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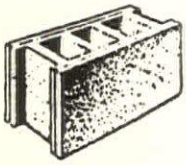

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OUR COVER

General View of Chapel of St. Anselm's New Monastery.

—All photos of Monastery by Laurier Studio, Manchester, except where designated.

The President's Message

For in the Market-place, one Dusk of Day,
I watch'd the Potter thumping his wet clay:
And with its all obliterated Tongue
It murmur'd—"Gently, Brother, gently, pray!"

RYBAIYAT OF OMAR KHAYYAM

SHILLALAH—

I am quite certain that the prime desire of the lawmakers is to correct laws which abuse and to enact new laws which help and I am equally certain that the newspapers presenting an "issue" endeavor to be impartial. However, there are times when all the facts are not presented by all the parties concerned, at which point it becomes extremely difficult for both the lawmakers and the press to help and to become impartial. Then again there are many times when all facts have been presented and the resultant law and reporting are more than normally biased.

In either case it would do well to pull our heads out of the clouds and become aware of the "ways of the world"; perhaps we should have a mental shillalah!

There are actions displayed by us adults which give substance to the rising popularity of books on psychology and the "who dun it?" books.

MUD - MOLDS—

The complete trimming of all seemingly non-essentials may answer the tangible worries of costs, but in this sacrifice of a robe we may only own a mud-mold.

COMPLEXITIES—

Don't look now but haven't our cars, homes and lives become terrifically complicated? Sort-of-strange that as we lighten our chores we increase the evidences of delinquency. Is there a moral here?

MODERN ART—

The March 1955 Fortune illustrated article "The Modern Art of Business" states: "The news today is that paintings and sculpture more and more frequently are being commissioned as integral parts of new business buildings. The desire for prestige or publicity is partially responsible for the change, but so is the genuine wish to make the functional buildings warmer and more inviting."

It is heart-warming to the people of the arts to know that such interest in softness and warmth is growing yet to me the real appreciation rests with those who will daily live with just a bit lighter heart; strange isn't it that the elderly lady watering her window-box of geraniums knew this all the time.

NEW HAMPSHIRE ARCHITECT SCHEDULE

1955

Architect	*Date Due*
Lyford & Magenau	April 1, 1955
Leo Provost	May 1, 1955
Horace G. Bradt	June 1, 1955
John A. Carter	July 1, 1955
Orcutt and Marston	August 1, 1955
John D. Betley	September 1, 1955
Maurice E. Witmer	October 1, 1955
Alfred T. Granger Associates	November 1, 1955

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Seated at the head table at the joint meeting of the N. H. Chapter, A. I. A., the Associated General Contractors of N. H. and Vt., and the N. H. Society of Engineers included: Paul Harvey of Manchester, secretary of the AGC.; Henry Newell of Concord, secretary of the Engineers; Dr. George Kline Smith, economist for the F. W. Dodge Corp., New York City, who spoke to the gathering; Richard Koehler of Manchester, president of N. H. Chapter, A. I. A., Guy MacMillin of Keene, president of the AGC.; Robert Snodgrass of Nashua, treasurer of N. H. Chapter, A. I. A.

PREDICTS NEW ALL-TIME CONSTRUCTION RECOR

Speaking before a meeting of the N. H. Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the Associated General Contractors of N. H., and Vt., and the N. H. Society of Engineers, held recently at Concord, an official of the F. W. Dodge Corporation, construction news and ma keting specialists, predicted that 1955 w probably set a new all-time constructi record in New Hampshire and througho the nation.

Dr. George Cline Smith, economist f

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e Dodge organization, said that contract ards for construction in New Hampshire 1954 showed a phenomenal increase of 5 percent above 1953.

"This increase" Dr. Smith said, "was ne of the highest in the nation. The verage increase for the 37 states for hich Dodge collects contract award sta- stics was only 13 percent."

Dr. Smith predicted that 1955 would be record year for all major categories of nstruction except factory buildings. He recast that the most significant in- eases would be in single-family homes, hools and highways.

"Current housing activity" he said, "is extremely high levels, and it is quite ssible that these levels may not be aintained throughout the year. Never- eless, the total for the year will very kely set a new record both for number homes started and for dollars spent."

Approximately 100 members and guests the three organizations attended the dinner at the New Hampshire Highway Hotel in the Capitol City.

Guy MacMillin of Keene, president of the Associated General Contractors of N. H., and Vt., brought greetings to the meeting from his organization and spoke briefly on the aims of the AGC. Henry C. Newell, president of the N. H. Society of Engineers also spoke for his organization.

RECOMMENDED READING

There is a series of three articles in recent NEW YORKERS on Wallace Harrison, one of America's most successful architects. The first one was in the issue of November 20, 1954, the next November 27, 1954 and the final one December 4, 1954.

These are of absorbing interest, well worth digging up out of the Public Library to read.

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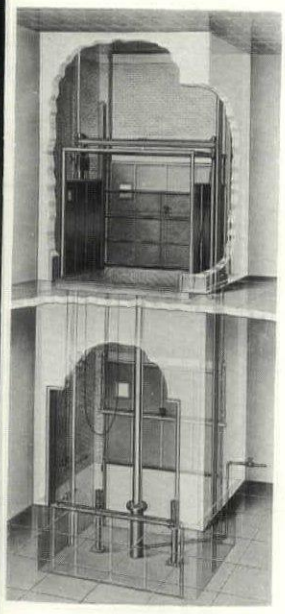

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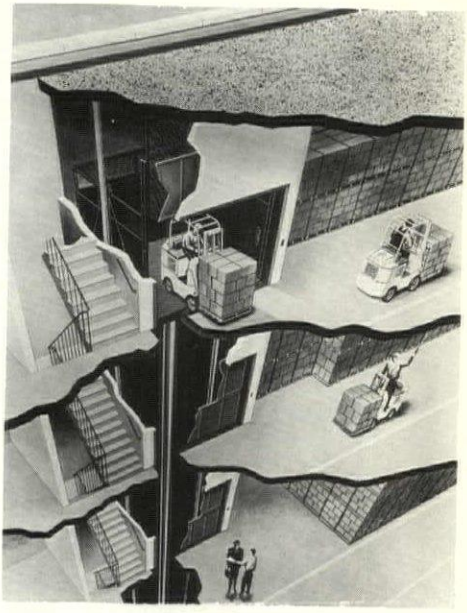

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POOR SCHOOLS AS COSTLY AS GOOD SCHOOLS

A noted American architect has suggested a solution to one of the nation's most pressing problems—school construction.

Eric Pawley's answer is "good architecture."

Pawley is staff executive of a special committee on school buildings of the American Institute of Architects. The group's purpose is to publicize school-building problems and recommend solutions.

The committee has recommended that houses and other buildings not to be used as stop-gap classrooms, on the grounds they are "impractical and retrogressive."

Pawley, in the 12th of the committee's special studies, said good schools and classrooms should not be any more expensive than poor schools and classrooms.

* * *

"As architects," he said, "we are not interested in spending one cent of school money extravagantly. We are convinced that we can design a proper environment for teaching and earning without extra expense. It does not take money primarily—it takes professional ability."

* * *

Pawley said each school presents a separate problem.

"Good architecture," he said, "works with its region and climate. It encourages safety and is fire-safe—not a combustible trap. It is easy to take care of and to maintain in good condition."

One of the most important features a good architecture can offer a school's plan is flexibility, he said. This allows fo construction of additions and represent large future savings.

"The place to look for real savings," h said, "is in . . . new concepts, as well as i such areas as revisions of obsolete build ing-and-school-code and financing require ments, excessive insurance regulations and in working with the climate instea of against it, to reduce the overload o expensive mechanical equipment in ou buildings."

TOO BAD—

It was a very hot day, and the sergeant was having some awkward moments with the awkward squad. At his wit's end, he called a halt and wiped his brow.

"I'm cussed if I know what to do with the lot of you," he growled.

"There's some shady trees over there," the recruits suggested hopefully.

"I know," the sergeant said, "but I haven't got any rope."

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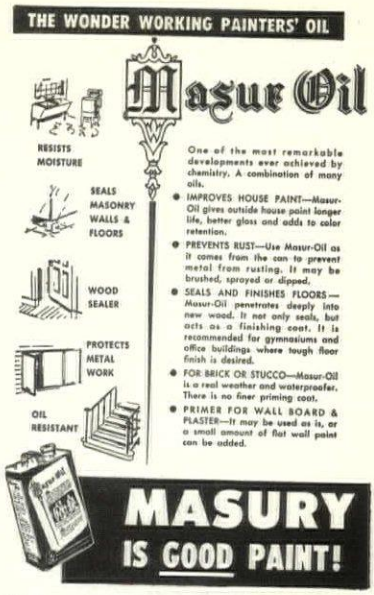
ew England Committee in Session

The Executive Committee of the New ngland Regional Council met in Provi- nce on Friday, February 25. Conrad reen of Rhode Island presented a report his educational committee of which of. Bogner is Chairman. It was decided at an educational seminar would be held xt fall probably on the subject of second- y school design.

The Annual Meeting of the New Eng- nd Regional Council will be held on Sat- day, April 16, at the Brookline Country ub. The program for this meeting will confined to Regional business and good llowship, as this seemed to present a lendid opportunity for New England chitects to rub elbows and improve endships.

Delegates from the New Hampshire apter are Eric Huddleston, Dick ehler, Gene Magenau and Bill White.



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JOHN LEACH . . . *Concord's First Architect*

In 1825, the largest towns in New Hampshire were Portsmouth, Dover, Gilmanton, Sanbornton and Londonderry. Concord was next in size with about 3,000 inhabitants, only about half of whom lived in the village. Except for the new State House built by Stuart J. Park, there was no building of architectural pretension in the town.

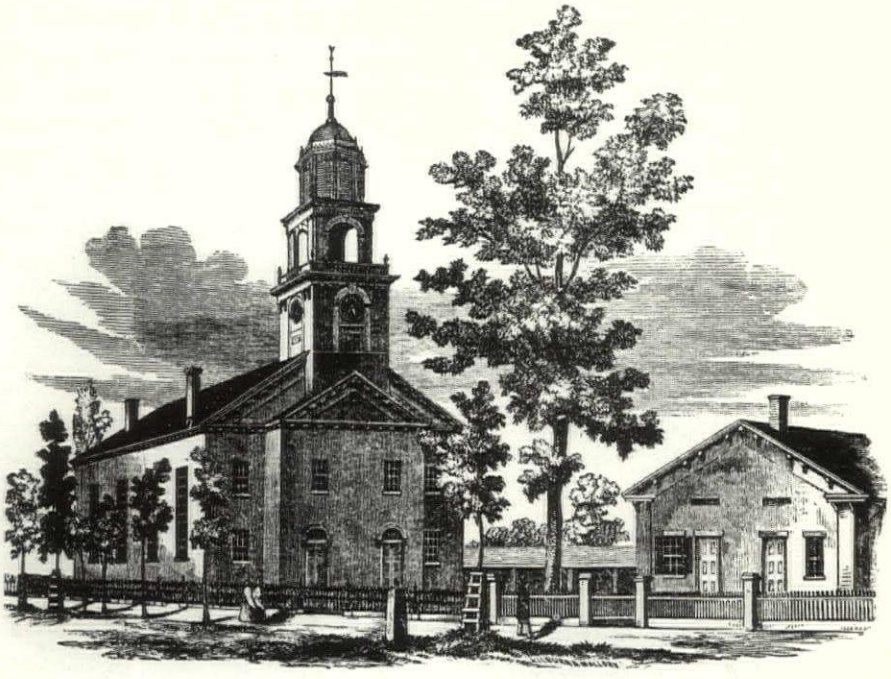
About this time, John Leach of Dunbarton came to Concord and was commissioned to build a meetinghouse for the newly organized First Baptist Church. This building still stands on North State Street across from the Y.M.C.A. and has been somewhat modified, but is the oldest church building in Concord. The first Directory of Concord (1830) lists its builder as "carpenter and joiner" but he had aspirations to become a designer of public buildings and houses quite in advance of village standards.

In 1826 he built the distinctive brick block at 214 North Main Street for the Merrimack County Bank recently occupied by the Christian Mutual Life Insuran Co. after remodelling but leaving the e terior almost intact. In 1829 Leach d signed and built the first Unitarian Chur in Concord—later destroyed by fi Several of his houses are standing: o on the north corner of Fayette and Sou Main Street which was built for Samu and Philip Farrington of Hopkinto grandsons of Philip Farrington, a leadi pioneer in Pennycook Plantation; and t house at 36 South Main Street, recent razed to make way for the new Eagl Lodge, distinctive as showing the influen of the Greek Revival. Gen. Joseph Lo first mayor of Concord in 1853, once liv in its north tenement. Both these hous were built prior to 1830.

On the present site of Fitch-Murray C Leach built a large wooden house "fam for its bow windows and other archite ural features." This house, given over stores with tenements above, stood f

(Continued on page 12)

"Sanborn Block" on North Main Street, South of the State House.



The First Baptist Meeting House and Chapel on North State Street.

Merrimack County Bank Building (1826) North Main Street.
(Now Christian Mutual Life Insurance Company)

John Leach - - -

(Continued from Page 10)

many years until surrounded on all sides with modern brick blocks. Another of Leach's buildings was the massive brick "Sanborn Block" directly south of the State House where Capitol Street has since been cut through and where President Franklin Pierce once had his law office.

In the same neighborhood with John Leach's finest work, the Bank Building at 214 North Main, is another beautiful little brick house on Washington Street which bears all the marks of his artistry. However definite proof is lacking that this was one of his houses.

Leach continued to live and work in Concord, and finally in 1852 built a well-proportioned but unassuming brick house for himself at 10 Fayette Street, corner of South State Street. This had his characteristic fine brickwork, including an unusual brick cornice and a curved staircase of simple beauty. The front entrance portico is thought to be a later additi as John Leach would never have brok out with the "carpenter Gothic" det which is there. In addition to ordina residential use, this building served many years as dormitory and infirma for the well-known St. Mary's School Girls, and more recently as a hairdressi parlor.

Now No. 10 Fayette Street has go full circle, once again it is being used b Concord architect—the firm of Lyford a Magenau. Many of the neighbori houses have also been converted into offi for doctors, insurance agents, and the li

Whether this represents decay or p gress in urban development is a debata question, but since such changes are evitable, it is fitting that the home Concord's first architect should a centu later become the office of another archit —at whose hands his buildings will rece sympathetic treatment.

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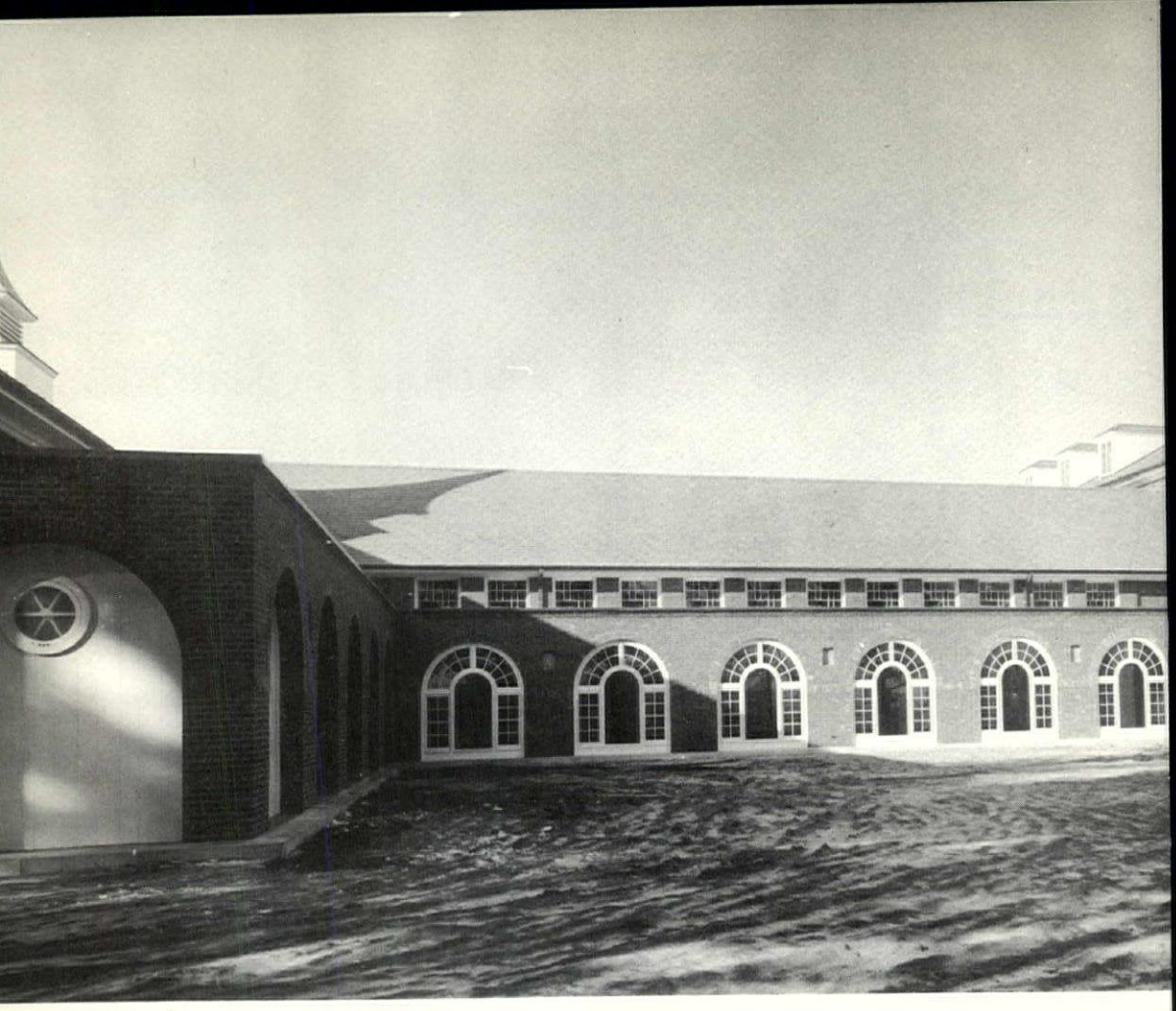
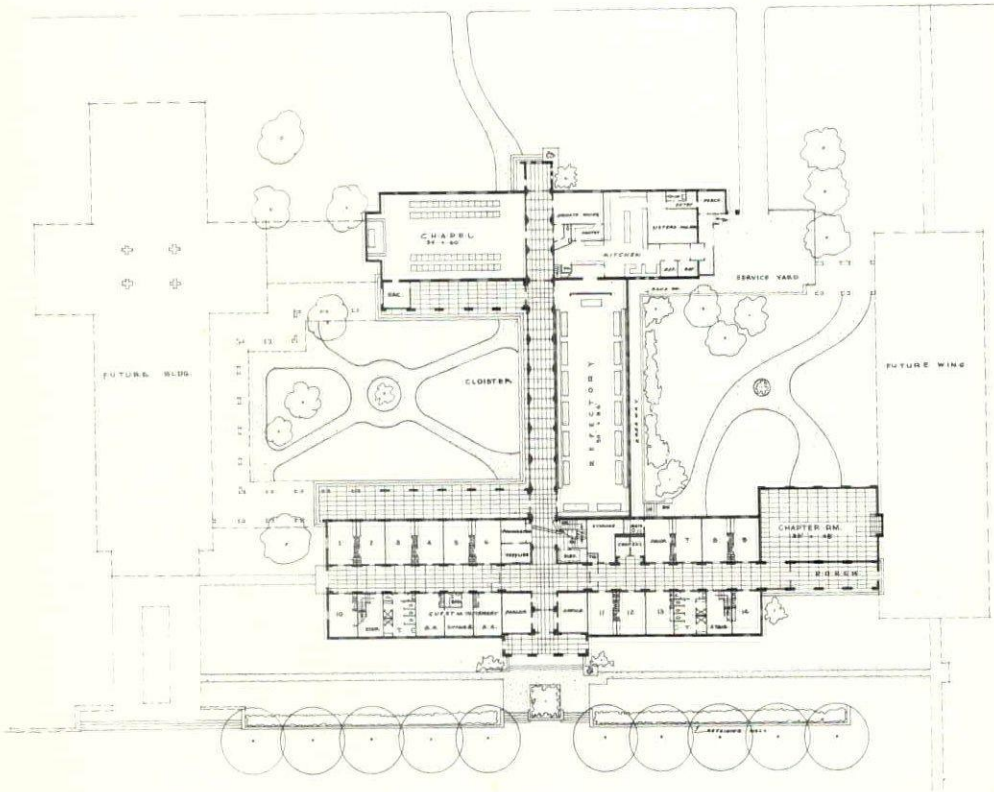
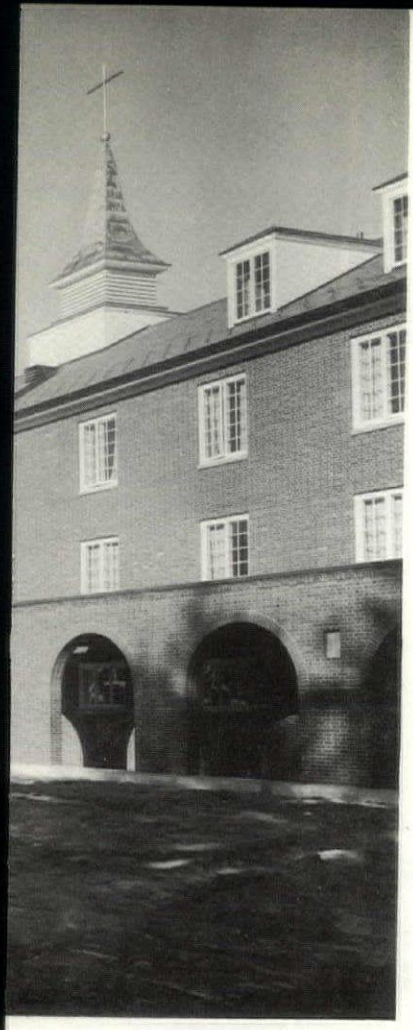




FIRST FLOOR PLAN



General View of Cloister.

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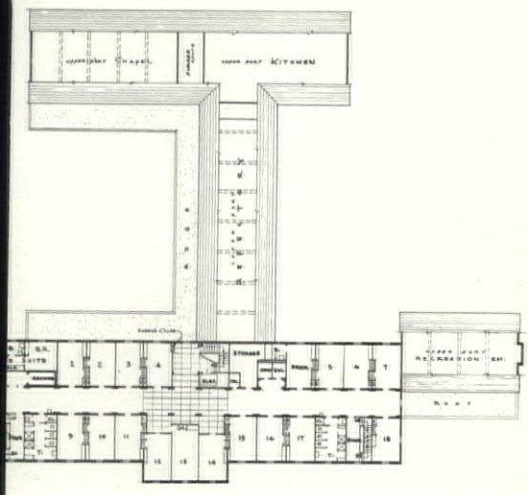


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

THIRD FLOOR SIMILAR

The design of this building attempts to provide a continuity and coherence in a present day structure to the traditions and requirements of a very ancient monastic order.

The structure is in no way a copy of ancient monastic buildings, yet it provides for monastic living as established by St. Benedict over 14 hundred years ago at Monte Cassino, Italy.

The plan shows how the traditional elements were maintained and how they were freely arranged for purposes of function, siting and possible future development.

The main wing is the housing unit, containing the individual cells for the monks. The chapel and refectory are in separate wings, easily accessible to all, yet somewhat isolated to express their importance in the life of the community.

(Continued on Page 16)

Monastery - - -

(Continued from Page 15)

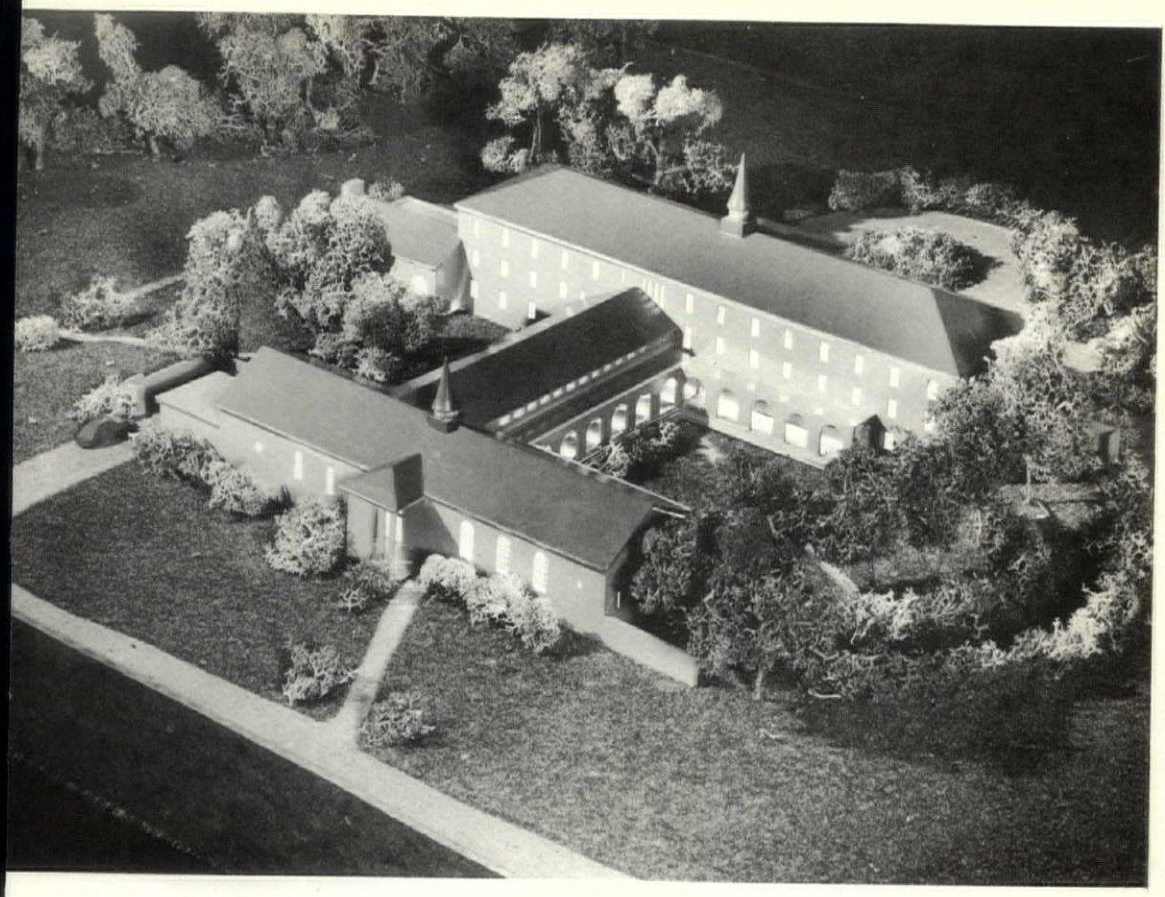
The layout of the chapel and refectory are in keeping with tradition. In the chapel the choir stalls are arranged facing each other and in the refectory the tables are ranged near the long walls, and the chairs are placed only on one side, between the wall and table so that the monks sit facing each other across the room. Both these rooms have a redwood plank ceiling supported on the purlins between the trusses, the redwood contrasting with the dark brown of the trusses and purlins. The chapel and refectory combine with the housing unit to form the cloistered gardens.

Materials in all cases were chosen f long wear and ease of maintenance, th floors in areas of heavy usage are slate quarry tile. Walls are the natural bri or plywood, as the needs indicated, a dividing walls between the cells are prefabricated plywood wardrobe.

Since a stark, slick design would ha asserted itself too strongly on the lan scape and destroyed any continuity wi existing buildings, it seemed that a qui design was in order. Then too, religi being very old, perhaps needs no new startling language to express itself. T building on the whole represents a hap cooperation between the client, the arch tect, and the contractor.

(Continued on Page 20)

View Along Cloister Towards Chapel Entrance.



General View of Monastery Model.
—Photo by The Eames Studio, Manchester

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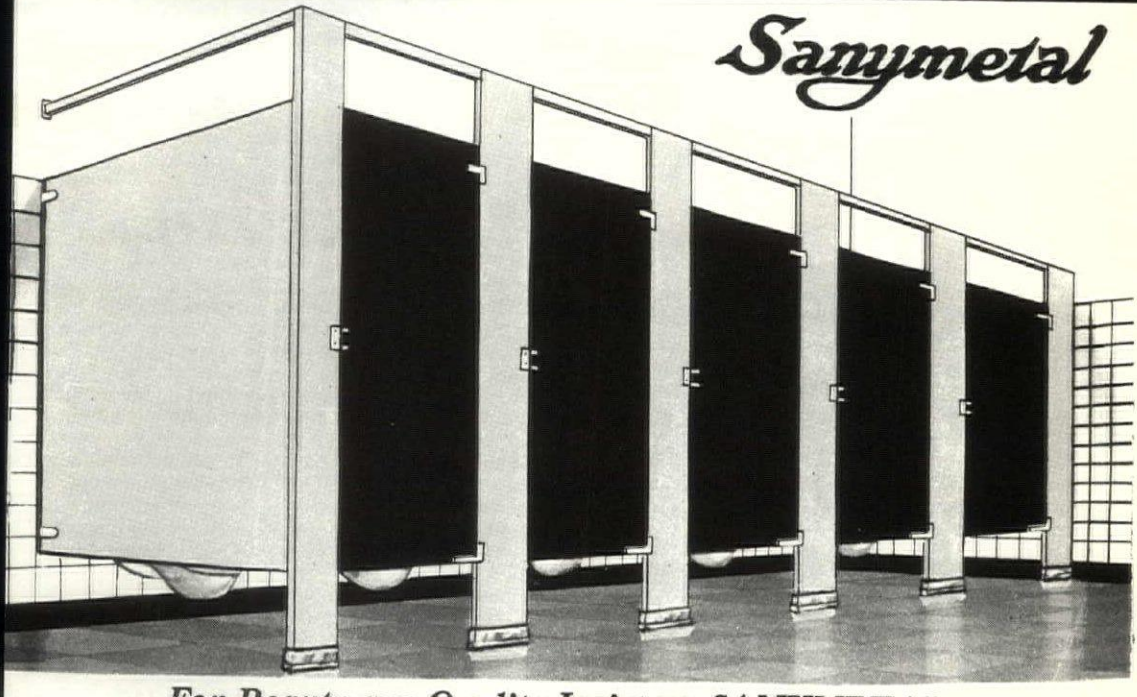

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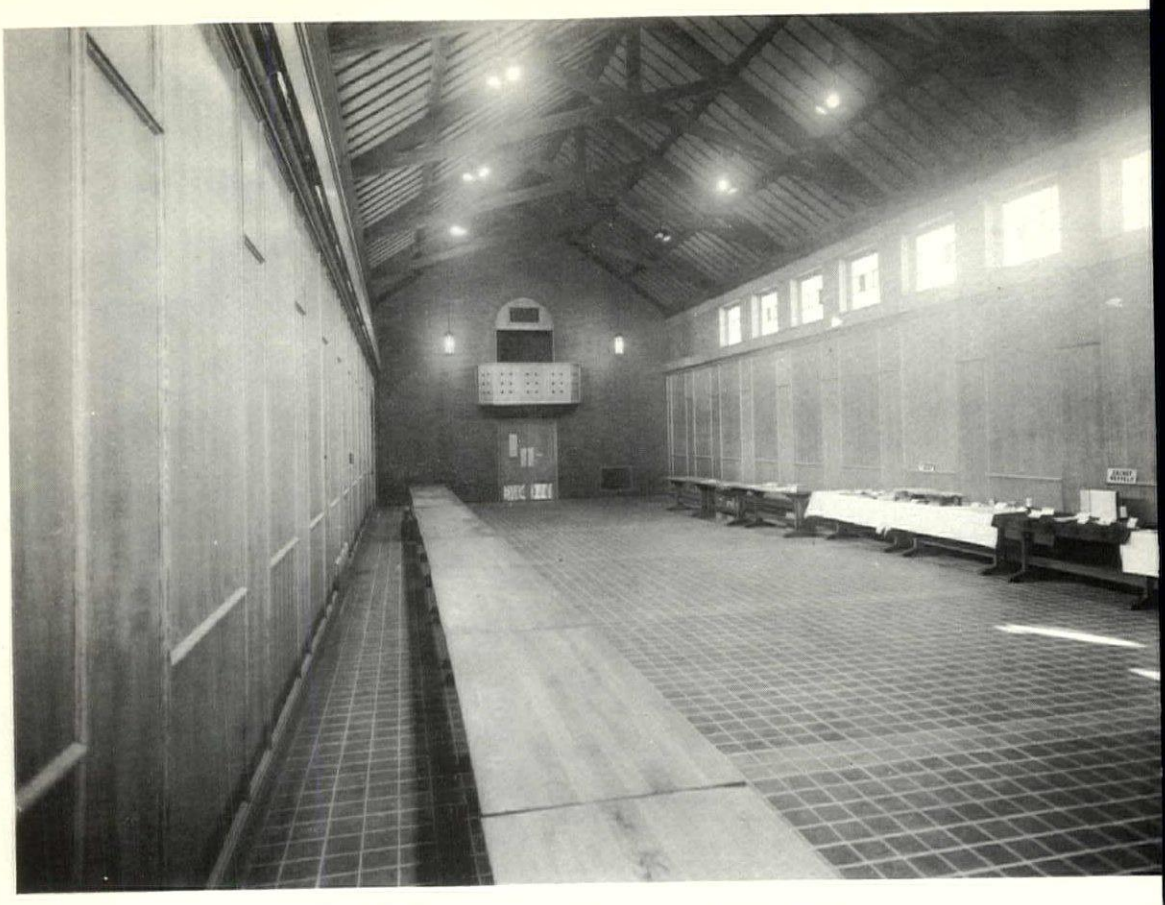

General View of Refectory

(Continued from Page 16)

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John J. Reilly, (Electrical) Manchester.

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(Continued on Page 22)

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DERRY, N. H.

Frank J. Indoccio, Pres.

(Continued from Page 20)

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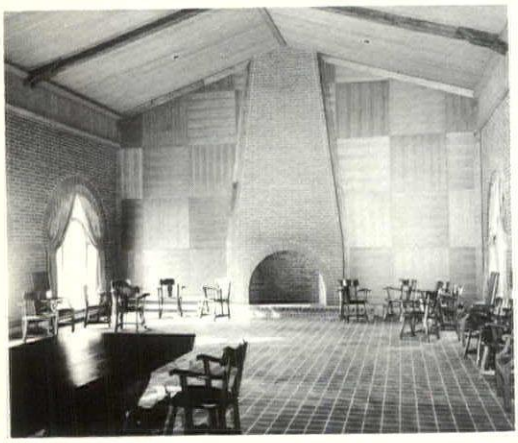
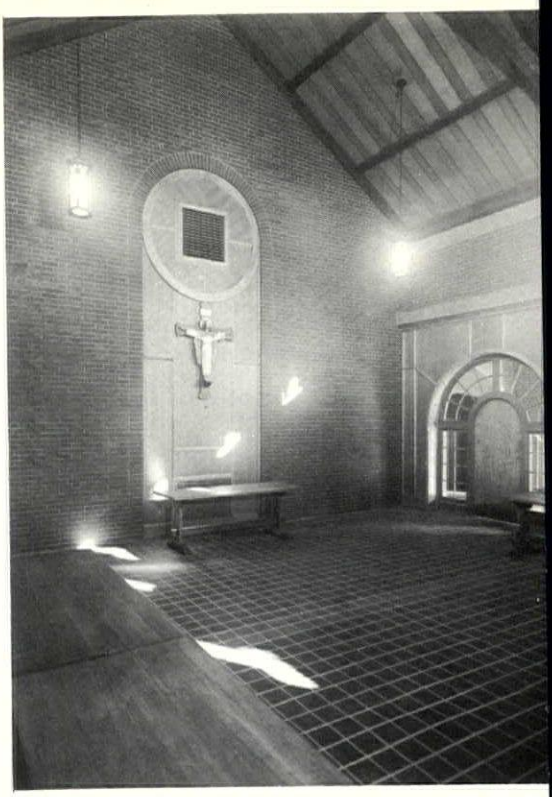


The Chapter Room



Refectory View of North Wall.

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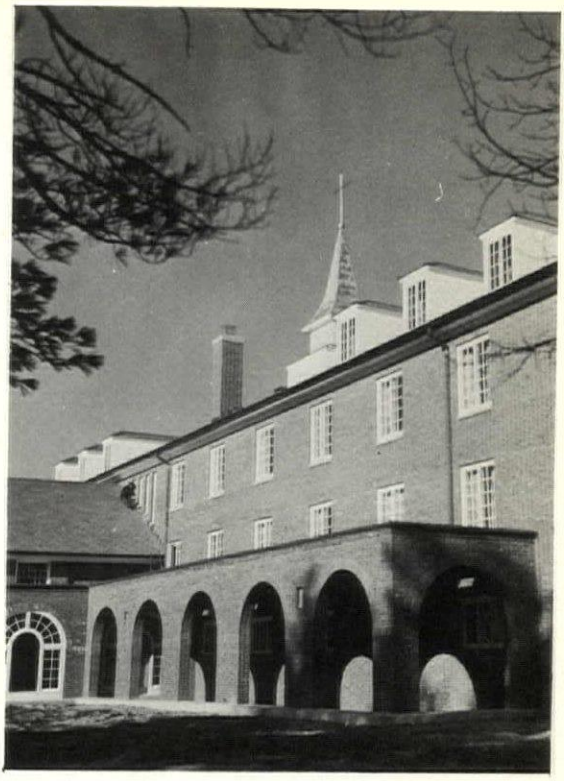

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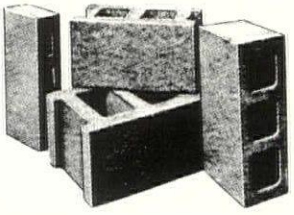

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c	Public Relations	Stephen P. Tracy
d	Chapter Committee on Public Relations	Nicholas Isaak
e	By Laws	Walter Thomas Williams
f	Board of Examiners	Leo P. Provost
g	Chapter Committee on Membership	Horace G. Bradt
h	Judiciary	Eric T. Huddleston

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*b	Urban Design & Housing	W. Brooke Fleck
c	Architect & Government	Alfred T. Granger
*d	Collab. with Design Prof.	Edgar H. Hunter
*e	Architectural Practice	Stephen P. Tracy
f	Chapter Public Relations	Nicholas Isaak
g	N. H. Architect	Alexander J. Majeski
h	Traveling Exhibit	Everett R. Munson

C—MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES— ..... Horace G. Bradt, G. C.

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b	Honor Awards	Willis E. Littlefield
*c	Chapter Affairs	Horace G. Bradt

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*b	Education	Maurice Witmer
*c	Preservation of Historic Buildings	William L. White
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*f	School Buildings	Malcolm Hildreth
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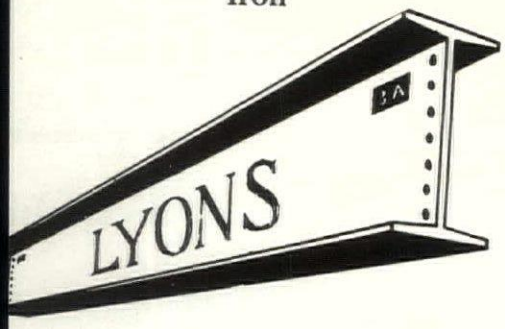

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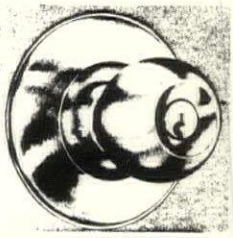

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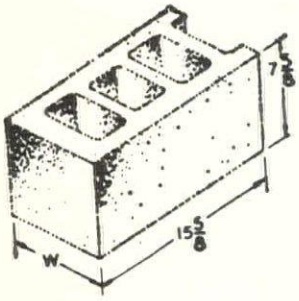

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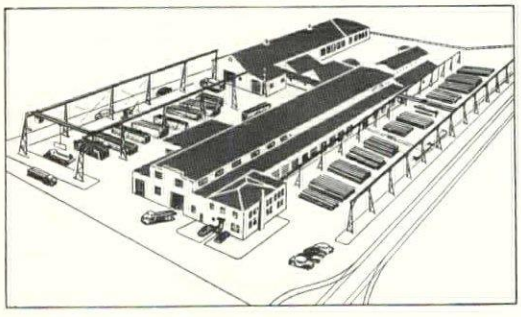

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