

# THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN  
ARCHITECTS — THE WISCONSIN CHAPTER A.I.A. AND THE PRODUCERS  
COUNCIL CLUB OF WISCONSIN

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THE DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

JUN 4 8 48 AM '48

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
OF ARCHITECTS



## THE WISCONSIN ARCHITECT

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The State Association of Wisconsin Architects

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Producers' Council Club of Wisconsin

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## MARCH BOARD MEETING OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN ARCHITECTS

The Executive Board of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects met in the Colonial Room of the Plankinton House, Milwaukee, March 20, 1948.

The meeting was called to order by President Mark F. Pfaller at 10:45 A. M.

Present: Emiel F. Klingler, Districts 1 & 2; Sylvester Schmitt, District 5; Allen J. Strang, District 6; Carl Lloyd Ames, Leigh Hunt, John P. Jacoby, Mark F. Pfaller, District 7; Robert S. Chase, A. J. Seitz, District 8.

By Proxy: Edgar H. Berners, District 3; Gage M. Taylor, District 4; Carl W. Schubert, District 6.

Absent: Harry W. Williams, District 3; S. J. Stepnoski, District 5; William V. Kaeser, District 6.

Minutes of the special Board meeting held January 31, were read by the Secretary and approved.

The first matter to be discussed was correspondence between O. J. Muegge, Secretary of the Wisconsin Society of Professional Engineers, and President Pfaller concerning the Joint Committee of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects and the Wisconsin Chapter, A.I.A. formed to study revision of the Registration Law in cooperation with the Registration Board of Architects and Professional Engineers.

There was considerable discussion on supervision of buildings by unqualified persons, emphasizing one specific case, and it was moved, seconded and carried that this be referred to the Chairman of the Practice Committee to follow through the situation.

The Secretary read a letter from Roger Kirchhoff, State Architect and member of the Registration Board, regarding a motion included in the published minutes of the January Ninth meeting "that a communication be sent to the STATE BOARD OF CONTROL requesting that they be urged to appoint either an engineer or an architect." Mr. Kirchhoff called attention to the fact that "there is no State Board of Control since the name of that body was changed to Department of Public Welfare."

The Secretary reported to the Executive Board that although that was the way the motion had been placed in the minutes, he had not addressed his letter to the Board of Control, but to the INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION from whom he had received a reply saying that the request would be given due consideration.

Other matters taken up included legal council,

the revision of the Milwaukee and State Building Code, and a report by Carl Ames on the program he had outlined for the class in Architecture for draughtsmen that he is conducting at the Milwaukee Vocational School as a part of the G.I.'s Educational Training.

### AFTERNOON SESSION

The afternoon session was given over to discussion of the Plan Book.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:25 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Leigh Hunt, Secretary

State Association of Wisconsin Architects

William A. Oppenhamer, 70, Green Bay, died Sunday, April 1, following a long illness. He was a charter member of the State Association of Wisconsin Architects, and also a member of The American Institute of Architects, Wisconsin Chapter.

Born in Erie, Pa., on Sept. 3, 1877, Mr. Oppenhamer was a partner in the firm of Oppenhamer and Obel. He studied architecture in Fort Wayne, Ind., and Beaux Arts, Atelier, France, and later taught at the Chicago Art Institute. He was also in the architectural business in Kalamazoo, Mich., and was chief architect for John Chubb, Chicago.

### WORKED IN CHICAGO

During World War I, he was chief architect for the Austin Company, Chicago, and received distinguished service medal for services in Liberty Bond sales. In 1919 Mr. Oppenhamer opened a business in Wausau and later formed a partnership with I. A. Obel, who is in charge of the Wausau office. He came to Green Bay in 1921 and was in charge of the Oppenhamer and Obel firm there. He was a registered architect in the states of Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota.

### SERVICES ON WEDNESDAY

Survivors include his wife, the former Edna Malone of Fort Wayne, Ind., whom he married Sept. 10, 1902; a daughter, Helen, and a son, Earl. Other survivors are two sisters, Mrs. Max Rees, Chicago, and Mrs. George Sullivan, Beaver, Pa.

Funeral services were held April 4 at 9 o'clock with the mass offered by the Rev. Henry C. Head in St. Patrick's church.

## PRODUCER'S COUNCIL WILL PLAY HOST TO STATE ARCHITECTS

Milwaukee members of Producers' Council will be hosts to the Madison area architects at a dinner meeting at Madison. The meeting will be held Tuesday, May 26 at the Loraine Hotel, according to Lorenz E. Meyer, Milwaukee, president of the Producer's Council.

Arrangements for the meeting are being made jointly by Harold J. Row, Armstrong Cork Co., program chairman, and William V. Kaeser, Madison, president of the Madison 6th District State Association.

New and improved building products will be put



on display by Producer's Council members.

Companies represented at the meeting will be:

Aluminum Co. of America, Armstrong Cork Co., Celotex Corp., Chamberlain Co., Johns-Manville Sales Corp., Patek Paint Co., Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Co., Otis Elevator Co., Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co., Josam Mfg. Co., Western Mineral Products Co., H. H. Robertson Co., W. H. Pipkorn Co., Ceco Steel Products Co., Fiberglas Corp., Structural Clay Products Institute, E. T. VerHalen, Inc., Bell & Gossett Co., and Master Builders Co.

## MINUTES OF MEETING

APRIL 5, 1948

### THIRD AND FIFTH DISTRICTS

#### STATE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN ARCHITECTS

The combined meeting of the Third and Fifth Districts, Wisconsin State Association of Architects was held April 5, 1948, at the Chilton Hotel, Chilton, Wis. The meeting was called to order by Maurey Lee Allen, Chairman of the Third District.

It was suggested by Henry Auler that the Board representatives inquire and bring back information to the Districts concerning the progress of the fund for legal advise.

The speaker of the evening was Charles M. Brooks, Jr., head of the Department of Fine Arts at Lawrence College, who discussed and showed drawings and color renderings executed by his students in classes in Architectural Design at the college. He also informally discussed his collection of works dealing with the life and works of Vincent Van Gogh. An informal discussion followed his discourse.

Mr. Brooks, head of the art department since 1946, is a native of Evanston, Ill., attended the U. of Illinois and was graduated from Yale university. At Yale he was the recipient of the Goodrich scholarship, the Del Grella prize and was four times medalist in the Beaux Arts Institute of Design competition. After traveling extensively abroad, he returned to Yale for his master's degree and won the Fountainebleau Prize. He taught in the architecture departments of Texas A and M and Scripps college until 1942 when he accepted a commission in the navy. He saw active service in Guadalcanal, New Zealand and Hawaii, was the commanding officer of a naval radar training school, and at the time of his discharge was a Lt. Comdr. and aide to the Chief of Bureau of Aeronautics.

Mr. Brooks has written two books — "Texas Missions, Their Romance and Architecture," and "Vincent Van Gogh, a bibliography." He is an authority on the life and works of Van Gogh and has the largest collection of literature on the painter in the United States.

The next meeting was scheduled for the first Monday in June at Chilton and the officers of the Fifth District were asked to provide the program.

Frank J. Stepnoski,  
Secretary 5th District

## SEVENTH DISTRICT OF STATE ASSOCIATION OF WISCONSIN ARCHITECTS

### MINUTES OF SPECIAL DINNER MEETING OF SEVENTH DISTRICT APRIL 16, 1948

A special dinner meeting of the Seventh District was held in the evening on April 16, 1948, at the McKinley Restaurant, Milwaukee.

President Carl Ames called the meeting to order after dinner and announced that a conference was held by several of the officers with F. W. Dodge Corp., who agreed to send the annual Sweets Catalog to all architects who desire to receive it without regard to the volume of work they produce. The Secretary was requested to advise the publishers which architects in attendance at the meeting desired to receive this catalog.

Frank Drolshagen reported for the Building Code Committee that they have been very active and have held weekly meetings of several hours duration to review each chapter of the new Milwaukee Building Code. His official report indicates that the Code is unwieldy and is full of too much detail. He said a full committee report will be issued at a later date.

Walter Domann reported that a Hospital Seminar was tentatively scheduled for May 14 and 15.

Mark Pfaller reported that the State Association Plan Book is now ready for printing and will be available for distribution in about one month.

About twenty architects were in attendance and listened to a discussion on the advantages of Tilt-Up concrete construction which was presented by Charles Yoder of the Portland Cement Association.

Respectfully submitted  
Paul C. Brust, Secretary  
7th District

### PITTSBURGH CARAVAN

One of the most interesting and constructive shows ever to reach Milwaukee was the display of modern store front models exhibited by the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company at the Hotel Pfister, April 9 and 10. A detailed description of the models will be given in the coming issue of the Wisconsin Architect.

## SCHEDULE MINIMUM PRACTICE

Copies of the New Schedule of Proper Minimum Charges And Professional Practice may be obtained through the Secretary of the State Association. 3c a copy.



## ARCHITECTURAL STUDENT GOAL TO BE CLARIFIED BY A. I. A.

The American Institute of Architects and two associated organizations are engaged in the preparation of a comprehensive statement of the objectives of architectural education in American colleges and universities.

Professor B. Kenneth Johnstone, of the Carnegie Institute of Technology, is chairman of The Institute's Committee on Education which is attempting to "clarify the objectives of architectural education" in order to develop plans to meet the needs of tomorrow.

Collaborating with this committee are representatives of the National Architectural Accrediting Board and the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards.

"The scope of architectural practice is being broadened to such an extent that we feel our educational procedures must be examined," said Professor Johnstone in making the announcement.

"The architect of tomorrow will face a task far more complicated and involved than any of his predecessors. The great scientific advances will influence new construction to such an extent that great technical skill will be required to construct and equip the building of tomorrow.

"No one person will be able to know personally, in detail, the various phases and technicalities of these future complex buildings. For that reason it will require the architect to coordinate the skills of the various specialists in the building industry in order that each resulting structure will fulfill the purpose of its erection."

The committee is now at work drawing up the first rough drafts of a statement which will indicate the goals of professional architectural education—what knowledge and experience a novice practitioner should have by the time he has earned his degree. The new fields of city and community planning and building economics offer new challenges to the student who is studying to be an architect.

It is drawing up an analysis of the goals for the student in college, the young architect in his office training after graduation and the practicing architect.

"There has not been in the past nor is there now proposed any dictation to the architectural schools as to what constitutes an adequate course of study preparatory to entering the profession as an apprentice," said Professor Johnstone. "We are attempting to define fundamental principles as basic characteristics of any program recognized and accepted by both the educators and the practitioners."

The American Institute of Architects is taking responsibility for leadership in establishing a working arrangement among those concerned with education—the architectural schools, the architectural accrediting board, the state registration boards and the practicing profession.

Working with Professor Johnstone are two representatives of the National Architectural Accrediting Board: Professor Roy Jones, of the University of Minnesota, President of the N.A.A.B., and Professor Sherley Morgan, of Princeton University, Secretary. In addition, there is William L. Perkins of Chariton, Iowa, Executive Secretary of the National Council of Archi-

tectural Registration Boards.

Members of the Executive Committee of The American Institute of Architects' Committee on Education, who are assisting Professor Johnstone, include the following: Professor Loring Provine, of the University of Illinois; Dean Wells I. Bennett, of the College of Architecture and Design at the University of Michigan; Dr. Walter Gropius, Chairman of the Department of Architecture at Harvard University; Alexander Hoyle, of Boston; Dean Ernest Pickering, College of Applied Arts, University of Cincinnati; and Walter A. Taylor, Director of the Department of Education and Research of The American Institute of Architects.

## CONSTRUCTION OF MOUNT VERNON HIT BY LABOR TROUBLE

By WORTH BAILEY

(Reprint from *Christian Science Monitor*)

If you consider your own problems the most difficult ever endured by home builders, witness the knotty trials that beset George Washington in the development of his home—Mount Vernon. Then take heart!

The tall-pillared mansion that every American knows was 30 years a-building and the story of its slow, sporadic evolution has a modern ring, complete with overtones of "wartime restrictions," "work stoppages," "shortages of material," and the rest of the tedious shibboleths of the present.

George Washington twice launched major building programs and ironically both times was forced to relinquish the execution of his plans to friends or relatives. Military service in 1758 and again in 1775 drew him away from home, but on both occasions he followed and directed every step of the work by remote control.

John Patterson was contractor for the first of Washington's building programs and he it was who transformed the story-and-a-half structure with attic, projecting "closets," a small rectangular porch, and some type of roof balustrade.

A neighbor was forced into the role of troubleshooter when Joiner Patterson forgot the master's instructions about certain interior changes. He also supplied critical materials from his own storehouse, as did another friend when shortages at Mount Vernon interfered with the progress of construction.

Altogether the first remodeling proceeded expeditiously and quite satisfactorily, when contrasted with the nine troublous years of the second building venture. Patterson was almost illiterate and not too resourceful, but he was diligent in his application and stuck to the work until finished.

Other workmen were not so reliable. Mr. Ballentine failed to supply needed timber. Mr. Triplett, who burned bricks and laid the masonry, was too busy awarding priorities elsewhere to erect needed out-buildings.

Act II or the significant architectural saga of Mount Vernon begins to unfold in 1773 when Washington put into execution plans which had been long maturing



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in his mind. An architectural study preserved at Mount Vernon (reproduced) indicates his solution of what today we would call his "housing shortage." In after years when the guest house was filled and household accommodations were taxed to a breaking point, critics voiced dissent with his building methods, like kibitzers on any building lot today. "The house is not elegant," wrote one foreign visitor, "having been originally begun on too small a scale." Another observed, "I have been told he wishes he had pulled it entirely down at first and built a new house instead of making any additions to the old one."

The new contractor was Going Lamphier, who had supplied "Turnery" or balusters for the previous alterations. If ever a builder harassed a client, that was Lamphier. Even his entrance upon the scene in the fall of 1773 struck a sour note, foreboding troubles ahead, for there was a serious error in the bill of materials.

Actual work was in progress a year later when the master of Mount Vernon wrote a friend: "I am very much engaged in raising one of the additions to my house, which I think (perhaps it is a fancy) goes better whilst I am present than in my absence from the workmen."

Lund Washington, a distant kinsman of George, who assumed the responsibility for the work in the General's absence, had frequent (and we believe justified) cause to report: "I do not understand him."

The accompanying chronology reveals how the work dragged. The south end of the house consumed the better part of a year to complete. Construction of the north addition extended over 10 years. The piazza consumed nine; the colonnades five. Dallying workmen exhausted the patience of Lund. Interior painting was done and redone—at least "twenty times" because of smoking chimneys.

And in the midst of all Lund's tribulations—absenteeism and shortages of all kinds—Going Lamphier, pleading inflation, struck for higher wages. The labor situation evidently improved after Yorktown, when the name of John Hogan in Lund Washington's account book at long last replaced that of Going Lamphier.

Not until 1787, with the installation of the weather vane atop the cupola, was Washington's home completed. As was the Biblical dove to Noah, so to Washington was it symbolic of peace and deliverance from anxiety.

War had been successfully terminated under his leadership; now alongside his duties of directing the destinies of the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, he ordered the bird and directed its installation at Mount Vernon. The letter dispatched home to his nephew, George Augustine Washington, in mid-August, telling him how the vane must be painted, recently turned up. And as if the General's letter were just delivered, his exact color directions have been followed at Mount Vernon today.

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## DEMOLITION, REPLACEMENT OF OLD BUILDINGS RECOMMENDED BY A. I. A. COMMITTEE

Demolition and replacement of buildings which have outlived their usefulness has been recommended as a step towards permanent stabilization of the construction industry.

This recommendation is contained in a report of the Committee on Urban Planning of The American Institute of Architects. The committee's recommendations will be submitted to The A.I.A. annual convention at Salt Lake City in June for final action by the general membership.

The architects say that continuity in production must be achieved to avoid the extreme fluctuations in the construction industry—to minimize boom and depression periods. Housing costs have been raised by this instability since the element of risk has justified the high prices for labor and materials and there has been a maximum volume of housing in periods of high prices.

"We should seek to develop procedures, both public and private, that will stimulate or inhibit the rate of construction so as to counteract, rather than aggravate, the violence of cyclical swings in the national economy," says the committee.

"A pre-requisite for the permanent stabilization of the construction industry, however, is a definite program for the demolition and replacement of buildings that have outlived their usefulness."

As released by Douglas W. Orr, of New Haven, President of The Institute, five major objectives for a national housing program were enunciated in the report. They were as follows:

1. To secure an adequate quantity of housing to serve the needs of all our citizens at a price they can afford to pay.
2. To secure an improved quality and design for all types of housing.
3. To secure continuity in the production of new homes and apartments.
4. To secure the elimination of slums and blighted areas.
5. To secure well-planned communities and cities.

In considering the problem of quantity and cost, the Committee approves methods designed to increase the productive capacity of the construction industry.

"We should oppose any artificial restrictions, whether on the part of capital or labor, that tends to hamper production or increase the cost of construction," the committee stated. "We should favor simplification of building codes and governmental aid for research in construction methods and materials."

"Some of the new methods that are being tried,

such as pre-fabrication, may appear to result in a limitation in the employment of architects; our policy, in such cases, should be governed entirely by the needs of the public."

As far as quality and design are concerned, the committee is opposed to measures designed to secure "quantity of housing without regard to quality."

Saying that a period of excessively high building costs has already resulted in a lowering of standards for room sizes and construction, the architects assert that all new housing, whether public or private, should be based on a steady improvement in standards.

"If this nation is to succeed in solving its housing problems it will need more than the negative stimulus of banishing slums," said the committee. "It must have the positive stimulation of great and fine achievements for which architects cannot avoid their share of responsibility."

Urban redevelopment, community planning and the relationship of government to private enterprise are problems for which policies are also suggested.

In the cities, there is the opportunity of "making a more rational use of all urban land," say the architects. This can be done by eliminating industrial as well as residential blight. Cities can be created that are efficiently planned and satisfy a sense of beauty as well as a desire for convenience.

"We shall fail in these larger aims," the committee said, "if we adopt an urban redevelopment program for the single purpose of getting rid of slums; if we fail in the larger purpose we may not even approach the more limited goal of destroying all of the unfit housing. Our endorsement of a policy of urban redevelopment, therefore, should always insist that the larger objectives should not be made subordinate to the more limited purpose of curing our housing ills."

The architects, realizing that there would be no housing problem if private enterprises alone had been able to provide adequate building for all citizens at

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prices they could afford, assert that the necessity for government assistance should be accepted with certain reservations, including:

1. Limiting the degree of assistance to that necessary to reach the desired objectives.
2. Rejecting compromises that are half-way measures and offer only the illusion of approaching such objectives.
3. Careful consideration of the nature of any controls that may be suggested. The architects must oppose proposals that result in excessive standardization of ideas, methods and planning. They feel they must support ideas that permit variation, experimentation and initiative on the part of local communities and individuals.
4. The seeking of simplicity in administration by avoiding red tape.

"These results," say the Committee on Urban Planning, "will not be achieved by wishful thinking."

"If, through indifference or negligence on our part, we allow housing legislation to be initiated by people who do not understand our problems, we can only blame ourselves. By planning, which is merely another name for forethought, we may, on the contrary, devise the simplest and least burdensome as well as the most effective forms of control."

## BUILDING PROGRESS REPORT BY PRODUCERS' COUNCIL

Substantial savings in the cost of building small homes are indicated in a progress report on the study of time-savings in home building being conducted at the University of Illinois, according to David S. Miller, president of the Producers' Council.

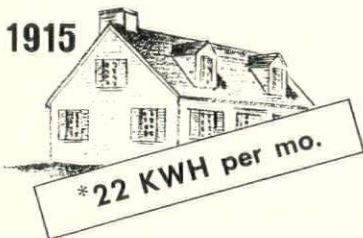
"The study, which involves the construction of six identical Industry Engineered Houses, is being conducted by the University's Small Homes Council under the supervision of the Producers' Council and the National Retail Lumber Dealers Association, with the cooperation of the Office of Technical Services of the U. S. Department of Commerce," Mr. Miller said.

"In building the second house in the project according to the engineering principles developed in the Engineered Housing Program, the number of total hours of labor was 481 hours less than were required for the first house which was built by conventional methods. The saving amounted to 22 per cent.

"Additional savings which resulted from the use of modular design could not be measured because both homes were designed on the modular basis and were built with same modular materials.

"Those in charge of the project report that the savings from use of new techniques on House No. 2 were not automatic. They require considerable layout and job supervision and training until the workmen become familiar with the job. These same men could go on to other houses, however, and secure most of these savings with no further direction because now they are accustomed to a different method of

1915



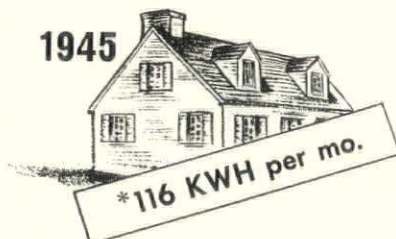
## Why Adequate Wiring?

In 1915 a house was "wired" — any wiring was adequate then. But from time to time, more and more electrical equipment was used. The old type wiring system had to be stretched out, tapped, patched and spliced to meet the increased demands. Such "rejuvenated" wiring systems are perpetually inadequate, inconvenient, and expensive.

1930



1945



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1960



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operation.

"It was found that many important savings came from the use of a roof truss, provided for in the design of the engineered houses, which left one large open room in which to work. In addition to savings in installation of flooring, ceiling, and wall surface materials, the following advantages were found: the entire job was under roof in a minimum time; the open interior space is made available to the plumbing, heating, and electrical contractors in a minimum of time after the job is started; the exterior work can be done by the carpenters while the mechanical trades are working on the inside; there is complete freedom for the plumber in particular because he can make his layout in the simplest possible fashion and not be required to dodge around and through studs with inflexible pipe and fittings; chimney construction is easier.

"Necessary procedures to reduce costs were found to be as follows: 1. Tip up exterior wall—assembled with sheathing before lifting into position. 2. Use light-weight roof trusses. 3. Pre-assemble gable ends on jig table. 4. Install interior finish material on walls, ceiling, and floor before partitions are erected. 5. Lay-out carefully all sheet material. 6. Precut wall framing material. 7. Pre-assemble windows. 8. Precut all door and window trim.

"Other savings were obtained from precut floor joists, pre-assembled cabinet work, and tie-up construction of interior partitions.

"A third house employing still further variations in technique has been completed, and preliminary studies show that additional savings have been made. For example, the time required to build and erect roof trusses was almost one-half of the time required for the same operation on the first house.

"While many of the time-saving methods employed in the study already are generally used by large-scale builders, the results demonstrate that the same methods will reduce building costs drastically for the small builder as well, when he trains his organization to take advantage of the proper techniques.

"The results of the completed study and an analysis of the methods developed to reduce costs will be made available to the entire building industry when the study is completed later this year."

The private building industry will be widely commended for its accomplishments since the end of the war when the full facts have been analyzed and spread on the record, David S. Miller, president of the Producers' Council, stated recently in an address before the National Concrete Masonry Association.

"The story of the industry's progress will be told by the Construction Industry Information Committee through a series of economic studies and otherwise," Mr. Miller said.

"There has been a tendency to judge the building industry by what it has not been able to accomplish, rather than by the outstanding record it has made in the face of unprecedented handicaps. Although only a part of the huge pent-up need for new construction has been met in the 30 months which have elapsed following the war, the volume of building has accelerated at an amazing rate since the end of the war-time shutdown.

"The amount of new construction would have been even greater had it not been for the vast quantities of materials utilized to repair and improve existing housing and other buildings.

"While providing homes and other structures at a record rate in recent months, the industry also has been making excellent progress in the development of numerous programs designed to reduce the cost of building, labor gradually has become more productive, materials output has reached an all-time high, and building time has been shortened considerably.

"The Construction Industry Information Committee will document the industry's record with facts which will demonstrate the outstanding contribution which the industry has made to the national economy. It will offer ample evidence that the various branches of the industry have been working steadfastly in the public interest, regardless of the claims of those who have chosen to criticize the industry for not solving all of its war-borne problems overnight."

## ANTHONY WUCHTERL

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## ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION IN 1847

(This is the second half of an article, the first of which appeared in the December Wisconsin Architect, on the beginnings of professional architectural education in England as described by Mr. John Summerson, Curator of Sir John Sloane's Museum. It first appeared in the British Architectural Association Journal, was reprinted by the Journal of the A.I.A., and because of its interesting angle, comparable to conditions of today, is appearing herewith.)

"To Kerr, the members of the A.A.D. seemed incredibly old. Some of them were over thirty, hopelessly respectable and even married. They were also, however, courteous and sympathetic, and Kerr was invited to speak at one of their meetings on the subject of 'Architectural Education.' This event took place on February 3, 1847, and the purport of his address was, in the first place, to drive home the high theme of the 'Newleaf Discourses' and in the second to propose the immediate establishment of an architectural society, 'for the benefit of those connected with the profession in the capacities of student and draughtsman,' or, in other words, to found a school of architecture. A fairly detailed scheme had already been drawn up by Gray and one or two others, so that Kerr spoke with a brief as well as with confidence,

and there was no delay in deciding to merge the existing society into the one not yet quite born and to pursue a joint object—the formation of a school.

"Within a few weeks of Kerr's lecture *The Builder* was able to announce that 'the Architectural School of Design is now in a fair way of being established in connection with the Society of Architectural Draughtsmen.' Jayne, of the A.A.D., became Secretary, a preliminary meeting was held on March 3, and five members of the old Society were appointed to meet a deputation of the newcomers and discuss details.

"Then, in May, 1847, there appeared for the first time a report in *The Builder* under the heading ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION. It was a report of a lecture by J. K. Colling, who begged leave to differ from Robert Kerr on one or two points of architectural philosophy, a subject which, then as now, was found to be inseparable from the practical objectives of any group of architects. Kerr replied, in July, with a paper entitled 'Architectural Style.' Finally, it was announced that on October 8 the Architectural Association would open its first session with a *Conversazione* at Lyon's Inn Hall, Strand.

"The meetings at which papers were read were

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important from the first. As a rule, these papers were read only by the members themselves, but they provided a much-needed forum where young men were encouraged to crystallise their ideas and attack other people's and could do so without impertinence or embarrassment. Thanks to Godwin of *The Builder* who, by this time, was a firm friend and ally of the Association, came to its *Conversazioni* and reported its proceedings regularly, we know what these papers were like. Some were merely sententious or pedestrian; many were really excellent. The subjects were very much the sort of thing we still discuss—for instance, monumental architecture, the condition of London, criticism and public taste, aesthetic principles, architecture and science. This last subject was dealt with in 1851, when James Edmeston spoke on 'the position of architecture as regards recent discoveries in science.' He said that architects should reject the use of the arch in an iron church; that there was as much expression of intellect in machinework as in handiwork; that the experience of the past should be used with the fervid mind of the present and that designers must not become slaves of medieval prejudices. It must be admitted that if one seeks out the few surviving buildings from Mr. Edmeston's hand they do not quite echo that sentiment of modernity expressed with so much conviction in Lyon's Inn Hall. But that was entirely characteristic of the times. It was much easier to postulate the need for a new architecture than to discern what form it could conceivably take.

"The tone of opinion at meetings in these early days was thoroughly romantic but—this is an important point—not Gothic. The Association did not hitch its wagon to the Pugin star. Gilbert Scott, though he came to lecture about the Architectural Museum in 1851, was never a member; neither were Carpenter, Butterfield, Street, Pearson, Ferrey or any others of the 'hard core' of the Gothic movement. They were, of course, rather older than the average membership but they moved also on a different plane of ideas. In the A.A., they were thought (with the exception of Scott) rather precious. Kerr himself was a merciless anti-Camdenian. 'That's not Architecture,' he had said in the 'Newleaf Discourses,' 'that's Archaeology, *mon cher*, the science of Rubbish.' And most of his friends agreed with him. They wanted to go deeper than history—to go, as they said, back to nature and evolve from first principles that nineteenth-century style of which Donaldson had spoken at the first meeting. To this goal there were many different approaches, all easily expressed in words but not easily followed in practice. There was the approach via Paxton and the new architecture of iron; there was the approach via nature-study and natural ornament; there was the approach via the hopeful mixing of styles. Any approach had some value which broke free from the tyranny of the five orders on the one hand and from

Gothic copyism on the other.

"In 1853, things were much worse and the attendances at meetings began to fall off. 1854 was a year of declining activity and in the following February the Association's assets were 3 pounds 0s. 11 d. as against 50 pounds 10s. 6d. liabilities. Curiously enough, at this gloomy juncture, the Association set going a project which was to have the most important consequences not only in the future of the Association

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but on professional life as a whole. At a meeting on October 6, 1855, Alfred Bailey, the President, read a paper in which he put forward the idea of a qualifying diploma for architects. Mr. (later Sir) William Tite, M.P., and Vice-President of the R.I.B.A., a man who should be numbered with Godwin and Donaldson among our early uncles, was present as guest. He was impressed with Bailey's exposition and the obvious earnestness of his approving audience, so that a few weeks later, when presiding over a meeting at the R.I.B.A., he passed on the examination idea to the senior body. The Institute on this occasion acted with singular promptitude, for, exactly a fortnight later, John W. Papworth read at the Institute a paper called 'A Diploma in Architecture' and proposed that the Institute should set up a Board to hold examinations and grant diplomas. Before the end of the year the Council of the Institute had received a memorial from the A.A. laying before them their desire to see an examination and diploma established. The memorial was from Alfred Bailey's pen and in the course of it he wrote: 'The want of proper knowledge on the part of the architect, combined as it is with a want of information on the part of the public, leads to many of the anomalies which are now so frequently observable in the practice of the profession, and to the presence in its ranks of many who have not the power, and in some cases have not the will, to uphold its credit.' Which formidable sentence may be reduced to the simple equation: ignorant architects *plus* ignorant public *equals* bad architecture. An equation which lies at the root of all the ugliness of London.

"Perhaps the appearance of John Ruskin at the next *Conversazione* (January, 1857) did something towards a restoration of confidence and enthusiasm. He was the first real celebrity to speak at one of our meetings. Lyon's Inn Hall was packed and a tense audience heard the great critic, then at the height of his powers, express himself on the subject of 'The Use of Imagination in Modern Architectural Design.' He said that industry and imagination were qualities inseparable from greatness. It was necessary to possess and cultivate both: competence by itself was insufficient, the architect must also be a teller of fairy-tales. Then he attacked the still prevalent quest for a new style:

"'After all when a new style is invented, what are you to do after that? Can you do more than build in it? Or what can you secure in building in a new style that you have not in the styles already known? Your new style may be different from everything ever known before; all the orders of architecture may be entirely reversed—but what next? I think that if you quietly consider the subject you will see that, if you are not content with a Palladio, you will not be content with a Paxton, and I pray you to get rid of the idea of there being any necessity for the invention of a new style.'

"Here was a group of beginners who, by their own efforts and with the trifling assistance of only a handful of their elders, undermined an old and firmly-established system of training and laid the foundations of the completely different system which we enjoy today. It is doubtful if such a performance can be paralleled in any other profession. But then, architecture occupies a unique place in the fabric of society."

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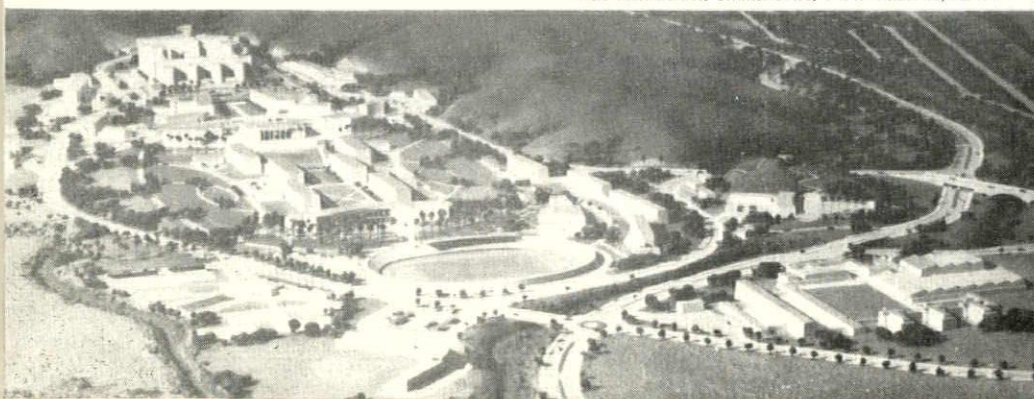
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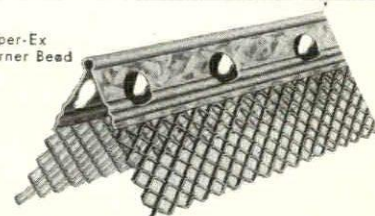
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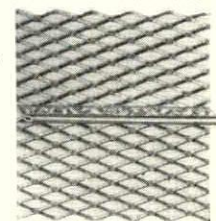
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