

# PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE

newsletter

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- The Pan-American architectural conference has been postponed until April. In the meantime, the exhibition on contemporary architecture in the United States, which will have its first formal showing at that time, has been previewed and pronounced excellent by those who saw it. It gives an honest and most encouraging picture of progress in many fields of design in all parts of the country and should be an eye opener for those who see it abroad.
- An unforeseen difficulty as result of new Housing Act is that some cities are rushing through basic slum clearance and housing site plans without sufficient study. In New York, for instance, several civic and professional groups, including the A.I.A. Chapter, have objected to City Planning Commission's plan for housing developments, which they insist includes isolated projects spotted with no relation to facilities or over-all growth of city.
- American Standards Association reports that 700 manufacturers are now producing modular building materials.
- Du Pont engineers have developed a desk for open-office employees which carries a partition along with it. They report that it provides convenience, privacy, and flexibility. The L-shaped desk has a file cabinet and a "partition" of glass or other material. No one is manufacturing or marketing such an item now.
- Auguste Perret, French architect-engineer, pioneer in reinforced concrete design, is in the United States. While here, he will visit with and speak to a number of professional groups.
- No word has yet been heard of Hermann Field, architect, planning consultant to Cleveland College, who disappeared while traveling between Warsaw and Prague last August. Field had for several years conducted planning study groups through Europe, and had reported favorable impressions of the technical planning progress in Poland.
- Sudden popularity of "ranch houses" over nation is new development building phenomenon. In general, ranch house seems to mean one-story plan, little else. Some areas include larger glass areas and more flexible plan in definition. For architects interested in work of this sort, tendency seems to indicate greater freedom in planning and design.
- Construction figures for the third quarter of this year are up slightly over the corresponding period in 1948. Cumulative totals for the year through the third quarter showed a gain in public works, a drop in private building, with slight over-all dollar gain.
- Yale Department of Architecture announces three visiting critics: A. L. Aydelott (now finishing his residence), Harwell Harris, Harris Armstrong.

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