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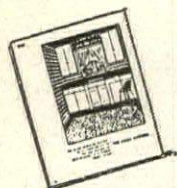
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*New Hampshire Chapter of the American
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OCTOBER
1951

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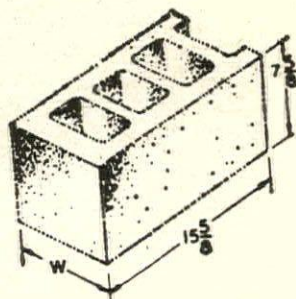


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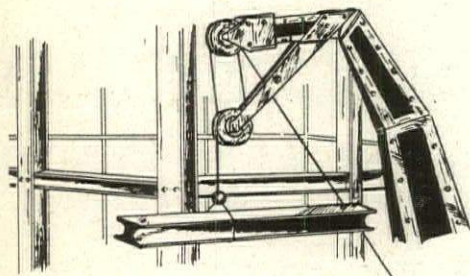
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Official Publication - N.H. Chapter A.I.A.



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Entrance Doorway, residence of Mr. and Mrs. John Swenson, Concord.

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THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

The various Chapter publications show that architects are interested in a wide variety of subjects, and when persuaded to become articulate, they can be very interesting themselves. In the Michigan "Bulletin" for August, Turpin C. Bannister asks—and answers—the question, "Is Modern Architecture Really Modern?" Citing many examples where history was more modern than today's inventions, he finds that the distinguishing characteristics of modern architecture are first, the application of scientific methodology and second, the new clientele: all classes of people instead of just the nobility or the wealthy.

The June "Bulletin" features an article on "The State of Architectural Design in the United States" by Pietro Belluschi, M. I. T.'s Dean, who will be the speaker at our November 15 Chapter meeting. The same issue carries comments of approval from its readers for changing from a weekly to a monthly publication, which suggests that New Hampshire with its much smaller group to draw upon should consider changing from a monthly to a quarterly, as is the case in Massachusetts.

The "Wisconsin Architect" contains interesting reports of Chapter and Executive Committee meetings, and makes good use of reprints for feature articles. For example, the August issue borrows from the *Journal* of the Royal Institute of British Architects, a searching report on "Architectural Education" by Martin S. Briggs, Honorary Secretary and Fellow of the R. I. B. A.

The May "Bay State Architect" reports on "A Case Before the Registration Board," the first one in that state since compulsory registration went into effect. The issue here involved relations between architects and engineers, which might not have been a problem if Joint Rules of Practise had been adopted, as they have been in Texas, according to the June "Texas Architect." The Texas code is a model one, worthy of emulation in other states.

Both Texas and Michigan have had Joint Committees with the Associated General Contractors, working on the same problems as our own Joint Committee: bidding procedure, prequalification of bidders, plan deposits, uniform specification requirements, etc.

There were a number of outstanding articles in the three issues of the "Texas Architect" reviewed. One editorial bemoans the decrease of funds set aside by the Legisla-

ture for planning of state buildings; this seems to be a common failing, although the N. H. Public Works Department gets around it by paying a fair "percentage fee" on ridiculously low "estimated construction costs." Another editorial copies almost verbatim one of our Architextopics columns on "Architecture—Business or Profession?" This naturally pleases us, but we wonder why credit was not given, as the Texas editors request when others reprint their material. A story called "The A. I. A.—Its First Century" discloses that we are actually 100 years old but since the Convention in Chicago last May was only the 83rd, we must have gone convention-less the first seventeen years! Also it notes that the American Medical Association was formed a few years earlier, in 1847, but the lawyers did not organize the American Bar Association until 1878.

Other noteworthy articles: "Photography in Architecture" by F. W. Seiders, complete with examples and many useful tips; "The Ingredients of the Architect—Guide, Philosopher and Friend;" and "Architects Meet the Press" wherein two newspaper men give the Dallas Chapter some straight aid on publicity.

The "Charette," published by the Pennsylvania Chapters, contain in the June and July numbers, a wealth of purely technical information, plus several articles of special interest: one which recommends that specifications should be the subject of intensive research, particularly to establish uniform standards of workmanship and methods of installation, as has already been done with most materials themselves; one reports progress of another of those Joint Committees, on "Collaboration Among Professionals" and points out that just coordinating the work of several designers is quite a job in itself; and another reprints "Ten Books on Architecture" by Prof. M. D. Ross of the University of Oregon. Read this in the November, 1950 issue of the *Journal* of the A. I. A. and see if you can restrain yourself from investing quite a few days' pay in those of the ten books which you don't already own.

Eugene J. Magenan

ARCHITEXTOPICS

By Richard Koehler, A.I.A.

Troubles

Several weeks ago, it was suggested by a gentleman in the building business that it would be a good idea to provide some architects with a refresher course in specification and supplementary general condition writing. The complaint concerned over-written, patched and repatched specifications which the gentleman had encountered in attempting to execute work. He further claimed that the "factor-of-safety" used in abuse by some engineers is mere subterfuge compared with the garble-de-gook some architects use to confound the intent. (Reminds me of a spec. I read several years ago for which the architect could obtain no bid-der: Section covering steel read: "Furnish and install all steel shown, necessary and intended to support") Lacking a clear concept of intent and relying on site execution as the time of decision, these architects have caused this gentleman both mental and financial disturbance.

On the other hand, some architects have become experts at dodging below-the-belt extras based on very slight technicalities. The latitude of "taking advantage" seems to be in proportion with the integrity of the individual—whether he is Owner, Architect or Contractor.

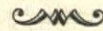
It is in this field that we again urge a meeting between architects and contractors. The time spent in such discussion should be confined to concrete solutions and not a harangue of history. It is not expected that all will come from such a meeting washed of their sins, but certainly a good housekeeper does not stop sweeping because the house persists in getting dirty.



Competition

Your attention and participation is requested for the Competition for a Memorial Student Union Building at the University of New Hampshire. Applications should be returned before October 22, 1951. Competition is due December 3, 1951. Professor Lawrence B. Anderson, Dept. of Architecture M. I. T., 77 Massachusetts Ave., Cam-

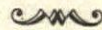
bridge, Mass., is the Professional Advisor. If you have not received circular concerning above address your inquiries to Professor Anderson. This program has the approval of the Committee on Architectural Competitions of the American Institutes of Architects.



Dr. Belluschi

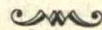
A joint meeting of your chapter with the M. I. T. Club of N. H. will be addressed by Dr. Pietro Belluschi, Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning M. I. T. The date: November 15, 1951, 6:00 P. M. The place: Manchester Country Club.

For those of us who have acquired double-vision spectacles due to working with things close at hand, it will do well for both our minds and eyes to look up to wider horizons with this distinguished speaker. Whether Dr. Belluschi speaks as an educator, architect or both his past achievements will give substance to his message. Your wives and guests are invited.



Witmer

Maurice E. Witmer has recently been elected President of the United Baptist Convention of New Hampshire for 1952. Maurice's activities in these matters have been long and faithful and we are sure that his conduct of such presidential affairs will be as excellent as his presidency of our chapter.

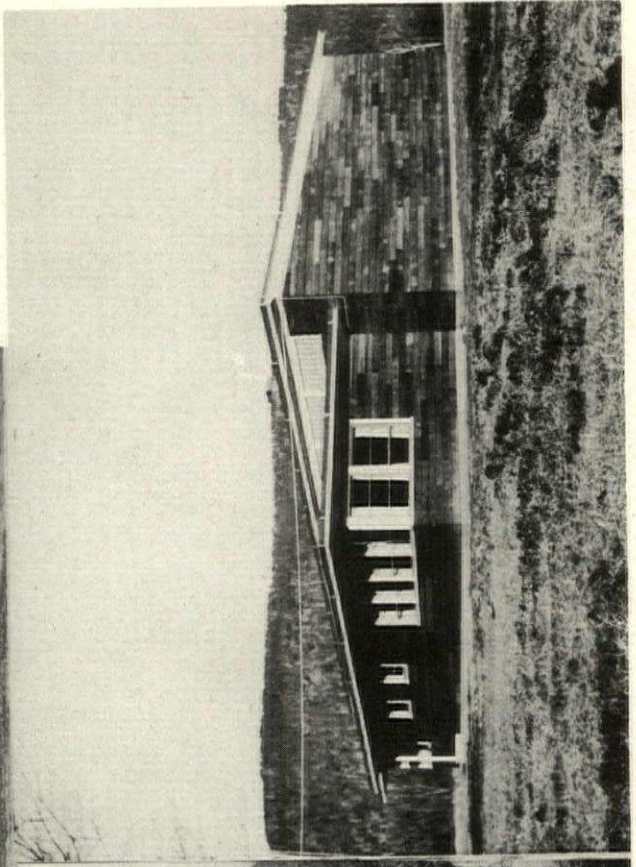
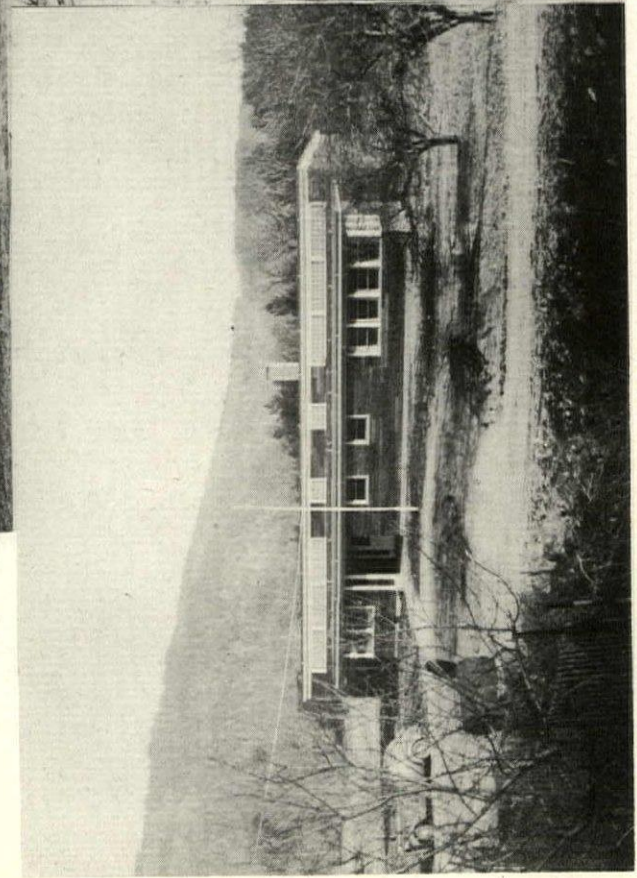
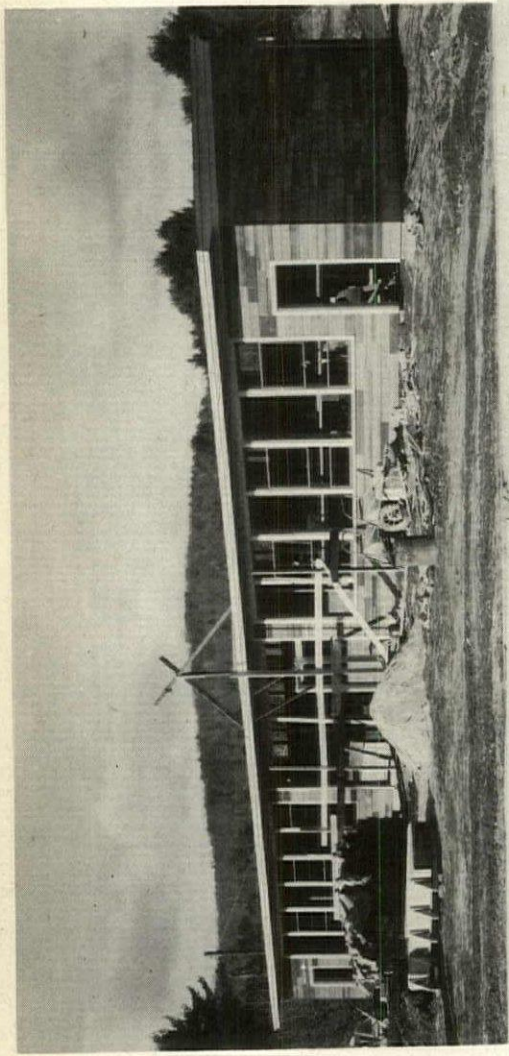


Relaxing

Architects and artists in their methods of relaxing have, can and will use the gamut of expression. One of the most interesting was related to me by a very dignified Professor of mural painting of a California University. Both he and his wife were invited to spend the day with a Japanese friend and wife. Besides sitting cross-legged on grass mats, munching fruit and nuts with passing philosophical remarks concerning art, the menu included all four participating in a common large size tub filled with temperature controlled water. Though embarrassing to the novice, the professor did say "One doesn't stare you know."

GRADE SCHOOL AT SURRY, N. H.

Three views of the Grade School at Surry, N. H., showing the clean design and simplicity of construction employed in this structure. Note also the use of Bi-Lateral lighting for the class rooms.



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Biographical Sketch of Pietro Belluschi

(Ed. Note: Chapter members will have an opportunity to see and hear Dean Belluschi at the Nov. 15 meeting at the Manchester Country Club)

Pietro Belluschi was born in Italy and was educated at the University of Rome where he received the degree in Architectural Engineering. He came to the United States in 1923 and carried on advanced studies at Cornell University, from which he also holds the degree of Civil Engineer. After a brief period spent with a mining company in Idaho, he entered the architectural profession and for twenty-six years he practiced in Portland, Oregon. In 1929 he became an American citizen.

In 1934 Pietro Belluschi was the American delegate to the League of Nations' Institute of Intellectual Cooperation in Madrid. He was president of the Oregon Chapter of The American Institute of Architects in 1943 and 1944. At the 1948 Convention of the A. I. A. Mr. Belluschi was elevated to Fellowship of the Institute. For sixteen years he was trustee of the Portland Art Museum and in 1947-48 was the president of its Board. In 1950 President Truman appointed him to his seven-man National Commission of Fine Arts. In 1950 Mr. Belluschi received an honorary LL.D degree from Reed College, Portland, Oregon, which cited "his imaginative use of modern materials and disciplined sense of form," and stated that "he has contributed richly to the development of modern design." In January 1951, he was appointed Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Pietro Belluschi has designed over 800 buildings in the last 25 years, and photographs of his work have been published in practically all the professional magazines in this country, as well as in England, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, and Argentina. Belluschi

was for a term Design Critic at Yale University and has conducted seminars at A. I. A. National Conventions, and has lectured at the Portland and San Francisco Art Museums, as well as at the Universities of Washington, Oregon, California, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Yale, and Harvard.

Construction Awards in New Hampshire Continue to Drop

BOSTON.—Awards for construction during August in New Hampshire totaled \$1,233,000 which was a decrease of 27 per cent from July and a decrease of 58 per cent from the August 1950 figure. James A. Harding, of F. W. Dodge Corporation, construction news and marketing specialists, said today that the eight month contract award total of \$14,435,000 was 37 per cent less than the corresponding total for 1950.

Non-residential awards totaling \$252,000 were 78 per cent below July. Residential contracts at \$365,000 were 12 per cent less than July and 49 per cent less than the August 1950 total.

Public and private works and utilities at \$616,000 were substantially more than the July figure.



Wolf: a man who enjoys life, liberty and the happiness of pursuit.—Detroit.



Two men were sitting in a discussion group in an Army camp and the conversation somehow drifted to the topic of reincarnation. A certain Pvt., a firm believer in the subject, was giving his views to the most disliked Sgt in the camp.

"Yes," he said, "when we die we always ret'n as something or someone else."

"Rubbish," snapped the Sgt, "do you mean to say that if I died I might come back as a worm?"

"Not a hope," interjected one of the men, seizing an opportunity. "You're never the same thing twice!"—Prattler

"LETTERS"

(Ed. Note: The following letter came a year ago but has been crowded out of previous issues. It is perhaps just as timely now).

To the Committee on Public Information:

I read through the September issue of the "New Hampshire Architect" with the usual great interest. It is a splendid monthly and those responsible are deserving of considerable credit and praise. One item, "American Institute Calls for Congressional Action," had particular interest in that this "call" indicates that on the Washington level the A. I. A. believes that a research program sponsored by the Housing and Home Finance Agency and other government agencies is of considerable value to the profession. It is regrettable that New Hampshire architects do not agree with this opinion.

Both by letters directly to architects and through your fine journal we have endeavored to advise the architectural profession in New Hampshire that these Technical Bulletins are free for the asking. To date, twelve have been issued covering in great detail many items of building construction. Only two New Hampshire architects have requested copies of these substantial sources of information which should be considered a "must" in every architectural library.

In another article in the September issue, it is noted that "Federal Housing appears to use the architects pretty much as drafting machines and certifiers of payments." Unfortunately very few architects in New Hampshire have availed themselves of the opportunities the Federal Housing Administration's program offers. It is true we strongly urge in cases where a maximum ratio of loan to value is required that the plan and design provide a highly marketable property. It is also true that New Hampshire's most progressive architects have shown explicit confidence in the judgment of this office and have, without fear of red or blue pencilling, submitted designs which are far from the product of the drafting machine.

I am enclosing two pamphlets, a "Summary of the FHA Program," and "A Guide to Cooperative Housing." Cooperative housing has become exceedingly popular throughout the country and especially the eastern seaboard. It does not require that the project be large, but the minimum number of units acceptable is twelve. We believe that an architect could be an ideal promotor of such projects. We trust you will read this and if more information is desired, we shall be pleased to discuss it with you in detail.

Very truly yours,

William F. Baker,
State Director, F.H.A.

To the Officers and Members of the
New Hampshire Chapter,
American Institute of Architects,

Gentlemen:

For the information of any one who might be interested, the following is presented.

The writer has a frame barn built in 1830, the timbers being hand-hewn and put together with wooden pegs. It is approximately 28 x 32 feet. The walls were never clapboarded and for that reason, very likely the boarding could not be taken off and re-used. Carpenters say it is exceptionally well framed.

Also, there are about 300 board feet in 10' x 2" hemlock and spruce plank that was the floor on the scaffold.

Ours is the next place north of the Odd Fellows Block, Main Street, Antrim and in case any one wishes to inspect the barn, and we are not at home, please feel free to do so at any time. The barn is not locked.

Yours very truly,

Archie M. Swett.

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