

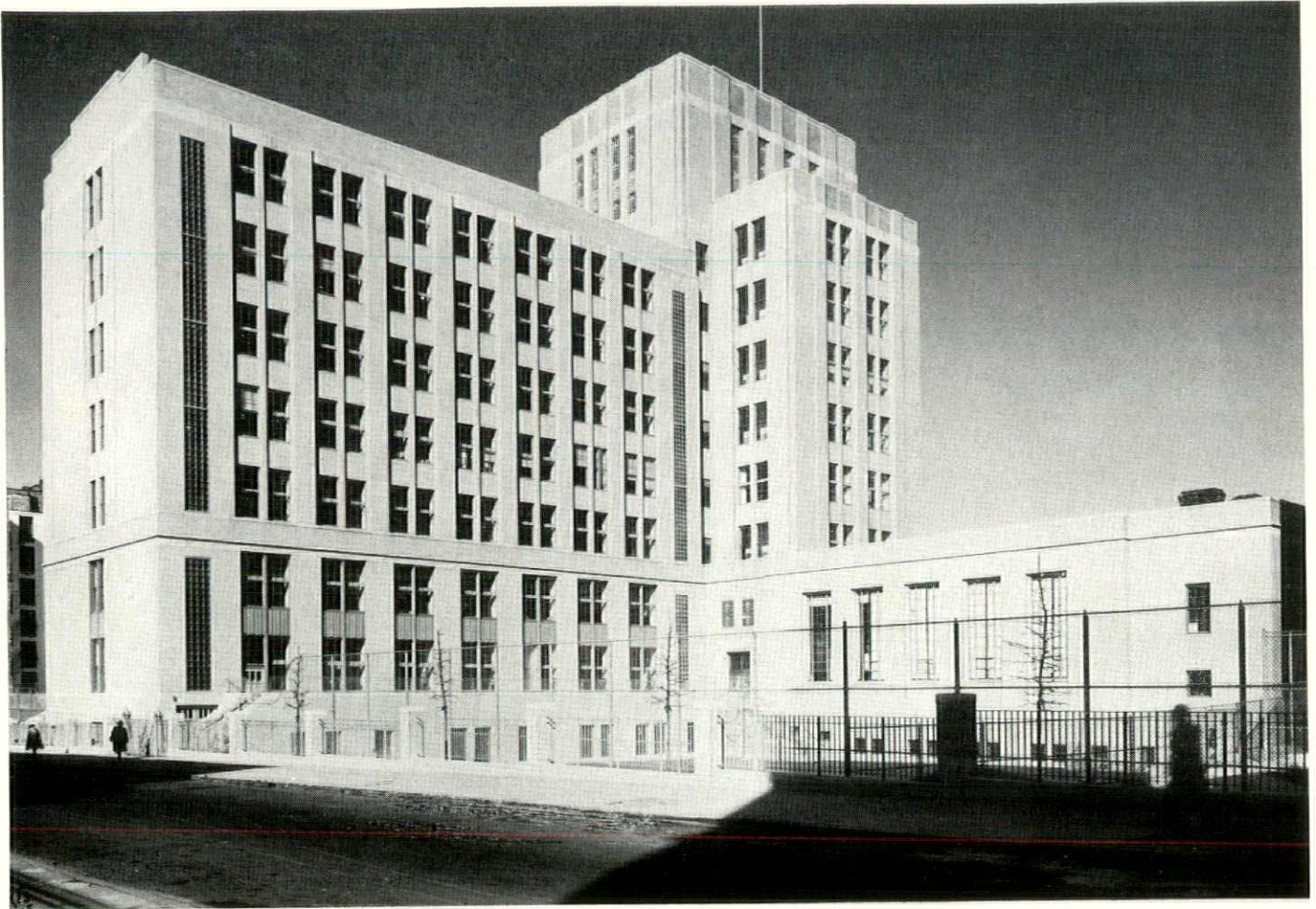
Empire State

ARCHITECT



MARCH-APRIL 1942
VOLUME 11 NUMBER 2

LOOK THROUGH THE MIRROR
HOW TO GET IT ACROSS
LEGISLATION
875 FIFTH AVENUE
PUBLIC RELATIONS
AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS
STEEL CONSERVATION



JOAN OF ARC JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL
NEW YORK CITY

General Contractor
Depot Construction Co.

Architect, Eric Kebbon,
Supt. of School Bldg. Design and Construction.

FACE BRICK PLAYS IMPORTANT PART IN MODERN SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE

In designing this building the Architect planned to accommodate approximately 2,500 students and at the same time planned the building for community use as well as regular school studies. Approximately 12,000 square feet are provided for playgrounds, screened with trees and shrubs. In order to meet the school requirements it was necessary to build a multi-story building, and the complete building is a fine example of this type of structure.

School officials who have examined the design consider it to be pedagogically sound. The elimination of long corridors and their replacement by intercommunicating elevator and stair service reduces the time of travel between classes.

The exterior of the building is a simple and dignified enclosure of the basic masses resulting from the plan design. The material is a warm gray brick relieved with a moderate amount of Indiana limestone trim.

Approximately 600,000 Belden Graystone Brick were used for the exterior of the building.

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Empire State Architect

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Publisher — Julian L. Kahle, 232 Anderson Place, Buffalo, New York.

AMONG THE CONSTITUENTS

NEW YORK CHAPTER, A. I. A.

The theme of the annual dinner of the Chapter was "Our Latin American Relations."

The dinner was well attended and the Chapter was privileged to entertain a number of distinguished guests.

Dr. S. S. Goldwater former commissioner of hospitals for the City of New York was unanimously elected to honorary associate membership.

Dr. Goldwater is one of the most outstanding hospital consultants in the country.

The chapter members are looking forward with great anticipation to a special meeting to be held during the latter part of this month at which time Edmund R. Purves the Washington representative of the Institute will discuss the possibility of a housing panel by the F.W.A. In times such as these what could be more appropriate?

WESTCHESTER COUNTY SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

Election of officers was the order of the day at the Society's February meeting and to make a long story short the result is as follows:

George A. Boehm, President
Louis Levine, Vice-President
Edwin F. Hayner, Secretary
Ted Arthur Homa, Treasurer

Bill Cain our Defense Committee chairman reported on his activities and although stymied at many turns he is still full of optimism that the Architects will attain their place in the program of Civilian Defense.

CENTRAL NEW YORK CHAPTER, A. I. A.

The annual meeting of the Chapter was held at Syracuse and we were graced with the presence of Major Frank C. Love of Syracuse.

Major Love's address was on the importance of the profession in the emergency and he particularly emphasized the value of the Architect who with his vast experience is a most important cog in the governmental machinery.

The Architects of this area are doing their bit in the various communities and the profession is becoming much better known and valued by both the public and the officials.

NEW YORK SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The entire membership of the Society has volunteered its services as an auxiliary to the Department of Housing and Buildings of the City of New York to go into action at once in interests of Civilian Protection. It is expected that the Architects will lecture to air raid wardens on the technical phases of probable damage to buildings due to raids.

The members will go into action during and subsequent to a raid to give expert advice as to the safety of structures that may have become damaged as a result of a raid.

The problem in this area is most complex and all fully realize the tremendous task which they have assumed.

Our President, Bob Teichman, is conducting rapid fire meetings and all who so desire are afforded ample opportunity to express themselves and the precision with which the meetings are carried on is a revelation.

Continued on Page 13

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC RELATIONS

I am happy to announce the composition of the committee on public relations. Under the chairmanship of William Lescaze, the following have a large job ahead. They are:—

Arthur Holden and Kenneth Reid of the New York Chapter; Myron Teller, Mid-Hudson Society; Chester A. Cole, Staten Island Society; Adolph Mertin, Brooklyn Chapter; John R. Edgar, Buffalo Chapter; Joseph Geigand, Western N. Y. Society; Louis Levine and James E. Cook, Westchester Co. Society; William C. Stohldrier, Westchester Chapter; Miss Helen Gillespie, Syracuse Society; L. C. Dillenback, Central N. Y. Chapter; Alfred H. Eccles, Robert Teichman and Sidney Strauss, New York Society; Raymond Irrera, Queens Society; Maxwell A. Cantor, Brooklyn Society; Richard Heidelberger, Long Island Society; Cyril T. Tucker, Rochester Society; H. L. Blattner, Albany Chapter; Thomas Dunn, Bronx Society; and Conway Todd, New York State Association representative on the A.I.A. committee on public relations.

This committee has been charged with the responsibility of:—

- a) the development of a public relations program to be presented to the Annual Convention in October.
- b) the integration of the New York state program with local associations and any national or regional program which may be developed.
- c) the development of a program within the profession, acquainting the architects with their own short comings, and informing them of what changes in practices are necessary before a public relations program may be successful.

The work of the committee is so large that any suggestions which the membership is able to offer will be gratefully received. Please send them to Bill Lescaze, 211 E. 48th Street, New York, N. Y.

At this time it may be well to clear up several misunderstandings with regard to the program outlined by Mr. D. Knickerbacker Boyd in the January-February number. First, it is an independent effort, which, if sufficient funds are available, will be under the direction of the temporary committee, until a permanent organization has been perfected. Secondly, while the New York State Association endorses all well directed and properly sponsored public relations programs, its interest in the regional campaign outlined by Mr. Boyd is that of a friend and not a partner. Checks (which were not anticipated) made out to Matthew W. Del Gaudio, Treasurer, New York State Association of Architects, will be returned in the future so that the donors may remake them properly.

GOING TO DETROIT?—

Those of us planning to attend the seventy-fourth A. I. A. Convention in Detroit, June 23rd-26th, will be interested to learn that the New York Central Railroad System is planning to operate special sleeping cars for the exclusive use of architects and supplymen enroute to the convention. These cars will probably be operated on the fast "Detroiter," leaving New York at 7:00 P. M. on June 22nd and arriving in Detroit the following morning at 8:15 A. M.

For those who prefer daytime travel, it is planned to set aside a group of seats on the new, stainless steel, streamlined "Empire State Express" leaving New York at 9:00 A. M., June 22nd, arriving in Detroit at 9:55 P. M. that day.

Bearing in mind the increasing difficulty in securing railroad accommodations and the ever-mounting restrictions on the use of automobiles, these arrangements should prove a

boon to those going to the convention. Further details will be announced in the next issue of this publication.

TRAVELLING EXHIBIT OF STATE BOARD DESIGN PROBLEMS

Once again there has been compiled an interesting group of the solutions submitted in the last two design problems which were part of the examinations for license to practice architecture. They represent a cross section of those submitted, and show a few of the best, as well as some which just passed. They should be of interest to the practising architect and student alike.

The schedule is:—New York-Columbia University—February 23rd to 27th; Architectural League—March 2nd to 6th; New York University—March 9th to 13th; Pratt Institute—March 16th to 20th; Ithaca—March 30th to April 3rd; Buffalo—April 6th to 10th; Rochester—April 13th to 17th; Syracuse—April 20th to 24th; Utica—April 27th to May 1st; Troy—May 4th to 8th; Albany—May 11th to 15th.

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIPS IN ARCHITECTURE

One \$400.00 and four \$200.00 scholarships to be granted by competition on Saturday, July 11, 1942. The competition will be in two fields—drawing and preparatory school record. (1) Contestants must send to the College of Fine Arts not later than Wednesday, July 1st, a portfolio containing not more than 20 examples of their work in free-hand and mechanical drawing together with three letters of recommendation as to personality, character and general fitness. Judging the drawings by a committee of the Architecture Faculty will take place on Saturday, July 11. (2) The High School records of all contestants will be carefully examined by the Director of Admissions and the Architecture Faculty Committee to determine fitness for a course in Architecture. Special attention will be given to ability in high school mathematics.

Each portfolio of drawings, etc., must contain the name and address of the student contestant and a statement from the student's high school principal that the drawings, etc., in the portfolio are the original work of the student submitting them.

All portfolios sent in by Art and Architecture contestants will be returned after the contest by Express collect unless other arrangements are made with Dean H. L. Butler, The College of Fine Arts.

MORE ABOUT PUBLIC RELATIONS —

Again one of the smaller constituent organizations has gone out and done something instead of talking about it. This time, it is the Albany Chapter on the Radio. Giles Y. van der Bogart, the chairman, writes:

"These broadcasts are jointly sponsored by the Albany Chapter and Union College of Schenectady and are heard over Station WGY, Thursdays at 5:45 P. M.

The purpose of the series is to acquaint the public with the fine architectural monuments that exist in New York State and is so arranged that on each program an historian tells of the people and customs of a period while a member of the A. I. A. discusses the architectural type developed during this period.

I believe it is of interest to know that WGY feels that a program such as this has such great public appeal that they have willingly donated fifteen minutes for each broadcast."

J. W. KIDENEY



NO. 875 FIFTH AVENUE

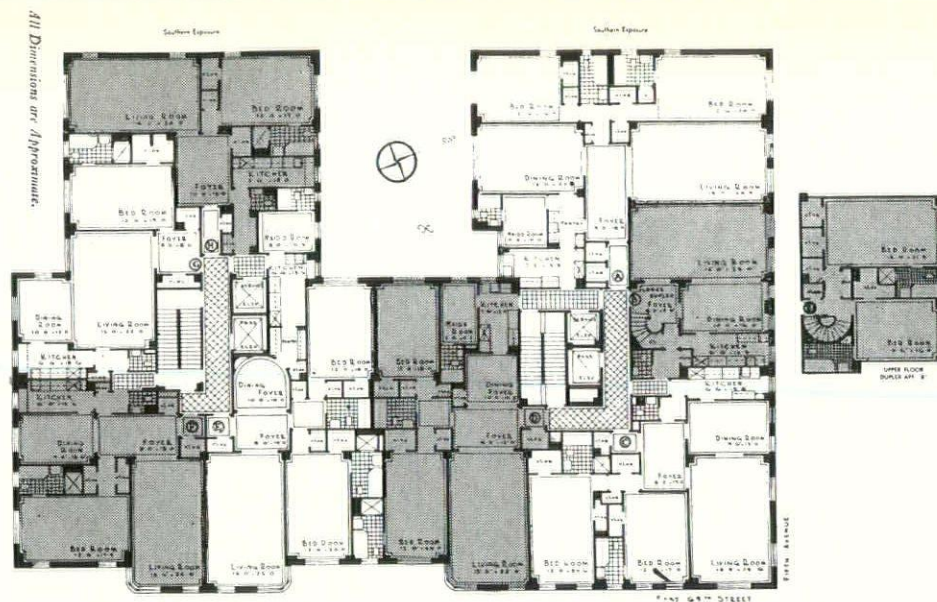
by Emery Roth

The building illustrated by the accompanying plan is the latest Fifth Avenue apartment house to be completed. It is nineteen stories high, the nineteenth floor being a pent house and is built on a plot of 100'0" x 150'0" at the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and 69th Street, New York.

Inasmuch as the plans speak for themselves it would be obviously a waste of words to describe in detail the layout or

construction of this building to the readers of an architectural magazine. It may, however, not be out of place to comment on the present day trend of apartment house planning.

It is an axiom that a building is only good if it serves the purpose for which it has been erected. The primary purpose of building apartment houses is to create the best possible return on the Investment. A building that does not pay is poor



architecture no matter how interesting the design, costly the construction or clever the layout.

Within reasonable limits of first cost it should, however, be so well built that maintenance costs and repairs and heating shall be at the minimum. The proper mechanical equipment of the building therefore, is of primary importance and it is in this particular respect that Architects and Builders frequently fall short.

A good apartment house plan is one where square feet of usable and rentable area is the greatest in proportion to the cubical contents of the building. Every foot of public and private hall that is eliminated adds to the rentable area.

Because of the smaller families and the difficulty of getting reliable servants, the tendency during the last ten or fifteen years has been towards apartments containing fewer rooms in its units. This necessarily means more apartments on the same floor area. It would, therefore, require a great number of service elevators to provide direct service connection to the apartments without crossing the passenger traffic. This difficulty is obviated by providing each apartment with a separate service entrance opening onto a service vestibule. The garbage cans, milk bottles and newspapers and the delivery boy by this means are screened in this service vestibule and are not visible from the public hall.

Another notable trend in apartment house planning is the tendency to do away with excessively large rooms.

Since the depression it appears that well-to-do people have realized that they are no greater in height or weight than poor people and seem to be satisfied with rooms of serviceable size and proportioned to the human scale. A living room 13'0" to 15'0" wide and 22'0" to 26'0" long is more livable than a room of palatial proportion and will hold all the furniture and company it may be expected to accommodate. This space can be augmented by opening it to a spacious foyer. In the same way the main bedroom of 13'0" x 20'0" down to 12'0" x 16'0" if the proper wall space is provided, will comfortably contain all the bedroom furniture. Most particularly large dining spaces are wasteful of area and money, as this room is used only a few hours out of the twenty-four. On the other hand, very large and numerous closets are highly desirable for comfortable living.

The New York Multiple Dwelling Law in its insistence upon the location and size of courts, yards, etc., fairly well defines the perimeter of the building, and this perimeter is the most precious thing that an Architect works with. A good plan therefore presupposes that the narrow end of all the rooms faces this perimeter, in fact, for this reason square rooms are generally avoided and the required square area is

created by increasing the depth. By the same token extensive use is made of interior spaces by creating large foyers, dining spaces, mechanically ventilated interior bath rooms, closets, etc., adding to the area of the apartment without using up exterior wall space. Any plan that uses the exterior perimeter for a row of closets, for instance, on the face of it is not using the plot area to its best advantage.

In smaller apartments where no dining rooms are provided there must be some space off the living room or off the foyer specifically reserved for eating. In the better class of apartment this space should never be connected with the kitchen or cooking space.

Note that only the one six room apartment included a full dining room. The others have dining spaces as part of the living rooms while the two center apartments (D and E) are provided with dinettes that are an extension of the foyer but are so placed as not to be in the line of communication between rooms and may also be readily screened or curtained off. Also note that the living room window which extends across the entire end of the room is on the axis of the foyer and dinette.

In addition to paying for living space the tenant is also paying for light, air and view. It is therefore incumbent upon the Architect to place windows in proportion to, in fact, in excess of the requirements of proper light and air. He may not as in some of the older architectural designs think of planning his windows symmetrically on the front of the building but must place them in accordance with the requirements of the particular room it lights. Monumental and symmetrical exterior designs therefore cannot be easily created. After all beyond a certain decency the tenant pays only for the apartment and not for its exterior. The design of the building need not be monumental architecture, a simple and clean design is all that is required, at any rate the size of windows and their best location must not be tampered with.

After the Architect has put into his preliminary drawings all the study that he is capable of, he should in order to produce the best results at the minimum expense call in the Specialist. First of all he sends his preliminary layout to a number of Real Estate Agents, who specialize in renting in that particular location and who from their previous experience place a rental value on the apartments. They also make suggestions as to possible improvements in the layout, such as placing larger and more important apartments in a more advantageous location and in general to make the layout conform to the demands of the public. Quite often these real estate men disagree with each other or their suggested changes may entail other sacrifices and it is the Architect's

function to determine to what extent he is to follow these. The next expert is the designer of the structural steel of the building. The Architect in his plans may have posed structural problems that would run up the cost of the building. He therefore modifies the plans or the structural design, which ever compromise seems more advisable. Also before the building is laid out he calls in the Sanitary Engineer who lays out the plumbing and ventilation and who may find a change in plan might reduce the number of required lines and he decides whether the layout is sufficiently affected to justify such change. In the same manner it has been found advisable that the Architect turn to a Decorator for advice and design for the entrance halls and other public spaces. Where formerly these were monumentally designed by the Architect's office of costly materials, the problem now is turned over to a Decorator who with much simpler means and in conjunction with the furnishings which are also designed by the Decorator, creates a satisfactory entrance hall at much less cost. Primarily in view of the fact that the entrance hall is used merely for passing through, the purpose of the design is to create something that will be intriguing and dramatic. The decorators, the Intramural Inc. have accomplished this by the introduction of a concealed lighting system, a few reflecting mirrors and a few well placed specially designed furniture pieces.

After the Architect and his office force have faithfully put into plan and design all they have and after he had summoned all the outside assistance he could get, the building is completed. He then discovers that his shot is off the green. It is just like golf; in spite of all the lessons and practice, you sense what you should have done only after you've dubbed the shot.

GENERAL CONTRACTORS

DIESEL ELECTRIC CO., Inc.
2 PARK AVE. NEW YORK

LUPTON STEEL WINDOWS

MICHAEL FLYNN MFG. CO.
51 E. 42 ST. NEW YORK

DESIGNERS OF COMMERCIAL INTERIORS

INTRAMURAL, Inc.
40 E. 49 ST. NEW YORK

METAL FURRING AND LATHING

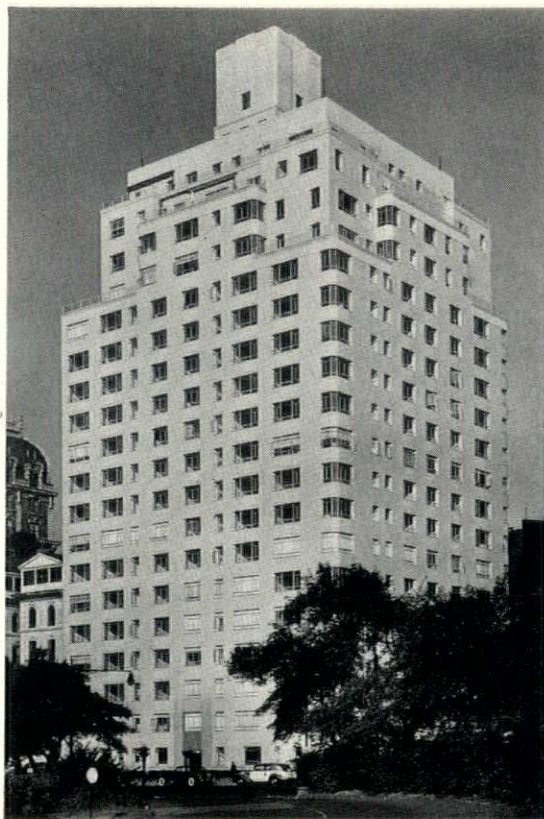
WILLIAM J. SCULLY, Inc.
101 PARK AVE. NEW YORK

CARPENTERS

BUSMAN & ROSEN, Inc.
299 MADISON AVE. NEW YORK

295 CENTRAL PARK WEST

Corner of 90th Street, New York, N. Y.



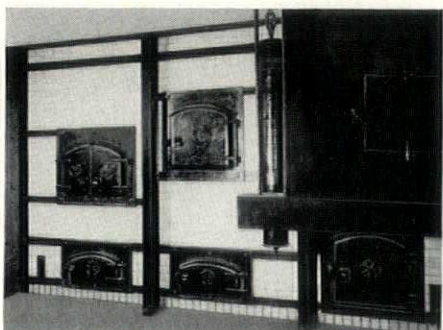
This nineteen story and pent house apartment building designed by Emery Roth & Sons, at the southwest corner of 90th Street and Central Park West, has the same general layout as 875 Fifth Avenue, at 69th Street, and differs only from the fact that the apartments are all in smaller units. It has even a greater simplicity of outline thereby reducing the perimeter and by the complete use of the interior spaces of the building. It is also a notable fact that in this fireproof apartment building for the first time the National Gypsum Company's 2" solid partitions were used throughout.

As there are nine partitions across each front of the building the saving of 18" in space is appreciable, and is equivalent to having that much larger land area to work with. The partitions proved highly satisfactory, thoroughly soundproof and were considerably less expensive than plaster block partitions.

All the exterior walls of this building, the ceilings of all the offset floors, and the pent house are furred with 1" steel channels and wire lath and have proven that such furring is the most positive way of preventing dampness in the building and reducing the heating bill.

The exterior of the building is as simple and straight forward as could only be devised.

All windows are placed with a view of best lighting the particular room and proportioned to the size of the room. No attempt whatever was made as to symmetry and yet the completed building is a pleasing and dignified piece of architecture.



Destructor
as built at
875 5th Ave.
New York

SARGENT INCINERATOR COMPANY

15 Warren St.

New York City

LOOK THROUGH THE MIRROR

by George A. Boehm

A notable author, of the old Russia, wrote that the common man would rather have a sack of meal than all the fine literature in the world.

A more recent critic wrote that true craftsmanship never has required the appreciation of the multitude.

These should not be taken as expressions of snobbery. They come from men far too earnest in their work to descend to futile considerations. Besides that, many others have expressed themselves similarly from time to time. It merely means that the generality does not understand, and therefore, has no care for the niceties in the arts. It appreciates and wants the everyday useful articles, and only requires them to be dressed up, more or less in accordance with the fashion of the day. It appreciates materials, brilliant color, an appearance of size and of strength, and particularly one of superior cost. It appreciates romance and humor. All of these from the broadest view point only. Most finesse is lost on it. Only the highly trained specialist appreciates that to the full.

The architect's work is for the great generality in appreciation. It is necessary for him to satisfy its urgent requirements. When he goes beyond that in the matter of esthetic satisfaction, it is to gratify his own urge of craftsmanship or to obtain recognition from fellow specialists.

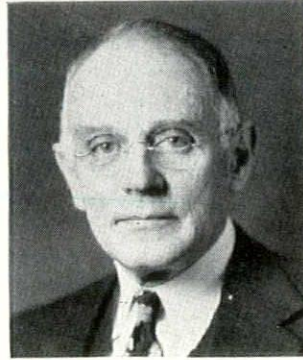
Do not misunderstand. This is not a suggestion that the profession ignore the art factor in its work. The intelligent, trained architect, as well as every other intelligent and trained craftsman, cannot help but execute his work with the utmost of finesse of which he is capable. That includes the esthetic. The burden of this counsel lies elsewhere.

This is not addressed to those whose practice is limited to that of the fine arts by themselves. Our interest is particular, and in the architect and his success in his profession. To be successful he must face in the right direction. It is certain that he has not been doing so, partly because of misunderstanding where his real work lies, and partly because of neglecting to present his case properly.

In the intense struggle between groups in kindred activities, the introduction by one of a false move or the neglecting of a right one, results in the imposing of a great handicap on it. I think the profession suffers from precisely that. It has neglected to recognize and to advance itself as the profession, without a peer, primarily able to produce, in whole, the article of use needed by all the world; that is, its shelter. Only secondarily is it necessary for it to show that it can produce that shelter with outstanding esthetic qualities.

It must, first of all, strive to be acknowledged as capable of producing shelter having superior qualities of usefulness, that is, of suitability, strength and requisit durability. It must demonstrate that this involves the ability to plan: First, with a clear knowledge of how people live, work and play; Second, with a thorough knowledge of the usefulness and the use of materials, and; Third, with the skill to fuse the foregoing into a plan for the suitable structure. In addition it can readily demonstrate that it can produce one which also has high esthetic qualities.

The first and the third mentioned abilities are found pre-eminently in the province of the architect. The engineer and, to some extent the general contractor, have introduced



themselves as competent in the field of the second. They have not the grounding of the architect in the first and third fields. There was a time when the architect held full and undisputed sway in all three fields. I think he is entirely competent still to hold that, but he doesn't. Here is where false motivation has led him and harmed him.

For a long time he has been placing the main stress on the esthetic value of his services, and sometimes, still worse, on their esthetic value alone. Unfortunately, esthetic value is an article easily dispensed with by those who do not fully understand it. It is only, if I may abuse a trigonometric expression, a plus value. You must have all of the other desirable attributes before it becomes of any real importance.

The beginnings of art are believed to have taken the form of etching on the bones of animals, after the food had been eaten and in the following leisure period of contentment, or in similar leisure period scratchings done on the walls of caves. All in time off and only as an accessory activity or amusement. The development of such primitive work into a more complex art also is found to be an associate and accompaniment of flush periods, where much leisure is to be found for the purpose of ostentation or for pure amusement. Pure art goes out of the window where a serious necessity exists for the simple making of a livelihood. For the commonality that covers practically all of the time. Only the wealthy can afford the luxury of indulging in art work for its own sake.

It is true that the necessity of satisfying man's religious urge, even in periods of extreme stress, calls for art as the predominant requirement for the structure. But that field is a limited one. The same is true, but even to a lesser extent, in the field of meeting man's requirements for amusement. In all of the big remaining field it is quite secondary.

We are now beset by a fire. Many things will go up in flames. If enough of the cluttering trash is destroyed so that the simple, indestructible, underlying truths are once more bared, much can be gained. If the trash is safeguarded and preserved, another great opportunity will be lost.

The days of Louis XIV and of the George are gone. So are the days of their opulent successors. The still living echoes of those days are very faint, and are becoming constantly fainter. With them has largely disappeared the purely copied type of art, art in the form of applied decoration, to be replaced by real attempts to express the esthetics of present-day living, an age of keen intellectual activity, of science and of matter of fact, despite its love for the spectacular, for the astonishing, for the fast moving, for the ephemeral. The abandonment of the artificiality of the old, in itself, should cleanse the profession and open its eyes.

There may arise, later, a demand for public structures where the spiritual motives of fraternal or other religious origin make the art element the primary requirement. But that call is not yet here. If the architect wishes to continue to exist now, his work must be keyed mainly to the useful, and he must let it be known that he is fully able to produce, in whole, that useful article.

The joy to be had from producing a worthy object of pure art is not the only nor the supreme joy to result from work. There is the joy, and I think it a greater one, to be had by very artisan, from the producing of a fitting, useful object, in which the finesse of art appears as a necessary but accessory attribute, not as the primary one.

Let the architect take back his rightful heritage. Let him again be recognized as supreme in all three fields that go for the producing the desired structure. Let him again be the master builder.

HOW TO GET IT ACROSS by William Lescaze

DIALOGUES, 1942

A few weeks ago George called Bill on the phone: "Look here, you've got to do something for me. I promised our friends of the Empire State Architect that you and I would write two companion articles on the subject of 'The Architect and the Public.'"

"Well, it sounds like a good idea but I don't know that I have the ability to do it."

"Oh sure. You take the part on 'How To Get It Across' and I'll take 'What Services The Architect Has To Offer.' O.K.?"

"George, frankly I'm worried."

"Come, come, you know all about publicity."

"Oh, do I? You flatter me. Since when?"

"Say yes, will you?"

"All right, yes."

"Thanks Bill."

"You're welcome, George; I'll try. Goodbye."



Bill put down the receiver. He filled and lighted a pipe, and thought: "It's curious how reputations get built. Here I am trained to plan and to design, and because I have designed a few things which have occasionally been published then my friends jump to the conclusion that I know something about publicity. Of course, there used to be that Radio Publicity Committee for the State Association on which some of us tried to work for the good of all of us. But that's dead now. Then there is that Public Relations Committee of the Chapter. A little bit of progress has been made, but there is so much more to do. Jimminy crickets, 'how to get it across!' That's some job. Maybe if I had an air depot or an army base or some defense housing to build somewhere, maybe I would know then. I sure would like to know. I sure would like to tell my friends 'how to get it across.' Would I? Yes I would. That's it, we don't act often enough as a unified group. Good teamwork is what's needed. Badly needed from us architects. I must think about that some more and write it down for George."

Several days later . . .

Philip is waiting for his train, reading the evening paper. "Good work, General MacArthur," he says to himself, "Bataan Peninsula is still being held."

A young man comes in and sits on the stool next to Philip's.

"Scotch and soda, please; yes, Wilson's."

He has a nice clean-cut face. He turns to Philip: "I just joined the Navy."

"Good for you; that's great," says Philip. "When?"

"Today. Look." He pulls out of his pocket a letter to prove it. "They treat you well, they look after you in the navy."

"Have another drink?"

"No thanks, not just now; they told me to be sure not to get drunk."

"They're right. Tell me what were you doing before?"

"I'm a carpenter, but what's the use? I want to get married someday, live a regular life."

"I see. You couldn't as a carpenter?"

"No."

"Well, you are all right now. Good luck to you."

The young man left. Philip looks at his newspaper again. He reads:

"At the present moment a great number of architects, aged plus or minus forty, are made to feel that their usefulness to their country is less than that of an eighteen year old apprentice in a flying school. That doesn't make sense. It's waste today and it may become disastrous tomorrow due to the fact that BUILDING IS THE FIRST OPERATION IN THE PRODUCTION OF MUNITIONS, a fact which is being forcibly imposed upon us. Building is a war tool too. Low or faulty performance of building means fewer guns, fewer tanks and fewer airplanes. Low or faulty performance of building means delays in completion of needed plants for the machines and of needed houses for the workers who man them.

"Added to this, totalitarian war seeks to destroy buildings and so to make the agonies of war felt by as many civilians as possible. Thus buildings of all types are menaced; homes, hospitals, stores, hotels, theatres, in non-military as well as in military areas."

Philip wonders. Who has written that? Is it true? He had been sincere when he had congratulated that young man for joining the Navy. But what would happen if all the architects, all the draftsmen, all the carpenters, all the masons, joined the Army or the Navy.

Just then Fred comes in with another man. "Philip, I want you to meet Bill, who built our house three years ago."

"I'm very glad. I have often admired that house of yours."

"Thanks."

"So you are an architect? Tell me, I take it that with all the war construction going on you must be frightfully busy. But then why does anyone write a story like that one?" And he showed him the newspaper.

"Well — but first, when is your train leaving?"

"In fifteen minutes."

"That doesn't give us much time, does it? But I'll try."

"Please do."

"It's a strange and long tale. To begin with, the building industry is not really an industry. It's an old, huge and amorphous sort of thing. It employs about 2,400,000 men and does about \$11,000,000,000 gross worth of business in a good year. But it's not like the airplane or automobile industries which deliver ready-made products. Have you ever thought of the multitude of things which make up that building industry? Look: stone, gravel or sand quarries; kilns and sheds where bricks are fired and stored; sawmills and lumber yards; plants where men and machines make glass, locks, hinges, steel channels and angles; laboratories and factories where chemists and workers mix paints, mastics, asphalt; plants where pipes and cables, plumbing fixtures and window frames are made; then in an office far away from the mills and the plants, architects and engineers, planning, designing, calculating, men working on drawings from which to build; then at a site far away from that office men doing the building, digging a hole, erecting steel, pouring concrete, building walls, setting windows, plastering partitions, installing ducts, laying floors."

Continued on Page 11

When we last met in this column I promised you some interesting developments in WASHINGTON. Washington is a beehive of direct major influences and cross currents of personalities; and of happenings which affect us now and will continue to have a bearing on the rest of our lives.

This significant WASHINGTON item should be given your consideration. The House on February 19, defeated: —

The bill which would have provided funds for the planning of public improvements on paper now, construction after the war. The bill in the Senate is S-1617, and I advise that you telegraph your Senator now requesting his favorable action.

This bill has a revolving fund of fifty million, (\$50,000,000) and of necessity works with Federal and political subdivisions of government, for the inauguration of public improvements. It is the present intention that they do the spot planning, and that private Architects...and others... do the detail work.

War homes must be built. In FHA VI "economic soundness" has been deleted, insurance of them is by special RFC fund. Look for VI increase from \$4,000-20 years to \$5,400-25 years; also 90% of complete costs under Section 207, rental housing.

At Washington re-buildings, new orders have been written to freeze dealer stocks, and to require licenses before starting any type of construction, public or private. ALL METALS have been further restricted. There are permissible types of construction. Maybe you can find and get approval of one. And the wags have it, a man power administration will be set up soon, and also that both coasts will need bombing protection and insurance.

Along with complete man power mobilization there will be one central civilian agency, with men of the 40 age group, for ALL WAR buying and production, with powers to form policy and revise design. The smart boys say that this new agency will be under General Brehom B. Somervell, who will report to Undersecretary Patterson. Somervell will have as his assistants Charles D. Young (V.P. Penn. R.R.) and MacKeachie (WPB). Under them will be General T. J. Hayes as production man, assisted by A. R. Clancy (Pontiac & OPM), and Albert J. Browning in charge of purchases.

SUBSTITUTES: C. I. for copper hot water heater; wood treated to carry electric wiring; glass globe in W.C. tanks; no metal covers for furnace heaters; hot water or steam plant must serve two or more families; emergency plumbing system must be used; hardware none but the most essential; Construction order P*19-h must be used, and defense housing order P*55 both simplified thru extended endorsements; lumber and masonry soon to be restricted, reason, transportation both R.R. and trucking.

To get into production sooner, the War Department is encouraging more extensive use of ARCHITECT-ENGINEER-MANAGER firms. They will be paid on a fee plus costs basis, the fee representing your know-how. The War Department then subs portions of the work as it is ready. Of the eleven billion dollars (\$11,000,000,000) 1942 building program, the bulk is within the range of our not-too-busy members. Why not form a hunting team, and go gunning? Do it for yourself, nobody is going to do it for you.

It looks at this writing, March 25, that there will be a state-wide post war program of four hundred fifty million dollars (\$450,000,000); designing now, construction later.

The limits of my space do not allow my telling more

here. These limits allow only a streamlined version of Albany activities so without further ado, let us to Albany.

ALBANY ... The 1942 Legislature has been deep in the heart of Taxes and War. There are other bills, of course, and it is instructive to analyze their kind and sorts. The session is drawing to a close. All the cards have been dealt. Those played you know; those in reserve your sense should tell you. ALL bills are now in RULES.

About 5,000 bills were introduced in the Senate and Assembly all of which must be read to cull some 80 that were.

Among those OTHER BILLS which concern us Architects are: The Civil Service Architects Bill, SI 44 Phelps. The new section, Section 19a, Chapter 15, follows in full.

"Sec. 19a. 1. Heads of departments and agencies; appointment of architects and engineers and all technical assistants. All architects, engineers, technical inspectors and all technical assistants, employed in or by departments or independent agencies of cities of one million or more inhabitants, and paid in whole or in part from city funds, shall be appointed pursuant to the provisions of the civil service law. No person other than a civil service employee shall be employed for architectural or engineering functions or duties.

This section shall not be construed to prevent the employment of any architect, engineer or other scientific worker of peculiar or exceptional qualifications whenever, in the planning, design, construction of maintenance of any specific public work or public project, the services of a person of such peculiar or exceptional qualifications shall be required. The services of any such person of peculiar or exceptional qualifications so employed as contemplated by this section shall be limited to services of solely an advisory nature. In the execution of said specific public work or project, the civil service architects, engineers, technical inspectors and all technical assistants who shall perform the technical work involved may utilize the specified services of an advisory nature when rendered."

We got a jolt, an unexpected one, when this Bill was introduced at once. Quick work by all of you and the efforts of smiling Mr. Sid Strauss, give us every reason to believe that this Bill will not leave Committee. But do not relax your vigilance for such Bills have a way of coming out of Rules at the last moment, and somehow getting under the wire.

Somewhat along these lines is SI 1245, Wicks. Civil Service Architects and Engineers are due for a layoff in June because of the cessation of State Public Works, and quite understandingly they don't want to seek employment privately or individually in the Federal Public Works ... so ... "Appropriates in advance of receipt of moneys from federal government \$15,000,000. for public works"

An Education Law amendment is under consideration to permit RA's and PE's to use a firm name where they have obtained consent, and where said RA's and PE's have been continuously employed by said firm for 15 years.

A Civil Service 5 day week Bill contains a phrase we favor, "no employment ... in time off"

Architectural Draftsmen to be "WORKMEN" under Labor Law ... "LARCENY" to divert funds ... from building project ... Automatic Sprinklers, all buildings after January 1, 1943 ... Attendant on duty where automatic elevators are in use, all buildings.

No session is complete without MULTIPLE DWELLING LAW amendments. Some are:

Frame buildings, 3 story erected prior to April 4, 1932 may be converted to 3 families ... also dwellings of one or more families may be converted into MD erected between April 18, 1929 and December 31, 1937; and dwellings erected after January 1, 1938 designed for 1 or 2 families may be converted if not over 3 story high and have 1 family per floor ... another ... class A MD FP ... may have a basement which if not occupied will not be counted for story height ... lodging houses before August 8, 1929, fire retarding ... no occupancy after September 1, 1942 of cellar of OLTH ... one watt per square foot; rat proofing ... After August 1, 1942, stair doors OLTH self closing; interior windows, wire glass.

All buildings; licensing of air conditioning contractors; Authorizes Savings and Loan Associations to loan on notes for repairs ... etc. ... And also licensing for plastering contractors, fee \$100; with \$25. renewal ... County supervisors to employ assessor ... on real property, Architects may be assessors.

This resolution should bring results beneficial; here it is ... creating a committee to investigate NYC non FP buildings ... to correct dangers thereof. Report due January 15, 1943.

HOUSING ... The number of new housing authorities proposed shows that the subject is being rather carefully considered by the local political subdivisions, and that they must have some thought of availing themselves of the machinery set up at Washington to solve this large and ever with us problem. It offers a suggestion to thoughtful Architects.

HOW TO GET IT ACROSS *Continued from Page 9*

"That's right, I had never thought of it in those terms."

"Now, you know, there isn't really any reason in the world why it couldn't be made to be an orderly business-like kind of industry."

"How?"

"By using a lot of common sense with a little bit of imagination."

"I'm not sure that I know what you mean."

"By picking on the brains of its architects."

"Is that not being done?"

"No, but that's a long story and I don't want to make you miss your train. They don't want brains from their architects; in most cases all they want are drawings and pictures."

"I wish you would tell me more but you are right, I have to run now. Thanks, hope to see you soon again."

Philip had gone. Fred said: "Bill, you shouldn't have said that."

"What is the matter now? What have I done?"

"Didn't you see that Philip was quite upset?"

"Why? Look here, Fred, you are funny, We have known each other for years. You know I'm not the type to blow off steam at the drop of a hat."

"Pfui, what an image."

"Never mind that. First of all I am interested, profoundly, deeply interested, in the welfare of my country — and that welfare right now, means its fighting power. Next I am interested in architecture. And next in my own living. I am no exception. There are many who feel as I do."

"What has that got to do with the building industry?"

"This much: it grieves me to see it so badly understood. It grieves me to see so little intelligent use made of it. Fred, what do we mean by an all-out effort unless it's all-out? And if it is can we really afford to do without making use of our architects?"

We have new PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES at Elmira; North Tonawanda; Tonawanda; Port Chester. And proposed, but not yet law, at Watertown; Niagara Falls; Amsterdam; Cohoes, Mount Vernon.

Another Bill ... "Provides for incorporation of companies for low-cost housing, permits investment therein by insurance companies ... etc. ..." The importance of this Bill is that it opens the field for private housing on a large scale, in which there are both benefits and dangers to the public. It only has a slim chance of becoming law.

SLUM CLEARANCE. Just to show the folks back home that they have not been forgotten, we get these every year, they never get beyond introduction. Of course sometimes the unexpected happens, but I do not think that it will during the war.

23 Assm. District. Brooklyn, \$500,000.; Grant St. Brooklyn \$5,000,000.; 3 Assm. District Bronx; 13 Assm. District Manhattan, \$500,000.; 2 Assm. District Manhattan, \$1,000,000.; 12 Assm. District Brooklyn, \$500,000.

APPROPRIATION BILLS are for information, useful to Architects with sufficient strength to get the work. This Association will wherever possible get inserted in these bills, "by an Architect in private practice". \$600,000 armory, Rochester; \$10,000 armory, Mt. Vernon; \$20,000 armory, Binghamton; \$75,000 armory, Buffalo; \$150,000 armory, Hemstead; \$100,000 ... Cornell University.

My analysis can not be taken as exhaustive. There is not space available. You will derive much benefit from personal study both for immediate happenings, and of trends showing the future path of Architects.

"Here you go at it again."

"Sure, but this time you asked for it. Architects are the thinkers, the planners, the designers. And let me tell you without thinking, planning, designing, construction is not worth much. Not even in times of war. I would say especially not in times of war. And not in that post-war period for which we should prepare now too; will that also be again without thinking, without planning, without designing?"

"Well, I guess you have something there. I hear that great changes are taking place in the building industry of Great Britain. And that one of them can be described this way: 'What World War No. 1 did to the airplane, World War No. II has done to modern architecture. It has turned it from a fad into a national necessity.' Think of that!"

"Yes, Fred, but that would pre-suppose, would it not, in the U. S. architects lead the building effort of their country"

"Well, let them."

"That's the boy."

When Bill got home that evening he phoned George. "Sorry to trouble you at this late hour, but I thought I should tell you ..."

"Yes, I know tomorrow is the deadline for these companion articles of ours. What about yours?"

"That's it. I just can't do it."

"What? And you waited until the last minute to tell me that, you —"

"But, George, really, listen. I discovered that (a) I don't know a thing about 'How To Get It Across' and (b) there isn't anything I wish to get across."

"Are you mad?"

"No, honestly. All I want is to be useful to my country."

"That's great."

"Yes, and I still believe that I and thousands of others — all right, call them architects — can be most useful at what they are best at: to think, to plan, to design."

STEEL CONSERVATION

A CHALLENGE TO DESIGNERS . . .

Not only is the use of a minimum of critical materials in war-time building a patriotic duty; it is mandatory. The many possibilities for saving steel in the construction field are gaining wide attention and are engaging the ingenuity of most designers. The changes that may be wrought in many traditional viewpoints and revisions that may be necessary in principles underlying structural design are less important than the war. Conservation is the need of the hour.

For information on steel saving in building types there is a recent study by the structural bureau of the Portland Cement Association covering various designs and redesigns together with a review of other available data pointing out a number of ways to conserve.

In designs of seven concrete floor systems, including the supporting beams, with live loads of 50, 100 and 150 lbs. per sq. ft. and three span lengths — 15, 20 and 25 ft., it was found that the steel quantities offer an interesting comparison. The following are taken from these design studies for 20 ft. span and 100 lb. loading:

Type	Lbs. steel per sq. ft.
1. 20-in. metal pan	2.77
2. 30-in. metal pan	2.58
3. 12-in. masonry filler	3.54
4. 16-in. masonry filler	3.43
5. One-way slab	3.01
6. Two-way slab	3.70
7. Flat Slab	2.13

To the quantities of steel in the floor itself must be added metal in suspended ceilings if the type of floor requires it. This adds about .5 lb. to the steel factor for that floor. It is pointed out that neither flat slab nor solid slab ceilings require metal lath or plaster and thus these types show a definite margin of saving. While most evident in heavy loadings, such as warehouses, flat slab construction now deserves more consideration in light load construction such as apartments, as it will maintain further saving in cost as well as steel in many cases. This survey also recommends uniformity in the size of panels, since uniformity and standardization are important sources in saving time and material. The illustration is given that a building three bays wide with a narrow center bay is uneconomical and requires more steel. Uniform spans are a source of saving and, in addition, it becomes possible to adopt flat slab floor design for still greater saving.

The trend to steel conservation in the design of columns is found through study of the variety of column sizes and quantity of reinforcement under the design formulas of various building codes. Under certain codes tied columns require less steel than spiral columns but may be larger in size and for others it may be found that when loads are large and column sizes small a great deal of steel may be saved by using high-strength concrete. In case a choice of codes is possible, it is interesting to note that a 500,000 pound column load can be carried on a 26 inch column requiring 174 lbs. of steel under the New York Code of 1938. A structural steel column of equal capacity would weigh 1,300 lbs. per 12 foot story.

Consideration is also given to laps used for splices of vertical bars which consume a considerable amount of steel.

In the early days of reinforced concrete construction, it was customary in many places to transfer compressive stress from bar to bar by means of butt-splices in which bars were aligned by metal sleeves. Except for unusual cases, lap steel could be conserved. On an overlap of 40 dia. in 1 1/4 in. square bars, this amounts to about 50 inches and with eight such bars the saving is 177 lbs. per column.

An examination of the bills of materials by redesign in reinforced concrete of five existing buildings with steel frame another channel for saving is found. These design studies made in 1940 on a basis of cost did not attempt to conserve steel. Since these five buildings were taken from a variety of locations and varied so widely in height, occupancy and layout, the result is believed typical of many multi-story building frames.

The amounts of structural steel and reinforcing steel are given in the published table together with the saving in steel in lbs. per sq. ft. of floor area and in per cent of saving. The five projects are numbered.

Project No.	I	II	III	IV	V	Ave.
S/Steel	17.44	18.29	15.21	15.01	9.19	15.03
R/Conc.	6.21	6.87	6.40	5.93	3.09	5.70
Saving lb.	11.23	11.42	8.81	9.08	6.10	9.33
Saving %	64	62	58	60	66	62

It is noted from the above table that although the weight of steel varies considerably, the saving in per cent is remarkably uniform. As these are multi-story buildings, the major portion of steel saved is in the use of reinforced concrete columns instead of structural steel.

Today, there is a large amount of long-span, one-story, mill-type building. To determine steel savings in such buildings, the survey took account of a comparison in materials required for five typical warehouses as designed by the Office of the Quartermaster General. These buildings all were 182 ft. wide by 1,582 ft. long, plus a 60 ft canopy. A 60 ft. center span, flanked by a 40 ft. and a 20 ft. span was changed to a center span of 60 ft. flanked by two 30 ft. spans. In concrete the five identical buildings required a total of only 2,367 tons as against 7,120 tons in steel construction. This amounted to a saving of 6.2 lbs. per sq. ft., 4,753 tons in all, or 67 per cent. In this redesign, advantage was taken of the opportunity to save steel by many of the methods discussed herein.

Designers are advised to look critically at building codes which require excessive load factors if more steel is to be conserved. Many surveys have pointed to the general practice of overdesign because of code requirements that are set too high for many types of occupancy.

The large area buildings which have floor slabs on the ground can make another contribution to steel conservation, it is pointed out. By following pavement practice for highway design, it is possible to eliminate mesh or bar reinforcement by more careful attention to the subsoil bearing capacity and the employment of adequate contraction joints, as apart from expansion joints.

In the days that are ahead, it would be well to study all the possibilities for steel saving, not only for the exigencies of war need but for the economy that will help in the days after the war.

AMONG OUR CONSTITUENTS

Continued from Page 3

BROOKLYN CHAPTER A. I. A.

Defense has been the keynote of the recent meetings of the Chapter and at a recent meeting our friend Mat Del Gaudio, the Institute's State Association director, outlined the organization of the Architects in cooperation with the Department of Housing and Buildings.

With the unanimous consent of the membership the Chapter has purchased \$2,000 worth of Defense Bonds.

BROOKLYN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

Civilian Protection is the important topic at the meetings of the Society and its members are taking an active part both in respect to cooperation with authorities and with their unqualified offering of services to the public.

President Alfred Lama is making every endeavor to obtain work for the beleaguered Architects from the governmental agencies.

QUEENS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The entire membership of this Society has offered its services to the authorities as they may see fit to use for Civilian Protection.

The problem in Queens is vastly different from that of any of the other Boroughs of the City inasmuch as the County is the Residential County of the City with its prevalent frame construction which most assuredly offers a hazard in the event of a raid.

Our President, Raymond Irrera, is doing a splendid job in keeping the Architects together, particularly in view of the fact that private construction in this area is practically at a standstill.

BUFFALO—THE CONVENTION CITY

On October 8th, 9th and 10th the New York State Association of Architects will hold its 4th Annual Convention in Buffalo. Responses which have been received from the Directors of the other constituent organizations indicate that the attendance this year will equal or surpass that of Rochester and Syracuse. The Convention Committee, headed by Karl G. Schmill, Prudential Building, Buffalo, New York, is going to do its best to meet this challenge by arranging a program of interest to everyone.

Will you not assist them by letting them have at once your suggestions for the program and for speakers whom you would like to see appear?

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BUFFALO, N. Y.

Last year in PENCIL POINTS we attempted to place emphasis, from time to time, on subjects of timely importance or seasonal appeal. We wish to do the same here by reminding the readers of the EMPIRE STATE ARCHITECT that the time is relatively short until we shall have opportunity to: MEMORIALIZE DISTINGUISHED ARCHITECTS.

Members of our profession will recall, it is hoped, that Memorial Day occurs soon, though observed on different days in May in the North and in some places in the South. This day, originally dedicated to ceremonies connected with the decorating of graves of soldiers, has taken on a wider significance. It is now the occasion of honoring not only those who have died in military service but also those who have died distinguished in civil affairs. This year, the first Memorial Day since we have entered World War II, will bear more significance than for recent decades.

Why should not the profession of Architecture memorialize, on such a day, those of its members who during their lives have dignified that profession by adding architectural beauty to their communities or have served the public welfare?

"Some may not regard this as a matter of Public Relations. But why not? Accord among ourselves, as evidenced by selecting those to be honored by us and extolling their accomplishments before the public, so that all who read may know of what architects have done and can do, might surely be improving our relations with that public."

NON-ARCHITECTURAL POSITIONS FOR ARCHITECTS

This Editor has been receiving letters from various parts of the country practically all of which are complimentary as to various features of a public relations program that will promote the best interests of the profession. But through many of these letters runs the refrain that most of the public service activities recommended can only be performed by individuals with either a private practice or private means. In other words our program, as they see it, is based chiefly on voluntary service of the individual in peace time.

What they would like to learn more about is how architects now without practice or income and without the opportunity to perform military service or to enter Federal Government employ nationally or locally can find paid positions outside the profession. And if possible positions in which the service rendered will rebound to the credit of the community and the profession as well as to the individual architect.

This after all is most laudable and in many cases is becoming a necessity. Therefore in so far as possible the theme of our public relations program hereafter will stress those activities where the training, experience, imagination and technical ability of architects may be utilized in advancing the public welfare while at the same time affording needed compensation to the individual.

Almost all Departments of the National Government are now giving consideration to the placement of men who have had training and experience in the field of Architecture and the Federal Roster of Professional and Technical Ability is being put to more extensive use as each week goes by. But in general the states and local communities do not yet realize the technical equipment possessed by architects, even by those who reside in their midst.

We are proposing to take up this important subject in each issue or, if made possible sooner, in the form of a booklet collaboratively prepared for early distribution to legislators, state and community officials and others, through local Chapters, State Associations, and even by individuals. This would set forth the various classifications of technical skill possessed by architects, squad captains, draftsmen and a listing of suggested local quasi-public, civic or lay positions in which such skills would warrant consideration for employment — not only for the duration, but in the post-war period.

The popular conception of the long haired "designer" with the flowing necktie who is paid to "make blue prints" and whose services have often been regarded as a luxury must be scotched. This can be done by letting our state and local officials, employing agencies and the public at large know the facts about an architects training, experience and ability to handle civic and other technical and practical problems. Albert Kahn has done this in a big way. We can each do it in our own way — if we present the necessary information collectively and authoritatively.

Hon. Edward Weinfeld, N. Y. State Commissioner of Housing, while paying high tribute to Architectural services at the Rochester Convention of the N. Y. State Association of Architects, stressed the lack of recognition given by officials and the public to the technical and practical phase of services rendered by architects and concluded:

"In not presenting this side of architecture more clearly to the community, I think Architects have sold themselves short, have done less than an adequate public relations job. * * * Particularly at this time it would be helpful if the people of our towns and cities, and all Architects as well, accepted such a concept."

It is not yet too late to begin!



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These jobs frequently require no critical materials.

And since concrete materials are for the most part local, concrete construction involves minimum use of freight cars and trucks needed for moving defense goods.

Technical assistance on concrete is available to engineers, builders and architects engaged in military, industrial, public works and other projects essential to winning the war. Helpful literature available on many specific uses of concrete. Tell us your problem.

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A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete . . . through scientific research and engineering field work



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and stores

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Barn floors and many other
farm improvements



7 P. C. MORE RENTABLE SPACE FOR EMORY ROTH APARTMENTS *and cost reduced as well!*



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EAST RIVER HOUSES	NEW YORK CITY
FELIX FULD COURT	NEWARK, N. J.
GILMORE HOMES	BALTIMORE, MD.
CHAD BROWN HOUSES	PROVIDENCE, R. I.
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