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Cooperation In The Building Industry

The last annual convention of the Associated General Contractors of America was held in New Orleans January 20 to 23, 1930. One of the speakers at this meeting was C. Herrick Hammond, President of the Institute. President Hammond's address, in which he discussed the value of cooperation and coordination in the building industry, and in which he pointed out ways and means for achieving greater cooperation and coordination than now exist, has been widely distributed. Therefore, it is not reprinted herein. Following Mr. Hammond's address, and at a later meeting of the convention, a resolution was adopted, which is self-explanatory, and reads as follows:

Whereas: The attention of the Associated General Contractors of America in convention assembled in New Orleans this 23rd day of January, 1930, has been called to the disapproval expressed by many members of the American Institute of Architects concerning an article written by our President, T. T. Flagler, which article was published in the September issue of the Nation's Business, a magazine of the Chamber of Commerce, and which was republished by a number of the publications sponsored by our Association, and

Whereas: This article entitled, "Give the Contractor a Chance," was as stated therein an expression of the personal views and opinions of its author and in no way purported to be an official act of the Associated General Contractors of America, or any of its divisions, and

Whereas: It is the opinion of the Associated General Contractors of America that the disapproved sections of the article in question aimed to point out certain practices which were deemed detrimental to both the architectural profession and the business of general contracting, and

Whereas: There appears to exist a widespread opinion among architects that sections of the article in question directly attack the integrity and methods of the architectural profession as a whole;

Therefore, Be It Resolved: That the Associated

General Contractors of America reaffirm its frequently expressed opinion that the architectural profession in general carries on its professional duties with a high degree of artistic, technical and business ability in conformity to high ethical standards, and

Be It Further Resolved: That it is the opinion of the Associated General Contractors of America that such lapses from the high standards of practice set up by both the architectural and contracting professions as do occur during the carrying forward of the highly complex activities involved in building construction are highly detrimental to the advancement of the construction industry, and

Be It Further Resolved: That, since we firmly believe that the elimination of unsound practices that occasionally develop in the relationships existing between architects and contractors, can best be advanced by close contact between organized architects and organized contractors and that joint action between the two groups can be further promoted with beneficial results, we take this opportunity to correct any impression that may erroneously exist that the Associated General Contractors of America holds the architectural profession in any but the highest regard for its achievements, service, high standards of practice and constant desire to promote the best interests of the industry and the public, and we hereby pledge the cooperation of the Associated General Contractors of America in all movements aimed to promote the ethical, business and technical standards of the industry, and

Be It Further Resolved: That we hereby express our deepest appreciation for the opportunity to hear the President of the American Institute of Architects, Charles Herrick Hammond, whose thoughtful address to us today on the "Industrial Relationship Between the Architect and Contractor" has brought much new light on the subject and encourages us in our own fight to eliminate those conditions in our industry which make for irresponsibility.

The Essential Principles Of Modern Ornament

An address by Louis La Beaume, of St. Louis, at a joint meeting of The Chicago Chapter and The Architects Club, in Chicago.

The title of this paper was not of my own choosing. It was forced upon me; and like so many of my fellow men, most of them perhaps, certainly all architects, I find myself "in the fell clutch of circumstance." But I plaintively submit that my lot tonight is more than ordinarily painful. More painful than yours, a thousand fold, as you will presently agree. My first difficulty arises out of my total unfamiliarity with my subject. My second, with yours. And further terrifying traps have been set in the diabolical phrasing of the title itself. Four of its six words (the others don't count anyway) are loaded with the dynamite of controversy. Essential—Principles—Modern—Ornament.

God alone may put his finger on the tender core, which we think of when we use the word Essential. Men die for Principle, but ladies do not cease to be ornamental for lack of it. As for the word Modern, we may as well at once agree with the ladies that it covers a multitude of sins. And so we are brought face to face with the direst of these four words, the one most pregnant with delight, and at the same time freighted with the greatest possibilities of dismay, the word Ornament.

Apparently it is Man only among all the lower animals who suffers from that curious aberration, which prevents him from letting well enough alone. From the beginning of Time, he seems to have been hell bent on adding some touch to God's handiwork or his own, fondly believing that thus its beauty might be enhanced. The vainest of all animals, boasting of his creation in the image of God, he has at the same time been intensely dissatisfied with his appearance. As a result of his chagrin he has tattooed his skin, stretched his ears, hung rings in his nose, frizzed his hair, scarred and painted his cheeks, invented the plug hat, the Prince Albert coat, plus fours, Ascot ties, and tried in a million other ways to decorate and ornament himself in an effort to make himself more irresistible than God made him. Whole libraries might be dedicated to the devices by which the ladies have sought to accentuate their charms. In the case of this more sensitive sex, however, it began to appear until quite recently, that all ornament might in time come to be considered superfluous, and that we might at last look upon Woman as pure structure. We were all keyed up for an ocular demonstration of the poet's dictum that "Beauty unadorned's adorned the most" when the perversity of fashion once more thwarted the eternal schemes of nature.

It is a curious thing, this instinct so deeply im-

planted in men and women, which prompts them not only to smear and decorate themselves, but to paint the lily and to gild the rose.

And, before attempting to discuss the essential principles of modern decorative Art or Ornament, it may be well to take a backward glance and discover if we can the motives underlying all attempts at decoration. As architects we are deeply involved in these mysteries; for mysteries they are to most of us, and mysteries they are likely to remain. In spite of our shrewdest speculations, we are apt to mistake the primitive motives, and sense only the superficial ones.

Tribal customs, caste, religious beliefs, sex appeal all must have had, as they still have, some influence on Man's desire to decorate himself and the objects of his use and fancy. Some of these motives carried over into his architecture, and his awakening esthetic sense helped him to systemize and arrange his symbols. These symbols of his fear or pride he gradually organized, and conventionalized, and finally applied with an increasing sense of rhythm. He hung the trophies of the chase, human or otherwise, on the eaves of his rude hut to dry; to frighten evil spirits away or to impress his enemies. He blazoned his shields and weapons on his walls, or placed some effigy of his deity above the lintel of his door. He festooned his house, or his temple, with garlands of fruit or flowers; and having found delight in these displays, recalled them when he built in stone so that they became fixed elements of ornament. Lions' heads regularly spaced along his cornice, skulls and shields in his metopes, heavy swags of stony leaves, and blossoms, in his frieze. Were he a Mohammedan and so forbidden on pain of offending Allah to reproduce the forms of living things, of buds, birds and beasts, he carved intricate arabesques of geometric design upon his walls, designs in which the complications of the rhythm tested his ingenuity and skill.

The varieties of architectural ornament are almost endless. Indian, Persian, Javanese, Egyptian, Chinese, Siamese, Mayan, Greek, Arab, Celt, all have evolved elaborate systems and all, so far as we may guess, spent quite a long time in evolving them. They all differ in many ways, but each was the result of ages of intense preoccupation with the eternal values of life as each people understood them. These systems of ornament were not then mere flippant or trivial attempts to embellish an already perfect form, but were patterns fraught with the meaning of life itself. In somewhat less

degree may the ornament of the Roman Empire be so regarded in so far as it symbolized the pomp and power of a material civilization. It was an applied ornament as the Greek had been before it, but both in character and application far less beautifully significant than the Greek in its implications of Hellenistic mythology and culture.

The development of Christian art in western Europe during the Middle Ages witnessed a recrudescence of ornament as an integral part of the structure; and both Romanesque and Gothic ornament is architectural as well as spiritual, in much the same sense that the older systems were.

As a result of the Renaissance, however, ornament lost much, if not all, of this character, and became simply a device to tickle the eye; the eye which had become dulled from so long and so steadfast a straining toward eternity.

This may at first appear a rash statement, but when we think of the miles and miles of rinceaus, and rosettes, water leaves, graceful arabesques, and guioches, with which the artists of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries embroidered their more or less classic cornices, entablatures and pilasters, we become convinced of its truth. All of it was applied for the sheer delight which the flowing curves gave to a people set free from the serious contemplation of life. Much of it was beautiful in itself, but it became such a surfeit of sweetness that the wonder is men did not tire of it sooner.

In the first period of our own Renaissance from 1880 to 1910, we revived it; and perhaps being a light-minded people with no gods, or, maybe it would be better to say, with no devils, we had as much right to its use as any Italian in Sunny Italy, or any Frenchman in Sunny France. It had the great virtue of being meaningless, if that is a virtue, and did mitigate the gravity and solemnity of plain surfaces which have always caused architects to shrink.

But America, as everyone knows, is a land of progress and we could not be content to go on in this way interminably. The French in the late nineteenth century invented some rather coarse variants of these delicate Renaissance motifs. Among these variants may be singled out for especial mention that unique gob known as the cartouche. France had gone Republican and had no more use for heraldry than we, so out of the shield emblazoned with the arms of a noble house, I mean the noble occupants of a house, which of all Renaissance forms of decoration had most significance, was evolved that curious shell-like form, which was used as a means of accent and embellishment almost at will. It is only fair to say that we developed some very clever cartouche artists ourselves. But their popularity was comparatively short lived; and today if they still live they are probably mastering the mysteries of the new forms

with which France again, Denmark, Sweden and Germany begin to intrigue us.

In the interim between the complete decay of the cartouche (if I may so express it) and our preoccupation with these newer forms of ornament we experimented a little with a system which is very old, but which at the same time, so it seems to me, has something in common with the new. I mean, of course, the stiff, incised, archaic, carving derived from the art we call Romanesque.

I do not wish to necessarily imply any immediate connection between our recent essays in the Romanesque or pseudo-Romanesque, and our present dalliance with what for want of a better name, we call Modern, but it is at least interesting to note, that even before the modern fury burst upon us, we were becoming more temperate in the use of intoxicating ornament. We were timing, or rather spacing our drinks, so to speak; having discovered that thus they might produce the pleasantest effect.

There is nothing essentially new in this tendency toward moderation. It may in our case, like Prohibition, be a reaction from excess, but the principle of moderation is older than Noah. It is not a sign of timidity, or even of economy, for Croesus still lives and might fret his facades with gems and mother of pearl if he so desired. Our present trend toward the more sparing and effective use of ornament results simply from the rediscovery of an age-old principle, the principle of contrast.

Though the architect builds with opaque materials he uses light to paint his building by means of shadows, and in the composition of these lights and shadows, by means of buttresses and piers, voids and solids, wall surfaces and fenestration, and the details we call ornament, lurks the ultimate beauty of his design. Each element is as important as the other, and each must serve with the nicest tact to enhance the effect of the other, and to culminate in the harmony of the whole.

Ornament, then, is no extraneous or superfluous detail to be used, or abstained from, at will. It is as inevitable as my lady's eyebrow, and much more so than her necklace or the rouge on her lips, though these, too, may at times aid in her conquests. Ornament has sometimes thus been used in the past integrally and discreetly. But not always, by any means. May we not agree, however, that, broadly speaking, ornament or any detail used for ornamental purposes, which may be cut off with a chisel or peeled away is not truly architectural ornament, however decorative in another sense it may be? If we do thus agree, we may have determined one, at least, of the essential principles of modern ornament; for in their essential principles all good schools of ornament are alike.

It would seem to follow that the first test to be applied in the consideration of any ornament or decorative feature is the test of necessity. We mean,

of course, esthetic, not utilitarian, necessity. Would the building, or object, be less beautiful, more beautiful, or equally beautiful without it? Ornament must blossom naturally, inevitably, at the right time and place. It must be what we call appropriate, in perfect harmony with the theme of the object out of which it grows. In this it is like God's work or nature's; and that is why we like to think of architecture, and all fine art, as having some kinship with the great work, of divine creation.

Today there is a ferment going on in the minds of men all over the world, and artists are stirring uneasily with the desire to express the relation of their work to contemporary life. Thus the course of history is confirmed and the impulses which make history are repeating themselves. Our difficulty lies in the fact that we are witnessing the gropings, and are stung by the growing pains; our time of serenity and sureness has not yet come.

We are not certain of just what it is we are trying to express. We have broken with the older theologies and we have no great motivating ideal. We are not sun worshipers, or fire worshipers, and are not altogether sure about Aimee McPherson. We have invented no new creed, now new mythology. Our world is like a box of marvelous tools, a palette of myriad colors, a wardrobe full of beautiful old heirlooms. Tentatively we are experimenting with them, trying this and that, hoping to find some combination common to us all and expressive of our contemporaneous humanity.

We fancy ourselves very sophisticated, thoroughly disillusioned, unemotional, unsentimental, wide awake, hard-boiled. Are we? Maybe so. We live in a world of glass and iron, of whirring motors, clicking machines, laboriously created labor saving devices, elaborate systems of fool proof efficiency.

We are crisp, curt, quick, clean, and, metaphorically speaking, we all come from Missouri.

Artists didn't always conform to this prescription, but the world does move, and it seems to be moving faster and faster all the time.

Are our buildings beginning to look something like machines? Is there something metallic about

our ornament, something spiky, acrid, dry, laconic? Has the juice been pressed out of it, so that it will keep indefinitely and may be shipped to any distance without fear of deterioration? It does look a little that way, doesn't it? It can be used in long lengths, as an edging or a braiding, or chopped up and arranged in panels. It is extremely impersonal, cosmopolitan, conventional and some of it is so delicately drawn or scratched as to be practically self effacing. It is certainly not vulgar, and much of it resembles those strange sea anemones, crystals, shells and coral formations which might have enriched the caverns of Sinbad the Sailor. But it does make patterns, it greys the surface, some of it, it looks crisp and crinkly like lettuce, and though it is altogether and palpably synthetic it defies analysis.

The geometric efflorescence of Moorish ornament, the crystal combinations of the kaleidoscope, the jewel like multiplications of Bragdon, and the intricate interlacings of Louis Sullivan all unfold unendingly bursting into new combinations like fireworks; but modern ornament as I have observed it is too reticent for that. It is comparatively static. Although it may have started in Northern Europe, it has apparently stopped here.

It may in time become acclimated and Americanized, absorbed as our immigrants from Continental Europe are being absorbed, so that its French or Swedish or Danish features will be melted into our ideal *E Pluribus Unum*. If I have faintly hinted at a certain inhumanity inherent in the ornament itself I hope at least to have indicated some of its possibilities. Certainly, our eyes are destined to be dazzled by it for a long time to come. It is being stocked and catalogued, and its trade name is the "Style Moderne." Everybody will soon be doing it. In fact, our ladies as well as our buildings are wearing it; wearing it in the forms of aigrettes, breast plates, brooches, bracelets, and shoe buckles. It is very smart, non-sectarian, and absolutely neutral, in that it recognizes no allegiance to any school of political thought, or deep philosophy of life. That it may not become too cheap—Let us Pray.

The Twelfth International Congress Of Architects

The Executive Committee of the Twelfth International Congress of Architects has issued a bulletin of general information with regard to the arrangements for and the program of the Congress.

The Secretary of the American section of the Permanent International Committee, which is entrusted with preparatory work in the United States, is George Oakley Totten, Jr., 808 Seventeenth Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. At Mr. Totten's request those sections of the bulletin of the Congress which are of particular interest to American architects are quoted as follows:

The C. P. I. A., International Permanent Committee of Architects, have accepted the kind invitation of the Hungarian Government and of the Capital of Budapest to the XII. International Congress of Architects, which will take place in Budapest in 1930. The Hungarian Section of the C. P. I. A. together with the Hungarian Societies of Architects, have undertaken the organization of the Congress.

The conferences will begin in Budapest on the 8th, and will last till the 14th of September. In connection with these conferences excursions and an International Exhibition of Architectural Plans and Designs will be arranged. During the excursions we intend to show the members of the Congress the architectural development of our Capital, the representative, as well as the industrial and commercial buildings (with regard to the 4th theme of the debates). The International Exhibition is intended to demonstrate the architectural development, since the war, in the most important countries.

Budapest, the Capital of Hungary, with its splendid situation on both banks of the Danube, with its surprising development during the last hundred years, with its world-renowned thermal springs and baths—some of which are many hundred years old—and with the green, encircling mountains in Buda, makes always an indelible impression on the travellers.

The conferences of the Congress will be held in the large Redoute-Hall of the town, which is one of the most interesting productions of the romantic period of Hungarian architecture. By means of the different receptions the members of the Congress will be able to visit the different Halls of various architectural areas, which are generally difficult to see. The International Exhibition will take place in the great Halls of the building for Exhibition of works of art. By combining the programmes, we should also like to show our museums, particularly the precious collection of modern Hungarian pictures and the most interesting Section of the Hungarian National Museum; the ethnographic collection, which give a comprehensive idea of the riches of the Hungarian peasant-art.

The Subject Themes of the Debates

1. The economical education of architects.
2. The results obtained hitherto by the Chamber of architects.
3. The intellectual ownership of the architects.
4. The roll of the architects in the industrial buildings.
5. The acoustic of large halls.

The particulars, concerning these themes, as well as the text of the conferences, will be sent in good time to the members of the Congress. The general advices will be elaborated and deliberated by general reporters in the beginning of the Congress.

Official Invitation

The official invitation will be sent to those who wish to take part in the Congress next spring. This preparatory bulletin—which will also be sent through the Hungarian Legations—is intended to make known in good time, when the Congress will take place, in order to enable a larger number of our colleagues to attend the Congress.

To the official invitation will be attached a list of particulars of the journey, visum, etc., as well as the exact programme for each day. A formular, to announce the participation at the Congress, will also be inclosed.

We are quite ready to give any information concerning the Congress and we beg you to send all communications to the Congress-office—Budapest, IV, Realtanoda-utca 12-14.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT KERTESZ,
*President of the Executive Committee
Architect, Secretary of State.*

Rules and Regulations of the Exhibition

The following rules will be in force for the International Exhibition of Architecture which will take place from 7th to 22nd of September, 1930, on the occasion of the XIIth International Congress of Architects:

I

General Regulations.

1. Architects of every nation are admitted to take part in the exhibition on condition that they inform the Executive Committee not later than the 15th of February 1930 through their respective national section of the Permanent Committee of Architects or through the federation or association of architects invited by the said section to regulate all matters regarding the exhibition. In those countries where the C. P. I. A. has not yet established a national section, the federation or association of architects of the respective country will be commissioned to advise the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee can only negotiate regarding the exhibition with the respective national section or with the national federation or association of architects. The collective name "National Corporation" is used in these regulations to denote either one or other of these three groups.

2. Foreign architects are recommended to send to the exhibition, as far as possible, only such works as have been completed during recent years and preferably works which have not yet been exhibited or published.

3. Any National Corporation desiring to exhibit shall declare, not later than 15th February 1930, the amount of space required to hang their drawings, plans, photographs or to exhibit their models, in order that the Executive Committee may allot the space at their disposal for the exhibition. Regarding these allotments the decisions of the Executive Committee will be final and without appeal.

4. The selection of works to be exhibited by architects of foreign nations must be made by their respective national jury. The selection of works belonging to the Hungarian groups will be regulated by a jury elected by the Executive Committee. Only those works may be exhibited which have been accepted by the national juries and sent in by the national corporations. No individual entry will be accepted or exhibited by the executive committee. Any entry of this kind will be returned unopened to the sender and at his expense.

5. Each national jury will be elected by the National Corporation mentioned in article I.

6. The Executive Committee will fix the closing date for entries of which the National Corporations will be informed in due course.

II

Special Regulations.

(a) Reception and Arrangement of Entries.

7. Works selected for the exhibition must be sent in at the expense and risk of the national corporation entering them, and in closed packages, to the address and at the date stipulated by the executive committee. Two identical typed lists of the works entered must be made out on forms which are at the disposal of exhibitors and which must be very exactly filled in. One of these two lists must be sent enclosed in the package whereas the other must be sent to the Executive Committee on the same date and by registered post.

8. The works sent in will be insured against fire and theft by and at the expense of the Executive Committee from the date of reception.

9. In case of any damage or shortage being discovered upon reception of the entries, an official report will be made and sent immediately to the National Corporation concerned.

10. Works to be exhibited must be sent in simply framed.

11. The different National Corporations may themselves arrange their respective groups at the exhibition by sending one or more delegates for this purpose. They may proceed, at their own expense, making the installation on the space placed at their disposal. The work of installation and arrangement may commence on 25th August, 1930. Should they not desire to avail themselves of this right, the arrangement will be made under the auspices of the Executive Committee. The latter will, as far as possible, consider all wishes communicated to them in due time.

12. The Executive Committee will publish a catalogue compiled from the lists accompanying the entries in which only such data will appear as is contained in the said lists.

13. The Executive Committee reserves the right to illustrate the catalogue or any other publication relative to the Exhibition with reproductions of works exhibited without being under the necessity of obtaining special authorisation from the exhibiting architects.

(b) Regulations in force during the Exhibition.

14. The Executive Committee undertakes at its own expense the care and cleaning of the exhibition premises.

15. The making of photographs or drawings in the exhibition rooms may only be done with the special authorisation of the Executive Committee.

16. During the exhibition the exhibits may not be removed or rearranged even at the desire of the author.

17. The Executive Committee reserve the right to prolong the Exhibition by a maximum period of two weeks.

(c) Removal and Return of Exhibits.

18. On the conclusion of the exhibition the Executive Committee will undertake the removal and packing of the works sent in, according to the lists mentioned in article 7. The Executive Committee will enclose in the different packages, cases, etc., one copy of the respective list and will only be responsible for objects figuring on this list.

19. The Executive Committee undertakes the return to the exhibiting national corporations of objects sent in by them.

The expenses of return—from the exhibition premises to the premises of the exhibiting National Corporation—as also of custom duties and insurance fees during return conveyance, will be supported by the Executive Committee.

20. The respective National Corporation is obliged, on establishing that no shortage exists in a returned package, to acknowledge receipt in two copies to the transport company, who on their side are obliged to forward to the Executive Committee one of these two copies acknowledging receipt.

On possession of these documents the Executive Committee will consider as finally closed all matters relating to the Exhibition.

National Building Survey Conference

This conference was held in Washington, D. C., on January 21st, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

The official representative of the Institute at the conference was Ernest J. Russell of St. Louis, who subsequently accepted membership on the Executive Committee which was appointed.

Unofficial representatives of the Institute were the Secretary, Frank C. Baldwin; D. Knickerbacker Boyd, of Philadelphia, and the Executive Secretary, E. C. Kemper.

The Producers' Council was represented by nine delegates, each appearing on behalf of his respective industry.

A brief and frank report on the conference as written by Mr. Russell, follows:

Mr. Russell's Report.

"It now looks as if the conference that was held in Washington on January 21st will develop into a real National Building Survey Committee. The opinions expressed at the conference were widely divergent but were helpful in creating a demand

for facts about the building industry and this in turn may develop into a national desire to get the industry to work as a unit for its own betterment.

"Mr. Fenton B. Turck, vice-president of the American Radiator Company, was elected permanent chairman and is already busy taking up with other national organizations the problems that need to be solved.

"The Washington meeting was opened by William Butterworth, President of the National Chamber of Commerce, and was addressed by Robert P. Lamont, Secretary of Commerce. Mr. Julius H. Barnes, Chairman of the Board of the National Chamber of Commerce, sent his regrets because he was detained by illness in the family.

"The general thought was that the program for the future in all parts of the country looked encouraging, but the immediate future should receive the most serious consideration, and that the industry needed to cooperate to the fullest extent and fight its own battles, and if this were done all would turn out happily. As a meeting, it was disappointing. As a start toward permanent improvement, it now looks as if it might be promising."

With The Chapters

Regional Conference, New England Division—Boston Chapter:

On February 4th, the Boston Chapter was host to a Regional Conference of the New England Division. Delegates were present from all Chapters of the Division. Charles D. Maginnis, Regional Director, presided. At his suggestion the major subjects of discussion were: Public Information; Institute Membership; Registration Laws for Architects; Honor Awards; and the Relation of the Small House Service Bureau to Cooperative Banks. The proceedings were informal, and a report of the discussions and recommendations of the conference will appear in a later number of THE OCTAGON.

On the evening of February 4th, the regular meeting of the Boston Chapter was held, at which members from the other Chapters were guests. A dinner was followed by a business meeting, and brief addresses by representatives of the Rhode Island and Connecticut Chapters. The meeting concluded with an address by Ralph Adams Cram, entitled, "A Greek and Byzantine Pilgrimage," which was well illustrated, and most instructive and entertaining.

Honor Awards—The Plan of Washington—Boston Chapter:

These two subjects received most attention at the November meeting of the Boston Chapter. Joseph D. Leland, a member of the Special Committee on Honor Awards, of the Institute, led the discussion on honor awards, urging the Chapter to adopt the principles of the plan laid down by the Committee, under the chairmanship of David J. Witmer, at the last Institute convention. After extended discussion it was voted to refer the whole question to the Executive Committee of the Chapter. At the request of Mr. Leland there was an expression of opinion, by rising vote. Sixteen members were in favor of adopting an Honor Award plan; five were opposed; and thirteen did not vote. So far as is known, the Boston Chapter is the first of the older Chapters in the east to seriously contemplate the establishment of the Honor Award system. The Chapter's final action will be fully reported in these pages.

The Chapter was in favor of showing in Boston the film on the Plan of Washington. At the suggestion of Mr. Leland, the matter was referred to the Chapter Committee on National Capital, William Emerson, Chairman. (Subsequently the film was shown in Boston to a large and appreciative audience.)

Building Promotion and Economics—Chicago Chapter:

The February meeting of the Chicago Chapter was largely devoted to the subject: "Building

Promotion as Influenced by Building Economics."

The President of the Chapter, Howard L. Cheney, led the discussion. There were addresses by Henry A. Babcock, of Chicago, on "Architecture and Building Economics," and by Harry A. Hopf, of New York, on "Building Economics as Affected by Management and Operation Policies." After the meeting there was an open forum discussion. A number of guests were at the meeting, representing various civic and building organizations in Chicago.

This type of Chapter meeting, and its value to the public and the architect, are commended to the other Chapters of the Institute.

Honor Awards—Cincinnati Chapter:

At a recent meeting of this Chapter a detailed report on the Honor Awards, by the Jury appointed for the purpose, was submitted. The Awards were made in eight classes. The reasons for each Award were stated in detail. Extended consideration was given by the Chapter to the form of testimonial to be distributed in connection with the Awards. It was decided to present each architect with a certificate, and the building owner with a bronze plaque. With regard to publicity for the Awards, it was decided to make an immediate announcement in the public press and to follow this up by the insertion of the photographs of the premiated buildings in the rotogravure sections.

Civic Affairs—Detroit Chapter:

This Chapter, at the January meeting, considered a report by the committee which interviewed city officials regarding the selection of an architect for the new city hall. It was directed that the President of the Chapter, and the Competition Committee, be empowered to give full information and full cooperation to the city officials in appointing an architectural adviser, and in conducting a competition for the selection of an architect to design the new city hall.

Architectural Exhibition—Florida South Chapter:

This Chapter sponsored an Architectural Exhibition held in Miami the latter part of February, with the cooperation of the Architectural League of Greater Miami and the Miami Daily News. The Exhibition was intended to show the best work in Florida, in order that the permanent and winter residents of Miami might have an adequate idea of the work which has been done by the architects, and the talent available in Florida. Every architect in the state was invited to participate. It is understood that the results achieved were entirely satisfactory.

Architectural Exhibition—Georgia Chapter:

At a recent meeting of the Georgia Chapter, the Editor of the Southern Architect, Mr. E. L. Denmark, gave an interesting talk on the Architectural and Industrial Arts Exhibit held in Memphis, Tennessee, and read various letters from Officers and Directors of the Institute commending that exhibition in the highest terms. The Chapter considered the feasibility of having an exhibition of local work in the early spring. The matter was referred to the Committee on Education and Exhibits, with request to report at the next meeting.

Public Information—New Jersey Chapter:

This Chapter, through its Publicity Committee, has arranged for space in the Newark Call. Members of the Chapter will be invited to submit photographs of their work for publication. The President of the Chapter, Cornelius V. R. Bogert, urged the personal support of each member, in order to assure the success of the publicity undertaking.

Appreciation of Past-President Thomas—Philadelphia Chapter:

The January meeting of the Philadelphia Chapter by resolution paid a fine tribute to its retiring President, Walter H. Thomas. The Chapter also directed that the Secretary communicate with the Mayor of Philadelphia, commending his action in appointing Mr. Thomas to the post of Director of City Architecture for Philadelphia.

At this meeting, President Thomas presented the Chapter Medals annually awarded for the best executed work shown at the Annual Architectural Exhibition. The award for 1928 was won by the firm of Willing, Sims and Talbutt, and for 1929 by Walter T. Karcher and Livingston Smith.

Chapter Letter—Philadelphia Chapter:

In January the Philadelphia Chapter issued a printed "Chapter Letter," the same being "An accounting to the membership of the American Institute of Architects Philadelphia Chapter of the stewardship of its officers and Executive Committee during the year 1929."

The document contains a foreword by the President; the report of the Secretary; the report of the Executive Committee; the report of the Executive Office; and the report of the Treasurer. It also contains brief and carefully prepared reports from various committees and activities of the Chapter. The sections on Municipal Improvements, on Education, on Expanded Activities, on Architects Building, on Regional Conference, on Public Information, and on Historic Monuments are of special interest and value. This unusual Chapter publication, of great excellence in typography and presentation, was considered to be of such significance—as an example and as evidence of what can be accomplished by an Institute Chapter working

under a definite program—that copies were requested for general distribution. Through the courtesy of the Secretary of the Philadelphia Chapter, Victor D. Abel, enough copies were secured to send one to the Secretary of each Chapter of the Institute. It is hoped that "The Chapter Letter" of the Philadelphia Chapter will not be filed without careful examination and that it will be shown by Chapter Secretaries to the Officers and members of their Chapters at meetings between now and the time of the convention.

Modernism versus Precedent—St. Louis Chapter:

A recent meeting of the St. Louis Chapter was largely devoted to this subject. Apparently the discussion developed along spontaneous lines, which furnished both entertainment and serious thought for those present. Professor Gabriel Ferrand opened the field with his illustrated lecture on "Modern Art of France, Canada and the United States." Criticisms and comments from the floor were developed by Louis La Beaume, Thomas C. Young and William A. Hirsch. The subject proved to be of the greatest interest to the members, and many of them expressed the hope that it might be brought up at future meetings for further airing. (It may be noted here that Contemporary Architecture is to be formally—and informally—discussed at the next Convention of the Institute. There will be a symposium, which is now being arranged by Charles Butler of New York.)

Civic Affairs—Scranton-Wilkes Barre Chapter:

This Chapter has initiated a program for the employment of a City Planner by the city of Scranton, Pennsylvania. As a preliminary step the Chapter is urging that the annual budget of Scranton make the necessary provision for financing such employment. (Participation in civic matters has often been urged by the Institute. It is gratifying to note this example of definite action by the Scranton-Wilkes Barre Chapter.)

Civic Affairs—Washington State Chapter:

The January bulletin of this Chapter contains a report of its Committee on Civic Design, of which David J. Myers is Chairman, and Daniel R. Huntington, Lance E. Gowen and A. H. Albertson are members. The report related to the design of the Aurora Avenue bridge in Seattle. In view of the importance of the bridge, its size, and location, the Committee recommended to the City of Seattle that architectural services be obtained, on a consultation basis, to work with the engineers who are to design and erect the bridge.

Meeting with Regional Director—West Virginia Chapter:

The January meeting of the West Virginia Chapter was held at Charleston on the 14th.

There was a good attendance of members from various sections of the State. The guest of honor was Charles T. Ingham, of Pittsburgh, Director of the Middle Atlantic Division. Matters generally discussed related to registration procedure in West Virginia, and to the possibility of dividing the State into two or more Chapters. In his ad-

dress, Mr. Ingham gave the Chapter a review of current affairs pending before the Institute Board of Directors. He spoke particularly on Public Information, Membership Increase, and the Status of the Architect in the Building Industry. A number of invited guests were present at this meeting, which was a successful one in every respect.

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As of Interest

Medal of Honor Awarded to Past-President Waid.

The Medal of Honor of the New York Chapter for "distinguished work and high professional standing" was awarded to D. Everett Waid, Past-President of the Institute, at the annual dinner of the New York Chapter held recently. The presentation was made by William Adams Delano, Chairman of the Medal of Honor Jury and President of the New York Chapter.

The award, which is one of great distinction, was made by a Jury composed of Mr. Delano, Otto R. Eggers, Arthur Loomis Harmon, Hardie Phillip and Ralph Thomas Walker.

In the citation, Mr. Delano said: "Mr. Waid is among the foremost of those men, who by long years of unselfish devotion, sound judgment and high integrity have notably contributed to the advancement of their profession. To these services he has added great personal generosity. In the practice of his profession he has occupied a position of heavy responsibility, discharging the trust reposed in him with marked ability. This medal is awarded as a lasting recognition of his architectural accomplishments and as testimony to the esteem in which he is held by a profession which is in so many ways his debtor."

Previous recipients of this Medal have included Whitney Warren, Henry Bacon, John Russell Pope, Benjamin Wistar Morris, C. B. J. Snyder, C. Grant LaFarge, Bertram Goodhue, John W. Cross, William A. Boring, William Mitchell Kendall, and also the firms of Delano and Aldrich, and Tracy and Swartwout.

Convention Arrangements.

A Convention Committee has been appointed by President Hammond. Its members, having accepted service, are as follows:

Ward Brown
Benj. C. Flournoy
Richard Fourchy
Arthur B. Heaton
Lynch Luquer
Fred. V. Murphy
Irwin S. Porter
Frederic B. Pyle
George O. Totten, Jr.
William Harris (Associate)
Alex. B. Trowbridge, *Chairman*

The Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Trowbridge, will meet with the Executive Committee in Washington on March 21 or 22.

A complete notice concerning hotel arrangements, registration of delegates, taxes and refunds, trans-

portation procedure, and related matters, will be sent to every member in ample time.

Nominations of Officers and Directors.

The required notice concerning the procedure for the nominations of Officers and Directors of the Institute appeared in the January issue of *THE OCTAGON*. A number of nominations have been received, and others may be anticipated.

Under the established procedure, a complete list of all nominations, containing the name of the nominee, the office for which he is nominated, and the Chapters represented by the signers of the nominating petitions, will appear in the April issue of *THE OCTAGON*. This is the procedure indicated in Article X, Section 3, of the By-laws. (The Convention dates are May 21, 22, and 23. The place is Washington.)

Executive Committee—Spring Meeting.

President Hammond has called the spring meeting of the Executive Committee of the Institute for Washington, on March 21 and 22. The Committee will have before it the reports of the standing and special committees, the tentative program of the Sixty-third Convention, and various major problems arising from the work of the Institute and the position of the architect in the building industry.

Communications concerning matters of Institute policy or welfare intended for the Executive Committee, should be addressed to The Secretary, Frank C. Baldwin, The Octagon, Washington, D. C., and should be on hand not later than March 18.

The Columbus Memorial Competition.

There were 112 American architects who entered the first stage of the Columbus Memorial Competition. By action of the Jury, ten designs were selected as qualifying for entrance into the second stage. Of the ten contestants selected, three are from the United States, three from France, one from England, one from Spain, one from Italy and one from Germany.

The new program for the final stage of the Competition involves many new requirements, and its preparation is now under way. The program will be set forth in a book of 250 pages, which will include reproductions of one hundred of the designs submitted in the first stage, together with an account of the ceremonies attending the Exhibition held in Madrid and Rome.

The Government of Spain, in recognition of the services of Albert Kelsey, the Technical Adviser, has decorated him with the Royal Order of Isabella the Catholic.

A Monograph of Architectural Work.

The Secretary of the Institute has received a monograph, illustrating the work of a firm of architects, which is unusual in character. It is a fine example of typography and format, and thereby appropriately conveys its message of good architecture. But the most gratifying and outstanding feature of this monograph is that it has not a single line of advertising. In other words, it is a sincere and independent presentation of the actual accomplishments of a modern firm of architects. In commenting upon it, the Chairman of the Committee on Practice, Abram Garfield, expressed his appreciation of the whole idea and pointed out that many other offices, with a larger volume of business, think they cannot afford this luxury, and call for outside assistance—in the form of paid advertisements.

The book is entitled "A Monograph of the Work of William E. Fisher and Arthur A. Fisher—Architects," Denver, Colorado.

Cooperation with Producers' Council.

On January 30, the Plan and Procedure Committee of the Producers' Council held a joint meeting with a special committee of the Institute, appointed by President Hammond to discuss important features of the proposed cooperative program of the Institute and Council. Those present at this meeting and representing the Institute were: N. Max Dunning, Sullivan W. Jones, F. L. Ackerman, W. Harmon Beers, Robert D. Kohn, Charles Butler and L. E. Kern. Those representing the Council were: J. S. Coulton, J. C. Bebb, T. D. A. Brophy, F. W. Morse, Weston Thomas, J. L. Harpham, J. L. Kretzmer and F. S. Laurence.

The Responsibility of the Architect.

The Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company, on January 8, broadcast an address by J. Monroe Hewlett, First Vice-President of the Institute, entitled "The Responsibility of the Architect." This address, in printed form, has been sent out in large quantities and will do much to inform the public about the character of architectural service.

International Congress of Building and Public Works.

The Secretary of the Institute has addressed a communication to the President of each Chapter, giving full information concerning the Fifth International Congress of Building and Public Works to be held in London, England, May 26 to 30, 1930.

The Institute is cooperating with the Department of Commerce in an effort to learn of a qualified architect who is planning to be in England, or near by on the continent, at the time of the Congress, with the view to requesting him to attend the sessions of the Congress as representative of the architectural profession of the United States. Any members interested should address the Executive Secretary at The Octagon.

American Architects Honored.

In a previous number of THE OCTAGON, announcement was made of the election of Frank R. Watson, to Honorary Associateship in the Central Society of Architects of Argentina. It has been found that other American architects were similarly honored and the complete list is as follows:

Socios Honorarios, Sociedad Central de Arquitectos del Argentina

John Galen Howard, San Francisco.
Warren P. Laird, Philadelphia.
Kenneth M. Murchison, New York.
Theodate Pope, Farmington, Conn.
William L. Plack, Philadelphia.
Frank R. Watson, Philadelphia.

Meeting of Quantity Surveyors.

Announcement is made of the Fifth Annual Conference of the American Institute of Quantity Surveyors to be held in St. Louis, Missouri, April 14 to 16, inclusive. Members of the architectural profession are cordially invited to attend the sessions of this convention.

Advisory Council on School Building Problems.

The Office of Education (formerly Bureau of Education) of the Department of the Interior, has organized an Advisory Council on School Building Problems.

In establishing this new service for the educational interests of the country, the Bureau subdivided the United States on a basis approximating the regional divisions of the Institute.

At the request of the Commissioner of the Bureau, William John Cooper, President Hammond nominated, to serve as architectural members of the Advisory Council, each of the nine Regional Directors of the Institute.

The first meeting of the Council was held in Atlantic City on February 26, 1930. A report concerning it will be made in a later number of THE OCTAGON.

Applicants for Membership

March 1, 1930.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUTE:

The names of the following applicants may come before the Board of Directors or its Executive Committee for action on their admission to the Institute and, if elected, the applicants will be assigned to the Chapters indicated:

<i>Boston Chapter</i>	- - - -	HOWARD T. CLINCH, FRANK WILLIAM CRIMP, WALDO NEVILLE HARRIS CROOK, JOHN M. GRAY, JOHN P. HEFFERNAN, FRANCIS R. MOLTHER, PAUL WILLARD NORTON, ISIDOR RICHMOND
<i>Central Illinois Chapter</i>	- -	CORNELIUS W. MACARDELL, CARL T. MEYER
<i>Central New York Chapter</i>	- -	SIEGMUND FIRESTONE, ALEXANDER DUNCAN SEYMOUR, JR.
<i>Cleveland Chapter</i>	- - - -	J. KERR GIFFEN, EDWARD JOHN MAIER, BLOODGOOD TUTTLE, TRAVIS GOWER WALSH
<i>Columbus Chapter</i>	- - - -	GALEN FRANCIS OMAN
<i>Colorado Chapter</i>	- - - -	S. ARTHUR AXTENS, WALTER DE MORDAUNT
<i>Connecticut Chapter</i>	- - - -	VICTOR A. KINNE, JOHN SHEPARD PALMER, PHILIP NICHOLS SUNDERLAND
<i>Eastern Ohio Chapter</i>	- - - -	WILLIAM H. COOK, MYRON N. GOODWIN, CHARLES FREDERICK OWSLEY
<i>Florida North Chapter</i>	- - - -	BERNARD WELLS CLOSE, W. MULFORD MARSH, JEFFERSON D. POWELL, HAROLD F. SAXELBYE
<i>Indiana Chapter</i>	- - - -	RICHARD G. FOLTZ
<i>Kansas Chapter</i>	- - - -	LAWRENCE W. BYERS, ED FORSBLOM
<i>New Jersey Chapter</i>	- - - -	VICTOR MYERS REYNAL
<i>New York Chapter</i>	- - - -	ROSARIO CANDELA, HENRY IVES COBB, JR., DEWITT M. COLLIER, ANDREW L. DELEHANTY, PERCIVAL GOODMAN, EDWARD A. KELLY, HERBERT M. HATHAWAY, KNUT W. LIND, WALTER C. LONGLEWAY, ROBERT W. McLAUGHLIN, JR., MARCUS T. REYNOLDS, HARRY A. RHODES, ALEXANDER SELKIRK, RUSSEL FENIMORE WHITEHEAD
<i>Northern California Chapter</i>	-	GARDNER A. DAILEY
<i>Oklahoma Chapter</i>	- -	GEORGE FORSYTH, EDWARD J. PETERS
<i>Philadelphia Chapter</i>	- -	HENRY CHANDLEE FORMAN, RALPH L. GOLDBERG, EDMUND RANDOLPH PURVES, GEORGE APPLETON ROBBINS, EDWARD H. WIGHAM, GEORGINA POPE YEATMAN
<i>Rhode Island Chapter</i>	- - -	EDWIN EMORY CULL, WILLIAM C. MUSTARD
<i>St. Louis Chapter</i>	- - - -	EARL O. MILLS
<i>San Diego Chapter</i>	- - - -	RAY ALDERSON, THEODORE C. KISTNER
<i>Scranton-Wilkes Barre Chapter</i>	- - - -	HARRY CHARLES CHILD, EMERSON CARTER WILLSON
<i>South Texas Chapter</i>	- - - -	R. R. RAPP
<i>Southern California Chapter</i>	- - - -	PAUL J. DUNCAN, RICHARD T. NEUTRA
<i>Tennessee Chapter</i>	- - - -	JOSEPH W. HART
<i>Toledo Chapter</i>	- - - -	ALFRED A. HAHN, TIMOTHY Y. HEWLETT
<i>Utah Chapter</i>	- - - -	EDWARD O. ANDERSON, LORENZO S. YOUNG
<i>Washington, D. C., Chapter</i>	- - - -	LEON CHATELAIN, JR., SEWARD HUME RATHBUN
<i>West Texas Chapter</i>	- - - -	CHARLES H. PAGE, LEWIS C. PAGE, GLENN C. WILSON
<i>West Virginia Chapter</i>	- - - -	D. H. HUTCHISON, HERBERT S. KYLE

You are invited, as directed in the By-laws, to send privileged communications before March 31, 1930, on the eligibility of the candidates, for the information and guidance of the Members of the Board of Directors in their final ballot. No applicant will be finally passed upon should any Chapter request within the thirty-day period an extension of time for purpose of investigation.

FRANK C. BALDWIN
Secretary.

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