

The
**PRAIRIE
SCHOOL**
Review

Volume III, Number 1

First Quarter, 1966

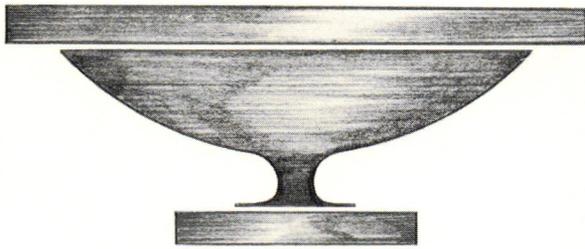
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ABOVE: The Chicago Athletic Association building on Madison Street in Chicago was designed by Hugh Garden for Schmidt, Garden and Martin. This rendering was done by B. C. Greengard who has written the principle article in this issue.

COVER: The Humboldt Park Pavilion in Chicago's West Park District was designed by Hugh M. G. Garden. Constructed in 1907, it still stands in a setting designed by landscape architect Jens Jensen.

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This ornamental capital was designed by Hugh Garden for Richard E. Schmidt's Montgomery Ward Tower. Photo from 1899 CAC catalog.



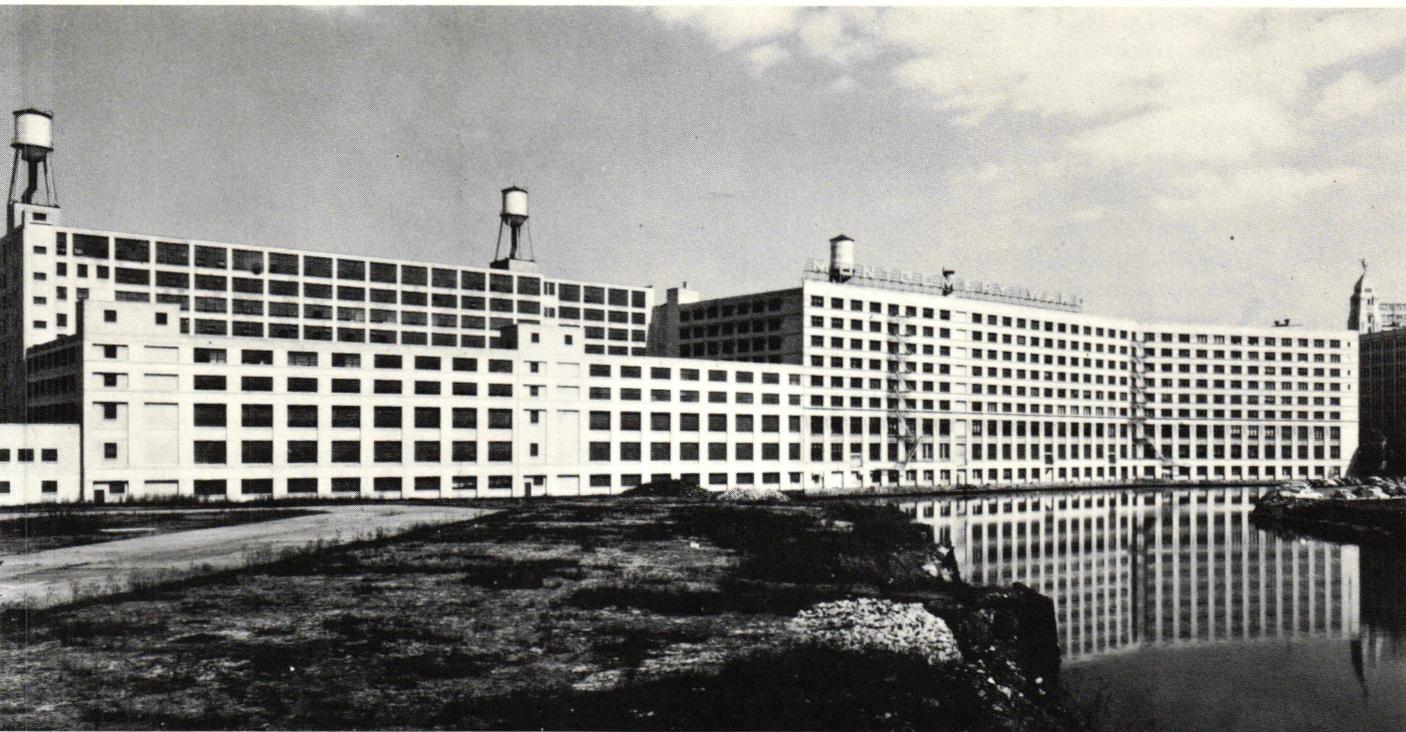
From the EDITORS

Volume III of THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL REVIEW is underway, and we begin our third year looking to the future. Our subscription list is still small, but most subscribers are loyal when renewal time comes enabling us to plan coming issues with confidence.

THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL REVIEW was inaugurated to fill a need. In 1963 interest in our architectural heritage was growing steadily, but the major architectural periodicals were publishing very few items concerning history and the Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians too often covered the subject from an archeological point of view. Thus THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL REVIEW was born in the Spring of 1964. Our efforts were and still are aimed at making known the more recent achievements as exemplified by the development of the modern movement in architecture around the turn of the century.

It is with interest that we note that during the past few months the wide circulation architectural magazines have been offering us some competition in the field of history. The new FORUM featured Hugh Garden's Madlener House in its first issue of last year with photos by Richard Nickel whose work has appeared in THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL REVIEW several times. The current issue of P/A (which editor Jan C. Rowan, AIA has transformed into the best of the major architectural periodicals) has an excellent article on the influence of Richardson and Sullivan in Scandinavia by our friend and contributor, Leonard Eaton. The AIA Journal recently published "In Search of John Edelmann" by Donald Egbert and Paul Sprague. The latter, of course, was the author of our most ambitious article concerning Sullivan's Garrick Theater. As we go to press, the latest issue of the ARCHITECTURAL RECORD has arrived with a splendid folio of the Sullivan drawings formerly in Frank Lloyd Wright's collection now held by the Avery Library. We have also noted an increased interest in historic architecture as evidenced by expanded newspaper coverage. In addition, it will soon be our privilege to participate in one of a series of television documentaries on architecture sponsored by the University of Illinois and filmed by the American Broadcasting Company.

It would be presumptuous for us to claim credit for this expanded interest in our chosen field, but it is gratifying to see; and if our efforts have helped to bring it about, THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL REVIEW is fulfilling its stated purpose.



This huge structure is the Montgomery Ward warehouse building located on the north branch of the Chicago River. At the time of construction in 1908, it was the largest building in the world with a reinforced concrete frame.

Hugh M. G. Garden

By Bernard C. Greengard

Bernhard C. Greengard, now retired, studied architecture at the Art Institute of Chicago then affiliated with Armour Institute of Technology, the predecessor of the Illinois Institute of Technology. After graduation he was employed in the office of Schmidt, Garden & Martin and later did renderings for that office as well as working for various other Chicago firms. During the preparation of these reminiscences, he has worked closely with Hugh Garden's daughter, Sally Garden Mitchell.

At the turn of the century, following in the footsteps of Jenney, Sullivan and Root, a group of architectural designers appeared in Chicago that Carl Condit refers to as "The second generation, or the Prairie School".¹ One of its more talented members was Hugh Garden.

During the 1890's while still a young man, he became associated with Richard E. Schmidt, a practicing architect in Chicago since 1887.² During the early years of this association, which was to last a

lifetime, he contributed design for a series of buildings thereby earning the praise of contemporary critics for inventiveness and a refreshing departure from precedent. His name was then obscure, and to this day little credit has been given him as designer for much of this early work. While he later turned to a then prevailing mode of traditional design, it is his early work that is now of the greatest interest in the light of modern architecture, and on which this essay is to be concentrated.

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¹ Condit, *The Chicago School of Architecture*, Chicago: University of Chicago, 1965, p. 181.

² Richard E. Schmidt (1865-1958) was born in Bavaria. He came to the United States in 1866 and received his basic education in the Chicago Public Schools. He studied architecture at M.I.T. from 1883 through 1885, leaving before graduation. He began independent practice in Chicago in the year 1887.

Hugh Mackie Gorden Garden was born July 9, 1873 at Toronto, Canada, the son of a civil engineer. He attended the Bishop College school at Lennoxville, a province of Quebec. He left school at the age of 14, several years after his father died, and with his family then moved to Minneapolis. There is no doubt that he showed talent very early for drawing and an interest in the building art, for