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# WEEKLY BULLETIN

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No. 1

## TRENDS IN LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

*Edward A. Eichstedt, Landscape Architect, Member, American Institute of Park Executives*

When Suren Pilafian asked at the A.I.A. meeting the other night if landscape architecture had undergone a modernization comparable to architecture and, if so, what were its characteristics, I offered a short answer but did not want to become too involved. He asked me later to elaborate in written form and the following is the result. It is, of course, somewhat over-simplified in order to conform to limitation of space, and I do not claim to speak for the whole profession, any more than one architect could voice the opinion of his colleagues on a matter which is still controversial.

### BASIS OF THE CHANGE

I will state at once that I believe landscape architecture is undergoing a comparable change, although not so noticeable as in architecture, because a relatively larger proportion of a building is given over to the necessary utilities than is the case with a garden. Therefore evolution of form designed to simplify utilitarian functions will touch the building at more points than it will touch the grounds, and the change will therefore be more noticeable. To turn this statement around, a garden is made up of a larger proportion of intrinsic aesthetic elements and therefore the total amount in which it can be functionally improved is more limited, and the overall change will be less noticeable. For instance we are not going to eliminate ornamental water or flowers just because they have no utilitarian purpose. The fact that they make the garden a more attractive and interesting place to visit is function enough to warrant their inclusion. The elements that make up the garden are not changing very much, and the basic principles of composition probably not at all. There are changes, however, in the manner in which the principles are applied to the elements, and those changes are dictated by new habits of living and changing social attitudes. Just what some of those trends are I will attempt to describe a little later. In order to better appreciate them, the next five paragraphs will rapidly sketch what went on before. Those not interested in history

will please turn to the heading "REVOLT".

### EARLY GARDENS

Gardens commenced as soon as women started to dig in the ground with a stick and persuaded their menfolk to stay in one place long enough to raise a few crops. Through the period when living close together was necessary for

purposes of self-defense, gardens naturally assumed a shape which conformed to surrounding buildings and enclosures. Things were planted in straight rows with straight paths between. Thus the origin of the formal garden. As time went on and space became more available at least for the wealthy, more and more attention was paid to the ornamental portions of these gardens. The dipping well became the pool, many beds were planted with ornament, until at length the kitchen garden was subordinated to the pleasure garden.

### VERSAILLES

The formal garden snowballed to a grand slam under the designer, Andre Le Notre, in the latter half of the 17th Century, when he designed the gardens of Versailles for Louis XIV. 30,000 laborers, 6,000 teams of horses and 90 artists struggled for 20 years to build these gardens. They were for the purpose of gratifying the extravagant tastes of the wealthy upper classes and bore no relation to the overall life of the country, except to speed it into bankruptcy. In this sense they were decadent. The rumblings of the revolt against formalism came at the close of the 17th Century, while Le Notre still lived. Many distinguished writers, among them Voltaire and Rousseau, commenced to ridicule the prevailing taste in gardens and urged a more natural style.

### ROMANTICISM

The movement took root in England and swept the little country under the

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In order to overcome this difficulty, the Weekly Bulletin has obtained a supply of a leaflet issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce, entitled METAL LATH (EXPANDED AND SHEET) AND METAL PLASTERING ACCESSORIES. This publication tells just what items are available at present.

Copies will be mailed to members of the Michigan Society of Architects in the near future. Look out for it.

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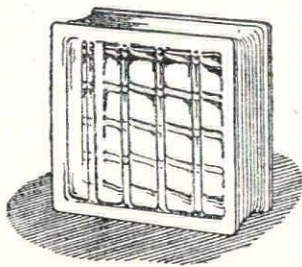
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leadership of the landscape architects, Brown and Repton. It was accelerated by reports of the Jesuits from China where, as usual, the Chinese were way ahead of the rest of the world, having adopted this style God knows how long ago. Incidentally, the French Nobility were considerably set back by reports that the Emperor Ch'en Lung had upward of 200 palaces, some of them with gardens big enough for the whole of Versailles to rattle around in. Unfortunately in Europe this naturalism was scarcely less a sham than the extreme formalism had been. In imitating the Chinese they missed the boat, electing to copy the gim-cracks rather than to interpret the spirit of its grandeur and stateliness. When the French copied the "Anglo-Chinois" from England it turned out even worse. One of the most amazing of these gardens in France, the one which held Marie Antoinette spellbound, was the Parc at Monceau. Its wonders are worth revealing. It contained tombs, an Italian vineyard, a group of rustic cottages, a Dutch windmill, a Tartar tent, a merry-go-round with Chinese attendants, and a copious sprinkling of synthetic ruins. The theory of this style was, according to the contemporary authority on the subject, "to agitate the mind by a variety of opposing passions". The style spread rapidly all over Europe. Thousands of acres of elaborate gardens were plowed under. This went on for the greater part of the century, and was halted only by the Classic Revival about 1800, which brought the formal garden back into favor.

**AMERICAN GARDENS**

In the American colonies wealth was accumulating as early as the beginning of the 18th Century. Some very refined and well proportioned gardens were built here, nearly all on the formal plan. Outstanding were Mt. Vernon, Williamsburg and Monticello. The romantic naturalism of Europe was not transplanted to these shores.

At the time of our industrial revolution there arose a new crop of wealthy people in this country. In the course of time these individuals traveled to Europe, took in the grandeur, and decided they also wanted to live like kings. In many cases their gardens were imitations of the styles they admired most. Mansions were erected in the grand manner, and gardens to go with them. The keynote was pomp and display. The arrogance of the European nobility found its counterpart in that of the robber barons and their gardens expressed it. Some of them were a shuffle of exotic clichés; one passed

(See EICHSTEDT, Page 6)

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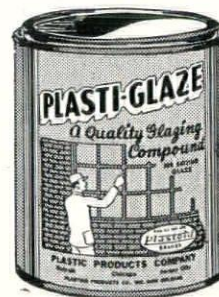
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## NEW CUSMANO STORE BUILDING

Yorkshire Road and Mack Avenue, Detroit, Michigan

CHARLES E. BOARDMAN, A.I.A., ARCHITECT



## Dignity and Elegance Motif of New Store Building

Designed to Fit in Exclusive Neighborhood of Grosse Pointe Park

By Charles E. Boardman, A.I.A.

The problem of designing a building to house a select men's furnishing store, a custom tailoring establishment and a

beauty shop, for Mr. Jos. Cusmano at Yorkshire Road and Mack Avenue, bordering exclusive Grosse Pointe Park,

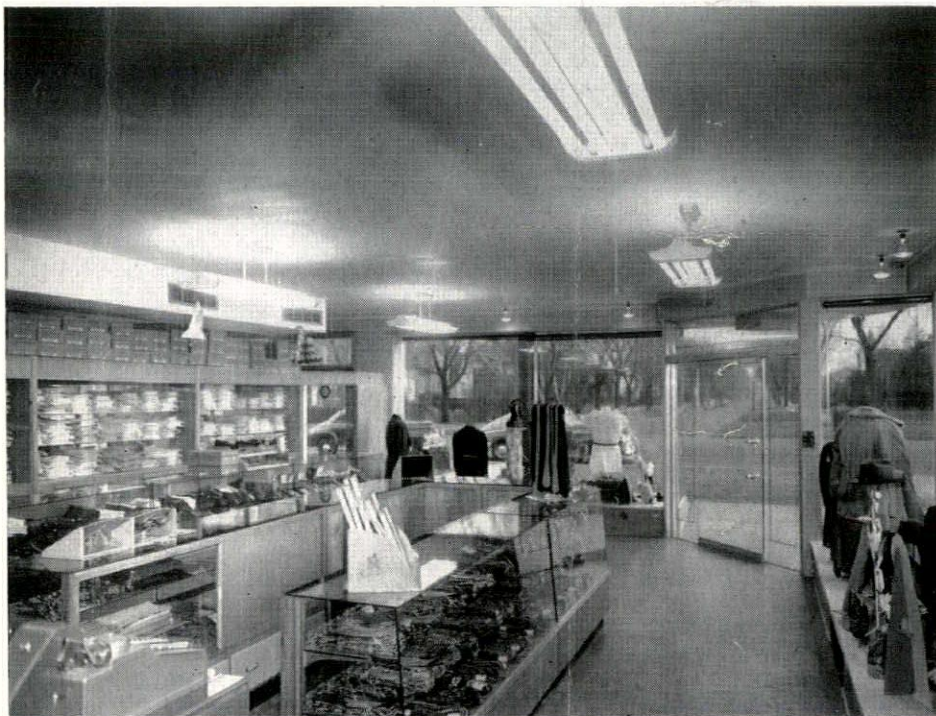
Detroit, Michigan, was presented to me. The overall size of the building was to be 40'x73', 16' high, with a 10' ceiling.

As quality merchandise and tailoring was to be featured in this building the owner and myself agreed that good materials and workmanship would be required in the building's construction.

Selection of white Georgia marble as the facing for the exterior walls, with a visual front entrance, gives an inviting and attractive setting of dignity and refined elegance for the merchandise. A graceful neon sign is used over the building's main entrance. At the north end of the Yorkshire elevation of the building is located a smartly appointed beauty shop. At the east end of the Mack Avenue front is the outside entrance to the custom tailor shop.

In the main store the interior cabinets are of comb-grained white oak. The showcases have plate glass tops and fronts. The bases of the showcases are fitted with drawers. Wall cases have new antichrome finish hardware which maintains a permanent unblemished surface. Cases are also used as a partition between the men's furnishing store and the custom tailoring shop. These can be removed for future expansion and thus save on enlargement alterations, and makes the men's furnishing shop unit into a larger store, if desired.

Light colored asphalt tile floors throughout the building add to the



Looking out and down Yorkshire Road, Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan. Door at left, near window, leads to custom tailor shop. Movable cases form partition between men's wear and tailor shop. Open space above cases allows room for additional merchandise.

**CHARLES E. BOARDMAN, A.I.A.**  
Architect  
Detroit, Michigan

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Above: An interior section of the Men's Wear Store from front. Window faces Yorkshire.

All photos are by John Coburn, Detroit

Below: Smart Beauty Shop interior, entrance on Yorkshire Road.—See exterior photo.



cheerfulness of the interior. Fluorescent tube lighting is mounted at the ceiling.

A small workroom 16' by 16' in the rear of the building is used for clothing alteration work.

The heating system is forced hot air with cold air ducts under the floor. Provision is made for summer air cooling. The exterior walls and ceiling of this

building are insulated with rock wool to maintain proper temperature in summer and winter.

The architect expresses sincere thanks to the general contractor, the subcontractors, and the material suppliers for the successful construction of this fine building, which he believes fits well into the exclusive community which it serves.

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## EICHSTEDT, from Page 2

from an Italian garden to a French garden to a Chinese garden, all on the same job. Not all of the work was bad. So far as stylized form goes, some fine estates were developed.

## REVOLT

This trend continued until the early twenties, when a few of the more cultured and thoughtful of the wealthy Americans began to tire of it. Their idea of a place to come home to was a retreat, not a show case full of anachronisms. The time was ripe for a change.

About 1894 a technically trained young Danish immigrant named Jens Jensen came to work in the park system of Chicago. This man loved the freedom of his adopted country. It was symbolized for him in the wide expanse of the Prairie, and the friendliness of the deciduous forest. The rigid-

ity of prevalent formality in parks and gardens depressed him. He began to see possibilities in the unique characteristics of our native plants and their typical natural compositions. Before long he had attained a position of responsibility in the park system and he began to build these compositions into the Chicago parks. He used great masses of native shrubs. In spring they are like clouds in delicate pastels, in autumn a riot of color, and in winter their fine interlacing twigs give out a warmth of texture in tints of rose, gray and purple. He used the peacefulness of a little clearing in the forest, accented by hawthorns and wild crabapples. Even the humble violet had its place. The people loved it.

By 1920 the popularity of his public work secured for him commissions from many wealthy people of the midwest. Julius Rosenwald and Henry Ford, and later Edsel Ford, were among those who understood and appreciated his work. This was no relapse to the romanticism of the past century. For nearly a decade I worked for him and I can assure you it was a vigorous, primitive, thoroughly honest approach. He did not copy nature; he interpreted its message in compositions of living tones. He made the most of our native resources, including plants, rocks, water and ground forms. His influence on the design of parks has been permanent all over the country, even in state and national parks. Nurseries have been obliged to expand their plant lists to include block upon block of witch hazel, wild plum, dogwoods and hazelnut. Local examples of his institutional work are the grounds of the Administration Building of the Ford Motor Company, Dearborn Inn and the Rotunda.

While Jensen's influence on public work was profound, it also helped to liberate the design of private work. Gardens, even if they are formal, need no longer look like gardens that were built before. Jensen himself built some delightful formal gardens, for example the rose garden at Humboldt Park, Chicago.

At this point it would be well to remember that not all private places are so well endowed that they can have any type of gardening they prefer. People of modest means have nearly always, for economic reasons, been quite practical about their garden developments. Most of them have what they need, don't have anything that isn't necessary, and they get the most for their money, and in that respect they qualify among the original functionalists. Some of them have simple formal layouts, usually axial in arrangement, partly because that is the most convenient, and partly because they have not thought of any other way to treat a rectangular figure.

## CHARACTERISTICS OF MODERN DESIGN

It is the middle and upper classes, however, who won the new free style, flexible type of home on larger grounds. These people are looking for ideas in gardens to go with these new designs. It so happens that Frank Lloyd Wright thinks Jensen's method does things for them. Others are using loosely built geometrical figures designed around a system of intangible balance. When these also have something to offer in the way of rhythm and harmony, they serve well. Of course we have our lunatic fringe the same as the architectural profession, and this is usually their point of departure. From Europe especially we have been seeing pictures of gardens with concrete trees, glass backdrops, beds of colored sand (17th century trick), vibrating axes, asbestos screens, and other devices which seem destined to slough off under the test of time. In the best designs there is a freer flow of space, less compartmenting; greater appreciation of the open lawn, where badminton is replacing croquet. "Bringing the garden into the house" is a popular phrase and a good idea, only we must bear in mind that it is a year 'round proposition, and if a garden is coming through the glass wall into the living room with us, it had better be something attractive to live with, in the muddy months

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of November, December and April as well as the balmy month of June. Low roof lines, low window casings means restraint in scale of planting. In fact, the modern house needs surprisingly little planting. A few well chosen pieces will do it, while a long list of nursery stock will ruin it. These pieces must be chosen with regard for this year 'round appeal, and not solely for the quantity and size of their blooms. One of the trends of the times is that lay people are beginning to know what this means. A Pepperidge tree, for instance, has no blooms at all as you know them, but its irregular persistent stem and sparse, horizontal branching, rich green leaves, and exquisite fall color do things for a certain type of house where such a specimen would be under ultimate scrutiny every month of the year. A modern design for the grounds of a country house may invite the meadow right up to the door, without the necessity of interposing a series of terraces and other formalities calculated to effect a "transition from the man-made to the informal." The modern house is flexible enough to nestle onto the very edge of an escarpment without appearing stiff and ungainly, thereby permitting the full power of a rugged landscape to sweep right up to the balcony. The peace and quiet of the intimate garden which we all need at times can be provided at the other side of the house, on the plateau, if the siting is properly handled. There the garden can achieve organic unity with the house.

Other characteristics of the trend in landscape architecture should be cited. The predominant use of native materials in broad scale work has been previously mentioned. There is less topiary work and plastic ornament; the average American shies away from figures. Some mobile sculpture is being used, but I'm afraid even more people shy away from that. There is greater freedom of line and volume composition, particularly when the building itself is free of traditional style; less sentimental attachment to stereotyped "pictures" in favor of patterns which are easier to maintain; greater use of shade-enduring ground covers where grass will not grow, and its use to effect change of texture without increasing the scale (designers have long known this trick, but it is now becoming general knowledge). Many owners, particularly of small places, are preferring to grow their flowers in cultivated rows like cutflowers instead of in display beds where the quest for "continuous bloom" is a chase which we never really catch up with anyway. The "outdoor living room," with its barbecue, is generally a more inviting terrace than was formerly built.

### DESIGN FOR LIVING

In conclusion, I believe it can be said that Americans are more and more arranging their landscapes to fit the human need, from the intimate dooryard garden to the large public parks and certainly in the planning of cities. The small grounds are using to good advantage the space they gained when garages were ousted from the backyard, where the stable used to be. On a larger scale, consider the Merritt Parkway in the East, a work of collaboration between engineer and landscape architect. It is a perfect example of the adaptation of an elongated park to the high speed vehicle. Its design carefully takes into consideration the factors of off-scape views, screening from headlights of oncoming traffic, the blending of plant materials into perfect harmony with the surrounding countryside, and elimination of interference from side-road traffic; discordant structures have been removed and none are being built. The parks of New York City, too, are a splendid example of the beauty which emerges from a smoothly functioning design. In short, our landscape architecture is effecting a closer tie with the culture of all of the people, as befits a great democracy. If its development seems to lag a little behind that of architecture, remember what Sir Francis Bacon said: "Men learned to build stately sooner than to garden finely, as though gardening were the finer art."

**BARRY L. FROST, A.I.A.** (Detroit Chapter) announces the opening of his new architectural office at Rancho Mirage, Palm Springs, California. His mailing address is P.O. Box 748, Palm Springs, Calif.

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**ESQUIRE, THE MAGAZINE FOR MEN**, has published a superb character portrait of Frank Lloyd Wright in its January issue, with an accompanying illustrated profile. The full-page portrait is by the eminent photographer Yosuf Karsh of Ottawa, Canada. To complete the two-page spread is an article entitled, "The Prophet Honored in His Country—Amazing Frank Lloyd Wright has never doubted, nor failed to proclaim—as well as to prove—his architectural genius." Illustrated by five color photographs is Falling Water, the home of Edgar J. Kaufmann of Pittsburgh.

**PROFESSOR JEAN HEBRARD, FAIA**, who retired from the faculty of the College of Architecture and Design, University of Michigan early this year, now has as his permanent address 9 Quai de Bourbon, Paris 4, France. This apartment he has kept for years.

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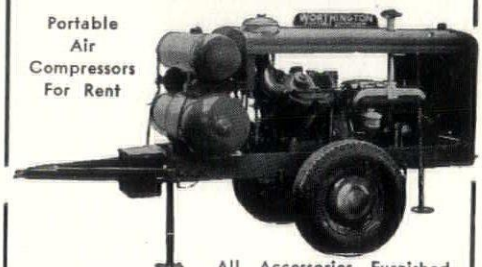
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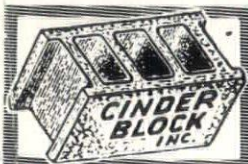
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**COUNCIL ELECTS OFFICERS**

The Construction Industry Council of Detroit held its annual meeting on December 13. All officers were reelected. They are: President Joseph G. Standart, president of the Surety Savings and Loan Association; Vice-President Clarence E. Day of Harley, Ellington and Day, Inc.; Secretary, Edwin J. Brunner, secretary-manager of the Builders' and Traders' Exchange; Treasurer, Kenneth L. Draper, president of the Lambrecht-Kelly Company.

The Construction Industry Council, organized in 1945, is a committee of representatives of associations whose work is related to construction or land use. Its work is to find means and take steps to improve, by joint action, the ability of the construction industry to serve the best interests of this area.

**ARCHITECTS & W & H ACT**

In the case of McComb vs. Turpin (DC.Md.) in a decision handed down November 30, 1948, the United States District Court for Maryland held that when an architect draws plans for an out-of-state construction project he is not entitled to Federal Wage and Hour Act benefits.

The court held that architects' plans are not goods (this may be important in more ways than one). The Court held that the architects' plan-drawing was too remote from the actual producing of goods to flow in interstate commerce to be within the purview of the act.

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DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JANUARY 11, 1949

No. 2

## FUTURE OUTLOOK OF BUILDING INDUSTRY

The construction industry has at least four or five years of great activity ahead, but soft spots are showing up that could precipitate a temporary decline almost any time, according to Harold R. Berlin, Vice President and General Manager of the Johns-Manville Building Products Division.

"We must not close our eyes to the evidences of short term weaknesses that are now plain to all who observe the construction industry," Mr. Berlin said. "Modernization and expansion of factory plant has been an outstan-

priority of scarce materials such as steel and other metals."

Mr. Berlin pointed out that the rate of savings has declined very sharply since the war, while expenditures of consumers, business and government have reached unprecedented heights. The effect of this, he said, is to limit the volume of savings available for construction, and this is already felt in many communities by a tightening up of mortgage money.

"There is, moreover, the very important fact that the marriage boom is over. New family formation has already fallen from its peak of over 1,000,000 in 1947 and will probably be down to about 450,000 in 1949. This makes a very great difference in the demand for homes."

A very different picture exists in the construction industry today from that of early 1946, Mr. Berlin emphasized, for at that time a shortage of building materials was rampant in almost every line.

"The pipe line was then empty from the factory floor to the retailer's yard and contractors couldn't bid because their prewar organizations were mere skeletons. Prices have performed their historic economic function of stimulating output, ending shortages, filling empty supply lines and equating supply and demand.

"Basic facts about this period pointing to sustained building activity in the four or five years ahead should also be recognized," Mr. Berlin said, "Among them are the following:

"1. The present boom has been far greater in dollars than in physical volume, therefore, physical back-

logs of deferred demand have not been reduced as much as the big dollar figures would indicate.

"2. The population has increased much more rapidly than was estimated before the war, creating millions of new customers.

"3. The entire country has become geared psychologically as well as monetarily to a far higher level of national income. This partly reflects the inflation, but it also reflects the fact that the buying power of farmers and most of the working people is decidedly greater than before the war. They expect more, can buy more, and therefore create a continuous level of greater demand than before the war.

"4. It is much less easy to deflate than before the war, because farm prices are held up by government support and wages are maintained by powerful unions. We are most unlikely to have a price deflation of anything like the severity of 1921-22 which followed World War I.

"Thus the future of construction volume will most likely be determined by the interaction of the trends outlined above. While full pipelines will possibly reduce construction materials volume in 1949 to a lower level than that in 1948, the fact that vast physical backlogs of badly needed construction still exist and will continue to exist for years to come, constitutes a legitimate reason for expecting a high construction volume in the years ahead," Mr. Berlin said.

"In the past two years the supply of new dwellings has been increased by at least 2,000,000 based on available figures plus the estimated large number of self-built homes in communities requiring no building permit and new trailers produced for permanent use. This has delayed much of the really urgent demand for homes from the market. It is inevitable, therefore, that new speculatively-built homes will be harder to sell from now on, tending to reduce construction of this sort unless the price can be reduced for the pocketbook of people priced out of the market by the rise in building costs.

"This is by no means easy to do because the costs of producing many building materials and the cost of labor at the building site have risen sharply. Inflationary forces are still very powerful and the construction industry does not operate in an economic vacuum. It is affected as much as any other industry by the continual creation of new dollars that bid up prices, by a high level of employment that leaves no large supply of labor available for new operations, and by the armament economy that demands

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## SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Applications for the annual LeBrun Traveling Scholarship competition offered by the New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects are now being accepted, it was announced today by Harvey Stevenson, Chairman of the Chapter's Committee on LeBrun Scholarship.

The winning entrant will receive an award of twenty-eight hundred (\$2800) dollars, which must be used for a trip outside the continental limits of the United States for at least six months. This time must be used for travel and the study of architecture. Details of the architectural problem will be announced at a later date.

Each applicant must be nominated before January 21, 1949, by a member of The American Institute of Architects, who will certify that the applicant:—  
—Is a citizen and resident of the United States.

—Is not under 23 or over 33 years of age at the date of issuance of the program.

—Has had at least 1½ years of active practice as an architect or architectural draftsman.

—Is not and has not been the beneficiary of any other traveling scholarship.

The jury will consist of at least 3 practicing architect members of The New York Chapter, AIA.

Further details may be obtained by writing the LeBrun Scholarship Committee, New York Chapter, American Institute of Architects, 115 East 40 Street, New York 16, N. Y.

ENAMELED CAST IRON PLUMBING FIXTURES (Second Edition), COMMERCIAL STANDARD AS77-47" is a new pamphlet recording the current voluntary standards of the trade, including inspection rules, tests, detail requirements and the standard types and sizes of enameled cast iron plumbing fixtures available in ample competition. Copies may be obtained by addressing Iler J. Fairfield, Secretary, Enameled Cast Iron Plumbing Fixture Association, 1709 M. St., Washington, D.C.

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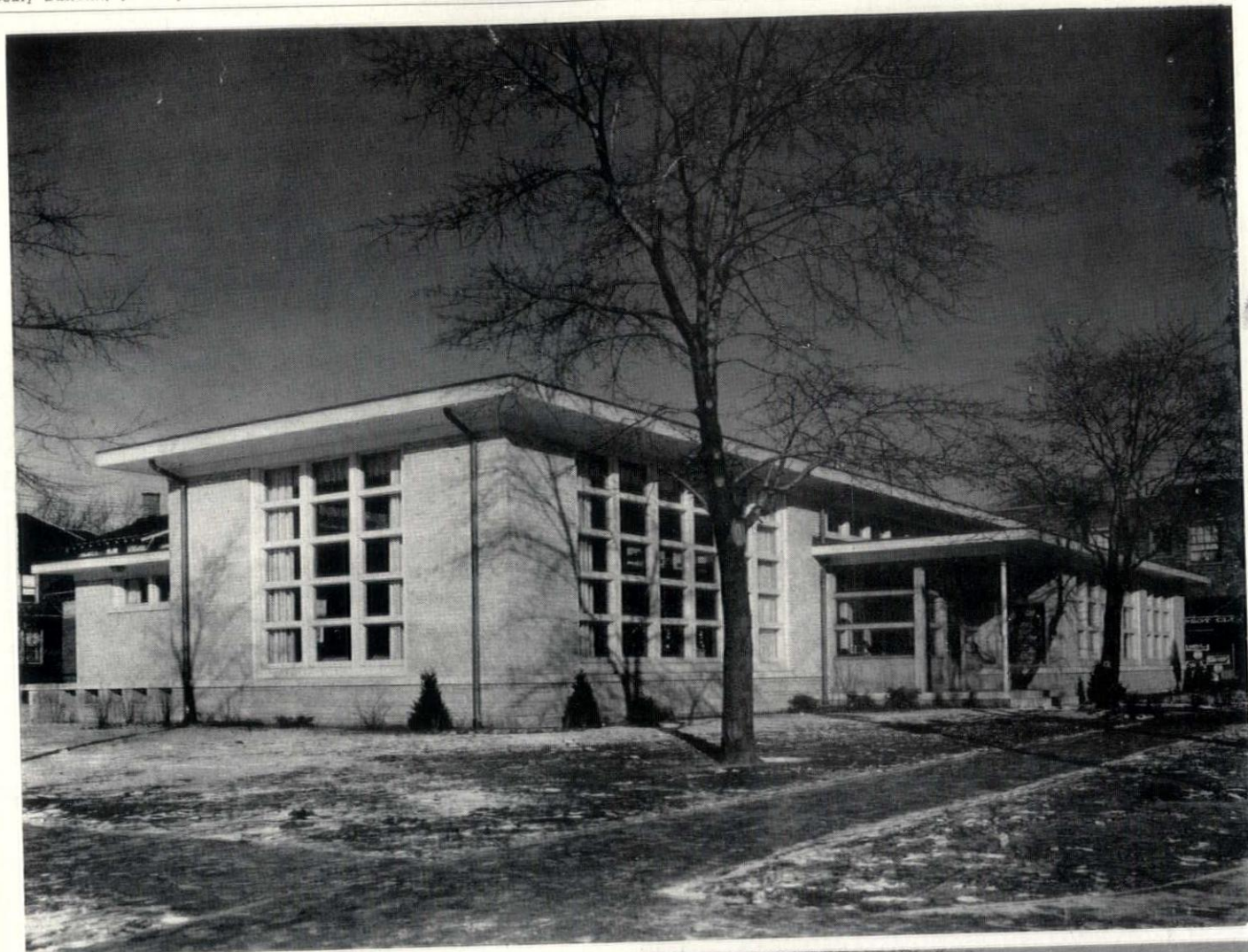
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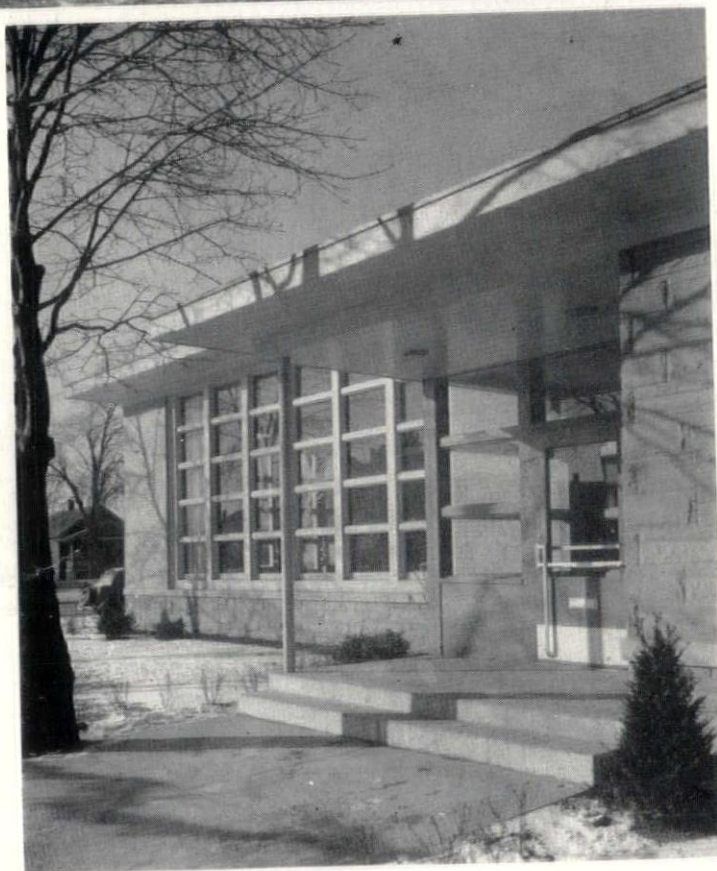


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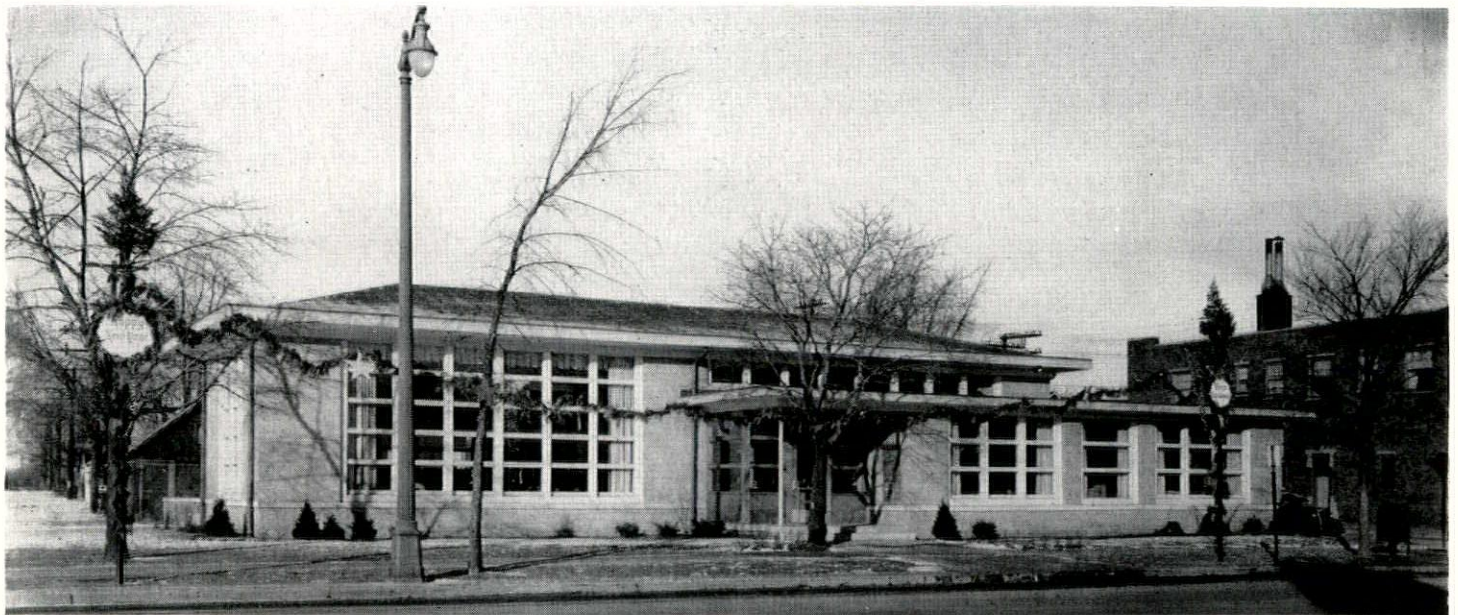
*By Eugene D. Straight, A.I.A.*

The recently completed library building for the City of Ecorse is located on West Jefferson and Outer Drive.

During the early stages of planning, numerous schemes were developed and finally refined to the point where professional library consultants offered their stamp of complete approval.

The type of plan adopted represents a modern solution based purely upon function. From the front entrance vestibule off Jefferson Avenue, the control desk is directly approached. From the control desk complete control of main floor activity can be administered. To the right of the desk is the juvenile department with built-in book shelving and stack accommodations. To the left of the control desk is the reading room, periodical area, reference room and open shelf area. The rear central area of the building, which is the only portion of the main floor to be enclosed with partitions to the ceiling, accommodates the supply room, work room with receiving area, Librarian-Board room, toilet facilities, and stair to basement, all of which is controlled at the rear of the control desk.

The covered loading dock off the alley at the rear is set back for delivery truck accommodations, and is protected from weather conditions.



# Y OF ECORSE

The adult reading room and the juvenile reading room have a ceiling height of 14 feet and the balance of the rooms have a ceiling height of 9½ feet, thus admitting the maximum in good natural lighting and ventilation. The interior color scheme is light, pastel green and white with natural oak finish and trim.

The basement accommodates an auditorium, staff room, toilets, vault, and boiler room. The auditorium is 90'x26' and is equipped for visual instruction. Access to the auditorium is either from the main floor of the library or from a separate entry off Outer Drive, thus making it possible for separate use.

The method of heating is a split system, with both hot water and air type of heat and recessed convectors.

The exterior composition is of a contemporary design, embracing large window areas and exactly the opposite



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of the antiquated museum type. Care has been taken to avoid a cramped, closed-in atmosphere and the idea expressed is that of bringing together in closer relationship, the outdoors and the indoors. The exterior finish materials used are light buff iron spot brick, tayco sandstone, and Indiana cut limestone trim.

It is the established opinion of the library authorities, that in the design and layout of the City of Ecorse Public Library, a practical solution has been reached, which embraces both beauty of design and function of plan.

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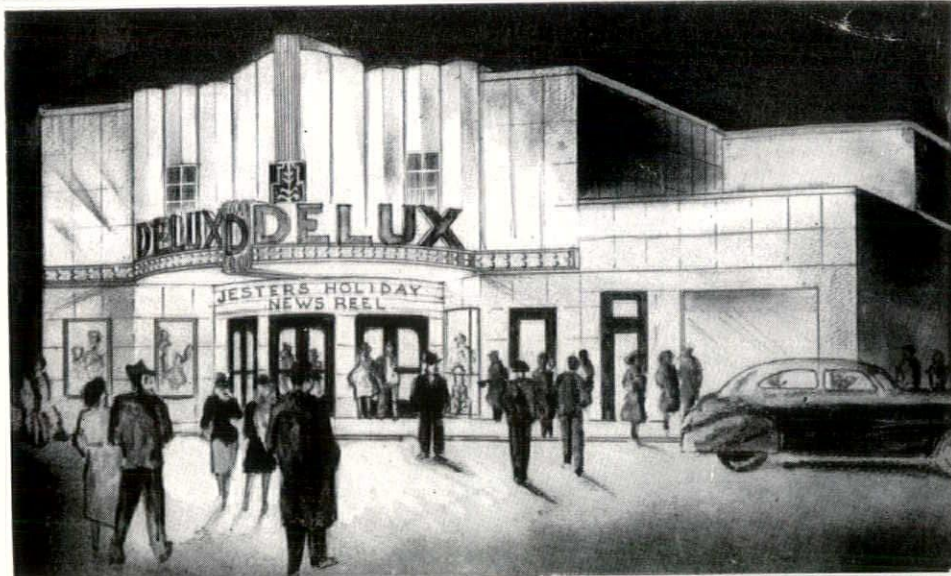
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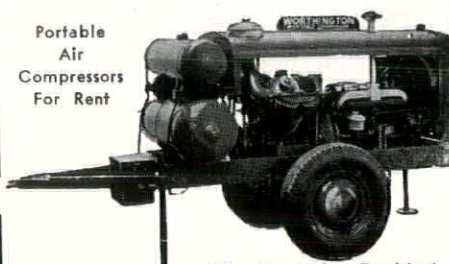
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**HOUSING PRICES AND  
AUTOMOBILE PRICES**

From AUTOMOBILE FACTS, (Dec., 1948)

Back in 1910, homes and automobiles in U.S. were built largely with hand tools. A typical 5-room frame house cost about \$1,600. The average new car cost just \$16 less.

Today the house that once cost \$1,600 sells, new, for about \$9,000. It's still built with essentially the same hand tools used back in 1910.

In contrast, the average retail price of new cars in U.S. for 1948 was \$1,714. If we deduct the \$85 federal excise tax (which doesn't apply to homes) from the carprice it's only \$45 higher than in 1910, when no federal excises were levied on cars.

Any improvements in today's homes over those of 1910 are minor compared to the vast advances made in cars.

The 1910 car had a wooden body with steel panels. The car wore out after a few thousand miles. It had none of the features we take for granted today—all-steel body, self-starter, modern headlights, balloon tires, high-compression engine, safety glass, four-wheel hydraulic brakes, and so on.

The reason why homes and cars part company in price and value is that car makers abandoned hand tools in favor of machinery that let them build more and better vehicles at lower cost. If today's cars were built with 1910 tools, they would cost about \$60,000.

The cost savings, which only better tools could have brought about, let car makers pay steadily higher wages, and build better cars at prices that came steadily in reach of more people.

Employment in automotive plants also increased steadily—for the new features added to cars required more men to build each car, and the new markets created by lower car prices also kept the industry adding more plants and employees.

So from an industry employing about 80,000 people in 1910, motor vehicle manufacturing in U.S. has grown to

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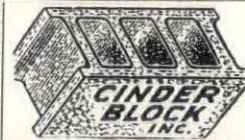
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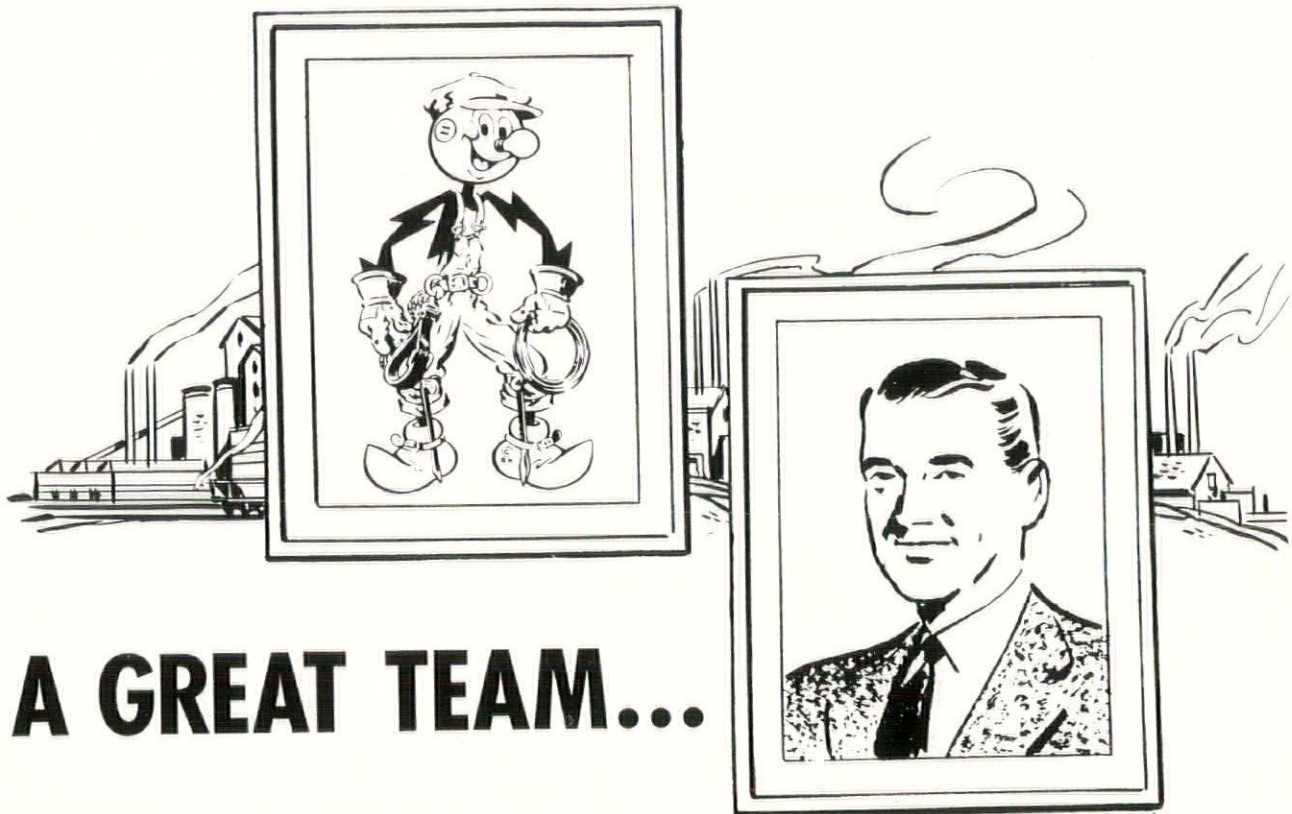
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Volume XXIII

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, January 18, 1949

No. 3

## DESIGN FOR DETROIT'S CIVIC CENTER

The January meeting of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., will be held on Friday, January 21, beginning with a dinner at the Rackham Building, then adjourning to the Lower Gallery of The Detroit Institute of Arts, where a special showing of the Saarinens' final model for Detroit's proposed civic center will be held especially for architects and their guests, the members of Detroit's City Plan Commission.

Mr. Eero Saarinen, A.I.A., of Saarinen Saarinen and Associates, consultants to the Detroit City Plan Commission, will be the principal speaker. The Saarinen office prepared the model after considerable study of the problem. About thirty drawings will be shown also and it is expected that Mr. Saarinen will bring out the interesting features of the development, showing sketches and studies discarded and giving reasons for discarding them. The Chapter's Program Committee believes that this will be a worthwhile feature as architects are interested in the whole program and how the final solution was arrived at.

Members of the Detroit City Plan Commission will be invited guests of the Chapter and Miss Helen Fassett, Commission member and Chapter associate will take part in the program.

The model will be placed on view for the public a little later but the Detroit Chapter is honored in having this opportunity to be the first to view it. For this we are indebted to the Detroit City Plan Commission. It is significant that the Chapter has had an important part in this program. About a year and a half ago, on invitation from the City Plan Commission, the Chapter appointed a special Advisory Committee to the Detroit City Plan Commission. It was composed of Clair W. Ditchy, Chairman; Branson V. Gamber, William E. Kapp and Henry F. Stanton. It was on the advice of this Committee that the Commission employed Mr. Eliel Saarinen as Consultant, resulting, in the work now being shown. The new Chapter Committee is composed of Mr. Stanton as Chairman, Messrs. Eugene T. Cleland, Ditchy and Kapp.

Mr. Saarinen's talk is scheduled to

### YOUR 1949 ARCHITECTS' AND CITY PLANNERS' EXHIBIT

All Architects seem to agree that an exhibit showing the work of Architects and planners is an excellent idea, that it is stimulating and educational to the public, to Architects, and to all the allied professional fields. In response to this general feeling the Michigan Society of Architects is sponsoring an exhibit at this time to show the work of architects and city planners in the state of Michigan.

A committee has completed all general arrangements and now some fifty Architects are working at top speed on various committees to complete work for the opening.

The Exhibit will take place at the Detroit Institute of Arts from February 16 to March 5. It will be a show in which all Architects and City Planners in the State of Michigan are invited. Photographs, drawings, and models will

take about one hour, with about an hour's discussion period to follow. During the latter half of the program, in addition to contributions from members of the City Plan Commission, there will be opportunity for questions and answers for Chapter members. It is felt that in such a special showing and program the speakers can direct their talks to architects and planners only, without concern for the public who are relatively unfamiliar with planning matters.

It has not been determined whether or not slides will be used but Chapter members may be assured that this will be one of the best programs of the current season.

be exhibited and it is the hope that Architects and Planners throughout the State will send in material that will help make this show an outstanding success. A jury of architects and planners will make final selections of all work submitted.

The Exhibit will take place in the 40' by 80' room north of the great hall. As much work as possible will be selected by the exhibit committee and the jury will have final say as to what goes in the show. Because of the short time, mounts will not be required but are desired where possible and should be 4 feet high and any convenient width.

This is your show, which can be seen by all at the time of the annual M. S. A. Convention. A few brilliant models of buildings and city plans will keynote this exhibit which we hope will be an annual one from now on.

All material should be sent to Mr. William A. Woelfenden

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Exhibit  
Detroit Museum of Arts  
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All material must be in by February 7.

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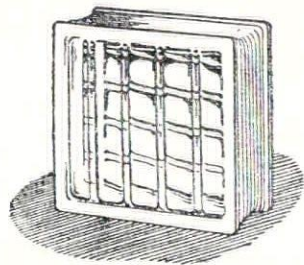
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**NATIONAL HONOR AWARDS**

The 8,000 members of The American Institute of Architects have been notified that for the first time a National Honor Awards program has been set up to designate the best residences and schools which have been completed in the past four years.

"The Institute," said President Douglas W. Orr in announcing the program, "desires to encourage the appreciation of excellence in architecture and to afford recognition of exceptional merit in recently completed buildings. Therefore, this program has been established and it is planned to be an annual event."

The first annual program will be judged and the winners announced at the 81st annual convention of The American Institute of Architects which will be held in Houston, Texas beginning on Tuesday, March 15. This year's event will be confined to residential and school construction and in succeeding years other classes of building types.

Requirements for entrance in the program are that all buildings shall have been designed by corporate members of The American Institute of Architects and must have been completed since January 1, 1945. The buildings must have been built in the United States or its territories and possessions.

Each Chapter of The A.I.A. will submit entries of photographs and reproductions of plans for homes and schools that have been designed and constructed. Two separate national juries will judge the winners—one for schools and the other for homes—and each jury will consist of a layman and four architects representing various regions of the country. The school national jury will include an educator and the home jury will have as a member a woman who has been nominated.

The National Juries will confer First Honor Awards for Distinguished Accomplishment in Residential and School Architecture. In addition, Awards of Merit will be conferred for as many exhibits as the juries feel deserve them. Certificates will be presented to the architects and owners of all buildings receiving these awards.

As many entries as can be accommodated will be exhibited in Houston.

Albert F. Heino, of Chicago, is Chairman of the National A.I.A. Committee on Honor Awards for Current Work. Serving with him are: Harold R. Sleeper, of New York City, Vice-Chairman; Richard M. Bennett, of Chicago; Samuel E. Lunden, of Los Angeles, California; and Charles F. Cellarius, of Cincinnati, Treasurer of The A.I.A., an ex-officio member.

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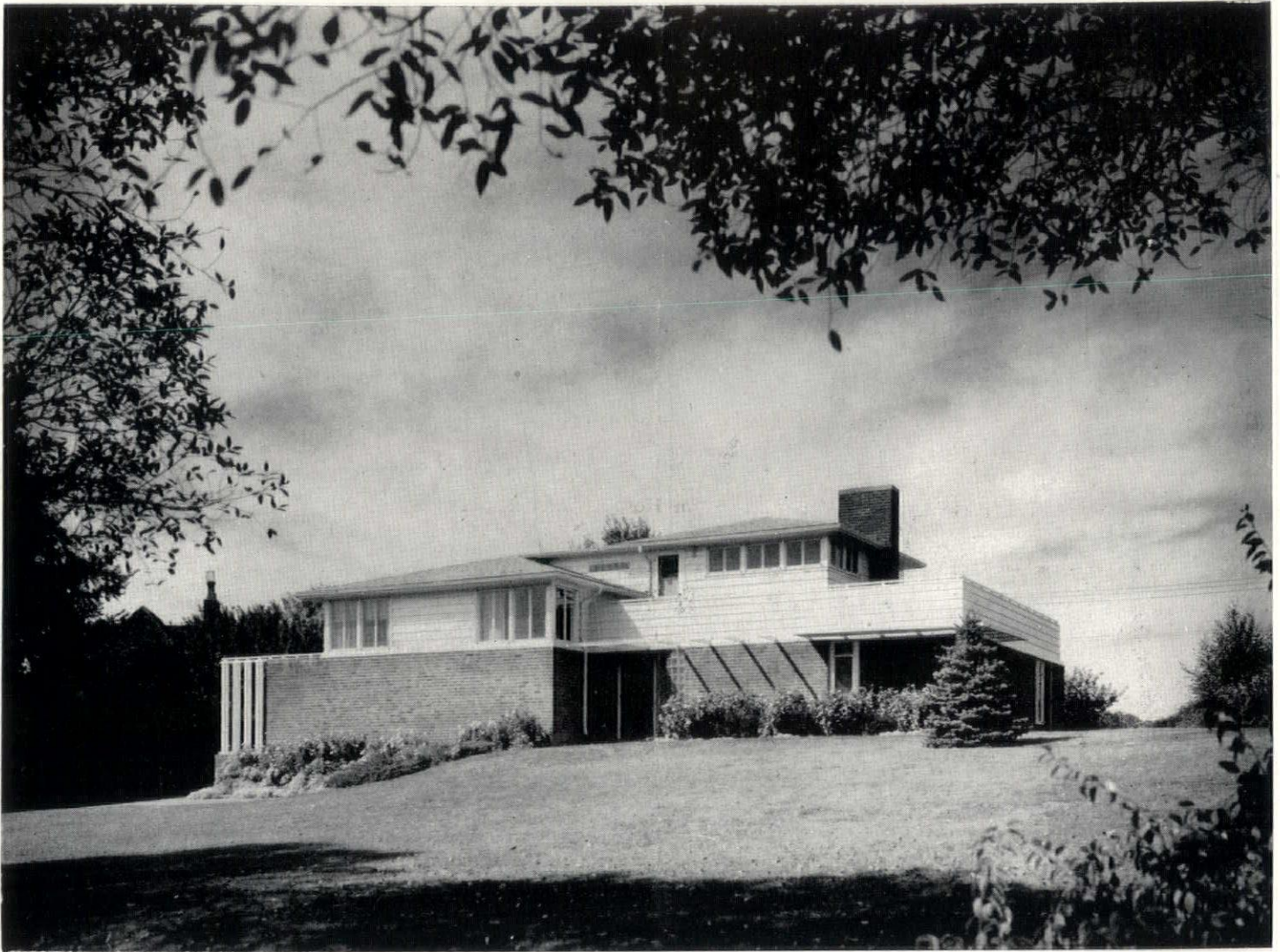
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## SPLIT LEVEL HOUSE

BUILT ON A HILL WITH A SPACIOUS LAWN AND A LOVELY VIEW

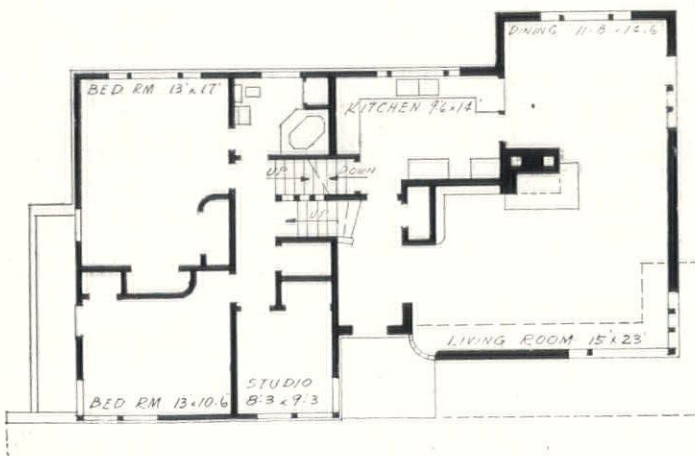
By Thomas S. Tanner, A.I.A.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert O. Eberbach, in selecting the site for their new home, chose a location in Ann Arbor Hills where they would have space, a lovely

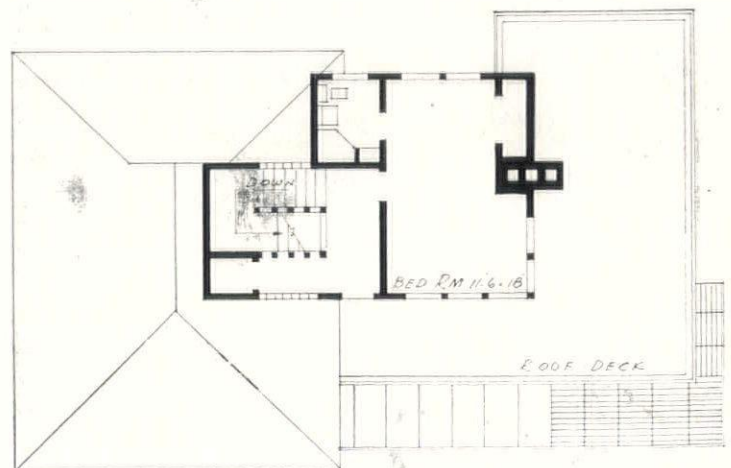
view, and easy access to the main highway leading into Ann Arbor, Michigan. The house was planned to be located on a hill with gently sloping lawn and

with a minimum of change in the natural slope.

This presented the architect with the problem of designing a split level house

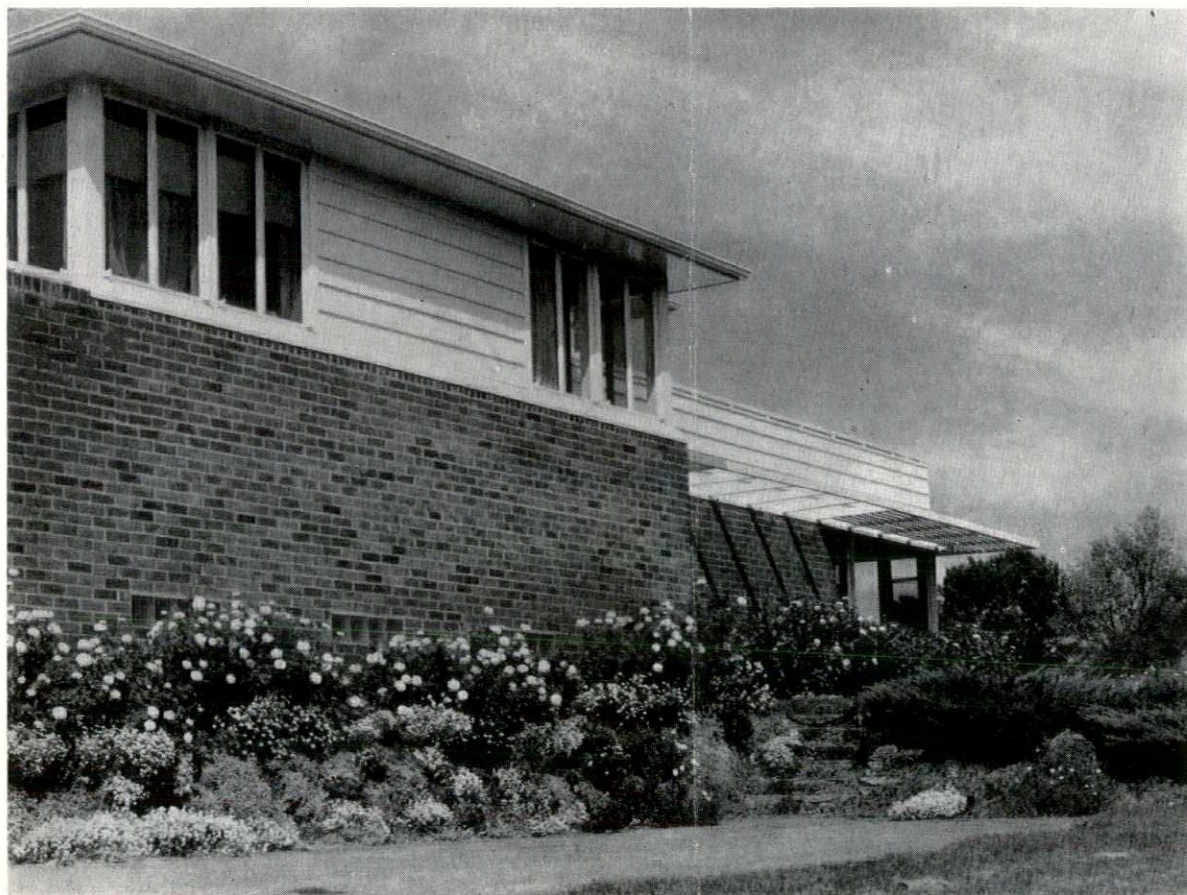


First and Intermediate Floors



Top Floor and Roof Plan

## Residence of



*Left: Terraced Steps Lead to Front Entrance*

with the main living space at grade level at the top of the hill with garage, maid's room and bath a half story lower, but still at grade level. The utility, laundry, and recreation rooms are a half story below the garage and service yard entrance.

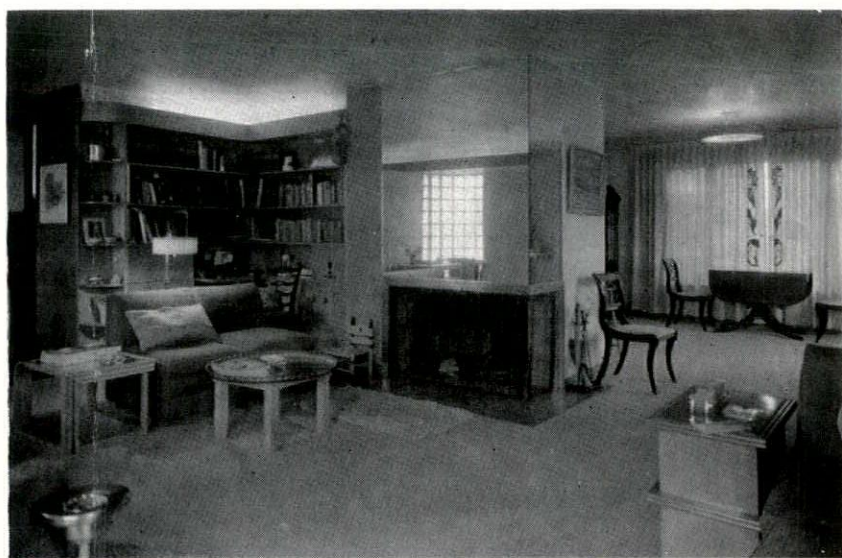
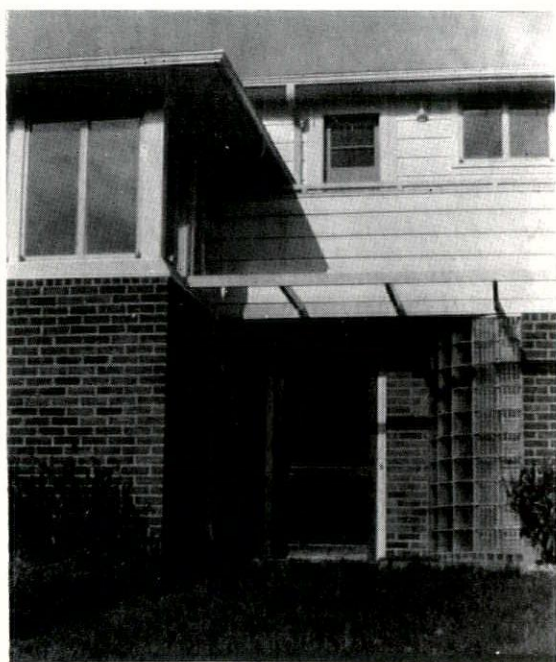
The requirements included two bedrooms, bath, and a small studio with north light, on the intermediate floor at landing above living room floor level, and one bedroom with bath on the

top floor. This resulted in having a greater area on the first floor than on the floors above. The Eberbachs were interested in having a modern house so the architect's problem was much easier than if a period type design had been selected.

Steel casement sash and large fixed glass, combined with a touch of glass block, give generous light for the interior and at the same time brings the landscaping outside the large living

room corner window into direct view from the inside. The garage door is effectively screened from the front view with a vertical wood trellis or posts which also form a termination to the long plain brick garage wall. On the interior the same vertical post motif was used for the stair railings.

The interior is finished with natural light birch doors and trim. In a corner of the living room, next to the fireplace, are built-in book shelving, desk,



*Upper left, lower middle, lower right photos by John Coburn, Detroit.*

*Upper middle, upper right, lower left photos by Tanner's Studio, Ann Arbor.*

# and Mrs. Robert O. Eberbach, Ann Arbor Hills, Ann Arbor, Michigan

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Architect and Civil Engineer  
Ann Arbor, Michigan

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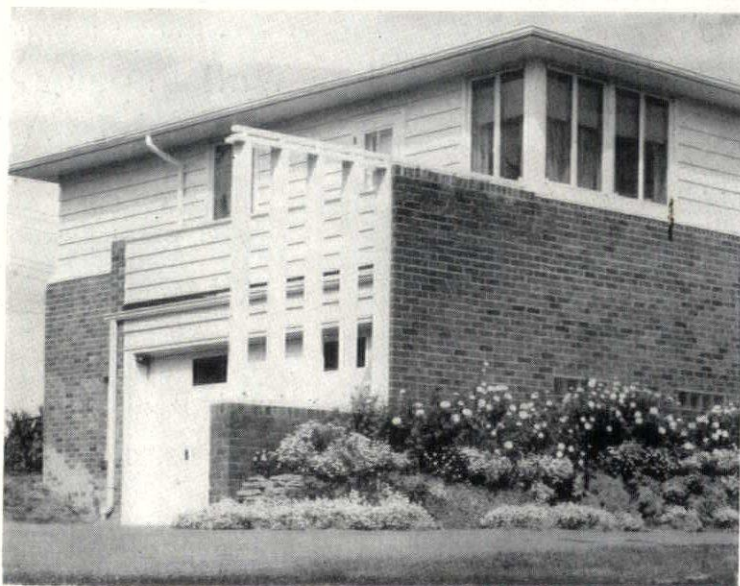
and radio. The living room is lighted with cove lighting, the bottom of cove being flush with head of windows. The fireplace, which is open at the front and one end, can be seen from the living room and dining room ell. A mirror extends to the ceiling above the fireplace.

Through the interest and excellent cooperation of those who participated in its construction, a residence was completed which has been a satisfaction to the owner and a source of compliments to the architect.



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## TO PLAN IMAGINARY CITY

From Ann Arbor News, Dec. 28, 1948

By next June a five-mile-square tract in Bridgewater township, in the southwest portion of Washtenaw county, will be peopled with a strictly imaginary industrial community of 25,000.

The land area happens to be the site selected by the University's college of architecture for a new and comprehensive "community design" project for senior and second-year junior students.

Prof. Wells I. Bennett, dean of the college, explained the experimental program as a "reorganization of the educational pattern which includes a heavy emphasis on individual research in the planning of a complete model city."

Prof. C. Theodore Larson, senior professor of architectural design, heads the community design project.

## STAFF MEMBERS ASSIST

He is assisted by a committee of nine faculty members, Profs. John W. Hyde, Harlow O. Whittemore, George B. Brigham, Ralph W. Hammett, Walter J. Gores, Aare K. Lahti, Katherine Heller and Donald Gooch, and instructor Cleveland Gregory Bassett.

Students participate in the program through nine different "teams." Each group is expected to prepare what amounts to a young book on its particular phase of the city building program, as well as scale models of the different structures necessary in the municipal corporation.

The nine categories are housing, administrative, health and sanitation, transportation and commerce, manufacturing and farming, education and religion, recreation, protection, and business.

Typical examples of the types of buildings which would be planned by the students working on the manufacturing and farming "team" would be power stations, factories, truck farms, deep-freeze plants, gas supply plants, and so forth.

In commenting about the faculty personnel and students who are working on the project, Dean Bennett has this to say: "These people are really doing something about housing. The plan is both idealistic and practical."

## STUDIED SINCE 1947

The project was studied as a possibility more than a year and a half ago,

and the decision to try it out came shortly after the appointment of Prof. Larson, in September of last year, Dean Bennett said.

One of the features of the program is the critical analysis given the students' work by four nationally known professional architects and planners.

Appointed as visiting critics are Jerrold Loebl, Norman Schlossman, Richard Bennett and K. Lomberg-Holm.

Loebl, Schlossman and Bennett are the architects for American Community Builders, Inc., the Chicago firm which is completing a 30,000 self-contained city built privately at a cost of \$30,000,000 south of Chicago's Loop.

Students are using detailed aerial maps of the Bridgewater tract, as well as topographical maps. They have inspected the site personally, and many of them are spending weeks at a time in special research on such things as elimination of traffic problems, the best type of public comfort station, and structures best suited to this terrain and climate.

## Absent-Minded Toastmaster

At the annual press dinner of the Grand Rapids Furniture Market in Grand Rapids . . . Toastmaster John M. Brower introduced the first speaker and then handled the ceremony for the annual award for furniture design . . . Whereupon, Brower said, "It was fine having you here—and good night." . . . Many of the 200 guests got up to leave. There was a commotion at the speakers' table . . . "Hold on a minute," shouted Brower. "I forgot all about our main speaker." . . . The guests sat down and the toastmaster then introduced Roger Allen, Grand Rapids architect, columnist and humorist.—John M. Carlisle, in The Detroit News.

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## HOW TO SAVE TWO-THIRDS OF THE BUILDING COST!

### Do It Yourself

MAGAZINE DIGEST for January, 1949 has an amazing article on how a layman can save \$11,000 on a \$16,000 house. It's as simple as that—be your own contractor and perform all labor yourself.

The article states that 100,000 American families are now doing this and getting houses better, faster than through professional builders. In fact, the writer refers to it as a national pastime.

A breakdown shows the cost of a conventional house as \$16,550, which the owner could knock down to \$5,300 by using his own efforts. When the layman-builder got into it he would probably find that his lumber and mill-work alone would run about \$5,000—but, listen to this: because you are your own contractor, you should be able to get discounts from your lumber dealer of from 10% to 30%. Even more, the author says, could be saved by using second-hand lumber. He comes near to getting into hot water when he mentions tools, saying that much can be saved by power tools, which may be bought or rented. What happens to tools, power or otherwise, when working used lumber, full of nails, is not explained.

Magazine Digest cites Frederick Jay Perkins of Cedarville, Ill. as a shining example, who built a beautifully designed, seven-room, comfortable, mod-

ern home for less than \$1,000. The average time required, with assists from wife, relatives and friends, working week-ends and holidays, is about one year, we are told. If one can take some time off from his job he should reduce this to six months.

The author finds building departments most cooperative—the inspectors help you over many building problems. However, the layman is advised to install his own plumbing, wiring, etc. which building departments require to be done by licensed contractors.

The matter of plans is just a lot of fun—clippings, etc. and then working plans from a magazine from 50 cents up. About the only items that cannot be taken care of by the layman are abstract and title, surveying the lot and hanging the cupboard doors. Just why he couldn't do these too is not made clear.

We have an advertisement from a Worcester paper, by an insurance firm, which reads:—"When you build a house you consult an experienced architect. So too, should you consult an experienced insurance agent or broker; he, like the architect, can help you and strange as it may seem, he charges you nothing for his services!" Probably there is no intent to contrast the implied philanthropy of insurance brokers with our own more worldly attitude, and such mention of an architect's place in the scheme of things is encouraging.

—Bay State Architect

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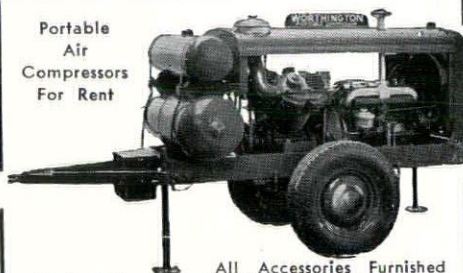
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**EXCHANGE of DETROIT****BUREAU EXPECTS MORE  
MATERIALS IN 1949**

This is the time to go ahead with plans for that extra bathroom or the new heating system, says the Plumbing and Heating Industries Bureau in calling attention to the fact that plumbing and heating materials, with some exceptions, will be in better supply in 1949 than in 1948.

In some lines, production in 1948 exceeded all previous records and equipment was supplied not only for a huge residential building program but also for commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings, as well as other types of construction.

The capacity is there, the Bureau points out, for even greater output in 1949 in many lines. Barring unforeseen events, 1949 should be another good year for the plumbing and heating industries with nearly all types of equipment in sufficient supply to take care of anticipated demand.

Supplies of steel pipe, cast iron soil pipe, and water closets are still insufficient to meet the tremendous demand. During 1947, manufacturers produced about two and one-half million water closets. The production in 1948 is likely to come close to three and one-third million. Yet despite this record volume, manufacturers still have a large backlog of orders.

The fact that the production of pipe and water closets is insufficient to meet immediate demand should not cause postponement of new construction or modernization, the Bureau points out.

Careful scheduling of construction and close coordination between the owner, general contractor, and plumbing contractor will enable new construction as well as modernization work to proceed smoothly without interruption due to lack of materials.

Most sizes and types of cast iron and steel heating boilers are readily available. Cast iron radiators are now being quoted for immediate delivery. Convection type baseboard heating units are in ample supply due to the many new manufacturers who have entered this field. The radiant type of cast iron baseboard is not so plentiful and manufacturers generally have a backlog of about three months. Here again, as in the case of water closets, careful coordination in ordering should result in all materials being available when needed.

Oil burner sales have zoomed in recent months as a result of a plentiful supply of fuel oil. All sizes and types of stokers are readily available as well as controls for automatic heating.

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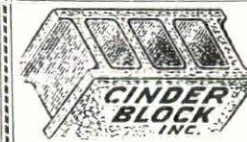
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# WEEKLY BULLETIN

## MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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Volume XXIII

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, JANUARY 25, 1949

No. 4

## SOCIETY, DETROIT CHAPTER BOARDS MEET

The boards of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. and of the Michigan Society of Architects met together at the Detroit Athletic Club on the afternoon and evening of January 12. The Detroit Chapter Board had been called into special session to consider proposed amendments to the State Registration Act for Architects and Engineers, as presented by the APELSCOR Committee.

Emil Lorch, F.A.I.A., Chairman of the Chapter's representation on the Committee, reported and, following

discussion, the proposed changes were approved by the Chapter Board. Having received reports that both the Saginaw Valley Chapter and the Western Michigan Chapter had approved the matter, the Michigan Society Board approved it also.

In the absence of David H. Williams, Jr., who is ill, Joseph W. Leinweber, vice-president, presided for the Chapter Board.

Alden B. Dow, the new President of The Michigan Society of Architects presided at the Society Board meeting. He announced appointment of committees for the coming year: Messrs. McGrew and Bauer as Auditing Committee for the Treasurer's Annual Report. In each case, first-named is chairman.

**ADMINISTRATION:** John C. Thornton, Joseph W. Leinweber, David H. Williams, Jr., Arthur J. Zimmermann.

**PUBLIC AND PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS:** Charles B. McGrew, Roger Allen, Wells I. Bennett, Robert B. Frantz.

**EDUCATION AND RESEARCH:** Ralph W. Hammett, Leo M. Bauer, Carl C. F. Kressbach, Adrian N. Langius.  
**MID-SUMMER CONVENTION:** Langius, Frantz, Williams.

**APELSCOR:** McGrew, Leinweber.  
**ALTERNATES:** George M. McConkey, Carl B. Marr.

**MSA 1949 ANNUAL CONVENTION**  
Edward G. Rosella, T. C. Hughes, Andrew R. Morison.

President Dow expressed the desire to have an outstanding speaker at the Mid-Summer Convention at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, possibly Lewis Mumford. He also stated that the Society could well afford to be-

stow more honorary memberships.

Another matter which he proposed, and which seems to meet with the approval of the State Registration Board, is attaching more importance to the issuing of certificates of registration from the State Board. These might be presented at a formal ceremony with appropriate program at a Society meeting or by the chapters.

Earl W. Pellerin, Chairman of the Show Committee reported on the progress of that activity as outlined in the Weekly Bulletin of January 18. It looks as if this will be one of the most important events of its kind ever held in Michigan.

Dow presented further evidence that Frank Lloyd Wright will be the speaker at the Society's Thirty-Fifth Annual Convention at Hotel Statler, March 3 and 4, 1949. Mr. Wright will be the speaker at the Michigan Building Industry Banquet, concluding event, Friday, March 4.

President Dow further expressed the belief that the Society should carry out the recommendations of retiring president Langius, namely, a more detailed budget for the Society's operations, a full-or part-time paid executive, and a complete compilation of state codes relating to building.

He suggested that the Education and Research Committee endeavor to obtain more complete reports of activities of the three state chapters for publication in the Weekly Bulletin.

Lyle S. Cole, former Society treasurer, gave a final report and turned over the books to new treasurer, Arthur J. Zimmermann.

A resolution was passed instructing the Society treasurer to furnish copies of his annual report to the chapters, so that they may know what becomes of the moneys collected by the Society.

The next meeting of the Society Board will be held in Detroit on February 2. At this time further developments with regard to the Annual Convention will be considered.

Attending the Chapter Board meeting were Messrs. Blair, Bennett, Leinweber, Marr, Morison. For the Society: Messrs. Bauer, Bennett, Dow, Hammett, Kressbach, Langius, Leinweber, McGrew, Thornton and Zimmermann.

### NEW FIRM NAME

The name of the Saginaw architectural firm of Merrill & Wigen has been changed to Fred E. Wigen, Architect. Offices will remain at 132 South Washington Avenue, Saginaw.

The firm of Merrill & Wigen came into being in 1946. Clarence B. Merrill, for many years one of Saginaw's leading architects, died in October, 1947.

Wigen, a native of Saginaw, received his BSA at the University of Michigan in 1939, was registered to practice in Michigan, by examination, in 1944. His early experience was gained in architects' offices in Detroit, Ann Arbor and Saginaw.

**LEO M. BAUER AND MAURICE E. HAMMOND** have been named by David H. Williams, Jr., president of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. as the Chapter's representatives on the Affiliate Council of Engineering Society, Detroit.

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## WEST MICHIGAN CHAPTER

The Western Michigan Chapter, A.I.A., scheduled its January meeting for Monday the 10th, a dinner at Hotel Harris in Kalamazoo. Arrangements were in charge of George W. Sprau. The speaker was Mr. Earl Frazier, Director of City Planning, Kalamazoo, who gave a talk, illustrated by lantern slides, on "The 12-months Planning Survey of Kalamazoo."

Mr. Frazier has been with Kalamazoo about one year. He received his training at M.I.T. and Harvard. He has had city and regional planning experience with the towns of Milford and Peterborough, New Hampshire; Federal Works Administration, National Resources Planning Board; Maryland District of Washington, D. C. Area, and I.S. Shattuch, Planning Consultant.

Plans were launched for Chapter participation in The A.I.A. exhibition in Houston. Chapter members will act as judges at the February meeting to select two schools and two residences.

The Chapter approved action by the city of Grand Rapids in naming a Civic Design Group.

Two new members were announced: Orus O. Eash, with Ralph Bauer of Traverse City, and Werner A. Daniels of Grand Rapids.

Other meetings of the Western Michigan Chapter will be as follows: February 14, Grand Rapids; March 18, Lansing; April 25, Battle Creek; May 20, Traverse City; June 20, Grand Rapids; September 12, Lansing; October 12, Kalamazoo, and November 7, Grand Rapids Annual Meeting.

Carl C. F. Kressbach, Chapter President has announced the appointment of the following committees for 1949 (first-named is chairman):

PRACTICE OF ARCHITECTURE — William A. Stone, Emil G. Zillmar, Stanley G. Simpson, Wesley Warren.

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH — George W. Sprau, Paul E. Flanagan, John P. Baker, Roger Stroop.

APELSCOR—Harry L. Mead, Herbert W. Van Dongen, St. Clair Pardee.

FELLOWS—Phillip C. Haughey, Adrian N. Langius, Clarence H. Rosa.

ARCHITECTS' SERVICE AND FEES — Chris Steketee, James K. Haveman, Elmer J. Manson.

HIRAM L. WALTON, president of Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, Inc., Architects and Engineers, has been named a director of the Citizens' Housing and Planning Council, of Detroit. Other new directors are Willis P. Thomas, George A. Higgins, Rabbi B. Benedict Glazier and Mrs. Trent McMath. All will serve three years.

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## N. Y. CHAPTER SUPPORTS DEWEY HOUSING PROGRAM

Harold R. Sleeper, president of the New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, said that his organization backed Governor Dewey's plan for a new state-wide minimum building code and speedy construction of 250,000 new low-cost homes.

"We fully endorse the Governor's state-wide program and will be glad to take part in it," Mr. Sleeper said. "We have already invited all elements of the construction industry to cooperate with our technical committee in its investigation of means of cutting costs and increasing construction."

"It is vitally important to architects that state-wide building codes be enacted for residential construction. Only by virtue of such codes can safe, adequate, and minimum-cost construction be included in their plans for use throughout the state."

Mr. Sleeper pointed out that the Governor's proposal to stagger the state's billion-dollar construction program would aid architects as well as others in the building trades. In addition to keeping the construction industry on an even keel, he said, it would permit retention of the skilled staffs in architects' offices who are now subject to seasonal hardships of the building cycle.

WANTED—Draftsmen. Senior or Junior. Reply  
Frantz & Spence, Architects. 118 N. Washington Ave., Saginaw, Mich.

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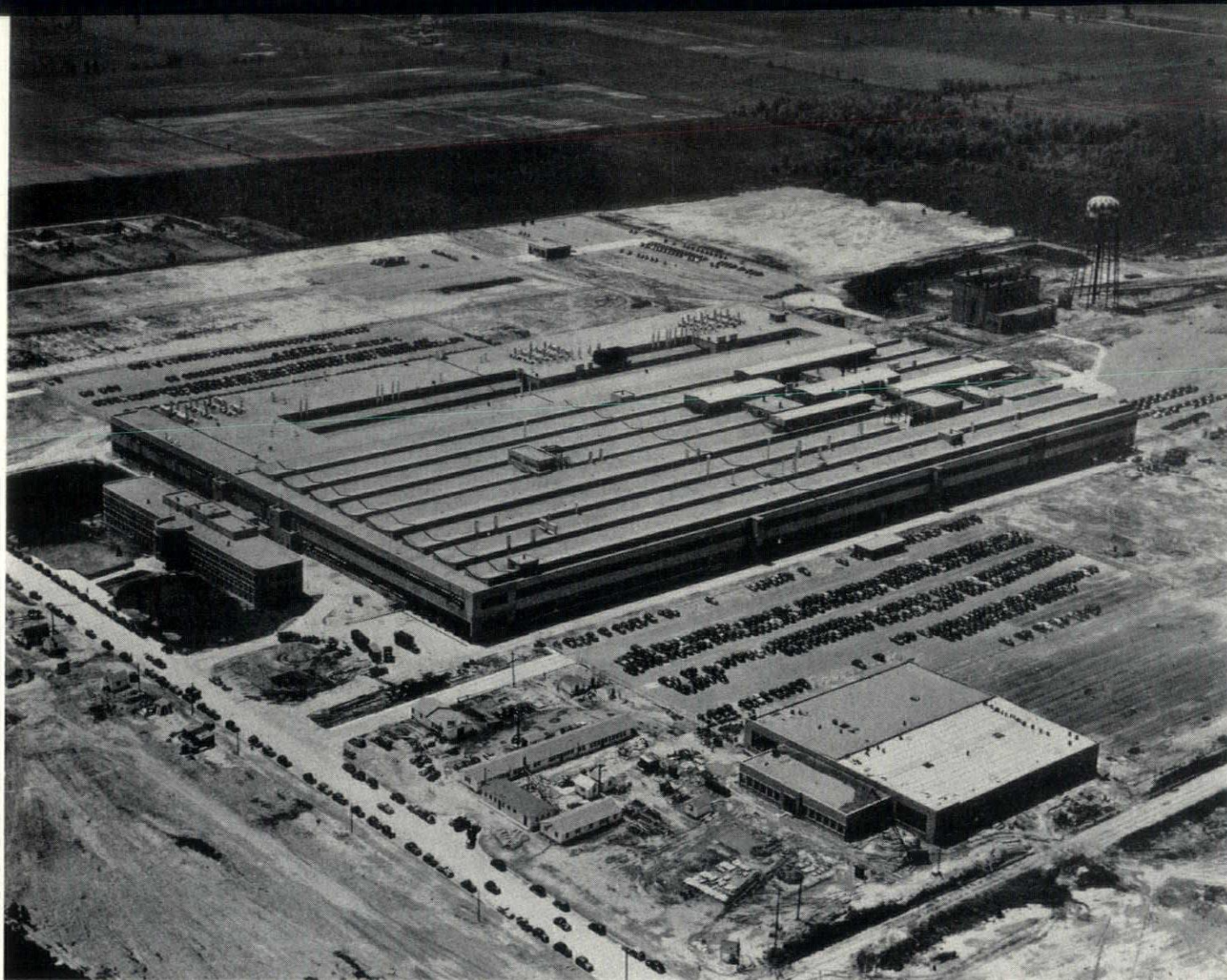


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Forster-Flint Journal

Air View of 104 Acre Plant. Office Building Connected to Assembly Plant by Garage. Customers' Building at Lower Right. Towards Rear of Main Plant are Car Loading Building, All Track Services, Boiler House, Water Tower, Acetylene Building, Pump House, Shipping Building, Car Storage Yards and Test Track Facilities.

# NEW GM CHEVROLET-FLINT ASSEMBLY PLANT

VAN SLYKE AND ATHERTON ROADS, FLINT, MICHIGAN

DESIGNED BY  
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The office building, 52'x300'—46,800 sq. ft., houses all administration units of both Chevrolet and Fisher and is constructed of reinforced concrete. It is two-story and basement and is connected to the main assembly building by a garage for official cars. The walls are of brick, with stone trim. The central motif or entrance is of stone, with the entrance steps of granite, and interior lobby floor of marble. All sash used is of the projected type steel.

The interior finish in general consists of plaster walls, acoustic ceilings, recessed fluorescent fixtures and as-

phalt tile floors. Office partitions are metal sash. Utility rooms, cafeteria and kitchen are glazed tile with ceramic floors except that quarry tile is used in kitchens and behind service counters.

The garage, 60'x88'—5,280 sq. ft., is of steel frame including the monitor ventilation, the walls of brick and steel sash, floor concrete and roof cement tile.

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The office building is heated by convector radiators in wall hung cabinets which are supplied by a system of forced hot water. The hot water converters and circulating pumps supplying this system are located in the basement machine room. The main hot water risers run up the pipe space above the second floor ceiling and distribute in this area to feed the down feed risers. The radiator connections are all concealed in wall pipe spaces, with only valve handles remaining visible.

The assembly building, 662'x1002', is of structural steel frame, two stories

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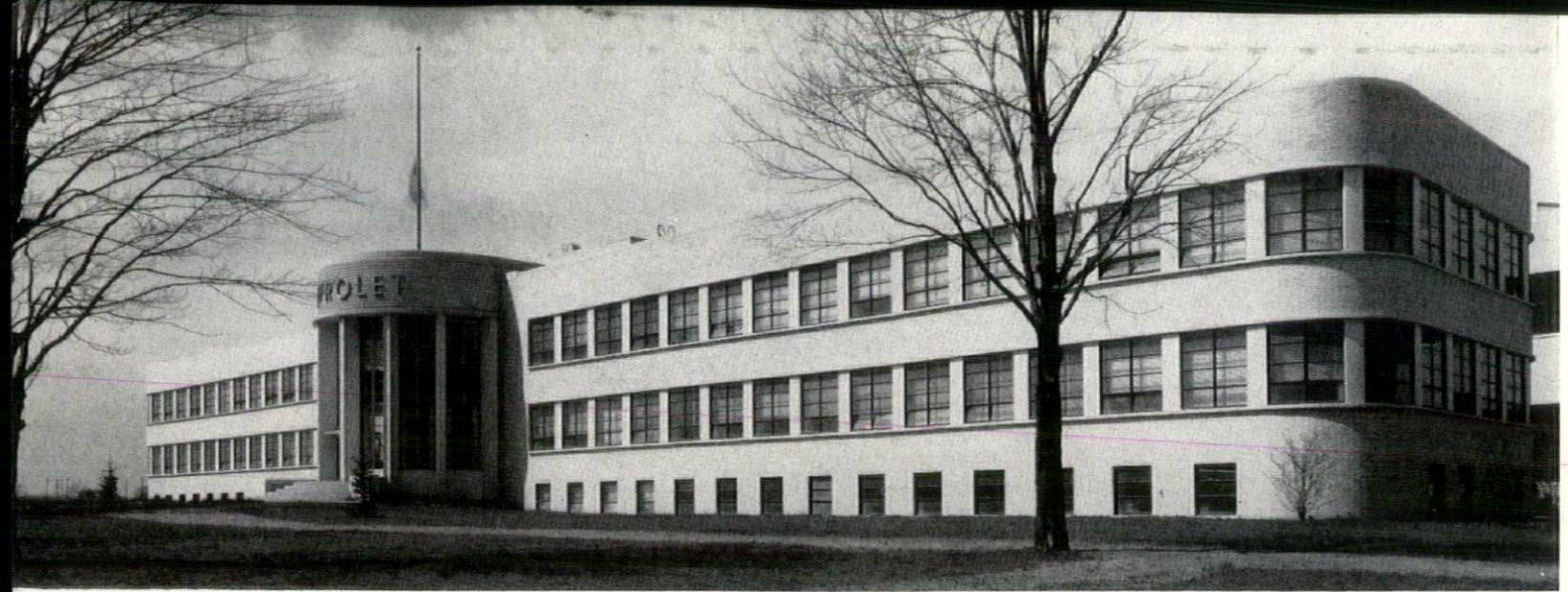
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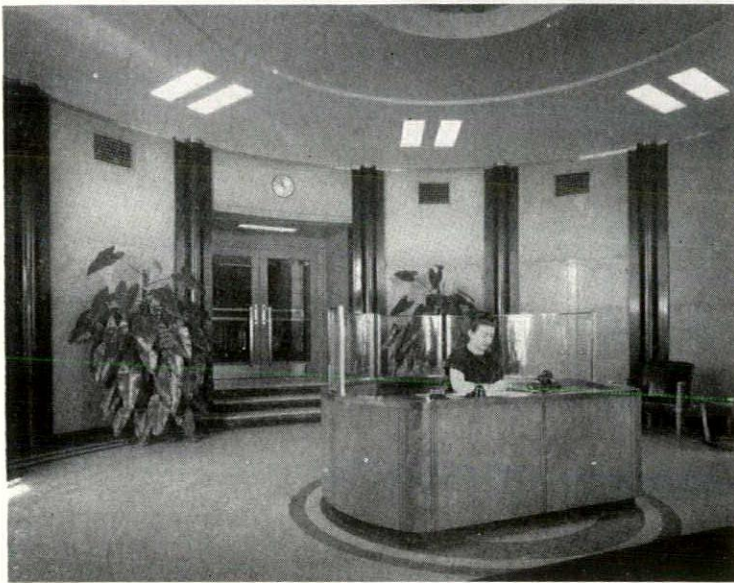
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East Elevation of Office Building of General Motors' Chevrolet-Flint Assembly Plant



Office Building Lobby



A Second Floor Executive Office

and partial basement. The second floor is of concrete supported on steel beams. The roof has steel trusses, steel purlins and is protected with cement tile roofing. The enclosing walls are of concrete, brick, gunite, and steel sash.

The interior walls are of brick, with the exception of the inside finish of the enclosing walls on all utilities, kitchen and cafeteria which are lined with glazed tile. Fluorescent lighting is used throughout the plant. Floors are concrete with wood block. Fisher second floor has mastic finish.

Elevator pent houses, some ovens and fan platforms are located above roof level. Various toilet rooms and stair shafts project out from main building wall.

Portions of first and second floors are used by both Chevrolet and Fisher Body, with dividing wall between.

Chevrolet area—674,720 sq. ft. including locker rooms, cafeteria, etc. in basement. Fisher area—428,825 sq. ft. including locker room, cafeteria, etc. in basement.

Column Spacing—50'x50' with one 50'x60' bay running length of building. Ceiling of first floor—16'; second floor 14'. In railroad bays and areas where second floor has been omitted clear height to underside of roof truss is 36'-11". To underside of second floor slab 22'.

The dado is green, walls above dado are white. This includes trusses, etc. Sash and trim are dark green and metal partitions—light grey.

The assembly building is heated in general by vertical type unit heaters with blower type units at the doors for quick recovery, all operating on steam at 30# pressure. The basement area



Assembly Plant Chevrolet Basement Cafeteria

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which houses the cafeteria, locker rooms, First Aid area, etc. is heated by a system of forced air.

Three railway tracks for the delivery of materials enter the building with spur tracks to boiler house and pump houses No. 1 and No. 2.

Two storage areas have been provided for finished cars, one for truck haulaway, one for customers' delivery.

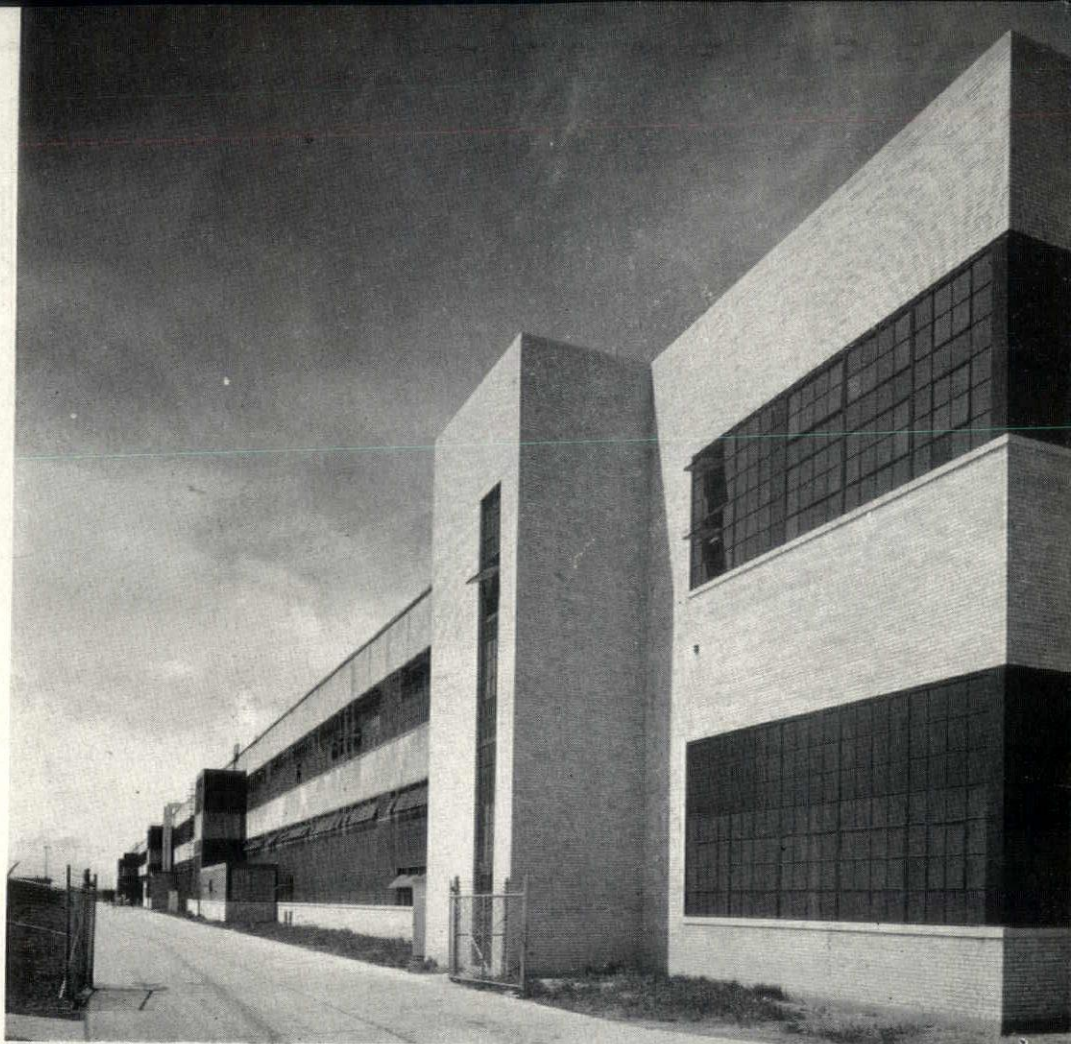
There are eight elevators, three of which are hydraulic. Six of these elevators serve the second floor, the other two the basement areas.

A concrete truck ramp has been provided on the Fisher side from first to second floor. Ramp has a 7'-0" clear width and a run of 200'-0".

Complete facilities have been provided for handling, preparing and serving of food in basement of both the Chevrolet and Fisher areas.

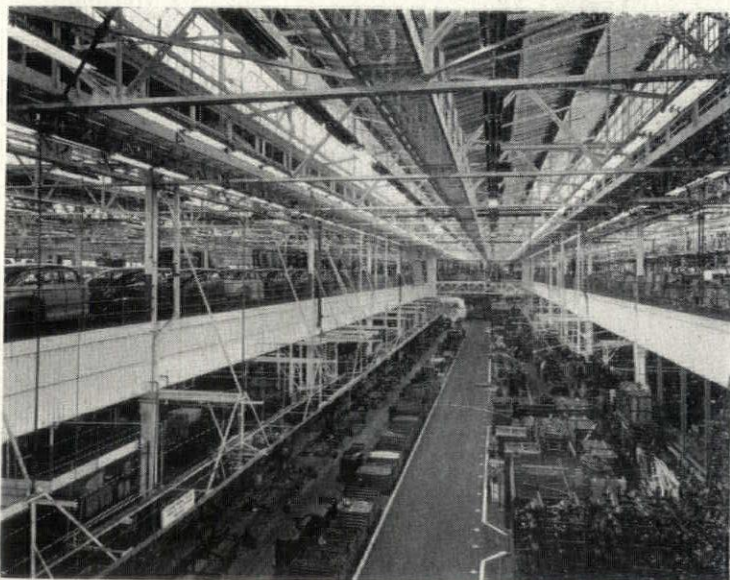
Employees parking area, comprising a quarter-million square feet of space, has black top paving and flood lighting. Since the assembly building houses both Chevrolet and Fisher divisions, parking facilities were placed for their employees at north and south sides respectively. The employees enter these respective sections through a control house, thence through tunnel to the basement facilities including individual steel lockers, wash rooms and toilets, and tiled showers.

The customers' delivery building, 202'x252'—47,500 sq. ft., consisting of a car service section and waiting room,



Assembly Plant South Elevation

All Photos by  
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General View of Assembly Plant Interior

Photo at Left  
by Crooks Studio  
Flint, Michigan

is of one-story structural steel frame construction with cement tile roof. Enclosing walls are of brick and steel sash.

Function of this building is the ser-

vicing and the installation of accessories on cars for delivery to those customers who have made arrangements through their dealers to take delivery at this point.

The interior finish of waiting room consists of plaster walls with wood paneled wainscot, acoustic ceiling, recessed fluorescent lighting fixtures and asphalt tile floor. Toilet rooms and rest rooms have plaster and ceramic tile walls with terrazzo floors.

The car service section has a concrete floor with complete facilities for servicing cars and installing accessories.

The customers delivery building is supplied with steam from the assembly building through an underground conduit which also houses the pump discharge line.

The one-story shipping building, 50'x50'—2,300 sq. ft., has been located adjacent to end of test track and car storage area for the final inspection and minor adjustments of vehicles.

Entrance and exit doors are motor operated, electric eye controlled, for the opening and closing of same as vehicles travel over inspection pits.

Building is constructed of brick,



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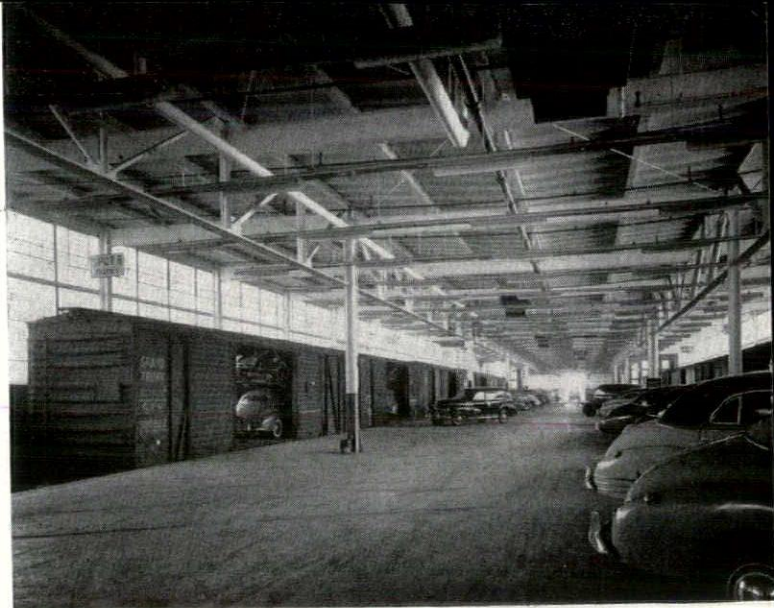
Delivery Buildings

and Rapids, Mich.

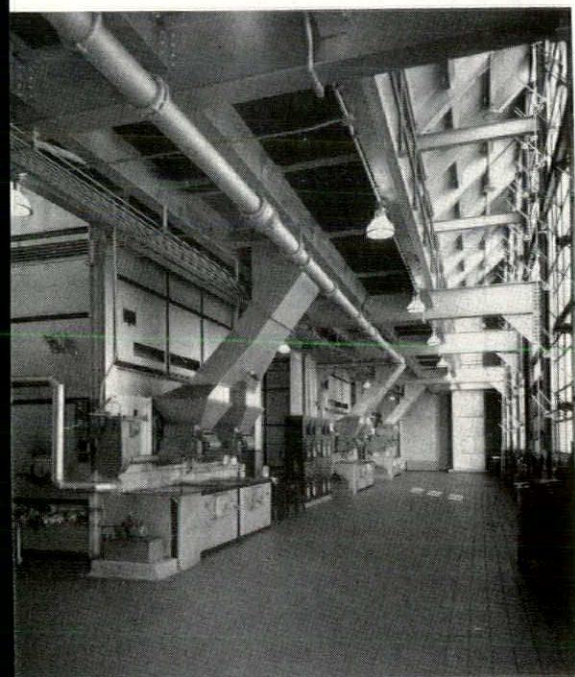
8-1326



Customers' Delivery Building Exterior



Carloading Building Interior



Crooks Studio, Flint, Mich.  
Interior View of Boiler House

steel sash, and structural steel frame with cement tile roof. Toilet facilities are provided for employees.

The shipping building is heated by a direct fired hot air unit complete with oil burner, fans, motors, controls, etc., located in a central position.

The carloading building, 81'-8"x376'-26,892 sq. ft., is of one-story structural steel frame construction, cement tile roof, enclosed with steel sash and brick walls. Lighting fixtures are of the fluorescent type.

The function of this building, which is serviced by a concrete ramp at either end and two recessed R.R. tracks into building, is the loading of finished automobiles into freight cars for shipment by rail. Weight scales and wash racks have been incorporated in the building.

The car loading building heating is accomplished in the same manner as the assembly building with the steam and condensate supply line running from it through underground conduit to the assembly building.

There is a separate power house which houses three 60,000 # per hour boilers operating at 175 # working pressure. A 12" H.P. steam header is

taken from these boilers to supply the boiler house equipment and the building requirements.

Some of the pumps and air compressors in the power house are steam driven and the steam is exhausted at 35 # back pressure. This back pressure steam is used to heat the feed water and year around facilities in the main building.

12" H.P. steam and 10 M.P. steam (35 #) mains are extended from the power house through the tunnel to the assembly building where they rise up and distribute to serve the various functions of the different buildings.

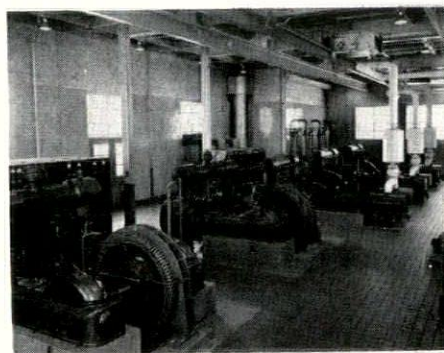
In an industrial building of this type and size the ventilation systems vary in type and purpose. The systems provide comfortable working temperatures for the office employees and air conditioning to the cafeteria. They also remove obnoxious odors and heat from production areas.

The cafeteria which is located in the office building is air conditioned. The system in general is composed of automatic oil filters, extended heat transfer surfaces for heating and cooling, refrigeration machinery and fan equipment with provisions for recirculation. During the summer period the system is designed to maintain comfort conditions. However, in the winter, it provides tempered air for ventilation only.

The rest of the office building, for economical reasons, has been designed so that in the future the ventilation and air conditioning equipment can be installed on short notice. All the required ductwork has been installed in the furred ceilings and capped at the fan rooms.



Boiler House Exterior



GM Photographic, Detroit  
Boiler House Compressor Room

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**M. J. MALEY**

*President Michigan Chapter, Producers' Council, Inc., Succumbs*

Martin J. Maley, president of The Producers' Council, Inc., Michigan Chapter, died suddenly, at the Detroit Leland Hotel on the night of January 6. He was 56 years of age.

As architectural representative in the Detroit office of Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, where he had been for the past 32 years, Mark had a host of friends among architects and others throughout the building industry in Michigan. His loss will be felt keenly, as he was regarded so highly for his dependability and likeable qualities. He knew his field thoroughly, grew up with it, and his first interest was always giving valuable service.

When first joining Pittsburgh's Detroit office he was a salesman. There he met Florence E. McLarty, who became his wife. She died on December 17, 1948, the day he had arranged for the Producers' Council to entertain the new board of directors of the Detroit Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, Council affiliate. As president of the Michigan Chapter of the Council he did an outstanding job, and was imminently fitted for the position of furthering the fine relations between the Producers and architects.

The family home was on Cumberland Road, Berkeley, Michigan. There are no children surviving.

**L. H. HARRISON**

Lawrence H. Harrison, 55, for the past seven years associated with the Century Brick Company, of Detroit, was killed in an automobile accident early Saturday morning, January 8.

Larry, who had been engaged in the sale of face brick, in the Detroit area, for many years was well and favorably known among architects of Michigan. He had regularly attended the conventions of the Michigan Society of Architects and had contributed much in the way of good fellowship. Moreover, he had rendered an invaluable service in always being available for consultation on matters pertaining to his field of endeavor. His wise counsel will be greatly missed by our profession and the building industry.

The family home is at 197 Hill Street, Highland Park, Michigan. He leaves his wife, his mother, a son, two brothers.

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**RALPH HIDEY**

Ralph H. Hidey, 61, general contractor, of Detroit, died January 4. He was a graduate of the University of Michigan and had been with the Albert Kahn organization, following graduation. For many years he had been a general contractor under his own name and had built some of the most important structures in this area. He converted the huge Willow Run plant for the use of the Kaiser-Frazer Corporation. Recently his firm had been engaged on the Detroit plant of Canada Dry Ginger Ale Company and the Blue Hill Sewage Disposal Plant.

He was a member of the Detroit Athletic Club, Detroit Board of Commerce, the Builders' and Traders' Exchange of Detroit, Associated General Contractors of America and its Detroit Chapter, E.S.D., and Highland Park Rotary Club.

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**BOOK ON DOUGLAS FIR**

Issuance of a comprehensive manual on the properties, uses and grades of Douglas Fir of the Western Pine Region has been announced by the Western Pine association.

The new publication is the third in a series of species books published by the association in the past year covering three of the Associated Woods of the Western Pine region. Others were on White Fir and Larch.

The Douglas Fir book, containing 52 illustrated 8½x11" pages, is designed as a basic reference for builders, architects, dealers and wholesalers on a wood species ranking second in both supply and production volume in the 11-state region. The most recent survey places the standing sawtimber inventory at 101,552,000,000 board feet. Production is averaging approximately one billion feet per year.

Full page pictures of typical pieces of each grade are accompanied by text material describing the pictured examples together with a general outline of the grading rules. Properties and uses sections are illustrated with photographs of Western Pine region Douglas Fir in use. Front and back covers are in four colors.

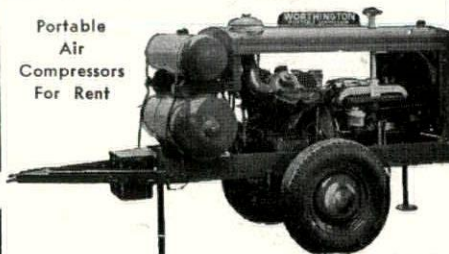
Indexed, the book carries a listing of standard manufactured sizes and an alphabetic catalogue of uses of Douglas Fir and recommended grades therefor.

Single copies of the Douglas Fir book are available without charge to all dealers, builders, architects and other lumber users and jobbers and may be secured by writing to the Western Pine Association, Yeon Building, Portland 4, Ore. Quotations on additional copies may be obtained from the association.

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