

Mr. Henry H. Saylor,  
1741 New York Ave. N.W.,  
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# WEEKLY BULLETIN

## MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

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DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MARCH 1, 1949

No. 9

## EDGAR KAUFMANN WAS CHAPTER SPEAKER

On Wednesday evening, February 16, Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. heard Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., Director of the Department of Industrial Design, Museum of Modern Art, New York, speak on the subject "What is Happening to Modern Architecture." He spoke at the Detroit Institute of Arts, under the auspices of the Metropolitan Art Association.

Guests of the Chapter at dinner preceding the lecture were Mr. Kaufmann and Mr. Hawkins Ferry, Honorary Curator of The Detroit Institute of Arts, and President of The Metropolitan Art Association.

Vice-President Leinweber, presiding, announced that President Williams is recuperating nicely and is able to be at his office for a few hours a day. Mr. Leinweber gave a brief report on the Board Meeting which preceded the dinner meeting. He announced the election of student associate Gabriel Martin del Campo; associate members Clarence Arthur Durbin, and Alexander Anthony Krencicki. He also stated that the application for corporate membership of George Y. Masson of Windsor, Ont. was approved and forwarded to Washington.

The Vice-President announced that the response to requests for delegates to attend the A.I.A. Convention in Houston was gratifying and that Detroit would have a full delegation. Mention was made of the "no-shows" at dinner meetings, which have resulted in considerable loss to the Chapter. We go to the expense of having double post cards printed and mailed, we guarantee a certain number at dinner, and then have as many as 13 who do not show up. The Chapter has to pay \$2.25 for each of these. The Board has even considered billing such members but is of the opinion that it would antagonize some, thereby defeating our own purpose. The object of subsidizing a part of the dinner cost is to encourage attendance. We would not, then, like to do something that would counteract this.

Mr. Leinweber emphasized the importance of the next Chapter meeting, to be held on March 2. This date was

moved forward in order to be far enough in advance of the A.I.A. Convention to enable us to communicate our actions, if any, that we wish brought up at Convention. Also, it is desired to have our three A.I.A. Board members present. They leave for the Institute Board meeting about a week before the Convention opens. Cards are being sent to all members of the Chapter announcing that this will be a closed meeting—no guests—and that Mr. Walter A. Taylor of the Institute's Department of Education and Research will be the speaker. Our own directors will also report on Convention matters, and answer questions. Mr. Kenneth C. Black, Regional Director will be in charge of the meeting. Altogether, this will be one of the most important meetings of our season, as announced on the card.

At the dinner meeting Prof. Emil Lorch, F.A.I.A., Chairman of the Chapter's representation on APELSCOR, reported briefly on bills pending before the State Legislature. The Committee has reached complete agreement on the bills.

Earl Pellerin reported on the Show Committee and stated that about 60 Architects had done a wonderful job of setting up the exhibits at the Art Institute.

The meeting adjourned to The Art Institute for Mr. Kaufmann's lecture at 8:30.

Mr. Kaufmann gave a most interesting lecture to a capacity audience. This was next to the last in the current season of The Art Association.

### EXCERPTS

*From the Kaufmann Lecture*

What Is Happening to Modern Architecture, what is the "so-called International Style," and why do some modern architects react against it? These are the questions before us tonight. I hope to show you that modern architecture is becoming more flexible and more mature, that architectural practice among the modern designers, at least, is far ahead of its commentators, that its creative concepts are large and strong enough to warrant architecture's place as a leading art in our day.

Let me quote:

"There may, at the present time, be a lack of architectural taste; there is, unfortunately, no lack of architectural opinion. Architecture, it is said, must be 'expressive of its purpose' or 'expressive of its true construction' or 'expressive of the materials it employs' or 'expressive of the national life' (whether noble or otherwise) or 'expressive of a noble life' (whether national or not); or expressive of the craftsman's temperament, or the owner's or the architect's, or, on the contrary, 'academic' and studiously indifferent to these factors. It must, we are told, be symmetrical, or it must be picturesque—that is, above all things, unsymmetrical."

Under these circumstances, discussion is almost impossible, and it is natural that criticism should become dogmatic. Yet dogmatic criticism is barren, and the history of architecture, robbed



of any standard of value, is barren also.

It appears to me that if we desire any clearness in this matter, we are driven from a *priori* aesthetics to the history of taste, and from the history of taste to the history of ideas. It is, I believe, from a failure to appreciate the true relation of taste to ideas, and the influence which each has exerted on the other, that our present confusion has resulted.

Surprisingly enough these words are 35 years old; they were written before the first world war in Florence by Geoffrey Scott, an English scholar. Little would be changed if they could be rewritten for today.

With the words of Geoffrey Scott in mind, let us consider the ideas and tastes of modern architecture. Modern architecture found its first clear expression in the 1890's, largely as a reaction against the ineffectual copying

of bygone or exotic styles of building. The Victorian world was one of furious progress and self-confidence; sooner or later this was likely to result in appropriate architecture. A welter of theories, techniques, and preferences lay to hand; certain ones were welded together by a central concept that has been strong enough to direct no less than four main schools of modern architectural taste in 60 years. How bitter the debate has been sometimes between the protagonists of these schools! Yet something there is, bigger than them all, that governs and grows. Today the sectarian battles of Baroque or Classic Revival architects (such as Berninians against Borrominians, or upholders of the Tuscan order against the Doric) seem more important to the historian of ideas than to the historian of art. And this, it seems safe to say, will be the future significance of the opposed architectural tastes of our own day; they do not touch the deeper issue.

Can the unifying idea of modern architecture be put into words, or is it merely another ineffable mystery, another *zeitgeist*? Before answering this I would like first to show you examples of the four main schools of modern architecture, asking you to remember that in practice of architecture is often compounded of more than one, and that blends are no less agreeable in buildings than in your cocktail glasses.

#### (Slides)

1. Prairie-style Wright (arts & crafts)
2. Gaudi (art nouveau)
3. Fagus factory (International Style)
4. Koch (cottage style)

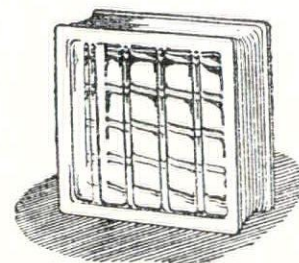
Each slide discussed.

Now it will be evident that the last two types of building shown are still current and in many ways opposed to each other. But I find it hard to believe that the opposition between the so-called International Style and the informal or cottage approach is worth the noise made about it. It is largely a question of suitability; in dress we do not hesitate to adopt quite different gear for formal occasions and business and for New York and Florida. We expect appropriateness first and then are pleased if quality and beauty are super-added. Indeed, I see a very great danger in stressing the opposition between these architectural tastes, for, hardened against the enemy, the International Style leads to an arid formalism while the cottage style quickly degenerates into sloppy shanties. Well understood and controlled, the two types of taste ought to supplement and influence each other in a fruitful

way.

Are we ready to formulate the concept that joins these tastes to each other and to the earlier buildings we looked at? It is worth a try, at least. Every building makes demands: these are usually classified as structural, functional, and aesthetic. (The three classifications, of course, are not so separate in practice as in words.) I suppose modern architects have been unique in believing that the three demands are equally important, and that the best architecture is that which satisfies them equally; that the ideal architecture meets them not by different elements assembled in a construction but, so to speak, at one fell swoop. This image of the ideal architecture has hovered over the drawing boards of creative architects for at least 60 years, if my reading of the record is right. It has been called by many names: organic, integral, dynamic, etc. Its enemies have other names to bestow. It would be a poor lecture if I could not present you with still another, which appeals to me and so far has not been offered anywhere that I know of. It is, synergetic architecture. A modest dictionary will assure you that synergetic means working together, cooperating. I believe that in modern architecture it is proper to expect function, structure and beauty to work together. And I propose we accept as a reliable test of quality in modern architecture that the less separable the expression of function, structure and beauty in a building, the more nearly it approaches the ideal of our epoch.

Now perhaps we should examine some recent examples of modern architecture to see what is happening and how our test works.



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**PROF. RAYMOND B. EVERETT**

Word comes from Professor Goldwin Goldsmith of the University of Texas, of the death of Raymond B. Everett. His death occurred in the middle of January.

Mr. Everett will be remembered by those who attended the College of Architecture at the University of Michigan prior to 1915. At that time he was an instructor in free-hand drawing and water color painting. He left Ann Arbor in 1915 to accept the position on the faculty of the University of Texas School of Architecture where he remained until his death.

While at Ann Arbor, he became engaged to Isabelle Riser, an outstanding and very popular University student, and they were subsequently married. Mrs. Everett died a year ago and Mr. Everett, after a serious operation, seemed to have no desire to recover.

At Ann Arbor, Mr. Everett was very popular with his students and, in addition to his class room teaching, he organized outdoor sketching trips and helped students with the art work for various student publications.

**HARRY L. WHITE**

Harry L. White, A.I.A., a member of the Detroit Chapter, and long engaged in the architectural field in this state, died at his home in Royal Oak, Michigan on January 29. He was 60 years old.

Born in Dowagiac, Michigan, April 26, 1888, he was educated there and at the University of Michigan where he received his BSA degree in 1913. He traveled and studied in Mexico, was registered to practice in Michigan, by examination, in 1918. He served in World War I, in the radio detachment at College Station, Texas. There he met his future wife.

Interested in school work, he was with some of the leading Detroit offices, including George D. Mason & Co.; Smith, Hinchman & Grylls, and B. C. Wetzel Co. In the latter office he remained for 18 years.

In recent years he had been with the Government as project director on many large projects for the FPHA. As such he and his wife lived in many parts of the United States, including the South and the Dakotas.

Besides his wife, Myrtle, he leaves his mother, now 84.

**BOOTH FELLOWSHIP**

The College of Architecture and Design, University of Michigan, announces that the George G. Booth Traveling Fellowship in Architecture will be offered again this year. There will be no formal competition in design, but upon request applicants will be issued an application form to be completed and returned not later than May 15, 1949. This Competition is open to all graduates of the school who have not reached their thirtieth birthday on the date mentioned above. Prospective candidates should write at once to the office of the College of Architecture and Design, 207 Architecture Building, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**CITY PLANNERS WANTED**

The Detroit Civil Service Commission is announcing open-competitive examinations for the following classes of positions:

Junior City Planner \$3139 to \$3950  
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Intermediate City Planner  
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The filing period for application ends on March 18, 1949.

Residence requirements for application have been waived. Consequently when conditions warrant and where arrangements can be made, the written examinations will be administered in cities other than Detroit.

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Edited by

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**STORE MODERNIZATION**

Modernization is the therapy. The specific prescription is to be found in the book, "1948 Store Modernization Clinics," a compilation of addresses given at the second annual Store Modernization Show, held in New York City last summer under the direction of John W. H. Evans. Included are detailed questions and answers that arose in informal discussions with audience participation.

These addresses and discussions explore five aspects of the retailer's modernization problem: "Store Layout and Traffic," "Store Lighting and Color," "Displays and Fixturing," "Store Fronts," and "Planning and Budgeting." And the exploration is no hasty once-over-lightly; not one or two, but a group of authorities, established names in their fields, dissect each subject. They throw out theorizing; here are practical answers to actual situations.

To illustrate these situations and their successful handling, the book offers as examples numerous diagrams, photographs, blueprints selected by the experts to point up the "befores" and "afters," the "rights" and "wrongs." The ordinary—or even extraordinary—store executive is not a technical expert, too, but here he can find guidance from over thirty specialists—architects and designers, engineers and researchers, as well as merchandisers and manufacturers.

One of those specialists predicts, "It is going to be impossible to stop modernizing and stay in business." No retailer, whatever his business, will disagree. This book is the answer to his inevitable question, "Where do I go from there?"

1948 STORE MODERNIZATION CLINICS may be ordered from the Store Modernization Show, 40 East 49th Street, New York 17, N.Y. \$5.00.

**SHALL WE PUT HIM ON?**

A. R. Clas believes the BULLETIN should have a Joke Editor. While he hasn't actually asked for the job, he sent in a sample of his wares. Do you think he should be appointed to that important position?

Incidentally, Mike is a Harvard man which may add to your appreciation of his contribution.

A Boston man advertised for an assistant, saying he wanted a Harvard man or his equal. He received a reply from New Haven, Connecticut, asking if two Princeton men or a Yale man half time would be suitable.—BULLETIN, Washington (DC) Building Congress.

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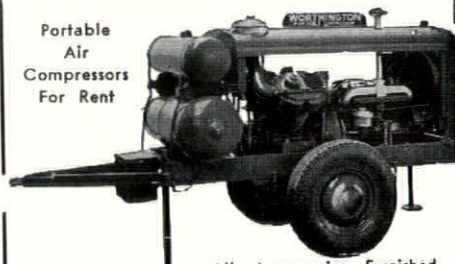
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DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MARCH 8, 1949

No. 10

## GIVES A.I.A. VIEWS ON HOUSING

*Theme of A.I.A. 81st Convention in Houston, Texas, March 15-18, 1949*

Top government experts on public works and atomic energy will be among the speakers at the 81st annual convention of The American Institute of Architects in Houston, Texas next month.

Theme of the four-day meeting, which is expected to attract 1,000 architects from March 15 through 18, will be "American Architecture in the Atomic Age." The convention will be held in the Rice Hotel.

Major General Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Federal Works Agency, will speak on Wednesday.

Atomic energy and its implications on buildings will be considered by two government speakers: Rear Admiral William S. Pearsons, who has been a member of the Military Liaison Committee to Atomic Energy Commission, and Sumner Pike, a member of the Atomic Energy Commission.

This timely discussion will be set against the broad background of the social and geographic distribution of Americans affecting the planning of cities and buildings. This will be provided by Dr. Philip Hauser, former Assistant Director of the Census, now on the faculty of the University of Chicago. He will speak on "Population Trends and Problems".

The architects will be concerned also with the problems of color as applied to design.

A panel session on color will be held under the chairmanship of H. W. Waldron Faulkner of Washington, D.C. Among the distinguished authorities who will participate are: Dr. Isay Balinkin, Associate Professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Cincinnati; Ralph Evans, Director of the Color Control Department at Eastman Kodak Company; Carl E. Foss, of Princeton, New Jersey; Faber Birren, of New York City, color consultant; and Julian E. Garnsey, of Princeton, New Jersey.

One of the highlights of the convention will be the judging of the best-designed homes and schools in the first National Honor Awards Program. The awards will be given for the outstand-

ing residences and schools which have been built in the past four years.

The entries will be judged at the Rice Institute and the winning designs will be shown at the convention.

In addition, there will be an exhibit of color and a group of designs from the National College of Architecture in Mexico.

The Gold Medal of The American Institute of Architects—its highest honor—will be awarded to Frank Lloyd Wright at the annual dinner on Thursday evening, March 17.

Many of the delegates will fly from Houston to Mexico City for a post-convention tour and meetings with Mexican architects.

The following Houston architects are serving as committee chairmen for the convention: Kenneth Franzheim, General Chairman of the Committee on Convention Arrangements; John F. Staub, Entertainment; Frederick J. MacKie, Jr., Reception; Stayton Nunn, Dinner; Eugene Werlin, Tours and Transportation; Thomas E. Greacen, II, Printing; George F. Pierce, Exhibition; and Garvin C. Moore, Post-Convention Mexican Tour. Mrs. H. Edward Maddox, Jr., is Chairman of the Ladies Committee.

**MICHIGAN ENGINEERING SOCIETY** will hold its Annual Convention at Hotel Harris in Kalamazoo on April 22 and 23. M. E. Malone, 153 S. Rose Street, Kalamazoo, is Publicity Chairman.

## TO SOUTH AMERICA

*To Visit Latin American Clients*

Fred M. Harley, of Harley, Ellington and Day, Inc., Detroit architects and engineers, has left for Maracaibo and Caracas, Venezuela, where he will be joined in a few days by Louis B. Huesmann.

They will be engaged in consultation on architecture and process engineering in connection with plant moderni-



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zation and expansion programs for several Latin American clients.

While in Venezuela Harley and Huesmann will consult with authorities there on construction of several hospital facilities.

Enroute to Maracaibo, Harley plans to consult with creamery, beverage and bottling clients in the West Indies, at Cuba, Jamaica, Curacao and Aruba.



## ACG 30TH CONVENTION

The 30th anniversary convention of the Associated General Contractors of America was held from February 28 through March 3 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City.

It was one of the largest in the history of the Association which represents more than 5,000 of the nation's leading construction firms. Attendance was approximately 1,200, including contractors and representatives of the 105 chapters.

The convention considered the factors which influence the execution of an estimated potential of \$18,750,000,000 in new construction and \$6,000,000,000 in maintenance and repair operations during the coming year.

Speakers included Douglas William Orr, president of The American Institute of Architects; Raymond M. Foley, Administrator, Housing and Home Financing Agency, and the following from Detroit; Roy E. Pickett, Walter L. Couse, Leo P. Richardson.

### — LUMBER DEALERS —

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## A.I.A. ON RENT CONTROL

The American Institute of Architects has advocated a declaration of intent by Congress for a gradual increase in rentals being charged to tenants and asked for complete abolition of rent control by 1953.

Louis Justement, of Washington, D. C., Chairman of the Urban Planning Committee of The A.I.A., made this suggestion in a statement prepared for the House Committee on Banking and Currency.

He asked for modification of House Bill 1731, on rent control, so that "gradual increases could be made without creating unnecessary hardships for the tenants."

Mr. Justement said: "The Board of Directors of The Institute and the Committee on Urban Planning are seriously concerned with the effect of continued rent control, with respect to provision of an adequate supply of new housing."

The A.I.A. spokesman pointed out that normally the needs of families in the so-called "twilight zone" of housing as well as families in the low income group are met through operation of the "filtering down" process. This process depends on a normal balance between supply and demand and the abolition of the artificial price and rent relationships resulting from rent control.

"An essential part of any over-all solution of our housing problem is the abolition, as quickly as possible, of all forms of rent control—not from the point of view of benefiting the landlords but from that of permitting the housing industry to function effectively," he said.

"On the other hand, we fully realize the necessity of not adding to inflationary pressures at this particular moment when there are a number of encouraging indices that offer some hope that we may have reached the crest of inflation.

"A declaration of intent on the part of the Congress, however, to increase the maximum permitted rentals by approximately 20 percent in 1950, 15 percent in 1951, 15 percent in 1952 and to abolish them in 1953 would tend to gradually restore the normal functioning of the law of supply and demand in the housing industry."

Mr. Justement pointed out that if we merely extend present rent controls from year to year without any long-range policy, "we may find it necessary to continue them indefinitely.

"We realize, of course, that this session of Congress cannot bind the actions of the succeeding sessions of Congress," he said. "But it is possible, in this Bill, to provide for a permissible

increase of 20 percent over the present rentals, such increase to take effect not sooner than January 1, 1950.

"We strongly urge that the Bill be modified in accordance with this suggestion."

## COMPETITION, JR. C. OF C.

Progressive Architecture announces a competition among the nation's architects for the design of the National Headquarters Building for the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, to be located in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Sponsors of the contest are Servel, Inc., of Evansville, Indiana, and General Portland Cement Company, of Chicago, Illinois.

Competition opens March 1, 1949 and closes at midnight, May 16, 1949. A prominent jury of distinguished architects will meet in Colorado Springs on June 1-4 to determine the prize-winning designs. First-prize winner will receive the commission for designing the building, while 33 additional prizes, totaling \$7,000, will be distributed to other competitors. Awards will be made at the National Convention of the Junior Chamber of Commerce at Colorado Springs, June 7-11, 1949.

For more than a year, the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, through its 180,000 members and 1800 communities, has fostered a drive for funds to build the headquarters. The building will be dedicated as a living memorial to the Junior Chamber of Commerce members who gave their lives in World War II. Full details of the contest may be secured from Progressive Architecture, 330 West 42nd Street, New York 18, N. Y.

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## BIRMINGHAM PLAN PANEL

Saarinen and Ditchy are Speakers

Birmingham and her sister communities must plan their futures both from the inside and outside if they are to check the spread of urban blight.

This was the opinion of four planning experts who appeared on the "Why City Planning?" panel of the tenth annual community council dinner meeting Wednesday evening at the Birmingham Community house.

"Such planning must be individual and yet related to the metropolitan Detroit and Pontiac areas, for it hinges on the whole development of southeastern Michigan, they pointed out.

"Isolation of a community from its neighbors means death," warned Eliel Saarinen, world famous architect and designer of the Cranbrook building.

The city plan author cited the widening of Woodward, its subsequent loss of trees and the final transfer of traffic to Hunter boulevard as an example of the lack of planning.

Such a fate appears in store for Maple avenue which he declared should not be made a through street. These remarks drew applause from the audience.

He advocated the need for a protective green belt around the growth of every city and explained that emphasis should be placed not upon a plan but upon continuous planning.

William Coit Allee, former Birmingham city commissioner and member of the plan commission, outlined the history of the 1929 master plan developed by the old village commission.

Despite depression, war and changing conditions not anticipated in the original plan, "it has been the guiding

star of city commissions since it was laid out," he asserted.

A Detroit lawyer, only layman on the panel, described the changes brought about when the state shifted the railroad and diverted traffic from the center of the city to Hunter boulevard.

In his opening remarks, Clair Ditchy, Detroit architect, pointed out that city planning embodies more than "efficient water supply, adequate streets and proper sewage disposal systems."

"Modern planning," he said, "calls for proper facilities to house and protect family life by segregating traffic arteries from residential areas. It must also provide for expression of cultural ambitions."

Ditchy summarized the panel in the absence of speaker Jerrold Loebl, Chicago architect who was unable to attend.

Questions from the audience indicated concern for off-street parking, the end of the quonset hut development and the proper development of Hunter boulevard.

Dr. Earl C. Kelley, Wayne university professor and past community council president, served as moderator. Co-chairmen of this year's meeting were Mrs. J. Rowland Quinn and Mrs. Cleveland Walcutt.

## MR. BLANDINGS BUILDS HIS DREAM HOUSE

(Movie Version)

From the Bay State Architect

Hollywood, with her reputation for glamorizing the most unpretentious and unworthy of characters, certainly UN-glamorized Mr. Architect in the person of Mr. Sims of the movie, "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House."

We realize that said movie was high comedy and we laughed at the wisecracks of the sharp, witty lawyer and the handsome, brilliant and equally witty Mr. Blandings, advertising genius. But, the antics of the architect, we cannot forgive.

To the thousands of movie-goers who take their entertainment seriously, the architectural profession must seem a group of dawdling, incompetent fuddy duddies. Mr. Sims was a prize fuddy duddy and not once did he display an ounce of alertness or self-confidence, traits which we like to believe most architects possess.

One would conclude that our timid architect merely painted a pretty picture of "the dream house" which Mrs. Blandings just couldn't resist, drew up a set of sketchy plans and the contractors did the rest. Our movie gives one the impression that building contractors are extremely business-like and intent on the job, engineers know a thing or two and arrive at intelligent decisions BUT architects are meek, wavering individuals who cower before their clients. The climax came when friend architect, after being questioned by Mr. Blandings in connection with an additional expense item, became quite idiotic at the "cleverness" of his own deductions. Then to really plaster the old slapstick on thick, he promised to try to get a reduction for his client—even of \$25.00!

Well, anyhow, Mr. Blandings has his dream house—and, if it's any comfort to you—with the services of an architect.

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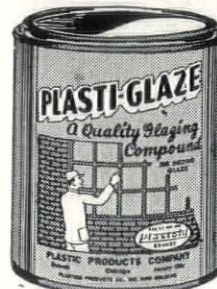
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Edited by

E. J. BRUNNER

Secretary-Manager

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Manufacturers and distributors of building products will cooperate in a program to acquaint home builders and designers with the substantial savings in the cost of housing construction which were demonstrated in the recent study of the University of Illinois, Charles M. Mortensen, executive secretary of the Producers' Council, has announced.

"The objective will be to tell those responsible for home building about the 21 per cent saving in labor cost and the resulting 10 per cent reduction in the overall cost of small homes which can be attained by builders who adopt the techniques used in the study," Mr. Mortensen said.

"The program will be conducted by the Producers' Council and the National Retail Lumber Dealers Association, joint sponsors of the Industry Engineered Housing which was used in the Illinois study.

"Preparation of a slide film which would demonstrate the time-saving techniques pictorially is under consideration along with other means of explaining details of cost reductions.

"The savings were attained largely because the engineered houses are built with roof trusses and non-load-bearing partitions, which make it possible to complete most of the construction before the partitions are erected. This gives workmen greater freedom of movement, as is shown by the fact that the time required for installation of plumbing was reduced 32 per cent and time spent on interior walls, ceilings, partitions, and floors, 38 per cent.

"Other important savings were attributed to adoption of the following practices: preparation of complete, accurate and carefully engineered working drawings; use of pre-cut building materials; preassembly of roof trusses, wall panels, gable ends, partitions, stairs and other units before installation in the house; well-planned handling of excavated earth; installing partitions in the proper order; and use of portable electric saws."

The Dominican Republic's \$12,000,000 hotel-building program will insure, by 1950, a total of eight new hotels to augment the 15 now dotting the island republic.

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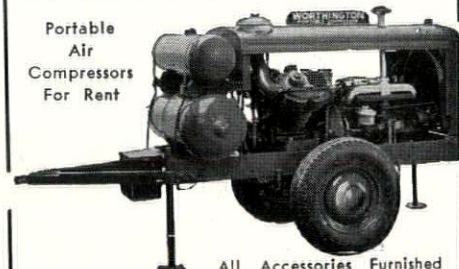
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Volume 23

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MARCH 15, 1949

No 11

## SEMINARS FEATURE 35th CONVENTION

### Capacity attendance at Building Industry Banquet

The 35th Annual Convention of the Michigan Society of Architects came to a close, with the Annual Banquet at the Hotel Statler in Detroit, Friday evening, March 4. While the business sessions and the seminars were not as well attended as was hoped for, attendance at the Banquet made up for it. The entire banquet facilities at the Hotel were taxed, with over 1,000 in attendance.

The convention opened with a board of directors meeting at breakfast and continued with meetings of the three main committees of the Society

during the morning. At the afternoon session Thursday, reports were heard from the treasurer, the auditing committee and other reports as previously published. Joseph W. Leinweber, Vice-President, of Detroit, presented President Dow with a key to the city, which was a very large key and the ceremony very impressive. President Dow appointed Cornelius L. T. Gabler, Adrian N. Langius, Carl C. F. Kressbach and himself as a committee to consider what disposition is to be made of the Architects Show after it leaves Detroit. At the suggestion of Professor Hammett, he will also appoint a committee to consider and report to the next board meeting on the advisability of changing the time of the Annual Convention.

The Thursday afternoon session was devoted to the subject of "The Architect's Responsibility as an Architect," with Leo M. Bauer, Society Director, as moderator. He called upon Mr. Alloys Frank Herman, who spoke on "The Architect's Responsibility to the Client", Mr. Charles B. McGrew, who spoke on "The Architect and the Contractor", and Mr. Bauer spoke on "Office Practice". Mr. Bauer's secretary was present and we hope to have their manuscripts to publish at a later date. Much discussion followed the most interesting talks. Significant was the mention of the cost of bidding jobs, when too often the architect should know that sufficient funds are not available and the job will not go ahead. This led to a

discussion of the quantity survey system as used in England. Also discussed was the contractor-architect whose practice is becoming more common, even on a national scale. Mr. Walter A. Taylor, of The Octagon Staff, in Washington, expressed the hope that a transcript could be sent to The Institute for Mr. Purves' use.

Mr. Bauer dealt with such subjects as free sketches, which he said were as unfair as the contractor-architect. He emphasized the responsibility of the architect in training young men for the profession. Mr. Kressbach, who presided at the session, thanked the participants for a most constructive program.

Thursday evening Alden Dow showed his colored motion pictures taken at the Mid-Summer conference at Mackinac Island last August. He played soft music which he had synchronized with the picture, and Roger Allen as narrator made of this a complete and full-length production. Many of those present had the opportunity of seeing themselves in pictures.

Friday morning Professor Ralph Hammett presided at a seminar devoted to the subject of "Housing the American Family". Mr. William T. Guinan, Executive Director of the Builders Association of Metropolitan Detroit, spoke on "The Problem as the Builder and Real Estate Man sees it". Mr. Fred Sturm, Head of the Michigan Office, F.H.A., spoke on "New Wrinkles in the F.H.A. Program to help solve the Problem," and Mr. James H. Inglis,

Director-Secretary of the Detroit Housing Commission on "Detroit is Working Toward a Solution". Owen A. Luckenbach, A.I.A., of O'dell, Hewlett & Luckenbach, represented the architects in speaking on "Housing is the Architect's Problem."

Mr. Guinan mentioned the lack of adequate financing as the chief obstacle to the low-cost problem today. He advocated an orderly national demolition plan to reclaim our obsolescent areas.

Mr. Sturm stated that for a long time there had been a misconception on the part of many as to the F.H.A. attitude regarding so-called modern design. He said that F.H.A. believes that good taste is always good taste, but just as many mistakes can be made under contemporary design as under traditional. He stated that the design of small houses is probably the most neglected in the field of building, and lamented the fact that architects have not taken a great interest in it. New technical advances are being made, he said, mentioning particularly the heating industry.

Mr. Inglis outlined the city's program by dwelling on the acute shortage of living units. His office had 19,000 applications last year and were able to place only 1,400. Production does not even begin to keep pace with the increase in population, he said.

Mr. Luckenbach said that this certainly is the architects' problem but that far too few of them have interested themselves in it. Can anyone say



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"This is not our problem?" he asked, "when block after block of houses are being built without proper regard for environment. His talk was published, in large part, in the Friday edition of The Detroit News. We shall give the text in full in a future edition of the Weekly Bulletin.

Questions and answers held the interest of the audience until far past the time to adjourn.

The Producers' Council, Michigan Chapter, the Builders and Traders Exchange of Detroit and our other friends in the building industry made the Convention all the more enjoyable. There were some fine exhibits, though they were put on by direct arrangements with the Hotel. They were not planned by the Convention Committee.

The visit to The Detroit Institute of Arts Friday afternoon brought out a steady stream of architects and guests, which lasted until the cocktail hour, when the Builders and Traders entertained all those attending the Convention. This was one of the most delightful events and was everything Ed Brunner said it would be. The Banquet, of course, was the crowning event, and far exceeded in attendance any previous one. President Dow opened the program and welcomed those present, thanking the sponsoring organizations. He also thanked the Show Committee and called upon members of the Show Committee to stand. He introduced the toastmaster, Roger Allen, who was in fine form and kept his audience in good spirits. He said it was rather confusing as they had switched governors on him since last year.

Clair W. Ditchy, as national secretary of The American Institute of Architects, responded to a request to speak a few words on behalf of The Institute. He did so in his inimitable way.

Roger introduced the distinguished guests at the speakers' table, including the presidents of various organizations in the industry. He introduced Governor G. Mennen Williams, who addressed the assembly, giving a report on his program at Lansing, particularly with regard to the building program. The Governor's talk will also be published in the Weekly Bulletin later.

## VACATIONING IN FLORIDA

JOHN O. BLAIR, Treasurer of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., left for Florida on March 2. He drove Mrs. Blair down, will fly back on April 28. Mrs. Blair will remain for a longer period. They will spend their vacation in Miami, where they have been going for several years.

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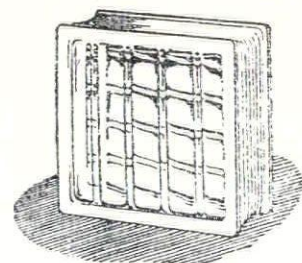
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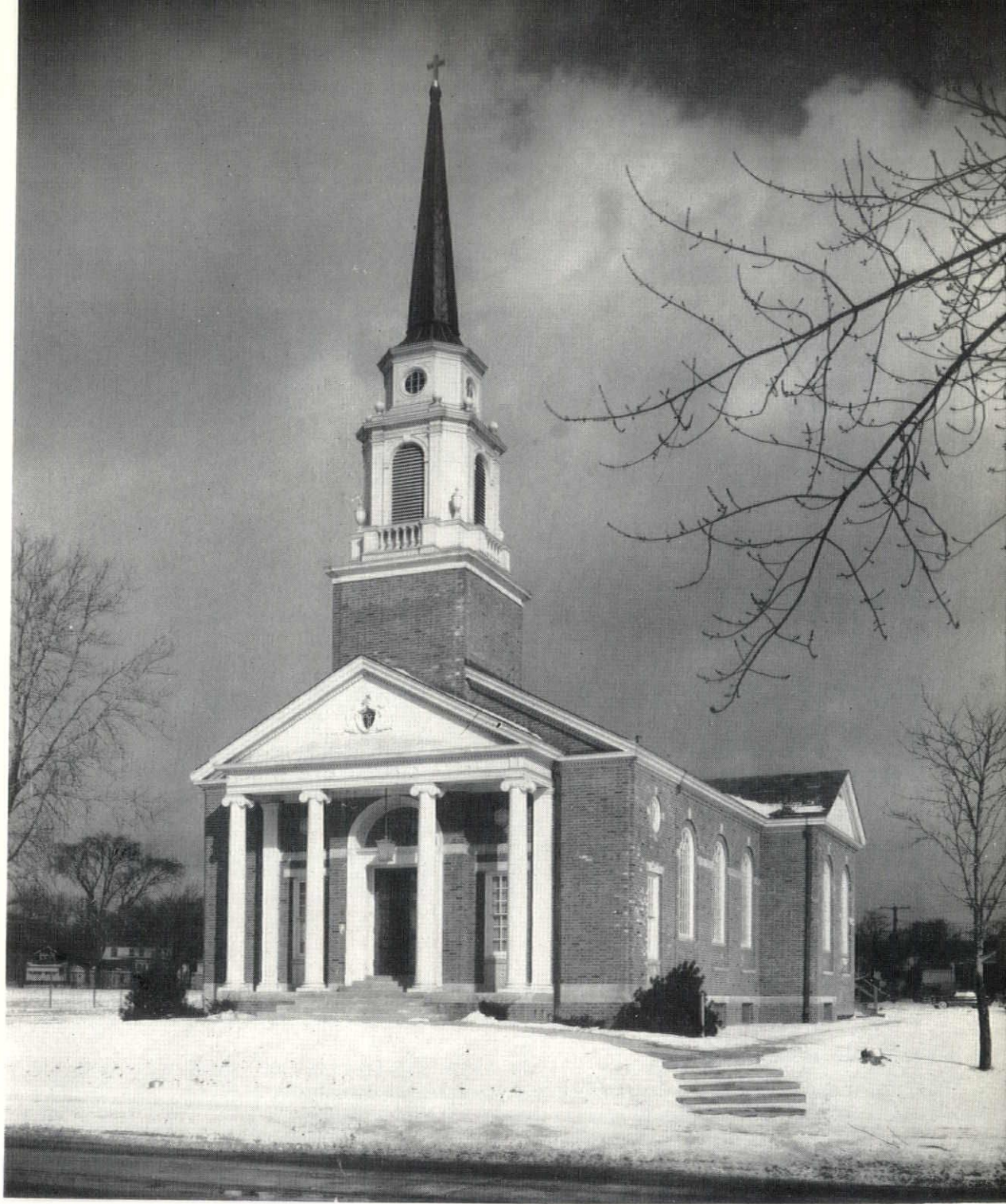
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ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY McMILLAN ROAD AT KERCHEVAL, GROSSE POINTE FARMS, MICHIGAN

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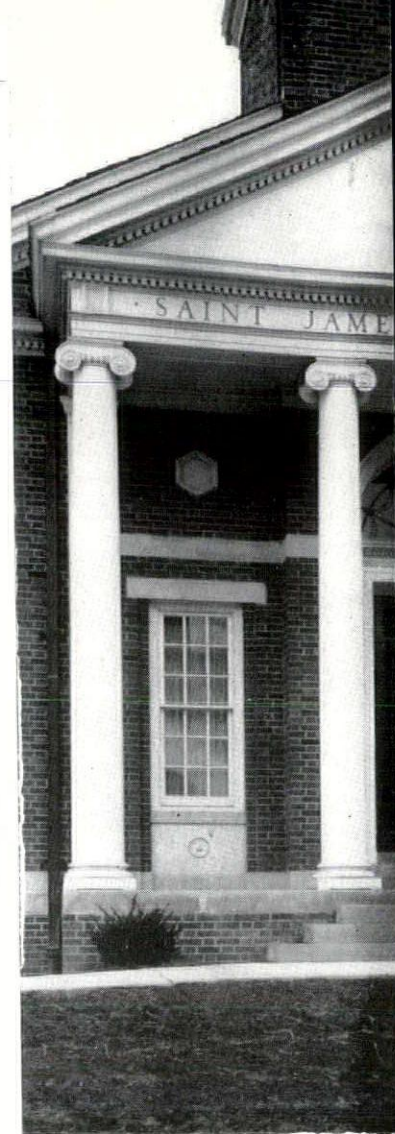
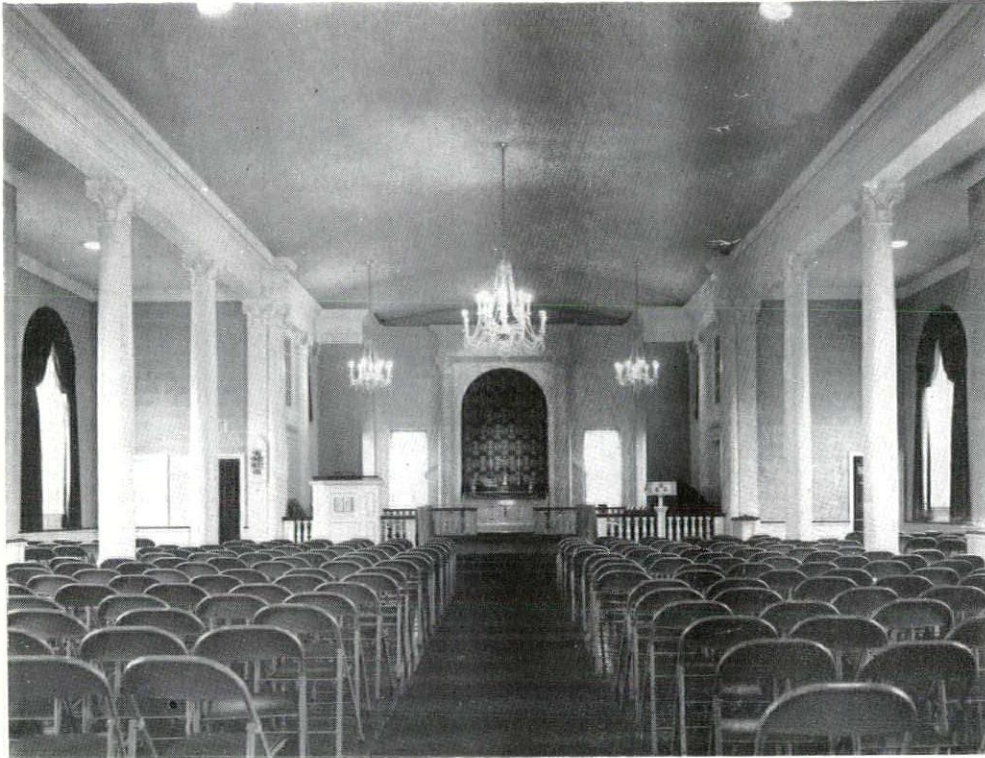


LEFT: Architect's rendering of Complete project — northwest elevation.



"The Church should have a tapering spire,  
To point to realms where sin's forgiven,  
And lead men's thoughts from earth to heaven."

—JOHN E. WOODROW



## NEIGHBORHOOD DETERMINES STYLE

COMMITTEE LIKED AIRINESS AND SUN

BY DAVID H. WILLIAMS, JR., A

The St. James Lutheran Church was recently organized. They chose a site in the vicinity of the Grosse Pointe High School, or in a district of Colonial architecture, therefore, the church committee departed from the customary Gothic and asked us to design their church building in Georgian style, to conform to the neighborhood. Also they liked the airiness and sunshine which is found in that type of architecture.

The building is designed for and will accommodate four hundred or more seats representing about sixty percent of the ultimate membership. The Sun-

day school wing and the pastor's office wing were planned but not allowed to be built on account of the restrictions. The tower and portico were later released by the government as the building was started during the restricted period. The specially designed pews and choir stalls have not arrived as you will see by the photographs.

The building is faced with Harvard type face brick laid in Flemish bond. The trim is Bedford stone with columns, cornices, carvings, etc., of wood. The interior is cinder block and

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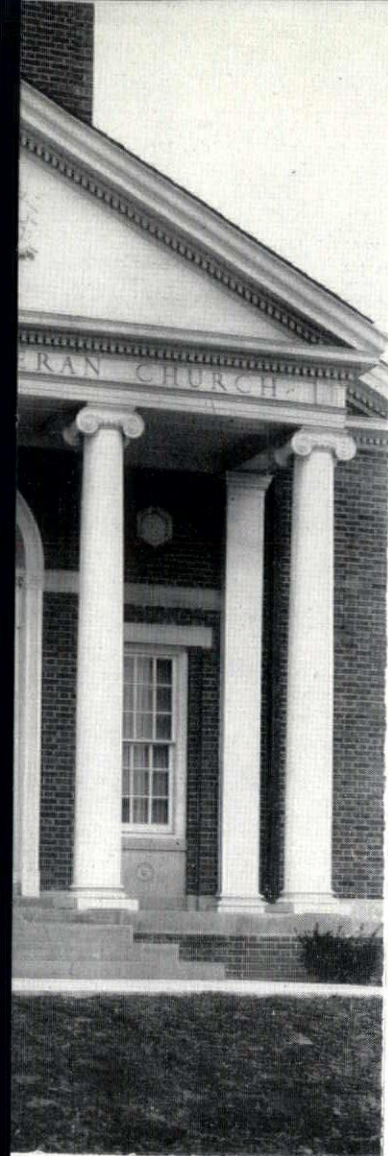
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erved by large window draper-  
and ceiling is of acoustic plaster.  
e interior is architecturally lighted  
crystal and silver fixtures and di-  
t flush type fixtures. This has cut  
cost of fixture installation. The  
es are carpeted and the main body  
the floor is asphalt tile, with slate  
thex and chancel floors. The sanc-  
ry floor and altar are marble with  
aid inserts.

A Baldwin electric organ is used  
h pipe organ chambers on either  
e of the sanctuary. The basement  
tains a large banquet room with

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ing. It, further, has the proper setting  
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ground in that area, and, thus, dom-  
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tunate in having a cooperative build-  
ing committee headed by Mr. Edward  
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## ANN ARBOR CONFERENCE

The Seventh Ann Arbor Conference will be held at the Rackham Building in Ann Arbor, Friday and Saturday, April 1 and 2, 1949. Malcolm Stirton is Chairman. The topic this year is "Mid-Century Report on Design Progress, Review-Preview." The program includes morning and afternoon sessions both on Friday and Saturday. The topic of the Friday morning session is **Communities**—that of the afternoon is **Buildings**. The session Saturday morning is given to **Equipment** while the Saturday afternoon topic is **Education**.

The list of men on the program includes Turpin Bannister of the University of Illinois; Buckminster Fuller of Chicago; Branson Gamber of Detroit; Douglas Haskell, Senior Associate Editor of the Architectural Record; Dean Joseph Hudnut of Harvard University; Nathaniel A. Owings of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, Chicago; Walter A. Taylor, Director of the Department of Education and Research, American Institute of Architects in Washington; and Kenneth Welch of Grand Rapids, with many others.

Architects and others who are in-

terested are cordially invited to attend. Those who plan to stay over-night should apply immediately to the Michigan Union for room accommodations.

## CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE 1949 ARCHITECTS EXHIBIT

We regret the omission of the Show Construction Committee from the list published in the Convention Number of the Bulletin. With apologies, we herewith list this Committee as follows:

VICTOR J. BASSO  
L. ROBERT BLAKESLEE  
Co-Chairmen  
JOHN T. HILBERG  
ARTHUR H. MESSING  
JAMES B. MORISON  
EDWARD G. ROSELLA

Sunday evening, February 27, the Show was televised over WWJ-TV, when Earl W. Pellerin, Chairman of the Show Committee, and Harry Morris, one of the most active workers, were interviewed and rather comprehensive views of the exhibits were carried over the air.

**B. C. WETZEL, AIA** suffered a heart attack on February 18 and was taken to Henry Ford Hospital. Mr. Wetzel has been in ill health since a previous attack about two years ago. Reports are that he is progressing as well as could be expected and it is hoped that he will be at home again within a few days. The home and office are at 4643 Pacific Avenue, Detroit.

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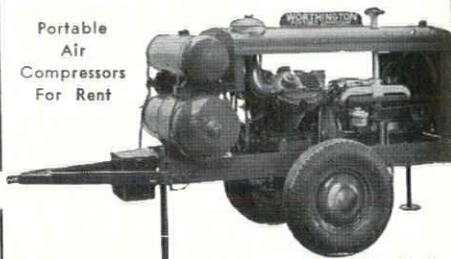
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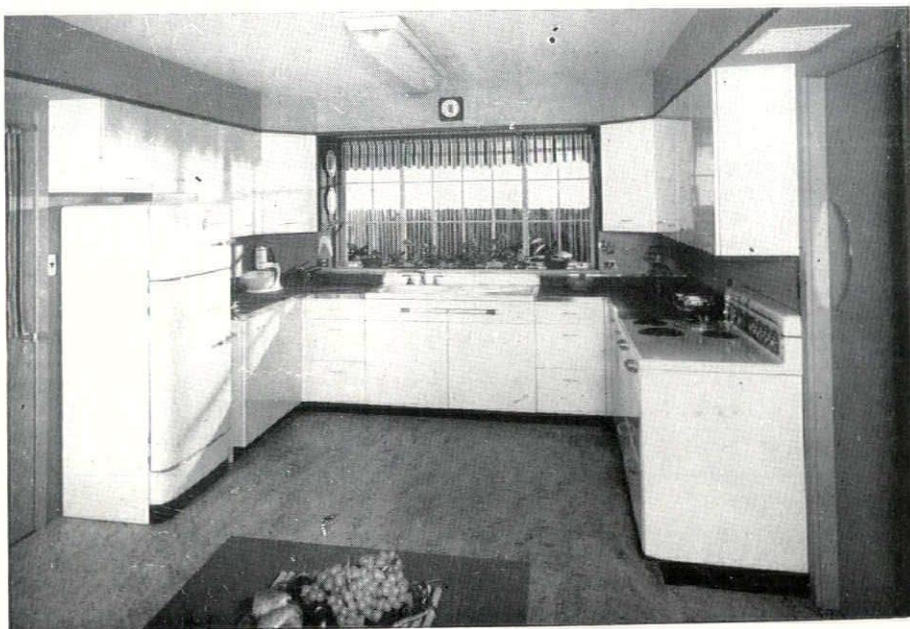
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Edited by

E. J. BRUNNER

Secretary-Manager

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EXCHANGE of DETROIT**PLAN BETTER WINDOWS**

Window planning for a new home should give careful attention to certain important principles with the homeowner's comfort, health and enjoyment in mind, according to Detroit Steel Products Co., makers of Fenestra steel windows and other building products.

In a recent booklet, the Company points out that proper fenestration should give abundant daylight; ample fresh air; generous see-through vision; protection from the weather, insects, and intruders; and other important benefits.

To this end, the publication sets down five principles which govern the effective use of windows in a home. These are:

1. For convenience in attaching accessories, such as storm sash, Venetian blinds and awnings, divide a very large window into two or more relatively small window units, combining them with mullions.

2. For more daylight, use windows in number and size that afford proper glass areas in proportion to floor areas, locating them carefully for greater daylighting efficiency. Choose and/or arrange screens, shades, curtains to minimize absorption of daylight.

3. For better ventilation, use windows adequate in number and opening area, equipped with air-deflector ventilators, so located as to catch the breezes from various directions including that from prevailing winds.

4. For conserving wall space, locate windows of proper dimensions so as to minimize interference with placement of furniture.

5. For changing the appearance of your windows to suit your individual taste, make a wise choice of ventilator arrangements, muntin variations, and combinations of window units.

The book is available by writing Detroit Steel Products Company, 3235 Griffin St., Detroit 11, Michigan, and enclosing 10 cents to cover postage and handling.

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**PRODUCERS MEETING**

Producers' Council, Inc., Michigan Chapter met for luncheon at the War-dell Sheraton in Detroit on Monday, February 14.

Vice-President William E. Ogden, of Marsh Wall Products Company, presided and was officially named President, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Martin J. Maley, who died on January 6. A moment of silence was observed in memory of Mart, "one of the grandest fellows we ever knew."

Bill Ogden welcomed Mr. G. G. Bernard, formerly of Indianapolis, now the new manager of Chamberlin Company of America, and Mr. D. D. Temple, as new alternate for U.S. Plywood Corporation.

The Michigan Chapter now has forty members.

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Volume 23

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MARCH 22, 1949

No. 12

## DETROIT CHAPTER DISCUSSES CONVENTION

Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., met on March 2, a dinner in the Rackham Building. This was a closed meeting for members to "come and get it off your chest". However, attendance was small, only 50, which might be taken to mean that members haven't so many "gripes" as to how the Institute and the Chapter are being conducted. Then again, it may not. Who knows?

Vice-President Leinweber again presided and reported that President Williams was progressing nicely but was not able to attend this meeting. Joe reported briefly for the Board—approved student associate application of Peter Tarapata; associates, Robert W. Shaffer and Ronald E. Lilly; corporate, William Richard Armor. Fred Strauss was appointed Chapter representative on joint Elevator Code Committee, for the City of Detroit. Branson V. Gamber was added to the Committee to Cooperate with the Detroit City Plan Commission.

Mr. Leinweber made an announcement that Clair W. Ditchy had been nominated by the Detroit Chapter and by the Saginaw Valley Chapter, to succeed himself as Secretary of The Institute. This had not appeared in the Bulletin of The A.I.A. The meeting voted unanimously to support Mr. Ditchy's candidacy. Dean Bennett will be chairman of the Detroit delegation.

Kenneth Black was in charge of this meeting. He called for an old-fashioned roll-call in order to acquaint one another with newer members. Mr. Black announced that this was his "official" visit to the Detroit Chapter, as District Director. He gave a very clear statement of the functioning of the Institute under its new plan of organization. He emphasized the fact that The Institute is not just some impersonal organization in Washington to send out bulletins and bills, but is made up of

its chapters, which are in turn made up of individual members. It is impossible to have a strong Institute with weak chapters or a strong chapter with disinterested members, he said, adding that "you men right here are The Institute."

Kenneth called upon Branson Gamber to play the recording on Mr. Maginnis' acceptance speech delivered at the Salt Lake City Convention on the occasion of his being awarded the Institute's Gold Medal. Mr. Gamber reviewed the honors which the Institute bestows, stating that the Gold Medal is the highest. He first played the side of the record containing President Orr's presentation on behalf of the Institute, then Mr. Maginnis' response. As Mr. Gamber said, it was too bad that Mr. Maginnis could not be seen as that was an important part of the speech. However, it was most enjoyable and a real treat to hear one whom the late Institute President Richmond Harold Shreve designated as "the casual exponent of the unattainable in the art of speech."

Mr. Black introduced Mr. Walter A. Taylor, Director of the Department of Education and Research, on The Institute staff in Washington. Mr. Taylor explained the new structure of The Institute and gave his audience a clear answer to the question, "What is The Institute doing?" He also announced the subjects for seminars at the Houston Convention and listed the outstanding speakers.

Mr. Black read the questions listed for discussion, as noted on cards from members. One of the questions listed by many was that of increased dues in The Institute. The meeting voted in favor of increasing dues but against the graduated system. Candidates were discussed, particularly those for the office of president. Mr. William Wurster was favored by a large majority. The

delegates are to go uninstructed, but are expected to be guided by the sense of the meeting. The other questions were discussed as time permitted and some will form an outline for the program committee in arranging future meetings.

### "HOUSING IS THE ARCHITECT'S PROBLEM"

By Owen A. Luckenbach

*A Talk before the Michigan Society of Architects 35th Annual Convention.*

When Mr. Hammett asked me to participate in a seminar on Housing, the subject of this talk was to be "The Architect's Part in the Solution of the Problem." That is a good title. The Architect has a very important part, but so do the builders, financiers, real estate people, and government. But when I received a letter verifying this the title had been changed to "Housing is the Architect's Problem." The Detroit Housing Commission and the Council would certainly be willing to toss it in our lap, and Congress would certainly like to get out from under.

Seriously, the two titles are not so far apart as they sound. Housing is the Architect's problem, but far too few architects or, for that matter, others connected with the problem, want to look at the problem in its entirety. Important as they are, the financial, construction and building problems are not the only considerations. There is, it seems to me, a fundamental requirement which is too often overlooked. When we are building housing, we are building a new community or changing an old one. We should be trying to create a new environment, not just replacing new houses for old. People can live and live nicely in an old obsolete house if the neighborhood is



right. Thousands living in small towns in old houses prove this. Everyone here would rather live in an old house in a good neighborhood than in the newest house in an undesirable neighborhood.

It will do no good to replace all the old houses in Detroit with new modern homes or apartments as in a short time they will become only modern slums, unless we create a proper environment. Too many of the Federal Housing Projects will become just that. They will be somewhat cleaner, they won't be over crowded, they will have a little more play areas, more parking spaces, but only by comparison with other slum areas will they be better unless there is a more conscious effort to build neighborhoods and create a pleasant community life and spirit. It is one of the architect's problems, and all in housing to define this exterior environment, and when slum clearance is built see that good neighborhoods instead of just living units are built. It is not an easy problem and there are no easy answers that we can find in a book. The problem of living in a motor car age is new, and the changes that industrialization have

forced on the City are just now being widely recognized. Practical men realize that we cannot continue to build housing of any kind and see it become almost totally obsolete in thirty to fifty years, not because the dwellings are obsolete but only because the exterior environment becomes impossible. And yet they call any planner who wants to change the pattern and avoid this an impractical long haired dreamer. How long can we afford the economic waste of obsoleting our housing periodically? Can any of us say with any conscience whatever "That is not our problem?" Sooner or later the public will wake up to the fact that it is more important to buy a good neighborhood than a good house. They should be able to get both today. Can they?

Where can you buy a house where the neighborhood is protected from other neighborhoods?

Where the streets carry nothing but local traffic so children are reasonably safe?

Where the school is only a maximum of ½ mile from any house?

Where you can safely walk a short distance to shop and meet your neighbors?

Where the school is used as a community center and the playground is adequate?

There are other requirements you can name, but you can't find very many of them in existing housing.

So far in Detroit, real estate men and builders are only building houses, just block after block of nice new efficient houses, but they still do not collectively create a proper environment—a good neighborhood. It is almost as if they would deliberately become (not so desirable places to live) when the fifteen or twenty year mortgage becomes fully paid up. Now that previously subdivided and improved land is practically used up, the realtors and builders could turn to laying out and building communities instead of just houses. We certainly hope they will but there seems too little evidence of it. For the average builder and realtor, a new house is just a saleable commodity no matter where it is. Of course, a good location helps but outside of saying that a good location is one near a school, or shopping center and transportation, very little else is considered. There is, however, a growing recognition among builders that something should be done other than just build houses, and it is definitely the problem of the architect to define and create a solution of this problem. He should analyze neighborhood needs and wants and within practical limits meet at least the minimum of good living.

The F. H. A. recognizes that this is a paramount problem, but have not definitely defined the problem nor have they offered any more than partial answers, in that they try to do something about subdivision layouts. As far as how the subdivision should fit into the

City or neighborhood, considered as a whole, they are rather vague. One tendency of the F.H.A. that we feel is definitely bad is grouping of similar price houses and therefore segregating economic groups together in large concentrations. Perhaps this is for some reason necessary, but it is not desirable. How much better, sociologically are the small New England towns where the banker lives only a block away from his clerk, or butcher.

The Architect has not been conscious or at least has given very little time to these aspects of the problem, and it is his problem because none of the other participants in housing have by training been prepared to look objectively at the over-all, long range, as well as the practical immediate aspects of a problem.

I earnestly hope that all of us interested in, or working in housing try to build a proper environment not just housing. A civilization that builds motor cars, highways, aeroplanes, and has split the atom should be able to build nice places to live.

#### BULLETIN:

I have been wanting to say that I like your presentation of buildings in the Weekly Bulletin. But many times I have wished for plans. Don't you suppose that a floor plan would help out fellows like me who can't understand anything from pictures?

Tell Lowell M. Price that he needn't apologize for that school at all. It is a workmanlike job and much better than most schools where the architects have had more to spend. I'd like to see the plan of that too.—L. Morgan Yost, Kenilworth, Ill.

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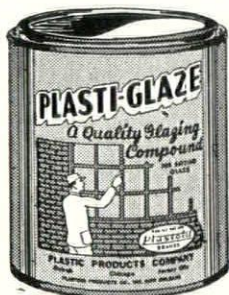
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# TOM'S QUALITY MARKET

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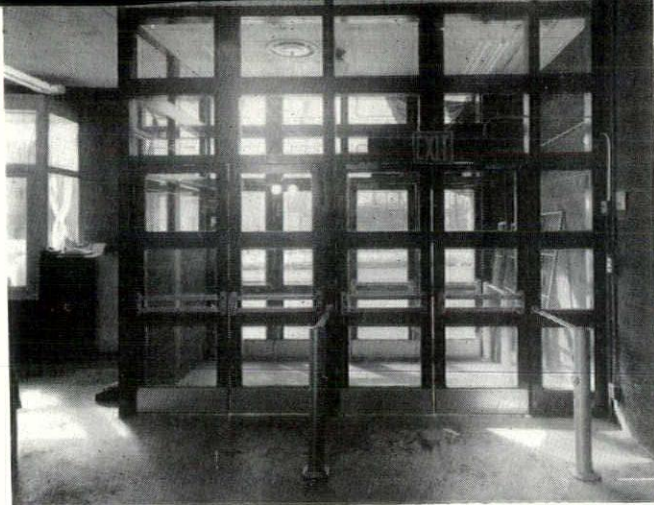
ARNOLD AND FUGER

DESIGNERS

DETROIT, MICHIGAN

—PHOTO BY SMITH BROTHERS





Interior front entrance and exit showing magic-eye equipment—A boon to bundle-carrying customers.

SMITH BROS. PHOTO

ARNOLD AND FUGER

Designers

FREDERICK W. FUGER, A.I.A.

Architect

LESLIE W. J. ARNOLD

Design Engineer

Detroit, Michigan

## NEW SUPER-MARKET IN ROYAL OAK, MICHIGAN DESIGNED AS NUCLEUS FOR SHOPPING CENTER

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BY FREDERICK W. FUGER, A.I.A.

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The store front is faced with white Cherokee marble, being a clean neutral color.

The roof is flat and of poured gypsum on one inch weatherwood insulation and a suspended ceiling of one inch acousti-celotex.

Various floor treatments were considered, but in the interest of economy and wearing qualities, concrete with a hardened finish was used.

The entrance and exit doors were

Looking toward store front. Entrance doors in left background.



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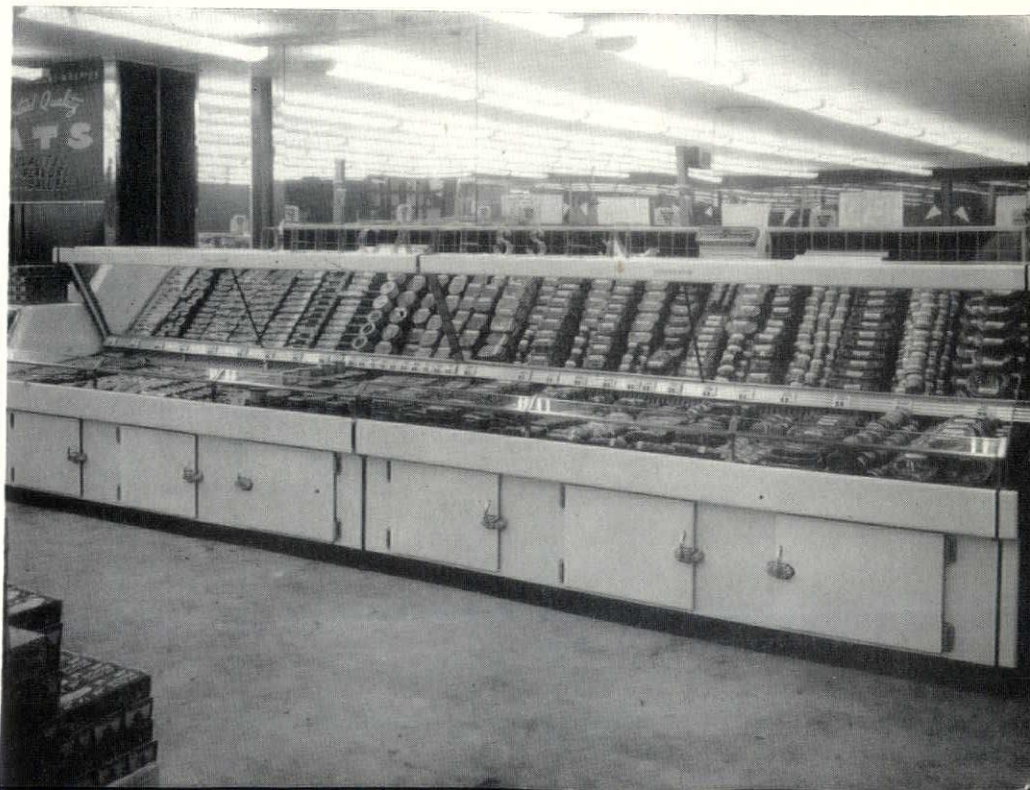
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*Meat counter. Wall mirror extends from tile wainscot to ceiling.*



ABOVE: Smith Brothers Photo

RIGHT: Ransier Studio Photo



# JUSTEMENT GIVES A.I.A. VIEWS ON HOUSING

Louis Justement of Washington, D.C., has placed the support of The American Institute of Architects behind the Housing Act of 1949 now under consideration by both branches of Congress.

In a statement prepared for presentation to the subcommittee of the Senate Banking and Currency Committee, Mr. Justement suggested several amendments to the proposed bill which would provide greater autonomy for local communities engaging in large-scale low-cost housing.

He cited the approval of The A.I.A. for "public housing for families of low income."

Mr. Justement told the committee: "I am authorized to state that The American Institute of Architects approves S. 138 (the Housing Act of 1949). This approval is not conditioned upon the adoption of the suggestions contained in this statement, but we believe that the bill would be improved materially if it is modified in accordance with the following recommendations."

The chief changes in the proposed bill suggested by Mr. Justement on behalf of The American Institute of Architects are as follows:

1. Title I of the Housing Bill, which refers to slum clearance, "is the most important title of S. 138 in its long-range implications although the present housing shortage will restrict its practical application on a large scale for several years to come," said Mr. Justement.

"We regret to see the administration of this important function made subordinate to housing. Housing is only one part of urban redevelopment and

should not become the controlling factor.

"If we approach urban redevelopment from the point of view of mere slum clearance, there will be a strong temptation to replace patches of blighted housing with patches of sanitary housing without striving for improvements in the entire city pattern."

2. Mr. Justement suggested elimination of Section 101 of Title I of the bill, a section which makes Federal assistance contingent on modifications of local building codes and local building practices. This section might—and probably would—result in the preparation by the Administrator of certain Federal standards with respect to the items enumerated," said the architect. "There would thus be created another source of resentment on the part of local communities with respect to dictation by the Federal Government. We believe that this section should be eliminated entirely."

3. The A.I.A. spokesman suggested that local communities be given greater freedom, in solving the problem of relocating families moved away from a housing project site, than is permitted in the housing bill. "We believe that local communities should be allowed great latitude in solving this very difficult problem," said Mr. Justement. "They may, for instance, desire to provide rental subsidies to the displaced families in order to permit these families to solve their own housing problems at much less cost to the government and with much less red tape."

4. Mr. Justement urged a broadening of the definition of the word "project" as pertaining to slum clearance so that it would mean more than the use of land which is "predominately residential in character." The present wording, he pointed out, "might prevent effective urban redevelopment through this misplaced emphasis."

5. The A.I.A. spokesman, in considering the Title II section on Low-Rent Public Housing, suggested a change in the proposed gap of 20 per cent, marking the difference between the lowest rents being charged for private enterprise structures and the highest rents which can be permitted in public housing dwellings.

"This type of requirement has always been somewhat arbitrary and difficult of administration even under pre-war conditions," Mr. Justement asserted. "Under present conditions of acute housing shortage and rent-control these difficulties are aggravated. It is likely that the minimum gap provided by the law will also be the maximum. We believe that local housing authorities should be encouraged to serve a wider range of housing needs for low income families and that this result might be obtained by increasing the gap between public and private housing from 20 to 25 per cent, but basing it on an average figure for the public housing project so that the latter could, for instance, provide minimum rentals as much as 35 per cent below the private housing minimum by making its maximum rent only 15 per cent below the private housing minimum."

"It would seem also that some clarification is needed concerning the manner in which private rentals are to be measured . . . As long as we have rent-control, rentals on existing structures are meaningless from the point of view of making realistic comparisons with rentals on new housing, either public or private, and it would seem desirable to make this point clear."

6. The cost limitation of \$1,750 per room is "likely to be too low for many communities," Mr. Justement commented, but an additional \$750, permitted under certain circumstances, "should be sufficient to take care of such cases."

7. In commenting on the "annual contributions" to be made by the Government to implement this program, The A.I.A. representative said they "appear to be liberal and they may be predicated on establishing a rental scale comparable to the pre-war public housing. Since wages are more than twice what they were during the pre-war period it would seem that average rentals for post-war public housing should be at least twice as much as they were in the pre-war period. This might permit a very substantial reduction in the amount of the annual grants necessitated under this bill."

"We realize, of course, that the reduction in the period of amortization from 60 years to 40 years—a reduction which we believe is desirable—will necessitate an increase in the amount of the annual contributions; but the amount of the increase, per family, as provided in this bill appears excessive."

8. The proposed housing bill, Mr. Justement indicated, requires a local community to contribute its share to public housing by permitting tax ex-

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emption, in part. "We believe," he said, "that it is unwise to compel the local community to provide partial tax-exemption in lieu of a cash contribution—even though most of them may prefer to solve the problem of tax-exemption. We believe that it makes for better municipal bookkeeping to tax public housing projects on the same basis as private housing projects; the municipality should, therefore, have the right to make its contribution in some other form than that of tax-exemption."

9. The American Institute of Architects' spokesman asked that in the planning and design of individual projects, the local housing authorities be given the widest possible latitude.

"One of the legitimate complaints concerning public housing projects," he asserted, "is that they suffer from excessive standardization and that local initiative and ingenuity is handicapped by needless red-tape due to the formulation of 'standards' by the Public Housing Authorities."

"We are firmly convinced that local authorities should be encouraged to rely on their own ingenuity in meeting their own problems in their own way. While some of the more inexperienced local authorities may make mistakes,

these will be offset by the better results secured by others when freed from centralized controls.

"There is no magic formula in housing and we have tried everything to gain from experimentation and the application of trial and error methods based on competitive striving for the best results. The function of the Federal government in housing should be that of assisting the municipalities financially (because of their limited sources of income) and not that of needless detailed control over the planning and design of individual projects."

10. Mr. Justement called for specification of the amount necessary to carry on "housing research" under terms of the proposed bill. "Unless the amount is adequate—and sufficient to permit experimental construction and testing of such construction—the research is apt to degenerate into an examination of existing reports and data and the compilation of further reports which nobody reads," he asserted. "We believe that technical research in this field is desirable but only if it is undertaken on an adequate basis."

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### JOINT RESEARCH PROJECT

Construction and architecture, and the numerous industries associated with them, must collaborate in a new type of research on the advances of science in order to improve their contribution to society. Douglas William Orr, President of The American Institute of Architects, today told the 30th Anniversary Convention of the Associated General Contractors of America at the Waldorf-Astoria, New York.

"At this time, when need has never been greater, what is required of all is not a policy of containment, each in his own little cubicle, but a policy of expansion, broader thinking, deeper analysis, more imagination, more comprehensive knowledge of one another's problems, and greater coordination," Mr. Orr said.

Although much fundamental and applied research is going on in laboratories and centers of learning, and the Institute of Architects endeavors to digest and correlate the findings of all these sources, there is insufficient research under way to discover means and methods of coordinating the various parts of the industry and providing better communication within the industry, he said.

#### Joint Study Should Be Set Up

Under a study set up and directed by the Joint A.I.A.-A.G.C. Committee the whole subject of construction means and methods should be re-examined, the architect said. "Contractors, manufacturers, and all elements of the industry must become design conscious; the design professions must become structure conscious."

Through an effort such as this, the many differences between the design professions and constructors can be ironed out, he said, pointing out that the committee prepared a new document on bidding practices did an excellent job, which should be of inestimable value in putting bidding on a more uniform and business-like basis.

Mr. Orr suggested that the collaborative effort should have joint conferences on a regional basis, exchange of published material, joint chapter meetings, and consideration of reorganizing building congresses.

"Although the knowledge possessed by the contracting, architectural and engineering professions is immeasurable, and present opportunities are limitless," he concluded, "there must be dogged determination to develop better solutions for our problems, unflagging zeal in searching for ways and means, not only on the part of individuals but in joint effort."

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No. 13

## EXCERPTS FROM GOV. WILLIAMS ADDRESS

Before the 35th Annual Convention of the Michigan Society of Architects, March 4, 1949.

It was my hope and expectation that I could present to you this evening the Housing program which I intend to advance to the legislature of Michigan for action at the current legislative session. This program is being translated into the form of proposed legislation with the advice of some of the best minds in the nation on the housing problem.

I know that I do not need to tell you who are planners and builders, the necessity of some action to meet this major problem which confronts our people. The housing shortage, despite the large number of homes built during the war, remains one of our vital problems with an estimated 120,000 family units needed in Detroit alone. This need is not confined to the metropolitan areas. In Washtenaw County, for example, I am informed that approximately 5,000 additional homes are urgently needed. The human misery and social and economic damage which results from lack of adequate housing is beyond any accurate estimate. The entire people of the nation and the people of Michigan are paying the bill in disease, poverty, and waste of both human and material resources.

Children are dying in the flames of burning shacks because we, collectively as a people, have thus far failed to meet the problem of adequate and decent homes.

My administration has approached this problem with one fundamental premise in mind: that under our economic system the private building industry will be our main reliance in finding a solution.

However, realism compels us to recognize the fact that for a combination of reasons, the private building industry is not in a position to fill, rapidly enough, the need for homes in the one area where the need is greatest—that

is among middle class people who can pay only a moderate price in rent or mortgage costs.

I have recommended to the legislature that the State of Michigan should enter into a cooperative program with the local units of government with the aim of providing 20,000 units to house approximately 80,000 persons. The budget which I have presented to the legislature provides for 3 million dollars which we intend shall be appropriated as the cost of the state's share of financing such a program.

What we have in mind is a building program whereby the state and local units, with what Federal help is available, could immediately begin a construction program using the state's appropriation to defray in part the cost of financing.

Unfortunately, because this is a new concept in Michigan, although not in other states, we have run into certain constitutional problems concerning the legal capacity of the State government to engage in this type of program. These problems are being worked out as rapidly as possible. I can tell you now that by the end of the next week, I hope that we will have in the hands of our legislature, bills to accomplish the objectives I have outlined. Because of the legal problems which we encountered, it is not possible for me to give you tonight, as I had hoped, a detailed account of our plans. But I know that you will watch for next week's developments and weigh the program we advance carefully in your minds—with the knowledge that we must find a way to make progress or we break faith with the people of our state who expect something concrete to be done about this matter.

Speaking of the housing problem, let me point out that one of our worst examples of substandard housing—fire ha-

zard, obsolete and unsanitary buildings—is the hospital situation in this State. Not only do we have far too few beds for the urgent needs of the ill and afflicted, but many of the hospitals we have should and must soon be replaced with modern, decent, safe facilities. I want you to know—since you are the people who will eventually do the actual work—that I am firmly resolved to press forward with new hospital construction. I have recommended appropriation of seven and one-half million dollars for actual construction of the mental hospital at Northville over a 2 year period. I have approved a plan for a new receiving hospital at Kalamazoo, and I have instructed my staff to work energetically in getting the tuberculosis sanatorium in Houghton County under way. All of us who are interested in making real progress toward an adequate hospital system will be disturbed—as I am—by the fact that in connection with the Federal Aid Program, we have contracted for only about 96 hospital beds, and those mere additions to existing hospitals, in the last fourteen months. It is my feeling that a larger portion of the four million four-hundred thousand of Federal aid money available to us should have been committed to hospital construction and some actual construction begun. The funds available are sufficient to build about 850 beds. I am taking steps to see to it that we get action toward the full use of this Federal aid in the construction of Michigan hospitals.

The need for veterans' hospitals in our State is a separate but allied problem. As you may have read in the newspapers, two badly needed veteran administration hospitals—one for 500 tuberculosis veterans in Detroit and another for a 200-bed general hospital in Grand Rapids—were canceled by the



Federal government last December. We have taken all possible steps to get these projects reinstated on the program of the veterans' administration. We have pointed out that ratio of hospital facilities for veterans in Michigan is much lower—and will still be lower even with this construction—than in neighboring industrial states.

You may be surprised to know that not everyone in Michigan desires that these veterans' hospitals should be built. There are some who for reasons which seem to me to be quite beside the point would prefer. I am afraid, to let things stand as they are. Michigan Congressmen of both parties have joined with me in efforts to get these projects reinstated. Veterans' organizations are also helping. I want to solicit your active support, so that veterans living in our State may be given an equal opportunity for decent care and treatment with these residents in other states.

Despite the fact that we have been delayed a bit in our housing program, I am happy to report to you tonight that almost all of the rest of the program which I promised the people of Michigan I would fight for, has now

been put to the Legislature in the form of proposed legislation. This is the first occasion on which I could make that statement, because it was only during the last week that bills were actually filed embodying administration proposals on the reform of our prison system and the revision of our unemployment compensation act.

It is fitting that I should make this first report to you on this occasion. You are planners and builders of physical buildings. My duty and function is to plan and, if possible, to get constructed an edifice of law which will meet the problems of our people and bring our State into line with other progressive commonwealths in dealing with this basic problem.

Last fall during the campaign as I drove from one end of the State to the other, I laid down the specifications for this construction project. Those specifications were approved by the people of Michigan who, by their votes, commissioned me and my associates to carry out the program which we promised. Immediately after the election I began to seek advice from experts in all of these fields in order to determine what actual legislation would most accurately and equitably carry out the terms of this contract which I made with the people of Michigan. Through advisory committees, the outlines of the bills were drafted. Since the first of January, we have been preparing and putting before the Legislature one by one of the major piers and girders of the structure which the people commissioned us to build.

I want to give you a brief description of the major measures of this program which now awaits action by the Legislature.

#### FIRST: The Farm Market Program

Under the bipartisan sponsorship of three Republican Legislators and three Democrats, a bill has been proposed in the house to establish a "Michigan Seal of Quality" for the Agricultural products of this state.

This is a project which directly affects everyone whose living depends upon the prosperity of all of our people. Michigan is known the world over as a great center of industrial production. Michigan made automobiles are a byword from one end of the nation to the other. What is not so well known is the fact that Michigan is also one of the greatest of agricultural states. The cash value of the crops produced by our farmers, fruit growers and dairy-men in 1947, you may be surprised to learn, was substantially in excess of \$713 million dollars. I consider it a part

of our job to make the agricultural products of Michigan as famous for their excellence as the industrial products of Michigan are for their engineering. The proposed legislation would empower the director of Agriculture to design a state trade mark to be known as the "Michigan Seal of Quality" and to prescribe the rules and regulations under which producers of Michigan agriculture products could use this seal in the marketing of their wares. It would furnish the Director of Agriculture with the necessary authority to promote this trade mark widely wherever products of our State are sold, and to establish it in the minds of consumers and the widest possible market as the label of the highest grade of farm produce.

#### SECOND:

We have offered concrete proposals for the rationalization of our chaotic industrialization situation. At the present time the labor laws of our state are under the cloud of adverse decisions of the Supreme Court on their constitutionality, and other portions—such as the famous provision for a state supervised strike fund—have been proved unnecessary and unworkable in practice.

We have presented to the Legislature two bills: One a Mediation Bill (See GOVERNOR WILLIAMS, Page 6)

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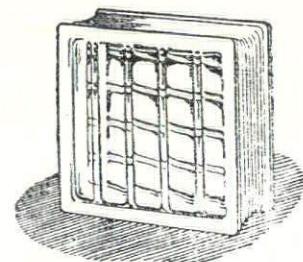


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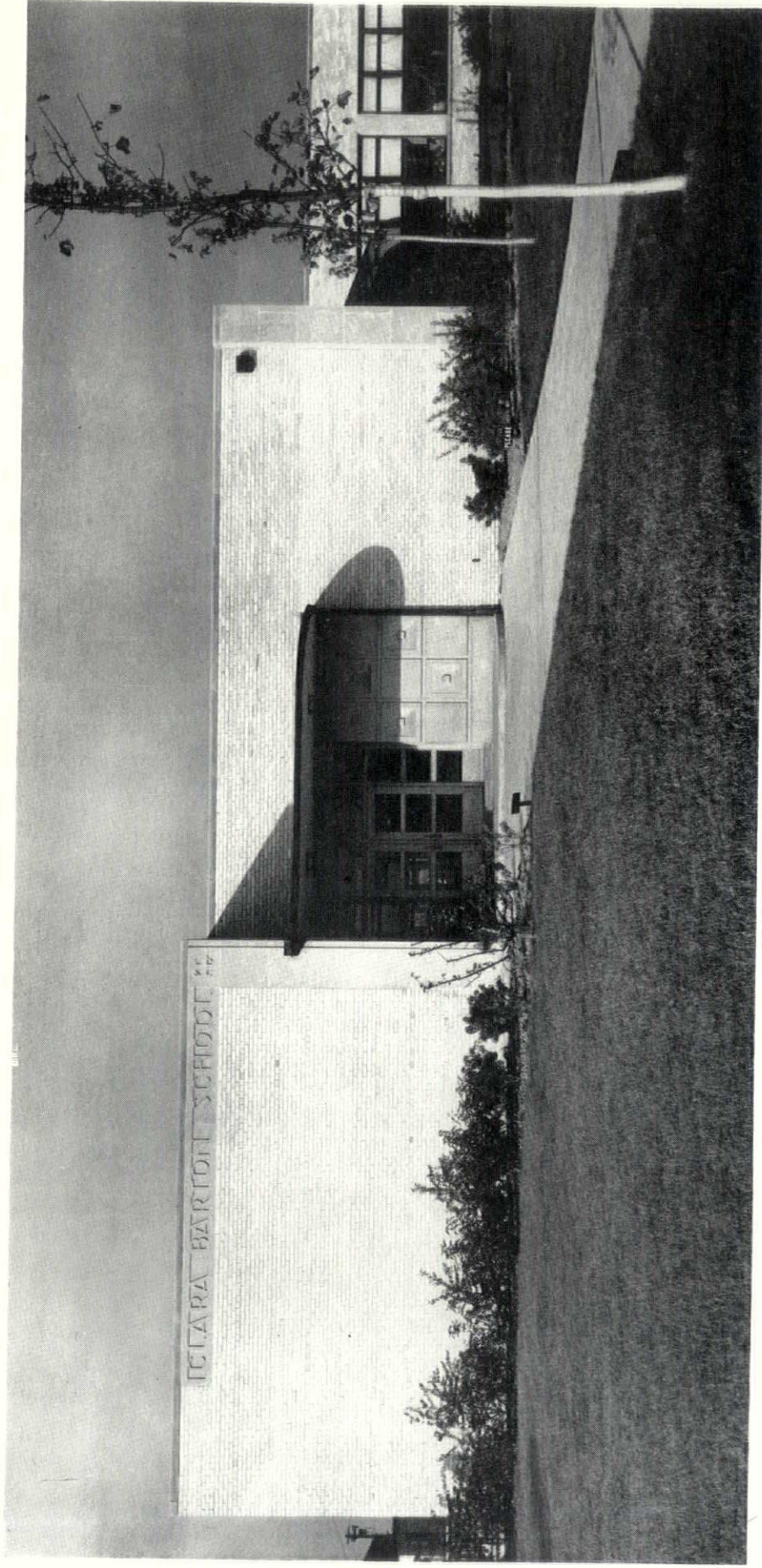
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ALOYS FRANK HERMAN, A.I.A.

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The plan contemplated the usual requirements of an elementary school with an ample kindergarten unit plus the usual auditorium and gymnasium. The boiler house is a detached unit.

The construction consists of a reinforced concrete frame with masonry exterior walls being faced with brick and stone and backed up with cinder blocks. All of the interior walls and partitions are of cinder block. Glazed facing tile has been used for toilet room walls as well as corridor and gymnasium wainscots. All ceilings throughout are treated with acoustic tile.

The design of the exterior is simple and straight forward and strongly accents the horizontal, in keeping with the contemporary trend in school building architecture. The color of the brick used is definitely on the yellow side



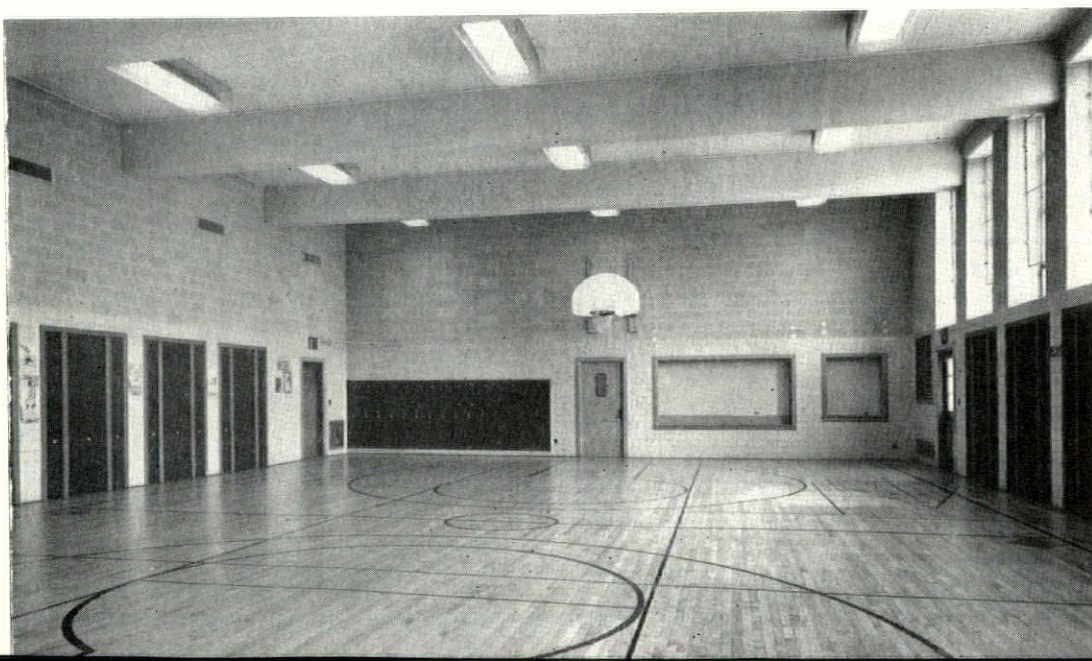
and pretty much of an even tone with practically no variations whatsoever. This was chiefly due to the very limited choice of light brick available at the time when the construction was started.

The gymnasium serves the double purpose of gymnasium and lunch room, having folding tables and benches. All class rooms have wood floors cemented to the concrete sub-floors. The corridor floors and aisles of the auditorium are covered with linoleum.

The interior decorations lie chiefly in the choice of light colors with which the walls are finished. Each class room

has been decorated differently. Care was taken to use warm colors on those rooms having little or no sun-light, while cool colors predominate in the sunny rooms.

The Clara Barton School was one of the first buildings constructed for the Detroit Board of Education in the post war era. Much in the way of praise must be extended to the various contractors, sub-contractors and material suppliers for the effort extended and the results obtained in securing materials in the trying market that existed in 1946 and 1947.



PHOTOS BY ASTLEFORD  
DETROIT

Clara Barton, born at Oxford and founder of various free schools in Washington, D.C., but resigned into hospital service as a career. at her own expense a systematic identify and mark the graves of Cemetery at Anderson, Georgia.

Going to Europe for her health of Baden in establishing hospital iron cross from the German empire.

She founded the American Red Cross. In 1883 she wrote the "History of U.S. at the Red Cross conference held in Geneva, Switzerland.

She conducted the relief for the Johnstown flood, 1889; the Carolina, 1893; the massacre in Cuba, 1898, and the tidal wave woman died on April 12, 1912, at



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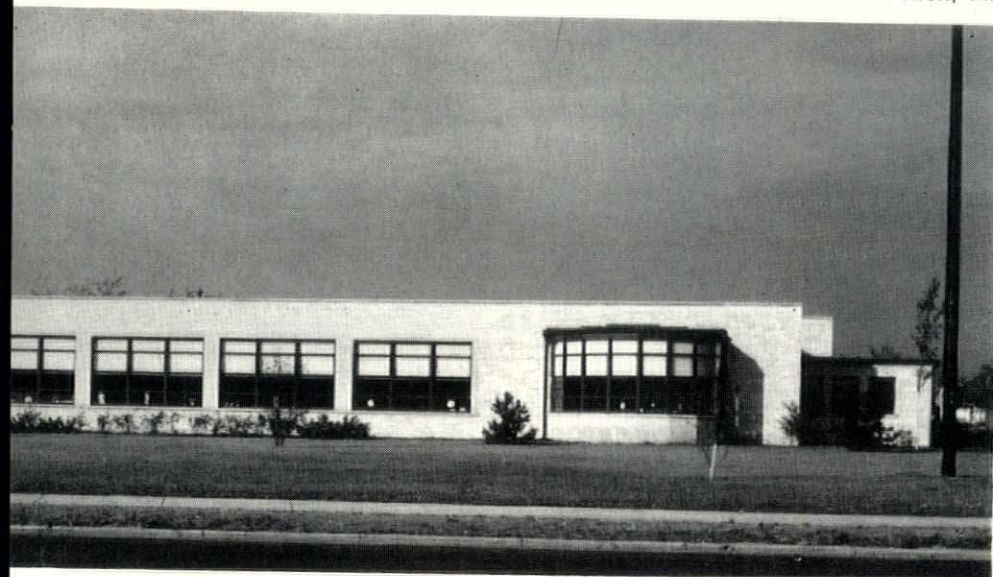
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Howard Thos. Simons, A.I.A.

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...y. In 1854, she had a clerkship  
...ing of the Civil War and went  
...he originated and carried out  
...issing soldiers. She helped to  
...2,000 soldiers in the National

...assistant to the grand duchess  
...Prussian war and received the

...and became its first president.  
...In 1884 she represented the  
...ational Peace convention, both

...llow fever in Florida in 1887;  
...1891; the hurricane in South  
...the Spanish-American War in  
...Texas, 1900. This frail heroic





**GOV. WILLIAMS, from Page 2**

which would give the state government the power and instruments it needs to bring labor and management together in peaceful settlements; and the other a labor Relations Bill patterned on the New York State Labor Relations Act. This second bill is designed to stabilize the relation between employers and workers in intra-state commerce by furnishing reasonable legal procedures for determining whether the employees want a union and if so, which union they want. It will thus protect employers against the hazard of jurisdictional strikes and will furnish a rational and orderly method whereby employees in intra-state commerce industries can exercise their right to organize, which is already stated in existing law.

**THIRD:**

We have advanced a bill for the protection of civil rights — a bill again

patterned on the existing law of New York State setting up a fair employment practice committee. It will be the duty of this committee to see to it that all of our citizens enjoy equal opportunity for jobs regardless of race, creed, color or ancestry.

Developments at the recent convention of the Republican Party at Grand Rapids, which was addressed by United States Senator Ives, one of the supporters of the FEPC Law, make it apparent that this is not a partisan issue. On the contrary, it is a piece of legislation supported by people of all political views who are united in the belief that job discrimination must be ended if we are to make democracy work in Michigan.

Some of the critics of this bill accuses all of "Trying to Legislate Morality." I know my friends that one cannot achieve good morals by legislation alone, but I also know that the great majority of the people possess solid moral instincts in this matter of racial and religious discrimination and that legislation will help a great deal to make this majority sentiment the actual practice in our state.

It is always thus; even after the great majority of the people arrive at a social and moral judgment on an issue like this laws are still necessary to encourage the right-minded to stand firm in their conviction, and to restrain the few who would violate the common conscience of the people.

The experience of New York State under an almost identical law, indicates very clearly that we are not proposing coercion. Out of approximately 1,300 complaints received by the New York Fair Employment Practice commission in two and one-half years it has not been necessary to take a single complaint to a formal hearing to issue a single formal order or to punish anyone.

The experience of New York indicates that once such a law is adopted the conscience of the people asserts itself and cases of unfair practices readily yield to public opinion and to the conciliation efforts of the fair employment commission.

We have high hopes that this forward-looking legislation will soon be adopted in Michigan.

**FOURTH:**

We have advanced a bill for the revision and reform of our corrections system.

In 1937, our legislature adopted a Corrections law establishing a non-political Corrections Commission to operate our prison system. This law was universally recognized as one of the nation's foremost examples of humane and enlightened prison legislation. It gave Michigan a position in the forefront of all the states in this field.

As you know, the last legislature, dissatisfied with some of the administration of this law, revised it to provide for a one-man control of the prison

system, under a single commissioner serving at the pleasure of the Governor. I promised the people of Michigan last fall that I would change this and I have proceeded to do so. With the advice of a committee of experts, we have put into the hands of the legislature a bill which is essentially the 1937 "model" prison law with certain improvements. Among these, are provisions for a larger parole board, for personal appearances by prisoners seeking parole, and other devices to make sure that every prisoner gets a square deal when he seeks parole or clemency.

**FIFTH:**

We have proposed a bill designed to bring our Workman's Compensation system up to date and a companion bill designed to cut down the terrible toll of industrial accidents. In the year, 1947, 268 Michigan workers were killed in industrial accidents; 1937 workers suffered permanent disabilities, 38,729

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6 LOCAL BRANCHES IN DETROIT



suffered compensable injuries.

Bills tightening standards of industrial safety and requiring the posting in plants of notices of safety infractions have been introduced in the Senate. These bills, we believe, will go far to reduce the number of injuries for which workmen must be paid. On the Compensation bill itself, we have proposed that the existing law be liberalized in order to make sure that the cost of supporting injured workers and their families is borne by insurance policies and not by the taxpayer in the form of welfare aid. The Workmen's Compensation bill proposes to maintain the same rate of benefits—two-thirds of the injured worker's pay—but to increase the maximum from \$21 a week to \$40 a week. In this we are doing no more than maintaining standards set by our legislature in 1912. In that year, the first Workmen's Compensation Act

called for a maximum of \$14 a week at a time when the average wage of Michigan workers was around \$18 a week. At present, average wages are around \$60 a week, and we propose to increase the maximum to the two-thirds level, maintaining a parity with the 1912 Act.

#### SIXTH: Unemployment Compensation

Our unemployment compensation system, designed to protect our communities against sudden collapse of purchasing power in times of economic stress, would be revised by the bill now pending in the legislature. This law is the first line of defense of a large number of our people in times of temporary unemployment. It is also the first line of defense of the corner grocer and the filling station operator, of business—big and little—when layoffs reduce the purchasing power of the public.

#### COWIN WAS SPEAKER

Julian R. Cowin, member of the architectural firm of Harley, Ellington & Day, spoke at a luncheon meeting of the Detroit Mortgage Bankers Association in the Crystal Ball Room of the Book-Cadillac Hotel Thursday, March 10.

Cowin's topic was "Designing for the New Way of Living." He is a member of The American Institute of Architects, a past director in the Michigan Society of Architects.

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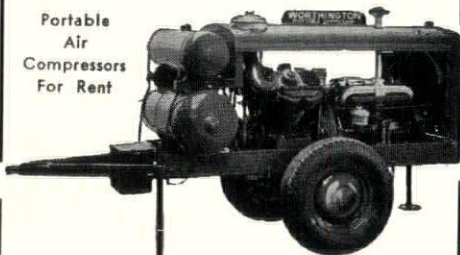
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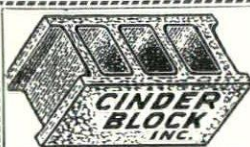
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Secretary-Manager

**BUILDERS' and TRADERS'**  
**EXCHANGE of DETROIT****NOLAN TO JAMES & ROACH**

James and Roach, Inc., Distributors of Carrier Air Conditioning and Refrigeration in Eastern Michigan, announce the appointment of James J. Nolan as Assistant General Manager, in charge of Engineering and Construction.

Mr. Nolan comes to James and Roach, Inc., with a well rounded background of experience in the air conditioning industry. A graduate in mechanical engineering at New York University in 1928, Mr. Nolan was connected with the Carrier Corporation for 12 years; with United Clay Products, (Carrier distributor in Washington, D. C.) for three years, until the beginning of World War II.

From 1941 to 1946, Mr. Nolan was in charge of maintenance operations of air-conditioning and refrigeration of all army posts in the U. S. A., for the War Department's Chief Engineer in Washington, D. C. Since 1946, Mr. Nolan had been a consulting engineer on heating, air conditioning and refrigeration, also in the capitol city.

Among the major air conditioning and refrigeration projects in which Mr. Nolan has played an important part in designing and supervising, as an engineer, are: The National Geographic Society Building; the U. S. Treasury Building; the eight-story office building of the Electrical Workers of America; the Chesapeake & Potomac Building; and the Telephone Building—all of Washington, D. C.

**NOLAN****COUSE V-P, AGC**

Walter L. Couse, Detroit, was installed as vice-president of the Associated General Contractors of America at its convention at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City. Adolph Tiechert, Jr., Sacramento, Calif., is the new association president.

Seven Michigan cities were represented in an unusually large state delegation of building, highway and railroad construction contractors attending the convention. Five awards were presented to Detroit general contractors for outstanding safety records during the past year.

Merwin Gaskin, of Detroit, spoke on safety in the industry.

Douglas W. Orr, A.I.A., president, spoke on better cooperation throughout the industry.

**PAUL S. CALKINS**, consulting structural engineer, announces the location of his office on West Long Lake Road, Bloomfield Hills, Mich. This is in the same building with Swanson Associates and Saarinen Saarinen Associates, for whom he does work. He also serves his own clientele.

His telephone numbers (not listed in the new telephone directory) are: of fice, Birmingham 4414; residence, Farmington 0683.

Mr. Calkins, who specializes in the design of structural steel, reinforced concrete and structural timber, is a member of American Society of Civil Engineers, National Society of Professional Engineers, and Engineering Society of Detroit.

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