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*New Hampshire Chapter of the American
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NOVEMBER
1951

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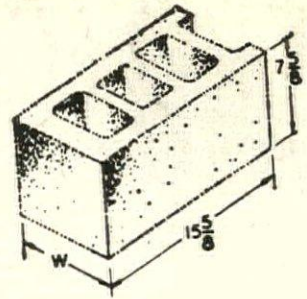
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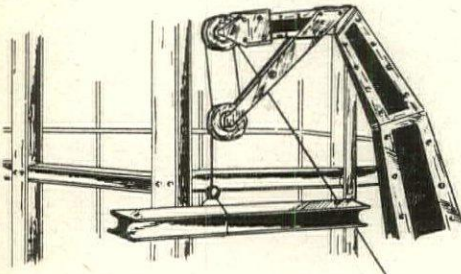
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New Hampshire ARCHITECT

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



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COVER PICTURE

New Oldsmobile Garage and Service Station for Capitol City Motors in Concord. Designed by Lyford & Magenau, Architects and Engineers. General Contractor, Foster & Bamford of Concord.

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THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

Every once in a while we hear of disturbing incidents within the profession which get talked about but seldom is anything done about them. Some may question the desirability of "airing our dirty linen" here, but among our readers there must be many who would like to be reassured that such incidents are not condoned nor indulged in by professional architects generally.

In one case three bids had been received and made public on a school job. The architect then proceeded to negotiate with all three bidders for the apparent purpose of getting a still lower bid. However, in three previous instances the same high bidder had been awarded the work under similar circumstances, although he had not been the original low bidder in any of those cases. The other two bidders in the more recent case naturally objected to this procedure, especially the low man, on the grounds that such negotiations were unfair after the figures had been disclosed.

This objection was certainly justified. There was no reason for allowing the high bidder to negotiate because adequate competition was available from the two lower bidders. It would appear that favoritism was being employed, and this is a sure way to destroy the confidence which all architects should enjoy from the contractors who bid and execute their work.

Even supplementary bidding by the two low bidders is not however the best way to handle the dilemma that arises when bids exceed appropriations. If negotiation with the low bidder alone cannot get the cost down sufficiently, then all bids should be rejected, the project redesigned, and new bids taken.

Another case involved a situation where a school board was interviewing a number of architects in the accepted manner, with a view toward selecting one of them for a substantial project. One of the architects offered to include the services of a clerk-of-the-works without charge, as a special inducement.

Fortunately this school board recognized that such fee-cutting could result only in a reduction of service somewhere else, or in the architect's making up this loss out of cut-backs from the contractor. Another architect got the job.

Again, we know of an architect who joined the A. I. A. but who never attended a meeting or participated in chapter activities in any way. His attitude is said to be that such things are a waste of time—he is out signing up another job while the other boys go to meetings. Does the payment of dues alone entitle anyone to share in the benefits and prestige resulting from membership in an honorable professional society such as the American Institute of Architects?

No, a thousand times no! And let all members of this or any other organization beware, lest their tendency to sit back and let George do it should approach the degree of parasitic lassitude of the example cited above.

Eugene J. Magenan

HOSPITALS COST

\$13,000 PER BED

From the October, 1951 "Dodge Reporter"

Average costs for general hospitals built under the hospital survey and construction program of the U. S. Public Health Service, including building construction and fixed equipment:

Low: \$15.61 per sq. ft. for 17 hospitals with 26 to 35 beds.

High: \$19.43 per sq. ft. for 2 hospitals with 126 to 150 beds.

Per Bed: \$11,256 to \$14,475 including all costs except site.

Per Bed: 604 sq. ft. to 639 sq. ft. general floor area.

ARCHITEXTOPICS

By Richard Koehler, A.I.A.

Plutarch

"It is indeed a desirable thing to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors."

It would be interesting if architects could be bred; imagine the Wrights, Richardsons and Sullivans that would "beautify" this earth But then such cross breeding might result in personalities, who like the fictitious Shaw and Duncan combination, danced like Shaw and authored like Duncan. Lacking this breeding, society will have to suffer the off-spring of us mongrels.

New Architects

In the School Executive for October, 1951 Willis N. Mills of the firm of Sherwood, Mills & Smith, Architects, Stamford, Connecticut, makes this interesting observation, quote: "School buildings have too few architects. Building committees are understandably conservative. They are entrusted with the spending of public funds and are naturally reluctant to retain an architect who is not a school specialist. This is unfortunate, because the tendency of many a specialist is to keep repeating what has been done previously—to stop experimenting and, in effect to stop thinking. Much can be gained by a fresh approach. Some of our best examples of school architecture were produced by architects doing schools for the first time. Let us hope that the future will bring many new architects into the school field."

To which we whole heartedly agree and further hope the same applies to other so-called specialist fields. It is no coincidence that many competitions are won by the young architect who with clear eye and un-muddled mind is able to see the trees in spite of the forests.

Pietro Belluschi

"In all these efforts we architects cannot be content with backward glances at the past,

but in our search for truth, neither can we give the naked answer to people so much in need of emotional satisfaction"

Expression

Architecture that expresses with inflexibility all that can possibly be said of its purpose bores me with much the same feeling that some people do when with meticulous care they leave no question to be asked. My preference remains with the conversationalist and architect who economically gets his message across, yet leaves enough unsaid to excite the imagination.

Time Out

It can be a pleasant experience to take time out and visit other architects completed work. There is much to learn if we remain unprejudiced.

New Hampshire Chapter THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS

Fall Meeting and Banquet

Manchester Thursday,
Country November
Club 15, 1951

6:00 P. M.

DR. PIETRO BELLUSCHI

*Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning,
M. I. T.*

will be our speaker.

This is a Joint Meeting with the M. I. T. Club of
New Hampshire

PROGRAM

Executive Committee Meeting 5 P. M.
Social Hour 5 to 6 P. M.
Dinner 6 P. M.

(Southern fried chicken with all the fixings)

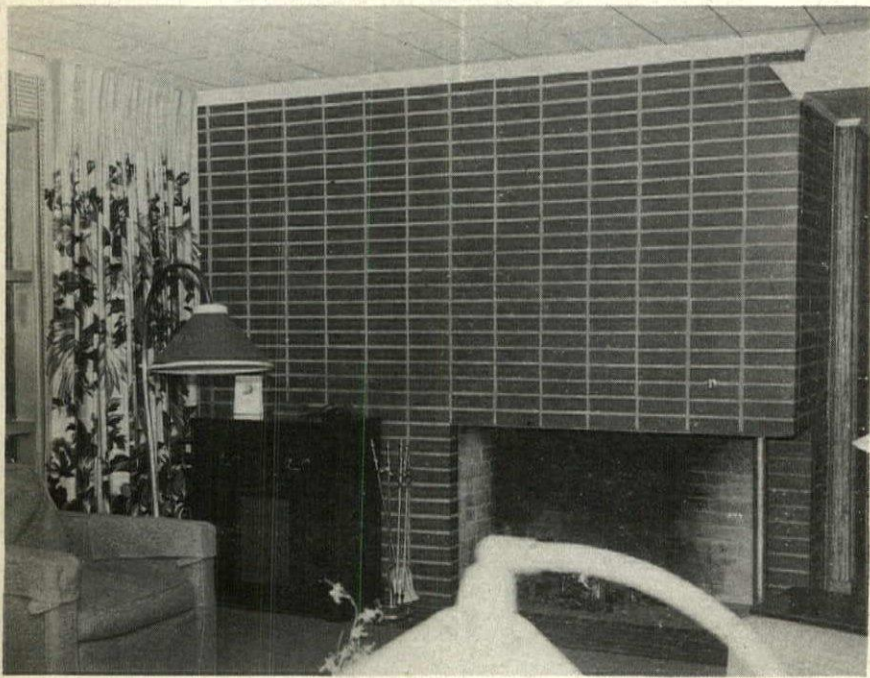
Singing by M. I. T. Alumni

Address by Dr. Belluschi

Recess for short business meeting of the M. I. T.
Club

Chapter business meeting

Committee Reports—Discussions: Fee Schedule,
New England Council, Registration Law



AN ARCHITECTS HOME

The trademarks of traditional architecture are lacking in this pleasant house designed for his own occupancy by Alexander J. Majeski, Architect of Bedford. No fancy trim frames windows and doors, no shutters flank the windows and there are no molded eaves. Warm natural finished cedar siding, interrupted by wide window placement are surmounted by a slate gray hip roof. The relations of color and texture combined with a pattern of broad eaves which shade the windows from the brilliant August sun, yet allow low December sun to enter into the house; frankly placed windows and doors, give strength and individuality. Topping the slim, low mass of the house is a broad chimney with built-in vent which serves to remove the heated air from the attic.

It is practical without the functional look that often denotes modern and every attempt was made to keep it clean and uncluttered for living and easy housekeeping. From the exterior it looks twice its four rooms, and this rambling quality is carried right indoors. The main portion of the house has a floor area of 940 square feet, exclusive of garage. The result is reasoned rather than reminiscent architecture.



PHOTOS of MORE HOUSES to be PUBLISHED

Carl Norcross, Associate Editor of THE MAGAZINE OF BUILDING, in a letter to the New Hampshire Chapter, A. I. A., writes:

"Beginning next January, with the first issue of our new monthly magazine devoted to residential architecture and building, we will have space for approximately three times as many houses designed by architects for builders as we have had in the past. We want the best new ideas we can find.

"With our new magazine we will be in a better position than ever before to encourage architect-builder collaboration. But we need examples of good design and good planning to help tell this important story. Nothing is as convincing as the story of a builder who got better, more saleable houses because he had the help of a skilled architect. In this office we thoroughly believe that good architecture and good planning for the small house pays off to the builder in satisfaction and dollars, and to the community in better neighborhoods—but we need specific examples to prove this to our readers.

"We would like to see photographs and plans of houses in all price classes which architects have done for builders. We can also use examples of small houses designed for an individual owner if the house has ideas that would interest builders.

"We are eager to see any new ideas that would interest builders: new floor plans, new kitchens or bathrooms, new window arrangements, new methods for making the small house seem larger, new uses of materials, new kinds of fences, garages, carports, storage space and so on.

"While we are strong backers of the contemporary house, we are aware that for many builders the approach to contemporary design is a slow and cautious one. Therefore we realize that we must publish some transition houses which perform the important and necessary task of leading the builder away from the unimaginative houses of the past and get him started on the road to better design."

Photographs and plans should be sent to Mr. Norcross at 9 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N. Y.

CONSTRUCTION ECONOMICS

From an article in *Engineering News-Record* by Mr. G. Szmak, Executive Secretary, Construction Surveyors Institute:

"Since the question, 'Do our estimates cost too much' has focused the 'spotlight' on professional surveys as the means of eliminating wasteful estimating, it is fitting to mention the prevailing waste in design and construction which could be avoided by following the right procedure. Even though construction costs are now higher than ever, due to inflation in the price of everything, practically no effort is made toward more economy in construction design and the administration of bids and contracts.

"It seems that the higher and more wasteful costs are, the more carelessly they are passed on to the consumer, so that gradually the industry is pricing itself out of the market through reckless inflationary business management. Plans and specifications are prepared with numerous and needless alternates, or revised several times because the designer does not have knowledge of the current material and labor cost incorporated within the structure wholly or in part. In many instances, two complete sets of plans are prepared in advance, in the event that bids run too high. Drafting costs are also high. Other projects are spread all over the landscape without consideration of cost or utility.

"The wasteful duplication in estimating is negligible as compared with the waste in design and the uneconomic system of bidding and awarding contracts by lump sum, cost plus or upset fee basis. The methods used practically abolish the benefit of competition because neither the cost of proposed structure, nor the basis of bidding are pre-established scientifically.

"The use of professional preliminary assay or estimate for controlling the design, and a quantity analysis as a purchase requisition for the basis of bids and contracts, would eliminate waste and reduce construction costs at least 25 percent. But, who cares today about waste, even though there is a depression brewing for tomorrow? The slogan is 'Today we live, tomorrow we die.' The only way to maintain prosperity is through more production by eliminating waste and increasing efficiency of output."

"Hippocratic Oath" for Architects

BY GEORGE BAIN CUMMINGS, F. A. I. A.

"Humbly and proudly I profess my competence under the discipline of architecture.

"Upon my most shining personal honor I promise unending devotion to the task of continually studying, learning, seeking, experimenting, that I may become ever better educated and trained for my work.

"Upon my most shining personal honor I promise to my community undeviating adherence to the ideal of service to my fellow men as the goal of my effort, that I may honestly and fully earn my living—my right to live among them.

"Upon my most shining personal honor I promise to maintain that integrity in practice which will insure to each client the finest possible stewardship of his interest.

"Upon my most shining personal honor I promise in the execution of every commission to strive to create beauty as well as order, character as well as safety, spiritual value as well as convenience.

"Upon my most shining personal honor I promise to join with my fellow architects to make our profession of greatest possible usefulness and benefit to our society, to share and disseminate all valuable professional knowledge, and to pass on to the succeeding generation the full and fine discipline of our profession, enriched because of my dedication."

MADE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

The State Planning and Development Commission publishes and will supply free on request, a 95 page illustrated directory, listing products manufactured in the state. It is cross-indexed with (1) alphabetical listing of New Hampshire manufacturers, their location and products, (2) manufacturers by major product groups, (3) geographical listing of all manufacturers.

This is recommended reading for all architects. Without becoming provincial, we would do well to include native products in our specifications as often as possible. Most of us will be surprised to learn how little we know about what is made in our own State and even our own community.

F.H.A. has an opening for an Architect

F. H. A., Manchester, N. H., is seeking a man with at least five years experience in architecture or construction two years of which includes experience as architect or engineer or superintendent on building or dwelling construction which experience shall indicate the man's ability to analyze and correct drawings and specifications for residential construction with respect to plan arrangement and structural features; to prepare cost estimates and apply sound engineering principles and practices in the inspection of residential properties. He shall have demonstrated his ability to meet and deal satisfactorily with contractors, builders and the public.

Salary ranges from \$5,060 to \$5,500 per annum depending on applicant's qualifications. Applicants should communicate with William F. Baker, State Director Federal Housing Administration, Post Office Building, Manchester, N. H.

Sen Rob't Taft, when asked recently how he stood the terrific pace he maintains, ans'd thoughtfully, "I sleep well."

"You mean," the questioner persisted, "you can go right to sleep without all of the day's problems whirling around in your head?"

"I go to sleep easily," the Senator said. "I have so many things to worry about I can't worry about them all. So I just don't worry about any of them."—BRADY BLACK, *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

A well-known movie actress recently went thru a marriage ceremony in Mexico with a movie actor who is 35. At the same time, her 3rd husband, also 35, was applying for a license to marry the 23-yr-old governess of their 3-yr-old child. After the marriage ceremony, the much-married actress was asked to pose for a picture while kissing the groom. She refused because, in her own words, "I came from New England, and we simply don't do things like that in public in New England."—*Ave Maria*.

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