

*New Hampshire*

OCTOBER

1952

# ARCHITECT



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

*New Hampshire Chapter of the American Institute of Architects*



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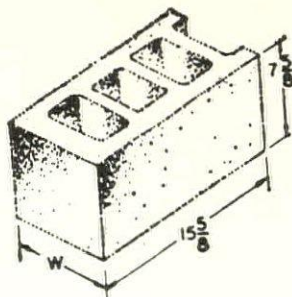
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NO. 3

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## ON THE COVER

Residence of Mrs. H. Ellis Straw, Manchester, N. H. Architect, William L. White, A. I. A., Exeter, N. H.

# THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

The proportion of corporate A. I. A. members to resident registered architects in New Hampshire is one of the highest in the country—over 60%. This ratio seems low when you consider that all architects, whether they realize it or not, are dependent on the A. I. A. for many things that contribute to a successful practice. Without the standard forms, public relations, research, legislation, committee work on both national and state levels, and a host of other things developed by the A. I. A., the architect's place in our society would be insignificant indeed.

The ratio becomes still lower when you discount those who belong nominally to the A. I. A. but participate not at all in Chapter activities. Are architects outside the fold then such a self-centered lot, that they must deny all group responsibilities in favor of appropriating all spare time for their own leisure? Their help is sorely needed to solve the continually arising problems of the A. I. A. and the rest of the world.

Among the problems facing us today are these: amending the Registration Law to provide for enforcement (without which the Law might just as well be repealed); amending the Reorganization Act to clarify mutual responsibilities of the Architect and the Department of Public Works and Highways, particularly with respect to supervision; how can we best promote state aid for schools so that our schools will stand comparison with those in neighboring states? How can we encourage cooperative school districts, for the same reason? How can adequate compensation for architectural services be assured for state work when the Department of Public Works and Highways announces its schedule of fees? How can we discipline, or educate, our own members who fail to maintain the highest professional standards?

I say that when and if these questions are satisfactorily resolved, it will be due to unified action on the part of all architects and other people interested in better architecture, and better architecture will be produced by happy architects in the same way that the best milk comes from contented cows.

*Eugene J. Magenan*

## Party Platform Plank Suggested

The Chapter President attended a hearing in Concord on September 24 held by the pre-convention Committee on Resolutions of the Republican State Committee. A number of organizations had been invited to send a representative to present their views concerning state policy and any proposals for inclusion in the party platform. It was our suggestion that the policy of doing more with what we already have should be encouraged, with special reference to beautification of all property bordering upon a state highway; rural zoning or some other form of control is necessary to prevent the unrestricted commercial development which has ruined so many naturally attractive spots along the way.

However, this idea did not survive the Committee's word-chopping efforts which resulted in their admirably brief platform of only a single page. The regional associations could do wonders with this "plank" through a combination of vigorous support, voluntary cooperation and competent technical advice.

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### New Hampshire Chapter

## FALL MEETING

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Winnisquam House, Lake Winnisquam  
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#### PROGRAM

Committee Meetings ..... 4:00 P. M.  
Executive Committee Meeting .. 5:00 P. M.  
Chapter Business Meeting ..... 6:00 P. M.  
Dinner ..... 7:00 P. M.  
Speaker ..... 7:45 P. M.

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*Guest Speaker*

MR. JAMES H. STRUCK  
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# ARCHITEXTOPICS

By Richard Koehler, A.I.A.

*"all God's chillun got wings"*

The three brilliant autumn leaves in Fred's elevator gave wings to him and to me.

If you've never talked earnestly with a pixy or never been troubled by a gremlin, then the following bit of cock 'n bull is sure to fall on deaf ears.

Certainly designers know of this pixy lore, call upon it daily—for where else can there be inspiration for clear glass doors, window walls, chairs supported on pencil rods, decorations in vibrant contrast, women's clothes which accentuate the positive and eliminate (or try to) the negative—it's for sure, if we have no imagination, we have no wings.

Have you noted the trend to informal, casual living, i.e. combination dining, cooking and relaxation around a fireplace?

Remember slogging through cold winter slush, skates on your broken hockey stick, icicles on your sleeve, cold toes in squeegy shoes—then the over-hot kitchen, the mustard foot-bath, the shoes dry-cracking in the oven, hot food, itchy night-shirt, heated stone wrapped in flannel, your prayers and finally the kiss of understanding and good-night—maybe kiddoes miss something today.

I suppose we've come a long way—at the age of apple robbing I can remember most kitchens had a couch, parlors were opened for weddings and funerals, bath tubs were filled with boiling water from the wood stove, and high tank water-closets brooked no resistance. We have sterilized our kitchens, opened the parlor so wide the furniture has to be changed yearly to please the neighbors, the tub doesn't need paint anymore, and the water-closet whispers now and is less efficient. A boy doesn't have to sift ashes, chop wood, lug groceries (hot rye breads under a belted mackinay has warmed many a whipper-snapper) or study under a flickering gas lamp. We of building have concocted a mighty brew of automatic oil-burners, dishwashers, clothes washers, dryers, coupled with some other Fancy Dans we buy our bread, telephone our groceries, madly dry-clean everything in sight—all this to enlarge our lives, to attend and read lectures on child psychology and stare at T. V. We've come a long way—yet

somehow there is a simile to this and Einstein's theory—I've a strange feeling that we have walked out so far on a curving straight line that we now see the back of us going the other way.

To those of us who design these cubicles of efficiency, pray that we provide one little spot for the simple soul—whether it's near the furnace or in the attic, to take count-of-stock, to whittle aimlessly on a stick, to dream undisturbed about the big one that jumped the hook, or mostly to patch-up a couple of bruised wings.

## COPPER RESTRICTIONS EASED

The National Production Authority has eliminated and/or materially eased restrictions on the use of copper and copper base alloys in construction formerly contained in M-74, CMP Reg. 6, and M-100.

The quantities of copper and copper base alloys that may be self-authorized with the U-6 or U8 allotment (certified under CMP Reg. 6) have been materially increased as follows:

Type of Construction	Quantity	Allot. Symbol
Industrial plants, factories, etc.	5,000 lbs. per project per quarter	U-6
Highways	5,000 lbs. per project only	U-8
Recreational, amusement, etc. and Military housing	None	None
All other, except public utilities, and residential housing subject to M-100	1,000 lbs. per project per quarter	U-8

CMP Reg. 6, as amended, also eliminates the prohibition on the use of copper and copper base alloys in fabrication on the construction site of such items as leader and gutter, roofing, etc.

In like manner, M-100 materially increases the quantities of copper and copper base alloys that may be self-authorized with the U-7 allotment symbol (certified under M-100) for one-to-four family unit residential housing as follows:

TYPE OF HOUSING	Quantity Per Unit
With steel pipe water distribution	200 lbs.
With copper pipe water distribution	400 lbs.

In addition to the above quantities, 200 lbs. may be self-authorized for a forced hot water

(Continued on Page 7)

# Will Science Plan . . .

## > > > THE HOME OF TOMORROW?

There is no truly scientific answer to the question of how best to use space in a small house. Rapidly changing living habits of the American people—caused by changing social and economic conditions—have made space planning based on mere rules-of-thumb inadequate. Families who occupy the homes of today are perhaps subject to frustration and undue fatigue, resulting from improper planning.

The Housing and Home Finance Agency through scientific experiment, is seeking to find a technique which may provide precise answers to the plaguing problems of good space design which beset architects and builders everywhere. When the answers are found, space may be used more efficiently, material and manpower requirements may be reduced and over-all costs lowered.

### STUDY OF EXISTING INFORMATION

As a first step in the investigation of space use and arrangement the research technicians at the University sought out all existing knowledge on the subject. It was hoped that a review and analysis of previous work in this field would furnish some positive guidance in the use of the laboratory. It was further anticipated that time and effort would be saved and duplication avoided by this action. Information from 41 surveys concerned with home occupants' use of, and preference for, various features of the house was analyzed. An evaluation was made of these findings in the light of recent philosophy and planning concepts. To perform this analysis and evaluation, a total of 76 research studies and books were reviewed.

However, the analysis when completed failed to provide conclusive answers to many questions. As could reasonably be expected the results were not helpful in pointing the way to new uses and combinations of space. Further, they displayed the weakness in inherent in all attitude surveys—expressed opinions could never be verified. For example, one gains little of practical value to inquire of a person who has never lived in a basementless house whether he considers a

basement necessary. Other than testing under conditions of actual use, there is no way to check whether a person who expresses such an opinion knows what he is talking about. The architect or builder may be able to visualize the particular merits or shortcomings of various features of dwelling design not tested by actual use. The vast majority of us, however, are not able to do so.

In spite of these obvious drawbacks the analyses still furnished the research staff with a broad base of information on public opinion with respect to existing space arrangements and current use practices. It further gave some guidance in the selection of new arrangements for testing in the laboratory and in the development of techniques for measurement of conditions of use.

### FAMILY PREFERENCES

It is interesting to note the various patterns of housing likes and dislikes which become apparent during analysis of the various surveys.

It was found, for instance, that the preferred living room is at least 12 by 18 feet in size. It is used daily for entertaining children's recreation, child's study, sewing and family relaxation. In the country, it is the popular place to iron.

The analysis demonstrated conclusively that there still is a great deal of controversy over whether a house needs a separate dining room. In spite of the general trend away from homes having separate dining rooms, a majority of the families still want them, although the demand was found that the dining room was used for relaxation, study, and sewing—mainly in activities which make use of the table. In many instances the desire for a separate dining room seems rooted in tradition. The prestige factor may also enter the picture.

It was also found that the combined living and dining room is still not popular although it seems to be gaining some of this respect. However, architects are generally in favor of this combination of living and dining areas is a logical space solution.

(Continued on Page 13)

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heating system, or 500 lbs. for a radiant heating system. For alterations, additions, extensions, etc. to existing residences, 50% of the above quantities per dwelling unit may be self-authorized.

M-100, as amended, also eliminates the prohibition on the use of copper and copper base alloys in fabrication on the construction site of such items as leader and gutter, roofing, etc.

The net result of the above NPA actions is (1) the complete elimination of prohibition of the use of copper and copper base alloys for any particular item or purpose in construction, and (2) a very substantial liberalization of the self-authorization procedure for construction which should prove ample for most ordinary projects and purposes.



### VIII PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS OF ARCHITECTS

Architects planning to attend the VIII Pan American Congress of Architects in Mexico City October 19-26 should contact the president for application forms and programs.

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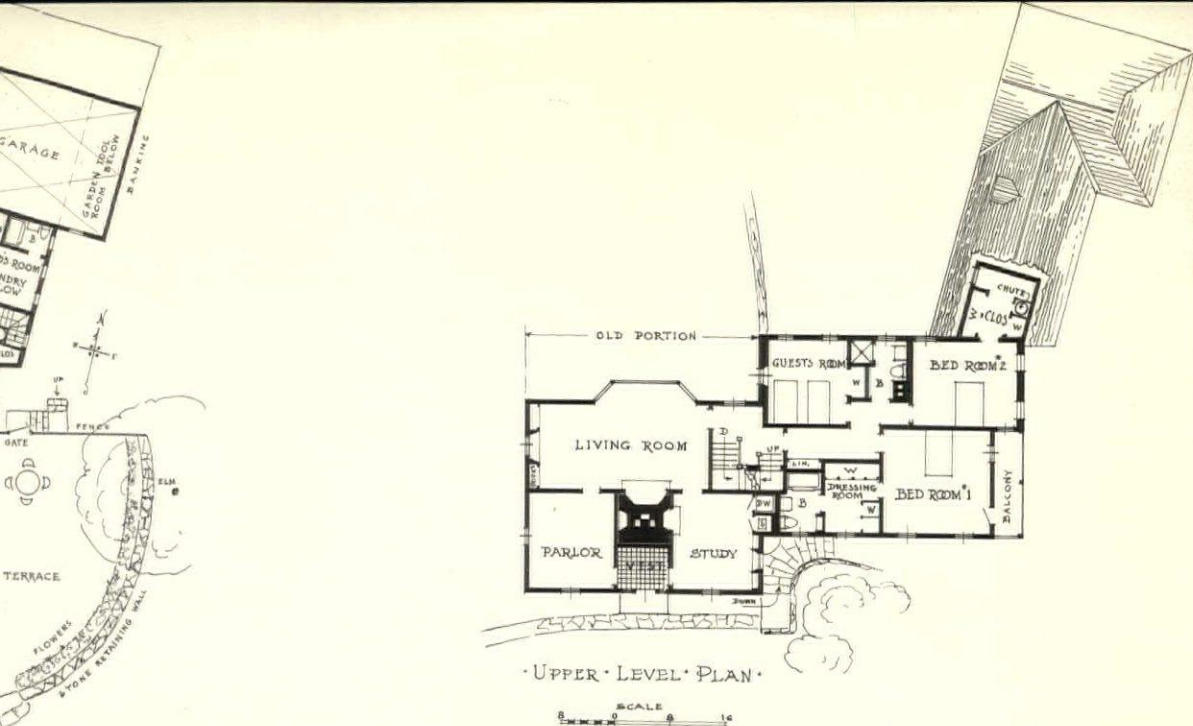
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This residence is a combination of the old and the new with the objective of attaining a house that would conform with the steep sloping hillside and at the same time, as seen from the main highway, have the new portion, subordinate itself to, or at least not overpower the old house.

The original residence is about one hundred and fifty years old with the typical central three-fireplace chimney so frequently found in this type of house, the largest fireplace serving the kitchen and the other two the living room and bed room.

Various alteration in the interior arrangement have taken place over the intervening years and before the final alterations of last year, the old kitchen portion was made over into a living room and a small modern kitchen occupied the north-east corner. The roof

space with its hewn barn framing, had remained in its original unfinished condition and was used only for storage. The small kitchen was removed to make room for the stairway treatment.

For a building as old as this, the sills and superstructure were in very good condition, and did not offer difficulties in the new alteration.

It was the wish of the present owner that, in studying the design for her home as it now stands, the automobile or family entrance and also the service be kept away from the old structure and placed at a lower level if possible. This was not too difficult to achieve, as the contours of the lot almost demanded this solution, even to the angular disposition of the ell and garage.

Ledge was encountered in excavating for the basement under the new part. The rock formation was of a mica-like character stained and disintegrated from water infiltration and for this reason it offered some difficulty in blasting due to the softness of its structure.

Great care had to be taken in providing adequate footing drains between the old and the new portions where change in level took place, so that seepage water would not come in contact with the walls of the lower level where the reception room and vestibule are now located.

The upper level of this house contains the old part of the building which was retained

(Continued on Page 10)



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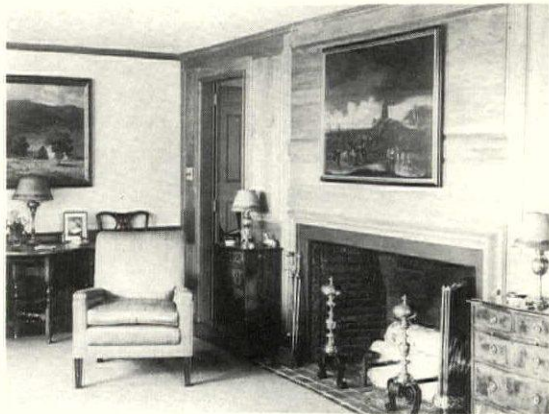
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

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(Continued from Page 9)

with slight alterations to form the living room, study, and parlor or afternoon reception room. To give more breadth to the living room a large bay was added, and since this room has the old pine panelled dado and panelled fireplace wall in mellow old wood the added light thus acquired brings out the beauty of this treatment.



The small room, now called the study, is finished in light shades of Ming green. An added feature incorporated in this room is a small serving closet with stainless steel sink as a convenience for serving afternoon tea. The dumb waiter is also used in this connection.

The little room called the parlor takes its title from the quaint lace-like paper used above the dado.

The woodwork in this room is an old bone white.

On the same level with the old portion of the house, but in the new addition, are three bedrooms and two baths.

Looked at from the outside these rooms are really on the second floor and this lends itself to a balcony treatment at the east end of the large bed room.

As one goes from the living room to the new portion he enters a stair hall leading down to the lower level containing the dining room, reception room, and service rooms. Also a stairway ascends from the upper level to the roof area of the old house and this is now finished off into a guest suite, commanding a fine view of the Uncanoonuc Mountains to the West.

Considerable thought and care was given to the designing of the change of levels in the landscaping, and the local stone used was incorporated in the lower walls of the house to

(Continued on Page 12)

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(Continued from Page 10)

more closely relate the structure to its surroundings and at the same time relieve the amount of clapboard facade that would otherwise result.

The clapboarded walls and the trim are painted brownish mauve with lighter brown roof, and the blinds are warm french gray. This combination of colors harmonizes with the warm tones of the stone work and is nicely complemented by the green lawns and shrub planting.

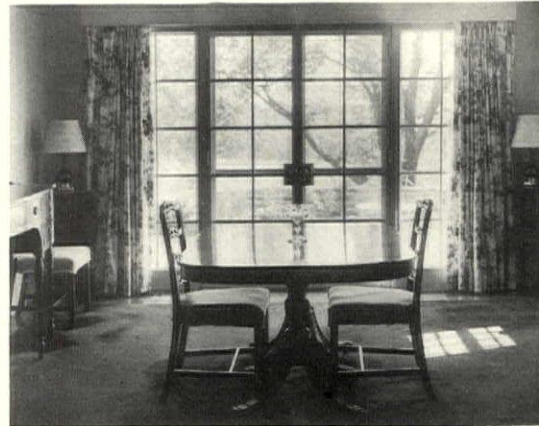
One or two trees will be added for accent this coming spring, but for first year planting the result so far achieved is most satisfactory.

The house is situated in the northern section of the city on a high elevation with extensive views to the East, South and West.

The Architect wishes to express his appreciation for the helpful suggestions by the owner and the fine corporation of Mr. Albert Taggart, the superintendent, and the late Mr. George Turney, of the L. H. Shattuck Co. contractors, and all subcontractors connected with the work.

The contractor and subcontractors were:

General contractor, L. H. Shattuck, Inc. Manchester; Heating and plumbing, Donald McClarty, Manchester; Electrical contractor, John J. Reilly, Manchester; Roofing contractor, A. W. Therrien Company, Manchester; Plastering, P. H. McGranahan Co., Inc.



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The surveys pointed up many questions covering eating in the kitchen. Are kitchen-dining space considered desirable, and if so, what type? Should there be a table in the kitchen, a nook or a bar? Little real information seems available. Once these questions are answered, however, logical kitchen design will be easy since this room is one of the most studied rooms in the house. Arrangements of the work triangle and sizes and heights of cabinets have all been determined. The automatic laundry, if introduced into the kitchen area, will present new planning considerations.

It was also found that bedrooms are perhaps more extensively used for child's study and play than had previously been recognized. Half of the families surveyed wanted three bedrooms. The surveys were not sufficiently detailed to determine the relationships between the number of persons in the family and the number of bedrooms desired. Of course, social and economic considerations play an important role in the number of bedrooms actually available to a particular family group.

The average American family seems satisfied with one bathroom. This is reflected in the present trend away from houses with two bathrooms. Families with children want an extra lavatory. The combined tub and shower is most popular. Women tend to prefer tubs and men like showers. Women also like tubs for children. Shower stalls are popular among young families. The arrangements of the bathroom for laundry work deserves serious consideration. Space for clothes hamper, limited storage, and bathinette should be provided.

About seven-tenths of the surveyees want basements. The demand is strongly tied to regional preferences, although only an estimated 36 per cent of the houses built during the first half of 1950 had basements as compared with slightly over one-half built with basements in 1940.

The utility space on the first floor is gaining in popularity. In urban areas its use, in addition to heating and fuel storage, includes the provision of space for a washing machine, laundry trays, washboard, clothes basket, ironing board, home-canned goods, brooms, mops, and vacuum cleaners. In many instances the utility room is used for inside

drying space and storage of garden tools, toys, and window screens. If built in an ell attached to a one-story house, a small utility room usually shows a definite saving in cost over a full basement. This may account for the appearance of more and more utility rooms in many sections of the country.

The analysis also indicated that considerable occupant attention has been given to closets and general storage space. There is general acceptance of the three main principles of functional storage: storage at the place of first use; clear visibility of supplies; and easy access to desired items. Adjustable shelves and rods are wanted for children's use. Spaces now provided seem inadequate.

At least one porch is wanted by practically everyone. Despite this demand porches are little used except by rural families and urban families in the South. Therefore, other needed features might well replace porches in many areas. The present trend toward opening the house to outdoors through the use of large doors and large glass areas may result in diminished demand for the porch as the living areas become, in effect, porches themselves.

#### MOST WANTED HOUSE

The "Most wanted house," according to the surveys, would be a one-story house. It would have a basement, a porch, and six rooms, besides the bathroom. These rooms would be: a kitchen with an eating space, a living room, a separate dining room, and three bedrooms.

While taking full advantage of the information as to preferences gained from the survey, the research group at the University of Illinois know that setting up a "most wanted house" would be unrealistic. Such an approach would not recognize the fact that the population of the United States is made up of many socioeconomic groups who do not have common needs and attitudes. Research must go farther. The "space use laboratory" must take over.

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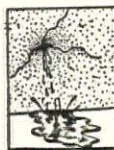
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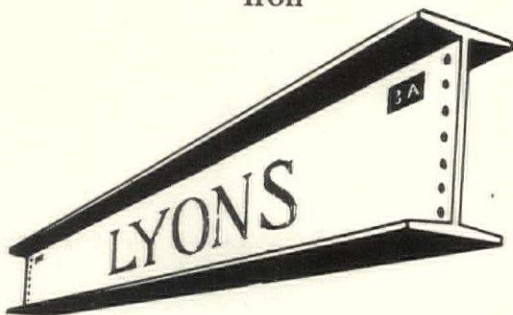
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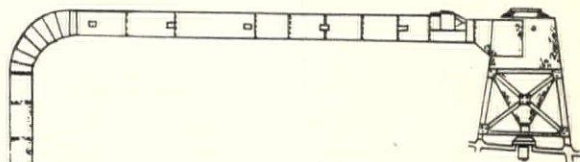
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