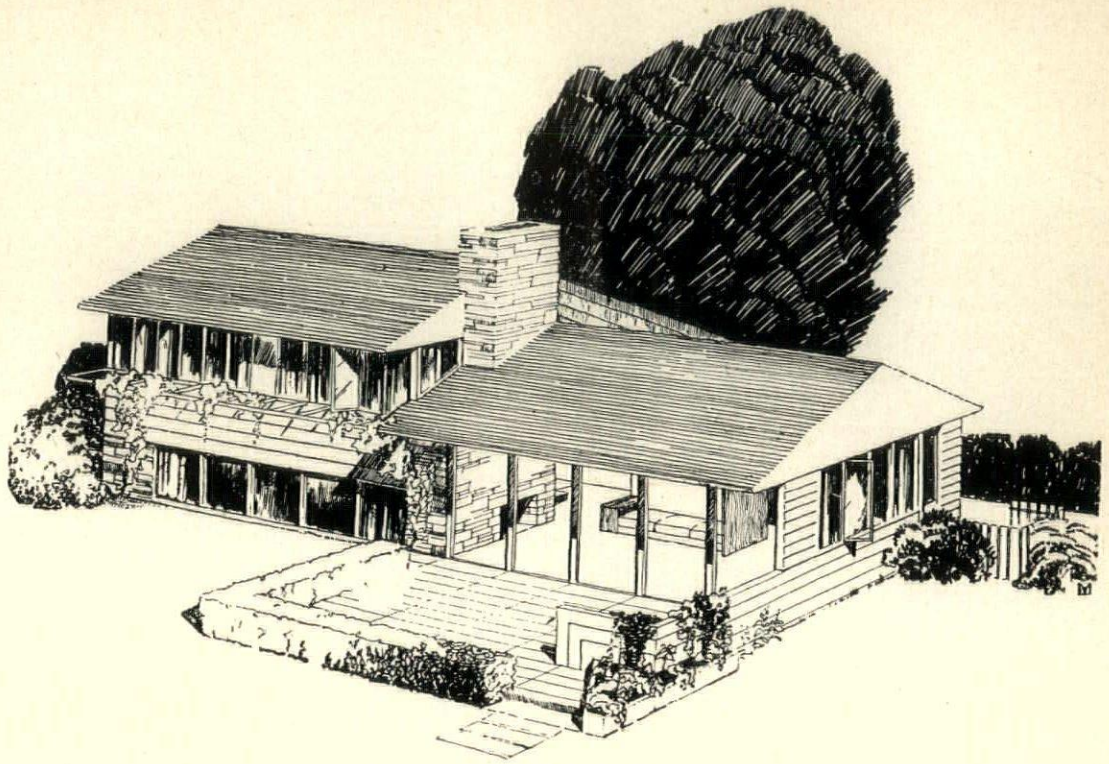
Modern — But No Extreme

This house, just as the one previously published, warrants detailed study by the lumber dealer who is so deeply concerned with the trend of postwar home building and who must keep himself abreast of all developments for the future. It is neither conventional, nor is it extreme. It has the approval of a good cross section poll of the American public, almost all of them definitely committed to building homes for themselves after the war. This is an index which the dealer cannot afford to overlook.



A sectional diagram showing the relation between the various floors in this split-level home.

The sunny side of the house—you can peek into the living room to see how the built-in sofa and fireplace form a unit with the outside terrace. Notice too how the design of the house does not stop with its exterior walls but extends into the terrace.



Yost

(Continued from Page 1)

mean that many houses after the war will be built using this split level arrangement.

The sectional drawing shows how the floor of the hobby room is but six steps down from the first floor. The window stools are only three feet eight inches above the floor, giving an abundance of sunlight and ventilation to the room.

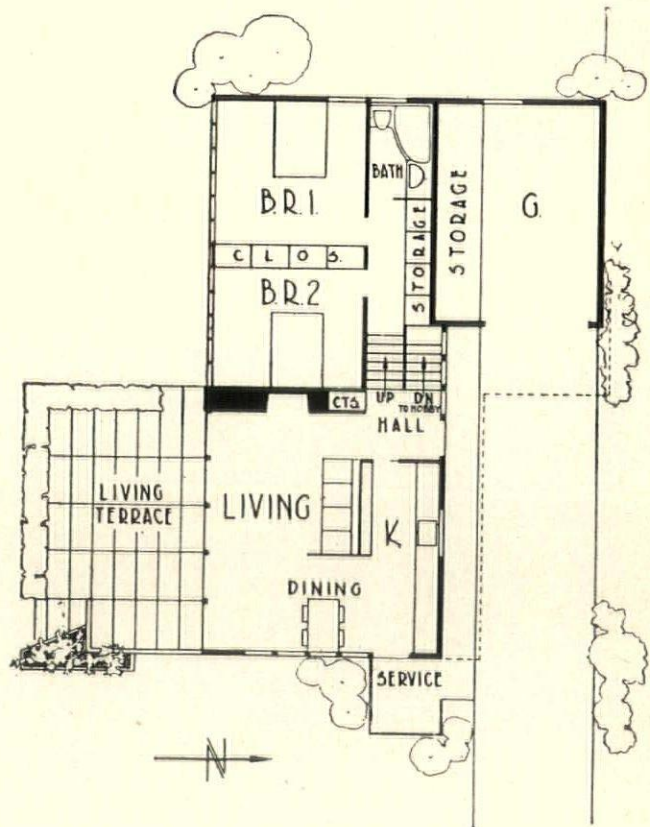
The split-level method of construction is extremely economical, as it is necessary only to excavate to below the frost line which in the northern half of the United States varies from three to four feet. As it is necessary to place footings that deep anyway it is obvious that excavated space is inexpensive cubage. Too often in one-story basement-less houses it is necessary to haul in fill to bring the grade up to the house and properly to drain the site. The split level plan generally produces just enough excavated material to grade the house up from the street and yet not so much that it is necessary to haul it away.

In many instances the below grade space is used as a garage (we are now speaking generally, not of this particular plan). The slope of the drive would not be excessive as grade at the house would be about one foot higher than grade at the sidewalk which would make the drop from sidewalk to garage floor only 18 inches or two feet, and in a set back of 30 feet this would not be in the least objectionable.

In other cases, and still speaking generally, this space can be used for bedrooms and can be finished later if desired. There is not the least feeling of being in a basement when in one of these rooms as actual experience has shown. In this particular plan it would be very easy to place a second bath below the present bath and to place two more bedrooms in the lower level. Thus we could have a four bedroom, two bath house with a very economical construction.

The working plans which have been prepared for this home indicate the installation of an automatic laundry in part of the storage space shown at the end of the hobby room. This of course is optional. The laundry could, with modern electrical washing and drying equipment, easily be part of the kitchen, leaving the hobby room free for other purposes.

A fireplace is provided in the hobby room although for many uses this would not be of sufficient value to warrant its installation. Anyway, the point is that the ample space is there and it can be used for any one of the four hundred



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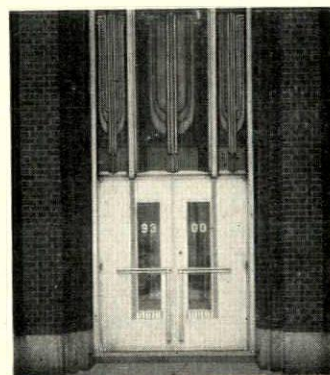
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